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ARCHITECTURE
& DESIGN**

SUMMER 2014 | CANADIAN EDITION

LIVING *on the* WATER

Redefining
cool for a
West Coast
island home

A sleek
houseboat
on Berlin's
Spree River

A Baja
getaway with
a mountain
backdrop

PLUS

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GENIUS CLASS

Elegance and innovation of design are remarkably possible in smaller, sustainably built packages. Consider the residential component of the winners of the Design Excellence Awards given in 2014 by the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA). Projects were judged for creativity, context, sustainability and legacy potential, among other aspects. The three homes shown here—new and renovated houses in the city, and a lakeside cabin—deserve attention as satisfying responses to the needs of contemporary homeowners.



This page : The Stealth Cabin by Superkül is one of the residential winners of a Design Excellence award from the OAA this year. The cabin's exterior cladding of cedar provides a cohesive look, while the variation of textures—in the shakes, siding and roof—creates interest.





Back to the elements

Its shape was inspired by an overturned boat found on the property, and the silhouette of this family cottage on a lake in Bracebridge, Ont., does bear a resemblance to an object half-burrowed into the landscape. It seems the perfect posture for a cottage meant to provide shelter, comfort and retreat for intervals over the four seasons of the year. Clad inside and out in cedar—shakes, siding, roof, interior walls and ceiling—the Stealth Cabin, designed by Toronto-based architectural firm Superkül, will weather over time to fit even more subtly into its wooded backdrop. In the meantime, it has the sturdiness and warmth of a traditional log cabin, yet the attention to functional details suggests a much more modern structure: thoughtfully positioned windows providing light-filled interior spaces; streamlined built-in furnishings and minimalist light fixtures; and a lightweight, semi-transparent quality achieved with well-placed voids and hollows.

SHAI GIL

This page: The cabin has a small footprint, but it fulfills the promise of a getaway with a variety of cosy corners and intimate spaces. It is designed for passive cooling and ventilation, and the north half can be closed off when not in use to reduce energy consumption. Exhaust air from the high-efficiency fireplace is ducted under the concrete floor slab to provide additional heating.

