

# THE MAINE EVENT

*A COUPLE'S ADVENTURES  
ON SAFARI INSPIRE A  
WORLDLY COMPOUND ON  
THE NEW ENGLAND COAST.*

INTERIOR DESIGN BY JOHN SALADINO AND IVAN CHATMAN · PHOTOGRAPHY BY MAX KIM-BEE  
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**JOHN SALADINO WAS THROWN**

**A CURVE WHEN HE WAS ASKED TO DESIGN A DREAM VACATION HOUSE ON A FAMILY COMPOUND IN KENNEBUNKPORT, MAINE. THE HOMEOWNERS, JENNIFER CAROLYN KING**

and her husband, Timothy Fredel, wanted a retreat that conjured the African safari lodges they've visited in countries such as Tanzania, Botswana, Mozambique, and South Africa. "In every single lodge I went to, I would feel like I was home," says King, who, with Fredel, runs the philanthropic Rugged Elegance Foundation. "I loved the textural quality of the fabrics and materials, and the simple elegance."

The King family has spent generations summering in this charmingly rustic coastal town, known for its craggy rock outcroppings, secluded beaches, and bustling harbor. "My challenge was to take Jennifer and Tim's romantic fantasies of Africa, the vernacular Maine architecture that is on the family compound, and my own style, and organize it all into a serene and timeless vignette," Saladino recalls. "It was like playing three-dimensional chess."

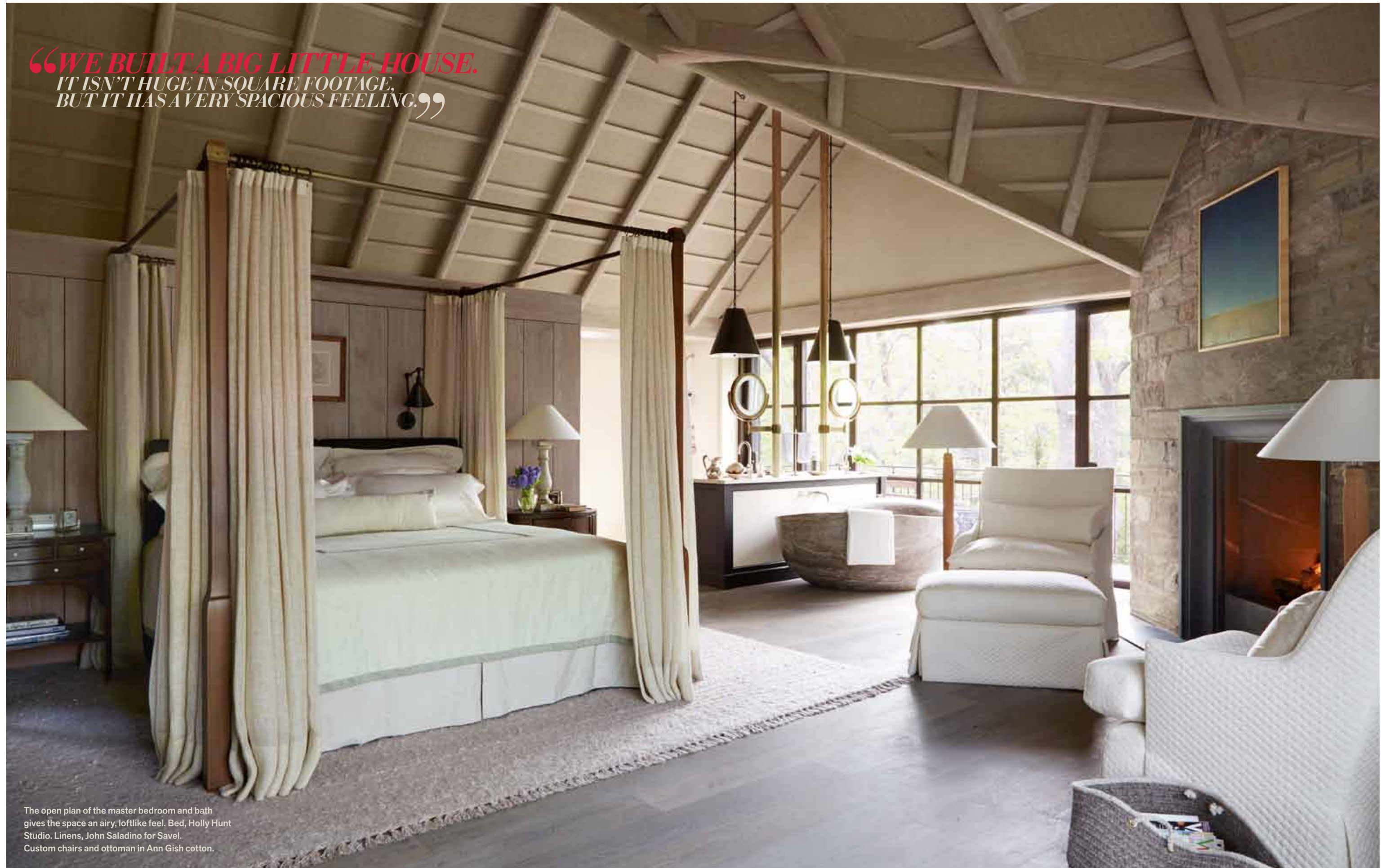
Leading a team of local architects, landscape designers, and artisans, Saladino and his senior designer, Ivan Chatman, looked to the earlier homes of Maine—with their New England stone, cedar shingles, and large wraparound porches—as inspiration for the exterior of the house. The stone was aged and the eaves were stained so that the home appears as if it has been passed down through the King family for generations.

