

RESTLESS LIVING

"... restlessly dedicated to contemporary living."





MOONEE PONDS HOUSE

Melbourne, Australia

As a suburban sanctuary, the Moonee Ponds House balances the fine act of creating a simultaneous openness and privacy. The single-storey house was designed for a young professional couple with two children who wished for a home flooded with natural light, where they could feel the hot western heat during the winter. With solutions like a central courtyard bringing light into the center, Moonee Ponds House delivers on the brief.

“When designing houses our inspiration comes from a desire to investigate how our clients can engage with the world beyond their domain – beyond their fences”, architect Sarah Drofenik says. “We feel that providing opportunity to engage with the sky, the sun, the trees, the air, not only unifies the occupants in a shared experience, but also allows for the outdoor environment to become an additional character in the lives of the occupants.” Baker Drofenik Architects achieved this intention by strategically placing windows focused on views to the sky and screens which allow light and air to pass without losing out on the privacy concerns of living in a suburban block. “The project is a single dwelling located in a suburban context of mainly single dwellings located within a fenced garden. This project responds to the context and retains





the scale of the street”, Sarah adds. Due to the owners’ Spanish heritage, culture also played a tangible role in the final design. As an example, the open, transitional entryway shares resemblance to the Spanish portico – although being inherently modern. “The owner specifically requested internal access to the hot western sun. This is something we generally avoid in Australia, but in Melbourne winters the western sun is an asset as it provides warm passive afternoon heating. In this instance high western windows scoop the winter sun into the centre of the house”, Sarah tells. Conversely, during the extremely hot summer days the deep window reveals include external motorized blinds which seals the space, shielding the indoor climate from the heat.

The interiors of Moonee Ponds House are deliberately simple, giving the owners leeway to influence their home. As Sarah explains: “We try to allow for our clients to have visual space to express themselves through their own choice of fabrics, artwork and furniture.” With three bedrooms, two bathrooms, an open kitchen-living area, a central courtyard, and a rear garden with a pool, Moonee Ponds House emphasizes the simple life, creating a great framework for the children to grow up.

Architecture by **Baker Drofenik Architects** Photography by **Nic Stephens**







FMM HOUSE

Mechelen, Belgium

In the Flanders region of Belgium, the city of Mechelen is known for its rich history, stunning architecture, and vibrant cultural scene. Filled with medieval charm and contemporary allure, Mechelen embodies the past and the present, paving the way for the future. Similarly, the fmM House seeks to highlight how different means of influences affect one another.

“Architecture has an influence on nature, and nature has an influence on our architecture. Art also influences our architecture”, the architect Bart Vanden Driessche begins. “A sculpture forms the basis of this residential volume. In our quest for buildability, affordability, circular, energetic and economic efficiency, we allow ourselves to be guided by geometric abstraction.” By not adhering to a particular geometry, circle and square are presented alongside each other as form-retaining elements through the volume masonry. “They form the basic structure that supports the roof”, Bart mentions. “The wooden structure of the insulated volume perforates with surgical precision these massive volumes, creating an alternation of enclosed and open outdoor spaces.”

Through the hybrid way of building with brick, concrete and wood, the 172 m² home uses each material to its qualities, making fmM House a high-performance building. “In addition to performance, the hybrid structure ensures different experiences, atmospheres, and sounds”, Bart notes. Mechelen’s true character of authenticity is thus integrated in the fmM House as the spaces come together. The private corridor serves the functional spaces; sleeping quarters, yoga room, and bathroom, whereas the double-height, central space between the volumes is completely open, forming a theater that can adapt to future uses. Most importantly, however, fmM House presents an unprecedented charm rooted in its material identity.

Architecture by **BLAF Architecten**

Photography by **Stijn Bollaert**



WABI-SABI RESIDENCE

Salt Lake City, Utah, United States

Set in the rugged western landscape above Salt Lake City in Utah, the Wabi-Sabi Residence is designed for a young family wishing to enjoy the incredible mountain vistas surrounding the site. Rooted in the Japanese concept of 'wabi-sabi', Sparano + Mooney Architecture sought to explore a contemporary reinterpretation of the ancient principles.

