

Maine Homes

by *Down East*

YOUR LIFE LIVED WELL FALL 2020

COZY ON THE COAST

PLUS
DESIGN
AWARD
WINNERS!

P. 54

9 HEALTHY
HOME TRENDS
EXTREME LODGE
MAKEOVER!



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Baskets of Paulette Rollo throws, kilim rugs, and beach totes and rows of custom Casa by PC pillows greet visitors at Seal Harbor's Rusticator, located in an 1880 former meat market. In the dining area, Jill Rosenwald pottery and Summerill & Bishop linens dot a gray-stained maple Dunes and Duchess table.



SHOP SPOTLIGHT

Home Base

At Seal Harbor's new Rusticator shop, you'll find graceful furnishings, vibrant décor, and designer/owner Laura Keeler Pierce, who lives in back

THE OWNER

As a child who moved every couple of years for her dad's job, interior designer and Colby grad Laura Keeler Pierce got early lessons in decorating one house after another. Today, she still hops around, running Boston/Seal Harbor-based Keeler & Co. Design, but for 12 years, MDI, where her husband, Vassar, a third great-grandson of Acadia National Park founder Charles W. Eliot, has a family home, has been a summertime constant. Last year, while looking for their own place in Seal Harbor, they learned the Abby Chapel on Main Street was selling an 1880 former store next door. "I thought, 'we could live and have a shop here!'" Laura says.



Harbor's waterfront to Main Street to clear the way for the Beatrix Farrand-designed village green in 1919.

An abandoned two-unit apartment when the Pierces bought it, the structure underwent a gut reno by Blue Hill's Hewes and Company, who created a rental unit above the couple's airy seasonal shop, Rusticator,

which opened in July, and a 200-square-foot apartment for them in back.

WHAT'S INSIDE

"I want people to feel like they're walking into a home," says Laura, who arranged the narrow plan into living, dining, and "game nook" spaces laden with botanical- and geometric-print upholstered furniture, colorful textiles and ceramics, and art curated by Massachusetts's Hadley Powell. Inspired by iconic mid-century designers like Billy



Baldwin and David Hicks, whose style still holds up, as well as Vassar's family home, which has sported the same rattan living room furniture for a century, she aimed for timeless pieces with a modern edge, such as a sleek, skirted Highland House sofa with a single seat cushion, "whereas historically you would see three."

WE LOVE

Arresting seascapes by Cushing's Melanie Essex, sculptural wooden bowls by Kennebunk's Robert Meserve, playful floral Thomas Strahan wallpaper, and a Visual Comfort gilded branch chandelier that "doesn't take itself too seriously," Laura says, summing up her shop's vibe.

— SARAH STEBBINS

10 Main St., Seal Harbor. 207-276-8140.
rusticatorshop.com