

## RESIDENCE IN QATAR

It is difficult to proposition one's ideas within an urban context in the midst of total renewal as is Doha today, without falling prey to sterile exercises in architectural technology borne out of formal acrobatics of little depth and validated only by the evanescent stupor they may suscite, or in anonymous rehashings of the local architectural schools, revisited in stylized form with hence banal results which are totally devoid of character.

Through the strong characterization of design, a sober formal elegance which is recognizable beyond that of current trends and traditions and enduring in its temporal conservation, as well as a simple and consolidated functional distribution, our project proposes to unite the demands of the public and private life of the Commissioner in a modern and designed space.

The architectural language is emphasized in its volumetric composition, never favoring one façade over another: the whole house is of equal importance. All of its façades are linked to one another in a continuous flow of striking balanced compositions. This way, the interior's circuits and their openings onto patios and the park, the main entrance, the large foyer, and the "double height" Pool room become the crucial elements of the project from which the remaining parts of the house are then distributed.

Volumes, shadows, transparencies and screens communicate with each other in a constant changing flow, giving the observer the sense that no defined hierarchy exists, but rather a complex organism which does not favor any of its parts at the expense of another.

The materials for the façades will be simple and traditional but used in such a way that commands importance: the white plaster on the walls ( another option being to cover the walls in panel of travertine marble or ceramica gres with stone effect ) will contrast with ample glass panels which will be protected by brushed aluminum moveable wings ( bris soleil ). On the glass portions we will use a type of glass which filters light and heat, with a reflective effect (though not mirror-like) in such a way as to guarantee the privacy of the interior and the pleasant scenographic effect of the façades, which will reflect the surrounding park , while on its top floor a titanium sail will filter the sunlight without reducing its luminosity.

Another important element will be the wing of façade C in unrefined corten steel , endowed with "slashes" that will allow slivers of visibility which will contrast with the refined technological aspect of the titanium-made fountain in façade A. The latter's protagonistic presence, across the main entrance, and the titanium changeable nature because of the watery flow render the entrance an intriguing site to be explored.

The modern architectural style of the villas does not overlook the citation and reworking of one of the most important and fundamental elements in arab architecture: the internal garden patio. This is an element of great functional importance within of this home, providing them with sources of light as well as protected and intimate viewing points.

This element is of great importance to our project: in the house 01, there are in fact two patios located at its two extremities hence distributing walking circuits and viewing points.

The project has also organized and structured the whole building site.

The houses have been positioned along its northern frontier with their entrances facing south/southwest, while the main road is equipped with two two-way access roads . Each and every unit will enjoy its privacy while separated by a seamless screen of green.

This way, the whole area becomes a great park composed of a series of open spaces, green filters, a variety of trees and flowers, and a circuit of pedestrian pathways.

Some of these paths make their way amongst more dense vegetation to arrive at a small and intimate majlas surrounded by greenery; a great spot to meet and take a break while protected from the harsh local climactic conditions.

The main entrance and the avenue from the public road to the residence is located on the south side, and is probably the only symmetrical element of this entire project, as it is aligned with the house 01, whose important presence, filtered by the greenery and its distance from the gates, becomes only partially visible from the exterior of the property , while remaining a scenographic discovery for the guest upon arrival.

Be it through its architectural choices or the irregular disposition of its units and roads, the entire complex will characteristically unfold itself for continuous discovery to one entering it, walking through it or pausing within it. It will be a place where the standardization or the modular aspect of it will not be a protagonistic element, but where the continuous flow of perspectives and viewing points will create a fascinating and scenographic organism.

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