

RESIDENTIAL  
**Alpine Chalet,  
Collingwood, Ont.**  
Atelier Kastelic Buffey, Toronto



An outside with a surprising inside, this second home for a family of six sits at the base of a ski hill in southern Ontario. Inspired by local barns, the Alpine Chalet's reductive, monolithic form is a cleaned-up and slightly abstracted take on the conventional, contemporary two-storey North American family home.

The interior as seen in the dramatic view from the kitchen to the family room tells another, quite remarkable, story. While home renovators frequently struggle to open up dark, jumbled interiors, the chalet's interior is essentially a single, simple great room for large gatherings that seems vast enough to strike an agoraphobic with terror. The room's shell literally looks like a shell: painted a luminous, Zen-like white, the wall, its thinness emphasized by rows of double-layered windows that punch rhythmically through, looks like a light and delicate, gable-shaped lid. Only the roof-piercing chimney stack, articulated by a band of horizontal reveals, makes contact between the room and the shell. The gabled roof soars above without the interruption of beams or dividing walls. The three-sided floating fireplace drops through the interior as a vertical mass of Indiana limestone, providing a partial division between the living and dining areas.

The master suite nestles into a single-height volume at one end of the interior. The children's bedrooms and bathrooms perch on a mezzanine. The all-natural materials are durable and easy to clean and maintain for social gatherings.

Design team: Kelly Buffey, Robert Kastelic, Artur Kobylanski, Matthew Hague, Sabrina Richard and Terry Sin



Photography by Shai Gil