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SPECIALIST: MADE IN HAPPY

DESIGN QUEST: MATERIAL IMMATERIAL

# HOME REVIEW

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## PRESERVING THE OLD EMBRACING THE NEW

SICIDI ARCHITECTURE BREATHES NEW CHARACTER  
INTO A CHARMING OLD FAMILY BUNGALOW IN ALIBAUG

Clad in a responsibly harvested pine that has been thermally treated to improve the wood's durability, the main structure's façade is defined by a jagged saw-tooth roofline.



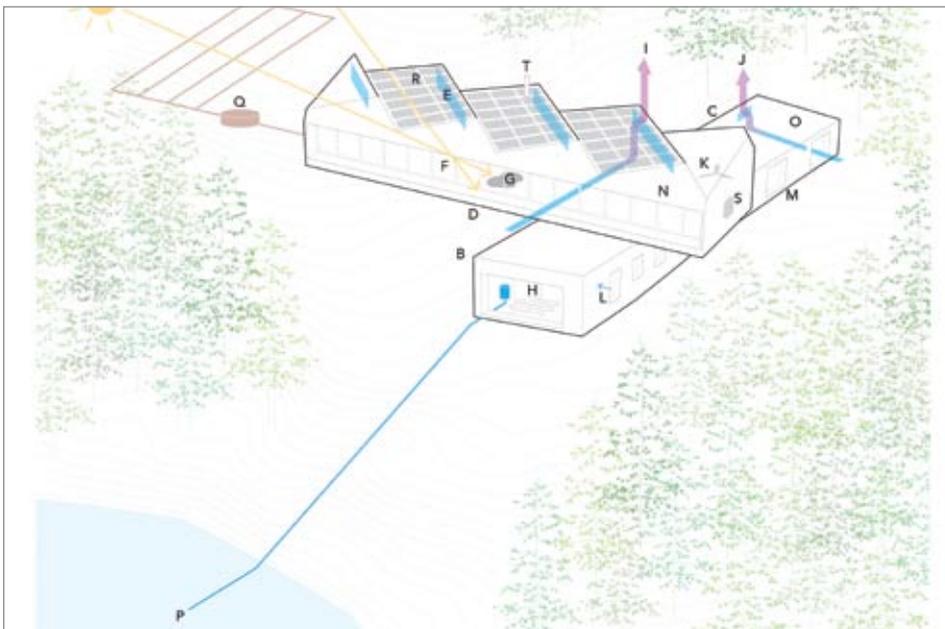
## A NET ZERO BUILDING

*The Sky House by Stoney Lake in Canada is a reflection of an urgent need to nurture nature and create solitude in a world that is relentlessly losing both. Delivered by skilled and caring individuals, this net-zero house adeptly merges low environmental impact with real style.*

Text By Kanupriya Pachisia  
Photographs Double Space Photography  
Courtesy V2com



The 3,100 sq ft project was perceived as a volume of two structures stacked one above the other. The architects inform, "Without cutting down old growth trees, we stacked two volumes on each other, nestling the lower volume into the landscape."



In the words of Bruce Garrabrandt, "Creativity doesn't wait for that perfect moment. It fashions its own perfect moments out of ordinary ones." A pair of Canadian architects and artists, Julia Jamrozik and Coryn Kempster have fashioned a holiday home that builds upon these ordinary moments with utmost flair and style along with paying homage to the site it perches on.



This distinctive feature allows for a series of vertical skylights to let in daylight while significantly avoiding heat gain.

A lot of us dream about a holiday house in an enchanting location. As far as possible, without weighing too heavily on the environment but at the same time not sacrificing those comforts that make you enjoy a holiday in the lap of nature. The Sky House on Stoney Lake fits the bill perfectly.

Negotiating the steep topography of a lakeside site, the house embraces its natural environment and the outstanding views offered by its privileged setting. The lake straddles the border between the Canadian Shield and the Great Lakes.

Influenced by the rugged granite of the Canadian Shield in the north and the more gentle heavily forested Great Lakes to the south, the house comes forth as a contrast between warm and cold materials and between architecture and landscape.

The 3,100 sq ft project was perceived as a volume of two structures stacked one above the other. The architects inform, **“Without cutting down old growth trees, we stacked two volumes on each other, nestling the lower volume into the landscape.”** In fact, the lower volume is barely visible as one first approaches the house. The upper volume supported partially by the lower one stretches across a dip in the site to rest on a concrete pier at the other end. This forms both a bridge and a cantilever below which a powder coated steel swing compliments a perfect shaded spot to enjoy surrounding views.

The Sky House is a sustainable powerhouse packed with energy efficient features. **Clad in a responsibly harvested pine that has been thermally treated to improve the wood’s durability, the main structure’s façade is defined by a jagged saw tooth roofline.**

This distinctive feature allows for a series of vertical skylights to let in daylight while significantly avoiding heat gain. They also pose as an inspiration to the name ‘Sky House’. Opposite the windows on each of the roof’s ‘teeth’, photovoltaic panels are angled southwards to maximise energy production. In fact, these solar panels generate all the power for the house rightly labeling it as a ‘net zero building’.



Tucked behind this wall is a sunflower yellow bathroom that stands out against white interiors.



Behind the kitchen and by the front door, there's a small hallway with closets.

"The roof of the lower volume becomes a terrace with direct connection to the living spaces," explain Julia and Coryn. The lower volume is more private and enclosed and houses the bedrooms, while the upper volume contains the living spaces and is open towards the lake. **By backing the lower volume partially into the terrain the designers minimised the house's visual impact on the picturesque landscape and provided the walls with natural insulation.**

While the windows are sufficient in the warmer months, an energy recovery ventilation system supplies the house with fresh air during the winter. "The house draws all its water directly from the adjacent lake with a system that uses UV light and filters to clean and purify the water," informs the duo.

The interiors are a crisp contrast to the rustic warmth outside. Formaldehyde free plywood, left natural or painted white has been used for cladding most of the interior walls. Blasts of colour mix things up in the bathrooms and main living space where the sofa, lighting and dining room chairs accentuate in various shades of Robin's Egg Blue.

**"The focal point of this open concept space is the hearth which places a high efficiency wood stove atop a blue glazed brick plinth,"** shares the team. The brick adds to the effectiveness of the stove by acting as a thermal mass. Not only does it add colour, it also transitions into a cosy reading nook with the addition of a mattress and cushions. In fact, the stove provides extra heat during winters and acts as a back-up when solar resources run low.



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Behind the kitchen and by the front door, there's a small hallway with closets. Pink push-pin like wall hooks and a row of lighting on the wall add drama to the narrow passage. Tucked behind this wall is a sunflower yellow bathroom that stands out against white interiors. Downstairs, the bedrooms are wood lined and a turquoise bathroom ties in with the rest of the décor upstairs. Concrete floors are radiantly heated to reduce the house's carbon footprint.

The designers and owners respect for the site translated into several environmentally sensitive design decisions. All in all, the **Sky House is a poetic marriage between the tangible and intangible palette, which ties the house to the land in a most undistruptive way making it blend into the landscape as if it were always there.**

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