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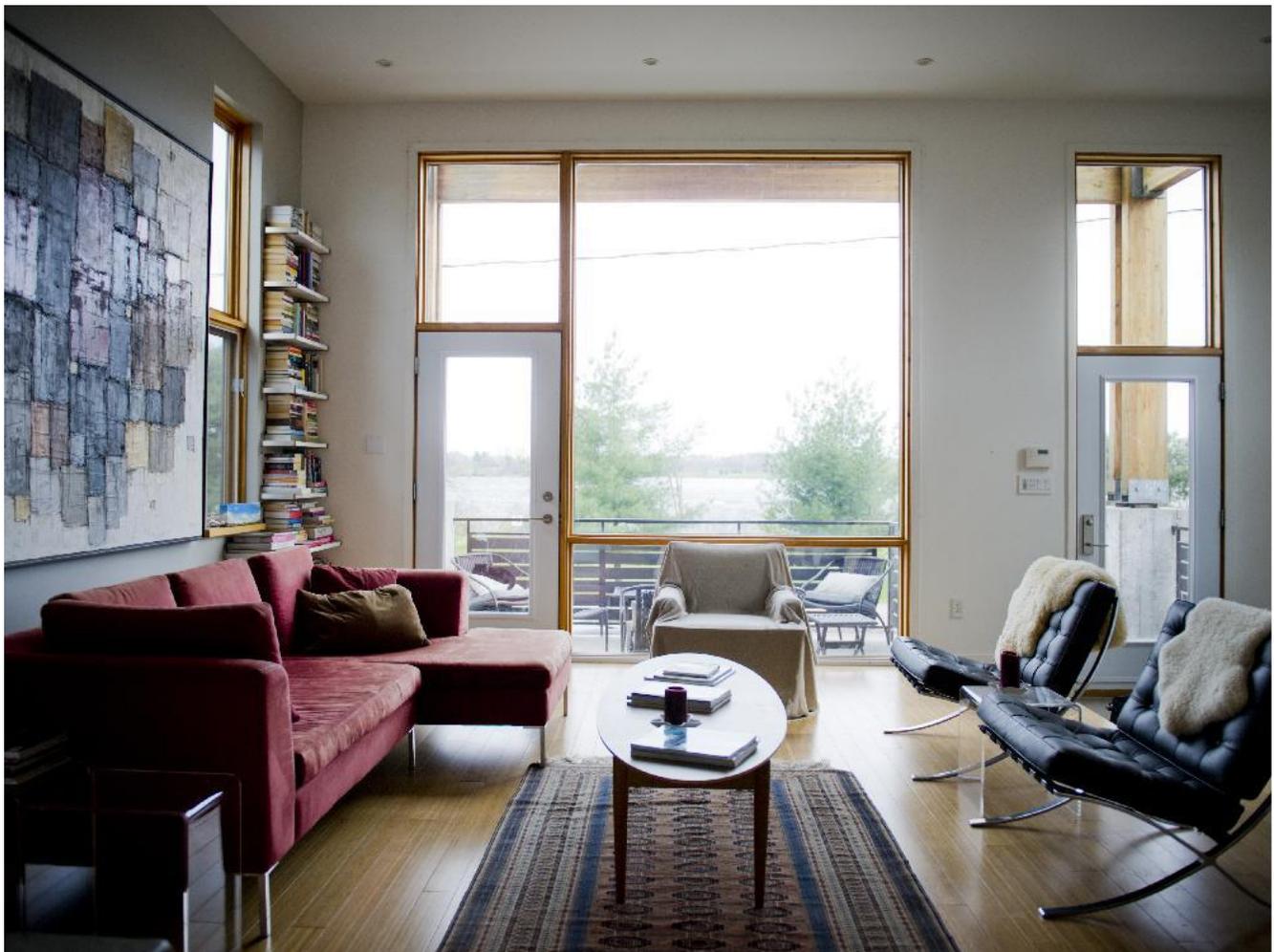
Ottawa River property redesigned to take advantage of the view



HATTIE KLOTZ

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SECTIONS

Peter Kincaid and Suesan Danesh perched on stepladders to find the best vantage point for their home, which looks out on the Ottawa River.

Ashley Fraser / Ottawa Citizen

Finding property that is steps from the banks of the Ottawa River and minutes from downtown Ottawa is as rare as hen's teeth these days. But when Suesan Danesh and Peter Kincaid bought their waterfront property in 1998, they were buying land that the NCC wanted to unload.

Located between the Chaudière and Champlain bridges in Gatineau's Val Tétréau neighbourhood, they bought a tiny bungalow crying out for love. It sat on one side of a huge lot that looked directly over a quiet, dead-end street, a park, a bicycle path and the fast-flowing river.

They waited until after their second son was born in 2003 before deciding to build beside the bungalow, on the open part of the lot.

Using stepladders, Danesh and Kincaid perched like crows in a nest at various vantage points to find just the right height for the house. Ultimately, they chose to raise it eight feet from grade at the front, 10 feet at the back.



Peter Kincaid and Suesan Danesh perched on stepladders to find the best vantage point for their home, which looks out on the Ottawa River.

Peter Kincaid enjoys the view from oversized beams of Douglas fir gl

Ashley Fraser / Ottawa Citizen



Photos: Where the view is everything

(<http://ottawacitizen.com/gallery/photos-where-the-view-is-everything>)

An NCC cast-off on the Ottawa River becomes a dream home for the couple who snapped it up and added to the existing bungalow to take advantage of the view.

Now, they relish the views from their huge windows. Designed by Kincaid, the house is contemporary and open plan, where the focus is on those views, as well as bringing in light.

Air conditioning is as simple as opening windows front, back and side to allow the wind to blow through. In winter, radiant heating through a concrete floor at the back and a bamboo one at the front provide gentle warmth that augments the heat provided by sunlight.

In a strange planning quirk, the new house had to be joined to the bungalow by a usable space. So Kincaid created a home office that abuts the roof of the bungalow. Giant picture windows look out over the river — it's hard to imagine getting any work done here.

Oversized exposed beams of Douglas fir glulam (or glued laminated timber) tie the interior of the house to an exterior canopy that provides shade in summer and gives the house an industrial feel.

Bedrooms are clean-lined and hotel-room style with no clutter from extra furniture — because, while the house is a triumph of voluminous contemporary living, the view here is still everything.

This is a house that speaks of treetops, water, sky and wind.

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