

# Maine Home

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## + DESIGN

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# A MODERNIZED FAMILY COTTAGE, **CHARM INTACT**



**ARCHITECT: DAVID MATERO ARCHITECTURE**

Builder: Oceanside Builders

Structural Engineer: Casco Bay Engineering

Cabinetry: Brumark Custom Cabinetry

Photography: David Matero





David Matero Architecture's clients were a family that had been spending summers along the New Meadows River in West Bath for generations and had decided it was time to update and modernize their waterfront cottage. The biggest challenge: how to transform a cottage with tremendous charm into a comfortable summer home while maintaining the essence of the original structure.

The existing cottage had a distinctive sweeping, curved roof that greeted visitors, and inside, the exposed studs created the feel of a typical Maine camp with lots of charm but also dark corners. Matero made sure the sweeping roof remained intact but enhanced the architecture with an eclectic use of roof forms, slight color changes, and varying textures.

A porch was taken over to allow for an expansion to the living room, and a screened porch was added to the side of the cottage to maintain views of the water. The interior fieldstone fireplace and balcony were not touched. The open-stud walls—such a prominent aesthetic on the original interior—were covered with clear pine tongue-and-groove boards so insulation could be added. Although the stud walls were an important component of the original cottage atmosphere, the new pine allows light to bounce off the walls, lightening up the space and helping to maintain the original essence of the cottage.

Due to strict shoreland zoning regulations, the expansion of the cottage was limited near the water, so the main expansion for additional bedrooms was toward the back. A bunkroom incorporates built-in bunks, beds, and even a loft that has fishnet for a guardrail. The clear pine maintains the cottagey feel, and high ceilings and light are filtered throughout.

Although the original cottage had contained many years of memories, and family members were concerned about the effect of a new and modern aesthetic on the ambiance, the use of natural wood, interesting artificial light, and high, natural-lit ceilings created a cottage that the family has embraced, looking ahead to their continued tradition of spending summers in Maine.