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– Lorrie Rand, Habit Studio

CHESTER COTTAGE

On the Chester Peninsula off the eastern coast of Canada, the Chester Cottage is designed as a vacation home for a single man who cherishes contemporary design. The Co-Founder of Habit Studio, Lorrie Rand, has been kind to share her thoughts about the project with us.

“In Nova Scotia we are blessed with beautiful landscapes. Acknowledging that this is a cliché, the building site is often our primary inspiration. Connections to natural elements are essential in all homes, especially ones that are intended for retreat”, Lorrie says. The Chester Cottage is built on a finger of land

Architecture and photography by **Habit Studio**

and sheltered in an Atlantic Ocean cove surrounded by forest. Consequently, the site creates an idyllic safe haven for the owner. “While the location is not particularly remote, we were able to amplify the sense of seclusion through the form and position of the structure and with strategic window placement”, Lorrie says and continues: “The approach to the site is by a curving lane, so the cottage is not visible from the road. Once the front wall is in view, the eye is drawn across the living area to the view beyond.” Structurally, the cottage consists of two boxes – a west box and an east box. The west box is clad in black metal and glazed to immediately reveal

Chester, Nova Scotia, Canada

the ocean once one enters the living room, whereas the cedar shingled east box contains the private areas. Applicable to the project in its entirety, the cottage was intended to be simple and appreciate what is important. As Lorrie explains: “It can be tempting to overdo houses, so it is satisfying that the cottage presents as a dramatic yet serene space that allows the setting to shine. It is not an expensive building, but it feels luxurious and at the same time a bit adventurous.” »A bit adventurous« is probably an understatement, since the cottage’s setting highly encourages exploration – from strolling along the shore to discovering the hidden gems of the forest.

