



A Cozy Forest Escape Tucked in Québec's Gatineau Hills

DIY TINY A-FRAME
LOW, QUÉBEC

While many getaways and second homes are born of enormous budgets, a countryside escape does not have to be an extravagant affair. Andrew Szeto has inspired many with his tiny, low-budget A-frame project. After finding a plot of land in the woods of Québec about an hour from his home, the woodworker and furniture maker with a love for the outdoors and adventure set out to design and build his own creation. Having honed his craft at the Ottawa City Woodshop, Szeto undertook the A-frame as his first project, and it was constructed simply on a tight budget. The work was done mainly by two people and an assortment of friends who offered to lend a hand.



Designed on a 10-by-10-foot (3-by-3-meter) base, the structure is intended as a landing pad for spending time outside and for enjoying relaxing weekends. Szeto reclaimed the doors and all but one window. A barrel structure that was originally built as an outhouse now serves as a sauna clad in siding made of wooden disks hewn from local branches.

The A-frame is just a five-minute walk from Lac George in Québec's Outaouais region and offers an easy launch for canoeing adventures, whether it's on a glorious summer day or a foggy fall afternoon. The local forest offers ample mushroom foraging opportunities, and winter affords snowier excursions.

The sloping metal roof is well suited to Québec winters, and its green shade helps it to blend into the surrounding forest. Inside there's a cozy living space that includes a couch and indoor climbing wall that doubles as access to the reading loft above. Four friends can sleep snugly indoors, but its small footprint also encourages outdoor living, cooking meals outside, and spending evenings warming by a bonfire. On colder days, you can cozy up inside where the wood stove will be cranking, creating the snuggest of weekend escapes.