

**CANADIAN**  
**ARCHITECT**



# WINNING TEAMS



LEFT TO RIGHT Bobby Harris, Barry Johns, Stephen Ellis, Wei Yew.

Since its founding in 1981, Barry Johns, FRAIC, and his firm **Barry Johns (Architecture) Limited** have sustained a local and international reputation as an innovative design practice, winning a total of 96 design awards and a small number of architectural competitions from around the world, including an Olympic Gold Medal for the Arts and the Governor General's Medal for Architecture.

Deeply influenced by a six-year tenure with Arthur Erickson Architects in the 1970s, the firm is passionate about the role of architecture as a means to leading positive change in communities. This has led to a multi-faceted practice that includes architecture and urban design, teaching, public lectures, architectural juries and public service on volunteer fundraising and professional boards across Canada.

The firm's collective design experience and reputation for sustainable buildings has enabled it to remain small and participate in a variety of rewarding collaborations with other larger Canadian practices since the 1990s, including Smith Carter (now Architecture 49), Stantec, Gibbs Gage Architects, Group2 Architecture Engineering and Perkins+Will.

The firm believes in a world finally beginning to re-evaluate the need to tread lightly upon the earth, by working in harmony with nature and in the creation of architecture that champions gracious and inclusive humanistic relationships.

Barry Johns currently serves as the Chancellor of the College of Fellows of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.



WEST ELEVATION AND MAIN ENTRY



EAST ELEVATION

# INFILLHAUS

Edmonton, Alberta

**Barry Johns (Architecture) Limited**

In the sprawling city of Edmonton, sensitive infill dwellings are a rarity. Infillhaus, originally conceived as a competition prototype, explores the merits of compact, flexible living in the prairie capital. The single detached dwelling is half the width of its neighbours, contributing to urban densification in the leafy inner-city Norwood district.

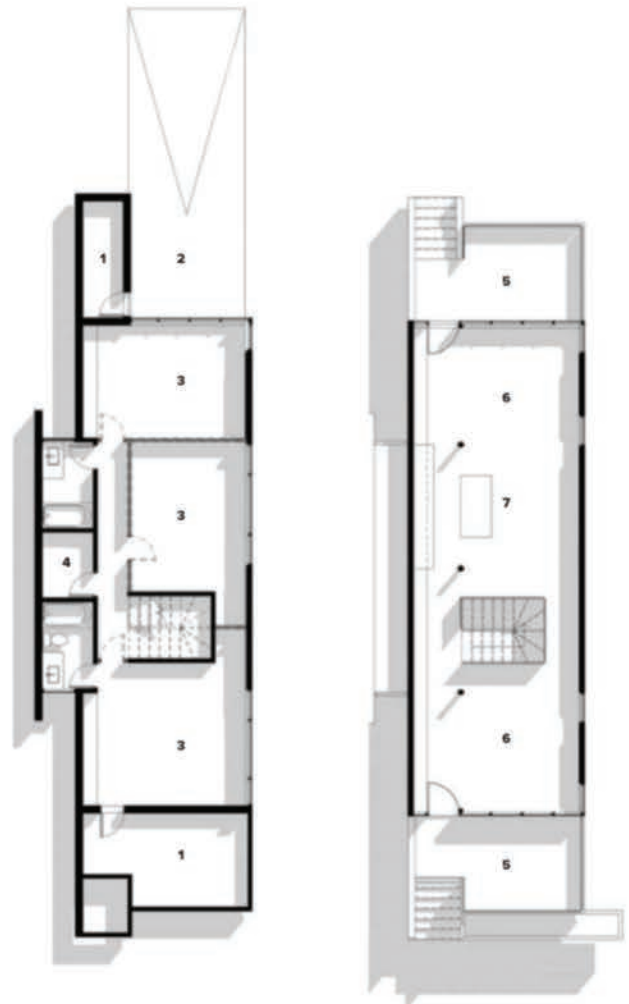
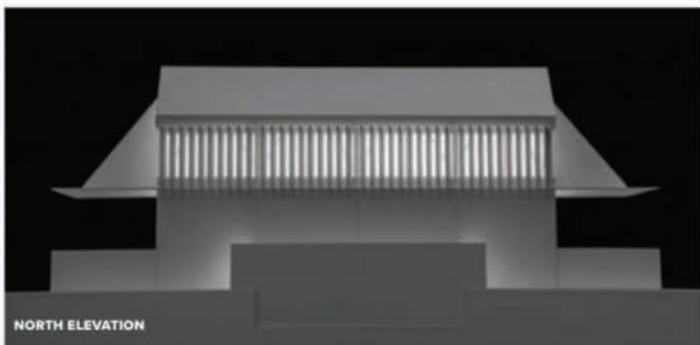
The dwelling's bedrooms are embedded in the ground, using the natural insulating capability of the earth to maintain winter warmth and to provide cooling in the summer. The living space is contained above in a high-ceilinged, pavilion-like volume, zoned between "servant" and "served" spaces by tree-like structural columns. This floor overlooks the street and backyard, with no windows peering into adjoining lots. A thin, galvanized steel canopy extends over both ends of the building, providing a simple, contemporary lid and protection against the elements.

