

Island Beauty



Jen Porter

TURNER FARM barn, 40x60 ft., the work of Houses and Barns by John Libby, built 2009–2010 on Penobscot Bay’s North Haven Island, 12 miles offshore and one of Maine’s 14 unbridged islands with year-round populations. The farm, one of four on the island, yields produce, milk, meats and artisanal cheeses, supplies a local “farm-to-table” inn and restaurant and employs four hands in the winter and seven in the summer. Barn includes creamery (sometimes used for adult education in cheesemaking), farm stand, milking stall and goat pen. Functional cupola ventilates stored hay. HBJL built doors, railings and other ancillary woodwork at its Freeport workshop for installation in the turnkey job. Below, exterior goat pen communicates with sheltered space inside barn via dedicated rolling doors, providing plenty of scampering space for kids, here apparently about to discover principles of leverage. Photo descriptions supplied by Kate Taylor (kate@taylorwrite.com), a freelance writer living on the island.



Kate Taylor



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John Libby (this column and boom truck)

Clockwise from top left, boom truck and straight truck disembark ferry *Island Transporter* onto island of North Haven with Turner Farm white pine barn frame timbers. Top right, raising well under way with full bent (third of six) on the way up. Middle right, lead framer Peter Truslow drives spline peg in connecting girt. Above right, frame complete, with side aisle basement floored over and remaining aisles awaiting smoother winter seas for concrete truck to arrive. Above left, central aisle of completed barn, with pensive builder John Libby contemplating the indoor-outdoor goat pen. "There is nothing I don't like about building on islands," he says.