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A-Type Penthouse in Rome

Italian Residential Architecture: New Housing in Italy – design by LAD, Architects

22 Jan 2018

A-Type Penthouse

Architects: LAD, Laboratorio di Architettura e Design

Location: Rome, Italy

A-Type Penthouse in Rome



The A-type Penthouse is a roof top flat, settled in a contemporary housing block in Rome, with wide terraces around it. The penthouse guests a large living room, a kitchen, three bedrooms and three bathrooms.



This work is part of larger project that concerns another penthouse with same dimensions and a different shape, called "N-Type Penthouse" that was completed six month before.





From an architectural point of view this job concerned the remodeling of the entire top level: all spaces were revolved and settled in different position from the original layout. The most important design operation is the insertion of a new squared window that is facing the the terrace. The main concept is to turn the space into an optical device, a machine for observing the exterior.



“Hiding” is the project’s keyword: the more I hide, the less I see, the better it is: all internal doors are “Invisible” type, with hidden profiles, all Zehnder radiators are hidden in the walls and covered. All lights and cooling systems are hidden in the ceilings of the living/dining room, disguised as a load-bearing beam: this element emphasizes the path used for moving through the house and connect kitchen and terraces.



All windows are high-performance black Schueco profiles, with large spans to allow the contemplation of nature in the terraces.



Even though the renovation was long and complex, this job is a search for simplicity. In “Six Memos for the Next Millennium” Italo Calvino wrote:

“Among the many virtues of Chuang-Tzu there was a skill in drawing. The King asked him for the design of one crab. Chuang-Tzu said he needed five years of time and a villa with twelve servants. After five years the design had not started yet. “I need five more years,” Chuang-Tza said. The King agreed. After ten years, Chuang-Tza took the brush and at one point, with one gesture, drew a crab, the most perfect Crab that had ever been seen.”



A-Type Penthouse – Building Information

Type: Penthouse

Location: Rome, Italy

Program: Residential 150 sqm, Living/Dining Room, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms

Design: 2016

Completed: 2017

Partner in Charge: Francesco Napolitano

Team: Domenico Faraco, Lorenzo Pericoli

Contractor: Gleim s.r.l.

Client: Confidential