

THE WORLD'S
BEST ARCHITECTURE

TWENTY
TWENTY-FIVE

Architizer



m.o.r.e. CLT Cabin
Wakefield, Canada
Built, 2021

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North American cottages are typically “woody” versions of suburban homes. They sustain the myth that appearing to be one with the land equates to a reduced environmental impact. m.o.r.e. Cabin inverts this idea through a separation from the landscape that is more sustainably constructed (the acronym stands for the clients’ grandmothers’ names, all of whom did more with less). The zoning rules required a 100-foot (30-meter) setback from the lake, which coincided with a cliff face that otherwise would have been blasted. Instead, a zoning variance was obtained to minimize harm to the hillside, allowing the front of m.o.r.e. Cabin to hover above, rather than sit on, the 100-foot mark. The solution involved a single concrete footing and a steel “mast” placed within the setback. Avoiding a large

foundation preserved the hillside, as did elevating the construction zone. The use of carbon-intensive concrete was also reduced. m.o.r.e. Cabin’s environmental considerations yielded structural innovation in the form of cantilevered cross-laminated timber (CLT) panels. Conventional 7-ply and 5-ply CLT is too heavy to support itself over longer spans. The solution used thinner 3-ply CLT, with structural capacity ensured through “folding.” The off-grid home is solar-powered, and a high-efficiency wood stove provides heating. The elevated cottage has excellent cross-ventilation and breezes. Bat pods were integrated into the mast to create lodging for endangered brown bats. This provides safety from climbing predators and a clear flight path to the lake.

