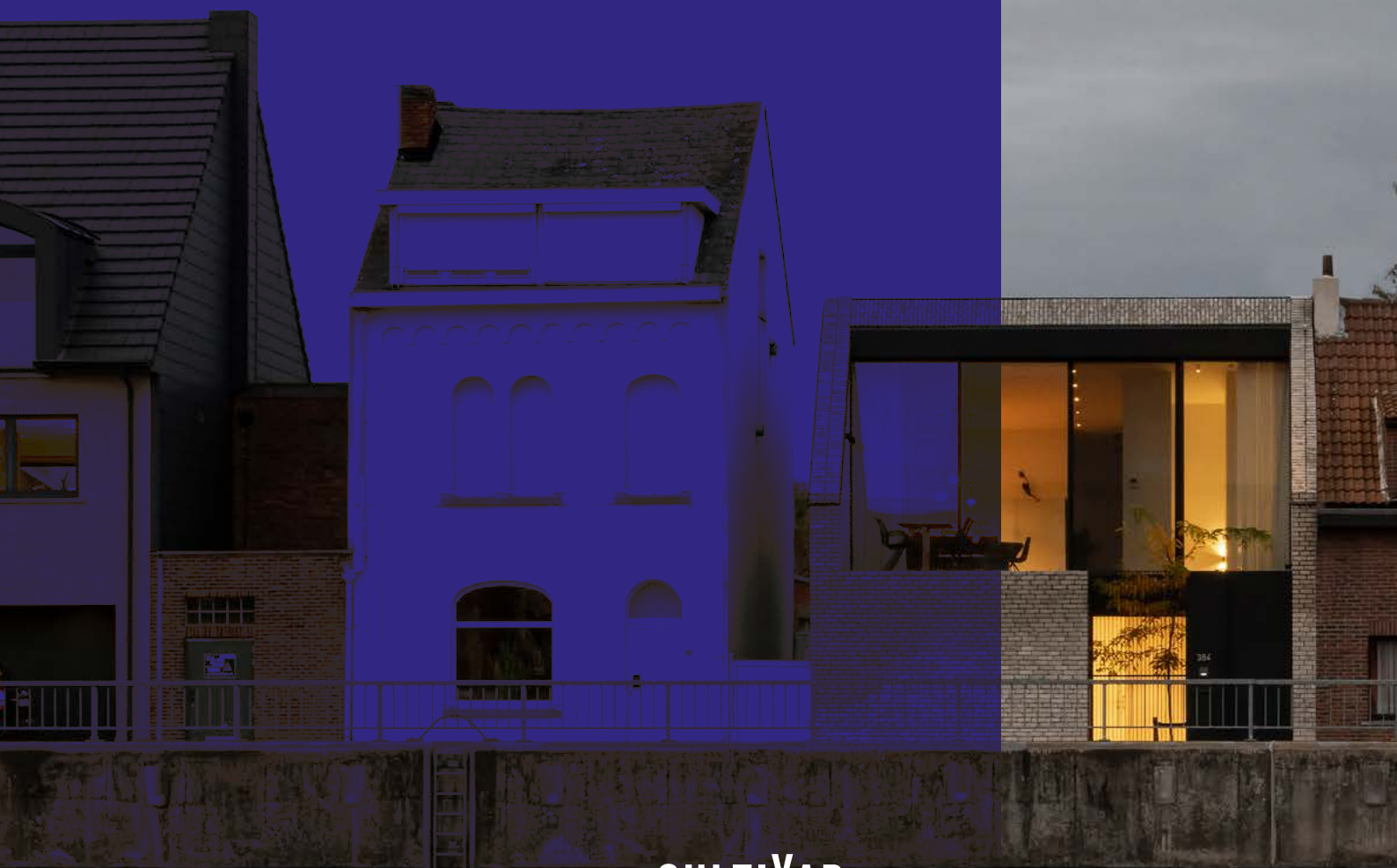


Canal House Humbeek Studio Farris Architects

PHOTO: Koen Van Damme



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PHOTOS BY

Koen Van Damme
Martino Pietropoli



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Press release

May 2022

STUDIO FARRIS. CANAL HOUSE HUMBEEK. THE DOMESTIC SPACE IS ORGANIZED AROUND A SECRET GARDEN.

- **The Canal House was designed by Studio Farris to overlook the Brussel-Scheldt Maritime canal in the Belgian town of Humbeek. This single-family residence successfully develops a series of spatial mediation devices between the indoor and outdoor environments.**
- **The volume of the Canal House respects the profile of the adjacent houses, but recedes to form an introverted façade that is articulated around a minimal courtyard, a sort of secret garden that offers a condition of peace and intimacy to the ground floor.**
- **With this project, the studio directed by Italian architect Giuseppe Farris confirms its ability to reflect on the subject of residential design by developing solutions that draw on the vast repertoire of modernity, reconfiguring it to meet the needs of contemporary living.**

A small residence is inserted with originality among the houses overlooking the Brussel-Scheldt Maritime canal that splits the small town of Humbeek, part of the municipality of Grimbergen, in the province of Flemish Brabant in Belgium. In emphasizing the relationship with the canal, the project of this house draws upon an original spatial configuration based on the definition of a new relationship between the inside and outside.

Designed by Studio Farris, Humbeek Canal House was created to substitute a pre-existing building and makes the most of the available surface area by respectfully placing itself within the profile defined by the row of residential buildings facing the canal, complying to the surrounding gabled roofscape. But the elegant adaptation to the urban context is enriched by new solutions, which extend the potential of the lot and redefine the conditions of use of the house.

The other houses facing the canal do not exploit the presence of the waterway, denying any opportunity

to relate to both the public dimension and the view of outdoor space. The traditional layout of houses in fact has the living quarters on the ground floor, with high windows protected by curtains for privacy. Studio Farris then worked on the volume and distribution of space, emptying part of the original envelope, reversing the program by placing the living area upstairs and the sleeping areas on the ground floor, working on a careful redefinition of the boundaries between indoors and outdoors.

If in the rear the house uses the full height allowed, it is on the front that the outline of the building is changed. The building recedes, resulting in an introverted facade that is organized around a new open space created by the volume subtraction. The project by Studio Farris thus determines an unexpected spatial layout consisting of an entrance courtyard on the ground floor, which acts as a filter between the street and the house, matched by a small garden at the back of the house.

It is a sort of “Japanese courtyard”, says Giuseppe

Farris, recalling the work of Carlo Scarpa that he carefully investigated during his studies at IUAV university in Venice. The idea is that of a small secret garden, to be discovered beyond the gate that separates it from the road along the canal. In the courtyard, a tree introduces a natural feel, a sense of warmth and proportion. The two bedrooms located on the ground floor also benefit from this quiet and intimate condition. One opens directly onto the courtyard, the other overlooks the backyard.

The courtyards also help to determine a spatial continuity between the ground floor and the upper floor, where the living quarters are arranged. The staircase that can be accessed from the entrance courtyard leads to the upper floor and unfolds adjacent to the entrance courtyard, leading to the discovery of the canal view. At this point, the living room projects and expands to the outside through a terrace that brings air and light inside. The living area continues into a dining room and, having reached the rear of the house, into the kitchen overlooking the second courtyard.

The relationship established between the interiors, the courtyards and the outdoor spaces helps to define an ideal connection between the two floors and to give the entire intervention a spatial continuity that reveals at every turn a new relationship with the outside.

Studio Farris Architects recently completed the new Buysse & Partners Headquarters as a renovation of an entire floor of the BP Building in Antwerp, Belgium, a modernist icon designed by Leon Stynen in 1963. The studio is also finalizing a project for the regeneration of an entire block in the center of Zottegem and a large residential and public program in Anderlecht.

