

Thomsen house by Guim Costa architect

Architect: Guim Costa / Costa Calsamiglia arquitectura

Collaborators: Gloria Valldeperas, Pau Vilar, Pere Vilaginés

Technical Architect: Pere Cortés

Structure: Jordi Granada

Landscaper: Mira Schwind

Interior design: Gloria Valldeperas

Constructor: Construccions Fusté

Start of construction: October 2013

End of construction: July 2015

Photograph: Marcela Grassi

Project Narrative:

The house, conceived as a second home for a family who lives in Switzerland, is in a special location: it is 50 meters from the beach, between the dunes and the woods of pines, and near the ruins of Ampurias.

The plot is rectangular in shape and has a regular slope in the direction of the beach. Its southern end, the sunniest, it is at the same time where the best views to the sea are. It is at this point that it was designed a large terrace to which you can access from the living room and the kitchen.

When we start digging we found two tombs from the Roman period and a Greek. Our plot, between the old city and the sea, was part of its necropolis. The project conceptually it is an allegory of the relationship between the world of the living (white) and the world of the dead (stone); both separated by a thin line, in the project, of galvanized steel. The stone, the existing walls, the excavation, the Roman and Greek worlds, are very present throughout the project.

Customers had a few clear ideas of what they wanted:

- We are looking to build a good quality house. We like the house to be build with a combination of old stones. Not all old stones but a design which include a combination with old stones. We would like to use the maximum building quota for the land as well as the maximum height allowed.

- We plan to have a master room, two kids room and a large open kitchen and living room space on the first floor. The first floor would be connected (via sliding windows doors) to a large terrace space following the house and around the sunny side (south?) of the house. We would also want to have the master room connected to the terrace and garden.

- We would like to secure a nice view on the water from the main terrace area and kitchen/living area (ie towards the sunny side of the house, south I believe)

(*) Extract from the correspondence of Mr.Thomsen with the architect Guim Costa

The house is divided into two floors, the lower floor, dedicated to services and amenities, is designed in a way that it is open to the rear side of the garden and to a pine forest that descends to the beach.

On the top floor there is a living room, a dining room - open to the large outdoor terrace - a guest toilet and two rooms for the children with a bathroom for each of them, and also the parents suite, with a spacious room with a walk in closet and a bathroom with a shower and a bathtub.

On the lower floor there is a guest room with its own bathroom, a multipurpose room with some space for an office, a TV and a bar, a dressing room, a room for washing machines, a garage for two cars and wine cellar.

At the entrance there is a big glass that allows transparency of the two facades, facing to a nice tree that allows the owners follow the season changes on it, in the distribution hall between the day and night areas, and opening the space to the rooms to the sun and the views.

The day area blends into the garden through a large porch that connects the inside with the pool and the sea.

The kitchen is located strategically, maintaining its own space bounded by a central island, but at the same time enjoying the relation with the outside.

The facade of the upper floor, all white, is playing with textures. Part of the stone walls, are lime whitewashed.

In the plans that are a little bit hidden from the principal plane of the facade, in the rooms and the skylight, there is a specially designed vertical sequence, composed by the golden proportion related to their height, which creates a play of light and shadows throughout the different phases of the day, giving life to the façade.

The materials have been used, following the concept of the project, and are different on the ground and underground floor. On the ground below, where a perimeter courtyard floods with natural light all the rooms, the pavement is a continuous magnesite floor, with its natural color, and upstairs, the floor is made of an American oak wide plank of 24cm long and variable in length.

The result is a comfortable, functional house, with plenty of natural light and intimately connected to the Mediterranean Sea and to the ruins of an ancient civilization.

For more information:

Press contact:

Patricia Velasco
+ 34 629 631 183
vqcomunica@yahoo.es

Guim Costa / Costa Calasmiglia arquitectura

www.costacalsamiglia.com
www.linkedin.com
e-mail: guim@costacalsamiglia.com