





WILD WORLD

The old adage location, location, location certainly rings true where this house is concerned. Surrounded by acres of dense woodland and accessible only by seaplane, this remote Canadian cabin gives a whole new meaning to the phrase 'wilderness retreat'

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We see many beautiful houses at ELLE Decoration – but few with a setting as spectacular as this one. Set on the edge of a private lake in the Canadian province of Quebec, this incredible holiday home takes isolation to the extreme. The idyllic log cabin, which was built in the early 1990s by a wealthy Austrian, was recently purchased by a group of Belgian friends who wanted to create the ultimate wilderness retreat with all the comforts of home. The sale of the house came with a condition – that the buyers also bought the 500 hectares of forest surrounding the property, in order to ensure that the area remained unspoilt.

This dense, tree-covered landscape means that the house, which is located around 125 miles from Montreal, is only accessible by

seaplane. It's also ten miles from the nearest shop. But staying there can't really be classified as a back-to-nature experience – the house boasts a freshly revamped interior by Belgian decorator Pierre Hoet, complete with a new kitchen, five bedrooms, five bathrooms, two shower rooms, a children's dormitory and a library. And of course there's wifi in place for those who don't like to feel disconnected from the modern world.

That said, outside these plush quarters the natural world awaits, as does an incredible view of the lake, where you can catch fish for your supper. There's no electric light for miles so at night the skies are filled with stars and your nearest neighbours are the local wildlife. And this is bear country, so it's inadvisable to go wandering in the woods alone...

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Built using a traditional Canadian method, the cabin is constructed from round logs stacked on top of each other, with minimal use of masonry. This means the house can better regulate its own temperature and humidity – allowing it to be more environmentally friendly



The cabin has been renovated inside by Belgian decorator Pierre-Hoet, and now has an unexpectedly contemporary interior. The dark, dramatic scheme nods to traditional country style, with checked fabric in the main bedroom and cowhide chairs in the living area. Wood-panelled walls and a log fire add extra cosiness **LD**