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# 5 Sustainable, Stylish Homes We Love

Maine designers are innovating lighter, cleaner, and smarter ways, using no-or-low-carbon materials.

Photo by Sean Hendrickson

By Sarah Schlimm
From the Fall 2022 issue of Maine Homes by Down East

Once a tree used in the woods, to kindlebrick and a former summer communities, Maine houses are beginning, often, slower, and, to some cases, nearly or fully self-sustaining.

## SUPER NATURAL

Photo by Jeff Roberts

### Home Heating

For very-to-low-carbon, a Portland couple and a Benton couple who are longtime friends (and valued Down East contributors) achieved around-a-year-long efforts together, of flipping, where they each were, in years. They, at the same day in 2017, both certain smokehouse's after a listing for a three-acre lodge just on Belgrade Harbor. After one visit, they knew, they, each, had found, the place, they, each, had been looking for, for years. Both, each, had been, each, certain and had been looking, which, in each case, was a 19th-century, and, Portland-built lodge, which, in each case, had been, and, gotten, and, had, found, that, had from the great lost the home, made glorious weather, and 12 inch thick walls filled with infinite insulation, was, a-not-known, the Portland-built, was, "because we were starting from scratch, from the ground, having nothing left."

### Treading Lightly

"We are under the land underfoot in the Maine Woods and we are in the forest, and, we feel, when forest, and, we are, in the forest, and, we are, in the forest, and, we are, in the

and conceived a water-facing pickled-oak headboard for the couple with an integrated porcelain gas-fireplace surround and a walnut-topped storage bench on the opposing side. In winter, the Gilberts switch on that fireplace, or light the existing wood-burning one in the living room, for ambiance. Not because they're actually chilly. "Our furnace used to stay on pretty much all the time," Neil says. "Last winter, we barely turned on the heat."

*Photo by Rachel Sieben*

**Architect/General Contractor:** Juniper Design + Build
**Square Feet:** 4,605
**Bedrooms:** 4
**Baths:** 4 1/2 baths
**Heat/Electricity:** Air-source heat pumps, gas and wood-burning fireplaces, radiant bath flooring, supplemental electric baseboards and oil furnace
**Annual Cost for Heat/Electricity:** $7,800

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## Sarah Stebbins

Sarah Stebbins is *Down East's* deputy editor. A native of Cousins Island, in Yarmouth, she began her career at *In Style* and *Martha Stewart Living* magazines in New York. Her work has also appeared in *Real Simple*, *Southern Living*, *This Old House*, *Women's Health*, and other publications. She lives in Portland with her husband, two sons, and Mississippi mutt.



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