As a good neighbour, the house includes a raised entry and veranda to welcome visitors. It significantly reduces excavation and construction times by choosing a smaller footprint and opting against a full basement. The home aims to achieve net zero energy consumption—beginning with its building orientation that tracks and captures the sun's energy from east to west, and layering in an efficient envelope, building integrated photovoltaics, and a ground source heat pump.

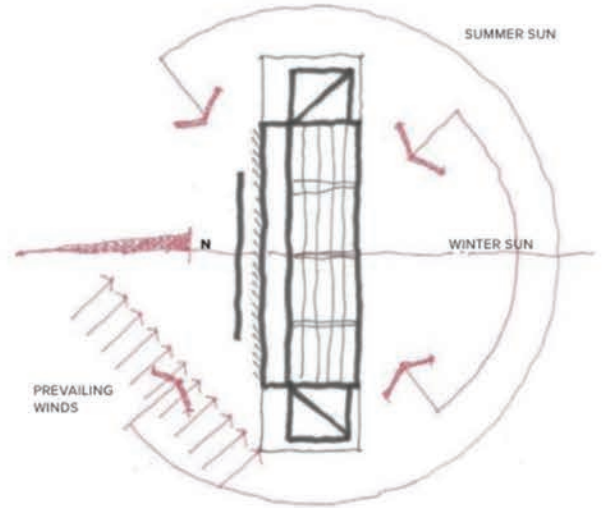
**Manon Asselin ::** This is an incredibly refreshing and charming project. The proportions and connections are impeccable, and the design offers a surprising and unexpected solution to the need to integrate the house into the typology of the heritage neighbourhood. The architect has taken a mansion and sliced it down the middle, playing with a half profile to see what it could become.

**Patricia Patkau ::** The Infillhaus is carefully drawn and successful in its presentation. It is precisely calibrated to its tight lot, and you can see how light would get in everywhere. It reads as both a Japanese temple on the side façade and a strangely warped idea of a home on the front. It's done with such elegance, care and consideration, and is really a phenomenal little project.

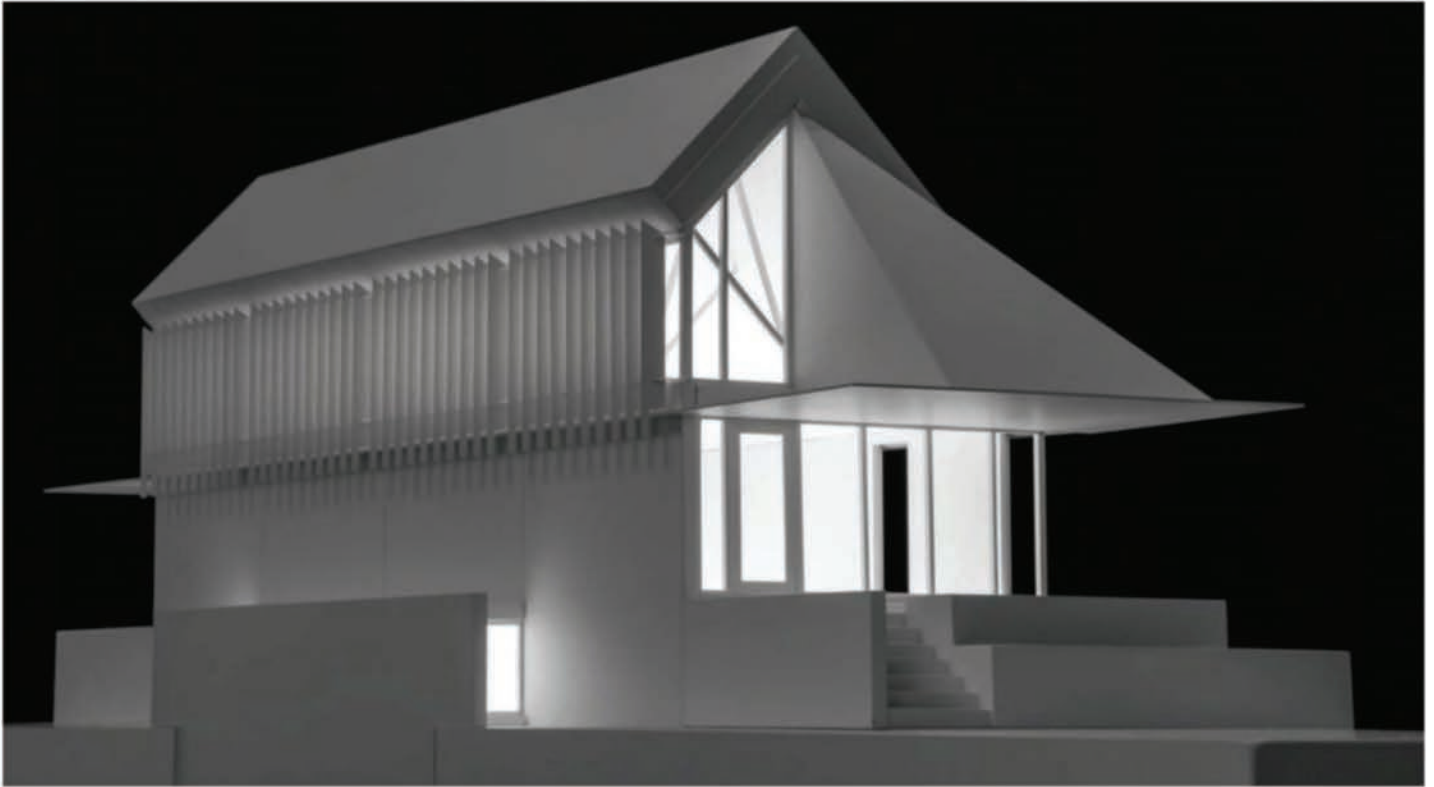
**David Sisam ::** I am a real fan of the Charleston Single House typology, and this one-room-deep house reminds me of that model—particularly in its challenge to residual side yards and inappropriate scale. This house inverts the conventional arrangement of having bedrooms at the top, by placing them below and raising the living areas in a very eloquent way—a piano nobile taking advantage of the volume created by the roof form. The project has a very convincing and well-considered sustainability strategy. Most of all, the project is both highly rational (using served and servant spaces) and very elegant at the same time, as illustrated by the beautiful model and clear drawings.



