Kariouk Architects' m.o.r.e. Cabin is at Lac du Brochet near Wakefield, Que. It touches the land lightly with a reduced foundation size, thanks to a steel mast.

Paul describes the 10,300-square-foot dynamic house, which features curtains of glass and is anchored by monolithic slate-clad volumes and steel construction, as virtually indestructible and the work painstakingly detailed in terms of how the wood and steel came together.

"One of the best aspects of my job is the human interaction—if I didn't have that it would be a bore. At the end of our projects, our clients become friends."

m.o.r.e. Cabin

Located on a quiet, pristine lake in the Quebec municipality of La Pêche near Wakefield, this innovative, solar-powered, 950-square-foot cottage is built into a steeply sloped hillside, suspended 18 metres in the air by a steel beam and set back 30 metres from the water. With birds flying overhead and deer, beavers, porcupine and otters scurrying about below, the sustainably constructed cabin soars amongst the treetops, while offering sweeping views of the water.

"Most of the homeowners on Lac du Brochet are related and are descendants of the original Farrellton family. The residents are opposed to hydro and must ski, snowshoe or skidoo down a private five-kilometre dirt road with their supplies to the lake in winter months. It's like a giant camp on a large lake," Paul says, adding that project is named in honour of the clients' four grandmothers.

The m.o.r.e. Cabin is solar powered and has excellent cross-ventilation.

Paul says the main requirement for the project, besides being fully accessible, was that it be built on a steep site and held up by a "structural steel mast with only one small portion touching the earth." To minimize the environmental impact, the home consists of a single concrete footing and is constructed with a combination of cross-laminated timber (CLT) and glue-laminated timber beams. Milled and prefabricated off-site, the CLT was hoisted into place, minimizing the damage to the flora and fauna. A steel walkway leads to the front entrance and includes a dining and living room, open-concept kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom. The general contractors for the job included Gatineau's GPL Construction, Farrellton's Ronald O'Connor Construction and Laverty Log Homes and Timber Frames of Baden, Ont.

"There was an incredible level of precision in making this cabin come together with tens of thousands of screws about 30 centimetres long. Each piece of CLT was pre-drilled 10,000 times at exactly the right angle and depth. It was exhaustive work, but a wonderful challenge."

The cabin was a finalist for the Ontario Association of Architects 2022 Design Excellence Awards.

To discover more, **visit Kariouk.com.**