

DESIGN INNOVATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL

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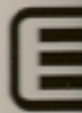


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single-family house // carabbia @ switzerland

ARCHITECTURE: DAVIDE MACCULLO

PHOTOGRAPHY: PINO MUSSI









Architect Davide Macullo puts together bold geometrical volumes in a way that they form a shell — an intimate living space requested by the client. The house is located in Carabbia, a small village with 600 inhabitants that crawls up the western slope of Mount San Salvatore (Switzerland). The structure is composed of clearly outlined elements embracing a courtyard in a spiral-like movement. A complex interaction of indoor and outdoor experiences is condensed within a humble footprint of 13x13m, creating a continuous space that gives a sense of protection and, at the same time, of being projected into the landscape. This sensation is enhanced by the arrangement of windows: while the externally oriented facades have only a few small openings, the ones that wrap the courtyard are completely glazed. The configuration of elements relates to the natural topography of the site; the sloped roof echoes the inclination of the terrain — an interesting example of organic thinking interpreted via square-cut volumes. Moreover, the manner in which the building adheres to the plot allowed the architects to minimize excavation works: no earth has been displaced from the construction site. On top of that, the architectonics of the house is endowed with bioclimatic qualities: the distribution of natural light and solar heat is optimized without «technological» features, only by smartly positioning the structural volumes.

The three main storeys of the house are set at shifted levels to match the correspondent levels of the site. This ensures a direct relation to the outside from each part of the building. When entering the house, your eyes embrace the whole interior together with the enclosed outdoor spot. This helps visually expand the space, which in reality is rather compact: a building with the usable area of 150 m² looks like being at least twice more roomy. The functions are displayed on these three levels and on the entrance mezzanine, which is set between the top (living) and the middle (kitchen/dining) floor; the lower floor accommodates the bedrooms. Each level has its own characteristics, yet all of them are visually interconnected as if they were partitioned only by transparent or translucent filters. Add up the spiral organization of the entire building, and you will get the architect's idea that a space can be only understood after having spent some time in it. For Davide Macullo, time becomes one more instrument — no less important for the planning phase of the project than materials, forms and typologies.