

HOUSE TOURS  
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# HOW A MINIMALIST TAKES ON A MUSKOKA COTTAGE AND MAXIMIZED ITS VIEWS

By: [Bethany Lyttle](#)



Photography, Alex Lukey

Dan Hall had long known about his friend’s lot on Lake Joseph in Ontario’s Muskoka region. “For 20 years, I knew about his dream to build a big cottage here,” says Dan. So, when the time came, he was ready to help. Now complete, Tim and Stephanie Quinn’s cottage is one part modern, with a black metal roof and windows, and one part Muskoka, with accents in wood and stone. What makes it timeless are the views. Fittingly, designer Alison Knapp let nature be her guide in the interiors, combining neutral textures with earth tones drawn from the land – birchbark whites, rust, oxidized iron, copper and greens. The low-key palette suits the architecture, with its soaring ceilings and exposed beams. “But what stands out most is the wide open sense of ease the space imparts,” says Alison. This frees the eye and mind to revel in what’s most important: the view.

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## INSIDE OUT



Photography, Alex Lukey

Motorized retractable screens keep buzzing pests and nipping mosquitoes from joining the party in the Muskoka room (top right), which is the ultimate indoor-out room. “It’s definitely the kick-back spot for the clients and their friends,” says builder Dan Hall. Kids in wet bathing suits are welcome thanks to outdoor fabric on the seating and a carefree sisal rug. Fresh salads and yummy sandwiches can be carried from the nearby kitchen for lunch on the patio, followed by lazy afternoons on the crescent-shaped daybed. For chilly days, there are plenty of throws and faux fur pillows.

Union concrete **END TABLE**, Sunpan.