

INTERIOR DESIGN[®]

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shades of chic



Cedar cladding and decking help reinvent a mid-century pool house.

Try to imagine the Swiss Army knife of interiors, compact and packed with functionality. Yet there's no Alp in sight. This pool house is in Toronto.

A clean-lined pavilion today, the mid-century structure was an outdated eyesore, the victim of haphazard renovations, when its owners brought in the architecture firm +Tongtong. The first thing that John Tong did was to make the roofline a strongly articulated brow that appears to float above the facade's cladding of cedar slats and expanse of glazing. When the three glass doors slide back, the transition from the deck to the indoors is practically seamless.

Into a mere 1,000 square feet, Tong squeezed multiple identities: public and private, work and play, day and night. That's because the owners ➤

summer refreshment

firm: +tongtong site: toronto

COLIN FAULKNER-STYLING: LIZ IRIKIO AND EMMA REDDINGTON

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From top: The public room's custom table can change height from 18 to 36 inches, thanks to a removable top in salvaged tropical hardwood and a hot-rolled steel base that flips. Outside the bathroom, slate floor tile defines the private space, equipped with a George Nelson bench to serve as a changing room. Claesson Koivisto Rune ottomans and a Spark Design Studio chair flank the adjustable table.

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needed to provide occasional accommodations for their grown-up kids visiting with friends. At other times, the pool house doubles as a studio and an entertaining hub for the husband's business. "It had to be able to dress up or dress down," Tong says. "The multipurpose aspirations really pushed the opportunities."

One such opportunity is represented by the long table anchoring the public room. It's a living area when the table is at cocktail height. But remove the top to flip the base, and you have a dining table. The top is salvaged wood, the base hot-rolled steel, like the built-in banquette with storage for firewood. An existing fieldstone chimney continues the theme of brawny natural materials.

Most impressive of all the multitasking elements is the volume standing between the public and private rooms. In the former, it presents a wall of lacquered paneling that opens to ➤





reveal audiovisual and IT systems. On the private side, blue laminated glass fronts enclosures for the shower and the WC. Major drama.

When this part of the pool house is in changing-room mode, George Nelson's bench is the perfect spot to shed your towel after taking a dip. On the nights when guests are staying, Tong's experience designing boutique hotel rooms truly comes through. He made sure to incorporate a Murphy bed, closets, a minibar, and an espresso machine.

—Elizabeth Pagliacolo

FROM FRONT TACCHINI ITALIA FURNITURE: OTTOMANS (EXTERIOR, PUBLIC ROOM). **THROUGH GREEN LIGHT DISTRICT:** BUTTERFLY CHAIRS (PUBLIC ROOM). **FREDERICIA FURNITURE:** SLIPPER CHAIR, ROCKER. **CANADIAN SALVAGE TIMBER:** CUSTOM TABLETOP. **CONTRAST LIGHTING:** TRACK LIGHTING (PUBLIC ROOM), RECESSED CEILING FIXTURES. **DORNBRACHT:** SHOWER FITTINGS (BATHROOM). **HERMAN MILLER:** BENCH (PRIVATE ROOM). **ACME SLATE COMPANY:** FLOOR TILE. **PIA WALLÉN:** THROW. **THROUGHOUT THROUGH ELTE:** RUGS. **MONARCH GLASS WALLS:** CUSTOM SLIDING DOORS, WINDOWS. **ICI PAINTS:** PAINT. **ACCURA GLASS BENDING:** GLASS SUPPLIER. **NEIL TURNBULL:** LANDSCAPING CONSULTANT. **TAG STRUCTURAL GROUP:** STRUCTURAL ENGINEER. **FLOOR SOLUTIONS CANADA:** CONCRETE CONTRACTOR. **PARALLEL GENERAL CONTRACTOR CORPORATION:** GENERAL CONTRACTOR.

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From top: The outdoor fireplace, in Cor-Ten steel, shares a fieldstone chimney with the indoor hearth. Concrete lines the pool. When guests are staying in the private room, a custom Murphy bed emerges from the lacquered oak paneling.