



Home Away From Home

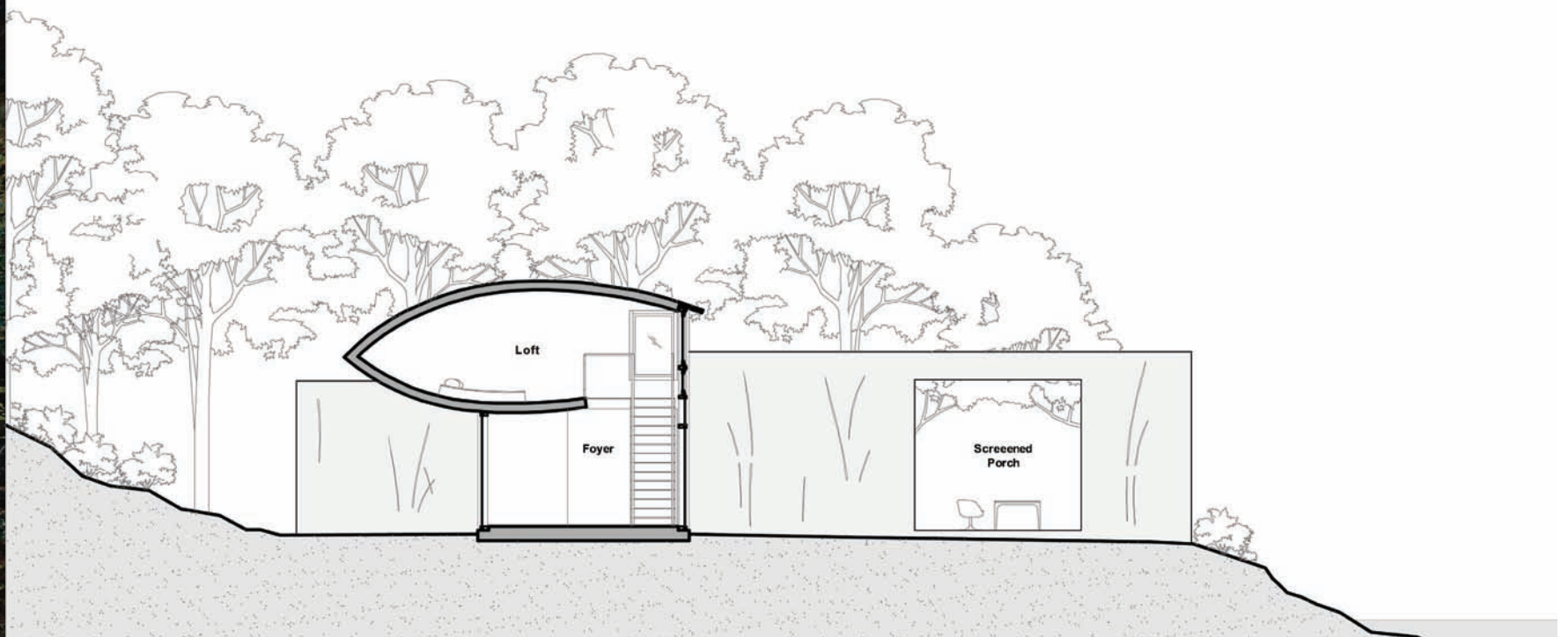
HILL-MAHEUX COTTAGE IS THE BEST PLACE TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL,
THANKS TO KARIOUK ASSOCIATES

If you have been living in a city for as long as I have you will understand this very clearly. The city is dense, hostile and filled with thousands of people all suited up for work or all gleamed up to enjoy the late night ahead. The sun seems to be extra punishing if you're in a city and when night approaches everyone seemed more awake than ever. The rest of the country is dark but the city is still full of lights stretching for miles away. If you have been living in a city long enough, you might grow weary of it sooner or later.

So, it is understandable if a person needs a weekend and vacation retreat. When the client approached Canada-based firm Kariouk Associates, they have been entrusted to design a small weekend and vacation retreat for a couple and their daughter in Val-des-Monts, Quebec - a place for the small family to take refuge from the world. But the clients also desired that the house achieve a maximum connection to its beautiful, forested lake side locale.

With the cottage designed for the clients, a couple that is heavily involved in art conservation, as a place to keep for their entire lives and eventually to be passed on to their daughter, the clients also placed a final request on the design: a home where the design would itself be conceived as a vessel for the conservation of the family memories that will continue to unfold there.

With that in mind, Kariouk Associates came up with a simple design for the cottage: two 'bars' of living space that are joined by an elliptical loft hovering over the foyer and giving shelter to the entry below. One of the bars is the private area, containing bedrooms, bathroom and storage while the other bar is the public area that contains the kitchen, dining and living areas. That leaves one last area, the elliptical loft, as the domain for the client's daughter.









SPACED IN



38 SPACE





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Instead of 'walling-in' the two ground level volumes to achieve privacy, Kariouk Associates made the levels with large expanses of glass and are sited at the edge of the property where vegetation is most dense. The fireplace is surrounded with a 'quilt' of metal plates of copper and zinc printing plates that the clients received from a printmaker friend, and enough printing plates to also cover the underside of the loft volume.

As a vessel for the conservation of the family memories, there are many yet-unetched plates that can be removed, worked by the clients and their visiting friends to the cottage, and then reinstalled. This way, the cottage keeps a record of its past and retain the memories for the whole family, and for the daughter when the time finally comes. **SP**

Architects Paul duBellet Kariouk (Principal) Chris Davis (Senior Design Associate)
Susan Gardiner (Design Associate) Matthew Lahey (Design Associate)
General Contractor Timber Wolf (Donald Thom)
Structural Engineering The Paterson Group (ZbigKisilewicz)
Curtain Wall Supplier VervalLtee (Charles-Armand Turpin)
Geotechnical Consultant The Paterson Group (Laird Stewart)

Kariouk Associates

This award-winning design office specialising in new homes, cottages and interior renovations in Ottawa Gatineau and abroad believes in responsible design that is never about imposing a pre-determined solution. Their approach is always to respond to their client's need in relation to a particular set of circumstances because no project exists without limitations and challenges, which ultimately not impediments to their design work but rather the catalysts for design that is as sensible as it is unique

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