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To the Lighthouse

An English-style cottage on the York oceanfront is cozy, inviting, warm, and offers views of Nubble Light.

BY BRAD FAVREAU

PHOTOS BY JOSEPH ST. PIERRE



The kitchen reflects the Prefontaines' love of cooking and entertaining. A nod to the playful quality of the house is the *trompe l'oeil* in the form of a cookbook that's painted on the floor. It's so realistic, guests sometimes try to pick it up.



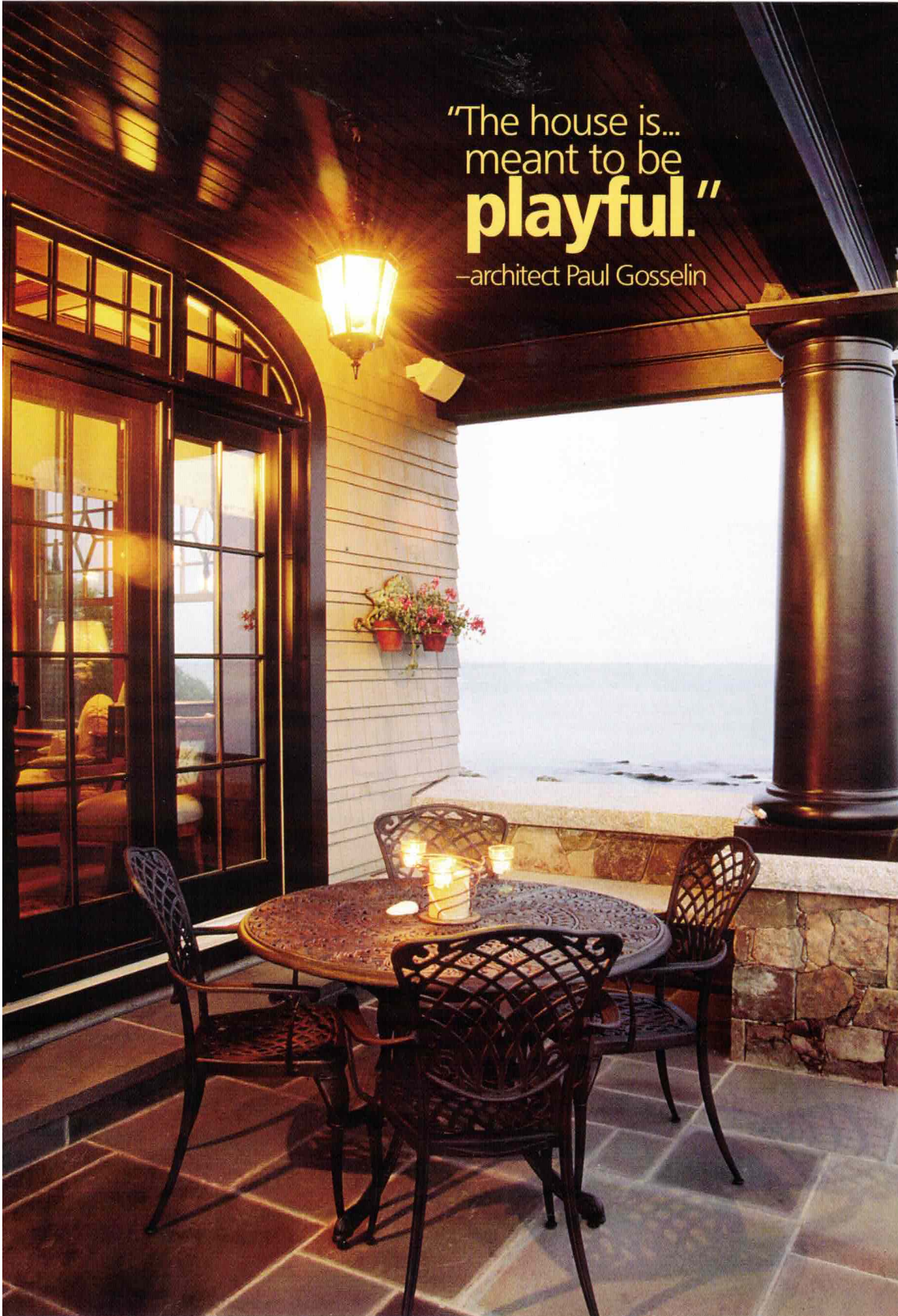
Lin Prefontaine enjoys mixing and matching fabrics in the English tradition. A few years ago, when she and her husband, Bob, whose business is selling and leasing cryogenic vessels, decided to downsize, Lin immediately formulated an English-country vision for their new home. They went right away to Paul Gosselin of Salmon Falls Architecture in Biddeford, who'd designed their existing house years earlier. The Prefontaines had found Gosselin "easy to work with, and he listened."

Gosselin likes to get inside his clients' heads, and he could see that the Prefontaines wanted a home that's "cozy, inviting, and warm." While at first glance the house appears to be in the Shingle Style, Gosselin cautions, "The house is not meant to be a purist exercise. It's meant to be playful and to please the client."

The result is *Wavering Down*, a home that blends the casual cheerfulness of the Shingle

"The house is...
meant to be
playful."

