

**Project:** Chez Léon

**Design Team:** Quinzhee Architecture

**Size:** 129 m<sup>2</sup>

**Location:** Charlevoix , CANADA



**Feature:**

**Project** - Perched atop stilts amidst the treetops, Residence Chez Léon by Quinzhee Architecture immerses inhabitants in the sublime nature of Charlevoix, Quebec while treading lightly on the landscape. The clients envisioned a contemporary chalet harmoniously integrated within its forested environs yet leaving a minimal ecological footprint.

From the approach, refined volumes clad in cedar rise gracefully, punctuated by expansive south-facing windows that bathe the interior in warm natural light. The suspended main level contains living spaces that open completely to framed vistas of the St. Lawrence River, while strategically screened openings on the side offer a sheltered vantage point to immerse in the sights and sounds of the mountainous setting.

A grounded concrete monolith housing the entrance separates from the primary volume, its mass symbolically rooting the airy residence. Upstairs, the centralized stairwell and corridor form a transitional threshold between the communal areas and private bedrooms, visually connecting front and rear viewsheds.

Prioritizing efficient construction and sustainable strategies, the architects employed highly insulated double-framed walls, meticulously bridged insulation, and an energy-efficient HVAC system. With restrained spaces and untreated materials, Chez Léon evokes nostalgic treehouse whimsy reinterpreted through an environmentally conscious contemporary lens.

**Design Team** - Founded in 2013, Quinzhee Architecture is a creative and collaborative studio based in Quebec, Canada. Led by principal architect and founder Guillaume Fafard,

the firm takes an innovative yet pragmatic approach to architectural design. Fafard, a certified Passive House designer, guides the team in crafting tailored solutions that seamlessly blend creativity with sustainable strategies.

Joining Fafard is a talented ensemble including senior architect Catherine Parent, known for her empathetic client approach and meticulous project management skills. The associates Anne Rousseau and Gabriel Lemelin lend their artistic sensibilities and passion for interdisciplinary exploration to every commission.

With a portfolio spanning residential, commercial, and community-oriented projects, Quinzhee Architecture excels in crafting contextually responsive designs that prioritize user experience. The firm's expertise encompasses architectural design, urban planning, and sustainable building practices like Passive House principles.

Through a collaborative process driven by research and ingenuity, Quinzhee creates enduring architecture that elevates everyday living while treading lightly on the environment. Their work epitomizes a balance between Contemporary aesthetics and ecological mindfulness unique to Quebec's architectural landscape.