

Malinka Gallery

History of the project

In 2003, architect Florian Maurer built his personal home in Naramata, British Columbia. The original architecture explored a garden-court concept: three detached structures around a generous enclosed garden inspired by Latin-American courtyards. The courtyard controls privacy and views, in contrast to the typical suburban house, at the mercy of its neighbors.

In 2018, the new owners of the house approached Florian to design a small addition - a multi-purpose space and private art gallery. But the architect's design was never intended to be expanded; with the septic field in the centre of the courtyard and the main house at the edge of a rocky slope overlooking Okanagan lake, no acceptable placement was evident.

Category:	Art
Location:	Naramata, BC, Canada
Completed:	2020
Environment:	rural
Use:	finish façade on exterior, continues into interior staircase; roof cladding
Material:	11ga stainless steel panel – brushed finish
Material quantity:	Range of panel sizes on face of building
Architects:	Austin Hawkins and Florian Maurer
Contractor:	f2a architecture
Engineering:	Fast + Epp Structural Engineers
Photographs:	Katie Huisman (katiehuisman.com)
More information:	f2a.ca



Competing or alternative material(s)

Glazing, Structurally Insulated Panels, Mirror, Polished Concrete



The slope to the west allowed a low profile addition to be placed just low enough to maintain lake views across its roof from the main house. Slim steel posts support the gallery structure. Clad in stainless steel and reflecting sky and forest, it seems to float above the bedrock, fitting its grassland context gently. The disappearing

gallery contrasts massive neighboring houses sitting on completely remodeled terrain.

The owners would have gladly accepted another small free-standing structure to match the house's original concept, but local zoning would not allow additional structures, so the gallery had to be connected to the original house by a stairway. The stair hall glazing slotted into bedrock and stainless-clad gallery roof contrast the original house's simple thresholds and exterior woodwork. The stair bridges from the living house to the gallery, an abstract space from which to observe the original architecture now exhibited alongside the owner's collection of paintings and sculptures.

Malinka Gallery. Pictures © Katie Huisman and Austin Hawkins