

SUSPENDED MATTER BOX

Felgueiras . Oporto . Portugal

MMVarquitectos

Can an architectural contemporary volume be a good neighbor to rural surrounding?

This request had everything to be straightforward. We were to do a remodeling and amplification project of a restaurant. It looked like a simple thing to do (and quite a secondary one, regarding our other assignments), but in short time two aspects came to surface that would rapidly change our thoughts. One was the fact that we had to work upon an existing, contemporary project in the first stage of its construction, and the other one, relates with the location. Felgueiras rural milieu is typified by a mixture of traditional old housing amongst agricultural fields and small backyards. So, it became a challenge that would require a very well thought-off alteration, a sensitive landscape integration, and a general concept approach that would provide meaning to it all.

The client's main intention was for his business to turn a well-known space for relevant events in site and surroundings. Having this important principle in mind, we reinforced its outstanding position in the terrain giving even more expression to the rectangular original volumes. This basic assumption alone was very positive for it brought more flow to the creative process. Light entries, footbridges and exterior arrangements managed to maintain the geometrical purism and contrasting personality but did it in dialog with natural matter.

However, the main charismatic element, to which we refer to as landscape-ceiling, lies in the main events area. All the space creation is based upon a suspended element made of flexible metallic knit. This thin transparent net represents the wind, its fluxes and intensities, bringing dynamics to a very wide, dull ceiling. It became the ex-libris for being so artistic and unique, but at the same time, neutral enough to serve all purposes.

The accesses by corridors and stairs are somewhat extensive as well, so we opted to give it balance through rhythm and alignment, either horizontally or vertically, using construction solutions or coatings, sometimes only ending outside in the exterior gardens.

We are absolutely convinced that this new space has everything to play an outstanding role to all it will host in the future, without losing its boldness and timelessness, and therefore representing a success to the construction owner.

Getting to an unrepeatable and singular architecture, is to accept the restlessness each project brings in the search for a specific result and not only a solution. In many ways matter was this assignments main inspiration and the landscape ceiling (or suspended matter) that very same specific result.

Miguel Marques Venâncio

INFO

Location	Felgueiras . Oporto . Portugal
Client	Columbinos Restaurant
Program	Event Space
Indoor Area	670 m2
Outdoor Area	6100 m2
Date	2020
Architect	Miguel Marques Venâncio . MMVARQUITECTOS
Collaborators	N. Zakrzewska (project, digital images) I. Feio (digital images) P. Bartkowska (drawings)
Photography	© Ricardo Oliveira Alves

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Office Concept:

An architecture that defies conventions is an architecture we can love for many decades. MMV

Even if we see ourselves as individuals that deliver creativity in architecture, one can never lose sight from efficiency and coordination, solid knowledge and monitoring specialties. In this profession, creativity alone is not an attribute in itself. It only gains true value when strengthened by a solid know how and, many times, by the ability of solving locally on the work spot, where surprises occur. MMV

Miguel Marques Venâncio is founder, manager and coordinating architect of MMVarchitects, located in Lisbon since 2008. His work experience is long, plural, and today, the studio performance lays on innovation and technical competence as priority standards for success. He believes in a transforming, humanized architecture based on artistic development as process, merging the function with an intrinsic beauty to unveil. This ductile character of architecture reinforces the studios search for the precise aspects that define the composition. These aspects will serve each project along with a skilled choice of materials and construction techniques. Whatever the program data for a space, the studios line of work stands in its ability to harmonize and balancing concepts. All the components are raw material to beneficially mold the space to its living, building timelessness bonds.