

The New York Times



**ON LOCATION**



## Cape of Many Colors

A house on a Nova Scotia hilltop takes its palette from land and sky

By SARAH SAFFIAN

CAPE BRETON ISLAND, Nova Scotia

**E**LIOT ANGLE'S favorite spot in the getaway that he and his wife, Alexandra, designed has to be the outdoor shower.

"Sure, the weather makes it a little challenging to use at times," he said, noting that 100-mile-an-hour winds and driving rain are not unheard of here, even in the summer. "But the romantic rusticator in me sticks with it." (For the less adventurous, there is a 1920s footed bathtub indoors, bought and refinished in nearby Halifax.)

Inspired by local barns, with a nod to the spare Scandinavian aesthetic, the Angles' 2,400-square-foot shingled cottage is all about the outdoors. The windows frame views in every direction: Cape Breton Highlands National Park to the north, the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the west, forested hills to the east and headlands to the south. And the landscape dictated the way the house looks inside as well.

The Angles, interior designers who live in Los Angeles, took long walks, photographing the densely wooded terrain in different





PHOTOGRAPHS BY TONY CENICOLA/THE NEW YORK TIMES

spruce, pine, birch, maple and cedar trees, and the goldenrod, rosa rugosa, blueberries, raspberries and cranberries.

"We designed this house based on the color palette of the land and sky," Ms. Angle, 43, said. "There are 10 different shades of blue, gray and green."

A lobster-crate-style deck wraps around the exterior; inside, a channeled window seat — her favorite spot — spans the width of the living room. Built by a local car upholsterer, it is covered in spruce, celadon, ice blue and lavender cushions. Green pots and chartreuse goblets sit on the open shelves in the kitchen, over blue-gray cabinets. The maple floors are all stained white.

Northeast Maine was where the couple had intended to build a vacation home, but in 2006, after deciding that the area was overdeveloped, they headed up to Nova Scotia, where they fell in love with the region's most remote corner.

"Cape Breton is sort of the next Maine up the coast," Mr. Angle, 41, said.

Ms. Angle added: "Your closest neighbor is half a mile away. I love that feeling."

Their plans for the 54 acres they pur-

Continued on Page 7

**COME FLY WITH ME** The wind, often fierce, is calm enough that Elefe can fly a kite with her father, Elliot Angle, at their Cape Breton Island cottage.

**IN THE GARDEN**

# The Period Vegetable Patch

Uncovering why we chose celery over smallage.

By MICHAEL TORTORELLO



ERIK JACOBSON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

**OLD FLAVOR**

Kathleen Wall, who cooks and gardens at Plimoth Plantation in Plymouth, Mass., holds skirrets, a root vegetable popular in colonial days. Like other plants used during that era, it fell out of favor over time.

Wall, 53, has also found a "bad Henry," of German origin: der böse Heinrich.

What if Henry wasn't a king at all, but an elf? That's one of the hypotheses the botanical historian Judith Sumner put to me by e-mail.

"Henry (or Heinz or Heinrich) was a typical name for elves," she wrote. "So the plant name may reflect some presumed magical qualities rather than commemorating an actual king. The 'good' part might mean it was safe to ingest."

The exact namesake for Good King Henry may be lost to time. But then the plant itself, like so many others, has almost vanished as well. In the raised-bed gardens that flank the houses at Plimoth Plantation, Ms. Wall grew Good King Henry for years.

But "I didn't save the seed," said Ms. Wall, who bought it every year from catalogs instead. "And then the seed was gone for a long time."

Continued on Page 5

**INSIDE**



**4 SHOPPING**  
Sarabeth on the fundamentals of cookie jars. By Rima Suqi

**6 DOMESTIC LIVES**  
Geckos, vipers, scorpions and other memories of life in Bali. By Charlotte Bacon

SHOPPING WITH  
SARABETH LEVINE

# Hand-Catchers

Picking out cookie jars with someone who can fill them.



GORDON M. GRANT FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

**COLLECTIBLE** Sarabeth Levine checks out a Chickadee cookie jar at Salibello Antiques in Bridgehampton, N.Y.; \$350, (631) 537-1484.

**M**OST people aren't surprised to discover that Sarabeth Levine collects cookie jars. She is, after all, the owner of the popular bakery and restaurant Sarabeth's, with multiple locations in New York City and one in Key West, Fla. (You can see a selection at her cafe in Chelsea Market.)

Ms. Levine started collecting cookie jars some 35 years ago, and she prefers jars with character. She also admits to being a sucker for nostalgia.

"The old ones feel like family, like friends," she said. "I have my mother's cookie jar that was always on the counter when we were kids: a yellow Dutch Girl. My mother didn't bake. She put store-bought Oreos and Vienna Fingers in there."

While she is partial to antique cookie jars, Ms. Levine will consider new models for her collection if they meet certain criteria: they must have stable lids; they should be light enough that they're easy to lift, but not too light; and the design should be relatively simple, but not so simple that it's boring.

Browsing at Anthropologie in Chelsea in Manhattan, she found one that met all her requirements: the owl-shaped Wise Ol' cookie jar.

"He's so unusual looking," she said. "I love that the top on this one is small, so you can't break it, but the opening and inside is large, so you can fit a lot of big cookies inside."

A few blocks away, at Yoyamart in the meat-packing district, Ms. Levine was tempted to buy a jar modeled on one of the Uglydoll toys. "This is the way old jars were made," she said. "It's a beautiful mold, see? The glaze colors are very nice, and it's a very good value."

But her best find was in Bridgehampton, N.Y., at John Salibello Antiques, a store known for its vintage modern furniture. It also carries hundreds of antique cookie jars. Ms. Levine was hard-put to choose just one or two. Her favorites included jars modeled on cartoon characters like Donald Duck, Popeye and Yogi Bear. (She admitted that she might consider breaking her "no jars over \$200" rule to buy the Yogi Bear, which was \$1,200.)

She was disappointed, however, that the shop did not have the No. 1 item on her must-have list: a cookie jar in the shape of the comic strip character Little Lulu.

"I've been trying to find a really good Lulu cookie jar for years," Ms. Levine said. "I collected the comics when I was a kid. I absolutely identified with Little Lulu. She was always scheming, and a bully, but she was a woman, a real woman."

RIMA SUQI



Darjeeling cookie jar; \$150 at Jonathan Adler, (800) 963-0891, jonathanadler.com.



Uglydoll cookie jar; \$35 at Yoyamart, (212) 242-5511, yoyamart.com.



Little Helpers jar; \$55 at Cursive, (212) 867-5550, cursivenewyork.com.



Rosella covered jar; \$155 at Klein Reid, (718) 937-3828, kleinreid.com.



Pig cookie jar; about \$30 at Sur la Table, (800) 243-0852, surlatable.com.



Party Cupcake cookie jar by Tag; about \$25 at amazon.com.



One gallon cookie jar; about \$15 at Fishs Eddy, (877) 347-4733, fishseddy.com.



Wise Ol' Cookie Jar, Grey; about \$100 at Anthropologie in Chelsea Market, (212) 620-3116.