



## **Welcome to Forma**

We invite you to discover the intersection of structural logic and aesthetic beauty, highlighting the architects, designers, and visionaries currently redefining the textures of our daily lives through innovative architecture, interior design, urban planning, and the timeless art of the built environment.

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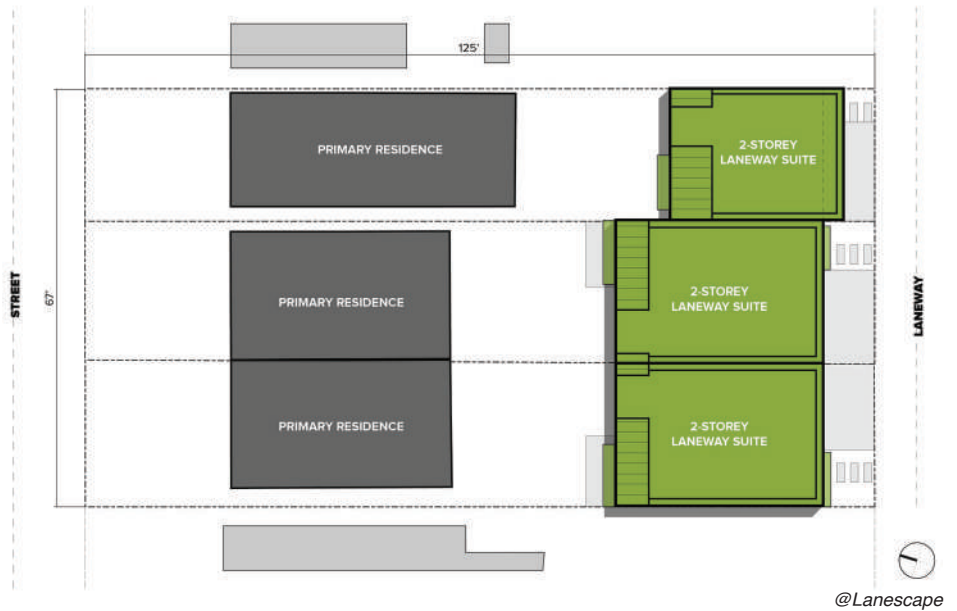




**Triple Threat:**  
**The Norwood Park Laneway Suites Redefine Collaborative Urban Living**  
Project by Lanescape



When a property owner acquired two side-by-side semi-detached homes on Toronto's Gerrard East, the initial plan was straightforward: build two premium rental suites. But what followed was a pivot from standard investment to a neighborhood-defining architectural statement. By teaming up with an adjacent neighbor, a unique partnership was born. Two clients, three properties, and one unified vision resulted in the Norwood Park Laneway Suites, a stunning tri-suite development by Lanescape that proves there is true power in numbers.



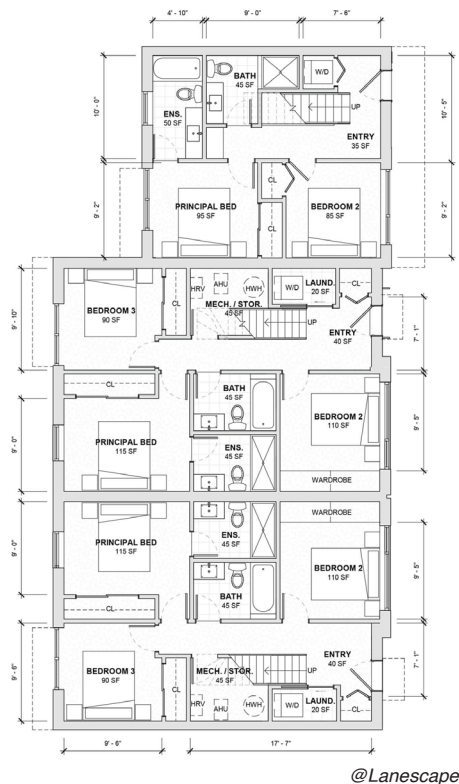
**The Structure:** Traditional red brick grounds the structures, a respectful nod to Toronto's historic residential DNA.

