



Better Than a Postcard

Either by coincidence, fate, or design, several key moments in Alan Claude's life unfolded in the shadow of a lighthouse. He spent his early childhood near the Biarritz Head Light in France, met his bride-to-be at a restaurant just across the bay from Point Bonita in San Francisco, and got hitched at Marshall Point Light in Port Clyde.

Claude, the founder and creative director of ACES Design in Farmingdale, is a longtime graphic designer, but until recently, he'd never thought about working on something of his own. It took the quiet revelation of his lighthouse love and a longstanding admiration for 1920s travel posters to inspire him.

"All these things kind of fermented," says the designer, who set out to portray six Maine lighthouses: Bass Harbor Head Light, Cape Neddick (Nubble) Light, Pemaquid Point Light,

Rockland Breakwater Light, West Quoddy Head Light, and Portland Head Light. "I went in the wintertime, in the summer, in the fall—just to get the right shadows, the right feel." He took photos, made sketches, and ultimately composed digital images in the bold retro style of his beloved travel posters.

"Each has its own personality, its own character. You can trace our history through these lighthouses. Can you think of any other historic structure that actually saved lives?"

Claude's prints are available in three sizes: 18x24, 12x36, and 36x53. For retail locations or to order directly, go to www.alanclaude.com.

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