

## backyard studio- an urban refuge

This backyard studio is the design and creation of local Ottawa architect Kevin Deevey. Feeling the pinch in his modest New Edinburg semi, with a toddler and grade schooler underfoot, he set out to create a creative space free from the daily chaos of the house. Eyeing the shaded and remote space of the rear yard, he set out to design a simple 10' x 10' box that would house his computer and drawing table.

Never denying its box like shape, Kevin looked to integrate the design as a modern intervention in an otherwise conventional Ottawa neighborhood. The floor plate of the "manhut" as its affectionately called by his family, is raised from the grade on a resolutely pragmatic concrete block retaining wall that defined the boundary of the new construction. The studio cantilevers over the wall to form a pleasing if somewhat tense relationship with the balance of the yard.

The fronting wall was articulated in commercial curtain wall material as supplied by Kawneer, normally used in high rise construction. This open element provides a strong connection to the balance of the property, and reciprocally, allows the family to see their dad hard at work.

One of the side walls incorporates a modest window placed at floor level. This opening provides a strong connection to an eventual Chinese garden that will be placed alongside the studio in an otherwise leftover and shaded location.

The studio is clad in an exterior grade plywood finished in a dark opaque stain. The plywood is articulated in panels with modest reveals and the fasteners are exposed to provide a definition to the exterior skin. The top of the plywood transitions to a corrugated steel siding.

The roof is a simple low slope that sheds to the side garden. The fascia and drip edges are in a mill finished aluminum.



### the "manhut" as it is affectionately called by his family

The interior is pragmatically finished in drywall, with one wall dedicated to a floor to ceiling whiteboard. The back wall is painted a contracting dark blue and incorporates vinyl letters spelling "Foam", a reference to the Casa Agora, long a fixture on Beechwood Avenue. The floor is finished with recycled carpet tiles provided by "Interface".

The "Manhut" provides Kevin

with a welcomed refuge from a hectic family life and a heightened creative environment. Although his practice has outgrown the space since its completion, it serves as a practical home based office.



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