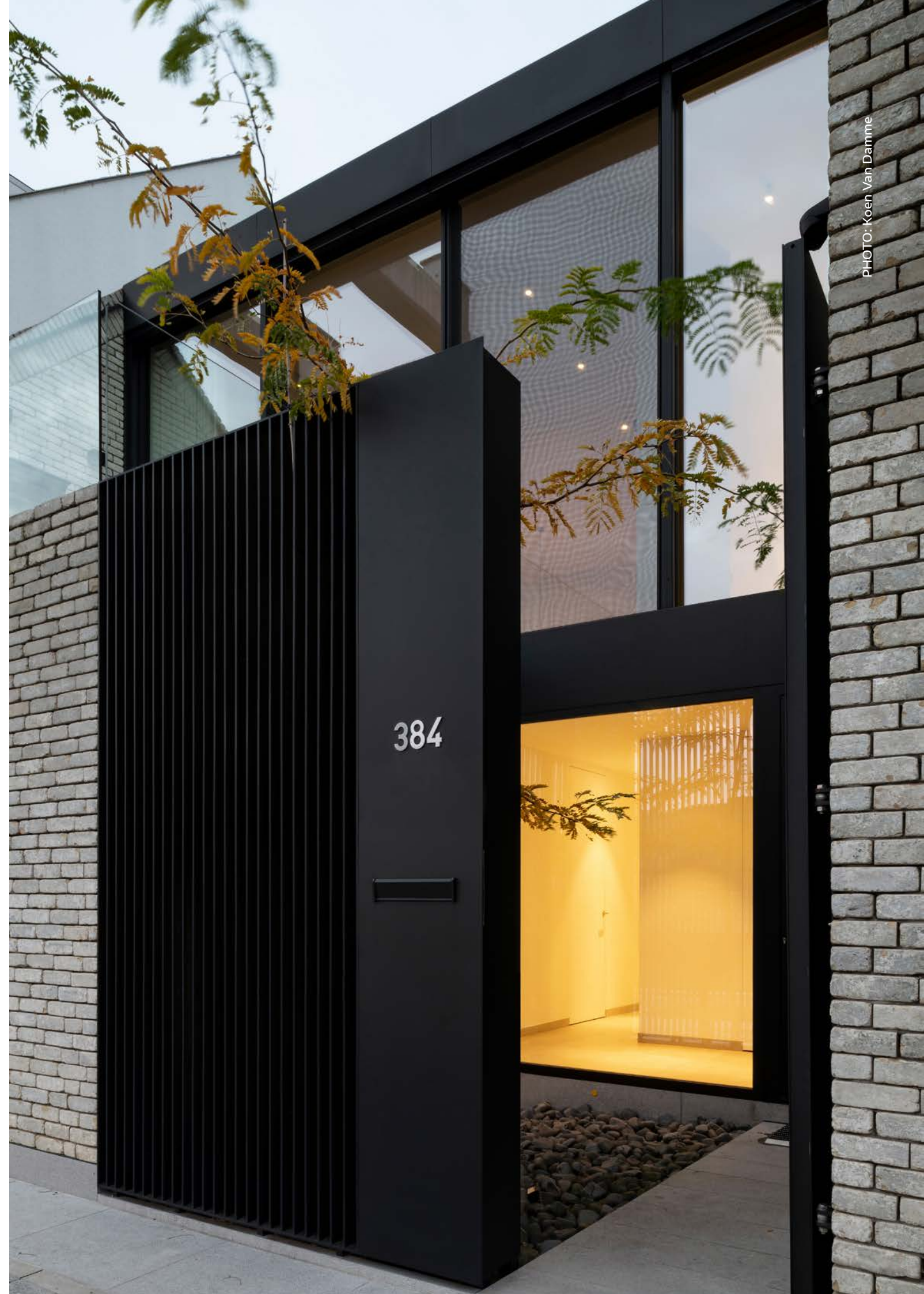




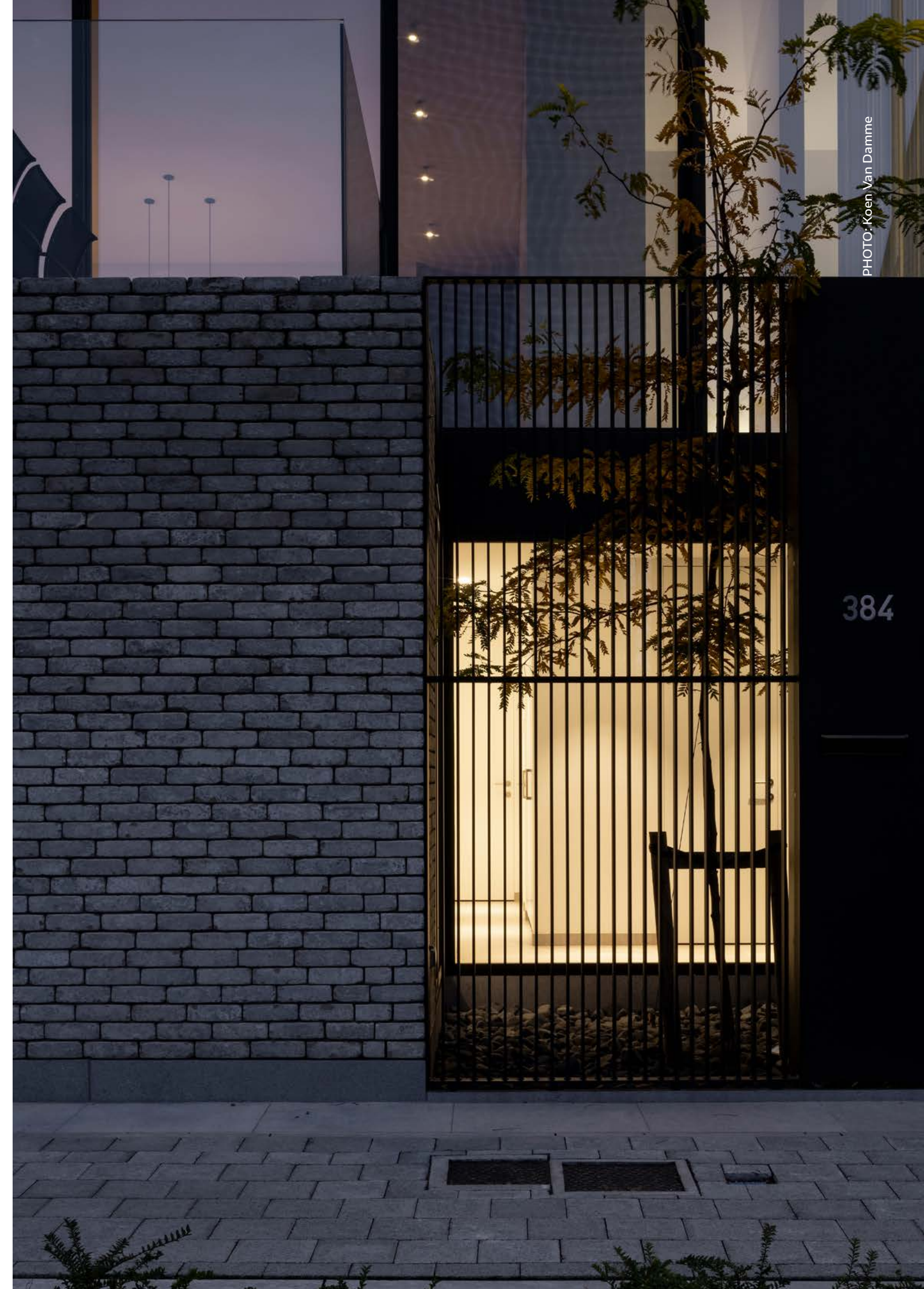
PHOTO: Martino Pietropoli

3

Data and credits

of the project

Project name	Canal House Humbeek
Location	Humbeek (Belgium)
Architect	Studio Farris www.studiofarris.com
Client	Private
Contractor	KLOBO
Schedule	Schematic design start: Nov 2015 Construction completion: Feb 2020 Finishes and furniture completion: Jan 2022
Project data	lot size: 89 square meters ground floor area: 73 square meters upper floor area: 62 square meters
Materials	Facade: white bricks (Desimpel) Windows: Black aluminium Floors at upper level: wood Floors at ground level: ceramic tiles
Photographs	Koen Van Damme www.koenvandamme.be Martino Pietropoli www.martinopietropoli.com
Press office	Cultivar www.cultivar.agency





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Studio Farris Architects

Studio Farris Architects is an architectural firm based in Antwerp, Belgium, founded by Italian architect Giuseppe Farris in 2008.

The studio's mission is to uncover the inherent potential in each project by questioning the obvious, exploring the surrounding environment and cultural heritage.

The firm's projects have been presented in international media outlets such as Architectural Record, AZURE, DETAIL, Domus and Wallpaper*. Studio Farris Architects was the recipient of Architectural Record magazine's prestigious Design Vanguard Award in 2015. In 2009, the firm won the competition to renovate the atrium of the Flemish Parliament in Brussels. After completion in 2010, it was nominated for the Dutch LAi Award.

