



The Black Wedge House

Carrying Place, Ontario, Canada

By Bill Curran

A simple, economical, small (1440 sq.ft.) one bedroom retirement home in the country for two city dwellers, Gary and Carol Ridge, with, well, unusual expectations for what a retirement home is.

Gary is a retired construction superintendent so he literally built most of it by hand, with some local hired helpers. He even built most of the cabinets in his workshop. Carol is a retired administrator from the McMaster University Family Health Dept., who we worked with on a clinic design.

Great people! Out of the box thinkers who wanted something decidedly different. They bought a wooded lot overlooking the Consecan Canal along Loyalist Parkway in the NW corner of popular Prince Edward County.

One bedroom, one bath, two His and Her Dens for their many busy hobbies (he's into stamps, history and wine, she into quilting and reading, etc.). A focal central living/dining/kitchen space with large windows to both north and south for generous light and views to the canal in front and woods behind.

A separate garage / workshop (lime green accents) and a separate 'Haven' outdoor porch/living room (purple accents) attached to a two storey shared Studio space (raw galvalume) for their art projects.

We grouped the buildings to create a courtyard, like traditional European farms have, to create a sense of place.

We designed a simple, economical wood frame box, with the sloping/raked faces to make the forms dynamic, reflecting Gary's love of 1970's muscle cars. Then we added accents of 1970's muscle car colours (painted in automotive paint at a nearby autobody shop on metal trim as colour accents) against a simple cladding of black corrugated metal for the house, and plain galvanized corrugated for the studio tower. The house floats on stilts over the lower part of the site that floods each spring, with a bridge walkway to the front door, and allowing for water views of the canal out front.

The black siding allows the house to fade back into the woods as moose and bear do.

They went out and bought an orange car to match the house !

The interiors are simple, clean and crisp. A 3-dimensional wood accent wall in the living room provides hidden storage for electronics and media. The cantilevered island mimics the exterior house concept.

Simple, inexpensive materials and a compact box, all brought to life by thoughtful design strategies to subvert the norm. Not your typical retirement dwelling.....

Bill Curran uploaded *The Black Wedge House* through [Add A Home](#).
Add your own project for the chance to be featured in [Editor's Picks](#).



Photo Courtesy of Bill Curran

Photo Categories: exterior, metal roof material, house building type, metal siding material, shed roofline

Front view of house with garage, studio and haven to left beyond.



Photo Courtesy of Bill Curran

Photo Categories: exterior, metal roof material, metal siding material, house building type, shed roofline

Close up of facade showing black wedge of corrugated metal and automotive paint accents.



Photo Courtesy of Bill Curran

Photo Categories: shed & studio, living space room type

View from rear with Haven and Studio to right



Photo Courtesy of Bill Curran

Photo Categories: exterior, metal siding material, metal roof material, house building type, shed roofline

Colour accents in automotive paint provide accents and identity to each structure.



Photo Courtesy of Bill Curran

Photo Categories: exterior, house building type, metal siding material, metal roof material

Details pull the automotive theme thru the project.



Photo Courtesy of Bill Curran

Photo Categories: kitchen, colorful cabinets, quartzite counters, refrigerator, undermount sinks, medium hardwood floors, dishwasher, cooktops, microwave, recessed lighting, wall oven

The interiors are clean and crisp, with a cantilevered island that mimics the house form.



Photo Courtesy of Bill Curran

Photo Categories: garage, detached garage room type

The garage reveals the car the owners bought to match the house ! The studio and Haven or refuge to the right complete the courtyard assemblage and give the owners room to breath and have critical distance from each other in a compact house.



Photo Courtesy of Bill Curran

Photo Categories: living room, sectional, medium hardwood floors, floor lighting

A three dimensional wood wall holds media and equipment and provide a visual focus in a simple, clean interior. Generous windows extend the small house.



Photo Courtesy of Bill Curran

Categories: exterior, house building type, shed roofline, metal siding material, metal roof material

Approach view to the house from across the Consecn Canal.



Photo Courtesy of Bill Curran

Categories: exterior, metal siding material, house building type, metal roof material, shed roofline

The wedge shape of the house is more evident from the driveway side, with orange marking the 'back door' porch and bridge.



Photo Courtesy of Bill Curran

Photo Categories: shed & studio, den room type, living space room type

The garage, studio and Haven (outdoor porch retreat) are clustered to complete the courtyard, with accent colours providing identity and visual relief.

Credits

POSTED BY

Bill Curran
@billcurran

ARCHITECT

TCA / Thier+Curran Architects

PHOTOGRAPHER

Industryous, Tom Rideout

Overview

LOCATION

Carrying Place, Ontario, Canada

BEDROOMS

1

FULL BATHS

1

STRUCTURE

House (Single Residence)

STYLE

Modern

YEAR

2016

SQUARE FEET

1440

LOT SIZE

.5 acre