"Wabi-sabi is an ancient, philosophical tenet of Japanese aesthetic culture that embraces the imperfect, incomplete and transient. It espouses simplicity and honesty in expression, those modest things in our world that convey beauty as they weather and age", Co-Founder at Sparano + Mooney Architecture, Anne Mooney, says. "The design was conceived as an expression of both static and dynamic elements, referencing the relationship among the mountain, vegetation and wildlife on the site." Due to the zenful connection to Emigration Canyon, the Wabi-Sabi Residence is separated into two cantilevered volumes which float gracefully above the rugged landscape, allowing to elevate the visual experience from the living areas. With vertical cedar cladding finished with a blackened stain, the volumes appear almost like a silhouette in the fairy environment. "The north volume is oriented along an east-west axis to address the tranquil mountain views to the north and includes the home's private, domestic functions. The southwest volume includes the more public,





active gathering spaces and is oriented along the canyon axis toward dramatic views of the natural and urban landscapes”, Anne explains.

Throughout the construction of the home, Sparano + Mooney Architecture worked with Living Home Construction, McNeil Engineering and Structural Design Studio to achieve a building reaching the LEED Gold certification for its sustainable features. “The window system was designed with operable openings at key locations to take advantage of natural site ventilation, thereby reducing the need for mechanical heating/cooling, and increasing indoor air quality”, Anne tells. “The vegetated roof is planted with local grasses, camouflaging the home in its context, and the site is augmented with native and drought-tolerant plants and trees.” Simultaneously, the construction waste was minimized by using a prefabricated modular of modest materials. “The overall height of the volumes was established based on the standard length of FSC-certified Western Red Cedar Select, a strategy that required less cutting and waste of the material”, Anne adds. Extending the considered approach to materials to the interior, Wabi-Sabi Residence honors the simple.

Architecture by **Sparano + Mooney Architecture**

Exterior photography by **Matt Winqvist**

Interior photography by **Lucy Call**







VILLA K

Finland

Have you ever considered living on your very own island? Villa K is an escape retreat located on an island in lakeside Finland designed to adapt to the changing seasons and landscapes. The hideaway showcases the pinnacle of remote living creating a strong symbiosis between human and nature.

“We designed the cottage and a separate sauna building on the island – the two are connected by their overlapping roof structures. We were in charge of the architectural and interior design of the buildings, as well as the design of the bridge leading to the island”, Architect at Saukkonen + Partners, Pauliina Lauri, says. With awe-inspiring views of the lake towards the west, Villa K experiences the most amazing sunsets in the evening, making the place no less than perfect to clock out and take a breather. With respect to the surrounding nature, the buildings had to be placed as naturally as possible, ensuring the environment would not be overpowered. “The aim was to effectively maximize all available building permits to allow for a practical and desired programme for leisure purposes. The intention was to create a design that would be as maintenance-free as possible, while bringing the surrounding nature into the atmosphere of the spaces”, Pauliina explains. As a consequence, Saukkonen + Partners designed Villa K to be ecological and have a low consumption of energy.

From an artistic standpoint, the interior of Villa K also mimics the feeling of its surroundings. “The materials and color scheme had to blend in with nature and be as durable as possible”, Pauliina tells. From the rustic, warm finishing to the subtle Scandinavian decor, Villa K knows no compromise to atmospheric attributes. The kitchen and living area are directly connected to the exterior through a glazed façade, ensuring easy access both visually and physically. Finally, during the evenings the owners can withdraw to the private entertainment area on the mezzanine just below the beautiful wooden ceiling or take a rest in their nature-centric bedroom. In all instances, Villa K will appear warm and welcoming.

Architecture by **Saukkonen + Partners**

Photography by **Timo Pyykönen**

Words of the Week



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Throughout the past three centuries, the ideology of capitalism has delivered an evolution of economic systems and societal changes. Emphasizing private ownership, free market competition, and the pursuit of profit, capitalism has influenced how the people of the world constitutes their lives.

In architecture, capitalism has similarly had a huge influence. Capitalism truly blossomed in the 18th century along with the Industrial Revolution where the shift from agrarian to industrialized societies led to changes in construction techniques, materials, and scale. Noticeably, iron and steel became widely used making large-scale projects and innovative designs feasible. Simultaneously, the rapid growth of industry and commerce has led to an accumulation of wealth among individuals – not just the noble – and a greater focus on efficiency, functionality and cost-effectiveness. Furthermore, the invention of railways and other transportation systems became a catalyst for the movement of goods and people, leading to the development of urban centers and expanding cities.

In sum, the history of capitalism in architecture has been a vital element in the evolution of design and how the architectural industry is operating today.

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Trampedach".

CHRISTIAN TRAMPEDACH
FOUNDER, RESTLESS

