

# MHD

MAINE HOME + DESIGN

## THE ARCHITECTURE ISSUE

14 PROJECTS SHAPING  
MAINE'S BUILT ENVIRONMENT

NOVEMBER // DECEMBER 2024

**+ DRINK + SKETCH**

ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS GO  
BACK TO BASICS WITH JUST A PEN  
AND A NAPKIN

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207-772-3373

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# DRINK + SKETCH

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTINA WNEK

There's concern in architectural and design circles about the decline of the hand sketch. A drawing is not meant to replace a finished rendering or be a masterpiece but rather part of a designer's creative process. "What has happened to our profession, and our art," said renowned architect Michael Graves to the *New York Times*, "to cause the supposed end of our most powerful means of conceptualizing and representing architecture?" While Graves acknowledged the importance of computers for presenting data and creating detailed construction documents, he argued that an architect's hands as creative tools should never become obsolete. Many iconic designs throughout history have begun as a simple sketch on a napkin, place mat, or scrap of paper, from Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater to the "I Love New York" logo drawn by Milton Glaser in red crayon on an envelope in the back of a taxi. With this spirit in mind, *MH+D*, Knickerbocker Group, and the Portland Society for Architecture invited Maine designers to join us at Novare Res Bier Café in Portland for a drink and a chance to create their own napkin sketches. Participants were given five prompts and some pens and napkins and asked to produce as many or as few sketches as they wished within the allotted time. Here are the results.

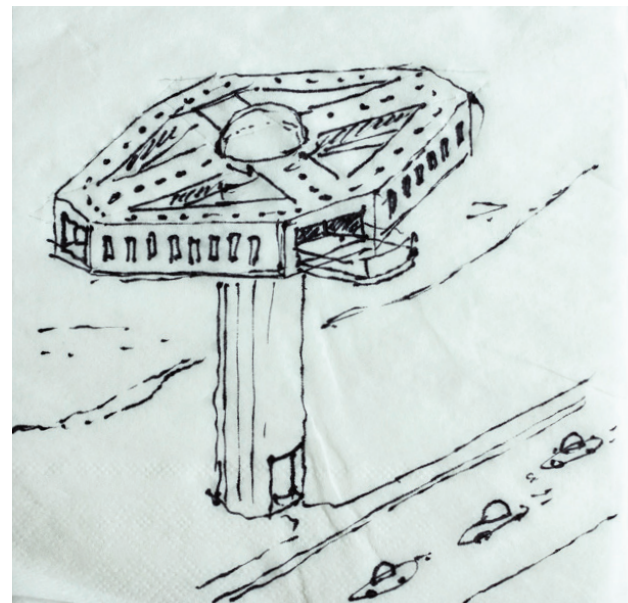
## PROMPTS

Each guest was asked to create one or more drawings based on the following prompts.

- ▶ A DOWNTOWN TRAIN STATION FOR PORTLAND
- ▶ A STRUCTURE BASED ON YOUR FAVORITE BOARD GAME
- ▶ A CHILDREN'S PLAY FORT/TREEHOUSE IN DEERING OAKS PARK
- ▶ AN ADAPTIVE NEW USE FOR AN OLD SPACE (MILL, SHOPPING MALL, BOX STORE)
- ▶ A REIMAGINED ADIRONDACK CHAIR

