

RESTLESSLIVING

"... restlessly dedicated to contemporary living."



VOLUME 38



REPII HOUSE

Canelones, Uruguay

Years ago, the Montevideo-based architecture studio, VivoTripodi, was assigned to create a prefabricated weekend home for the grateful Uruguayan countryside. When the family later wished to expand on the capacity of the weekend home to provide accommodation for visiting friends and family, VivoTripodi was summoned once again to design two new units. To discuss the REPII House, we invited the Director of VivoTripodi, Bernardo Vivo.

“The inspiration came from idealizing the experiences that we could generate to the dwellers in the cabins. We pictured a cold morning inside the cabin, with the fireplace heating up the place, holding a hot cup of coffee while staring outside at the fog while it rises and the sun shines its first rays of light. At all times we hold that image and others to try to create a beautiful sensorial experience. We implemented that inspiration with a design that would make you feel you are in the wilderness with huge windows while feeling the comfort of the cabin with the all wooden interiors and fireplace”, Bernardo says. Despite the fact that the project aimed at expanding the existing capacity, Bernardo and his team wanted to challenge the way people tend to think of expansion. “The word enlargement often assumes a meaning of expanding on the built, expanding a space ‘stretching’ existing limits to conceive new spaces. For us, these new spaces should be conceived as spaces disconnected from the main house, allowing guests to enjoy privacy in intimate moments and thus



make the most of contact with nature”, Bernardo explains. This understanding and respect for nature was one of the reasons why VivoTripodi decided to go with prefabrication. “The construction of projects in remote sites or with limited access, often affect the natural state of the site, providing materials, control over the work done, among other things. The modular prefabricated construction helps to mitigate these factors”, Bernardo says before he expands on the practicalities: “The house is built in a closed environment, away from climatic factors, close to all types of material supply and, usually, near the office or the client and then sent by truck to its final resting place, semi permanent.”

While it sounds relatively straight-forward to build off-site and then transport the final product to the landscape, it may not be so simple in reality. “This was, I think, the main struggle ... to see how we could safely transport them to the place. The large windows would not withstand the trip and different movements from the crane. So, it was finally decided to place the windows later, once the cabin was on site”, Bernardo explains. With the challenges out of the way, VivoTripodi could finally complete the project. An achievement Bernardo is proud of: “We really nailed the objective of creating this amazing sensorial experience, from the moment you see the all wood facade combined with the landscape feels like a sculpture. But once you open the large doors and the interiors blend with the context it triggers some incredible feelings.”

Architecture by **VivoTripodi Arquitectos** Photography by **Marcos Guiponi**



"In spite of this highly desirable location, this particular piece of land had never been built due to its steep cliff."

– Loukas Yiacouvakis, YH2 Architecture

It is no wonder that people often point towards Canada, when they are asked to mention a country with an incredible natural environment. With its majestic mountains, forested valleys, and beautiful blue rivers and lakes, the Canadian countryside gives perfect conditions for idyllic living. The house »Dans l'Escarpelement« is no exception to the rule. Loukas Yiakovakis, Associate Architect at YH2 Architecture, gives his perspective on their project.

“The surrounding nature was the major inspiration for this project. The will was to integrate the architecture within this nature, in particular by working

on materiality”, Loukas says. The design team decided to go with a darkly nuanced exterior as well as interior – lightened up by the natural light floating in through the expansive panoramic windows. “The prevailing material used inside is mahogany, selected for its enduring qualities and for its rich hues. In the living dining area, floors, ceilings, beams, window frames and kitchen cabinets are all finished with this rich dark wood recalling the trees just beyond”, Loukas explains. By letting the house render the hues of the landscape, the team achieved a kind of symbiotic relationship between the natural setting and the built home. In fact, the name of the

house, Dans l'Escarpelement, is French for »in the escarpement«, which captures the essence of the project's aim very well; to integrate. “This particular piece of land had never been built due to its steep cliff. One of the main wishes was to design a house in such a way that it would blend in the hill and cause as little disruption as possible to its surroundings”, Loukas mentions. The house is built around two concrete 'boxes'; the first one is vertical, and the second one is horizontal. To access the house, one walks down a metallic gangway where expectations to both architecture and landscape begin to rise as one approaches the front door.





