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INTERNATIONAL

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STYLE AND
BEYOND

DESIGN
EXTREME

STUDIO
DRIFT

SECRET
BVLGARI

MILANO
JEWELS

RURAL
CHIC



OWL CREEK

BUILT ON THE IDEA
THAT A PHYSICAL
PLACE CAN DEEPEN
THE CONNECTION
BETWEEN FRIENDS,
FAMILIES AND THE
NATURAL WORLD.





production: OBJEKT USA-CANADA

These pages: the Owl Creek house designed by Skylab as a stand-alone house suitable for two families to live in. It is located near Portland, USA. Despite its strong architectural lines and the used of oxidized steel, the house blends in in the surroundings.



The bold structural elements define the interior and allow the big windows for a direct contact with the outside world. Right: the kitchen area with the large marble table is in line bold interior design directed by the architecture.





At Owl Creek a single shared, stand-alone home was built for two families. Additionally, a collection of lodge-like communal areas are clustered together, creating a space that is both intimate and open.

The architects: "The strict height limitation and slope constrained by the site turned into our advantage by anchoring the structure into the landforms. The structure frames powerful views through two principal façades, maximizing the visual connection to the landscape at every angle. The design of the frame and form allowed for

efficiencies and functional benefits, including a triangular structural steel frame with car decking to minimize costs through prefabrication, and a roof slope to move water and snow downslope."

Natural light was an important starting point of the design process. Every effort was made to minimize visual separation from the outdoors. The all-weather mountain retreat was designed for recharging social relationships and renewing connections to the rugged Rocky Mountain landscape.





It was the creation of Skylab from Portland. Established by Brent Grubb and Jeff Kovel almost two decades ago the studio evolved into a band of makers: curious, industrious and experimental.

As architects, designers, creators and entrepreneurs, they work together across a wide range of landscapes and locations. Their designers are futurists, making today what they believe will inspire and connect people tomorrow.

Above: the house follows the contours of the slope. The site challenges and slope constraints were solved by anchoring the structures directly into the landforms. The interior steel construction was designed to minimize visual separation from the outdoors. The house became a place for gathering both inside and outside on the terraces.



RURAL INDUSTRIAL AESTHETICS



From the road, the house looks like a modest contemporary cottage. It consists of four large interconnected modules with several offset façades reminiscent of a farm, with a central courtyard and outbuildings. Nestled in the vales of the Eastern Townships of Montreal, Canada, near the Vermont border, Abercorn Chalet is the brainchild of Laurent Guez, designer and partner at the Canadian design firm Tux Creative. He worked for the project with architect Guillaume Kukucka.



production: Izabel Fonk

photos: Maxime Brouillet

Left: the four large interconnected modules with several offset façades that form the Abercorn Chalet, the brainchild of Laurent Guez.

Above: the inspiration of the designer came from industrial buildings, barns and campgrounds.

These pages: the living quarters of Abercorn Chalet created out of wood, concrete, corrugated steel or checkered steel plate and industrial metal. The raw character of such materials complements the architecture.

Bottom left: designer Laurent Guez and architect Guillaume Kukucka. (photo: Benjamin LeGentil)

Inspired by architecture, functionality, suspense novels, stories, and Escher's drawings of improbable constructions, he reconciled lightness and humor with rigor and rationality. With his Montreal based team at Tux, Abercorn Chalet was Laurent Guez attempt to create a unique living experience through architecture, embodying contrasts of harmony, open spaces and cozy areas: a place where opposites attract each other.

The designer: "Opposites are freely expressed here, particularly in the choice of materials: wood, concrete, corrugated steel or checkered steel plates and industrial metal. The raw character of these materials complemented the architecture, which expands through a succession of volumes and perspectives, giving it a warm personality, a playful spirit and plenty of soul. I wanted to create a spacious and discreet living space where every piece affirms its character and encourages an interconnection; strong and intuitive."



Throughout the construction process, stakeholders and suppliers, voluntarily chosen locally, were surprised by the uniqueness of the project and motivated to participate in the creation of the residence.

"Think of a pig barn," he would tell, trying to shock them while pointing out the project's rough and fun sides. The use in the interior of traditional exterior cladding, like corrugated or profiled sheet metal, painted black or gold, disrupted reference points and induced a sensation of being outside, in another place, while actually being inside.

The fireplace also showcased an industrial spirit, with dimensions to match, while the sinks and bathtubs, both salvaged and purchased second hand, were fully restored.

"Inside you now get the same effect when camping, where you feel as though you are part of nature and yet are protected."

The northern orientation of the lot and other constraints led to the optimization of the building's positioning, and to the arrangement of the





The kitchen is designed as a professional playground and organized around two functional islands, recalling a restaurant kitchen. Located at one end of the house, the space is surrounded by windows with views to the patio, garden and the region's valleys.





windows, including the skylights to favor the entry of light, according to the hour of day, the seasons and lives being lived inside the house. "I analyzed the trajectory of the sun, and I also modeled its reflections on the sheet-metal walls. As the hours go by, the light creates interesting shadows and animations," he said.

In his plans the conventional rooms were revisited. The master bedroom became surprising features like a crossing the walk-in and the bathroom leading to the bedroom, an approach that reimagined the codes of convention in favor of the experience. Another example of revisited rooms were the guest rooms. Being temporary living spaces, they do not have shelving or cabinets, therefore placing all the emphasis on the view outdoors. Even the sizes of the doors are non-conventional, one being



This page: the master bedroom, master bathroom and one of the guestrooms with a warm personality, a playful spirit and plenty of soul, according to the designer who designed them as temporary living spaces. Right-hand page: one of the bathroom in a rudimentary appearance and a playful rural aesthetic.



reworked to an 11-foot height, is found near another that is 6 feet tall. In the kitchen, rather than a standard complement of cabinets, the space was organized around two functional islands, recalling a restaurant kitchen. The layout showcases now cookware, cookbooks, seasonings and ingredients stored in wooden baskets.

Located at one end of the house, the kitchen is surrounded by windows. Carefully calculated angles of view encourage users to contemplate the patio, garden and, in the distance, the region's valleys. It is an approach that produces a sensation "of being both on the sidelines and in the heart of the action," says Guez, who developed his vision with architect Guillaume Kukucka