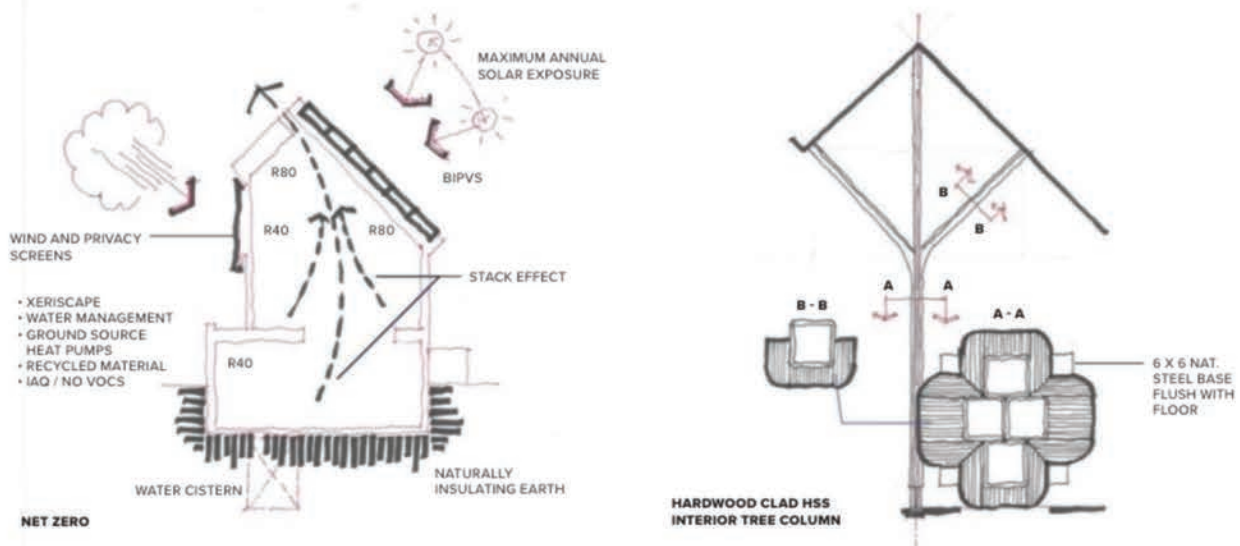
- 1 STORAGE
- 2 PATIO
- 3 BEDROOM / MEDIA / DEN
- 4 MECHANICAL
- 5 VERANDA / PORCH
- 6 LIVING SPACE
- 7 KITCHEN



**OPPOSITE** The detached infill house includes raised verandas at the front and rear. The main floor is a flexible open plan containing the home's living spaces, while bedrooms are on the lower level. **ABOVE, TOP TO BOTTOM** Tree-like structural columns create a gentle division between "servant" and "served" spaces on the main floor; photovoltaic panels are optimally tilted towards the south; the north elevation includes screens that filter light and protect against the prevailing winds.



**ABOVE, TOP TO BOTTOM** The house occupies a relatively compact footprint, providing a model for urban densification; the design sensitively balances between providing light, views and privacy to both the homeowners and their neighbours.



CLIENT STEPHEN ELLIS | AREA 1860 FT<sup>2</sup> + DECKS | BUDGET WITHHELD | STATUS DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION PENDING, ANTICIPATED COMPLETION DECEMBER 2017