

Case Study

Project: Copper House Garden Suite

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Lepage Dealer: Dundas Windows and Doors

Architect: François Abbott

Builder: SevernWoods Fine Homes



A Garden Suite Designed for Light, Privacy, and Calm

For more than 20 years, the homeowners had built their life in this residence. As their adult children began visiting with greater frequency, they sought a dedicated guest house—one that preserved togetherness while providing privacy and independence. The Copper House Garden Suite was envisioned as a refined, self-contained dwelling that blended beautifully into the natural surroundings of the property.





Project Challenges

The site presented several key constraints:

- Limited footprint: The garden suite could only be sixty square metres (646 sq ft).
- Mature trees: The property included extensive tree root systems that needed to be preserved.
- Architectural integration: The new structure needed to complement the existing home, the surrounding neighborhood and the adjacent park.

To overcome these obstacles, the designer selected helical piles to “float” the building above the ground. This minimized disruption to root systems and allowed natural drainage to continue undisturbed. From the outset, the architect’s intention was for the project to “belong” to its context — a structure that felt at home in the landscape rather than imposed upon it.

Materials and Design Approach

Natural materials were fundamental to the design narrative:

- Stained Eucalyptus Grandis was selected for its durability and graceful aging characteristics.
- Copper cladding was incorporated for its ability to oxidize over time, developing a patina that blends seamlessly with the natural environment.
- Deep overhangs allow the interior to open expansively to the exterior with the use of bi-fold doors.

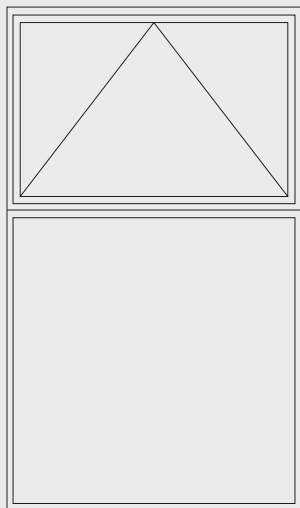
Together, these elements create a building whose appearance evolves gradually.



Conclusion

The result is a high-end, self-contained garden suite that embodies craftsmanship, natural integration, and long-term durability. With its warm material palette (Eucalyptus Grandis Wood Species, Copper Cladding), respectful siting, and thoughtful detailing, the Copper House Garden Suite offers a tranquil, functional space for family while enhancing the beauty of the property. The end result is a space with its own natural rhythms.

Technical Products Information



Copper House – Wood Windows

Product: Complete Unit – Wood Direct Set and Wood Awning Windows

Frame: Natural, Red Grandis™

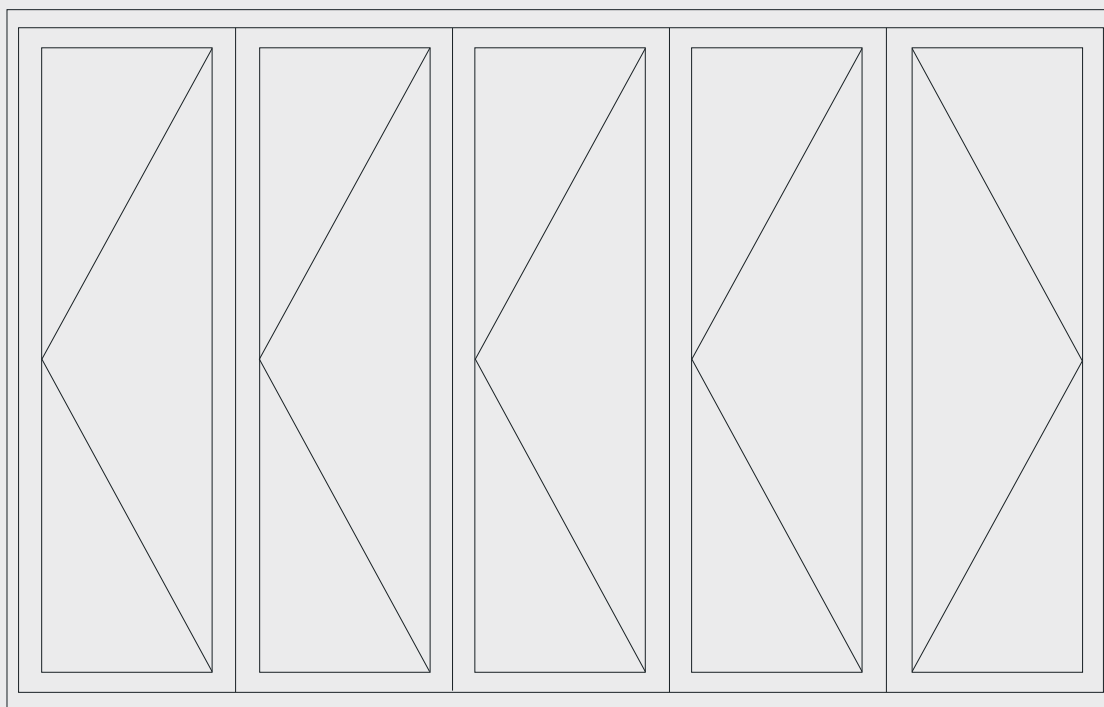
Ext.: Stain 16-00 Natural Clear

Int.: Stain 16-00 Natural Clear

Sash Exterior: Putty Glaze

Glass: Insulated (Triple), Tempered 3 sides, Low-e 272/argon + I-89

Other Options: Clear stain finish



Copper House – Main Entrance

Product: Complete Unit – Wood Bi-Fold Door

Frame: Natural, Red Grandis™

Ext.: Stain 16-00 Natural Clear

Int.: Stain 16-00 Natural Clear

Sash Exterior: Putty Glaze

Glass: Insulated (Triple), Tempered 3 sides, Low-e 272/argon + I-89

Other Options: Manual multipoint, clear stain finish