

RESIDENTIAL

Maison Glissade, Collingwood, Ont.

Atelier Kastelic Buffey, Toronto

Is there a more potent architectural form than the peaked-gable house? After progressing beyond stick figures of Mommy and Daddy, an architectural rendering of a house with a crooked chimney astride a pitched roof is the first thing we learn to draw. And so a house whose design makes the double-entendre visual pun of evoking the preliterate image of a dwelling beckons irresistibly, appealing sweetly and playfully to the child in all of us.

Maison Glissade is a ski chalet for a family of five in Collingwood, Ont., designed by Atelier Kastelic Buffey, the partnership of Toronto architects Robert Kastelic and Kelly Buffey. Private pursuits take place in the bedrooms and bathrooms on the ground floor. The family congregates in the open, light-filled living space on the upper level. Under its gabled roof, the second floor acts like a sheltering tent, opening at each end to impressive views of the ski slope to the south and a field of grasses to the north.

To maximize the openness of this space and to create a serene ambiance appropriate for a weekend retreat, a steel frame was integrated into the structure so that the space is unimpeded by exposed beams or dividing walls. To keep the wall planes pristine, loudspeakers were concealed behind drywall and pot lights were deployed sparingly. Millwork pieces are fitted with recessed door and drawer pulls, where possible, to minimize projecting elements. While the pendant lights hanging from the ceiling and the custom-designed stainless-steel range hood seemingly violate this no-clutter rule, they are justified on the grounds that they define different activity areas within the open space.

Design team: Kelly Buffey, Robert Kastelic, Artur Kobylanski, Terry Sin, Caileigh Mackeller, Jonathan Lim and Sabrina Richard



Photography by Shai Gil