Studio Farris Architects is completing a project for the regeneration of an entire block in the center of Zottegen and is finalizing a large residential and public program in Anderlecht. He recently completed the design for Buysse & Partners' new headquarters in Léon Stynen's BP Building in Antwerp, an icon of Belgian modernism.

www.studiofarris.com

Giuseppe Farris was born in Cagliari, Italy. He graduated from the Istituto Universitario di Architettura di Venezia (IUAV) where he studied with Aldo Rossi, Bernardo Secchi and Manfredo Tafuri. In 2001 he moved to Belgium where he began collaborating with several architectural firms. In 2008 he founded his own studio, Studio Farris Architects, in Antwerp, Belgium. The project for the renovation of the atrium of the Flemish Parliament in Brussels, completed in 2010, brought the firm international acclaim. The firm's reputation has been confirmed by later projects such as the Park Tower in Antwerp, the City Library in Bruges and the Antwerp Zoo.





PHOTO: Martino Pietropoli

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Images for the press

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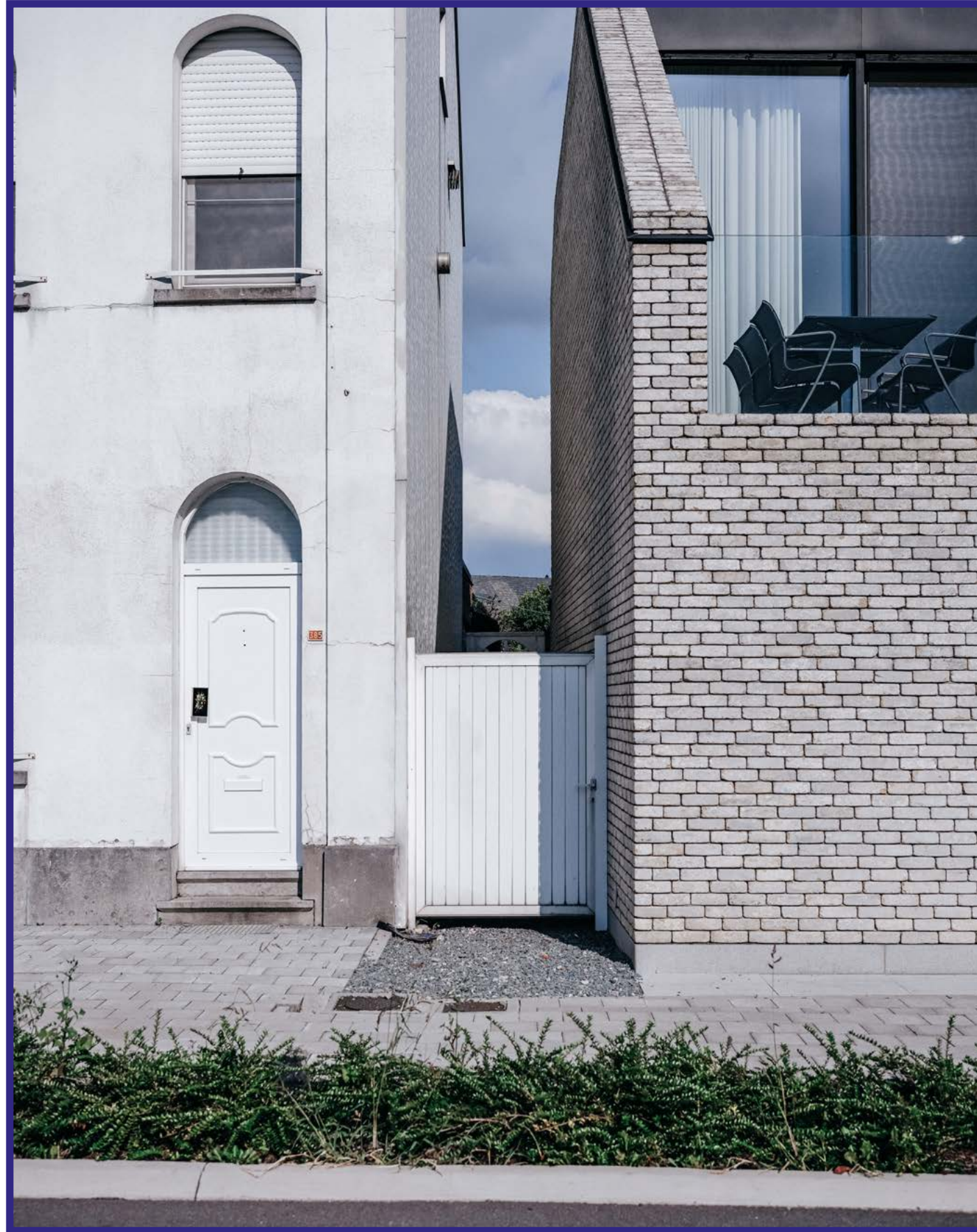
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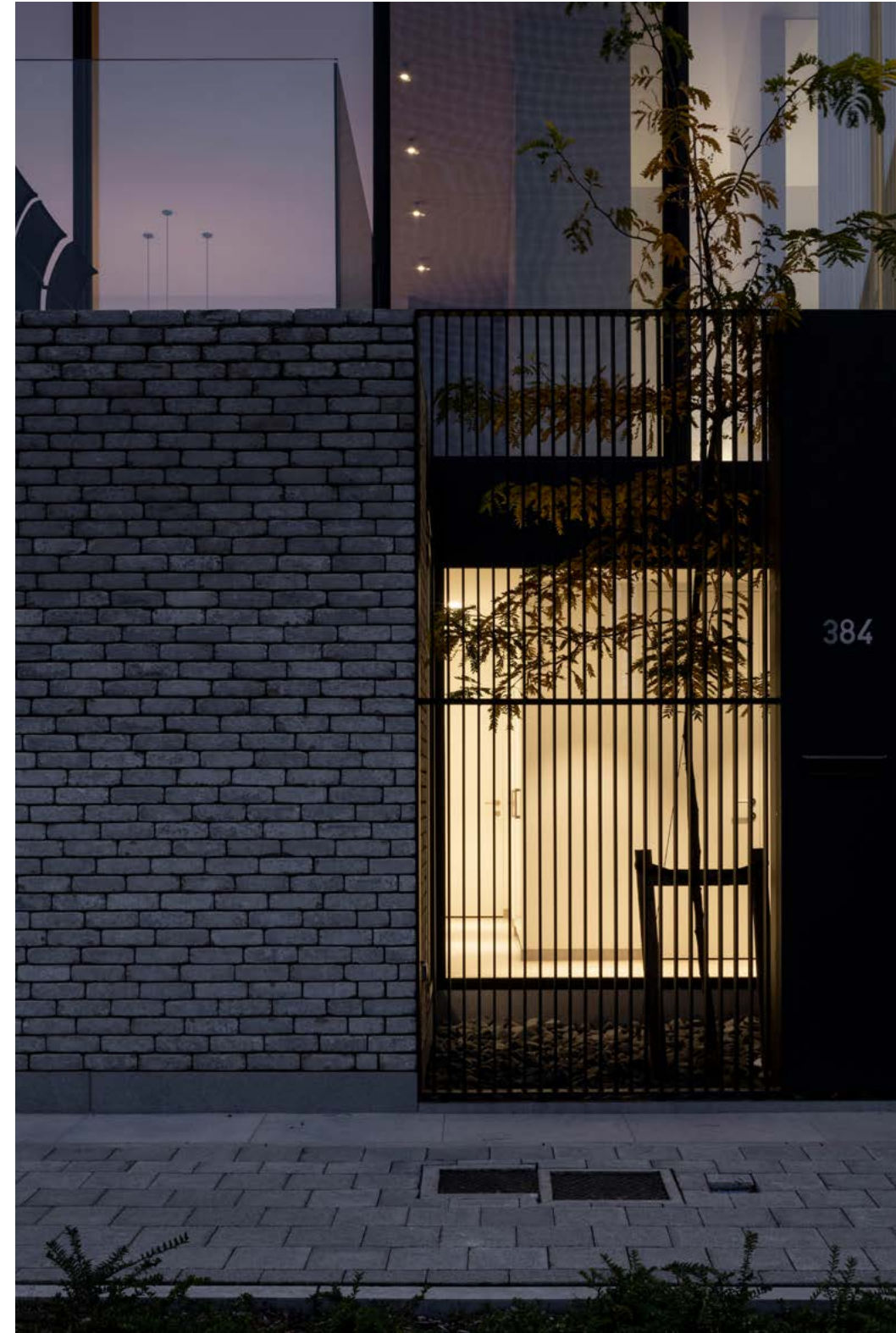
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Caption: Studio
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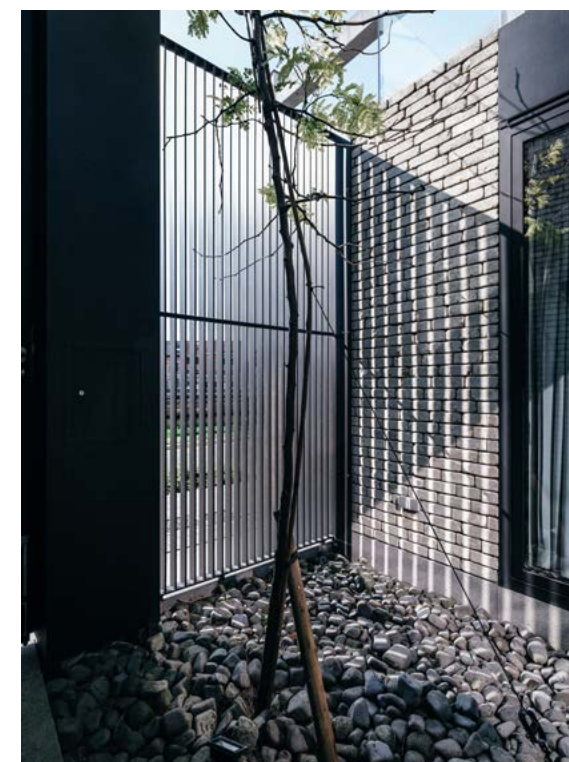
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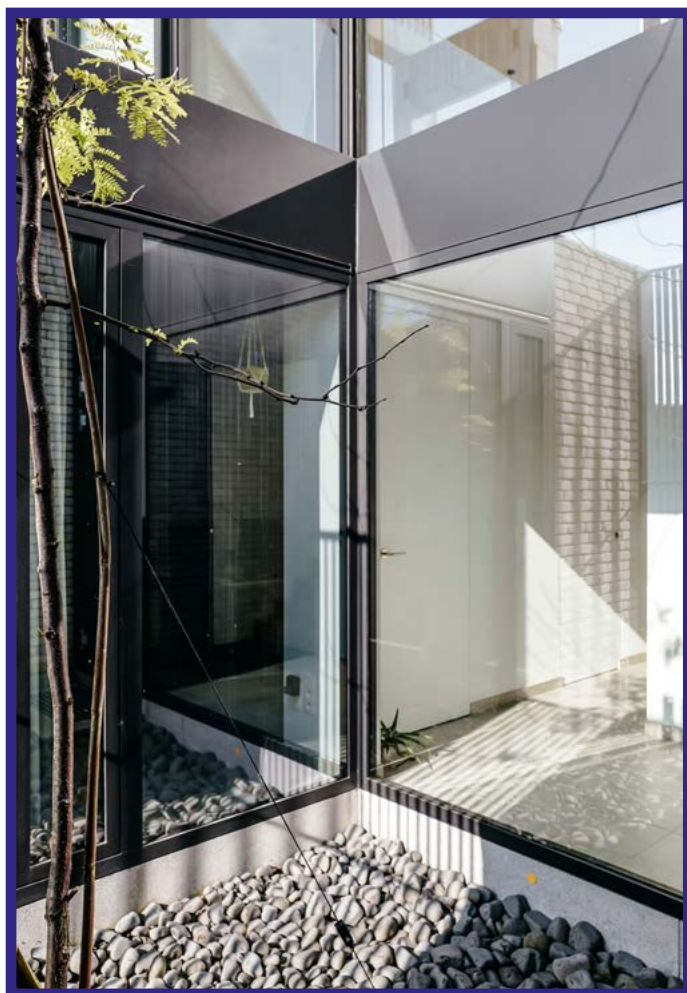
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Caption: Studio Farris Architects, Canal House Humbeek. Photo: © Martino Pietropoli.

