



Canadian builds a bower bird love nest to 'woo and wow' a mate

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Last updated 14:35, August 18 2016



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The Bower House, designed by Kariouk Associates, was named after the bower bird, which likes to build a very special nest to woo a mate.

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The team behind the design of this amazing house on the Niagara Peninsula in Ontario, says the design was inspired by the bower bird. These birds are renowned for their unique courtship behaviour – the male builds an elaborate structure in an attempt to attract a mate.

And that's exactly what this is – an eyrie love nest perched in the treetops that's designed to lure a mate.

The appropriately named Bower House was designed by Kariouk Associates for a client who wanted a view of Lake Erie, but couldn't afford a lakeside property. The site acquired was very long and narrow, across the road from other homes, and 600m away from the lakeshore.



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The house features an elongated rectangular lower floor, topped with an angled container-like structure, that appears to search out the view beyond.

Principal Paul duBellet Kariouk says despite the client's selection of a less desirable lot, the project was required to serve as a lure for a mate, complete with two bedrooms for two yet non-existent/future hatchlings.

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Sleek simple styling also defines the kitchen.

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These challenges were resolved by designed an elongated ground floor that accommodates all the public spaces as well as two children's bedrooms, an indoor pool and garaging. Meanwhile a dramatic first-storey master bedroom tower is perched 12m above in the treetops, well above the surrounding rooftops. Turned on an angle, the top level gives the house a dramatic presence that turns heads in the neighbourhood, just as intended.

Other key features of the house include bold banding on the exterior, with alternating light and dark stripes, and black framing of the elongated, container-shaped upper storey.

"While the local zoning bylaw restricted new homes to a height limit of two levels, the code did not actually state that a second floor must be contiguous to a lower floor," Kariouk says. "The municipal bylaws in that region have since been rewritten.

"Bowerbird Mission Accomplished - the photographs were taken two weeks prior to the client's wedding, however, no hatchlings in sight just yet."

Design team: Paul duBellet Kariouk (principal), Chris Davis (senior design associate), Sarah McMurtry, Adam Paquette, David King and Dimitar Mehandjiev (design associates)