

If there's one thing (other than talent) that these designers have in common, it's their devotion to Maine. Here's a look at 10 local businesses, with comments by the designers on how living and working in Maine influences what they do.

Angela Adams, Portland

Founded: 1998

Products: Include rugs, furniture, handbags and glassware. Through strategic partnerships, also offers stationery, bedding and bath products, linens, fabric and contract carpet.

Sold: Nationwide

Founder/designer: Angela Adams

Web: www.angelaadams.com

Picture: Ocean Seaglass wool rug



"One of my favorite things about living in Maine is that the land and seascapes are constantly changing. The seasons, tides, light and palette are always fresh and inspiring. The textures, colors and people of Maine influence my work every day."

Maisey Mae Designs, Cape Elizabeth

Founded: 2002

Products: Personalized, embroidered burp cloths, duffle-backed bibs and sibling T-shirts

Sold: Throughout the U.S.

Owner/creator:

Michelle Whitney

Web: www.maiseymae.com

Picture: Lyla bib (left); Michelle Whitney with Charlie bib, in studio. (Derek Davis photos)



"I was born and raised in Maine and now live with my family in Cape Elizabeth, where the beautiful Maine coast provides daily inspiration for my designs. Our customers and boutiques often comment that they 'love' the fact that we're a Maine company. I believe that when people visit Maine and fall in love with it, it's our simple lifestyle and our quality of life that appeals to them, and keeps them coming back. Those are the Maine qualities we aspire to incorporate in our products."



Artful Wares, Old Town

Founded: 2003

Products: Stainless steel tableware and accessories made from reclaimed Maine lobster, mussel and clam shells

Sold: Nationwide, recently picked up by I.L. Bean

Owner/designer:

Tonya Philbrook

Web: www.artfulwares.com

Picture: Clam Spoonbar

"From a design standpoint, I would say that I'm a creative person and wanted to use the natural beauty of Maine that surrounds me. We're a frugal family, and I thought, 'What is there an item that I can use to make functional art?'"

"Shells move in a certain way, and you don't have control over that, so each piece is unique, as well as being, quite literally, a piece of Maine. I'm making glass tiles now, hanging them on the wall as art pieces. For me, it's like bringing the ocean into my home."

"This business has been a family affair; my husband and son and daughter started collecting mussel shells together at Lanesboro Beach. Also, shellfish waste is an environmental issue here in Maine. So it's great to be able to help by doing something with it."

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