

Winner in the interior design category

Isabel La Católica House (Granada)

Estudio GRX Arquitectos (Agustín Gor Gómez)

Photos by Imagen Subliminal (Miguel de Guzmán + Rocío Romero)

DESCRIPTION OF ISABEL LA CATÓLICA HOUSE

No. 2 Edificio Isabel la Católica is the location of a relatively unknown apartment project in Granada in a building originally designed by José María García de Paredes (1924-1990). The project manages to conserve certain hallmarks characteristic of the said architect.

As a sign of respect for García de Paredes' work, we took into account his ideas and his drawings in the achievement of the main objective of our project: to transform a mid-20th century 240m² mansion into two separate homes, adapted to contemporary family life.

According to Ángela García de Paredes, her father had wanted to create a homogeneous modular system that could meet the complex requirements of differing places. From this, it can be construed that when García de Paredes built Almendrales Church (1961-1964), he was not betraying the principles of modern architecture, but demonstrating his criticism of the limits of this trend and calling for greater freedom. Following this line of thinking, in a tribute to the *maestro*, we came up with the idea of several vertical planes, based on a 10x10cm Cartesian grid that could be expanded or contracted, depending on household needs.

Like a living organism, this timeless uniform grid can be adapted to meet different contemporary requirements. When it is applied, this grid gives rise to various different features of the home (such as a serving hatch, fireplace, cupboard, mirror and bench) and, at the same time, it acts as a filter between the different rooms.

The refurbishment work has led to the creation of two separate homes. One is a south-facing, more luminous, warm apartment which occupies the original communal and service areas. Its existing facilities were used to good advantage so that a single curve channels all the home's uses and associated activities. On the other side, following work to the northern part where the private bedrooms and main corridor used to be, this apartment was given the necessary plasticity to absorb any irregularities in the floor plan.

For the project, a small-format ceramic tile was needed with a dual conceptual and functional goal: on the one hand, to "create movement" in the home and, on the other, to

meet the home's specific technical need for imperviousness, resistance and comfort. For this reason, small 10x10cm white and grey matt tiles were used.