



THE MODERN A-FRAME

RAHN



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# KYST HUS

Union Bay, Vancouver Island

When a home has been on the market for more than a year, and resembles more of an out-building belonging to the adjacent property than a proper residence in and of itself, a prospective buyer might be hesitant to invest in it. However, all this neglected A-frame needed was a creative vision to make it shine.

Christine and Antonie were en route to meet with a realtor on Vancouver Island when they first drove past what they now call Kyst Hus—the dilapidated property stopped them in their tracks. Although the home and its lot were forlorn and wild, they realized this place had the potential to become something very beautiful.

Christine and Antonie's home at the time, located in the Beaches neighborhood of bustling Toronto, did not even have a backyard. This overgrown parcel of land on Vancouver Island would allow their three children (ages four, six, and eight) to run free and unrestricted. Their city life had been enjoyable, but the island A-frame tugged at their hearts. Themselves both raised in rural areas, Christine and Antonie realized how much they wanted to raise their children in a place where they could really roam.





ABOVE: Artwork behind sofa is Christine's—a diptych called *Barnacles I & II*.

OPPOSITE: Tree stumps-turned-coffee tables originated from one of the first trees cut down on the property. When the flower pattern in a couple of the rounds was spotted by Christine and Antonie, they rescued the tree stumps from the fire pile.







# STREAMLINED SERENITY

Fire Island Pines, New York

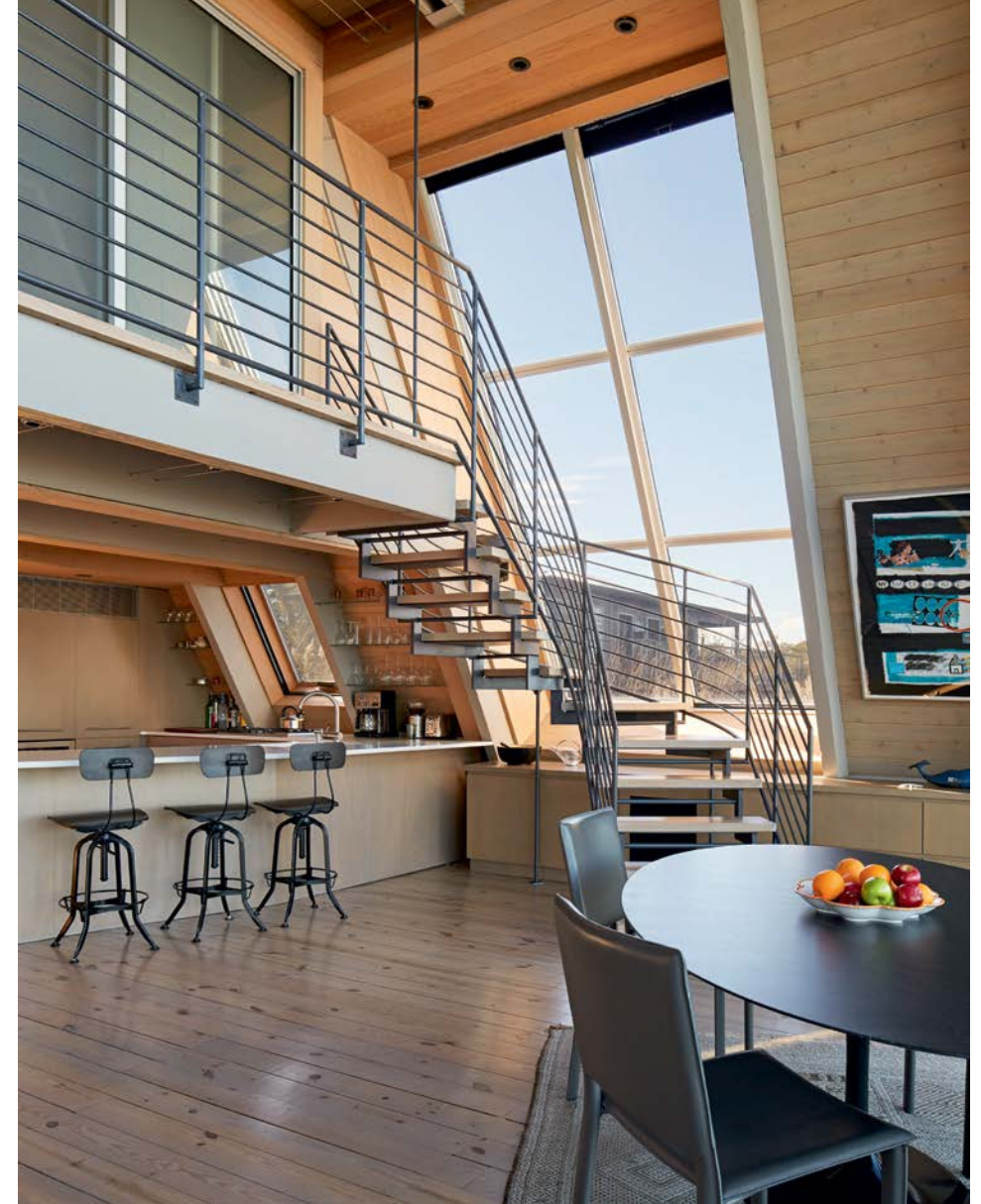
Homeowners Doug and Bill are no strangers to the busyness of New York City and the demands of corporate life, so when it came to purchasing a seasonal home where they could get away from it all, two things immediately came to mind: a serene location and a midcentury modern aesthetic.

