

Twin Beaches Approach for *The Story of a Different Thought* by Charlotte Moth
Rebecca Loewen



Moller M200X 'Volanter' skycar, Moller International

Where you turn west off highway 6 toward the lake (there is a gas station on the corner) the trees close in around the road. On the left you pass the Portuguese trailer park, which is private. In the ditch in the wintertime there might be a bombadeer passing. (These are ice fishing vehicles that go several kilometers out onto the lake to the ice fishing huts.) There is a sign for the Dumont Brothers' bobcat service, then the trees open to fields, you pass the dam in the creek where boys sometimes fish and you reach the lake. Here you turn left onto Twin Beach Road where you'll drive along the isthmus between Lakes Francis and Manitoba. (This is the road they rebuilt truckload by truckload over months after the flood, and after the flood this is the road you needed permission from the checkpoint guards to drive down.) You pass houses that have been ruined or rebuilt, lifted up. If it is winter you will see the snowdrifts higher than the roofs. At 350, there is the picture of the Volanter on a signpost. The driveway will take you through a band of trees and then reach the sand. You park your car here and walk on the sand to the ramp that goes up to the main room or down to the portal, which gives access to the subterranean rooms and cuts through the dune to the beach. On the way up the ramp you'll pass by the kitchen corner window. On the upper deck there is the screen porch on your right. On your left you slide open the main door (5'4" wide). A long deep bench under a long opening window takes up one wall, three large openings (2 framed panes of glass, 1 framed screen) take up another. In the centre of the space stands a table with four chairs and the white Kitchen Queen with its water jackets on its back. Beyond these is a bank of millwork with three doors, one for the bathroom, two for the bedrooms. Each bedroom has a bed that spans wall to wall and a low window opening inward from which to see out while lying down. The bathroom has a wooden sink mounted to the studs and a wooden tub set in the floor. The exterior wall (5'4") slides open so you bathe out of doors with a view to the lake. Near the table there's a spot from which you climb a ladder up (to the loft, which has two windows and a roof hatch) or you climb a ladder down into the lower bedroom. Below, the walls are site-cast concrete, the floors are wood and also liftable. One room gives onto the next (this is the cellar) whose proportions are the same. From the cellar you walk out into the portal, past the stacked chopped wood, underneath the deck above. Across the portal is the Room of Furs and Mattresses. Lying on the mattresses on the floor of this room, you look up to the lake that's reflected in the Looking Glass. The bottom of its opening is flush with the sand and in the cool spot outside this window, the screen porch overhangs.