

THORAX HOUSE

NORTH YORK
TORONTO
CANADA



Project Credits

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

Structure: Steel & Wood Framing
Lot Area: 506.75 m² (46' x 117')
Size (GFA): 194.30 m² (2000 sqft)

Design: 2014
Completion: Summer 2015

Architects: Atelier RZLBD / Reza Aliabadi
Project Team: Reza Aliabadi, Bahar Joshan
Structure: ADA Engineering
Architectural Photography: Borzu Talaie

The evolution of design was a simple extraction from a thorax diagram: a two-part system on either sides of a core. Starting with the main circulation, the staircase and bridge (the spine) run up the middle of the square volume, and all the living spaces (lungs) are arranged symmetrically on both sides. One can consider the building structure and envelope as the ribs, muscles, and skin. The house is a minimalist two-storey wood structure that carefully responds to the needs and lifestyle of the client while it has not forgotten the basic logic, plan and simplicity of the bungalow it replaced: the new project sits exactly on the small foot-print of the one-and-a-half storey bungalow that had occupied the site. Instead of making a visual splash, the exterior of this modest monolithic mass is rendered in grey stucco. Exceptions are two light-weight structures made of black aluminum as canopy and guard at the entry. The only accent is the red signage designed specifically for the house.