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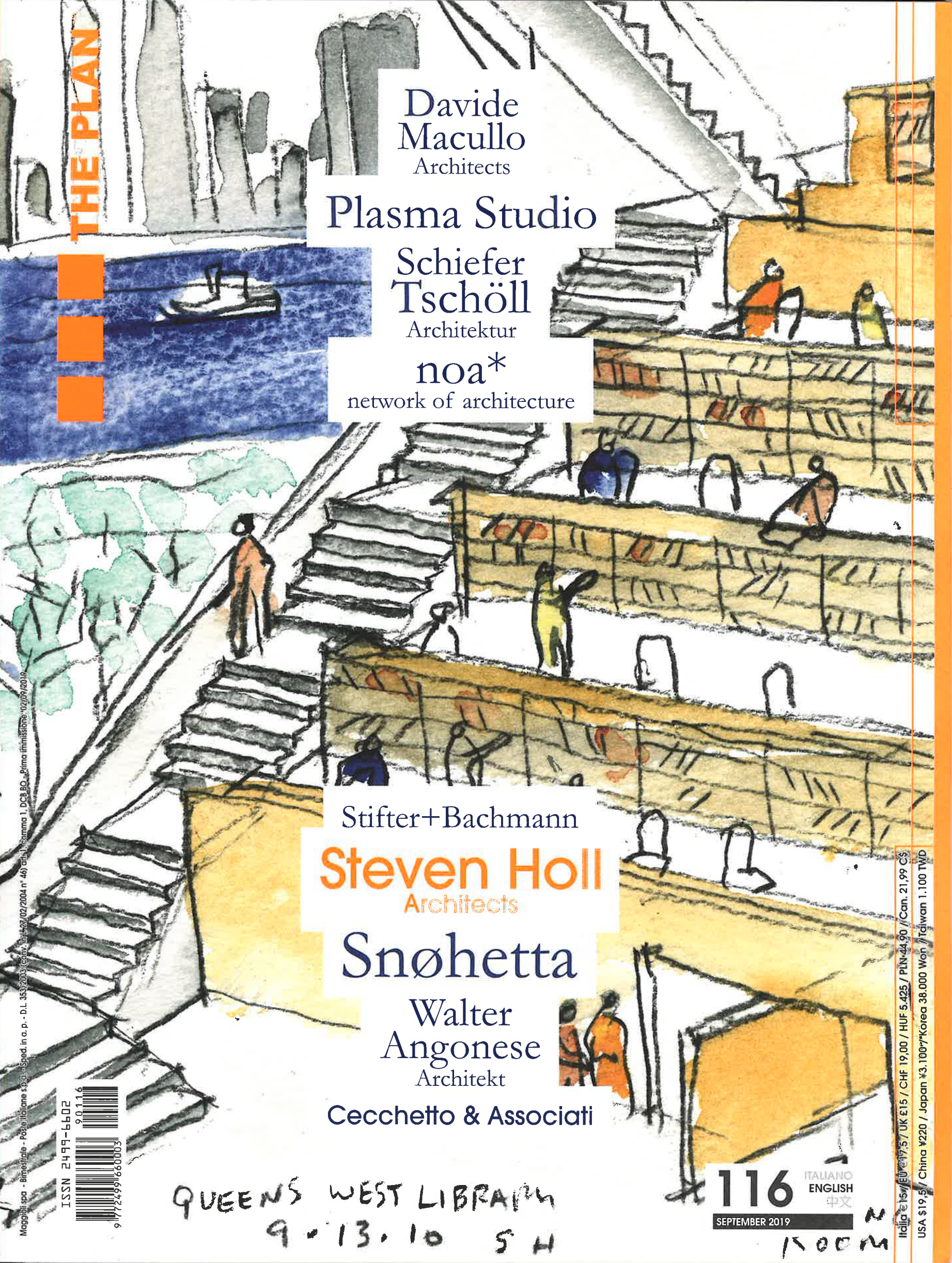
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Italy € 15 / EU € 17.5 / UK £ 15 / CHF 19.00 / HUF 5.425 / PLN 44.90 / Can. 21.99 C\$  
USA \$ 19.5 / China ¥ 220 / Japan ¥ 3.100 / Korea 38.000 Won / Taiwan 1.100 TWD