**The Shell:** Sleek, black standing-seam metal wraps the upper levels in a bold, contemporary armor.

**The Softness:** Pronounced vertical wood-slat detailing defines the entries. At dusk, integrated lighting transforms these wood-lined alcoves into a warm, inviting glow against the industrial metal.

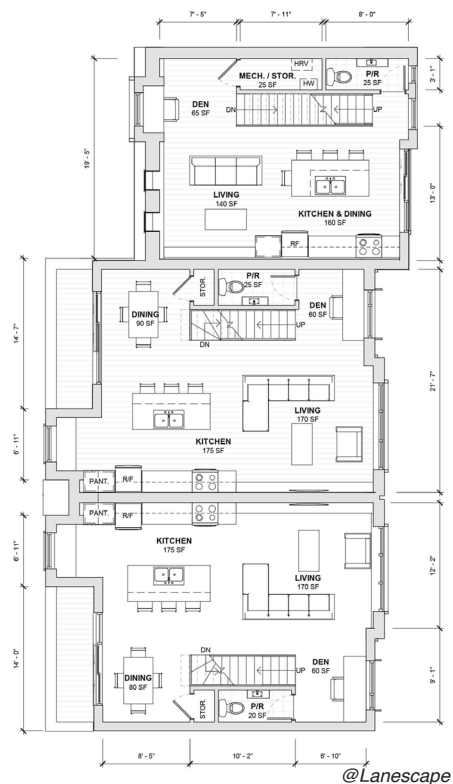
**The View:** Oversized black-framed windows act as mirrors to the surrounding neighborhood canopy, reflecting the greenery of Norwood Park.

To capitalize on the prime park-side location, the design team flipped the script on traditional floor plans. By employing a reverse layout, the suites prioritize light and views where they matter most.



## The Ground Floor Sanctuary

Intentionally designed for quietude, the lower level houses the bedrooms and spa-like bathrooms. Utilitarian elements—laundry, mechanicals, and storage—are surgically tucked beneath the staircases to preserve every inch of livable square footage. Light oak flooring ensures the space feels airy rather than subterranean.



## The Upper Floor Oasis

Ascend to the second level, and the home opens up. The kitchen, dining, and living areas are situated here to capture sweeping park views. Massive sliding glass doors erase the boundary between the interior and private balconies, turning the treetops into your living room wallpaper.

The interior palette is a "blank canvas" executed with surgical precision. It's Scandinavian minimalism meets high-contrast drama.

The Chef's Hub: A massive white quartz peninsula dominates the kitchen, flanked by greige flat-panel cabinetry and matte black dome pendants.



@Ron Christopher

The Work-From-Home Edge: Sun-drenched desks are positioned under wide horizontal windows, proving that "home office" doesn't have to mean "dark corner."

The Powder Room Punch: While the main baths are bright and vertical-tiled, the powder rooms lean into the "maximalist" trend with bold, tropical palm-leaf wallpaper and floating trough sinks.



@Ron Christopher

Beyond its aesthetic achievements, the Norwood Park Laneway Suites serves as a critical case study in economies of scale. By building three units simultaneously, the project reduced construction timelines to just 7.5 months and optimized costs, proving that high-density housing can be both high-design and high-efficiency.



@Ron Christopher



@Ron Christopher



@Ron Christopher

***“The Norwood Collective replaces the 'Not In My Backyard' attitude with a collaborative 'Yes, In Our Backyards.' It is the gold standard for how we grow our cities together.”***

***Jury Citation***



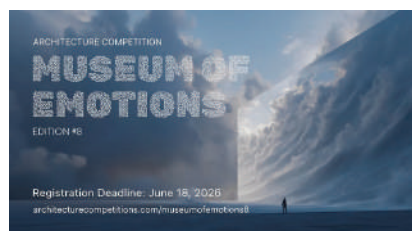
The **Iceland Slow Sauna** competition invites designers to create a sanctuary merging a sauna and greenhouse at Lake Mývatn. Open to all, it emphasizes "slowness" and sustainability with a **€10,000 prize fund**. **Register by April 8, 2026**, and submit projects by May 11, 2026.



