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What House That Opens Up to the Sun

Where Male Kysice, Czech Republic. At the edge of a forest, amid weekend cottages.

Who Stempel & Tesar architekti, from Prague.

How By using concrete block walls to form a quarter-circle, then wood to complete the form in a round wall with windows. This quarter-pizza floorplate generates a quirky passive home for its owners, with expressive structural elements such as robust timber ceiling beams radiating overhead. Contrasting the wood with the concrete establishes a clear aesthetic vocabulary for the little domestic retreat, strong yet sensuous. Triple-glazed windows with integrated blinds, logical sun and wind orientation, a private garden... Stempel & Tesar were tasked with providing a sensible answer to a future risked with climate and conflict chaos. At the heart of the plan, an efficient stove is wrapped with the staircase leading to four bedrooms. A cluster of shipping containers adjacent houses tools and bikes, and underground is a basement of prefabricated recycled plastic. Naturally, wastewater is re-used.

Why World conditions require it, that's why. Unless more - many more - architects and clients embrace the necessities of sustainability as this project does, we are cooked. Besides, this one also shows that gloom and doom aren't inevitable; smart design can also be original and exciting.



Photography by Filip Šapal

