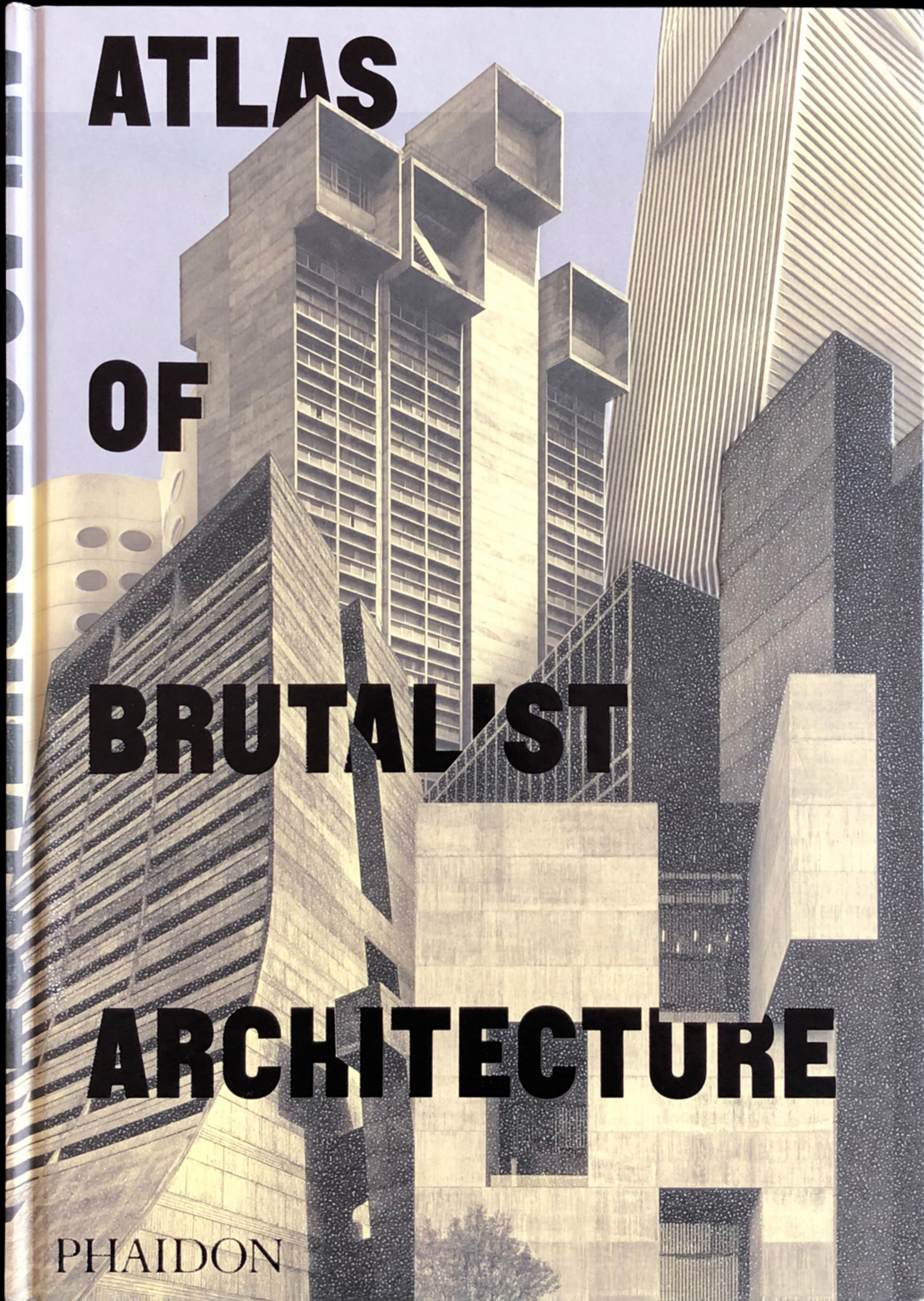


PHAIDON



CONDITION	U
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Built on a hillside overlooking Lake Maggiore, this house has two principal floors, with an entrance level reached by a winding driveway. A stepped ramp cut into the hillside rock leads to an entrance courtyard and into the hallway of the *piano nobile* (main storey). Spacious reception and living areas culminate in covered terraces and open lawns. Private rooms on the eastern side include the master bedroom with its secret