The **Next House: USA** challenges participants to reinvent suburban living by designing a compact (max 1,500 sq ft), sustainable, and affordable family home. Open to everyone, it offers a **€20,000 prize fund**. **Register by May 20, 2026**, and submit by June 30, 2026.



The **Rome Rain Rooms** competition tasks participants with designing reversible pavilions in Rome that capture rainwater. Open to all, it focuses on climate resilience and urban beauty with a **€10,000 prize fund**. **Register by May 28, 2026**, and submit projects by June 29, 2026.



The **Museum of Emotions** competition requires designing two contrasting exhibition halls—one positive, one negative—using only architecture to evoke feelings. This "silent" contest forbids text, relying on scale and light, with a **€10,000 prize fund**. **Register by June 18, 2026**, and submit projects by July 20, 2026.



The **Mujassam Watan Challenge #8** invites designers to create landmark sculptures for two Saudi Arabian sites: a high-speed highway gateway and a coastal pedestrian waterfront. Open to all, it features a **€50,000 prize fund**. **Register by July 23, 2026**, and submit projects by **August 27, 2026**.

Looking for a **design challenge?**

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Think you've seen it all?

Scan to unlock the full lineup.



# Nassagaweya Esquering: A Masterclass in Structural Artistry

Project by Parade Design Studio



@Ash Adams

**Parade Design Studio** reimagined this scenic Halton Hills residence by blending its rural heritage with modern elegance. The project transforms the main floor into a sanctuary of flow and texture, bridging the gap between the home's original character and a new, refined aesthetic through intentional material choices and a focus on natural light.

The transformation began behind the drywall with a bold structural reconfiguration. To achieve the homeowners' vision of an expansive, interconnected floor plan, a massive new structural beam was engineered and concealed within the kitchen ceiling.

This hidden intervention allowed for the removal of a restrictive load-bearing wall, dissolving the barriers between the culinary, dining, and living zones to create one fluid, breathing Great Room. The sense of volume is further amplified by a meticulous replacement of all windows and exterior doors, flooding the interior with natural light and framing the verdant Halton Hills landscape like a living, ever-changing mural.

Where rugged history meets modern precision, a restrictive main floor is reborn into a masterclass of structural transformation and high-contrast design.



**The Upper Canopy:** The upper cabinets are wrapped in a dramatic, marble-veined porcelain, delivering a stone-like elegance that seems to defy gravity.

**Symmetry in Detail:** This striking porcelain motif is mirrored in a custom waterfall edge on the island, creating a sophisticated visual dialogue between horizontal and vertical planes.

**The Backdrop:** A stunning book-matched porcelain backsplash serves as the room's high-impact focal point, beautifully bridging the gap between the dark, rift-cut wood lower cabinets and the ethereal uppers.



While the kitchen commands immediate attention, the surrounding spaces ensure the home remains grounded. A carefully curated materials palette was chosen to complement the existing, rugged stone masonry, ensuring the modern additions feel like a natural extension of the home's original soul.



Underfoot, new wide-plank flooring provides a warm, organic foundation. Overhead, white-washed shiplap ceiling details introduce an architectural rhythm that draws the eye upward to the vaulted heights.

The journey through the home is punctuated by a striking, dark-stained curved staircase. Serving as a sculptural anchor against a delicate, botanical-inspired wall covering, the stairs are illuminated by a cascading globe chandelier. Together, these elements create a moment of transition that is perfectly balanced between moody and ethereal.





