

E C O - A C T I V I S M

This three-cornered home tips the scales of equitability



The heart of the home is the sleek interior/exterior connection. A flat triangular wood deck not only added another gathering space for the family but is a visual focal point. “The huge windows with the wood frame exterior look like a painting that is constantly changing.”

– Architect Bartek Bajon

ARCHITECTURE



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POZNAŃ, POLAND

It is appropriate that the “Triangular Rectangle” home is shaping not just a holistic lifestyle of the occupants, but also the lush suburban area outside of Poznań, Poland, a bustling city of half a million people. This beautiful home’s affordability is one of the main reasons it was selected as the Best House in Poland, 2019, by the country’s architectural jurists.

“This house shows that when you don’t have a big budget you can still execute gratifying architecture,” proclaims Bartek Bajon, principal at PL. architekci, a firm he and his architect wife oversee. “This type of architecture is not contemporary; it is how we live.”

The home has proven so popular in the neighborhood the architect has been commissioned to design another house two blocks away and is in discussion with yet another neighbor.

The home itself is small by some standards – just 200 square meters (about 2,125 square feet), and was constructed for under \$250,000. However, it appears large and elegant, as Bajon emphasized blending the outdoor space with the indoor environment. The huge windows, glass doors and skylights open onto the lush parcel, which sits adjacent to a forested greenbelt with lakes and trails. The location allows the family of four to be outdoors and active.

Before putting the mechanical pencils to paper, Bajon began this project by meeting with the clients, delving into their lifestyle, priorities and budget; then he reviewed the plot and developed the comprehensive design process, which included furniture.

“Architecture and interiors are always connected for us,” he explains. The clients modified just a few things when presented with the design – the proposed black wood exterior rectangles were replaced with white concrete for budget reasons. A key concern for the owners was they wanted easy contact with their children, ages 7 and 10, even if the children were in an upstairs bedroom.

Bajon’s solution was resoundingly embraced. He made the second floor a setback mezzanine, with an open hallway and partial glass enclosure for safety. “We opened up the first floor so you see what’s happening and you can hear what’s going on in the children’s rooms,” informed Bajon. He adds, “Ultimately, creating a home so connected with the seasons and our type of life nowadays. It’s easier to clear your mind – to enjoy life.”

The home is set in a lush suburban neighborhood from the city of Poznań. There’s a greenbelt area that runs through the community, allowing for easy outdoor recreational opportunities. The triangular roof peak reflects the angular terrace that extends from the first floor.



A few designer objects are found throughout the dining area, including Panton Chairs (Vitra) and Hay lamps painted green. The functioning black side table is where the owners display their art and books, leaving the rest of the room with a clean look.



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1 The first floor of the house is poured white resin, which warms the home and reflects and accentuates the natural colors outside. The front hallway opens to the larger living area of the home. **2** The home's main terrace connects the kitchen, and dining, living areas, opening up the rooms in a way that expands the actual room proportions. **3** At first glance, it seems the kitchen is deprived of kitchen attributes. However, the oven is hidden behind an additional front in the HAVA system and the range hood is hidden in the ceiling. **4** Bottle-green sofas, from the Polish manufacturer SITS, harmonize with the grass outside the window. The colorfully striped carpet is from IKEA.



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5 WIDE-EYED AND BUSHY-TAILED The huge hare sculpture, about nine feet tall, was obtained at a charity auction. Although it was the last item placed for the home, it has become a beautiful complement to the site and the signature of the house. **6** The second floor is an open mezzanine set back from the first floor so that there is easy communication throughout the home. **7** The high oak kitchen cabinets hold traditional kitchen supplies while light from the outdoor terrace streams into the room through the floor-to-ceiling glass. The family enjoys cooking but didn't want to see an ensuing mess from the dining/living areas. **8** The oak stairs by the kitchen lead up to the second-floor sleeping area. There is a master bedroom and bedrooms for the kids.



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