



BOBCAT  
LYNX RUFUS



BLUE JAY  
CYANOCITTA CRISTATA



RED FOX  
VULPES VULPES

# Manitoba, Canada

I feel privileged to live surrounded by pristine nature in the unspoiled beauty of the boreal forest. When I walk through the woods I encounter great, silent, moss-covered granite boulders carried here by the last ice age, and I see evidence of natural fires that swept through the thick canopy many decades ago.



50TH PARALLEL NORTH



*Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better. -- Albert Einstein*

*Man's heart away from nature becomes hard. -- Standing Bear*



WHITE-TAIL DEER  
ODONCOLLEUS VIRGINIANUS

*When I take the time to listen, I am bettered by the quietude and peacefulness that nature offers, and I am rewarded by the kaleidoscope of dramatically changing seasons... a delightful additional bounty is the natural harvest of berries, herbs, wild mushrooms, and occasional game.*



RACCOON  
PROCYON LOTOR



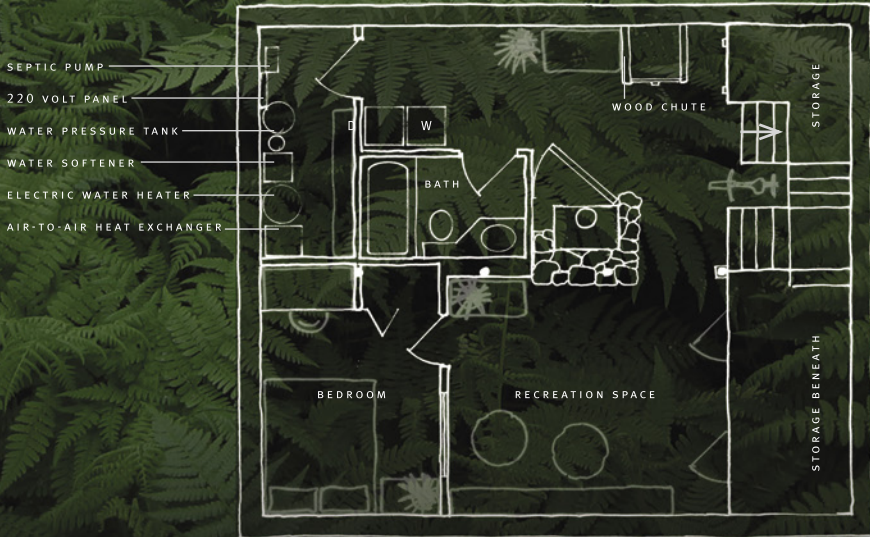
CANADA GOOSE  
BRANTA CANADENSIS



Solace House embraces simple principles and best practices of energy conservation, self reliance, and sustainability. Overriding design goals included respecting existing knowledge, drawing as little as possible from the eco-system, and building with quality to outlast future generations.

Aesthetic and lifestyle features include:

- natural light distributed throughout home
- use of natural, “honest” materials and finishes
- upper bath with tempered glass ceiling
- open ceilings finished in natural cedar
- large interior greenhouse / growing space (12 m²)
- light-tight sleeping alcove in master bedroom
- ample built-in storage areas
- rooftop lookout for star-gazing
- lockable exterior wood-chute drops firewood to lower level
- interior climbing wall
- excellent drinking water (from 50-meter well)
- attached insulated garage with built-in workshop and storage



# Solace House

Forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair. — Khalil Gibran





SNOWY OWL  
BUBO SCANDIACUS

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→ S

63.5°

WINTER SUN ANGLE 16.5°

SUMMER SUN ANGLE 63.5°

16.5°

INSULATING SHUTTERS ARE  
LIFTED AT NIGHT DURING  
WINTER TO KEEP IN HEAT  
CAPTURED FROM SUN  
DURING THE DAY

SUITABLE ANGLE  
FOR ADDITION OF  
PHOTOVOLTAIC  
SOLAR PANELS

STAR-WATCH  
LOOKOUT

R80  
.0125U

R60  
.0166U

CANOE STORAGE, ETC.

REST

LIVE

PLAY

EFFICIENT AIR-TIGHT  
WOODSTOVE BUILT INTO  
FIELDSTONE MASS ACTS AS  
A SECONDARY HEAT SOURCE

R21  
.0476U

R20  
.05U

**Design and energy-saving features include:**

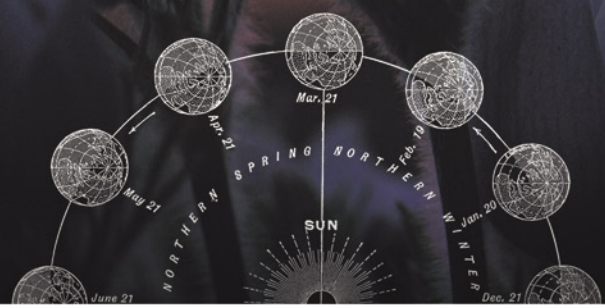
- optimal home orientation for solar heat and light capture
- primary heat provided by winter Sun, with supplementary heat from a super-efficient airtight wood-burning stove/fireplace
- passive solar gain from south-facing windows—winter sun penetrates to back of lower level due to recessed footprint of main level
- significant interior thermal mass (exposed concrete and fieldstone) act as a “storage battery” for solar and wood heat
- high insulation levels (more than double that of conventional homes)
- hinged insulating panels cover large south-facing glazing (these are supported horizontally in summertime, providing additional decks)
- airtight construction with continual, impervious vapour barrier
- controlled ventilation via an owner-built air-to-air heat exchanger (recaptures heat from exhaust air)
- optimized overhangs to shade window surfaces during summer
- use of natural stack-effect convection air-flow moves heat throughout the structure (optimized by the open-plan layout of the home)
- air-tight vestibules prevent heat loss when entering or exiting home
- efficient vertical utility-core with access panels for servicing
- all-natural exterior finishes (untreated cedar shakes and siding)
- selection of energy-saving appliances
- deciduous trees to the south afford summer shading yet allow low-angled winter sun to penetrate into house
- coniferous trees to the north-west shield home from prevailing winds
- ivy-covered west wall creates shaded envelope in summer
- earth berms create additional tempering



PRAIRIE CROCUS  
ANEMONE PATENS



*Robert J. Peters*



*Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished. — Lao Tzu*