The beams in the living room were scraped and stained to look as if they had been there forever. Custom sofas in a C&C Milano cotton (by window), and Keleen leather and Cowtan & Tout felt. Side chair upholstered in a Holly Hunt fabric. Custom coffee table. **OPENING PAGES:** Custom chairs in a Knoll fabric. Tablecloth in Textstyle leather. Curtains in linen by John Saladino for Savel.

Fieldstone floors continue seamlessly throughout the first level. Bed linens, Pierre Frey. Curtains in Shyam Ahuja linen. OPPOSITE: Desk, Soane. Baskets, Ochre. Side chairs, Tucker Robbins. Sconce, Circa Lighting.



*“WE BUILT A BIG LITTLE HOUSE.  
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BUT IT HAS A VERY SPACIOUS FEELING.”*



The open plan of the master bedroom and bath gives the space an airy, loftlike feel. Bed, Holly Hunt Studio. Linens, John Saladino for Savel. Custom chairs and ottoman in Ann Gish cotton.

A cluster of delicate pendant lights floats above the kitchen island. Stove, La Cornue. Sink fittings, Waterworks. Stools, Arteriors. Pendants, Steng Licht. OPPOSITE: Stone steps lead to the front entrance.



They anchored the interior with a Palladian floor plan, situating the dining room at its heart and flooding it from all directions with natural light. “What we built was a big little house,” Saladino explains. “It isn’t huge in square footage, but because we eliminated corridors it has a very spacious feeling.”