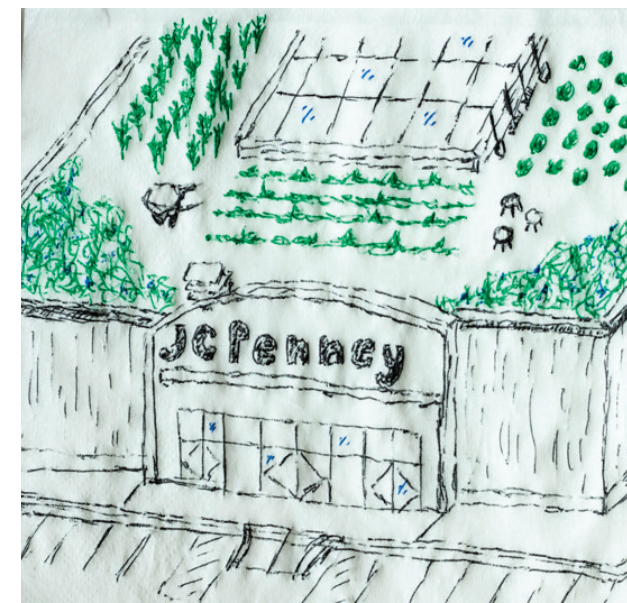






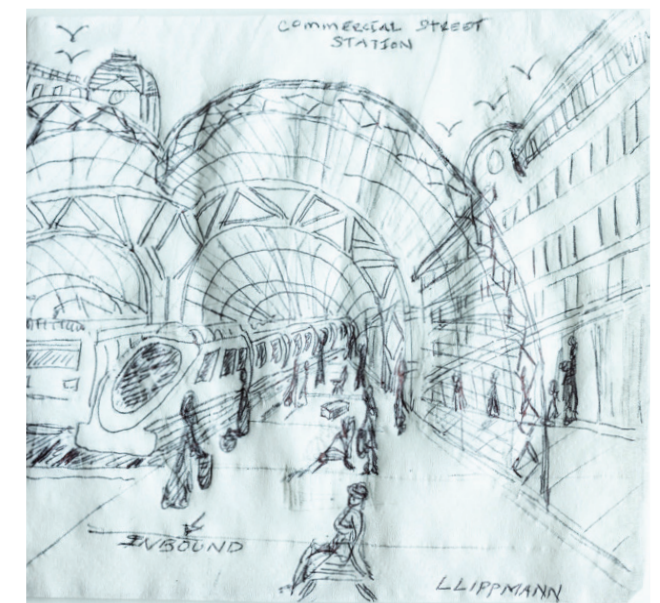
**RICK NELSON**  
Practice Leader, Architecture  
**KNICKERBOCKER GROUP**

*"The world is in Trouble. It's best to stay above it."*



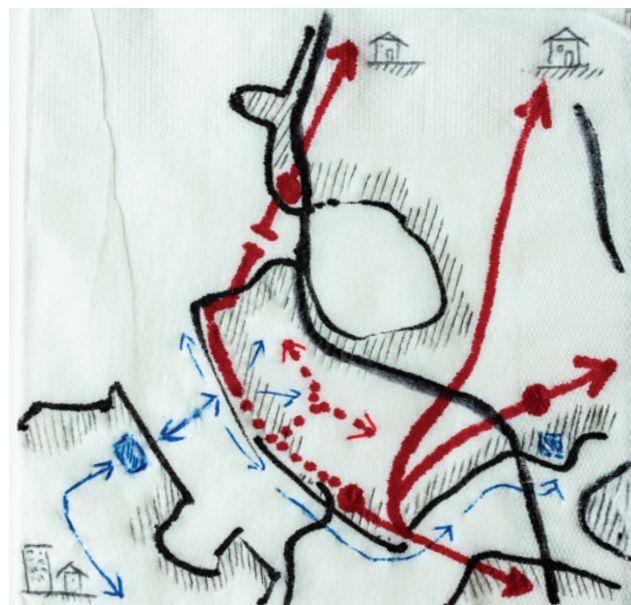
**TYLER DOHERTY**  
Revit Specialist and BIM Manager  
**KNICKERBOCKER GROUP**

*"Imagine the possibilities if we innovate the millions of square feet of shopping malls in this country to become rooftop gardens and pastures. They would feed local communities, reduce the risk of food deserts, and bring people a sense of pride in what would otherwise be a desolate expanse of concrete and asphalt."*



**LEAH LIPPMANN**  
Design Studio Leader, Interiors  
**KNICKERBOCKER GROUP**

*"I chose Commercial Street as the location for a grand train station that brings the heritage of trains back into the city. The steel structure acts as a bridge between the past and present while sleek new trains make the trip into the city quick and easy."*



**GREG NORTON**  
Senior Project Designer  
**KNICKERBOCKER GROUP**

*"An infrastructure that allows a Portland worker to park out of town and take a trolley to work, relieving Portland of vehicular congestion. One big train station, or series of unique neighborhood stations—anything to create more public transit options as Portland continues to grow."*



**TREVOR WATSON**  
Design Studio Leader, Architecture  
**KNICKERBOCKER GROUP**

*"Being open to different view is a skillset which affords us many opportunities in life—what is more powerful than the physical manifestation of this concept? A treehouse in a park, elevated, built into the branches and leaves. A child's first experience with a space to call their own."*

