

Balancing Barn

History of the project

Balancing Barn is situated on a beautiful site by a small lake in the English countryside near Thorington in Suffolk. The Barn responds through its architecture and engineering to the site condition and natural setting. The traditional barn shape and reflective metal sheeting take their references from the local building vernacular. In this sense the Balancing Barn aims to live up to its educational goal in re-evaluating the countryside and making modern architecture accessible. Additionally, it is both a restful and exciting holiday home. Furnished to a high standard of comfort and elegance, set in a quintessentially English landscape, it engages its temporary inhabitants in an experience.

Why was stainless steel chosen?

The beauty of the ever changing Suffolk skies and landscape are reflected in the Uginox Bright surface rejoicing in the season's colours and moods. Roof and walls are covered using a traditional technique of

interlocking stainless steel shingles which are individually secured using secret fixings providing robust and easy clean surface.



| Balancing Barn by MVRDV. Pictures © Edmund Sumner

Category:	Residence
Location:	Suffolk, United Kingdom
Environment:	rural
Use:	façade
Material:	316L/1.4404, Uginox Bright
Material thickness:	0.50 mm
Architect:	MVRDV
Fabricator:	Jane Wernick associates
Manufacturer:	aperam.com
Photographs:	© Edmund Sumner
More information:	pr@mrvdv.com



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Approaching along the 300 meter driveway, Balancing Barn looks like a small, two-person house. It is only when visitors reach the end of the track that they suddenly experience the full length of the volume and the cantilever. The Barn is 30

meters long, with a 15 meters cantilever over a slope, plunging the house headlong into nature. The reason for this spectacular setting is the linear experience of nature. As the site slopes, and the landscape with it, the visitor experiences nature first at

ground level and ultimately at tree height. The linear structure provides the stage for a changing outdoor experience.

At the midpoint the Barn starts to cantilever over the descending slope, a balancing act made possible by the rigid structure of the building, resulting in

50% of the barn being in free space. The structure balances on a central concrete core, with the section that sits on the ground constructed from heavier materials than the cantilevered section. The long sides of the structure are well concealed by trees, offering privacy inside and around the Barn.



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