

Special mention in the Interior Design category

CAL GARROFA (Sant Boi de Llobregat, Barcelona)

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Photographs: Jara Varela

REPORT ON CAL GARROFA

Cal Garrofa is a large Modernist house comprising a ground floor and two upper floors with a courtyard at the front and the rear. It was built in the early 20th century on the outskirts of the historic district of a town and features all the characteristics and materials of its day.

The green brick façade and windows decorated with artificial stone floral motifs conceal a square plan building made up of three sections of load bearing walls.

The house was originally the holiday home of a family that owned a healthcare business and was later converted into a pluri-family building before eventually being swallowed up by the loosely planned urban fabric of a city on the periphery.

The first decision was to modify the current entrance, returning to the classical order and structure through a central axis connecting the two courtyards. Along this axis, six spaces of identical dimensions form two-bedroom housing units.

The second decision was to create a trompe l'oeil to do away with the spaces the house had acquired in its limits. These are secret rooms with their own unique tone and atmosphere. In contrast, the original square plant is fully in evidence.

The result of these decisions is a living space suitable for two people with a laid-back lifestyle or four tribes with their respective offspring.