Maggioli spa - bimestrale - Poste Italiane s.p.a. - Sped. in a.p. - D.L. 353/2003 (conv. in l. 4/2/2004 n. 46) art. 1, comma 1, DC8/90 - Prima emissione: 02/09/2018

ISSN 2499-6602  
90116  
9172499160003



PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
"SWISSHOUSE XXV"

# TRADITION AND MODERNITY

MERGOSCIA,  
SWITZERLAND



ARCHITECTURE

Daive Macullo Architects



Located in the Verzasca Valley, one of the most famous and picturesque valleys of Switzerland's Italian Canton Ticino, Swisshouse XXV stands on the last buildable plot at the top of the village of Mergoscia. Perched on its steep 450 gradient site, the residence seems to hover over the valley below, commanding splendid views of the Verzasca dam and the wooded slopes reaching down to the water's edge.

Buildings respond primarily to their context rather than to the desires and ambitions of their clients and designers, for the simple fact that they outlive them. What we put in place is used by us for a relatively short time compared to how long that building will last. It follows that what we leave in our wake to our children and future generations is our responsibility. Architecture is the bridge between the DNA of a place and its future.

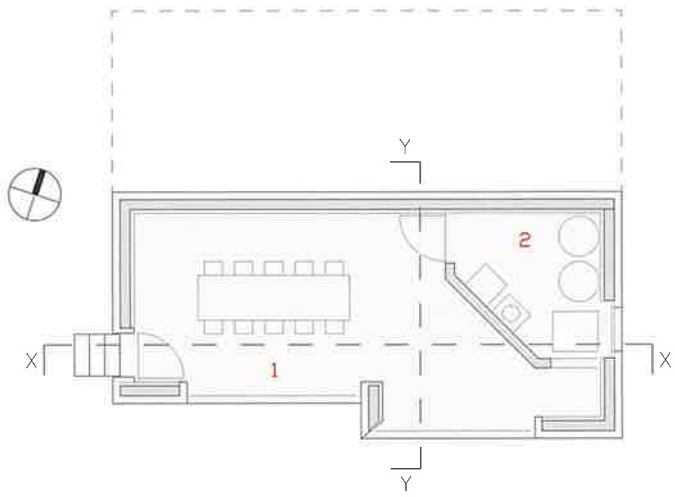
**Construction quality in mountainous regions is the direct result of the local population's inherent respect for their harsh environment** of steep slopes and climate extremes, both of which impose precision construction and long-lasting materials.

Swisshouse XXV blends in with a village fabric consisting primarily of detached buildings several stories high. A study of the typology of the rural houses in the area led us to split the volume of the new build into two, staggering the façade to create two adjacent units of the typical 4 m width. This also allowed us to raise the height of the building thus keeping within the spatial constraints of the plot and the budget of the client. Although given a contemporary look, the pitched roofs lying perpendicular to the slope and the apertures both echo the vernacular architecture. Indeed, **the key achievement of Swisshouse XXV is the successful blend of contemporary style and traditional features,** which allows the house to fit effortlessly into its environment.

To follow the lay of the land and avoid conspicuous overhangs, the lower floor was freed up of interior living space to create a covered portico from which to enjoy the view in the warm season. The landscaping around the house also aims to reduce the building's overall visual impact, allowing it to emerge from its setting without disrupting the natural contours.

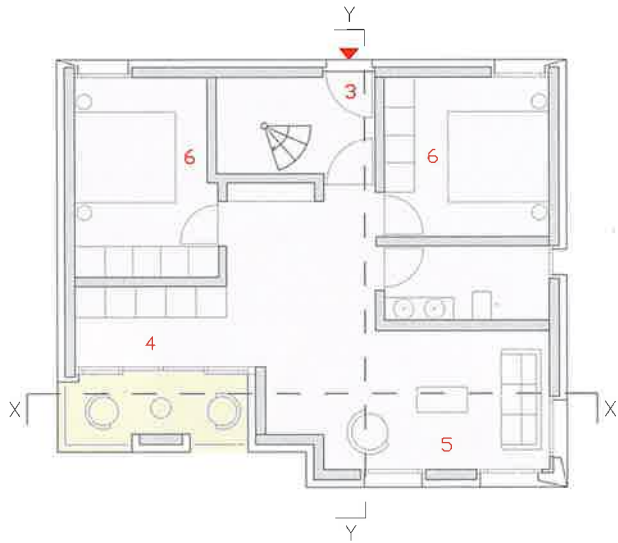
The two upper stories are occupied by four bedrooms, two living areas and two bathrooms, arranged for use either as a single residence or two independent apartments.