BUXTON RISE

Buxton, Australia

With an overlook of the Black Range State Forest approximately 100 km north east of Melbourne, the bush retreat named »Buxton Rise« is defined by its large and deep overhanging roof which is designed to provide shade and protection. The Director of Format Architects, Martin Rubenstein, takes us behind the project.

When Martin was approached with the project assignment, it was with the scope of designing “a weekend getaway on a 20 hectare property located near the foot of the Cathedral Range state park just outside the township of Buxton. The house must respond to the site, be simple to construct, be inexpensive to build and efficient to run”, as Martin says. Slightly cut into the hill, the house is designed as a single level in an elevated position that allows far-reaching views of the incredible landscape – creating the requested connection to the site. “The budget was tight so the house is relatively compact. At just under 180 m² it includes an open plan living/dining/kitchen space, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, laundry and storage”, Martin explains. To ensure comfort and to mitigate the limitation in terms of size, Martin came up with a solution: “Every room has a view out into the landscape. The landscape and topography are diverse and includes ridge lines, valleys with ephemeral water courses,



clusters of native vegetation and cleared grazing land. The site is unique and beautiful and so it was important to site and design the new building to protect and enhance this natural landscape. The spatial arrangement and constant visual connection to the outside make the house feel much bigger.”

Each space of the house is designed with the sun in mind and considers how the sun moves throughout the day. Some spaces are designed for the late evening sun, whereas other spaces are designed for sunny spots in the morning. “Winter sun penetration is achieved by facing a large open plan glass living, dining and kitchen area to the north, east and west. Summer sun is controlled by a massive overhanging roof. The roof’s presence is felt throughout the house to enhance the sense of shelter”, Martin elaborates. This feeling of shelter was important to accomplish, since the house – as previously mentioned – is a bush retreat and adheres to the famous concept that »less is more«. “The entire design revolves around the idea of simple living. I enjoyed integrating some informal ideas for example the utilitarian kitchen is designed like a traditional farmhouse kitchen where family activity and kitchen work are integrated in one big room with a huge dining table in the middle. Spatial continuity and continuity of surface is a key design feature of this house as it lends a quiet unity and calm of the whole”, Martin concludes.

Architecture by **Format Architects**

Photography by **Ernesto Arriagada**



“Since our aim was to come up with a blueprint that works everywhere, it was important to make sure that the »prefab« building fit onto an ordinary truck.”

– Denizhan Fiel, Delugan Meissl Associated Architects





CASA INVISIBLE

Prekmurje, Slovenia

How do you design a prefabricated cabin that can be packed up, moved, and still blend in with its new setting? The prefabricated Casa Invisible may give an interesting answer to this question. We have discussed the project with Denizhan Fiel from Delugan Meissl Associated Architects.

Casa Invisible addresses various conceptual elements such as mobility, leaving without a trace, and contextual integration. However, the underlying idea behind the project boils down to something much simpler. "If I have to sum up the idea of Casa Invisible with one word, it would be »reduction«. For this project, we challenged us with the question: What are the least requirements for a house of the highest quality? We had to make sure that the goal of a great atmosphere inside the house is not getting lost along the way. This in return opened very interesting discussions about the term 'house' as such", Denizhan explains. When the design team started the discussion about reduction, the first element of concern was the choice of materials. "We wanted to create a single element that combines structural aspects, insulation and perfect finishes in one and could therefore be used for walls, ceilings and floors at the same time. With cross laminated timber we had an element that checked all the boxes and is perfect for prefabrication."

