

Maine Homes

by *Down East*

YOUR LIFE LIVED WELL FALL 2021

Old Houses FRESH LOOKS

PLUS

**29 IDEAS FOR
LIVING GREEN
IN MAINE**

**PRESERVING A
19TH-CENTURY
WRITER'S
PARTY PAD**

**DESIGN
AWARD
WINNERS!**

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THE GUIDE



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Holly Gagne's new shop resembles a living room, with a sofa and teal chairs designed by her team, a decorative wooden surfboard from HaitiHome, and macramé wall hangings by fiber artist Candice Luter; sculptural vases top an Edgework Creative table; leather chairs pair with an Indonesian teak-root table, a one-of-a-kind market find.



SHOP SPOTLIGHT

Natural Selection

Pandemic-era closings and a love of Maine's earthy coastal palette inspired designer Holly Gagne's serene new Camden shop.

THE OWNER

While riding out the pandemic at her family's new seasonal home on Islesboro, Holly Gagne made frequent trips to her 12-year-old interior-design studio on Massachusetts' North Shore. Each time she passed through Camden, she noted with concern the shuttered storefronts. The centerpiece of summer vacations since her childhood, the town is close to her heart — Camden is even her son's middle name. When side-by-side vacancies appeared, she was moved to open her own studio and shop. "The town was so quiet," she says. "I thought maybe we could bring a little energy."



Studio + Shop falls within a natural palette of soft tans, grays, and sea greens inspired by Gagne's recent winter on Islesboro. "We like clean lines and crisp, white walls, but we also want to create warmth," she says. We look for things that are handmade with natural materials, a little rugged, a little imperfect."

THE LOCATION

Gagne's co-tenants include an architect and a lighting designer, which was part of the building's appeal. "It felt like a nice design collaborative," she says. She likes being on the edge of the retail district, away from the busiest foot traffic, because the shop is open to walk-in customers just a few days a week. "We're first and foremost designers. This is like our lab, where we can experiment and test products to see how people



like them. Even if we don't sell to people off the street, we have clients who are looking for us to guide them."

WE LOVE

Soft, lightweight cotton-rope baskets by Pemaquid's TetherMade; elegant O-shaped vases by Portland's Ceramica; photos of sailboat races and misty shores by Islesboro's Tricia Ladd; and wicked Mainey candles that resemble deer skulls by Portland's Evangeline or smell and sound like camping, thanks to pine, smoke, and sandalwood essential oils and a wooden wick that crackles by Westbrook's Near & Native.

— VIRGINIA M. WRIGHT

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