***“This project is a masterclass in 'Material Dialogue.' It succeeds because it doesn't try to shout over the home's original character; instead, it provides a high-contrast mirror to it. The transition from the organic grit of the exterior stone to the razor-thin precision of the interior porcelain is nothing short of poetic. It's a sanctuary that feels both grand enough for a gala and intimate enough for a quiet morning coffee.”***

**Jury Citation**

## LOULOU:

A new optical store in Lyon, a boutique designed to be a showcase

Project by Studio Johany Sapet





@Michaël Lalande

Lyon has long been a bastion of taste, but LOULOU has officially put the city on the international optical map. Recently ranked second among the "Top 5 Global Opticians" by Eyestylist, this boutique is no longer a local secret—it's a global destination for avant-garde design.



@Michaël Lalande

Stepping into the new flagship at 14 Rue Gasparin, it's clear this isn't your average optician. Designed by the visionary Studio Johany Sapet, the space is a masterclass in tactile contrast. Sapet has harmonized an unexpected palette of pink concrete, dark wood, and brushed metal, creating a resolutely contemporary sanctuary. The furniture—sourced from Hay, Moustache, and Fink—complements the minimalist yet warm aesthetic.

The shopping experience here feels more like a private salon than a retail transaction. In a world of fast fashion, LOULOU prioritizes technical rigor and intimacy. Nowhere is this more evident than in the private boudoir—a secluded floor dedicated to state-of-the-art eye examinations and personal consultations. It is a space where frames are revealed like a rare vintage, shared between friends.

LOULOU operates at the intersection of artisanal craft and "quiet luxury." The collection is a "who's who" of global eyewear pioneers, featuring hand-picked labels from Japan to Brazil, including Ahlem, Jacquemus, Lapima, and Kuboraum.



@Michael Lalande



@Michaël Lalande



@Michaël Lalande

*“What set LOULOU apart for the jury was its bold departure from the 'clinical' optical stereotype. Studio Johany Sapet has crafted a space that is both monolithic and remarkably intimate; the warmth of the pink concrete perfectly humanizes the brushed metal and wood.*

*We were particularly struck by the 'spatial choreography'—the transition from the public gallery to the private boudoir upstairs. It elevates a routine eye exam into a sophisticated ritual of self-care. By curating a global dialogue of designers and treating eyewear like a rare vintage, LOULOU has masterfully redefined 'Quiet Luxury.' It isn't just a boutique; it's a lighthouse for independent retail.”*

**Jury Citation**



**The N Weekday House:  
Precision Living by Saso Studio**  
Project by Saso Architecture

@Mario Wibowo

Not all houses are designed for permanence; some are conceived to respond to movement, repetition, and restraint.

N Weekday House belongs to the latter—architecture defined by rhythm rather than monumentality.



@Mario Wibowo

Located on a corner plot in Greater Jakarta, the house serves a family whose lives are split between cities. During the week, work anchors them to the capital; on weekends, "home" exists elsewhere. This project does not attempt to resolve this duality—it accommodates it with clarity. Designed during the pandemic, the brief was quietly radical: create a house that remains efficient when unoccupied, generous when inhabited, and effortless to maintain. It is a place that neither demands constant presence nor deteriorates in its absence.



Rather than relying on mechanical systems, the house is structured around passive performance. Cross-ventilation is fundamental, facilitated by the site's non-adjoining edges and articulated through vertical openings and garden voids. In the humid tropical climate of Indonesia, air movement is treated as a continuous, measured, and intentional force.

Given the region's high rainfall, the sloped roof allows water to descend directly into the garden, bypassing conventional gutters. The result is pragmatic and legible—architecture that acknowledges its relationship with the climate rather than hiding it.