Since the objective of the project was to also create a blueprint that can work everywhere, it was important for the design team to consider the aspect of context. "Designing a house which is not dedicated for a specific location includes the need to think about any possible surrounding. The mirrored walls allowed our design to be self-contained, almost invisible", Denizhan mentions. Mirrored walls have created long-lasting discussions throughout the past years – especially due to the threat of bird collisions. However, the team presented a solution to this as well. As Denizhan explains: "On the facade we used a protection foil, which prevents birds from colliding. This foil can be seen by the birds but remains almost invisible to our eyes."

While Casa Invisible presents an interesting approach to design, it contributes to the important discussion of how we are currently living, and how we may live in the future.

Architecture by **Delugan Meissl Associated Architects**

Photography by **Christian Brandstaetter**



LONE PINE RESIDENCE

Set at the base of the Teton Range at the edge of an open valley, the Lone Pine Residence was built for a family from New York. Taking full advantage of the open planes of the resort development, CLB Architects arranged the house in such way that it screens neighboring houses while allowing spectacular views of the Jackson Hole Ski Resort and far-reaching mountain vistas across a golf course. The Design Principal of CLB Architects, Eric Logan, gave us his insights about the project.

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“The clients were specific in their request that their Jackson Hole home would not surrender to the typical rustic ruse that many find so charming about the region”, Eric says. As a consequence, Eric and his team worked to strip down the forms and design a house with two simple, yet bold, agrarian forms running parallel to one another and connected by a lower volume accommodating an entry gallery space, an office, and a lounge. “The larger two-story structure houses five bedroom suites, utility spaces and

Jackson Hole, Wyoming, United States

the garage. The smaller one-and-a-half story structure is a large open living, dining, and kitchen space”, Eric mentions. With an intention to extend the living space to the outside, the heroic roof structure of the smaller volume reaches further to form a covered patio. “The exterior patios and balconies are partially screened by panels of dark brown rough-sawn boards. Gaps between the boards create visual interest adding texture and light patterns. The screens provide protection from sun and wind while

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allowing an open feel”, Eric explains. A gapped-wood rainscreen – similar to the screens – wraps the exterior faces of both volumes and creates a rough and durable shell. “Window areas and portions of wall are then carved out from that shell to create depth and articulate the forms. This provides protection to the structure and satisfies the design guidelines requirement for overhangs while maintaining the simplicity of form that was desired. To further emphasize the carved in areas, we contrasted the dark, rough and textured cedar shell with a lighter, smooth and

tight cedar siding application”, Eric elaborates.

Moving from the exterior to the interior, the spaces become more refined. The interior was carefully considered as part of an integrated approach to create unity with the architecture. “The interior boasts a rich palette of warm mahogany millwork, clean white oak flooring, rugged chief cliff stone and smooth plaster walls”, Eric says and further argues: “The interior throughout is layered without feeling overly decorative, and textural while still maintaining clean lines.”

From the screened covered deck off the second-story master bedroom that looks up at the steep slopes of the ski area to the outdoor fireplace that creates the cozy Jackson Hole feeling, the Lone Pine Residence is a result of a well-balanced design approach to give the New York family a contemporary place that is still in-sync with the incredible natural surroundings and the traditions of the region.

Architecture by **CLB Architects**

Photography by **Matthew Millman**



Words of the Week



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Countryside living comes in all shapes and sizes – from spacious all-year-round homes to cozy weekend homes and mobile homes. Yet, the dwellers are often attracted by the same irresistible green and pleasant landscape, which quietly calms our soul. Some people choose to live there permanently. Other people decide to use it as a breathing space from the fast-paced urban bustle. Regardless of the specific situation, the countryside offers the opportunity to retreat – to take a step back – and reflect. Personally, I live in an urban environment. Do not get me wrong, I love it. But, when I finally get outside the city – either to a vacation house or my home town on the Danish countryside, there is a unique atmosphere that the city just fails to provide. I wanted to share the feeling in this week's Restless Living and emphasize that countryside living can look different – depending on the regional context and the type of living that is pursued.

Thank you for reading along. Your support is overwhelming! I hope to see you again next Friday.

CHRISTIAN TRAMPEDACH
FOUNDER, RESTLESS