The external insulating cladding has a light grey plaster coating in deference to the granite traditionally used as a building material in the valley. By the same token, the grey sanded cement tiles on the two pitched roofs reference the stone slab roofing of traditional rural constructions. The stone sill on which the building rests emphasizes the building's solid rootedness to its site.

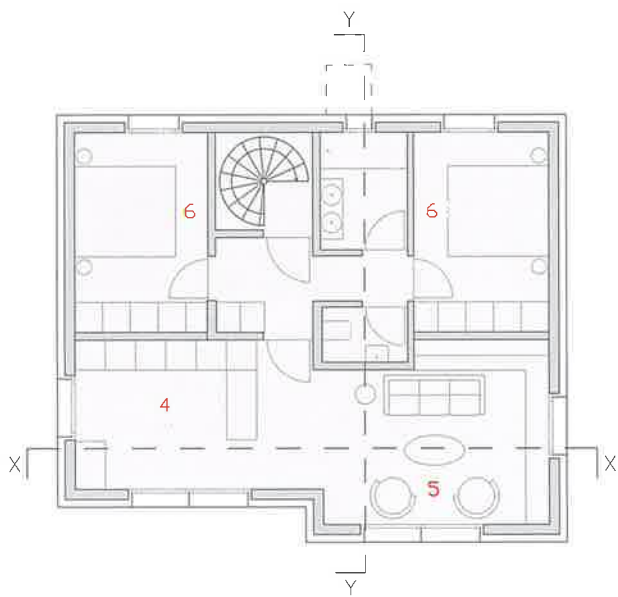


■ 1<sup>st</sup> Level plan - Scale 1:150

- |                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1- Portico             | 4. Kitchen     |
| 2. Plant and equipment | 5. Living room |
| 3. Entrance            | 6. Bedroom     |

