**Special mention in the interior design category**

**Vallirana 47**

Barcelona

**Vora Arquitectura**

Photo by Adrià Goula

Vallirana 47 is a refurbishment project for 5 homes in a narrow deep 1923 building of a fairly discrete anonymous type, set between other buildings. The building’s importance did not reside in its unique features, but in its reflection of a certain period. It had a conventional layout, with unmodified corridors and small rooms, and interiors with mosaic cement floors, plaster mouldings on the ceilings of the main rooms, high narrow painted doors and windows with mouldings, and louver shutters. Some of the dwellings still contained certain original features that are hard to find nowadays (wallpaper, solid marble washbasins etc.).

In the project, yet another step forward was taken in using or transforming existing features, as tested out in other projects, achieving a hybrid mix of old and new to a degree that we had hitherto not managed to attain. The building’s identity was prolonged and also disrupted in a respectful somewhat playful way.

Many materials and intrinsic features of the building were recycled or reinvented, maintaining a certain atmospheric continuity.

The mosaic cement flooring was removed, classified and re-laid to express the living spaces’ order and original hierarchy. Coloured borders were added to replace the previous grey ones.

The new materials form a hybrid mix with the existing ones in terms of their décor and finer details, from more tactile aspects to abstract ones: that is, the glazed tiles, use of patterns inspired by the building’s window railings, wallpaper etc.

The pattern of the railings on the building’s lower windows was emulated on tiles and on the doors of cupboards, extending the building’s identity to the pattern of its materials.

The tiles in the kitchens and bathrooms were custom made, taking semi-industrial tiles with a white glazed background and adding a differing-coloured transparent layer to lend them a rich vibrant depth.

In the kitchens and bathrooms, the intensity of the tiles’ colours varies, with stronger shades on the ground floor and more diluted ones on the upper floor. The same applies to other features of the building, like its marble or furniture.