The house negotiates hospitality through spatial gradation, using the open terrace as a "liminal room." This architectural pause functions as a soft threshold—a space of reception that preserves domestic sanctuary without the coldness of isolation. Large sliding glass panels act as a kinetic membrane, dissolving the boundary between the terrace and the hearth. This contemporary transparency allows the interior to breathe, merging the social living areas with the outdoors in a seamless atmospheric exchange. Public and private zones are meticulously layered. The social theater of the open-plan ground floor transitions into sheltered, private retreats, using sharp geometric shifts and material changes to signal an increasing sense of intimacy.



Designed to age gracefully despite intermittent occupancy, the material palette prioritizes durability. The master bedroom is strategically located on the ground floor, separated from the living area by a garden buffer to ensure privacy for short, frequent stays. Even the oversized garage, which doubles as a space for the owner's table tennis routine, reflects a design attentive to lived habits rather than abstract architectural programs.



Strict building setbacks and a compact site did not restrict the project; they sharpened it. Instead of maximizing enclosure, the design embraces porosity. Space is released through voids, light is borrowed strategically, and boundaries are softened.



@Mario Wibowo

N Weekday House is not a stylistic statement. It is a tactile, deeply felt, yet elegantly precise architectural response to a world where work, family, and geography no longer align neatly or follow a single path. For SASO, this project reflects a broader philosophy: architecture as an instrument of intelligence, restraint, and long-term value.

***“What we love about N Weekday House is that it doesn’t try too hard to be a ‘monument.’ In a city like Jakarta, where the instinct is usually to build as much as possible, SASO did the opposite—they built with restraint.***

***In Jakarta’s chaos, SASO built with restraint—a high-performance retreat. Letting rain fall into the garden instead of hiding it is brilliant; it turns maintenance into a sensory experience. It’s a breathing, calibrated instrument for modern living. Truly precise.”***

***Jury Citation***



**Transforming the Ordinary:  
The Crescent Backyard Spa Retreat**  
Project by Martin Landscape & Design

How Martin Landscape & Design turned a blank canvas into a masterclass of symmetry and high-tech tranquility.

Imagine stepping across your threshold, not into a backyard, but into a curated portal of peace. For the owners of The Crescent, the goal wasn't just a renovation; it was a total recalibration of home life. The team at Martin Landscape & Design was handed a "blank canvas" property and tasked with a singular mission: build a multi-functional paradise that feels as intimate for a solo morning soak as it does for a high-end evening gala.



@Martin Landscape & Design



@Martin Landscape & Design

**1,500 Square Feet of Elegance:** A sprawling expanse of interlocking stone creates a modern, clean-lined path that pulls the eye toward the horizon.

**The 40-Foot Anchor:** To master the property's natural grade, a 40-foot retaining wall was constructed. But this isn't just infrastructure—it's integrated social architecture, designed to double as natural seating for large gatherings.

**Organic Accents:** Two massive basalt slabs break up the hardscaping, adding a touch of raw, tectonic texture to the polished layout.

To earn the "Spa" title, the amenities had to be more than just additions; they had to be experiences. The patio was strategically zoned to flow seamlessly between heat, steam, and fire.

Every project has its hurdles—from shifting soil to craning in custom structures—but the result here is a testament to what happens when precision meets passion.

**The Secret Sauna:** Tucked into the landscape is a sleek, custom unit from the Secret Sauna Company. Getting it there was a feat of engineering, requiring a crane to hover the structure over the home and into its permanent home.

**The Pergola & Spa Zone:** A custom crafted wood and black-metal pergola frames the hot tub, creating a "room within a room" feeling that offers both architectural drama and total privacy.

**The Dreamcast Firepit:** Serving as the symmetrical heart of the yard, a natural gas fire bowl from Dreamcast provides a flickering focal point for crisp nights, surrounded by minimalist outdoor lounge seating.