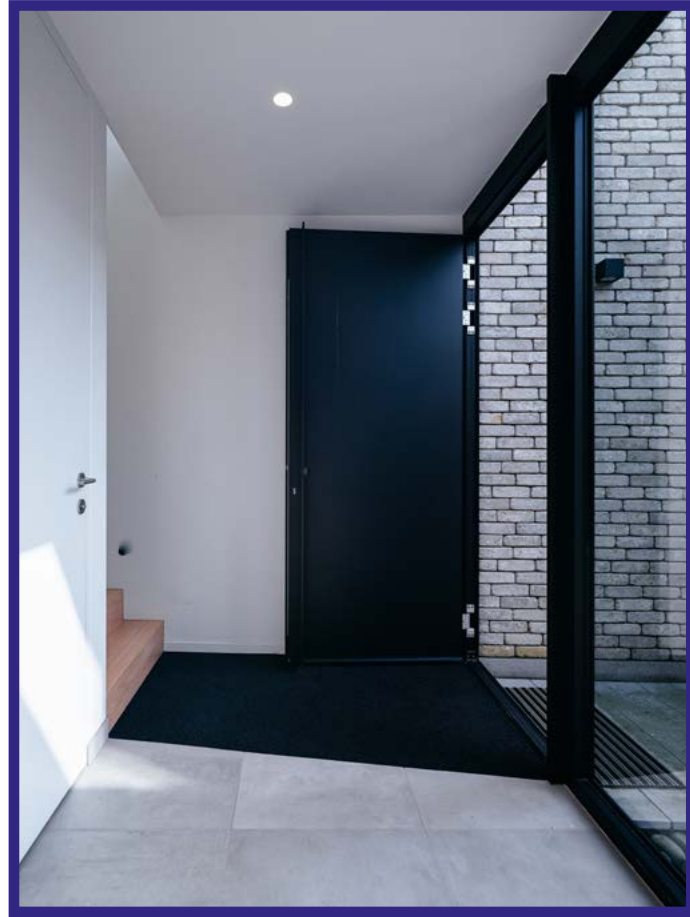
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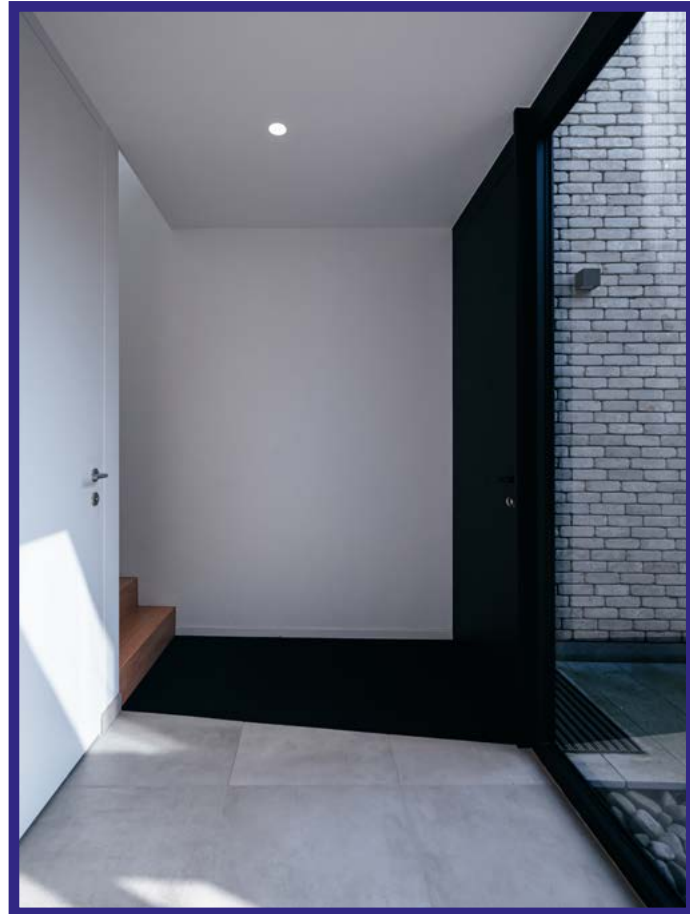
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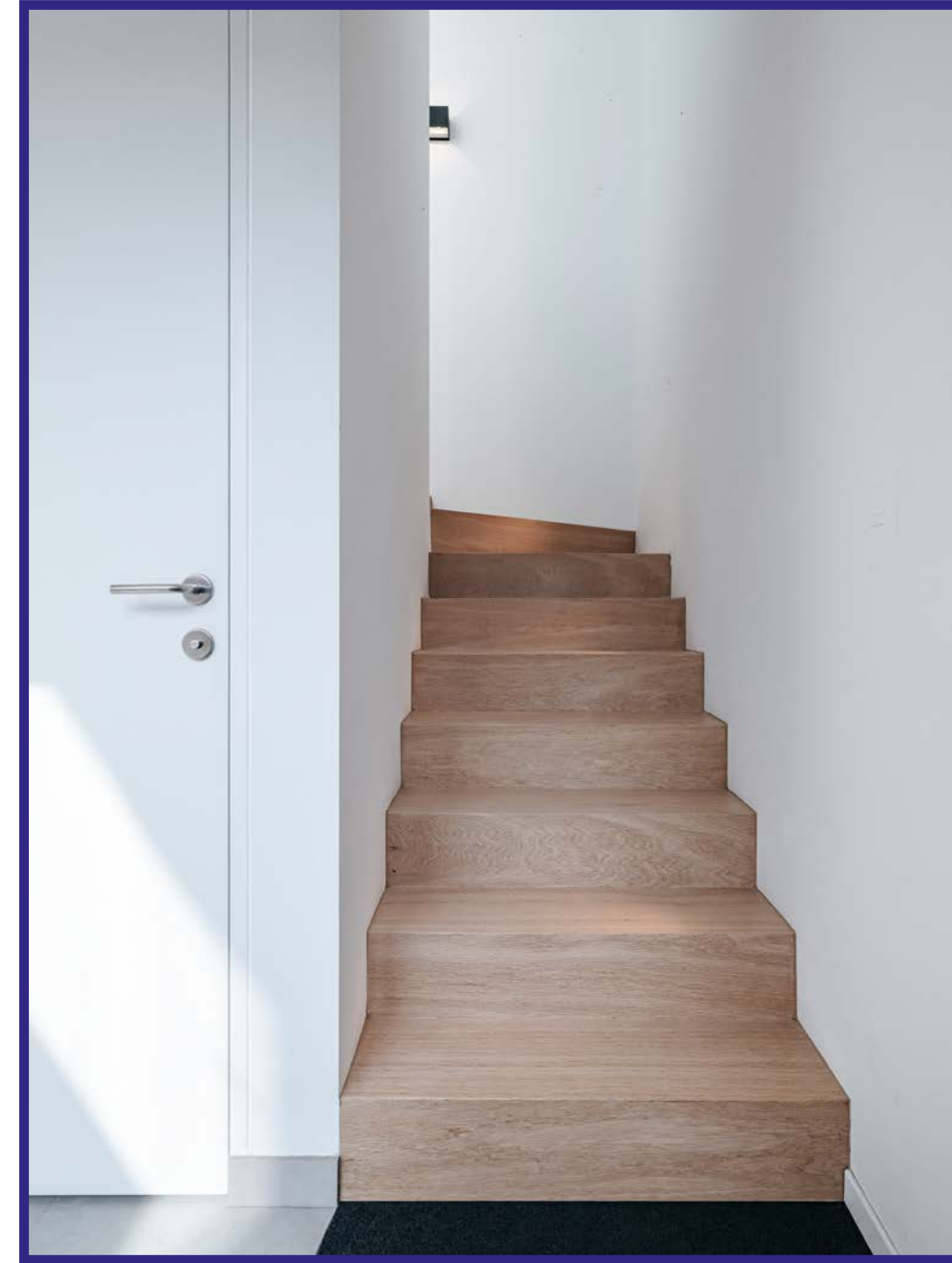
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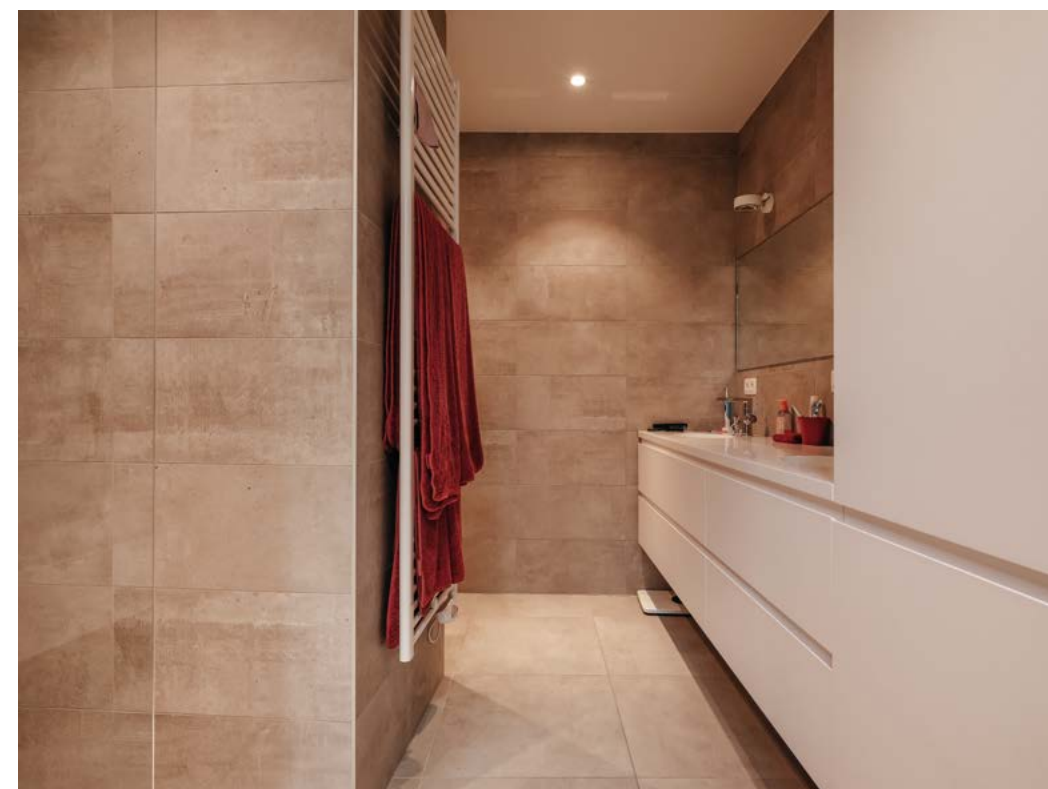
