

*Tower House* and *A Tropical House*, Karl-Heinz Klopff, 2013 and 2015

*Tower House* and *A Tropical House* represent two poetic interpretations of two very different houses designed by architects for their own families in very dissimilar places. Takamitsu Azuma erected the Tower House on a twenty-foot meter lot in the center of Tokyo in 1966. Slowly winding its way from entry level to views of the surrounding metropolis from its uppermost window, the director leads the viewer on a lyrical journey through the carefully arranged spaces of this important house. As narrated by the architect's daughter, we come to understand the rich and intimate history of the place and the important role it played shaping her understanding of the idea of family. In contrast, *A Tropical House* gracefully examines the home of the Indonesian architect Andra Matin, which he and his family completed in 2013 in a lush suburb of Jakarta.

The director lovingly casts the camera's gaze across the luxuriant landscapes that surround and invade the house, but also chronicles the warm, extended community that forms of this home have engendered. Both films purposefully allow the viewer ample time to observe the gritty textures of raw concrete and rich warmth of wooden surfaces, but also the opulent role that light plays in shaping our understanding of these materials and the spaces they enclose. Members of the jury were deeply impressed by the richness and poetic nature of the cinematography and carefully controlled editing. One cannot leave either of these films without feeling a strong personal connection to both of these very intimate and stunning architectural creations.

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