



Boathouse, Agathom Co.

She then found her feet at two local firms before establishing her own company, which has quickly made waves in the Toronto area.

Rendely is currently busy on a long list of projects, including two cottages and a house that she is designing from top to bottom, including furnishings and details such as door knobs and letter boxes.

She is also continuing to draw on her jewellery and design background with the development of *Objex*, a new product line that will feature vases, candlestick holders, tablemats and trays. Rendely also collaborates with artisans and design professionals who share her interest in the craft of building. But the project that has really brought her to the forefront is Ravine Residence, a three-level family home in the North York area of central Toronto that is dominated inside and out by one material.

Eramosa, a limestone sourced from northern Ontario, has been used for cladding, flooring, furniture and counter tops after being cut and treated in different ways to produce differing effects.

Rendely says the project perfectly sums up her approach to materials and textures. "The end result was beyond my expectation... and it has put us on the radar."

Agathom, meanwhile, is another husband-and-wife partnership just starting to make its mark. Adam Thom and Katja Aga Sachse Thom met as students at Sci-ARC in Los Angeles, where both were sculptors of some repute.

Their practice is one of the newest in Toronto with both principals drawing deeply on their previous interests and family backgrounds.

If the name Thom sounds familiar that's because Adam is the son of Vancouver native Ron Thom, one of Canada's best-known architects whose work is still revered 22 years after his death.

Katja has a similarly impressive lineage as she is from a family of famed Danish weavers, and has designed many patterns herself as well as collaborating with designers such as Verner Paton.

The combination of these talents means that Agathom has a unique outlook and style which is not afraid to make the most of raw materials. "Our background means that we design in a far more sculptural way than many other architects. We try to make spaces that are what I call 'giving spaces'," Adam says.

And a little can go a very long way. "We try to convince our clients that we can do a lot with very small spaces through designs that bring in natural light from often unexpected areas, to bring in the magic," he adds.

Recent projects include their first house in the Toronto suburbs and Molly's Cabin, a beautiful wooden-framed building on an island in Georgian Bay in northern Ontario, while current commissions include several cottages in Ontario.

"Toronto's time has yet to come as far as architecture is concerned... there is room for new firms to push the boundaries a bit more," Adam adds. **10**