

RESTLESS LIVING

"... restlessly dedicated to contemporary living."



VOLUME 225



CASA VF

Zapallar, Chile

In Chile's Valparaíso region, a small beach town named Zapallar was founded in the late 1800s and has ever since become an exclusive seaside haven with beautiful gardens and evergreen forests. It is therefore no coincidence that many beach houses have been built in the area during the later years to get a taste of Zapallar's bohemian atmosphere by the Pacific Ocean.

"Casa VF was born from the observation of the sequence of the waves of the beach break, which generate different rhythms and approaches to the edge", architect Jorge Román Álvarez says. "From this observation, two volumes are projected, two sequences, mounted on a horizontal plinth that raises the views above the horizon of the sea, like the force of the east of the sea on the horizon." Due to the sloping terrain facing the sea, Román y Basulto Arquitectos had to conduct a geographic study to ensure the design and construction to run as smoothly as possible. The coast of Chile is notoriously known for its adverse weather conditions with heavy winds, so concrete, stone and wood were preferred as the main materials to maintain a durable resistance. "It allowed us to settle on land with a super steep slope. Stone is a robust option that provided us with contrast, texture and resistance. Wood, with the appropriate treatment and choice, has no problem resisting humidity in coastal landscapes. In

2 this case, we reused the wood from the concrete moldings and then we





applied ink and paint works”, Jorge explains. While the materials had obvious benefits in relation to the contextual weather conditions, it also had a strong impact on how Casa VF would be perceived aesthetically. “Materials were selected to be a reflection of the natural tones of the landscape. The concrete adopts tones that blend with the color palette of the arid coastal environment, while stone complements with rhythm and textures. Wood with its natural tones provides warmth, creating an harmonious contrast with its context”, Jorge notes. Programatically, Casa VF consists of two stacked but independent volumes following the slope. “This way, when the owners live alone in the house they occupy only the upper access volume with the master bedroom, a home office, the living and dining room, the kitchen and a panoramic terrace”, Jorge tells. On the lower plinth level, four bedrooms for the children, two rooms with a shared bathroom for visitors and a large family living room can be taken into use when the whole family is gathered and it opens up to an ‘English garden’, also named the ‘grandchildren’s garden’, running along the basement floor. “The recreation areas are located to the west, all facing the sea. They have barbecue, terraces, swimming pool and a mini sports court that is integrated on a lower level with the garden”, Jorge ends.

Architecture by **Román y Basualto Arquitectos**

Photography by **Denise Heirman**







DZEN HOUSE

Kyiv, Ukraine

War is a terrible thing. It puts its toll on a country, bringing devastation to the citizens and their way of life. Amidst the heartbreaking events in Ukraine, a light of hope beacons from the capital area. In spite of the war, Dzen House was designed and crafted as a sanctuary pursuing unity with the serenity of nature.

“[The Dzen House] pays homage to Japanese traditions, featuring an overarching roof with exposed structures, wood cladding using the kisugi technique, a streamlined layout, and a tatami area on the second floor”, architect Anton Verhun says. Designed with focus on intricate details, the ground floor houses a communal space surrounding a functional nucleus in the center with staircase, bathroom, and utility rooms. “This arrangement fosters both seclusion and connectivity between the kitchen and living spaces”, Anton explains and continues: “The circulation around the central core enhances the compactness for ease of movement while expanding the perceived spaciousness, imbuing a sense of boundlessness.” In a cultural fusion between Japanese minimalism and the traditional Ukrainian rural dwellings, the ground floor showcases ‘mazanka’ plaster internally and externally.

On the second floor, the low attic space is lined with birch plywood and clad with kisugi wood on the outside. “The master bedroom, notably compact, dedicates more than half of its space to a ground-level bed podium beneath an expansive frameless window. The tatami space doubles as a venue for tea ceremonies and contemplation, offering views of raindrops cascading from the eaves of the overarching roof through the circular window”, Anton concludes.

