



Contemporary Chalet

Beauty in Collingwood

Roth Knibb Architects Inc.
Architects: Paul Roth and Anthony Greco
www.rothknibb.com

Ken Vogel Construction Ltd
Email: kvogel@sympatico.ca

Rodney Deeprise Inc.
Designers: Rodney Deeprise and Chris Ferreira
www.rodneydeeprise.com



written by Debra Usher
photography by Richard Johnson

This beautiful family oasis is a stunning ski destination for its owners and guests. Located on 196 acres, the home and coach house sit on a ridge with spectacular long views to the east and north, taking in Collingwood and Georgian Bay. Making the most of these vistas was the primary design consideration but providing different outdoor environments was also important: on one hand, trying to showcase the great outdoors in both fine and wild weather, while on the other, providing sheltered and intimate areas.

The home was built by Ken Vogel Construction under the guidance of Roth Knibb Architects, Paul Roth produced a house of architectural genius,

at least in my opinion, because this home is a true beauty. Designer Rodney Deeprise with Chris Ferreira started the project 6 months in advance of construction working with Roth Knibb on details and revisions including the selection of building materials. Together this team of Paul Roth, architect, Rodney Deeprise, designer and Ken Vogel, builder, has created a work of art that shares a commitment to excellence and beauty in all facets. This is a one of a kind masterpiece both inside and outside and shares a timeless elegance place with the property.

More chalet than home, its unbounded design makes the estate a great location for vacations, holidays, parties and charitable events. Nearly every detail, indoors and out, is infused with contemporary style. Modern interior living



spaces replete with custom-designed furnishings invite the bright northern ambience in through board-framed windows. The expansive interior is composed of richly distinctive materials including fir, walnut, elm, steel, glass and stone following a uniquely designed plan that required custom quarried flooring.

The precision and intricacies of this comprehensive modern design could only be accomplished through the close collaboration of the client, architect, builder and designer, right from the initial blueprints. This is the fourth home designed for this client by Rodney Deeprise and stands apart as an unparalleled confluence of architecture, design and construction.

The house is composed of three sections: the garage, principal spaces such as great room and kitchen, and a bedroom and study wing. These

sections surround a courtyard facing southwest which provides sun and protection from the constant breeze. A glazed stairway separates two of the sections. Facing northeast are panoramic views overlooking the countryside. Since the house nestles into a hill just at the very top, it is one storey high on the southwest side, but two storeys high on the northeast where the hill slopes away. The lower floor houses secondary bedrooms, recreational space and a wine cellar. On the main floor an 'indoor street' connects the various areas while providing visual surprises as you move from one area to another.

The great room is enclosed on both sides by floor-to-ceiling glass walls – one side offering an intimate view of the courtyard, while the other opens onto a large terrace with breathtaking views all the way to Georgian Bay. Within the









great room one gets the sense of being part of nature while still comfortably indoors.

Due to its high location, the building is quite exposed to the weather, as well as the dramatic scenery. For this reason the design evolved into a "U" shaped plan around an exterior courtyard facing southwest, which is perfect for après ski in March as well as providing a more intimate outdoor space.

Inspiration For Materials

The intriguing palette of materials used throughout the house was inspired by an old stone foundation nearby. Features such as rough stone walls, together with sloping roofs, reference the Ontario farmhouse vernacular but that is where historical references end, since the house is very unlike its ancestors.

Contemporary open spaces and glass walls, crafted with elegant materials and detailing, open up the interior to views of the outdoors in all directions.

Moving Through The House

The main entrance is protected by a large porte cochere. For those of you unfamiliar with the term it means a roofed structure extending from the entrance of a building over an adjacent driveway and sheltering those getting in or out of vehicles.

The door opens into a generous entryway with still no hint of what is beyond. Moving beyond the entrance, an indoor street boasts spectacular views. To the left is a dining room, bounded by a stone wall and floor-to-ceiling glass that opens onto the courtyard. Next, on the right, is the





great room, a soaring space with a great stone fireplace and glass walls on both sides providing unlimited views. Many of the furnishings and light fixtures were designed and manufactured by Rodney Deeproose Inc. to ensure a timeless and elegant blending with the architecture and surroundings. Each step along the way provides new visual delights of both the interior and the countryside beyond.

The family bought the property many years ago while they were members at an area ski club. As the clan grew, more space was required than their previous chalet provided. Two of the children were on ski racing teams and thus the family started spending more time at the chalet in all seasons for the training. Originally designed as a vacation property, this home has since become the family's primary residence. Part of the 196 acres is now being developed with running and cross country ski trails.

The family also has three other properties to keep them busy; an urban penthouse, a house down south for warm weather vacations and a cottage about to begin construction.

This home is a great place for parties and the owners are avid entertainers. Although none of the bedrooms have televisions, there are large sets located in the great room, den, exercise room, entertainment room and laundry room.

The main entertainment room includes a wet bar, billiards table, shuffleboard table, grand piano, 2 large-screen TVs and 2 seating areas.





There is also a climate-controlled wine cellar accessed through a hidden door.

The detached carriage house provides storage for snowmobiles, motorcycles and ATVs, and a self-contained apartment above provides great guest accommodations.

The property includes a pond and foundation 'ruins' from original farm structures. There are also two outdoor fireplaces and a fire pit, fountains, a hot tub and covered terrace to lure guests and family outside, not that an extra invitation is needed to enjoy the scenic mountains, valley and lake.

This is an extremely beautiful home, and driving towards it one is struck by how the structure is so in keeping with the surrounding land. It is indeed a creation of timeless and rugged beauty – and a perfect match for nature, just outside the front door.

