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JANUARY // FEBRUARY 2021

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The Bayview Hotel

FIRM: FROG HILL DESIGNS
DESIGNER: BETSY STIRES
PHOTOGRAPHER: FRANÇOIS GAGNÉ
LOCATION: BAR HARBOR



When working on this project, Betsy Stires of Frog Hill Designs wanted to capture the essence of the original rusticators who visited Mount Desert Island (MDI) in the late 1800s and early 1900s. They were a group of people who loved the natural beauty of MDI but brought their creature comforts with them from home. Although they often lived in “camps,” they brought their silver, china, linens, and libraries with them for their sojourns on the island. Frog Hill Designs honored them with a large photographic portrait in the lobby.

The palette was built around the colors found in nature on MDI: lots of the grays that are found in the bark of trees and many shades of green found in the grass and leaves in the landscape. Because one entire side of the building and all of the guest rooms have water views, Stires treated the vibrant blue of the ocean views through the windows as if it were artwork, the French doors acting as huge picture frames. The natural seascapes are echoed in a beautiful Eric Hopkins painting in the dining room.

While focusing on the durability and timelessness of the design elements, Stires was able to create an interesting and inviting space that will stand the test of time. She added a luxurious feel with custom rugs from Stark Carpet, artwork from local Maine artists such as Aaron Mitchell, striking wall coverings with multiple graphic dimensions, and real birch trees and branches. Frog Hill Designs delivered an aesthetic to the Bayview Hotel that is both unique and true to the interiors Stires likes to create.