

# MHD

MAINE HOME + DESIGN

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## 2025 AIA MAINE DESIGN AWARDS:

19 WINNING PROJECTS THROUGH  
THE EYES OF ARCHITECTS

THE MODERN REVIVAL OF  
A JOHN CALVIN STEVENS  
MASTERPIECE IN PORTLAND



HOW PLUNGE POOLS  
BLEND EFFICIENCY  
AND WELLNESS





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# Through These Architects' Eyes

## The 2025 AIA Maine Design Awards

Each year, the Maine chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Maine) shines a spotlight on the best architectural work from our state's design community. From reimagined historical structures to brand-new builds that push the boundaries of sustainable living, the AIA Maine Design Awards program celebrates projects that exemplify thoughtful design, technical rigor, and a commitment to shaping a better built environment.

For the 2025 program, jurors from eastern New York brought their diverse perspectives to the judging table. The Design Awards jury included Beth Lacey of Lacey Architecture, Arien Cartrette of architecture+, Karin Kilgore-Green of JMZ Architects and Planners, and Michael Phinney of Phinney Design Group. For the Architrave Award—created to recognize excellence in traditional design—a separate jury was assembled, including Ira Grandberg of Grandberg and Associates Architects, Michael Tuck of Balzer and Tuck Architecture, and Scott Wallant of Wallant Architecture.

A distinguishing feature of the 2025 awards is the continued emphasis on the AIA's Framework for Design Excellence, a national initiative that calls on architects to lead the way toward a zero-carbon, equitable, resilient, and healthy built environment. This year's applicants were offered two submission paths: answering streamlined yes-or-no questions related to the framework's core principles or submitting the Common App for Design Excellence, a visual and data-driven tool that maps project performance against the framework's ten measures.

"Every year, the AIA Maine Design Awards program celebrates the best work of Maine-based architects. The 2025 program, like those before, is a testament to our architectural community's deep commitment to creating beautiful, thoughtful spaces that honor the people and places they serve. Their work not only elevates the profession and enriches communities but also inspires us all to bring more care and intention to the spaces we occupy," says Jeannette Schram, outgoing executive director of AIA Maine.

While the tools and criteria may evolve, the mission remains constant: to elevate Maine's architectural excellence. The awards program highlights a wide range of work: a currently enrolled architecture student's unbuilt project, a Maine firm's unbuilt project, and commercial, residential, renovation, and adaptive reuse projects designed both in and beyond state lines by AIA Maine members. Whether built or on the boards, honored or not, each submission adds to the broader conversation about what design can—and should—do.

MH+D is proud to present the winners of the 2025 AIA Maine Design Awards.



Photo: Trent Bell

## Winners at a Glance

### Honor Awards

Ferland Engineering Education & Design Center

The Honeymoon Cottage

The Narrows

East View

Subterranean Car Barn

### Merit Awards

Paul J. Schupf Art Center

Sweetwater Residence

Green Haven

The Outpost

Computational Craftsmanship

### Citation Awards

The Smith Center for Education & Research

Woodhull Headquarters

Fern House

Notch House

Squid Cove

Tidehead Woods House

West End Garden House

### The Architrave Award

Falls Pasture





## Computational Craftsmanship Syracuse University

### Merit Award for Excellence in Architecture

**Designer:** Andrew Clark



#### From the Jury:

This project exercises remarkable restraint, relying on the simple barn form and timber-frame construction and instead inspires occupants in their craft by exploring artistic and innovative material assemblies for the foundations, cladding, and site elements. The result is a beautiful yet functional building design for a maker space.

#### From the Student:

This project imagines a reality where computational designers and traditional regional craftspeople live in a symbiotic relationship, relying on each other to advance both disciplines. Through this research, crafts that were thought extinct in the early twenty-first century are revitalized and utilized in tandem with digital techniques that emerged after the twenty-first century. Specifically, this research focuses on one region of the United States, coastal New England, utilizing local crafts embedded in the culture.

This project interrogates the interstitial space between local analog craft practices and global digital design and fabrication processes, allowing spaces to develop unique characteristics based upon their people's diverse intangible cultural and ancestral heritage while not being fully reliant upon tools of the past. This research materialized into a makerspace embedded with material and site history, utilizing and optimizing reclaimed materials over "new." The seamless integration of computation alongside craft eases the navigation of complexities and unpredictabilities of reclaimed material.

The timber-frame structure itself promotes the exploration of the very tools that were used to construct it. Artisans are encouraged to engage with architectural form in innovative ways, fostering communal ownership, inclusivity, and the intertwining of cultural resonance with computational precision. The space revitalizes heritage while advancing responsible design; it reconceptualizes materials as active agents and unlocks the latent potential of site-specific resources.