Using their smartphones, the clients can dial in the mood:

**Mushroom Pathway Lights:** Guiding the way with a soft, sophisticated glow.

**Architectural Uplighting:** Accenting the pergola's clean lines and the lush textures of the new plantings.

**Automated Scheduling:** Transitioning the yard from "bright and safe" to "sultry and cinematic" with a single tap.

The Crescent Backyard Spa Project is a masterclass in overcoming the elements to create a bespoke environment. By merging industrial-strength engineering with a boutique wellness aesthetic, Martin Landscape & Design didn't just change a backyard—they changed the way their clients live.



@Martin Landscape & Design

*“The Crescent Backyard Spa Project is a masterclass in architectural discipline, taming a blank canvas into a symmetrical sanctuary that feels both grand and deeply intimate.*

*The jury was particularly struck by the seamless integration of high-stakes engineering—from the structural 40-foot retaining wall to the logistical feat of the craned-in sauna—rendered with such elegance that the technical effort disappears into the atmosphere. It is a cohesive triumph where modern geometry meets a restorative soul, proving that true luxury is found in the perfect balance of spatial precision and sensory peace.”*

**Jury Citation**



@Martin Landscape & Design



## National Home Show 2026: A Vibrant Wrap-Up

@Giuseppe Gutta

Big Ideas for Every Home: A Look Back at the 2026 National Home Show.

The doors have closed, the booths are packed away, and the Enercare Centre is quiet again. But if you walk through the design community in Toronto right now, people are still talking about it. This year's National Home Show wasn't just another event—it was a huge win for anyone who cares about where they live.

If you missed it, don't worry. We've broken down why this year was so special and what it means for your next home project.



@Giuseppe Gutta

The best part about the 2026 show was that it didn't feel "snobby." Sometimes these shows can feel like they are only for people with a ton of money, but not this time. Whether you were looking to spend a little or a lot, there were ideas for everyone. It proved that quality living doesn't have to carry a giant price tag.

The variety was honestly amazing. Walking through the aisles, you could find:

Modern "Pop-up" Homes: Cool, ready-to-build houses that looked like the future.

Custom Finishes: Everything from solid wood doors to fancy marble counters.

Kitchen & Bath: New tech for your kitchen and couches so soft you'd never want to get up.

The Experts: Reliable renovation companies were on hand to talk about how to actually get the work done.

The energy was high, especially on the weekends. The building was packed with homeowners looking for ideas and DIY fans ready to start their next weekend project.



@Giuseppe Gutta



@Giuseppe Gutta

It wasn't just the visitors who were happy, either. We talked to the people running the booths, and they were thrilled. They got to meet thousands of new people and show off what they can do. It was the perfect place for local businesses to find new customers and for neighbors to find the help they need.



We wanted to share our favorite companies from the event:

ANT Group: High-end outdoor kitchens and fancy backyard living.

Betterview Construction Ltd.: Trusted builders for new homes and big additions.

Candace & Basil: High-quality, custom furniture made for your budget.

Coldture Wellness: Professional cold plunges and saunas for your home.

GBM Glass and Mirror Inc.: Smart glass that turns private with a button.

Greening Homes Ltd.: Eco-friendly home renovations that save energy.

Hi Design Homez: Stylish wall panels and surfaces for modern homes.

Instar Building Materials: High-quality decks and fences that look great.

Phase2Design Inc.: Beautiful designs for luxury homes and local businesses.

Resimate: Easy backyard homes built from plans to finish.

Starlight Shutter Inc.: Custom shutters and blinds for your smart home.

UPLP Group: Luxury backyards with amazing pools and stone patios.





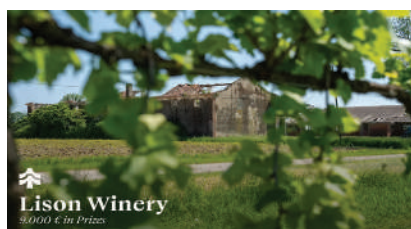
The **OpenAir Suites** competition invites designers to create modular, sustainable hospitality units for Mount Etna's volcanic landscape. Focused on "slow-living," participants must design lightweight, reversible prototypes. The contest offers a **€8,000 prize fund**, and the **final submission is April 10, 2026**.



