

THE YEAR

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Designer Ariana Fischer tones down bright whites with calacatta gold tiling, varying from traditional grays. Photo by Erin Little.

ONCE AGAIN, WE'RE CLOSING THE YEAR WITH A SPREAD OF 2021'S STANDOUT PROJECTS

BY BRIAN SHUFF

Our call yielded submissions from all corners of the state, and we share our favorites in eight categories: Overall Design, Kitchen & Bath Design, Landscape Design, Historic Preservation, Furniture Design, Restaurant & Venue Design, Multiuse Space, and Artful Living.

Projects of any scale were considered—residential or commercial, renovation or new build, professional or amateur—and whether we're experiencing an island retreat off the coast of Kennebunkport or marveling over a single piece of furniture, we asked the same questions that guide our choices year-round: *Does this feel as good as it looks? Does it reflect artistry? Does it relate to Maine and resonate an essence of this place?*

For the projects you're about to discover, it's yeses across the board.

Softening the Edges

ARIANA FISCHER INTERIOR DESIGN

Project Location: Boothbay

Interior Designer: Ariana Fischer

Woodworking: Bench Dogs and Ridgetop Cabinetry

Backsplash Tile: Distinctive Tile

“When I design, I’m always thinking about balance,” says Ariana Fischer. In this kitchen, that meant toning down a palette of whites that risked overbrightness, especially on sunny days. To temper some of the shine, Ariana turned to Bench Dogs in Washington for the fabrication of a stunning nine-foot island. “I had the surface done with quarter-inch strips of walnut and cherry,” says Ariana, “so it’s a striped wood countertop. It really is a work of art.” She also added recycled, reclaimed shelving and a unique Calacatta gold tiling with pale brow and warm yellow veining rather than traditional gray. “I love a space where the cooks get the good view,” Ariana says.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIN LITTLE

Calacatta gold tiling and reclaimed shelving work to mute an onslaught of sunlight that could have (in the wrong hands) given the space a sterile feel.