—architect Paul Gosselin





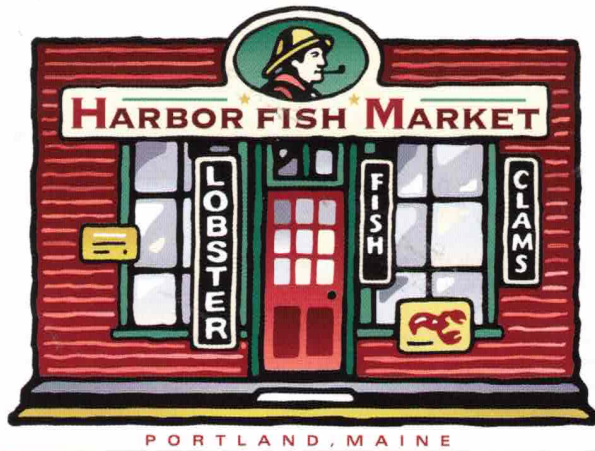
Clockwise from far left: The arched window with an extra-thick mullion gives the main entry an old-world, friendly flavor.

Wavering Down blends the casual cheerfulness of the Shingle Style with the warmth and charm of the English countryside.

In the gathering room, the massive fireplace mantel, wall paneling, and ceiling beams are all milled from black walnut in the general contractor's local workshop, and beautiful reclaimed chestnut is used for the floor. The warm, dark wood tones of the room are intended to superbly frame views toward nearby Nubble Light.

This cozy reading nook reflects Lin Prefontaine's flair for mixing fabrics in the English tradition.





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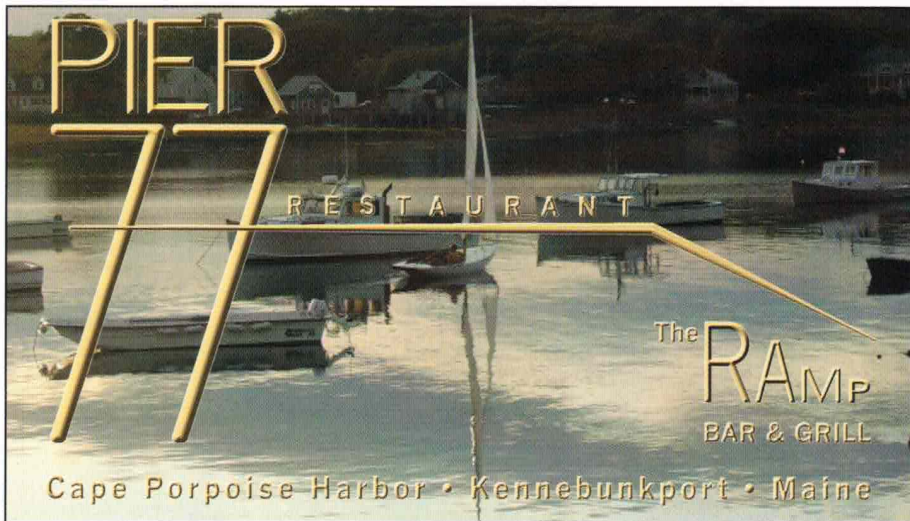
Style with the warmth and charm that might be found in the English countryside.

The house is 1-1/2 stories, in keeping with the character of an English cottage. Stringent site restrictions dictate that the narrow gable end face the water, but Gosselin was able to maintain excellent views.

When elliptical-topped French doors caught Lin's eye in an English magazine, she immediately knew they were just what she wanted. From there, the idea of an arched opening became a theme that Gosselin uses throughout the house as a way of creating welcoming spaces. The round-topped front door and adjacent arched window with an extra-thick mullion give the main entry an old-world, friendly flavor.

The warm feeling of this house is enhanced by the craftsmanship that abounds throughout. In the gathering room, the massive fireplace mantel, the wall paneling, and the ceiling beams are all milled from black walnut in the general contractor's local workshop. Beautiful reclaimed chestnut is used for the floor. The warm, dark wood tones of the room are intended to superbly frame the views toward nearby Nubble Light.

The kitchen reflects Lin's love of cooking and entertaining. Top-end appliances



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include an Aga gas range, always at the ready to simmer or boil. Behind the creamy yellow range are wall tiles hand painted to match the fabric that Lin selected for the adjacent dining room. A nod to the playful quality of the house is the *trompe l'oeil* in the form of a cookbook that's painted on the floor. It's so realistic, guests sometimes try to pick it up.

This same charm flows to the exterior, where white cedar shingles, hung in alternating courses, and local stone clad the house. Oversized columns are in keeping with the massive nature of the stone and visually carry the roofline above. A garden gate, with its rounded top, hints of the theme of arches Gosselin uses inside.

Gosselin's mission as an architect is to provide enduring appeal. Like fine English fabrics that are handed down from one generation to the next, Wavering Down will be admired for years to come. ■

Architect: Salmon Falls Architecture, Biddeford, www.salmonfallsarch.com.
General Contractor: YFI Custom Homes, Cape Neddick, www.yficustomhomes.com.
Interior Designer: Duquette & Company, York, www.duquetteandcompany.com

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