

The
**WHITE
PINE**

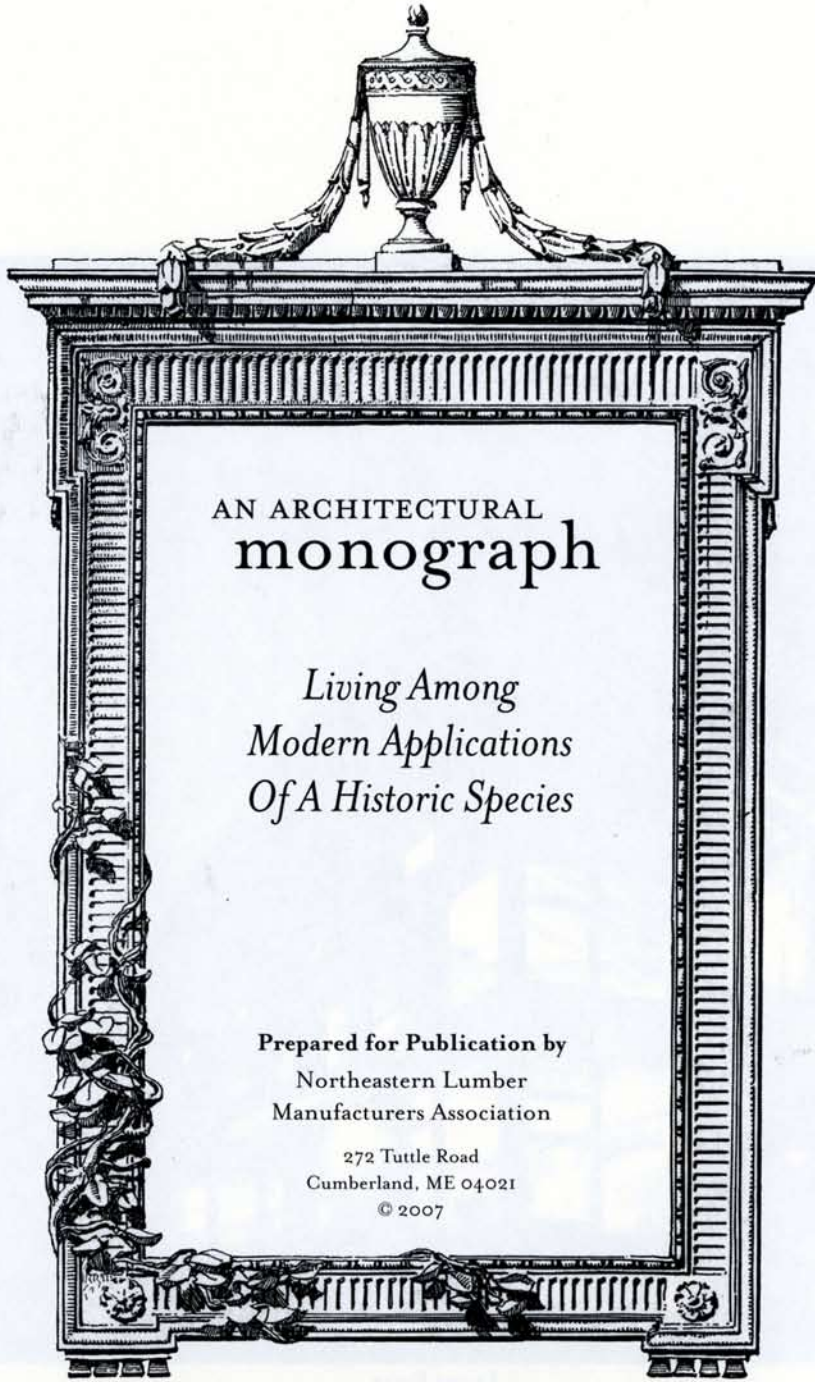
SERIES OF
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VOLUME XXVII
NUMBER TWO

LIVING AMONG MODERN APPLICATIONS
OF A HISTORIC SPECIES



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AN ARCHITECTURAL
monograph

*Living Among
Modern Applications
Of A Historic Species*

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LUCKY PINES



The
WHITE PINE

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architectural monographs

A PUBLICATION SUGGESTING THE ARCHITECTURAL USES OF
EASTERN WHITE PINE AND ITS AVAILABILITY TODAY.

