HOMES

$15 million Caledon house is 'incredible'

5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms in a 10,000 square foot contemporary home featuring a showpiece fireplace

By Carola Vyhnak Special to the Star
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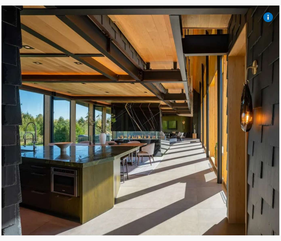
It's the moment of the big reveal as Karin Bohn tours the country retreat in Caledon just weeks before move-in day.

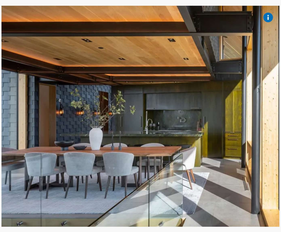
"Holy cow!" "Oh my gosh!" "I love it!" she enthuses as project architect Chris Davis shows her around the glass-sided main floor with its massive, nine-foot-long black marble fireplace, white oak ceilings set off by black steel beams, and walls lined with grey slate shingles.



"This looks incredible," she says, checking out the open kitchen's antique copper handles, marble countertops and stained oak millwork the colour of a dark forest.

"This is kind of blowing my mind right now because we've never done a green kitchen! It's so good!"

Bohn was the home's interior designer and lives in Vancouver where her award-winning firm, House of Bohn, is based. Her reaction to the almost-finished project in late 2020 after doing most of the work remotely was captured in a vlog on her YouTube channel. She made a handful of trips to the job site over several months.



Built on a 100-acre property of forest and meadows an hour northwest of downtown Toronto, the geometrically shaped house with 10,300 square feet of indoor and outdoor living space was designed by Ottawa-based Kariouk Architects, where Davis is a senior associate.

The homeowners, a family of five based in California, shared Bohn's enthusiasm for the results.

"They were thrilled, they really, really loved it," the designer told the Star, adding they hired her after seeing the 2020 Netflix series, "Restaurants on the Edge," in which Bohn had a starring role.

Willing to push the envelope, the clients wanted a "contemporary Canadian cabin" with a warm, cosy feel, according to Bohn.

The $15-million, five-bedroom house extends 170 feet in length, anchored by a three-storey tower at one end and a second-floor outdoor terrace at the other end. The structure is topped with a tapered and angled steel roof that "lifts like a bird's wing" to cover the 1,015-square-foot terrace, according to the architect.

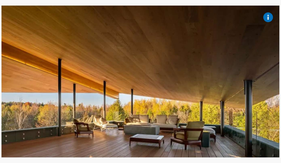
"The site was the client," says Paul Kariouk, the architecture firm's owner and principal, explaining that the tent-like roof follows the topography of the existing clearing where the family getaway was built.

A "meandering" ridge beam supporting the roof "sews together the spaces," connecting terrace, main living areas, second-floor kids' rooms and tower, where an office and music-listening room sit atop the primary ensuite.

Kariouk describes the huge double-sided fireplace between the living and dining rooms as a "structural feat." Tied "discreetly" into the floor, it appears to be suspended in the square opening from the living room to the lower level's recreational spaces.

From the "showpiece" fireplace, the eye moves to the walls of windows and vistas of the rugged landscape, observes listing agent Carolyn Scime of Chestnut Park Real Estate, an affiliate of Christie's International Real Estate.

The home is "light and bright and warm" with highlights that range from the "incredible island" with seating for eight in the kitchen to the see-through natural stone fireplace in the primary bedroom, she says.



For Bohn, the views and natural environment were the driving forces behind the interior palette, with the bold design and forest green of the kitchen millwork repeated throughout the main floor.

"Inside the house, you really feel like you're outdoors," she says. "What I love so much about the space is that it's clean and contemporary but when you're in it, it still feels intimate and cosy and warm."

Carola Vyhnak is a Cobourg-based writer covering personal finance, home and real-estate stories. She is a contributor for the Star. Reach her via email: cvyhnak@gmail.com

The numbers

Price: $14,995,000

Size: 10,300 square feet, including covered terrace

Bedrooms: 5

Bathrooms: 6