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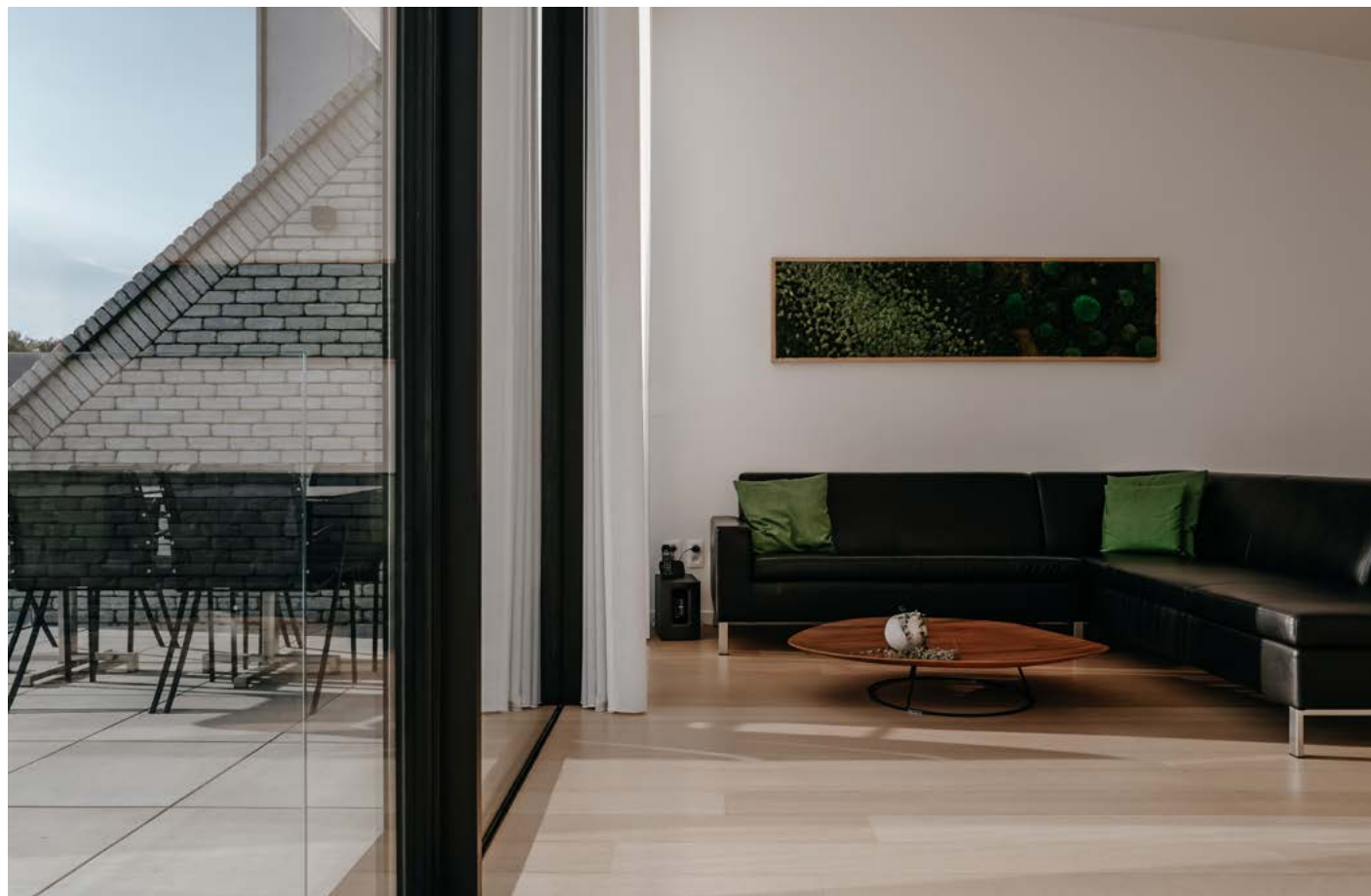
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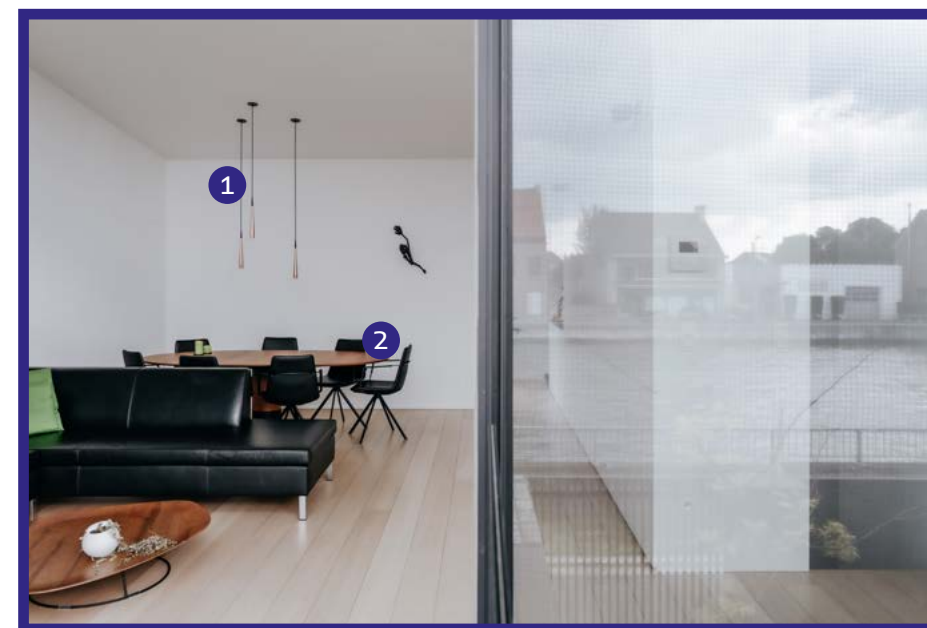
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Caption: Studio Farris Architects, Canal House Humbeek. Photo: © Martino Pietropoli.

