

# Project Description

**Area:** 3400 ft<sup>2</sup>

**Year Built:** 2010

**Location:** 1020 Colony Trail Bracebridge, Ontario, Canada

**Consultant:** Shahram Talebi, P.Eng, TAG Structural Group Inc

A chalet nestled in a 1-acre waterfront land in Muskoka region, Ontario

The lot was limited by restrictive development codes and zoning By-Laws. There was challenge to get a relief from the building restrictions through a committee of the Adjustment. The cottage contains four bedrooms and accommodates large family surrounding the occupants with rich, warm wood surfaces. The living spaces are framed by two-story-high glass enclosures opening to water front to take advantage of the magnificent views and the horizon, creating a luminous living environment allowing for total immersion into the landscape, waterscape, and atmosphere. In the center is the living area extending to a master suite separated from the rest of the house, and on the opposite side, the kitchen and dining area. This residence was designed as a collection of natural sustainable volumes. Design elements such as magnificent nature, natural light, materiality, and typology were dictated main architectural principles driving the project and its geometry. The dreams, life values and love of nature that had been merged and input into a unique strategic vision, were the guiding principles in the design of this project. The beautiful scenery of the Muskoka River was the main source of the inspiration on design of the cottage to creating a new atmosphere that emotionally connects the visitors to the nature and disconnects them from modern madness

The house's materiality focuses on enhancing the natural cedar wood, which was left exposed both on the inside and outside of the house. Simply the positive vibes is given off by this place

The main tall windows resides between cedar pillars, revealing organically shaped triangular tall widows that focus visitors' attention on the beautiful view of the river with large cedar trees which bring the path of outdoor into the house

Every visitor gets an authentic pleasure and experiences inner peace, calmness and tones of positive feelings when they witness the green cedar trees, the blue colour of the sky, running water and race of the river

After the visitors wondering the beauty of the nature in front of the tall windows, they walk through the interiors, to discover all the spaces and different living setups

This is not just a typical residence, but an outside-in type of house whose nature elements reveal the exterior aesthetics while maintaining the home's intimacy

The design principles concerned with the nature and appreciation of its beauty

At the rear, 2 columns rise on either side to two-storey height. These pillars with surrounding tall windows, facing magnificent water front giving a unique texture to the house. The feature glass rear wall adds a layer of depth to space by exposing the magnificent nature. The double-glazed floor to ceiling tall windows on the rear façade, apart from drawing abundant natural light, they also maximize waterfront view from every direction

The natural lighting is another element which clustered artistically over the seating area creating an outdoor atmosphere inside the house. In the center of the large great room, the ceiling drops down to a 2nd storey level, with the view of both sides. This feature is the perfect juxtaposition to the soaring front and rear walls, showing front and rear views side by side. All the ceilings are clad in natural-cedar wood, bringing touches of organic warmth and ensuring its timeless beauty. The cedar clad structures are inlaid across the ceiling, unifying the area. The flooring selected is darker tone of the cedar creating organic warmth feeling

The great room is a bright space with a seating area both comfortable and chic. A TV is recessed into a wall next to a fabulous fireplace column, clad in stone, and a 100 years old wood mantel running across the fire place adds interest and balance. The natural wood burning fire place, creating a medley of light and warmth creates a romantic atmosphere

When it comes to the media room, the design takes some dark notes as a base, lending to the quiet mood sought. Upholstered sofas located to enjoy the beauty of the fireplace and the breathtaking nature at the same time. A cedar wood ceiling tray gives the appearance of a more intimately sized space, while scattered pin lights seem star-like in the ceiling overhead. A dark, abstract rug grounds the space, while deeply textured floor liven up the floor. Crisp artistic millwork frames the cedar ceiling, windows and doors, give the place a tailored finish

This cottage is a perfect environment for visitors and occupants and it is an incredible office and space to call sweet home

The interior wood finishes are assembled from solid cedar wood slices, each of which is natural wood with the real texture, embodying simple and warm style. The cherry stair leading to a bridge across the great room creates the concept of a loft above. The blurred wood beams and columns strengthen the concept of Timber homes, with an interesting roof design. In designing the roof geometry, it has taken the advantage of the beauty of the timber frames, revealing the wood in a rational series of intersections, bringing roof lines together in new ways and exposing them

All building materials are carefully selected including their sources with as much attention to naturalness and uniqueness as possible, making the residence a perfect .example of a healthy and environmentally friendly home

The cedar Log sidings create the concept of a log home. Arched hand curved log sidings curved by Amish artists. All the hand cut natural material used in this cottage figures out the meaning of love and feelings which has been put into it from cutting a tree to .forming the final product, all done by hand without using the industrial machinery

The interior is carefully furnished, and the overall plan caters to different sizes of gatherings of families or friends. Even in open spaces, each area is clearly defined, .increasing the efficiency of the use of the area

When it comes to kitchen, the bright, spacious open concept kitchen is connected to the .dining room and the living room, underlining the free flow of the common spaces

The warm sunlight during the day and the soft lighting at night soften the atmosphere .of the space and allow the residents to completely release their stress

The Kitchen was designed to exude laid back luxury. The kitchen cabinets in dark walnut toned wood, with natural black granite counter tops and large island. The wall cabinets feature glass doors which are backlit to give a floating effect to the kitchen. The large granite island provides elegant seating and dining options. The overall space shows the pursuit of natural balance of tranquility and stability, emphasizing a sense of simplicity .and comfort

The interior is carefully furnished, and the overall plan caters to different sizes of .gatherings of families or friends

The large cedar deck across entire the cottage overlook to the river and magnificent nature. In fact, the deck was designed to heighten the awareness of nature, which is offering residents an outdoor space where they can take a moment to pause and .separate themselves from the outside world

With rational space design, the attic was transformed into a perfect loft, bedrooms and office space using 4 dormers. The roof structure and timber beams are left exposed, which emphasize the interaction between the building structure and the architectural .design

What was once merely my dream, is now a living manifestation, a home like no other