

# MHD

MAINE HOME + DESIGN

NOVEMBER // DECEMBER 2023



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# BUILT OF LAST



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architecture projects  
pushing design in Maine

## Boothbay Region YMCA

The project's core mission was to align the YMCA with the evolving demands of its community and varied user demographics. This vision materialized through a strategic blend of market research, community needs assessments, and insights from the Boothbay Region YMCA's strategic planning process. Using these findings, the design team was able to create a reimagined space that boasts expanded wellness facilities, a state-of-the-art educational kitchen, vibrant community rooms, a versatile multipurpose studio, upgraded restrooms, and a new welcome center.

Operational continuity was a paramount challenge as the project unfolded, with intricate planning required to maintain utility connections amid ongoing construction. A central theme of the design journey was the creation of a new, inviting entrance and plaza. The exterior transformation features a spacious entry canopy and an atrium with transom windows, ingeniously built upon the existing infrastructure. Inside, the main entrance leads to an expansive lobby with an elegant linear wood ceiling and striking curved welcome desk accentuated by a word wall backdrop.

The lobby connects to a lounge area in the southern wing, offering comfortable seating, a member-centric kitchenette, and a direct link to the field house's track. Large storefront windows reconfigured the exterior wall, welcoming abundant natural light into the lounge. The use of acoustic ceiling clouds balances sound absorption and diffusion of daylight, maintaining an open, airy atmosphere. The project's lower level witnessed a transformation of previously segregated fitness spaces into a cohesive, open-concept design. Exposed-structure ceilings, direct and indirect linear lighting, resilient flooring, and an improved equipment layout strengthen functionality and aesthetics.

Sustainability played a crucial role in the project's vision. New rooftop mechanical units and a large solar array on the field house structure were integrated to boost efficiency and reduce energy demands. This ambitious project seamlessly marries architectural ingenuity with community-centric design, embodying a harmonious balance between preserving history and embracing the future. Its thoughtful approach ensures that the Boothbay Region YMCA will continue to serve as a vital hub for the community for years to come.

**Architect & Interior Designer:** Knickerbocker Group

**Consulting Architect:** Gro Dev

**Builder:** Wright-Ryan

**Structural, Mechanical, Electrical**

**& Plumbing Engineer:** Allied Engineering

**Civil Engineer:** Gorrill Palmer Consulting Engineers

**Acoustical Engineer:** Cavanaugh Tocci Associates

**Photographer:** Trent Bell

**Location:** Boothbay Harbor

**Completed:** 2022