1. dining table | brand: Arco, model: Balance

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**File name: PH I 018**

Caption: Studio Farris Architects, Canal House Humbeek. Photo: © Martino Pietropoli.

1. pendant light | brand: Tobias Grau, model: Niceone, Copper
2. dining table | brand: Arco, model: Balance

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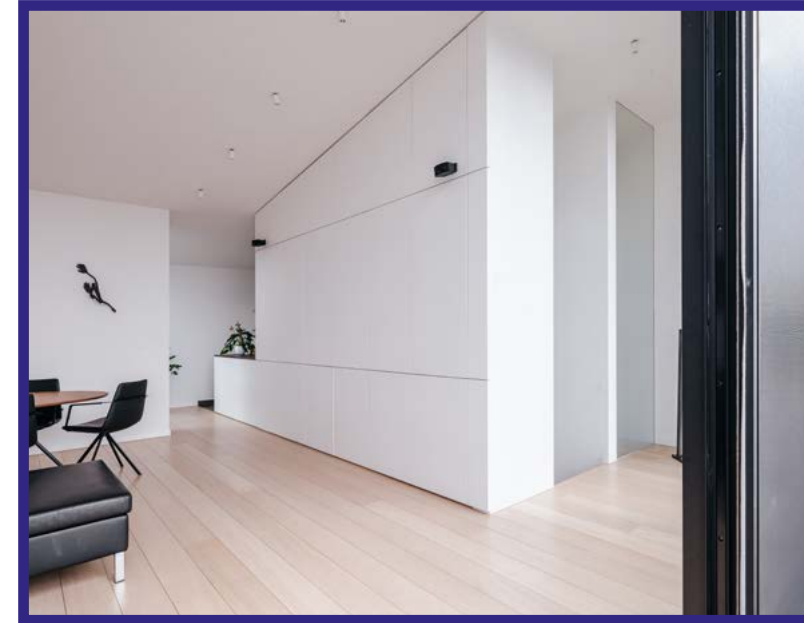
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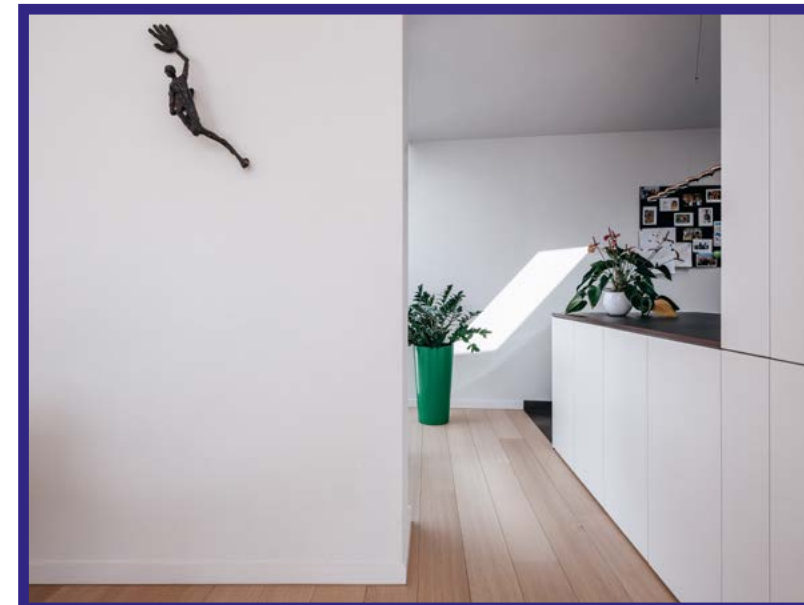
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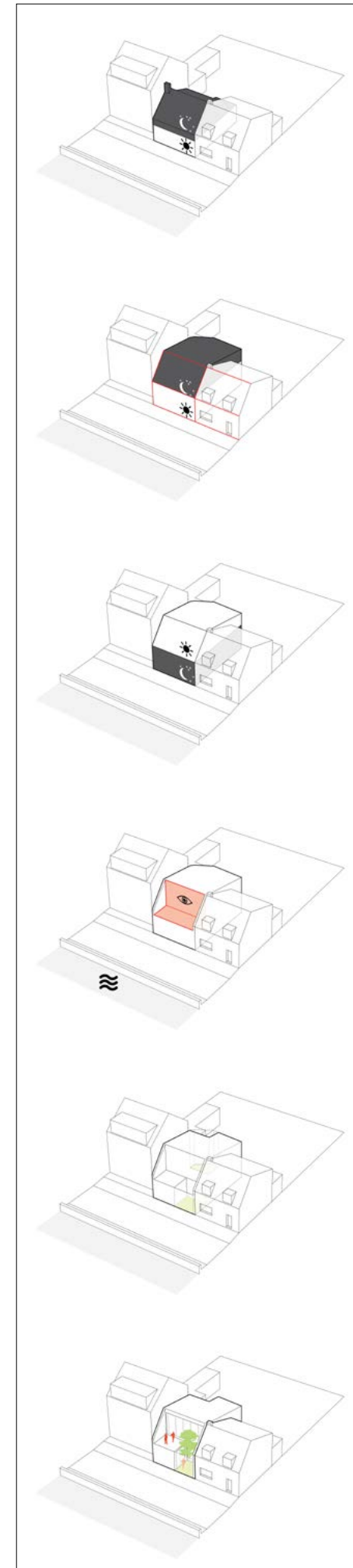
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File name: DW 00

Caption: Studio Farris Architects, Canal House Humbeek. Site plan.

