



Bowerbird Design Collective

FIRM: BOWERBIRD DESIGN COLLECTIVE
DESIGNERS: MELANIE SCAMMAN, LAURA ZOULAMIS
PHOTOGRAPHER: LAURYN HOTTENGER
LOCATION: MACHIAS



Bowerbird Design Collective took the overall brand narrative and palette that they had designed for Machias Savings Bank's (MSB) retail branches—the location on Middle Street in Portland being the most recent—and translated it to serve as MSB's literal showcase. A woven community was the inspiration. Machias and downeast Maine have such an amazing, rich, connected community with strong industries in forestry, fishing, and wild blueberries. The logging industry helped inspire the narrative of the modern interiors because the building is located on the Machias River. Due to the exposed logging remnants and cribwork that jut out from the riverbank, one can automatically connect to the past of the site.

An abundance of natural light floods the open interiors, which are bold and clean with contrasting patterns that work well with the earthy palette and crisp white walls. Accent colors in orange, teal, and green connect and give the interiors a punch, while stained walnut gives respite. Furnishings are clean, modern, and ergonomic. One piece in particular, designed by Italian designer Magis, provides a sculptural element and sets the tone in the entry lobby. Modern seating provides ample opportunities to meet and greet, while glass walls provide perpetual views throughout the space.

The space, the process, and Bowerbird's philosophy are congruent. Their design philosophy is holistic: they design for each client's objectives to specifically meet their needs and their brand image and also to optimize performance, increase productivity, and promote happiness. Designers at Bowerbird pride themselves on telling the story of their clients through the spaces they design. "We design with intention, balance, integrity, and respect," says Melanie Scamman.