

## **Interior Design Special Mention**

### **Casa en Guardamar del Segura / House in Guardamar del Segura (Alicante)**

**Bernardo Cerrato Hernández**

Photographs: Milena Villalba

## **DESCRIPTION OF HOUSE IN GUARDAMAR DEL SEGURA**

### **A single-family home between party walls**

The principal challenge this plot posed was the narrowness of the façade in relation to its depth – some 5 x 9 metres. Furthermore, the varying heights of the adjacent buildings required the meticulous study of the resulting volume in order to ensure natural light and ventilation in all the home's main spaces.

A central courtyard acted as the starting point and a key element for the organisation of the entire house, as well as the precise placement of the vertical circulation element. This effectively solved the challenge we encountered: namely to provide the house with spacious and comfortable rooms, bring light to the areas located at the rear of the plot, and ensure the necessary privacy for the spaces the client required.

In terms of the programme, the floors are divided by use, based on the hours of natural light penetrating the house and the level of privacy needed. The solution was to invert the programme conventionally assigned to each level: the bedrooms and the most private spaces are on the ground floor, whilst the first floor houses the daytime area.

Following basic principles of thermodynamics, passive benefits are obtained in terms of the home's energy performance. Opening up to the south, the central courtyard is a source of natural light and solar radiation, as well as a means of induced natural ventilation. Airflow is created by connecting the façade on the ground floor, by means of a permeable wall, with the inner courtyard, which is open only at its highest point. Together with the vertical circulation core, which functions as a chimney, this generates a flow of air due to density differences and the resulting downward gradient.

The ultimate intention is for these two elements to act as natural catalysts for comfort.

Ceramic tiles play a key role in the project's formal composition: the vertical circulation core on the ground floor is clad in ceramic tiles, both on the façade and in the interior, ensuring a clear understanding of this volume. Ceramic tiles also feature throughout the home's wet zones, and are particularly in evidence in the master bedroom: despite the absence of interior partitioning elements, the bathroom area is spatially defined entirely through the use of ceramic floor and wall tiles.

