

Fall
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CANADIAN

INTERIORS

BEST OF CANADA

Winners of our 15th annual Design Awards



RESIDENTIAL

The Farm, Northumberland County, Ont.

Cindy Rendely Architecture, Toronto

Looking for a contemporary take on country living, the client couple commissioned Cindy Rendely to design a house with a gabled roof for their 100-acre property with rolling cornfields. What says “rural” better than a gabled roof?

Rendely embraced the challenge by exaggerating the gabled roofline’s pitch and specifying an aluminum rather than shingle roof. The metal, she felt, would make a better blend with the neutral tones of the exterior wood siding. The result is a monolithic form that sits calmly on the site.

Rendely took cues for the house’s massing from the form of the existing barn that sits on the property’s edge. The new house’s long, low ground storey is interrupted by a two-storey volume containing the master suite above and a second bedroom and en suite below. The structure is a cube six meters long, wide and high (when measured to the outside peak at the highest ridge of the roof).

Rendely believes, as did the ancient Greeks, that visual and spatial calmness derives from simple proportions and repeated forms. And so, she applied the bedroom cube’s dimensions to another new structure, the studio that went up at the other end of the site. The studio rotates 15 degrees from the house’s long axis to create an open courtyard space between the two buildings, with views directed toward Lake Ontario in the distance.

A consistent materials palette limited to just one tile and one wood creates a harmonious backdrop for vintage furnishings and folk art. The grey porcelain tile echoes the region’s clay and rocky ground. The Douglas fir maintains consistent tones in its numerous and diverse applications: as interior window frames, doors, wall and ceiling finishes and custom built-in millwork, and as quarter- and rift-cut veneer and plywood sheathing. These plywood ceilings give the interiors a raw, barn-like feeling.

Design team: Cindy Rendely, principal architect; Jennifer Scholes, project architect; Andrea Lacalamita, intern architect; Ryan Johnson, architectural technologist



“This house derives its simplicity from the gable roof shape”—CM

“I like the spirit and the sparseness. This house seems very unassuming and inviting at the same time”—RK