When they stepped onto the A-frame's island property, they felt an instant connection. The house sits on a bay-front lot at the end of a secluded walkway. The location affords direct kayak access to Great South Bay and—being at the very crest of the island—sweeping views down the shore. It was everything they wanted in a locale, with the added bonus of a fair amount of privacy.

As for the house itself, Doug and Bill have never lived in anything so streamlined before. But since they share a proclivity for midcentury modern design, influenced partly by an emotional attachment to the iconic A-frame architecture (they are, after all, children of the Space Age), the mid-mod aesthetic of the Fire Island A-frame was precisely what they were looking for.

While it was this decades-old charm that drew them in, the age of the home was not without its costs: the couple had to replace nearly everything





stunning views; and the split suspended staircase is a jaw-dropping feature that serves the beauty of the home not just functionally but sculpturally.

Tranquil and exhilarating at the same time, the house respects its siting while maximizing its location; skylights on both sides of the house extend along the three stories of the home. The rough and smooth cedar combination both indoors and out is organic magic. The simplicity of the interior design allows the functional beauty and ingenuity of the architecture to really shine.

OPPOSITE: Corona Chair, 1961, by Danish designer Poul M. Volther based on time lapse photos of solar eclipses. Antique kilim rug purchased by Doug in Marrakech.

ABOVE: Split stairs from the ground level lead upward to a catwalk accessing the second floor.





# CALM & COLLECTED

Long Island, New York

Whether on a hike, seeking treasures at a flea market, traveling abroad, or creating a new piece of art, Theresa loves to explore—and so it was fitting when she discovered the A-frame she now resides in year-round with her partner, Freddie.

For the two of them, the purchase was a natural choice. They had rented an A-frame in the hills of Los Angeles while living on the West Coast and it was this experience that caused them to fall in love with the A-frame's high ceilings. "The soaring lines energize one's spirit and soul," Theresa describes. With such vast windows, "the connection to nature while living in an A-frame becomes a catalyst to better connect with yourself."

After a move to the East Coast, Theresa and Freddie settled into another rental, this time in Sag Harbor, New York, in an old sea captain's house that they fully intended to buy. But their love for A-frames was well known, so when a friend tipped Theresa off to one which had just come on the market, she tracked it down, and she and Freddie bought it immediately.

The 1,500-square-foot house is located in Long Island on the East End. Constructed in 1972, the A-frame sits on a half-acre of land providing serene





views of the woods that surround it, and plenty of privacy from neighbors on either side. It's walking distance to the bay and a short drive to Montauk for surfing (one of Freddie's favorite hobbies). Their home reflects Theresa and Freddie's love for beauty and well-made things, and an accumulation of their best experiences. Theresa admits that the biggest challenge of living in the

OPPOSITE: Hardy, the 8-year-old Affenpinscher, enjoys the natural sunlight in the main room.

ABOVE: The light over the kitchen table was found by Theresa at the Rose Bowl Flea Market.





# EAGLE ROCK

Los Angeles, California

**B**old orange doors and a smattering of potted succulents greet visitors at the former home of geologist Joe Birman, father and creative scientist who generally aspired to experience the unusual.

Joe grew up in New England but fell in love with Los Angeles after serving as an officer in the Army Air Corps in the 1940s, followed by moving to Southern California for his education. He went to the California Institute of Technology and UCLA, where he received his PhD.

His interest in the unusual was reflected in where he chose to live. Early on, Joe raised his family in a Schindler home, a place best known for its stylish modernity, until it was taken by the 134 Freeway construction. He would eventually purchase Eagle Rock House because he could not resist the unique architecture. The 1963 A-frame (and its eponymous neighborhood) takes its name from a prominent rocky outcropping in the area resembling an eagle with outstretched wings.

Joe bought the Eagle Rock A-frame from a well-known Los Angeles DJ. He found the idea that an artist had owned the home before him most intriguing. The home was designed for people to enjoy. Neighbors were treated to con-





piano music of Beethoven, Mozart, or Chopin—if not by Joe’s hands on a 1909 baby grand piano, then certainly from his amazing midcentury stereo system. The vaulted ceilings are a delight for their acoustics, but even more so for the view they afford of the San Gabriel Mountains. Joe never tired of that view for the roughly forty years he lived in his A-frame. Nor did anyone who would come to visit. The Eagle Rock A-frame is truly a special place by any measure: though humble in size, it has a grand impact. ▲

ABOVE: Upon entry, guests are greeted by a showstopping window spanning two levels of the home.

OPPOSITE: A quiet nook beside the stairs to do one’s work.

