



Above and below: Wooden construction materials and craftsmanship were combined to create a home that is in profound agreement with its natural environment.

Myra-Canyon Ranch

A fusion of European style and Canadian building techniques create a cross-culture home with impressive characteristics

Yvonne Bürgin and Jörg Eichhorn, Architects



Recently emigrated from Switzerland, life led the owners to the beautiful Okanagan Valley in British Columbia. In the summer of 2006 they bought a 12-acre property with an unfinished log barn. The property's zoning allowed for building two houses: an unlimited primary dwelling and a caretaker home as a secondary residence. The decision to build the secondary residence first included the challenge of integrating the already existing concrete slabs and carport, while not exceeding the allowed 1507 sq.ft. Last but not least, the goal was also to build a multi-functional home that could also serve as a wheelchair-accessible bed, bale and breakfast.



Above (clockwise from left): Douglas Fir post and beam create visual appeal – the open beam construction is unique for North American buildings.

Bordering a provincial park, Myra-Canyon Ranch offers urban living as it is close to all the amenities that the city of Kelowna has to offer, yet is in a rural setting. Wooden construction materials and craftsmanship were combined to create a home which is in profound agreement with its natural environment.

A curved wooden bridge – made entirely out of Rocky Mountain Douglas Fir – makes an elegant connection between the house and surrounding ground, and provides wheelchair accessibility. The front area of the covered Douglas Fir patio welcomes guests, while the 1600-sq.ft. wraparound feature invites them to discover the hidden gem. Safety glass railings allow for uninter-

rupted view. The sweeping lines of the sundeck enhance the generosity of the outside living area even more. Extensive use of more than a dozen skylights creates a bright, airy feel, showcasing the 19-ft. tall structure.

Myra-Canyon Ranch's caretaker home offers an outstanding generous feel of living through functional and aesthetic design. The beauty of this unique project – currently a bed, bale and breakfast – is equaled only by the splendor of its surroundings. The Myra-Canyon Ranch caretaker home is built with 2 x 8 exterior and 2 x 6 interior walls. The thickness of the exterior walls allows full insulation behind the electrical wiring and piping. Double rain screening provides additional protection,



Above (clockwise from top left): North-West facing wrap-around deck; Skylights allow morning sun to enter the bedrooms; Master bedroom with panoramic view from the upper sundeck; Thoughtful design and high windows maximize natural light; Open beam construction adds to the ranch's unique characteristic; Bearing structure shows European craftsmanship.

ventilation and cooling. Western Red cedar was chosen for the siding.

The Douglas Fir post and beam structure not only creates visual appeal, but also provides natural cooling through its high ceilings. The roof was designed with an open beam construction which is unique for North American buildings. There are no joists every 3 ft. and in the bedrooms, the additional space is used to create interior lofts. The master bedroom on top of the carport has the quality of a tree-house. Its own cedar sundeck is another highlight. 12-ft. high sliding windows blur the line between indoors and out; wooden windows, doors and door cases add to the beauty.

A carefully thought out floor plan defines areas for privacy and common activities. Cool, sleek lines combined with an open concept make the kitchen a focal point of the home – it is filled with natural light from the wall of glass over the counter and from the skylights 19 ft. up in the vaulted ceiling.

Volatile Organic Compound (VOC)-free wall paint and oil have been used to create a healthy interior. The bamboo floor throughout enhances the sense of space and adds to the convenience and appeal to this three-bedroom home. A high efficiency and low emission wood stove (3.4 gm/hr), Energy Star qualified appliances and the long lasting metal roof provides evidence that good and sustainable design can be equal partners. 🌱



Above: A carefully thought out floor plan defines areas for privacy and common activities.

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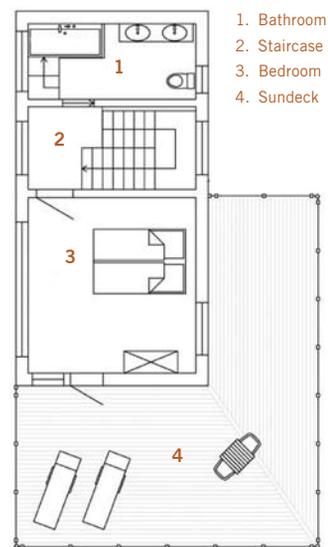
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MAIN FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

- 1. Bathroom
- 2. Staircase
- 3. Bedroom
- 4. Sundeck