



Thirteenth-Century Farm Unites Traditional and Contemporary Restraint



RURAL PRIDE

Catalonia, Spain
by *Francesc Rifé*

An escape from the city for a young family with three children, this thirteenth-century farmhouse in a valley in the province of Barcelona is a minimalist blend of rural architecture with contemporary interventions. Restored vaults and original masonry, original farm elements (like a press and a well), adobe floors, arches, and Romanesque lintels are harmoniously blended with contemporary contrasts, including a double-sided fireplace made from iron sheets, a vaulted staircase, and a metal pergola finished in anthracite gray that connects the main three-story farmhouse to a series of lower-level annexes.

Designed by Francesc Rifé, who the family has worked with before, the estate—originally a farm where the owner’s family bought produce when they were children—is a holiday home where the family can host large groups of relatives and friends. With generous sofas and a long dining table (painted black and original to the house), the purist furnishings include an inherited wooden bench, a circular flamed stone table designed by Rifé, and contemporary pieces from the likes of HAY, Flos, and Santa & Cole. The adjoining buildings form a courtyard with a circular garden bench at the front. At the back, there is a pool overlooking the forest.