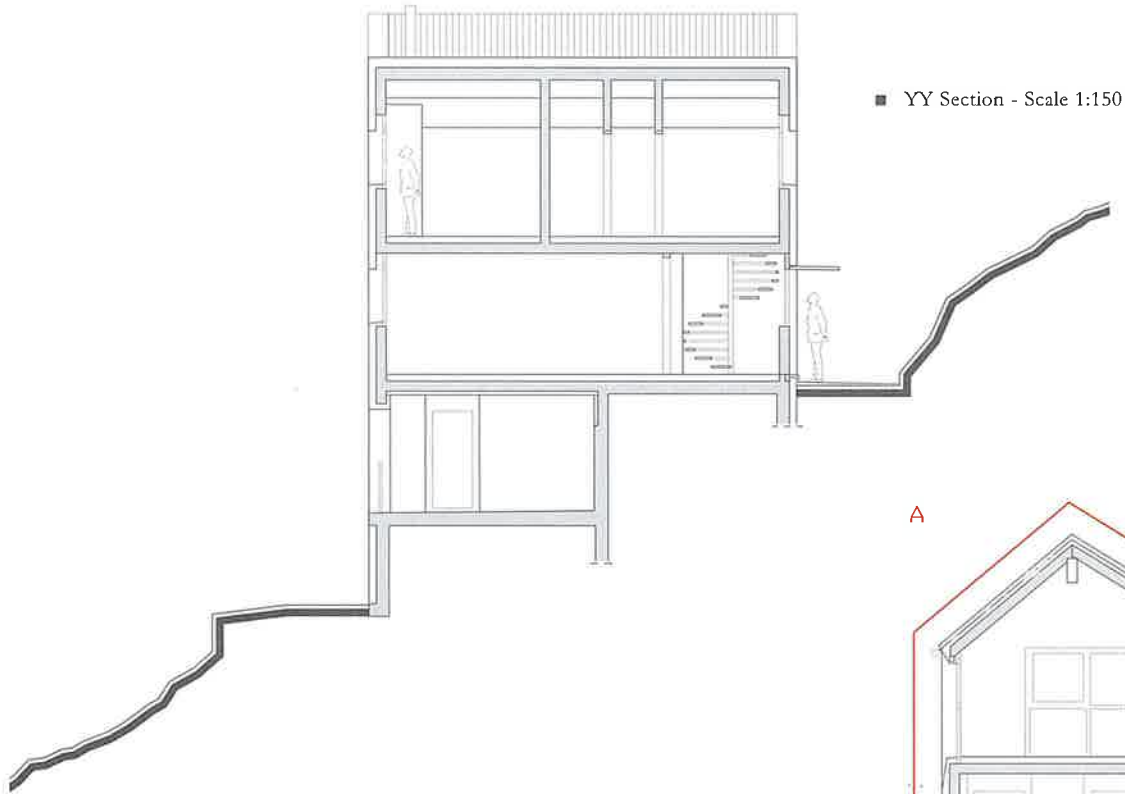


■ 2<sup>nd</sup> Level plan - Scale 1:150

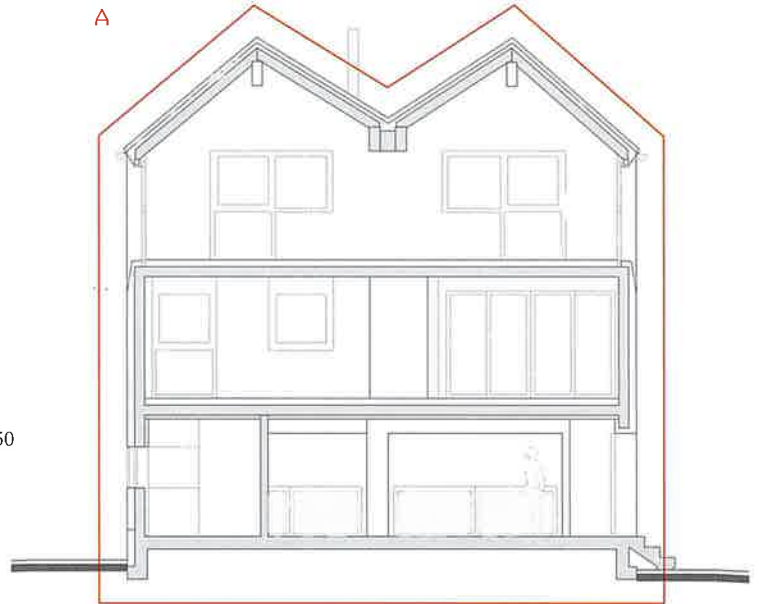


■ 3<sup>rd</sup> Level plan - Scale 1:150





■ YY Section - Scale 1:150



■ XX Section - Scale 1:150

■ Study of the local vertical building typologies, in homage to Bruno Munari





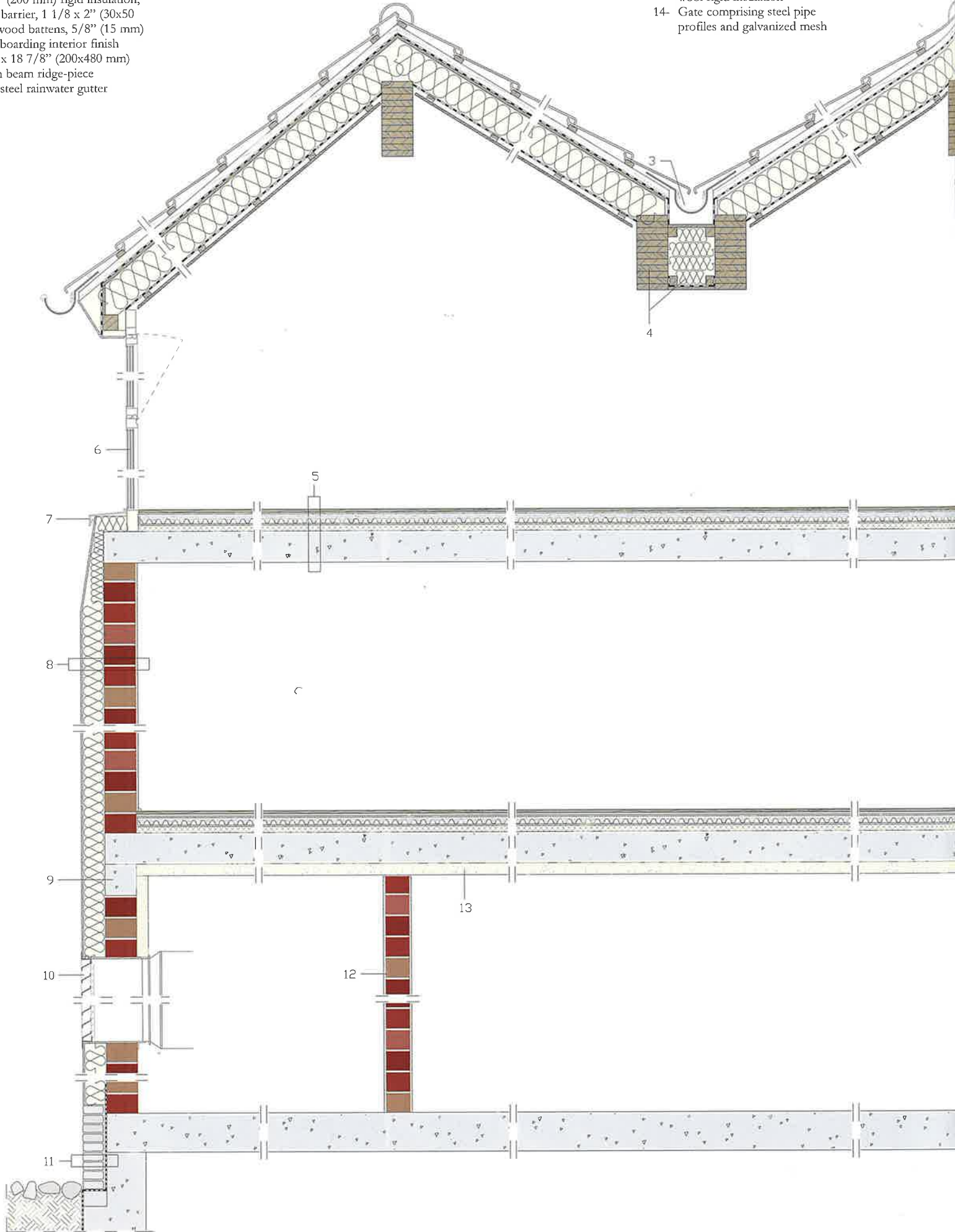
**Detail A: Construction system**  
**Vertical section - Scale 1:30**

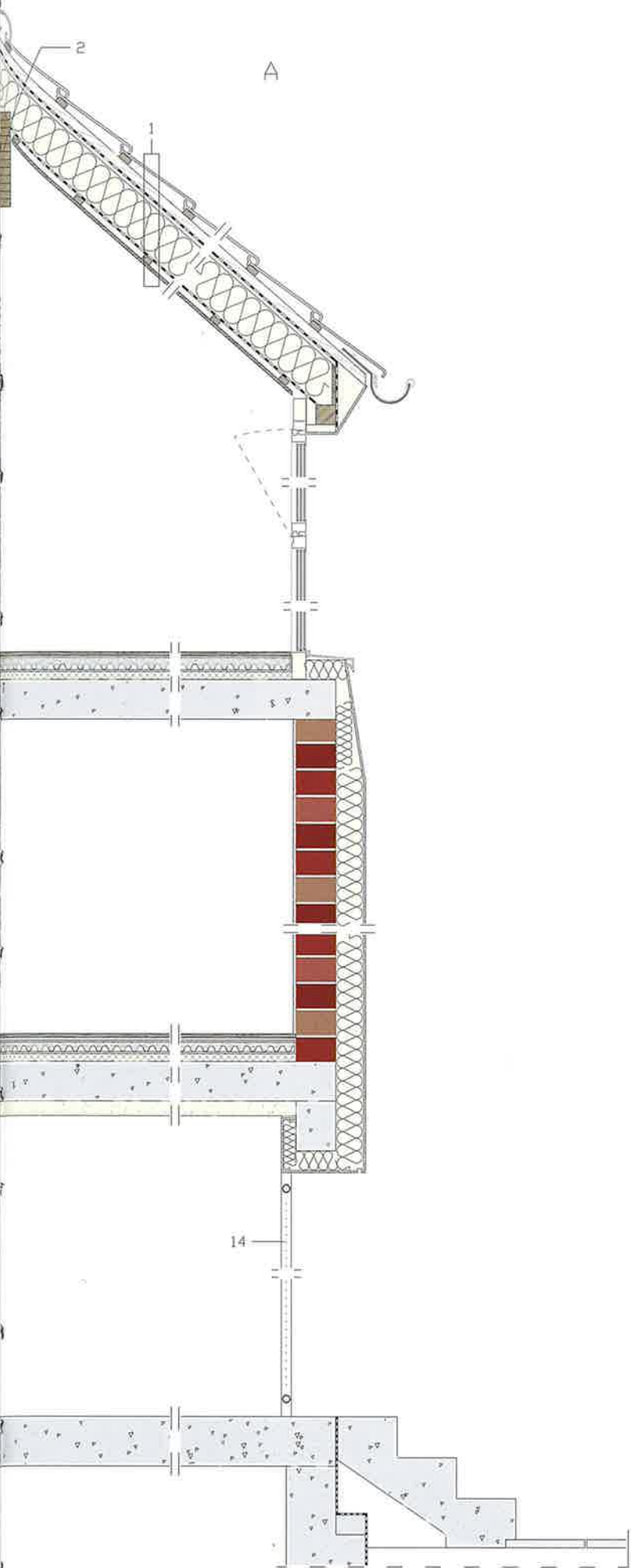
- 1- Roof comprising sandblasted concrete tiles, 1 1/8 x 2" (30x50 mm) wood battens for fixing tiles, ventilated roof space formed by 1 3/4 x 2" (45x50 mm) wood battens, waterproofing membrane, 3/4" (18 mm) wood fiber panels, 7 7/8" (200 mm) rigid insulation, vapor barrier, 1 1/8 x 2" (30x50 mm) wood battens, 5/8" (15 mm) matchboarding interior finish
- 2- 7 7/8 x 18 7/8" (200x480 mm) glulam beam ridge-piece
- 3- Sheet steel rainwater gutter

