



Triptych, a frame for all seasons

## Description

# The geometry accentuates the perspectives and stages the surrounding landscape

Via **v2com**

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Montreal-based **yh2** introduces *Triptych*, a three-pavilion residence carefully nestled in lakeside surroundings. The house, with its crisp lines and sober palette, was built on a sloping site overlooking a small lake in the Laurentian Mountains, one hundred kilometres from Montreal.

The house, with its crisp lines and sober palette, was built on a sloping site overlooking a small lake in the Laurentian Mountains, one hundred kilometres from Montreal.

The architects designed this building with a classical triptych in mind. It features a central piece, with direct views of Lac St-Cyr, and two side pavilions meant to be in more intimate contact with the nearby trees. The project is about the idea of fragmentation; it evolved from the desire to integrate three discrete shapes among existing trees on naturally sloping grounds.



Each one of the three volumes sets the stage for a specific natural tableau, framed by the building's geometry. The roofs, which slope up in three directions from the centre of the house, accentuate the views.

The kitchen and an adjoining office occupy the central block with generous openings towards the lake. The living room is accessed through a glass link, located east. The room's highest point is at the window and attracts the eye towards the sky. The master bedroom, exposed to the morning sun, is directly below the living room and sits firmly on the ground thanks to the site's natural slope. It is reached through a sculptural staircase that appears to be floating in the air with its suspended last step.

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Looking west, a second side pavilion is set at a slight angle from the rest of the house. It allows for separate quarters available for friends and guests. Located in close proximity to the house's main entrance, the guest suite is more private than the rest of the building and is signalled by a switch in floor materials, from hardwood to polished concrete. The interior parking garage and a secondary entrance are located below.



The three pavilions are linked together through two glassed-in passageways, which create a formal separation between the project's main elements. The front door is discreetly inserted in the passageway leading to the guest suite. The entrance area is lined with the same material as that used on the façades, blurring the boundaries between interiors and exteriors. On the opposite side of the central pavilion, the passageway which leads to the living room doubles as a dining space and is totally open to the outside. Night lighting is provided through a suspended aluminum ceiling, which has been carefully cut to create a sensation of being under a forest canopy.

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Triptych features mostly natural materials. The façades are

sheathed with Eastern cedar planks, treated to appear weathered by time. Interior walls and ceilings are either gypsum board or white cedar while the floors are white oak or polished concrete. Wide patio doors, with black aluminum casings, frame the ever-changing views. A patio area extends from the kitchen and dining spaces towards the lake. The building's geometry creates a theatrical stage for the surrounding nature.

## Project Data

Location: Wentworth-Nord, Quebec

Area: 2,500 sq ft

Construction period: 2016-2018

yh2 Design Team: Marie-Claude Hamelin, Loukas Yiakovakis, Karl Choquette, Etienne Sédillot

Contractor: Paul Lalonde et Fils

## About yh2





yh2 is a Montreal architecture firm founded in 1994 by architects

**Marie-Claude Hamelin** and **Loukas Yiacouvakis**. For yh2, architecture is the art of place-making. It is a creative and transformative tool, a way to reinvent reality.

All aspects of a project are carefully studied: integration within a given context, conceptual design, working drawings, architectural details, interior design and object design. Concepts are developed in such a way that each of the elements must play a part in the overall composition. Nothing is superfluous.

yh2 deliberately chose to concentrate on fewer projects. Headed by its two founding partners, the team dedicates its full attention to these projects which have received numerous awards throughout the years.

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