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INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF INTERIOR DESIGN AND DÉCOR

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Desired Serenity

Images: Tyler Engle Architects PS

Perched on the top of a steeply sloping site, this house by [Tyler Engle Architects](#) has been called the tressle house due to its innovative steel frame on auger cast piles. Working within a very tight budget, this system resulted in substantial cost savings over a conventional retaining wall foundation. Further cost effective thinking is evident in the use of a 12 foot by 16 foot framing module with 4 foot bays on the north (for the stair and powder room) and the south (for decks and a kitchen bay).

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This module based on a 4 foot increment results in the efficient use of 12 foot simple span joist, 4 x 8 sheets of plywood, and 8 foot studs much like a modern Tatami mat.

Within this structural module, the upper floor houses open living, dining, and kitchen functions, which contrast the more intimate lower floor bedrooms and study. A high band of clerestory windows flood the interior with daylight while maintaining privacy from the street. An entry bridge separates the garage from the house while extending a tongue out into the forest. While still grounded, this retired couple who desired serenity think of this as their tree house retreat.

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