

RESTLESS LIVING

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VOLUME 79



HOUSE LO

Velehrad, Czech Republic

Nestled amid a forest and encircled by woodland mystery, House LO is a home designed for a nature lover who always dreamed about having a cabin. The home's interesting conceptualization indicates how special House LO is for the family and for the architect.

“Ondřej (the owner) loves nature and forests. Before having children he led a life of a modern nomad. He owned a site in the middle of the woods and always dreamed about building a cabin there. During winter he used to live in the city and in spring he relocated to his parents' cabin near the future building site of the House LO”, architect, Lina Bellovičová, starts. Centrally, the house draws on the surrounding nature, its materiality, techniques and its owner. Ondřej, the client, wished for a home that was ecological, connected to Mother Earth and that offered him a custom photo chamber where he could practice his passion for photography. Additionally, Ondřej was determined to innovate by building his home with hempcrete, a material that was never utilized for architectural purposes in Czech Republic so far. Hence, it established a challenge for Lina as an architect. However, the challenge turned out to be a valuable experience, as Lina continues: “Building with hempcrete is easy and allows the builder to build their house on their own. The material is petrifying for several years and draws carbon dioxide from the air around during this process. Hempcrete has great insulating features, is recyclable and also resistant to pests, fire and molds.” Moreover, given hempcrete's easy manipulation, the whole family was allowed to have their own part in the construction of the house. “The walls were built by self-help with family and friends. Grandmother and grandfather installed the roof. Every inch of the house has its own story”, Lina adds.

By combining dreams and a beautiful location, a special place was created where everyone is welcomed, even foxes that steal one's things, as Lina ends: “The fox we saved is coming here and steals our shoes.” House LO effectively introduces an architecture that is simple and meaningful, like the sentiment between family and friends.

Architecture by **Ateliér Lina Bellovičová**

Photography by **BoysPlayNice**

“They brought the concrete tub late and we had to demolish the interior wall in the bathroom so the tub could be installed.”

– Lina Bellovičová, Architect





HOUSE ON LAC CHARLEBOIS

Lake Charlebois, Québec, Canada

On the shores of Lake Charlebois sits a contemporary home covered with weathering steel and black dyed cedar. Designed for a couple who wished to have an open and nature-centered home, Paul Bernier Architecte was commissioned by the clients to build a house where most spaces would be leveled with the land.

“The terrain is slightly sloping. During a first visit to the site, a perimeter was established to identify the ideal location”, Paul begins and continues: “The privileged view towards the lake and the south coincide, which guided the orientation of the building.” Formation-wise, the house was set out to have a L shape, which facilitated views of the lake and towards south as required by the clients. Additionally, the L shape allowed the spaces to be arranged according to zones, ensuring a better coordination of flow through the house. “In the ‘L’ plan, a wing is reserved for the day spaces – kitchen, dining room, living room – and the other wing houses the more private spaces – master bedroom, bathroom, washing”, Paul explains. Besides, this configuration also established an outdoor space that is sunny, private and positioned towards the lake. On the whole, the house’s format makes the most out of the site, as Paul elaborates on his fondness for the kind of L shaped architecture: “I really like L shape or U shape buildings because they also define an exterior space and establish an interesting relationship between the wings of the building. They allow a



separate function – night wing and day wing – but also it allows you to see the house, while being still in the house, through the inside space.” At the intersection of the two wings, a two-level volume is created with the upper floor watching over the lake and the ground floor. This volume takes in a garage on the ground floor and a guest bedroom and office on the above. Moreover, its materiality sets it apart from the whole building. “It is covered with Corten steel – weathering steel – which has already taken its orange color, while the volume in ‘L’ on one floor is sided with black dyed cedar”, Paul explains. On the inside, both floors are united by a double-height space and a cantilevered staircase made with walnut wood that sets a warm contrast against the dark gray wall. Furthermore, the choices around materials coincide with the surrounding characteristics to a certain extent, and in regards to that, Paul elaborates: “The use of cedar planks siding is very typical but obviously the use of Corten steel is not. It was a first for the locals as well as the constructor. The client likes it and in a way, as it oxidizes with time, it gives it kind of an organic texture that blends well in nature.”

In sum, House on Lac Charlebois helps to set a contemporary mood to a home amid the astounding Canadian nature.

Architecture by **Paul Bernier Architecte**

Photography by **James Brittain**





HEMLOCK AVE. HOUSE

There is no better way of understanding a subject than living it. Lived experience constitutes the knowledge gained by one's experiences and choices in regards to a certain matter. With that in mind, Hemlock Ave. House is an insightful home designed by an architect for himself. The home's concept basically addresses all issues and constraints observed by him during his 17 years of living in a house which was far from ideal.

"The design inspiration for this home is a culmination of the spaces I have experienced both good and bad. Initial design considerations were to create a natural light-filled home that connected interior spaces to the exterior and landscape as much as possible - none of which existed in my previous home", home owner and Principal at Chioco Design, Jamie Chioco, begins. The architect's original residence dated back to the 50s and was very typical to the neighborhood.

Austin, Texas, United States

After 17 years of contemplating, revamping and extending the spaces, Jamie decided to start from the ground up and relocate his 750 ft² home to a nearby location. "The 1950's house was a blank slate so to speak. Rectangular form, simple gabled roof, steel casement windows and wood siding covered up at some point with asbestos tiles like many homes of that era", Jamie says. His efforts to remodel the house and get the best out of the existing



situation became a challenge that was no longer feasible. As Jamie continues: “I have done a handful of similar projects over the years, but this proved to be difficult. Making a rational connection to the addition, a visual connection to the back yard and creating natural light in the original structure felt forced. That is when my girlfriend, Elizabeth – now wife – and I decided it made more sense to build a new home.” Primarily, the new design came about naturally as everything the house needed to include was already in Jamie’s mind. “Orientation, public vs. private topics, scale, and proportion had all been con-

sidered for years. The inadequacies of the previous homemade decisions for the new home are very apparent. Natural light, open living areas, and the need to relate to the site were the priorities”, Jamie elaborates. Hence, Hemlock Ave. House defines a home that establishes clear visual connection to outdoors and allows the spaces to be permeated by natural light. This is achieved by featuring “four custom fabricated fourteen-foot-tall corner windows.” Essentially, the house plan includes two rectangular volumes that are interconnected. Right where they meet, the entrance was established with two sets of sliding doors.

