

# ISLAND COPPER



Designing a holiday home for this sensitive location on an island surrounded by nature and lakes, situated in the northern part of the Netherlands presented architect Paul van den Heuvel with various challenges. A planning regulation limiting the floor area to 75 m<sup>2</sup> conflicted with the client's need to maximize usable space. The house also had to fit into the natural landscape in a subtle way without compromising its contemporary design.

## MEETING CONFLICTING DEMANDS

Two distinct roof volumes – separated and perpendicular to



A simple but clever holiday home takes a thoroughly modern approach to copper roofing, maximizing usable space while respecting its water-side setting.



one another – define the building. Their surfaces have been devised using pre-patinated copper of three different intensities of green speckled against a dark oxidized background. These varied colours are used in a composition of long, narrow copper strips with different widths to give a rich, natural texture. Beneath one roof volume is the living room while the other sits over the bedrooms and an extra bathroom.

A freestanding staircase sits outside the main house area, so that it does not count towards the area limit of the house. A glazed skin folds around this

staircase and lands on top of the copper roof. This glazing is decorated with enlarged images of micro-organisms living locally in the water. To address winter flooding, when the water can encroach onto the garden, the house is constructed on a wide wooden deck 'bridge' above the lawn and the lake, which gives the impression of the house floating independently of the landscape.

#### MAXIMISING NATURAL SURROUNDINGS

To maximize the relationship between interior design and exterior nature, glazed facades are used around the house of

which several can be slid open. This enables the natural surroundings to give a spectacular internal setting. As the 75 m<sup>2</sup> maximum floor area requirement excludes roof overhangs, these have been added generously, providing solar shading to the glazed facades. The roofs rest on columns running up from the wooden deck around the house. Together, the rhythmically placed columns and overhanging roof volumes give the house depth and stratification with a structured, abstract quality.

Internally, walls and cupboards have been devised in one mate-

rial, fleeting into each other and becoming one entity. Gentle colours referenced from outside are used internally. The colour palette is light grey/green for the walls and light oak wood for floors and furniture. The individual objects of furniture are lightweight elements within the space.

Externally, a landscape architect has carefully reinstated the surrounding to minimize the impact of the house. A wooden wharf and paths form the connection between the water-side and the house.