

House for One

House for One is the outcome of José Antonio Ramírez and Francisco Ugarte's clever understanding of their client's priorities. The architects' reading of the owner's individual circumstances as a young bachelor forged the spatial framework. This work speaks about the current needs and expectations of a citizen of this town, while in parallel establishes proof of these professionals' inquiries since the begging of their careers.

When approaching this work, it is worth to underline that speaking of an individual here and now implies admitting that nowadays a home has more diverse consolidation processes and different ways for realization; this is necessarily a multi-faced topic.

A contemporary home particularly escapes from inherited formal conventionalisms or thematic gags. The reason for this is its lack of resonance and limited operational function. Today, every single dweller experiences spaces in many different ways; these ways become diluted into the current functions. Every individual inhabits and makes a home according to private and not collective values, therefore, detached from the others' languages. The authors understood these complexities, bringing about architecture for a single inhabitant.

Located on a small lot measuring 33 by 99 feet, the house faces east. This is non-gratuitous, since this orientation feeds a view of a small but eye-catching public park, uniquely favoring the land. Regardless of planning efforts to contain the goodness of the space indoors, it seems as an inevitable outcome to establish a relation between the house and its immediate scenery. The house seizes the closest foliage, sprouting from the height of the green-tiled perimeter wall. From the street, anyone taking a walk perceives the house by means of the foreshortening of the frontal volume that seems to lean out from the white cornice. However, the most interesting design feature resided in its three-level arrangement, intelligently concealed from the diverse dependences; in these spaces, movement becomes its link and main feature. Ramírez and Ugarte are reluctant to deliver architectural work from homes that nourishes from tectonic limitations or traditional spatial structure. Instead, they fed this project with the idea of movement; and nothing gives better answers for the current times. This boost, and the client's complicity fructified: they achieved a contemporary home for one.

Written By Antonio Rieggen for the "20 Obras" book.