Forest Haus will be the first PHI certified Passive House in the City of Boulder. The Passive House approach was integral to the entire design and construction process with a goal to prove that Passive House design and a quality architectural expression could be wedded with one enhancing the other.

The home addresses the needs of a growing family within the tight constraints of the City of Boulder’s zoning requirements, which include Floor Area Ratio (FAR) limitations, bulk plane limitations, and solar access restrictions along with setbacks. The zoning constraints along with attempting to weave around existing trees, required the forms to be a bit more complex than the typical Passive House expression, which strives for simple forms in order to make Passive House more attainable. This led to early and frequent modeling to ensure the team was on the path to success.
The interior finishes and details, designed by Kat Kurtz of K Square Design, are both practical and creative. The materiality is warm throughout, where wood and brick are used to express textural variation against smoother surfaces. The project team collaborated with R Design Landscape Architects to create a series of interconnected spaces that effortlessly flow from inside to outside, where the landscaped elements unite and enhance the architecture.