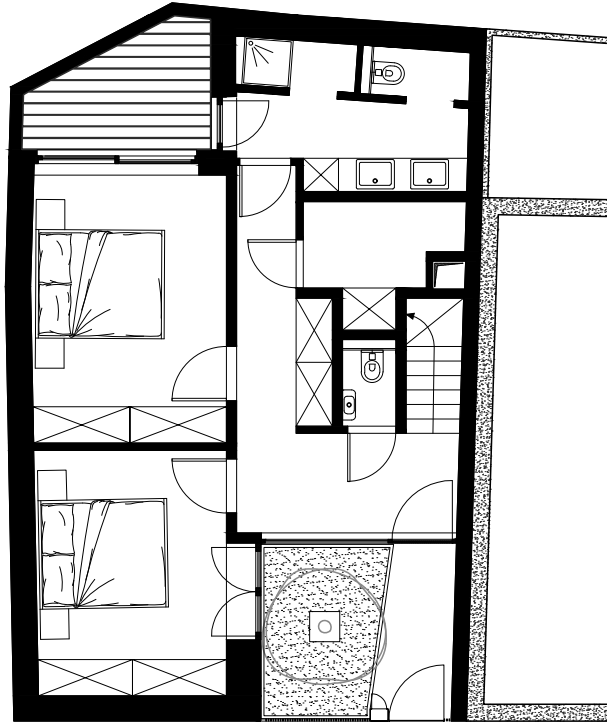
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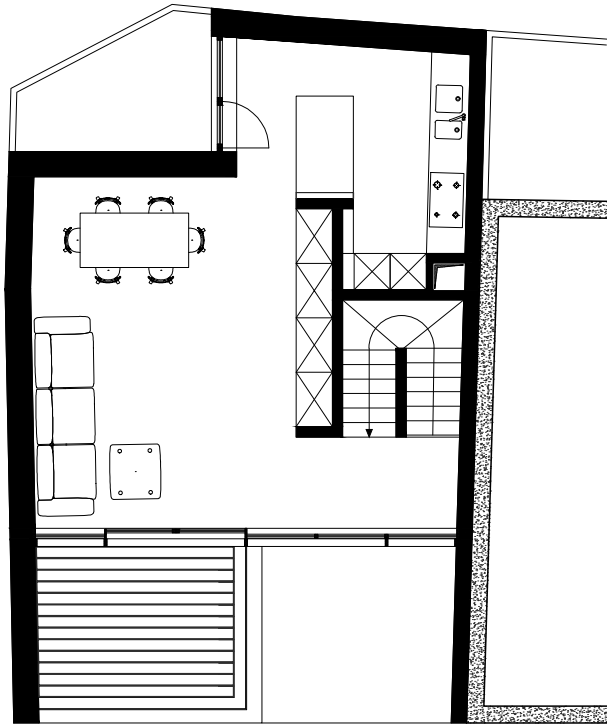
Caption: Studio Farris Architects, Canal House Humbeek. Diagram.

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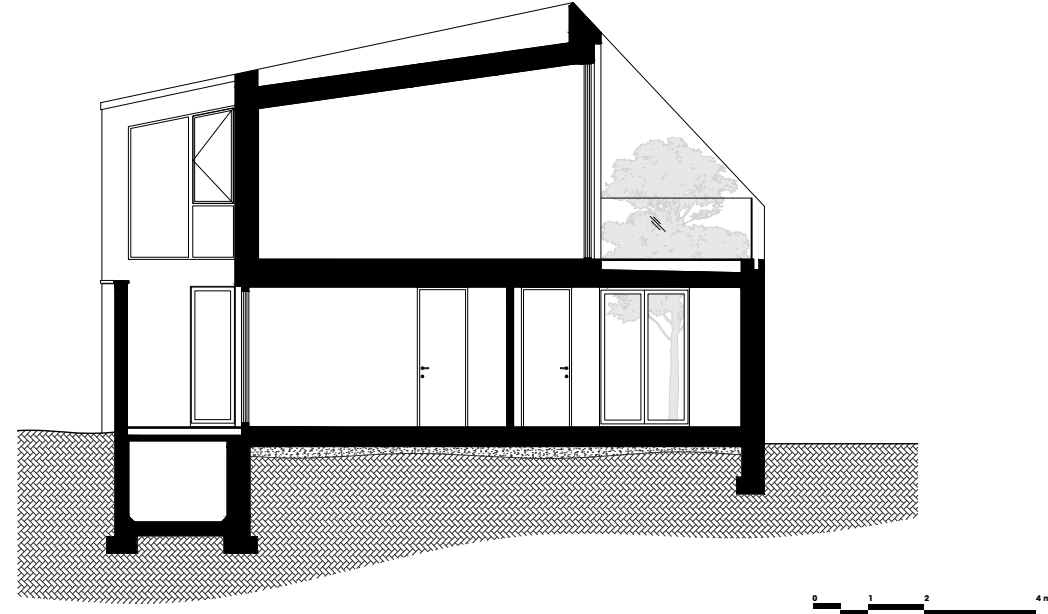
File name: DW 01
Caption: Studio Farris Architects, Canal House Humbeek. Ground floor plan.

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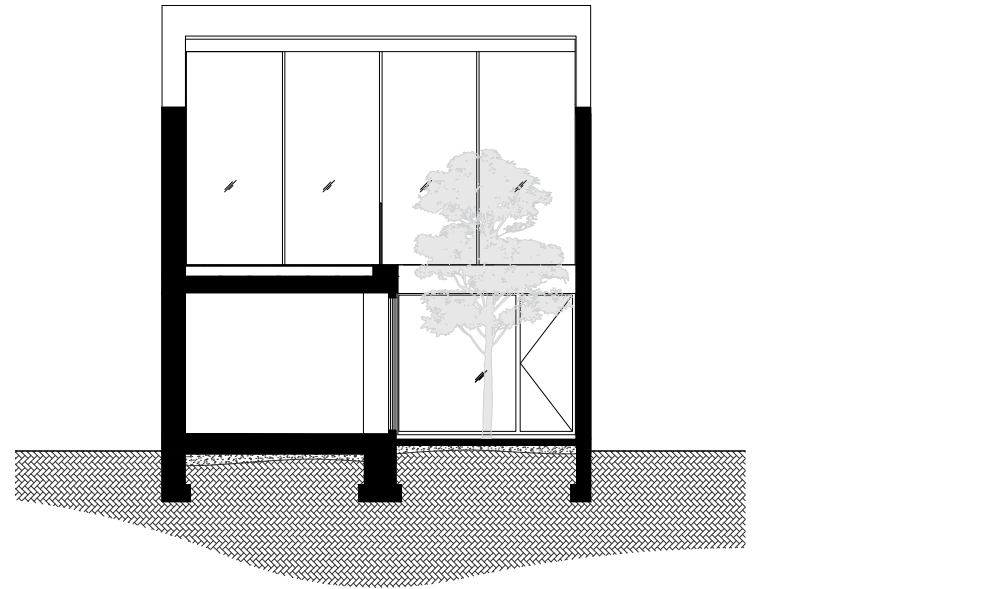
File name: DW 02
Caption: Studio Farris Architects, Canal House Humbeek. Upper floor plan.

