

## **LOURES.CASA**

This work consists in the revitalization of a villa in Loures near Lisbon in Portugal and the construction of a new small office for the owner next to an old one.

Three principles lay down the rules behind the intervention which are: the proportions of volumes; the plans metrics and the use of color.

It was developed has three different dwelling areas, united morphologically and structurally through the treatment of void areas and zenithal windows.

This spatial organization unites and creates living spaces and transit spaces in which the dichotomy between the different types of spaces are revealed through the character of the voids itself. Like a thread stitching the intervention giving a new dynamic to the existing space.

On the ground floor, morphologically the oldest part of the dwelling, the metric of the space was kept but added a must needed waterproofing layer. An exception was the introduction of a new large window in the entrance hall, framed by a concrete volume, like a box to differentiate between the existing forms and our intervention. To make time known by the user of the space. This window visually attempts to join two gardens which were so far apart visually but almost together physically.

In the other side of the building we take advantage of an old kitchen, creating a connection zone between the old container (the main volume of the old house) and the new volume in concrete and red color. It is through the redesign of the façade, introducing a longitudinal window, that we prepare the kitchen volume to the inserting of the new concrete form.

Voids of zenithal light which lay down the rules for the intervention make the connection between the old and the new areas permitting light to enter where previously there was little natural light.

It is through the plastic quality given by the concrete volume which serves as a locking volume for the intervention where primary colors are introduced on the inside of small round windows and in the outside entrance of this new volume.

The earth incarnated tone serves as to remind the torn of an animal that curves to enter the old space- Color is introduced as an experimental approach to test how color can change the perception of space and volumes.

In the first floor was reintroduce the metric of the ground floor. In regards to the salon space in ground floor we design the main room. Corresponding space in the hall we introduced the bathrooms and in the dining room in the ground floor we have two smaller rooms in the first floor, trying always to respect the existent metric.

Black shade is introduced in living interior space to induce calm and prepare to the private of bedroom spaces. The main room we create a volume (a closet) that encloses the bedroom space enjoying the delimitation now introduced for a dressing space, like a small closet. In this black volume a horizontal tear of modernist nature takes on the contemporary nature of the intervention.

In this floor (1<sup>st</sup> floor) we take the opportunity to increase or decrease the ceiling heights in order to increase the amount of dynamic of space, and to reference pathways giving it a more solemn space through its height.

#### The new office

In the garden, a new small building was built. Morphological in continuity with an existing one. It introduces wood as a “brize soleil”, so dear of the modernists. This new element makes shade to the interior in a way to offer books a sensitive care in regards to the amount of direct sunlight the new office receives.

A linear path reveals the new space in a sequence of full, empty (creating a tiny courtyard), full spaces. The revelation of the new is directly related to the existing morphology in an apparent agreement. The two opposite entrees, which delimit the geometric linearity of the path, are a continuation of the former volume. The first lies in the continuity of the old volume, while the other, opposite to the first, made in raw concrete with almost a Cubist twist of a late Postmodernism that points the entry of the earthy red color of the new volume of the main house.

Inside, a shelf, with exaggerated horizontality displays their defiant colors. Although with only three colors, the various repetitions gives it a multitude of dramatic chromaticity with far greater dynamism.

## Color System

The primary colors are NCS system based and had the same principles for every applied color grounded in the color values hue. The colors applied internally are stronger but applied in smaller and more details parts, in contrary colors in exterior are more earth tone (more “architectural colors”, like explained in “Polychromie Architecturale - Le Corbusier's Color Keyboards from 1931 and 1959”).

Based on primary colors each is given a value such that the all balance between them. As in the small windows of the curved concrete volume, the blue a cold color, is repeated in a much larger number than yellow and red colors. The hot red is the less repeated color and the yellow the brightest stays in the middle in terms of repetition number.

Color in interior are shaded so it is not as earthy but more saturated reinforcing its brightness to compensate for the lack of direct light. (in contrary of what defends Le Corbusier for his Cité de Habitation in Marseille, but more in accordance with Bruno Taut which argued the contrary, more saturated colors should be in more shaded places and shaded colours in more light places.)

## Conclusion:

Light and color, metrics and proportions are theme and subject of the current intervention.

The spatial organization was adapted to the existing typological structure giving rise to new spaces revealing the potential of pre-existing ones. These intervention lives of small subtleties, such as the variation of the different heights, the zenithal windows and by small touches on the use of color.

These differences allow different feelings, introducing a dynamic of discovery of spaces and an apparent contradiction to the simplicity of volumes between the old existing house and the contemporary intervention of its interior.

Key words of intervention: Space -Volume - Color