Architecture

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Forest Retreat Ontario property, Residential building project, Canadian architecture images

Forest Retreat in Caledon, Ontario

21 June 2024

Home

Architecture: Kariouk Architects Location: Caledon, Ontario, Canada

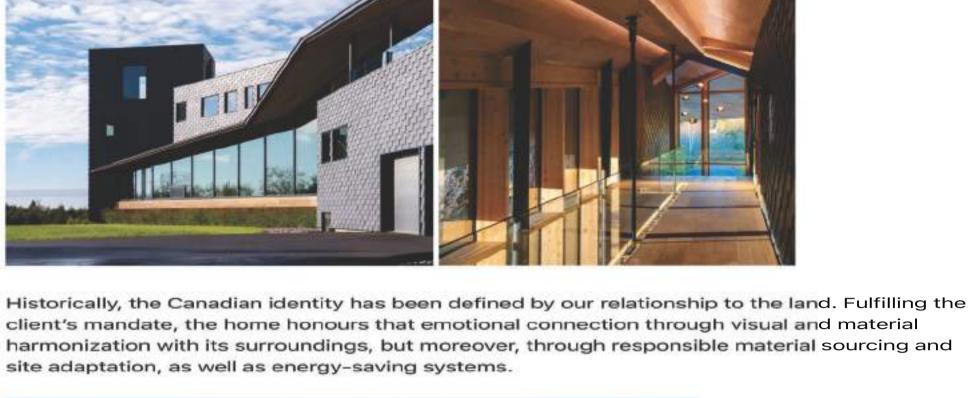


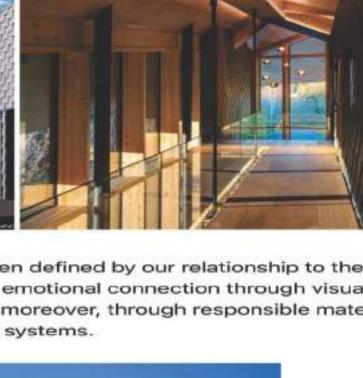
Kariouk Architects presents its new project, Forest Retreat, a family retreat located in the heart of the Ontarian forest, designed to meet programmatic requirements while connecting to its

environment.

Forest Retreat, Canada









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be expressed.

Sustainability

Under one roof

A key objective of the design was to achieve a contemporary approach to warmth and the

and bathrooms closed off, is a layout that supports the family's closeness. The family and parents' areas are on the main level. The kids' bedrooms form a single slate-clad volume, suspended 12 meters above the main floor by the ridge beam and accessed by a catwalk.

avoidance of modernist box-like forms. The continuous space of the home, with only bedrooms





The roof and its oak-clad ridge beam choreograph the meandering circulation path through the home's interior, ultimately extending a view toward the forest.

This project enabled a benchmark for a finer, more considered level of craft and materiality. The

emerges from a pre-machine era. Contemporary construction is very much entwined with heavy technology and mass-produced components, yet, this project shows how "human craft" can still

The home celebrates the "mark of the hand" by incorporating a significant use of exposed steel fittings fabricated by local tradespeople, and custom-made panels for walls and ceilings by local woodworkers, including the echo of traditional slate roofing patterns — here used for walls. The intention here is not to avoid modern building methods as, for example, some heavy timber post-

and-beam homes might do. The intention was to bring soulfulness to the home by thinking through and resolving details in person and by hand, and not merely on a computer screen.

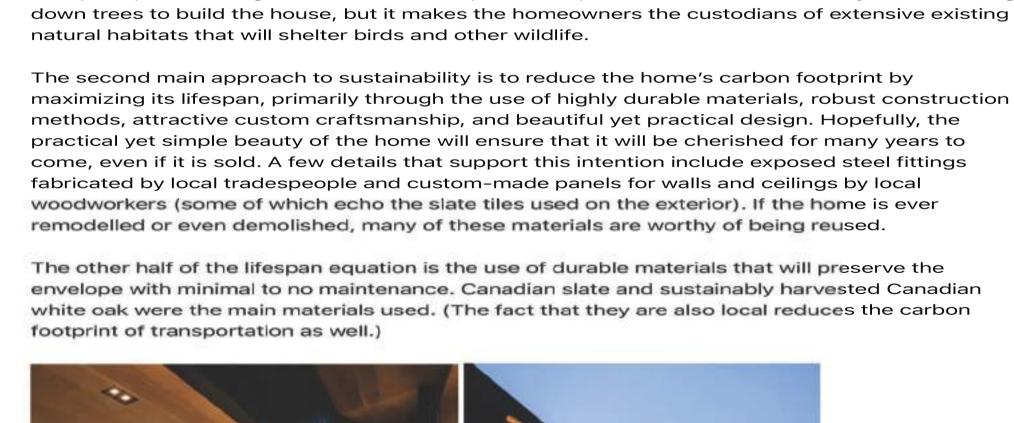
development of this home's design reinterprets the client's mandate for "rusticity" by

foregrounding the "mark of the hand" as opposed to contriving to mimic an aesthetic that

A Contemporary Approach to Warmth and Closeness

One key approach is habitat preservation. The home was constructed on an already cleared

hilltop site, overlooking 100 acres of forests, meadows, and wetlands. This not only avoids cutting



We've pursued sustainability on several fronts with this project.

The home also uses several techniques to reduce energy consumption. The roof is very well insulated, and the glass walls are triple-pane, which vastly reduces the energy loss. The deep overhang of the roof also reduces passive solar gain in summer. The home is heated and cooled using a geothermal heat pump. Because it is powered by electricity, a heat pump has a much

(Ontario's electrical grid is currently at about 90% GHG-free). Geothermal heat pumps can not only operate at much lower temperatures than air-source heat pumps but also use less electricity.

Forest Retreat fulfills the client's mandate by honouring their emotional connection to the land

lower carbon footprint than the most popular heating method of natural gas, a fossil fuel

The fixtures and septic system are high-efficiency, ensuring responsible use of water.

through visual and material harmonization with the surrounding landscape.



If anything, our trademark is that no two of our projects look the same. Because we tackle each creative undertaking with a new lens, our final results are always informed by an entirely different set of criteria and inspiration. It is deeply important to us that we understand the nuances of the lives, and therefore the needs, of the unique individuals for whom we build.

look that identifies us as distinctly Kariouk.

While many architecture firms pride themselves on having a trademark style that distinguishes them from their competition, Kariouk proudly stands behind the fact that we do not have any one



Location: Caledon, Ontario, Canada

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