

## **Winner in the architecture category**

### **A Home in Puntiró (Palma de Mallorca)**

#### **Estudio Ripoll-Tizón**

Photos by José Hevia

## **DESCRIPTION OF A HOME IN PUNTIRÓ**

The home is built on a steep piece of land that rises up sharply from the street, ensuring striking views of the Bay of Palma.

The planning regulations relating to the plot were a determining factor: basically, the building had to be made up of a slightly rectangular main body—a basic volume—, with a sloping roof clad in traditional clay tiles.

The brief was for a home consisting of two main bedrooms, both with an en suite bathroom, together with an adjacent multi-purpose room, a dining room, kitchen, living room and other secondary areas. Guests were often expected, visiting for long periods of time, and so a home that could simultaneously be occupied in comfort by two different families was required.

The building was on the top part of the plot, close to an area of trees, avoiding the steep slope beside the road.

A stepped home on different levels was designed so that it fits in with the topography, following the lie of the land in order to create close links with outdoor areas.

The shape of the floor plan is almost square. The house's private areas for the hosts and guests, which are identical in layout and size, needed to be fairly independent, and so they lie on adjoining sides of the building. They are separated by the communal areas, distributed along a diagonal axis that ends in the living room in order to take advantage of the building's views.

Three terraces were planned along the façades as transitions between the home's indoor and outdoor areas. One of them features a lightweight structure for plants to climb up, using vegetation to create a shaded area protected and integrated into the building envelope.

Traditional building solutions were taken advantage of. The structure, which consists of load-bearing walls and one-way floor slabs, divides the home into its different areas; in other words, the load-bearing structure and structure of the rooms coincides.

The load-bearing walls were given a lime mortar render and the floor slabs were left exposed, with no render, to give the interiors a certain characteristic hallmark.

As for the materials, the home stands out for its use of porcelain and glazed tiles both indoors and out.

Inside, porcelain tiles were combined with natural stone in places where hard materials with a high resistance and low porosity and water absorption were needed. Glazed tiles were not only used on the walls of the home's wet areas, but also to design built-in furniture, such as the bedside tables in the bedrooms, or to highlight items that tend to be concealed, such as the switches and air-conditioning air supply and return vents, turning them into features of the home's interiors. In the case of the switches, the glazed tiles also prevent them from getting scratched during their handling and use.

Outdoors, the switches, light fittings and vents were integrated into ceramic and latticework tiles.