- 4- Roof valley construction comprising coupled 7 7/8 x 18 7/8" (200x480 mm) glulam beam and insulation fill with 2 3/8 x 2 3/8" (60x60 mm) wood beam framing and 3/4" (20 mm) thick wood closure panel 3/4" (20 mm) wood flooring, 2 3/8" (60 mm) screed with embedded radiant heating, heating film, 1 5/8" (40 mm)

- 5- footfall matting, exposed 7 7/8" (200 mm) reinforced concrete slab
- 6- Transom window with aluminum triple glazing unit
- 7- Shaped sheet aluminum sill
- 8- Façade with external 3/8" (10 mm) plaster finish, 5 1/2" (140 mm) expanded polystyrene rigid insulation, 7 7/8" (200 mm) brick wall, interior 5/8" (15 mm) plaster finish

- 9- 7 7/8 x 7 7/8" (200x200 mm) reinforced concrete lintel
- 10- Heat pump ventilation grating
- 11- Finish comprising 5 3/8" (135 mm) local stone fixed with mortar, waterproofing membrane, reinforced concrete foundation
- 12- Brick partition wall with plaster finish
- 13- Interior finished comprising painted 3" (75 mm) wool rigid insulation
- 14- Gate comprising steel pipe profiles and galvanized mesh







## CREDITS

**Location:** Mergoscia, Switzerland  
**Client:** Eline and Robin Blitzblum  
**Site Area:** 765 m<sup>2</sup> - **Building Area:** 82 m<sup>2</sup>  
**Gross Floor Area:** 215 m<sup>2</sup> - **Completion Date:** 2017 - **Architect:** Davide Macullo Architects  
**Principal Designer:** Davide Macullo  
**Project Architect:** Michele Alberio  
**Main Contractor:** Merlini & Ferrari

### Consultants

**Structural:** Bonalumi Ferrari Partner  
**Heating and Climatization:** Torisa Impianti civili e industriali

### Suppliers

**Paints and Plasterboard:** Ciardo Angelo  
**Kitchen Equipment:** Cucine Lube  
**Internal Cladding:** Holz Stürm  
**Wooden Structures:** Regusci - **Insulation:** Isover Saint-Gobain - **Roof Tiles:** Wierer  
**Windows Frame:** Sapa Building Systems  
**Resin Flooring:** Sika Sarnafil

**Sanitary Ware:** Duravit

**Text by** Davide Macullo

**Photography by** Alexandre Zveiger, courtesy of Davide Macullo Architects

ROOM FOR  
IMAGINATION



Sanitaryware : RAK-ILLUSION  
Wall : MAXIMUS MEDICEA MARBLE  
Floor : LAVA CONCRETE



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SANITARYWARE: **HALL 30, STAND B52-C51**

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