



**Burdi:** I like the way they play with the shape.

**Anacleto:** The use of lighting is innovative. This one pushes the envelope. It's really strong.

### House on a ravine, Toronto

**Taylor Smyth Architects and Munge Leung Design, Toronto**

This new, 7,000-square-foot home backs onto a conservation area in Toronto. The client requested a contemporary, open-plan residence that would take advantage of the spectacular views.

The rich palette of natural materials was carefully detailed, inside and out. These include a rubble stone base of Ontario limestone, custom mahogany windows and stucco. Flashings, canopies and the garage door are zinc. The interior combines dark and light colours, walnut floors and custom-designed millwork, sandblasted glass screens, polished plaster and limestone for the foyer paving and fireplace.

An exterior mahogany screen in front of a two-storey-high window provides privacy for the interior staircase. The staircase features solid walnut treads on steel angles that cantilever out from a freestanding wall and lead to a walnut-clad steel bridge on the second floor.

The interior wraps around a double-height dining room. At the back, the house opens up to views of the ravine. Ten-foot-high, floor-to-ceiling mahogany-and-glass doors along the length of the living and dining rooms slide open to link interior and exterior. A water element begins inside the kitchen/conservatory as a series of bubbling spouts, reappears outside in a linear channel and culminates in a fountain, flowing from a stainless-steel scupper at the end of a paved terrace.

**Eppstadt:** How many designers who find themselves in this situation, who have been given carte blanche, can rise to this level?



Photo by Kerum Ip