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Living In The Trees
A Life With Natural Fortune

As a Massachusetts architect, Jill Neubauer recognizes the importance behind incorporating natural surroundings within structural design. Having a clear eye for detail and an appreciation for nature's beauty, her firm, Jill Neubauer Architects, approaches every plan with consideration for not only sight lines; but also orientation, sunlight, topography, breezes and overall context. Jill has taken this approach with every project she has encountered, including her own home; known to many as "Lucky Pines."

A CONTEMPORARY LOG CABIN SITUATED ON CAPE COD, JILL DESIGNED LUCKY PINES TO FEATURE THE LOCATION SITE'S NATIVE WHITE PINE TREES. Her creative approach resulted in a truly unique blend of rustic modernism. From the house's soaring structural columns to its interior partitions of knotty pine, Lucky Pines is confirmation that the aesthetic of Eastern White Pine, whether in historic colonials or contemporary cabins, adds natural beauty capable of complementing any style.



The inspiration behind Lucky Pines originated from Jill's grandparents' log cabin in Northern Wisconsin. Reminiscent of cozy memories, Jill wanted to create a similar welcoming warmth through a freshly designed approach. She and her husband Steve, a landscape architect, constructed exactly that by incorporating the site's native trees into the actual design and structure of the cabin; providing an opportunity for every material to expose and showcase itself.

"The house is a combination of sentimental and raw materials...knotty pine, poured concrete, and steel beams," Jill Neubauer describes. "The warmth of the wood is counterbalanced by the cool concrete and steel. Having preserved the natural quality of the native pines, the cabin is aging into a beautiful deep amber color."



LUCKY PINES:
NESTED AMONG ITS PEERS.

In order to maintain the trees' purity, a very important step for Jill and Steve was to do an exceptional job preserving the pines used as the home's structural system. Steve was active in cutting down the trees, which were then peeled and dried. Once the pines went through this process, they were reinstalled in the house as the structural system. Yet, it wasn't as streamlined and simple as it may sound today. The Neubauers learned a few lessons along the way, some of them harder than others...literally.

Anyone who has attempted to peel a pine in the middle of fall will tell you that it's not an easy feat. If not done during the proper season, peeling bark from a white pine can be quite the task. The reason is found under the bark at the cambium of a pine, a layer of growing tissue from which new bark and wood cells originate. Every growing season, a tree's cambium adds a new layer of xylem, or sapwood, to its trunk; producing a visible growth ring in most trees. The cambium is what makes the trunk, branches and roots grow larger in diameter. But, as the Neubauers discovered, it can also be what makes peeling bark a bit daunting. As they learned, the ideal time to peel is during the spring, when the tree's cambium is naturally released from the wood.

While standing inside Lucky Pines enveloped in the natural beauty of pine, gazing up to the high ceilings and soaring spaces—it becomes evident that the pursuit to implement contemporary applications of a historic material was certainly worth the extra effort. "Using the white pine for esthetic, sentimental and contextual reasons, this house is rooted in its site, it actually came from the trees." Jill continues, "When one visits the site, the entire project makes sense. It is very grounded."

The floor plan of Lucky Pines is open, exposed, and well organized. With a dramatic, freestanding concrete wall and



glass garage door serving as a functional and funky living room wall, just not any wood species could be as seamlessly incorporated into the design. To really pull it off, it takes one of the most visually rich woods. Exuding the strong personality, knotty Eastern White Pine has the character needed to counter-balance the raw components of this hybrid home.

Additional trees were also cut from the site to be milled for the flooring. Unlike the trees used for the structural columns that were peeled and dried on site, the trees used for flooring were milled and then kiln dried. By working so closely with the distinct design components of white pine, there is another piece of advice the Neubauer's have for those not as familiar with the species.

"When one visits the site, the entire project makes sense. It is very grounded."



By using an oil-based urethane when clear sealing white pine, the results are like no other. Unfortunately, when treated with water-based products, the wood does not age as well. In order to really bring out the dramatic qualities of the white pine, oil based captures the warm amber and golden hue that so many love; no matter how it is incorporated into a project.



BEAUTY ON THE INSIDE:
SURROUNDED BY
EASTERN WHITE PINE.

With the final touches complete on the project, the Neubauers now enjoy making more family memories in a welcoming cabin, like Jill did as a child. But this time, the cabin reflects the personality of those who live in it, as well as the land from which it came. As far as the story behind naming the place Lucky Pines, it's really quite simple. Jill explains that the site of their contemporary cabin is filled with large white pines, and "knowing that this is quite unusual for the location, we feel *lucky* to be living in the *pin*es." ❁

