



Special Mention: Interior Design

Integral renovation of Casa Artium

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Photographs: Amador Toril

An integral renovation project for a home located on the second floor of an apartment block standing on Albacete's main street. Following a study of the home's layout and its natural light a new design programme was drawn up to create a sense of aesthetic coherence throughout the various spaces, focusing on key aspects such as the light, settings, interior layout and sense of space.

When considering how to optimise the available space, we discovered that large areas were used exclusively as distribution passages, devoid of natural light, compartmentalised by doors and lacking content, a situation that is common in the vast majority of conventional apartment block housing.

The aim of this project was to turn this wasted, residual space into the focal point of the entire programme, articulating the space and defining a clear circulation route, thereby creating a well-proportioned sculptural element that recurs throughout the home.

Influenced by Oteiza's metaphysical box, in which the cube and its inner void become a box, this space draws on the sense of void, whilst extremely fine, large format ceramic tiles create texture and volume.

This effect was achieved thanks to the use of large format (120 x 250 cm and 6 mm thick) extra-slim ceramic tiles. Despite the sense of visual weightiness created by the texture, the format, thickness, as well as the physical and mechanical features of this material allow for an alternative interpretation, instantly transforming this visual weight into a sense of lightness. This impression is further heightened by the indirect lighting surrounding this sculptural element.

The principal difficulty in creating a sculptural yet also liveable element lay in applying this material to all the planes, including the ceiling. Achieving this sense of a sculptured yet lightweight interior was resolved by positioning it at a lower level than the rest of the ceilings in the home. The appeal and sense of weightlessness of this solution were further heightened by projecting part of the pieces over their supporting structure. Double sheets were used in these areas for extra resistance to impact, and the LED lighting positioned around the perimeter of the piece was concealed.