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BY COREY TEMPLETON

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Atop the new Hyatt, a penthouse balcony juts out from a place that was just sky two years ago. Surprise—you can see all of Maine from up here, in separate vignettes. For instance, if you look toward the Fore River, there's a vista that looks like it's straight out of *One Morning In Maine*: trucks, lobster boats, classic Widgery Wharf. So strange to catch a glimpse of something so old from the top of something so new. You're the first person ever, beyond me holding the camera, to see this. You, me, and eight million gulls.

To steal up where the sky lives atop the roof of the new Courtyard Marriott, you have to go through a set of final dark zigzags before you burst into fresh air. The interior of the Marriott may be opulent, but if I were staying here, I'd spend the entire time right where I'm standing.



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**Quick—Where are you?** Portland's Old Port seems like an exotic new city when you survey it from new angles. Above, fresh perspective from the roof of the Press Hotel. At left, a remarkably serene and rural take on Wiggery Wharf as seen from one of the penthouse suites at the Hyatt Place. Photos on the preceding pages were taken from the new Courtyard Marriott on Commercial Street: all the way up on the roof, high above the guest rooms and condos, practically in the clouds.

(Please note, the general public is not allowed up here.) I feel lucky when I can sneak up on such beauty, with views too fresh to be clichés, 360 degrees around me. The drop toward Monument Square and then down along Commercial Street is priceless. ■