

## Armitage Residence

This 2,400 sq.ft. residence located in Black Tusk Estates south of Whistler is for a couple, an artist and a project manager, who wanted a weekend and vacation retreat away from their busy life in the city.



The site lies in a mountain valley at a forest clearing, which opens onto a grassy meadow and wetlands. The flora and fauna of the marsh vary seasonally as the wetlands expands in the rainy season and contracts in the hot dry summer. There is dramatic view of the coastal mountain range of Garibaldi Provincial Park and the distinctive volcanic spire of Black Tusk to the east.

Conceptually the residence acts as the transition point between the marsh and the forest. The house is placed on the bedrock swale between several large boulders at the forest clearing. It is organized as two parallel rectangular forms shifted in plan to create a sheltered entry at the forest side with an open plan arrangement of living spaces oriented to the view of the wetlands to the east.

The house has a modern and materially expressive aesthetic with a directness of expression, simplicity and clarity in the massing and structure. Starkly modern, formal yet one with the natural terrain, the use of natural materials – freestanding concrete block walls, polished concrete floors, an exposed wood structure as an expressed decorative element marked by large expanses of glass to bring in abundant light and establish a close connection to the landscape create a strong modern architectural character. The walls and concrete floor extend outward from the structure to form

a generous terrace that steps down to engage the marsh landscape blurring the definition between the landscape and residence. The roof structure floats above the masonry walls on continuous clerestory windows. The roof skin is standing seam metal cladding and has a taut and stretched in a tent-like manner extending past the building face.