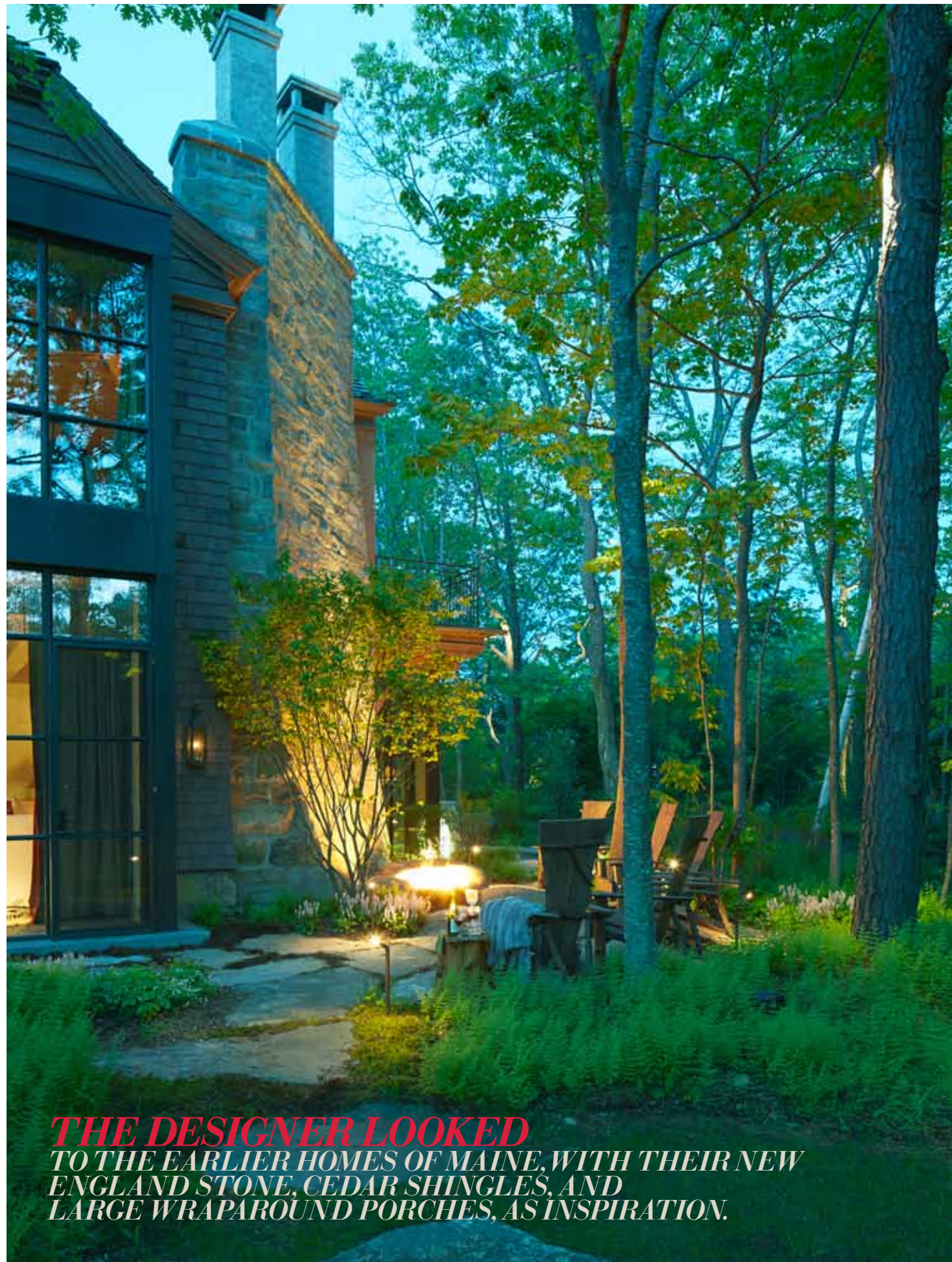
A soaring entrance hall leads into the cozy Douglas fir-paneled dining room, while broad stairs extend down into the large living room made warm and intimate by sturdy supporting beams that recall old barns, the signature scratch plaster walls that Saladino pioneered in 1963, and high-back sofas.

One of the strongest nods to Africa can be found in the living room, in the form of the uneven fieldstone that Saladino darkened with a butcher wax stain, a woven figue rug, and a large wood elephant sculpture that lends a noble presence. Meanwhile, the staircase landing displays

woven baskets, antique figurines, and textiles that King has brought back from her travels.

But it is the master bedroom that is most reminiscent of the luxury lodges that captured the couple’s hearts. The lofty ceiling features sisal panels to imitate thatching, there is a freestanding travertine bath and open shower, and the wood four-poster bed is hung with mosquito netting. “The bed is snug and inviting in this very tall room,” says Saladino. “The mosquito netting isn’t really necessary, but I love the fact that it provides them with a little protected space to hide in at night.”

Enormous bronze doors lead to a balcony overlooking a forest of birch, maples, and ferns, giving the bedroom the feel of a tree house. “It’s as close to Africa as you can get, not counting the weather,” says King, who has christened the house *Asante Sana*, which, in Swahili, means “Thank you very much.” □



***THE DESIGNER LOOKED TO THE EARLIER HOMES OF MAINE, WITH THEIR NEW ENGLAND STONE, CEDAR SHINGLES, AND LARGE WRAPAROUND PORCHES, AS INSPIRATION.***



A staircase of reclaimed wood in the guesthouse was inspired by the Arts and Crafts movement. Custom chairs in Perennials fabrics. Sofa in Keleen and Création Baumann fabrics. Side table, Rose Tarlow. Rug, Sacco Carpet. **OPPOSITE:** An outdoor seating area surrounds a fire pit.