

A Heritage-Protected Row House with a Secret Life

HOUSE E+M BY JOSEP FERRANDO ARCHITECTURE
SANT CUGAT DEL VALLÈS, SPAIN
HISTORIC ROW HOUSE → CONTEMPORARY HOME



In a street of row houses in the center of a small town just north of Barcelona sits House E+M. From the quaint and traditional street-facing facade, it is unlikely one could imagine the structure that lies beyond. The cultural heritage of the row house meant that its street-facing facade and roof had to be preserved, but inside, cinder block walls embellished with plywood cabinetry were utilized as the new exterior walls—creating something of a home within a home. Less than 16 feet (5 meters) wide, the residence sits on a complex topographical site between two

streets of different heights. The floors themselves are staggered, floating at various heights that overlap each other and reflect the outside landscape. Connecting the floors, a multilevel atrium-like column brings light through the residence, and allows multiple viewpoints of different floors. The exposed plywood leads the materiality, as it makes up much of the interior cabinetry and determines the home's warmth.

(Opposite) Cinder blocks and timber shutters define the back of the house. (Above) Folding french doors open from a wood-clad space onto a balcony overlooking the garden.