

CASA IN COLLINA A MONTEVECCHIA

The house was made out of a warehouse and a barn, inside an apartment building in Montevvecchia, in northern Brianza. The building gets integrated into the higher area of Montevvecchia which, after being inactive and abandoned for several years, has resumed growing grapes on the terraces to produce wine. The design choices were based on the local nature, on the surrounding territory and landscape. The materials, such as stone and wood, strongly recall this bond. The house has been adapted to energy-efficiency through new systems and new technologies aimed at satisfying the required needs and increasing living comfort.

The restoration plan was designed with our clients starting from three adjacent spaces and their relationship: - the old vaulted cellar, which was once used for wine fermentation and aging, while today it's being used for recreational and social purposes; - the store room that opens onto the outdoor space, which today is a portico directly connected to the house; - the warehouse and the barn, the only space divided into two floors, connected to the cellar and the store room that has now been transformed into living space.

Floor maintenance and plaster removal were the only interventions that were designed for the old vaulted cellar and the store room, in order to highlight the old limestone and molera stone masonry, of which the terraces in Montevvecchia are also made. The old barnhouse on the ground floor and the barn on the first floor were instead totally restored. The double high space between the ground floor and the first floor, once used to load hay and today reminder of its past, has become the cornerstone of the whole dwelling, a starting point to conceive every space.

The main hall, the kitchen, the living room (on a raised portion of the floor) and a toilet are located on the ground floor, characterised by a stone paving; bedrooms and other toilets are on the upstairs floor, facing the double high space. The building materials recall the typical local materials for construction: stone, for the ground floor paving, rough plaster for indoor walls and wood for upstairs flooring and furniture.

Furniture is never conceived as an individual object, located in a space, yet it is always designed and tailored as an essential device that relates to the ambients. - The kitchen and living room furniture is aligned and located on the step of the living room. It defines the connection to the adjacent spaces, though with different purposes and functions. - The large window frame between the kitchen and the portico sets a threshold and builds an exchange between indoor and outdoor spaces, likewise the bush-hammered stone in the arch between the cellar and the main hall marks another threshold between the two ambients and similarly the first step of the staircase points out the threshold downstairs-upstairs. The historical casing of the old building was therefore kept unchanged in its shape, while added value was given to materials and space in this architecture: from an old workplace to a modern living space.

a25 architetti

Founded in 2018 by Francesco and Paolo Manzoni brothers, a25architetti is an architecture practice based in Sirtori, a small town at the foot of the Montevvecchia hills, in northern Brianza. We provide architecture, urban and interior design services, thanks to the different skills we've developed so far in architecture, interior design, urban architecture and planning. This allows us to fully manage a project, from the urban scale to the architectural scale. A25architetti studio is located in the same building of a private dwelling, on the upper floors: this responds to our need of an intense relation between family life and working life, so as to give answers to the big issues of living, which are sometimes hidden but can be retrieved in our interconnected world. We constantly search for the vibes of a place or space, with their history and the materials they're made of. This is our way to design every man's desire of living, giving value to the cultural identity of our territory. In 2019, the studio was selected together with 5 Italian architecture practices to represent the country with the project "Bressanella Agricultural Pavilion" at the International 2019 Piranesi Award. In 2020 they are nominated winners of the BigSEE Architecture Award 2020 in the Public and Commercial Architecture category.

CREDITS

ARCHITECTURAL PROJECT: a25architetti (Francesco Manzoni – Paolo Manzoni – Sirtori - LC)

SYSTEM PROJECT : studio termotecnico POLETTI- BONFANTI (Lecco)

STRUCTURE PROJECT: Christian Stefanoni (Lecco)

PHOTOGRAPHY: Marcello Mariana

CONSTRUCTION COMPANY: Piantanida costruzioni - (Oggiono - LC)

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM: S.I.E.M (Sirtori - LC)

SYSTEM PROJECT: Cattaneo Marco termoidraulica (Cremella – LC)

LIGHTING: LUCEIN (Soriso - BG)

WINDOWS: FALEGNAMERIA GUERINONI S.R.L. (Villa D'Almè – BG)

BRAND

FLOORS: Fapir pavimenti e rivestimenti (Carate B.za – MB)

FLOORS TILES: COTTO D'ESTE – KERLITE

KITCHEN: POLIFORM – VARENNA

BATHROOM:

CERAMICA FLAMINIA

BELLOSTA

LIVING ROOM:

1_SOFA: MINOTTI ALEXANDER

2_LIVING TABLE: DESALTO CLAY (STONE)

LIGHTING: FLOS - IC LIGHTS (IC LIGHTS FLOOR, IC LIGHTS SUSPENSION)

FURNITURE: FALEGNAMERIA GUERINONI S.R.L. (Villa D'Almè – BG)