Maine Home
+DESIGN

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THE ARCHITECTURE ISSUE

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Paradise Road

Paradise Road is located on a ridge where the grade quickly drops off on either side and offers incredible views of Mount Washington to the west, and Mount Abram and the surrounding hillscape to the east. The client wanted views in both directions from the owner's bedroom and main living spaces while maintaining a sense of privacy from the road.

The house was designed at a scale where it feels comfortable and cozy as a retreat for one, but is also functional and spacious enough to host large groups for ski trips and summer hikes. With a footprint of just over 900 square feet, the house is inviting as you approach from the driveway, and is situated to hide 2700 square feet of finished space with a capacity to comfortably sleep 18 people.

The steeply sloping site allowed the efficiently programmed building to nestle into the hillside, and for the design to be separated vertically. The lower level is a walk-out guest floor with two large built-in bunkrooms, while the top floor contains an owners' suite and guest bedroom and bathroom. The main level splits the lower and top floors, which contain all shared living spaces—regardless of whether there are two or 12 people in the house, privacy and space are easy to come by.

With minimal interior walls, the main focus of the living space became the staircase. The stairs are the first thing you see upon entering the home and are the focal point of all three levels. Waterfall white oak treads give a sense of the floor wrapping up and over the risers, while light metal surrounds at the edge provide an elegant railing solution that adds a sculptural element.

Architect: Caleb Johnson Studio
Project Architect: Bud Angst
Builder: Clearwater Builders
Construction Project Manager: Eric List
Landscape Architect: Soren deNiord
Photographer: Trent Bell
Location: Bethel
Completed: 2020