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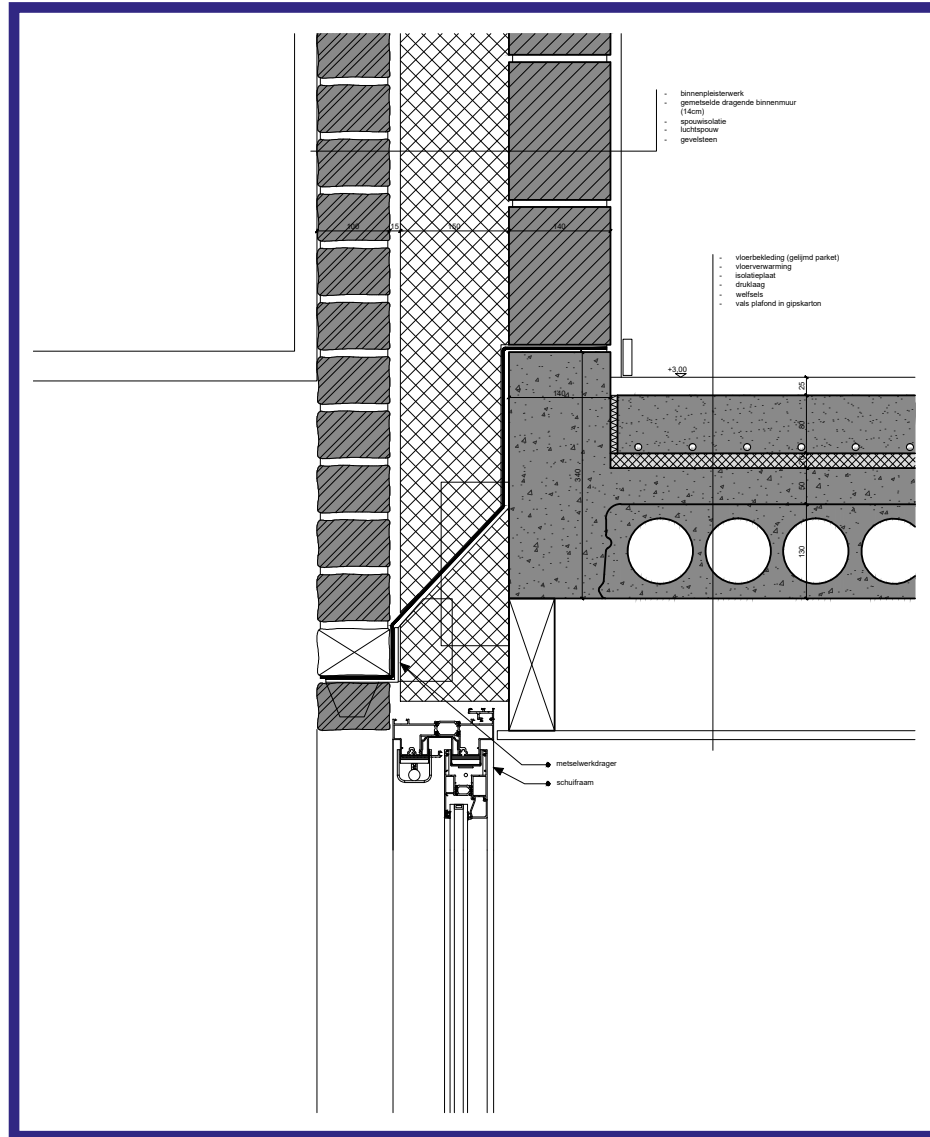
File name: DW 03
Caption: Studio Farris Architects, Canal House Humbeek. Longitudinal section.

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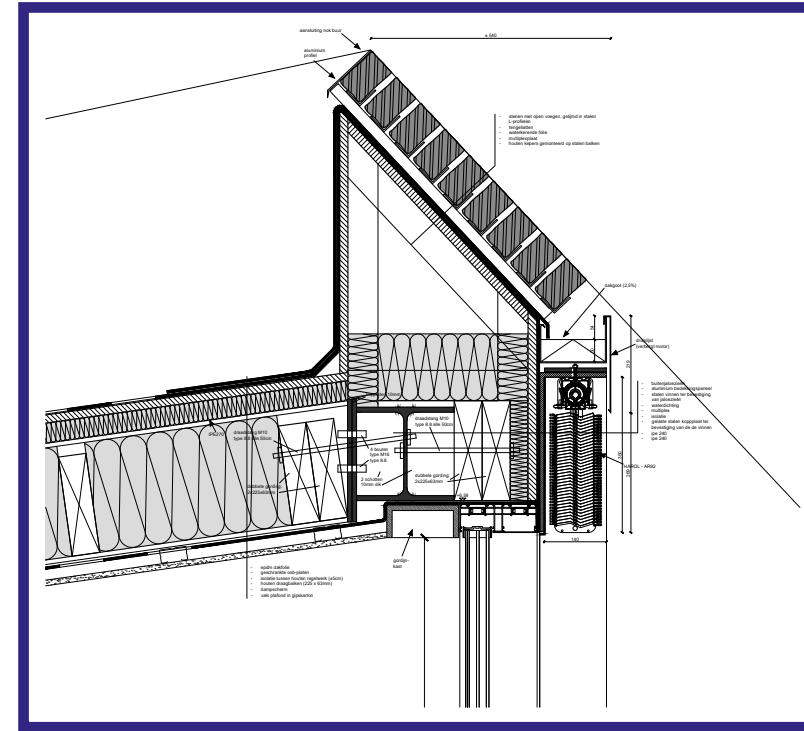
File name: DW 04
Caption: Studio Farris Architects, Canal House Humbeek. Transverse section.

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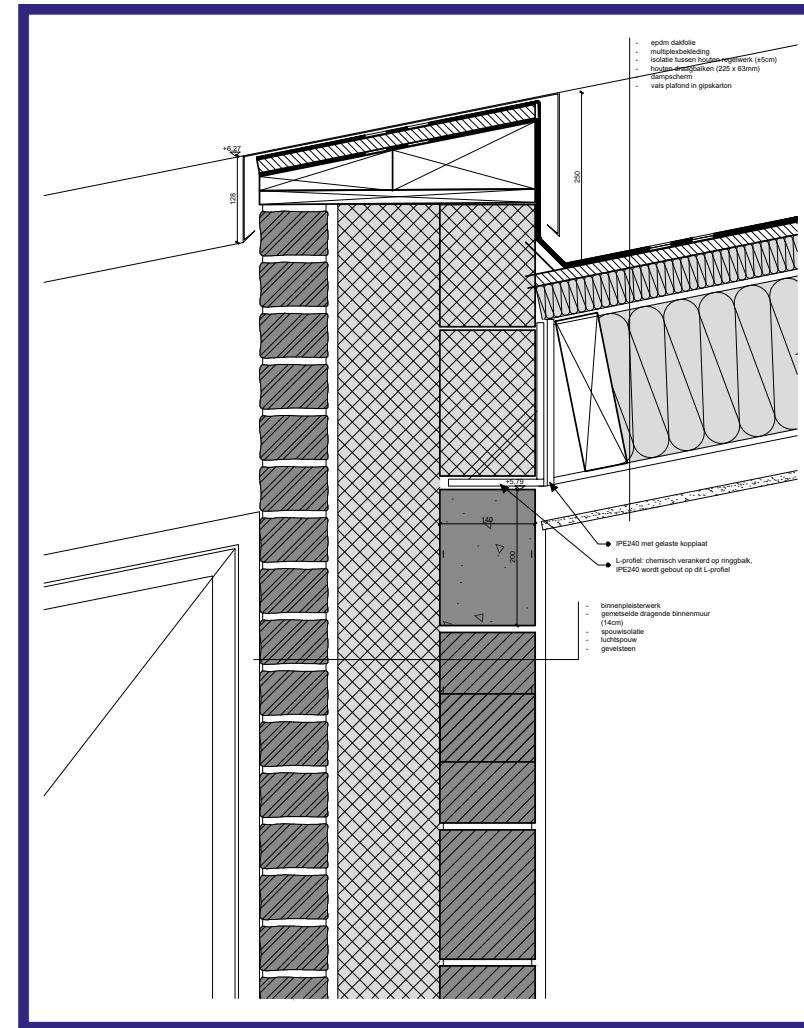
File name: DET 01
 Caption: Studio Farris Architects, Canal House Humbeek. Detail.

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File name: DET 04
 Caption: Studio Farris Architects, Canal House Humbeek. Detail.

Note: This image is available for print publications only.



File name: DET 07
 Caption: Studio Farris Architects, Canal House Humbeek. Detail.

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**File name: Studio Farris
- Giuseppe Farris -
portrait**

Caption: Giuseppe Farris,
Studio Farris.

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Press office

For additional information, to
receive high resolution images and
to set up an interview with the
architect you may contact:

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