“The ‘front’ door is actually situated in the center of the home. Upon approach, the transparency of the sliding door systems reveals a layered effect through the house and into the backyard and pool area”, Jamie adds. Carrying out meaning through every inch, nothing about the house is random or done by accident. “It became apparent the new schematic design was a direct response to what I disliked about the old house”, Jamie ends.

Architecture by **Chioco Design**

Photography by **Casey Dunn**





MINI HOUSE BAC CAU

Ngoc Thuy, Vietnam

Tucked into a serene woodland, Mini House Bac Cau is a home taking the blending concept to a whole new level. Compact, the home acts as a secretive shelter as it is concealed amid lush trees and vegetation. Gracefully sitting on the land, the spaces are defined by glass walls that embrace and borrow the surrounding landscape. We have been in touch with Architect at vn-a, Truong Giang Vu.

“Our inspiration is the time-space of the site, which is included the endless volume of the river, with the speed of the wind, the barges, the bamboo boats to cross the river, the social life of the people on riverside, the movement of the existing plants and trees”, Truong begins. The house’s transparency honors the richness of the site by creating an architecture that does not compete, but aims to integrate. As Truong explains: “We aim to dialogue with the site. The house is symbiotically intertwined with the old trees of the property through layers of overlapping spaces in different depths”. Evidently, this approach ensures that the interior is flooded with natural light as it transforms a 78 m² property into the illusion of a much bigger one. The transparency of the home does not sacrifice privacy though, as by being enclosed by tall trees, they act as a secondary skin that fortifies the home. Additionally, from the inside this secondary skin renders a lively atmosphere as one is embraced by green vegetation all around. The river that is adjacent to the building brings



along a mass of wind that, combined with big sliding doors, contributes to the breathing of the home. Primarily, the existing harmony between construction and nature allows them to have their own take. As the light of day is on, the house is completely undiscovered and the vegetation is in focus. However, as the night comes into view, the house is lit and fully present. Interestingly, the home – as silent as it is – proposes a contrast to the local context. In regards to that, Truong elaborates: “In fact the prototype we have chosen for the house is totally in contrast to the local and regional context: simple shape, new way of the construction and skin in comparison to the local techniques and materials; especially the way to cover three-dimensional space with the void and solid volume of the site.”

All in all, Mini House Bac Cau is seemingly a home that brings about a living experience that is reinforced by nature. As to have such a rich site, comes along the undeniable proposal of taking in the outdoors and making an indoor environment of its own. And the home successfully takes advantage of this opportunity. “The Mini House in Bac Cau will be added as a stopover by sprinkling the filigree construction into the existing flora”, Truong concludes.

Architecture by **[vn-a](#)**

Photography by **[Hoang Le](#)**







HOUSE ON TODOS LOS SANTOS Chile

An exquisite location and a well-crafted weekend cabin sets the tone for a tranquil and nature-inspired retreat. Based on the shore of the lake Todos Los Santos in Chile, the single-family residence benefits from a sublime landscape of native forests and volcanos that can only be accessed by boat. We talked to Lead Architect on the project, Angie Chadwick Stuardo.

“The terrain is quite unique and extreme. It is located on a high slope edge with a rocky shore and has over 1.5 meters of topsoil on its surface, which required us to have a strategy regarding the choice of materials and construction system, to facilitate water transport and installation by hand without the use of heavy machinery”, Angie begins. Fundamentally, the concept for the cabin was guided by the preservation of the wild environment, which resulted in a minimal impact approach. Thus, a structure sustained by pillars and steel beams was introduced, enabling the base to be raised so as to achieve the best overlook of the blue jasmine lake and touch the soil in a gentle manner, avoiding the excavation of the hill. “On this base metal structure, the floor made of impregnated dry pine wood was mounted, receiving the light volume with the program of the house”, Carolina says. On the inside, spaces are centered around the social area and materialize a warm atmosphere. Besides, materials are selected to create a melodic dialogue with the surrounding nature. Finally, a balcony watches over the lake granting priceless moments of peace and serenity.

Consequently, the construction technique allowed Apio Arquitectos to build a home with panoramic qualities close to the natural wonders of fire and water.

Architecture by **Apio Arquitectos**

Photography by **Alejandra Valenzuela**

Words of the Week



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In recent years – and especially during COVID-19 – a greater concern regarding people’s work-life balance has been raised. Do we work too much? Do we work too little? When should we work? Should we work from home?

This week, we were out shooting the next episode for the Restless Living YouTube channel. The property – a reinterpretation of a classic longhouse – was arranged to keep the work-life balance in sync. From above, the main volume looked like a undisrupted volume continuing from one end of the site to the other. From the ground, however, one gets to notice a tunnel below the roof, crossing the width of the volume and hence separating the volume in two asymmetrically sized units. One unit for living, and another unit for working. While everything is technically under the same roof, it is perfectly separated with own office entrance in the tunnel for the clients. I thought this idea was quite interesting, and I am excited to show you in the next YouTube episode!

Thank you for reading this week’s issue. Have a lovely weekend, and then I will see you again next Friday!

CHRISTIAN TRAMPEDACH
FOUNDER, RESTLESS

