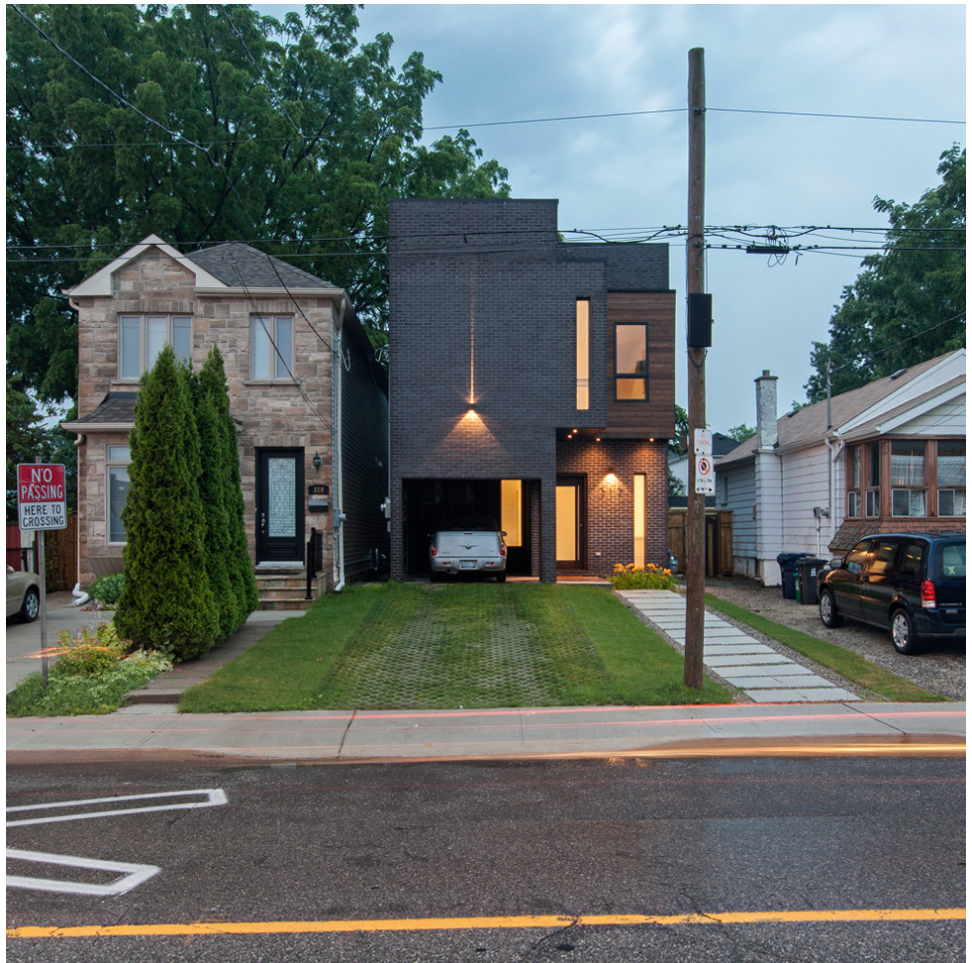


TOTEM HOUSE

EAST YORK
TORONTO
CANADA



Project Credits

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

Structure: Wood Framing
Lot Area: 232.26 m² (25' x 100')
Size (GFA): 150 m² (1600 sqft)

Design: 2011
Completion: Summer 2013

Architects: Atelier RZLBD / Reza Aliabadi
Structuræ: ADA Engineering
Construction: Urbanline
Architectural Photography: Borzu Talaie

The evolution of design was a simple geometrical obsession with squares and grids. Starting with ten 10' x 10' squares carefully assembled on the linear site, logical modules were then dedicated to essential rooms in the house. A totem is sculptures within a sculpture. The totem in Totem House is a vertical gallery that exhibits clients' souvenirs from around the world; each piece has been carefully measured and placed in a designated niche inside the Tower. The exterior of the house is a monolithic charcoal brick mass. Two small blocks on the north and south facade of this perfect mass have been extracted and cladded with wood. The small wooden corner creates an interesting deception where one imagines the wood to be the core material of the brick mass, like a bitten apple exposing the colour of its flesh.