

Special Mention in the Interior Design Category

JM55 (Madrid)

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JM55 REPORT

This 1970s housing block reflected the layout paradigm of the day, successfully managing to cram two bedrooms, a fully equipped bathroom, a living room and kitchen in 40 m². The separate rooms provided only the strictly necessary functionalities, reducing the potential size of each.

The proposed transformation represents a radical breakaway from this principle, doing away with the divisions between the spaces and the usage limitations imposed on them. A central core hosts all the home's facilities, and the only fully isolated element is the toilet.

All the other materials, uses and rooms are blended and combined, and as a result, the inhabitants sleep in the bathroom or shower in the living room. Glossy white ceramic tiles symbolise the wet usage that is present throughout the home, covering the entire central volume and the floors immediately surrounding it. This modest, simple style of tile, which is clearly associated with the spaces necessary for satisfying our basic needs of sustenance and hygiene, moves beyond these limitations to cover the vertical and horizontal surfaces of the more public areas of this home. The choice of a 10x10 format required the modulation of all the spaces associated with the central core, so that all the tiles in this project could be installed whole (without cutting). An obsession with modulation and uniformity spread the use of tiles beyond those surfaces that are commonly covered with this material to include the false ceilings and adjacent floors, in a clear nod to the *Maison de la Celle-Saint-Cloud* by Jean-Pierre Raynaud.

In contrast, the series of rails installed in the ceilings trace a radically different space. Textile hangings form temporary spaces for complementary uses or those that demand greater privacy or isolation. The result could be a capsule study, an independent bedroom or a concealed kitchen. In material terms, the hangings used to limit these spaces correspond to the uses contained within them; for instance, the bedroom is enclosed in a curtain made from quilts, whilst the studio can be separated by means of a folded felt curtain.

Finally, it is the use of these spaces by the occupants and the objects featured within them that creates the final image: a combination of the uniformity of ceramic tiles and the unpredictable nature of everyday living.