



Photography: Brian Vanden Brink

## HOUSE ON A LEDGE



**E**ric Chase was hired to design an unobtrusive, four-season residence on a small piece of property close to downtown Blue Hill and across the road from the harbor. The client had specific ideas for her house, including low maintenance, understated interiors, and a desire for single-floor living.

Yet a single-story house that could accommodate the client's active social and professional life conflicted with the small footprint of the site and its rocky topography. Trying to turn a liability into an asset, Chase and his team decided to capitalize on an unlikely part of the site: a pocket in the ledge between a meadow and the view. The pocket was just large enough for a small walkout basement, while the surrounding ledge allowed level access to the front and back of the main floor.

By nestling the house as low as possible, the designers kept the profile unobtrusive, and the home's low walls and hipped roof echo the slight rise of the ledges. The light brown stucco and cedar-shingled roof, not to mention the carefully preserved lichens and flora on the ledge, give the impression that the house grew organically from the surrounding landscape.

Inside, the design follows a simple layout, with solid-strip, red-birch hardwood flooring, cherry cabinetry, and Absolute Black granite countertops. The exterior attests to the client's love of gardening. A visitor, upon entering the house for the first time, commented happily, "Oh, a grown-up's house!"

### ERIC A CHASE ARCHITECTURE

eacharchitecture.com | Builder: Details, Inc. | Landscape Design: Diane Blair

