

# The Enduring Romance of Cabins



*“Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life.”—Rachel Carson*

As human beings, at our core we gravitate toward nature: toward breaths of fresh air under starry skies; toward running, jumping, and diving into cold water. We want to sink our bare feet into muddy, squelchy earth, and to swig water while hiking across boundless landscapes. We are animals after all, even though we may often forget this—so there is something to be said for the immense joy we experience when escaping the city for the wilderness. Nature soothes our adventurous inner child, who wants to be swallowed up in majesty and marvel at the world.

It is no wonder, then, that we cannot get enough of cabin culture. If the daily grind of working life is the toxin, then cabins are the purifying antidote. But, toxins aside, for many the experience of a cabin is one of luxury, not necessity—unfortunately not everyone can pack up and leave for a few restorative days in the mountains. This reality has been further heightened by the pandemic and the ways it has transformed our lives, from social distancing measures and travel restrictions to changing priorities and circumstances.

Limitations on our desire for globetrotting, however, have fostered a newfound appreciation for regional getaways. Many people are now on board with the cabin trend, which is playing out from coast to coast, and forest to forest, around the world. From mountain ranges in Scotland and desert dunes in California to forests in China and lakes in Norway, in recent years endless cabins—created by professionals and rookies alike—have been built in the most awe-inspiring locations. Architects are feeding this frenzy with their constant stream of new designs: meticulously conceived angular constructions, propped up on support beams or sandwiched into cliff edges, which provide us with infinite opportunities to spring-clean our souls. And with more and more cabin enthusiasts taking matters into their own hands, learning how to build their own creations or purchasing ready-to-assemble kits, an empowering opportunity awaits those who seek it—to create the ultimate DIY project.

*Cabin Fever* is a collection of the most enticing cabin architecture on earth, conceived by some of the world’s most daring and creative designers. Indulgent yet restrained, private yet open, the cabins featured in this book play on local vernacular and present unique forms. With interviews from leading architects and expert do-it-yourself advice, this book explores the



The remote cabin offers a chance for solitude and contemplation that is rarely found in the city.

elaborate engineering methods used to create these dwellings while highlighting how the cabins have been gently embedded into their natural surroundings. We delve into the culture and history of mountain huts and hiking shelters, and investigate the lure of the off-grid escape. Elsewhere in the book, we look at the pre-fabricated cabin movement, whose designs address our ever-changing needs—years after being installed, they can be packed up and sent to a new place. Then there are tips on how to decorate the interior of your cabin, as well as logistical information about what to pack for the great outdoors.

Whether it’s a future-forward treehouse nestled in a forest canopy or a glass-walled construction offering panoramic views of the mountains, modern cabins are paradoxically taking us back to basics. *Cabin Fever* allows you the chance to escape, slow down, and reboot, with cabins that provide a simple, uncomplicated existence—even just for a brief moment in time. □