

LIVING IN WOOD

BRAUN





MULVAGH-CROSBY COTTAGE

QUEBEC, CANADA



The site for this project is a remote, private lake where a family cottage had stood for over seventy years. When the land passed from mother to son, the decision was made to renovate the home. Ultimately, because the structure had reached such an advanced state of decay, the new owner decided to entirely rebuild the cottage.

For sentimental reasons, the new home was to be the exact dimensions of the former and to sit in the same location. It was designed to be used only in three of four seasons. This meant the design

could be simplified as significant insulation was not required, yet construction intentions were complicated by the remote location, which meant that the cost of bringing labourers from the city would be very high. In order to minimize the cost of workers on the construction site while simultaneously insuring the highest quality of construction, the decision was made in the early stages to use largely prefabricated elements. The material selected was CLT, which can be fabricated in panels as large as 60x10 feet.



Architect / designer: Kariouk Associates
Client: Michael Mulvagh & Chip Crosby
Year of completion: 2014
No. of bedroom: 2
Gross floor are: 100m²
350m² of non-treated Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT) used for structure, interior surfaces



An open CLT complex functioning as a bow to the traditional family cottage and a modern living environment at the same time.



A detailed computer model was generated for every surface that would comprise the cottage. Every opening and cut needed for assembly, apertures and services was indicated on this model. This information was then sent to a computer controlled milling machine that produced the finished panels. These were brought to the site, where a steel-post foundation was installed the week before, and hoisted into place; the entire shell of the cottage was assembled in less than two days.

While the technology to mill the CLT panels is "modern", the cottage is in fact identical in construction and materiality to a traditional log home where fully milled elements are simply joined together.

