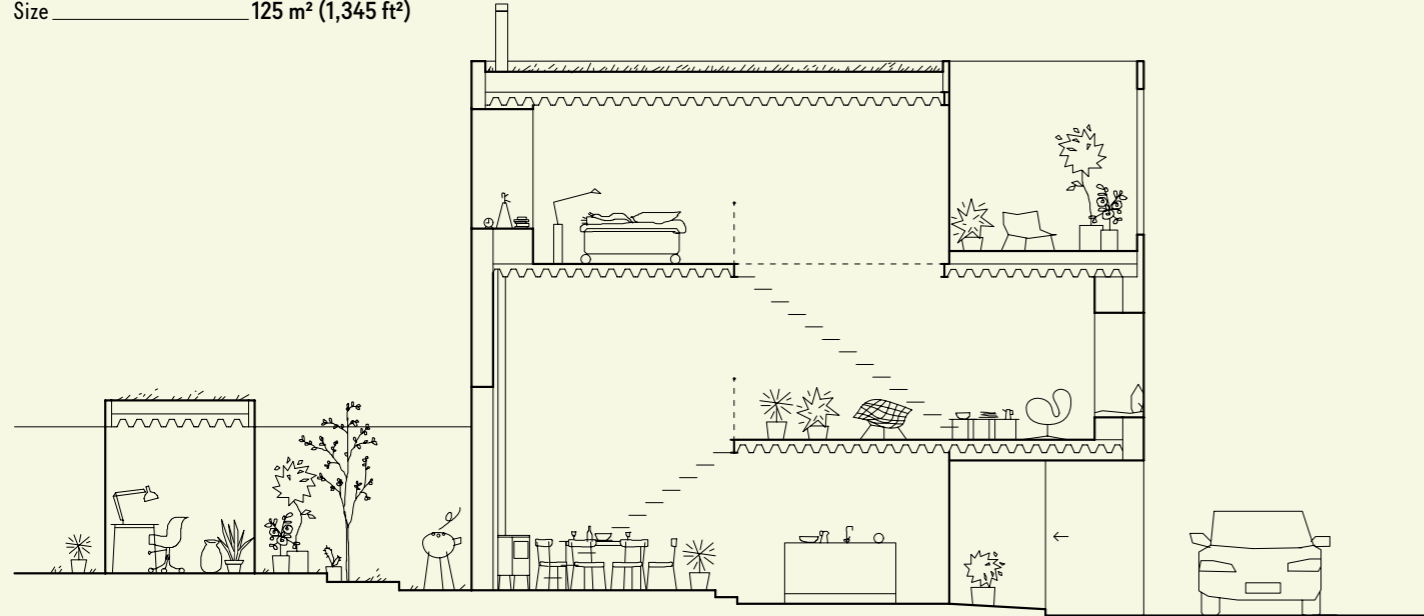


Yard Work

Location _____ Landskrona, Sweden
Residents _____ 2
Size _____ 125 m² (1,345 ft²)



An unexpected instance of modern minimalism in Landskrona, Sweden, makes the most of its tiny footprint.

When designing a new house in a pre-existing neighborhood, one can either strive for conformity or for contrast. Johnny Lökaas and Conny Ahlgren, in collaboration with Elding Oscarson Architects, opted for the latter. Lökaas and Ahlgren had already lived together for a long time in the Swedish city of Helsingborg, and were looking for a change of scenery. They found a solution in the small coastal city of Landskrona nearby, where Ahlgren had invested in property a few years previously.

The long, narrow site had an old multistory house at one end and a garden of wild flowers and pear trees stretching across to the next street, where a small house had once stood. This house had been demolished in 1943 and had never been replaced. Although the couple initially inquired about the possibility of building there, they had not

pursued any concrete plans. The incentive to proceed quickly with plans ensued when they received a legal letter from their neighbor petitioning the acquisition of a few meters of property so he could access his own garden directly from the street.

Lökaas, a retail design specialist by profession, reached out to his former colleague Stockholm-based architect Johan Oscarson. “When I contacted him he was just starting a practice of his own and Jonas Elding was about to join him after eight years with the architectural firm SANAA in Japan. This would be their first project together. Since I already knew a little about the work of SANAA, I sensed that the results would be good,” says Lökaas.

The like-minded couple wanted to contribute to the city’s “new mood of openness toward modern architecture” by taking a novel approach to the design of their home. Having been through three

