

Lapa

Lapa is located on the outskirts of Santo Tirso, in an old allotment, wedged between the Ave River and the train line to the east, and the national road to the west.

It is a somewhat atypical subdivision, with inaccuracies in the execution and a disproportionate scale ratio between the space allocated to the public road and the private area of the lots. The rules imposed on the LAPA lot were quite restrictive and as the time available for the project and the work did not admit the possibility of doing an alteration to the allotment project, we assumed the prescriptions for the lot as if it were a physical pre-existence.

Thus, we started with a parallelepiped volume, defined by the implantation area and maximum height allowed, which underwent a process of excavation and subtraction in order to generate interior spaces and relations with the exterior. The initial abstract volume results in a shape with recesses – lapas – that generate and react to the uses of the house.

Privacy, adaptability and efficiency were the key intentions for the interior organization. The living area opens to the south, but as it coincides with the public road, we decided to increase the ceiling height and raise the window, maintaining a relationship with the outside when the inhabitant is standing, but protecting those who are sitting from outside eyes. The generic "living room – dining room – kitchen" sequence is maintained, but despite providing a fluid relationship between the spaces, where it is possible to circulate around the island, through the kitchen and dining room, it also allows to close the living room from kitchen. On the ground floor we also find a space with a private sanitary installation, facing south, but protected from the street by a porch, which in the first phase of use will be an office, but is expected to be used in the future as a bedroom suite. In the back of the house we find a small technical and laundry space, related to the kitchen and its porch.

On the upper floor there are 3 rooms that receive light from the south, connected by a common balcony, whose limit is defined by the green roof that covers the taller area of the living room.

The work results in an abstract, austere piece, with a predominance of white, where the process of excavation and subtraction sculpted the final shape – Lapa.

Specs

Project Name: Lapa

Program: Family House

Project Location: Santo Tirso, Portugal

Project Type: Construction

Date (start - completion): 2017 - 2021

Area: 191m²

State: Built

Client: Private

Architecture Project: LIMIT studio

Engineering Project: VCS

Constructor: Construloureiro – Construções, Lda

Photography: Alexandra Brites

Office Information

Office Name: LIMIT studio

Office Website: www.limitstudio.pt

Social Media Accounts: IG: @limit_architecture_studio | FB: @limitarchitecturestudio

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Firm Location: Braga – headquarters (Praça Camilo Castelo Branco, 21, 4700-209, Braga); Porto and Póvoa de Lanhoso, Portugal

Lead Architects: Ivo Vaz Barbosa, Ricardo Acosta, Tomé Capa

About the Office:

In architecture, innovation arises from the deconstruction of the discipline's limits for the development and construction of an idea.

LIMIT studio is an architecture studio with presence in Braga, Portugal, that presents itself as irreverent, creative and rigorous. The "idea" occupies, in our practice, a prominent place. Our projects start from strong intentions, discussed and carved in the form of an idea that can guide the creative process. We seek efficiency, durability, elegance and beauty, which we guarantee through a work developed with great professionalism.

About the Team:

Ricardo Acosta

Born in 1986 in Punto Fijo, Venezuela.

He finishes his master's degree at Escola de Arquitectura da Universidade do Minho (EAUM) in 2013. He works, as a student, at the company Marti, in Zurich, in the field of construction.

He collaborates as an architect at the studio GABU, between 2014 and 2017, where he develops architectural projects dedicated to housing. In this work period, he follows the entire project process, from the initial stage of developing the idea with the client, to the final phase of construction and completion of the work.

Today, alongside architecture, he has been investing and developing the artistic practice of drawing.

In 2017 he founds LIMIT STUDIO

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Ivo Vaz Barbosa

Born in 1988 in Braga, Portugal.

He finishes his master's degree at Escola de Arquitectura da Universidade do Minho (EAUM) in 2013. Still as a student he collaborates at the studio Imago - Cerejeira Fontes Arquitectos.

He collaborates with the studio MAO - Martins Architecture Office in 2013-2014; in 2015 completed the postgraduate Advanced Studies in Architectural Design at Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto (FAUP); works as a Researcher (b.i.) at EAUM, associated with the DeTech group of R&D Lab2PT, in 2016.

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Tomé Capa

Born in 1989 in Braga, Portugal.

He finishes his master's degree at Escola de Arquitectura da Universidade do Minho (EAUM) in 2013. During this period, he also studies, for a year, at Università di Roma Tre.

He works as an assistant editor at the architecture magazine A.MAG in 2014; he collaborates with the atelier AM arquitectos, in Lisbon, in 2016-2017 and with the studio Carvalho Araújo, in São Paulo, in 2018.

In addition to his experiences in collaboration with other entities, he has been developing and focusing his personal work in different artistic areas, such as installation, performance, music, etc.

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