Celebrating Communal Living

Project

3 generation house

Designer

BETA office for architecture and the city

Location

Amsterdam, Netherlands

This five-story tower, designed for three generations of a Dutch family, is an example of how multigenerational living benefits city dwellers of all ages. Two separate apartments are stacked directly above one another to create a home where the family and their elderly parents can enjoy each other's company without sacrificing the advantages of privacy. Unlike many multistory homes, the elderly couple live on the top-floor apartment which has been accessibly designed to accommodate wheelchairs and reduced physical ability. When needed, the entire building can be reconfigured into four apartments, allowing the children to have their own space once they grow up. The sculptural home features a lot of concrete, with bright yellow painted walls providing the interior spaces with vibrant pops of color. The home is a great example of cohabiting in an urban context, and a reminder that all generations should look out for one another.

↑ Communal Space
Structural concrete walls define the form of the interior spaces, but the architects wanted to add some vibrancy to the home. An angular staircase is painted bright yellow to make a visual impact.