**RE-GEN Gorizia** challenges designers to revitalize the Sant'Anna district in Italy. Participants must create a masterplan focusing on urban innovation and green infrastructure to transform the fragmented area. The contest offers a **€22,000 prize fund**, and the **final submission is April 17, 2026**.



The **Water Tower** competition invites designers to repurpose an iconic industrial structure into a vibrant cultural hub. Participants must balance heritage preservation with modern functionality. The contest offers a **€16,000 prize fund**, and the **final submission is April 30, 2026**.



The **Lison Winery** competition invites designers to transform a historic Venetian farm into a contemporary boutique winery. Participants must integrate hospitality and tasting spaces while respecting the site's rural heritage. The contest offers a **€9,000 prize fund**, and the **final submission is June 26, 2026**.



The **Milan Design Loft** competition tasks designers with rethinking a double-height apartment in Città Studi for an architecture student. The project focuses on flexible layouts for studying and socializing. The contest offers a **€8,000 prize fund**, and the **final submission is July 3, 2026**.

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**Armstrong Cottage:**  
**A Net-Zero Sanctuary Floating Above the Boreal Landscape**  
Project by Peter Braithwaite Studio





@James Morley  
@Doublespace Photography

For one young family from Toronto, building their dream home wasn't just about luxury—it was about going back to their roots. The parents grew up spending every summer on this very lake. Now, they've built a house of their own on a private island, designed to protect the nature they love so much.

Usually, when people build a house, they dig up the ground and pour a lot of concrete. But the team at Peter Braithwaite Studio wanted to do things differently. They wanted to leave the land exactly as they found it.



@James Morley  
@Doublespace Photography

Instead of sitting on the ground, the house is split into two separate buildings—one for sleeping and one for living. Both buildings are held up by steel stilts bolted directly into the island's hard rock. This makes the house look like it's floating in the trees. Because it sits high up, the plants and soil underneath can keep growing naturally, and the lake's shoreline stays healthy and clean.

Building on an island is a huge challenge. There are no roads, so how do you get heavy materials there? The builders, Beacon Construction, had to get creative. They used:

Special Barges: To float materials across the water.

Floating Docks: That could move up and down as the water levels changed.

Frozen Ice: They even drove heavy machines across the frozen lake during the winter!

To make things faster, the house was designed like a giant "kit of parts." All elements were cut perfectly in a shop, shipped to the island, and then bolted together.



@James Morley  
@Doublespace Photography



@James Morley  
@Doublespace Photography

Inside, the house feels bright and peaceful. Almost everything is covered in light-colored wood, which makes it feel warm and cozy. Large windows and skylights let in tons of sunlight, so it feels like you are still outside even when you're on the couch.



@James Morley  
@Doublespace Photography



@James Morley  
@Doublespace Photography



@James Morley  
@Doublespace Photography

While the adults enjoy the big views of the lake, the kids have their own special spots. High up in the ceilings, there are "secret" lofts for reading and playing. These little nooks give the kids the same sense of wonder their parents had when they were little.

As a net-zero home, Armstrong Cottage produces the energy it uses. Every choice, from thick walls to clever construction, protects the environment.

It's a powerful example of how we can build beautiful, modern homes that take care of the planet for the next generation.



*“Armstrong Cottage is our April 2026 winner because it balances high-tech building with a deep love for nature. By floating the house on steel stilts instead of using heavy concrete, the team protected the island’s ground while solving the challenge of building on a remote site. Inside, the home avoids the cold feeling of many modern buildings by using warm wood that connects you to the trees. Above all, it’s a true family home—with secret lofts and cozy corners designed to give a new generation the same magical lakeside childhood their parents enjoyed.”*

**Jury Citation**

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