

# RESTLESS LIVING

*"... restlessly dedicated to contemporary living."*





## **CASA DIAGONAL**

In the surroundings of the Portuguese maritime city of Aveiro, the home named Casa Diagonal is quietly sited in a calm neighborhood. As a home of stacked, monochromatic boxes, the house reveals very little from the outside. However, upon entrance the home opens itself towards the small garden that is strongly guarded and privatized from surrounding neighbors due to the white perimeter walls.

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“This villa, located on the surroundings of the city of Aveiro, is part of a consolidated residential area, but with low occupancy density, being part of a housing complex of allotment, with some lots already built”, Founding Architect at Frari, Maria Fradinho, says. While neighboring houses are relatively traditional in their design, Casa Diagonal seeks to add a bit of modern flair to the consolidated neighborhood.



## **Aveiro, Portugal**

“The proposed building is a non-homogeneous piece, composed of different volumes that form a single body”, Maria explains. Since the allotment imposed certain restrictions, e.g. the narrow site, Maria Fradinho and her team developed an architectural piece running along the site’s diagonal, splitting the box vertically into two, giving the spaces different experiences with different viewpoints.

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Organized with common areas on the ground floor, the central feature of the house was to allow the children to jump straight in the pool from the living room. “One of the volumes, on the ground floor, expands towards the road direction, ensuring frontal alignment with the remaining dwellings in the subdivision where the Diagonal House is inserted. This also allows the drawn back of that same volume on the rear facade, allowing the pool to approach the building’s facade, thus ensuring a direct relationship

between them. At this point, it is possible to jump from the house to the pool”, Maria points out. In a comfortable environment where the day temperature rarely drops below 10 C°, it is absolutely crucial to take advantage of this opportunity of having an urban oasis. “This area is protected by a pergola that guarantees the proper shade to this space. The pergola is drawn in the continuation of the adjacent volume, as if it fragmented until it became minimal, stylized pieces that form the structural gantry”,

Maria adds. Through effective planning, the design team was able to fit not only a respectably-sized garden on the narrow site, but also fit a program with immersive common areas on the ground floor and a private section with three bedrooms on the first floor. Despite plot restrictions, Casa Diagonal has successfully created comfort for a family.

Architecture by **Frari**

Photography by **Ivo Tavares**





## ATTIC APARTMENT WITH A BLACK BOX

Prague, Czech Republic

**B**ack in the 1990s, the attic of an old 1930s townhouse situated in Prague's Libeň neighborhood was turned into an apartment. However, the 1990s edition of the attic apartment had too many rooms and hence lacked the connectivity which usually makes an attic apartment extremely charming. Therefore, the client partnered up with Komon architekti to refind the joy of an open attic.

"The height is an essential quality in any attic. With that in mind, we open up the living room to create a double-height space accentuated by a tall bookshelf on one of the walls. In the center of the apartment we insert a new core: a black wooden box to conceal a small bathroom, make up the stairs and catwalk on the second level, while still allowing daylight deep into the entrance hall. This way we simplified the layout without resorting to structural changes", Co-Founder at Komon architekti, Lucie Roubalová, says. The main floor therefore gives the client space for all the necessary daily routines while allowing presenting some rather unusual yet interesting features. "The open plan kitchen living room is located at the bottom of the two-level apartment. A pull down projection screen is installed between two structural posts in the middle of the open plan room. The kitchen with island has additional storage space hidden in the black box", the second Co-Founder, Martin Gaberle, adds.



While the black box stands out, it is still aligned with the rest of the attic in terms of materiality. “The material palette is reduced down to oil treated veneer for the black box, oak veneer flooring, and terrazzo for the kitchen worktops, backsplash and bathroom surfaces. White color tones are used for the rest of the furniture, and white wall paint. The exposed roof truss elements and steel posts in the living room are left bare. Plain linear lighting in the kitchen underscores the raw character and geometry of the space, creating a juxtaposition with the two elegant glass chandeliers in the open plan living room”, Lucie explains.

Close to project completion, the design team was challenged by an unforeseen event. “The client experienced some changes in his personal life during the final phase of the construction and asked for cost reductions. In an effort to economize we made some detailing changes that would not affect the whole project. In the end we managed to maintain the original bold architectural concept”, Martin mentions. Regardless of detailing changes due to economic scarcity or the challenge of opening the attic to be enjoyable, the end result speaks for itself, bringing a strong breeze of life back into the aging attic.

Architecture by **Komon architekti**

Photography by **Tomáš Slavík**



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## BAUHAUS HOUSE

Beit Aryeh-Ofarim

For a family interested in music and nature, the Tel Aviv-based architecture studio named U+A designed the Bauhaus House following the commonly known Bauhaus style characterized by the combination of arts and modernism. We had a talk with Partner and Interior Designer at U+A, Ayelet Levi Adani.

