

Standout Design

HONORING THE MARVIN HALL OF FAME WINNERS' SIGNATURE STYLES

# Builder

The Magazine of  
The National Association  
of Home Builders

BEST

IN

CLASS



19 WINNING  
PROJECTS FROM  
THE BUILDER'S  
CHOICE &  
CUSTOM HOME  
DESIGN AWARDS



→ Compass House may not point true north, but architect Meg Graham of Superkül designed the dwelling to connect with distinct geographic elements in each ordinal direction. Graham linked the linear structure with its 200-acre site on the Niagara Escarpment—about an hour and a half from Graham's office in Toronto—in order to create a serene weekend retreat

**“THE HOUSE SITS BEAUTIFULLY IN THE LANDSCAPE, AND PUTS A TWIST ON THE VERNACULAR FORM BY MARRYING IT WITH CONTEMPORARY LANGUAGE.”**

> Sebastian Schmalzing

for the homeowners. Her goal was to give the family of six, “a place of spiritual resonance that orients and heightens one's experience of the surrounding environment.”

West of the house stands an old-growth forest. A long patio anchored by a towering outdoor fireplace overlooks the mix of indigenous hard and softwoods.

A tidy collection of apple trees adjacent to the patio can be seen through twin window walls that form a breezeway that opens up indoor living spaces to the outdoors and capturing expansive vistas of an agricultural area to the north and east and a gentle hill to the south.

The house is primarily a single-story structure in a shape reminiscent of longhouses, so most spaces are a single room wide. This form maximizes views, natural light, and ventilation. It also visually tethers the low-lying house to the ground. Sustainable and natural materials—such as white oak and cedar walls and floors—further enhance the building's relationship with the environment.

Sustainability in every sense of the word was paramount to the clients: They want the house to serve as a family heirloom as well as honor its delicate surroundings. Literally uniting the building to the land, a geothermal heating system keeps occupants toasty during the region's long winters. — S.D.H.



**ARCHITECT:** Superkül / **BUILDER:** Wilson Project Management

**SIZE:** 4,300 square feet / **COST:** Withheld

# Compass House