



PATCH WORK

RUSSIAN ARCHITECT PETER KOSTELOV'S ARTISTIC DESIGN OF A SUMMER COTTAGE IN A SMALL VILLAGE NEAR Moscow synergises a simple functional plan with a wooden appliqué façade in various shapes and tones. The result is a refreshing interpretation of vernacular architecture



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The plot for this summer cottage lies between a forest and the Volga river in Alexino village in the Tverskaya region of Konakovsky district, on the way to Saint Petersburg, 140 km from Moscow.

A foundation measuring 22ft x 28ft was already laid before the architect was asked to do the design for the three-storey cottage. Thus it set the mould of the cottage (Russians call them 'dacha'). The third level was planned deliberately as the beautiful view of the Volga river can be seen only from here and also because the owners needed more space. Extra supports were specially made for an open terrace and a shed.

The design envisages comfortable living for four (parents and grown-up children). Since some of them would work from home, an office space was also planned. Apart from this, the family also hosts a few guests. The first floor houses the kitchen and dining room, guests' room, boiler room, bath and shower and a summer veranda. The second floor has two bedrooms, two wardrobe rooms, washing room, two toilets and shower rooms. The third floor houses a workshop or studio, sauna, a summer veranda, toilet and a shower room.

Traditional frame and

The interior carries on the theme of slatted wood, and the various spaces including the living room and dining area are arranged around a central wooden staircase





wainscot technology (wood panelling) was implemented in the construction. Wooden panels heated by insulation material and thin membranes made from squared timber of 140mm x 45mm size have been used inside while finished OSB trims (oriented-strand board product) have been used for the exterior.

This style of construction goes back to the Soviet era, when construction of private homes used to be run down and patched up. Practically, all handy materials which happened to be locally available were used to make the 'dachas'. As a result, the houses looked like appliqué blankets consisting of different fragments which clearly showed who the owner of the 'dacha' was, at the moment of construction.

All types of trimmings have been used in building the house—traditional overlapping wooden planks, plain planks, modern moulded boards, forged square timber and even unconventional trimmings from spade handles. To arrive at a desirable effect, trimming fragments were painted in different shades of brown and fixed at various angles so that the same fragments would reflect the sunlight in different ways. The best about this house is that it's modern in functionality and yet traditional in a way, a bit retro.