

Inside Outside

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₹ 50

Sea facing
home
by Sunil
Jasani



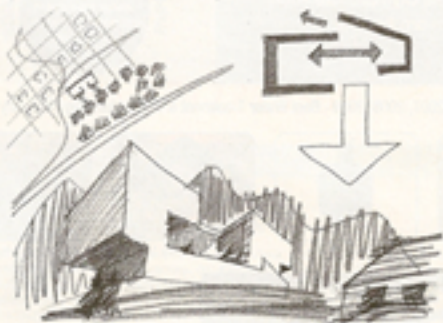
Profile — Advani Associates
Sculptural Forms

International Design

Simplicity and style by
Mita and Sanjeev Joshi



Winner in the 6th cycle of the 20+10+X WA Awards, this house designed by Davide Macullo in the Swiss Alpine village of Lumino is a like a monolithic element, quietly complementing and echoing its context.



Shifting planes



Photograph: Enrico Cotti, Cotti



The double system of vertical connections, one internal and one external, relates all the spaces of the house in a spiral movement and is in a constant play with its new inhabitants' perception of time and scale.



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Project: House in Lurisia
Project Architects: Davide Macullo & Marco Sestini
Design Collaborator: Michele Albani
Interior Design: Davide Macullo & Marco Sestini
Works Supervision: Ennio Bignardi
Structural Engineer: Ing. Roberto Bazzani & Partners
Building Engineer: RSC Consulting Srl
Client: Luciano & Lucio De Gennaro
Starting Date: 2007
Completion Date: 2009
Site Area: 457 sq. mt.
Building Area: 100 sq. mt.
Total Floor Area: 221 sq. mt.
Levels: 2 above-ground levels
Total cost: 1,000,000 CHF
Materials:
 Base structure: underground, reinforced concrete
 Base structure above ground: Reinforced concrete
 and steel
 Windows: insulated glass, therm-coated frames
Finishes:
 Internal wall cladding: Board painted plywood
 External paving: Concrete
 Interior flooring: Tiles



The area surrounding the house is characterised by traditional stone built houses, many of which date back centuries and are marked by their use of this single construction material. The new house is intended as a relevant response to and a contemporary interpretation of the vernacular; its exposed reinforced concrete form recalls the revered strength and resonates the presence of these old stone houses. Sitting on the edge of the old village, the house acts as a sort of bastion between the old core and the modern residential expansion.

Apart from deferring to the local scale and material cues siphoned from the physical context, the architect's design concept and approach was also influenced by the clients' expressed desire for a minimalist aesthetic, both internally and externally. As such, the quality of the spaces in the house was defined explicitly by the architecture and not by objects placed within. Davide Macullo's idea of the 'minimalist monolith' was adopted by him as the conceptual generator of the project and became a principle he applied to all elements of both the functional and the construction programme, from the foundations up to the smallest finishing details.

The geometry of the plan is generated by two moved parallelepipeds and follows the slope of the site. The typology created by this staggered geometry underlies both the characteristics of the landscape, while also

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The spaces expand and extend into the landscape, allowing the exterior to become part of the composition. While the individual spaces may be defined geometrically, each space flows into the next and continues to the exterior.





offering each of the levels a direct relationship with the surrounding gardens. The double system of vertical connections, one internal and one external, relates all the spaces of the house in a spiral movement and is in a constant play with its new inhabitants' perception of time and scale. What is interesting about the house is the ability of the spaces to expand and extend into the landscape, allowing the exterior to become part of the composition. While the individual spaces may be defined geometrically, each space flows into the next and continues to the exterior.

Excavations into the ground rock were kept to a minimum, with only the service spaces placed underground (-1.4 m). Vehicle and pedestrian access is from street level ($+0.0$ m). Half a level up from the entrance hall, are two bedrooms, both with direct access onto a terrace ($+1.4$ m). The master suite on the next floor ($+2.8$ m) also has its own terrace and access to the garden below. Continuing up the house, we arrive into the dining and kitchen space which opens onto the central south-facing loggia ($+4.2$ m), with access to the terraces below. This central loggia, which affords panoramic views over the surrounding rooftops, can also be covered with a hydraulic roof when required. The living space on the top floor overlooks and has access down to the loggia below.

Along with gains from the inherent thermal values of concrete, the house's sustainable credentials also benefit from a heat pump and photovoltaic cells placed on the roof.

The architect's principle while designing the house was to protect and guarantee an intimacy and privacy for its inhabitants but also, somewhat paradoxically, to represent an air of generosity and an opening up to the world. His intention was to create places in which the residents are open and connected to the wider community in a concrete way, beyond the filter of maddening virtual communication. This physical relationship with the community restores a healthy balance of mind and spirit. 