

# Boxing Clever in a Sleek Urban Redesign

PROJECT  
DUPLEX TIBBAUT  
DESIGNER  
RAÚL SÁNCHEZ ARCHITECTS  
LOCATION  
BARCELONA, SPAIN  
BUILT  
1880



- ← The all-white living space
- ↑ A mezzanine expanded the floor space
- ↗ One box contains a bathroom

This quirky duplex was once made up of two separate but equally neglected flats, which Raúl Sánchez Architects was tasked with overhauling in the Raval neighborhood of Barcelona. The team's novel approach was to create a single, stylishly put-together abode with a mezzanine level, integrating two rectangular structures into the new space.

Striking in design, the double-height rectangles pass through the upper floor and are set back from the walls in order to help the space feel bigger. One contains a staircase, the other a bathroom and office below, and a dramatic bedroom cube above.

Coated in a glossy gold paint, the shimmering surfaces of the boxy structures make their design even more impactful, particularly when set against the pristine all-white backdrop of the apartment. On the ground floor, three paintings of Brazilian origin have been preserved. "The paintings are the reason the client, of Brazilian origin herself, decided to buy these two properties in the first place," say the architects of the statement wall art. →