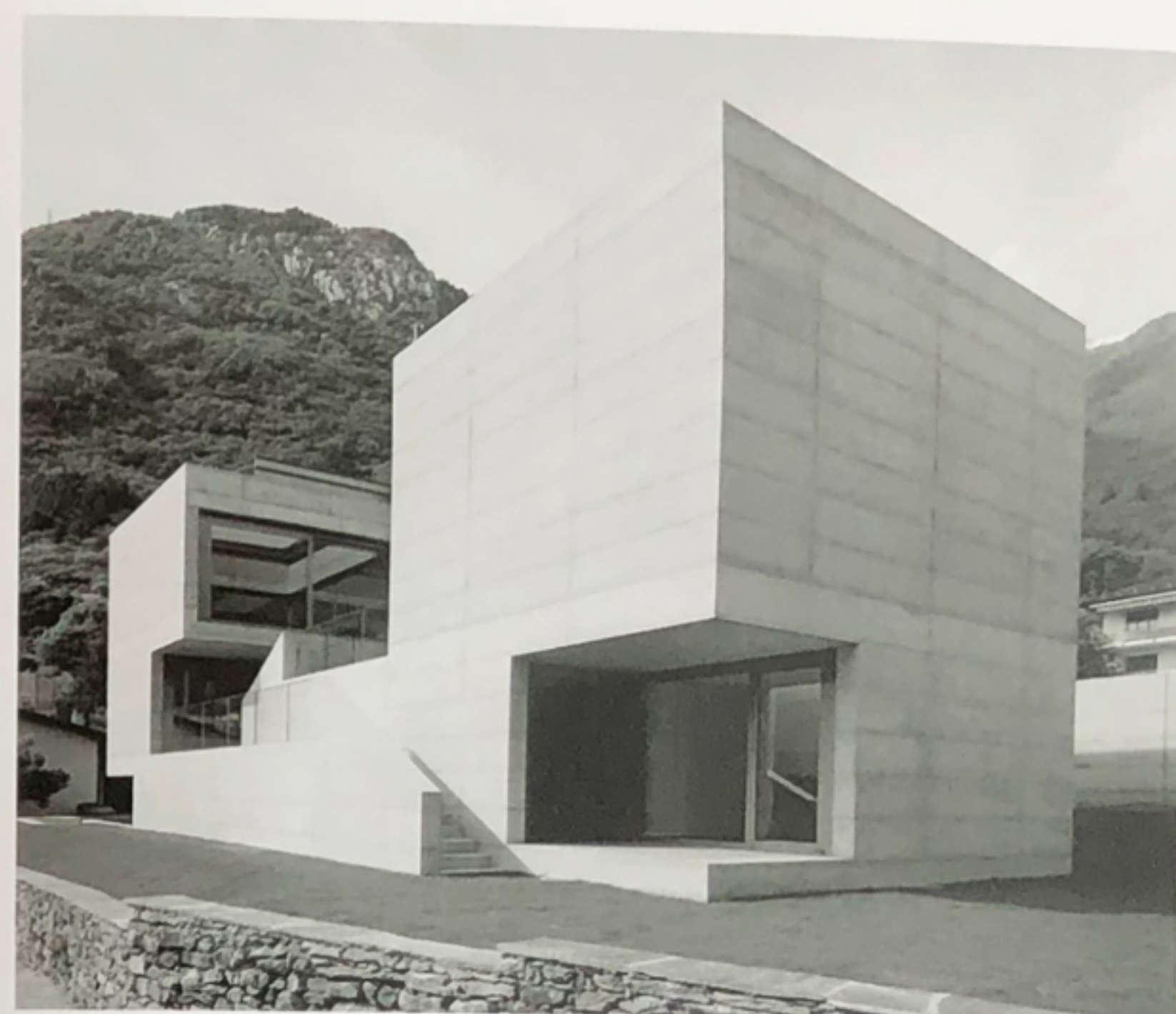
Japanese residence. In the smaller volume of the floor above, Hungarian-born architect Marcel Breuer provided rooms surrounded on three sides by a large open terrace. To the south, pine trees emerge through cutouts in the concrete floor. Light enters the swimming pool pavilion through four large round openings.

The quality of the construction is seen in the varied and complementary textures and finishes of the materials. The concrete structure is exposed, the walls are finished with a light-colored, granite masonry. Silver-colored metal plates and sliding glass. This European influence is a change for Breuer: the light timber cladding on his American residences is replaced by more material elements. Breuer received an AIA Honor Award for his design in architectural design, with the jury praising "the robust splendor of material and detail."


