

TETRIS HOUSE

NORTH YORK
TORONTO
CANADA

Project Credits

Client: Private
Program: Residential, Single Family Dwelling
Location: North York, Toronto, Canada

Structure: Wood Framing
Lot Area: 408 m² (40' x 110')
Size (GFA): 280 m² (3000 sqft)

Design: 2012
Completion: Summer 2013

Architects: Atelier RZLBD / Reza Aliabadi
Project Lead: Reza Aliabadi
Project Team: Ehsan Zareian, Lailee Soleimani
Structure: ADA Engineering
Construction: Doreen Developmet
Architectural Photography: Borzu Talaie



We have all played the game “Tetris” at least once in our lives. We were mesmerized by the magic of geometry and rewarded by our efficiency. For RZLBD Tetris is not just a game of block arrangement and fast performance, but it is a quest of effective design. If a designer of space was as structured as Tetris blocks, there would be virtually zero wasted space within a building. When a client demanded a program that seemed impossible to fit in a 40’ by 110’ lot, specially if one tries to respect a tight zoning for an infill project in a city like Toronto, RZLBD decided to practice the challenges of “no leftover space” with a simple rule in mind: every inch is a usable inch. The exterior of the house is a surprising jumble of different materials and claddings that courageously expose the Tetris elements of the interior spaces, instead of creating a harmonious façade, it is an attractive and charming scene as it displays the geometry of a well-played Tetris game.