“The people who live in this house are music enthusiasts and formal cleanliness on the one hand, and on the other hand are naturalists who love wild and pristine scenery”, Ayelet begins. “Our first goal in this project was to create a home without sharp transitions to make a visual silence like a pleasant melody and make a soft connection between the spaces.” The Bauhaus House therefore utilizes a steady but rhythmic layout where the characteristic white Bauhaus walls, art, and music play together as a symphony. “Our second goal was to make a contrast between clean modern volume and natural, wild volume – which connects to the forest landscape. We wanted to express the seemingly opposite personalities of the tenants through the design of their home in the different landscape”, Ayelet continues. To emphasize the rural surroundings, the Bauhaus-style fit perfectly since the whites are mute and let one’s mind be guided towards the outside. Hence, the design does “not to ‘steal’ the true beauty”, as Ayelet puts it with reference to the hills.

Highlighting the play in layout while considering the interests of the owners, “the house is designed around a double space connecting the levels”, Ayelet says. As an extension to the staircase, an interactive corner was planned to gather the family for activities such as music or resting by the window in the hammock net. “A nice story is that while working on the project, the daily life of the family seeped into us as well. We started learning to play guitar and enriched our hiking”, Ayelet concludes.

Architecture by **U+A**

Photography by **Eran Turgeman**





## SOO NIPI HOUSE

Lake Sunapee, New Hampshire, United States

**O**n the quiet headland of Lake Sunapee, Soo Nipi House was designed as a home for a brother and sister who sadly lost their home due to a lightning strike. It quickly became evident that the existing house and parts of the land's vegetation could not be saved, so the siblings summoned Marcus Gleysteen Architects to design their new home – compact to bring the families together yet enough space to be separated when necessary.

“Located on the wooded shore of a popular northern lake, the Soo Nipi property is uniquely private. Our clients, a brother and sister, requested a thoughtful, understated home that maintains this sense of privacy while taking in the full beauty of the waterfront. This contrast – of intimate and open, cozy and rugged – is a primary inspiration for the project”, Principal-in-Charge Marcus Gleysteen says. Throughout the compact floorplan with two main suites, the minimal understatement quickly becomes noticeable. With a combination of warm wood and cool white plaster, the spaces give rise to a comfortable atmosphere where the inflow of light becomes highly essential. “The massing of Soo Nipi House is formed by three parts. The layout balances two main bedroom suites, both with spectacular lake views, over a shared, loft-like main living space. The main living area is divided into zones for cooking, dining and relaxation. The sliding doors of the main living space open to promote a sensory con-





nection to the site and allow the living space to extend outdoors. Inside, the orientation of the fireplace allows one to simultaneously enjoy the hearth and the view”, Marcus elaborates. Guided by strategically placed windows on all facades, the light floods the spaces throughout the day, and conversely, the inhabitants can peek – unobstructed – towards the incredible Lake Sunapee. Although the natural surroundings were strongly affected by the fire, Marcus Gleysteen and his team sought solutions to effectively bring back the vibe of the site: “The siblings’ original house here was destroyed in a fire caused by a lightning strike. Shrubs, ground cover and a number of surrounding trees were also sadly lost. Now, native plantings are revitalizing the damaged terrain, while a granite and Douglas fir pergola offers a privacy buffer and shade to the primary living spaces”, Marcus explains.

Whether being the intimate and handmade interior spaces with artisan tiles in the kitchen, Douglas fir beams, ceilings and walls, or the utterly calming outdoor area, Soo Nipi House gives the siblings the perfect breathing space after an exhausting experience of losing one’s home. Fortunately, Marcus Gleysteen Architects rose to the occasion, providing the family with a space to create a wealth of future memories together.

Architecture and photography by **Marcus Gleysteen Architects**



## Words of the Week



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*Since its origin, modern architecture has been known for its white walls. In Denmark, most walls are actually white but I very often hear people complaining about it. They say it is boring – as if the wall is naked and stripped away from any decorative masquerade. Yet, the New Zealand-born architect, Mark Wigley, highlighted an interesting point: “The white wall is itself a form of clothing—the newly athletic body of the building, like that of its occupants, wears a new kind of garment and these garments are meant to match.” I believe this transposition between fashion and architecture is quite fascinating. When we wear an outfit, we often consider if the individual garment pieces match. Maybe a white sweater and blue jeans. Maybe you go all the way and wear white-on-white. Wearing white-on-white may even give you the predicate of being bold. Not boring. Just like with fashion, the choice of choosing a white wall may make as much sense as if one wears a white t-shirt. It is a matter of intention.*

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark grey ink that reads "Trampedach".

CHRISTIAN TRAMPEDACH  
FOUNDER, RESTLESS