CONDITION

Kalman House is a private residence above Lake Maggiore, near Locarno, in an area dominated by holiday villas, many of which are Neo-Classical in style. During the 1960s and 1970s, Swiss architect Luigi Snozzi built almost exclusively in Ticino, primarily with Livio Vacchini (1933–2007). His early houses stood in marked contrast to neighbouring properties: classical in proportion but not in style. Snozzi's primary influence was

Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier's *promenade architecturale* (journey through a building) illustrated in Villa Savoye, France (1931). Set into the hillside, with its rough-cut stone walls and flat roof and simple openings, the house is an unobtrusive concrete box. It forms just one part of a carefully planned route that begins at a stream and finishes at a pergola. The retaining wall on the west side extends outdoors, cutting into the hillside to support a narrow terrace. At the southeast corner is a cul-de-sac, exposing the concrete frame and accommodating a terrace and balcony. Horizontal windows sit high up on the east wall, so that views of the road are like a sea wall, so that views of the road are like a sea wall. The emphasis is on the south facade, which is fully glazed with steel-framed windows. Inside the rooms are finished in white stucco, with a terrazzo floor.



CONDITION

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Located in a spectacular position overlooking Lake Maggiore, this concrete house hugs the mountainside and is designed for two people and a dog. The interior is simple and functional. It is simple in form—a straightforward tower—across, on the valley side, to a series of steps and a ramp that lead to a terrace. The house is an exclusively pale béton brut, carefully selected to lie in with the local stone of other dwellings; the building's colour and form ensure it maintains a low profile. Irregularly placed windows give the facades an abstract character and add simple variation and pattern to the block. But opening up the house to the landscape is the extraordinary view of water, woods, and mountain, and frame a glimpse of landscape in a highly picturesque, almost painterly way. The house is a functional use of stone detailing in the polished concrete flooring to reassert the connection between the man-made and the natural. The house is a contemporary take on the traditional and ceiling, reflecting light around the house. A truly minimalist home, it is suffused with a sense of wellbeing and stillness. Wespi de Meuron and his partner describe this as a house to "embrace the poetry of nature".





**HOUSE IN LUMINO**  
 Mario Botta & Mario Botta  
 Lumino (CH), 1999  
 Residential

But in a place where the landscape is so dramatic, the house had to be a simple, almost invisible, element. The architects wanted to create a building that would blend into the landscape, not stand out from it. The house is a simple, rectangular volume, built with concrete, that follows the curve of the hillside. The interior is a series of open spaces, with a central courtyard that provides a sense of connection to the outside world. The house is a perfect example of how architecture can be used to create a sense of harmony with nature.

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**HOUSE IN SANT'ABBONDIO**  
 Wespi de Meuron Romeo  
 Architects  
 Sant'Abbondio (CH), 2012  
 Residential

Located in a spectacular position overlooking Lake Maggiore, this concrete home hugs the mountainside and is designed for two people and their guests. The three-storey cuboid house is simple in form—a straightforward tower—and connects, on the valley side, to a series of steps leading down to a parking area. It is made of exquisitely pale béton brut, carefully selected to tie in with the local stone of other dwellings; the building's colour and form ensure it maintains a discreet presence in the landscape. Irregularly placed windows give the facade an abstract character and add simple variation and pattern to the block. But openings are carefully positioned to maximize the extraordinary views of water, woods, and mountain, and frame each glimpse of landscape in a highly picturesque, visually delightful way. Inside, there is occasional use of stone detailing in the polished concrete flooring to reassert the connection between the man-made and the natural. The pale béton brut continues on the internal walls and ceiling, reflecting light around the house. A truly minimalist home, it is suffused with a sense of wellbeing and stillness. Wespi de Meuron Romeo, the architects, describe this as life lived amid 'the poetry of nature'.

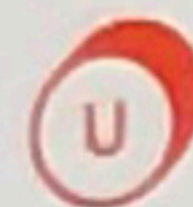


HOUSE IN LUMINO →  
Davide Macullo Architetto  
Lumino (CH), 2009  
Residential

CONDITION



USE



Echoing the traditional, modest yet solid architecture of the centuries-old stone farmhouses in the village of Lumino, close to Bellinzona in the Swiss Alps, this single-family residence is built using strong natural materials. Davide Macullo Architetto designed the house as a geometric rectangular composition. With a reinforced concrete facade, the structure is in stark contrast to its verdant surroundings.

The house is cut in the middle to create a dynamic connection to both exterior and interior. The interior contains a multi-floor space with half-levels of two shifted parallelepipeds. The basement of the house is occupied by a service area, while the ground floor serves as a place for vehicles and an entrance area. Half a level up comprises a hall and two bedrooms, both with direct access to an outdoor terrace. The master bedroom at the next level was similarly designed with its own terrace and access to the garden. The kitchen and dining areas open on to the main loggia, while the main living space is situated at the top level with access to the loggia too. The concept of the house was to increase circulation around all spaces and make connections between all areas of the house.