Architecture by **Shovk Studio**

Photography by **Yevhenii Avramenko**





SOUND HOUSE

Seattle, Washington, United States

When Brandon and Sarah Ebel – each with three children – combined their families and homes for the first time, they reached out to GO'C to design a house catering to the unique needs and desires of each family member. Due to the extensive views of the Puget Sound, the love for music, and the six children, the Seattle home was named Sound House.

“Sound House is located in Seattle’s Magnolia neighborhood. This elevated peninsula northwest of downtown offers expansive views across the Puget Sound and to downtown Seattle”, architect Jon Gentry says. “The project is a 5,500 square foot single family home replacing the existing house built in the 1920’s.” Since Brandon owns a local record label, his love for music was essential to him – making audio and his large record collection a high priority. Sarah, on the other hand, is a New York Times best-selling author and chef extraordinaire. She thus needed calm to focus on her writing, a library to display her books, and a spacious kitchen to unfold her passion for cooking. Finally, the children wished for private spaces and a dedicated area just for them to play and do their homework. “The house is designed to be enjoyed by all members of the family with plenty of living space and access to the many exterior terraces and roof decks – creating a house to gather within was of utmost importance”, Jon explains. Distributed across two floors of living and a basement, Sound

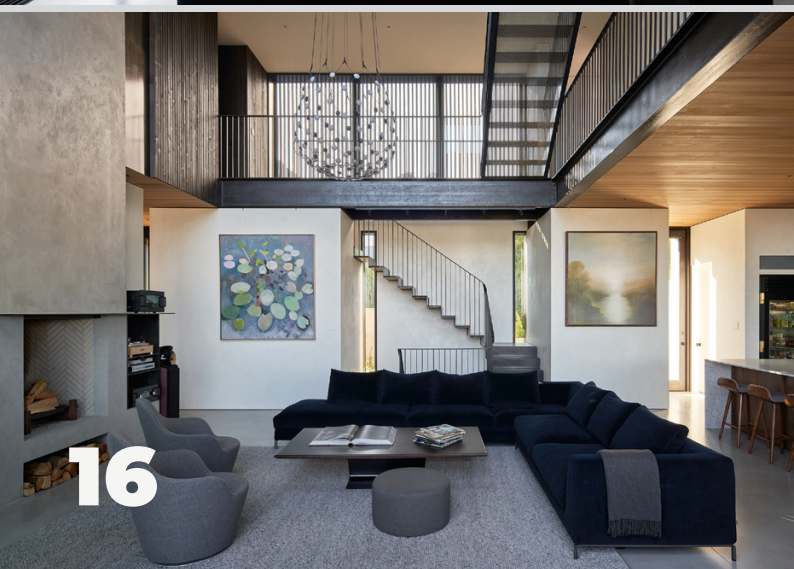




House maximizes the almost 360 degree views from the site. “From the upper north street the house appears as two stacked horizontal bars with the materiality of the lower mass grounding the building and lightweight porous upper level revealing hints of the interior space”, Jon continues. “The upper level is clad in vertical tight knot cedar slats which open up to form screen walls over portions of the upper level glazing.” Once inside, it immediately becomes clear how the rear of the house opens up to the garden terraces and swimming pool making the inside and outside a continuous space. “At the heart of the house is a double height living space with wood burning fireplace and chimney that extends vertically through the space”, Jon elaborates. “Passing from public to private space as you ascend through the void, the transparency of the house responds by moving from open glazing to a wood slat brise-soleil, filtering sunlight and screening the interior spaces from the street.” On the upper level, the primary wing cantilevers over the dining terrace and pool. On the east side, the parental section is situated with south-oriented views while the kid’s wing is placed to the west. “The kid’s side functions as a bunkhouse of sorts, with 6 small bedrooms arranged around a sun-filled central play space with a large skylight above”, Jon adds. With a basement opening to the pool terrace and a rooftop level with extensive gardens, Sound House emphasizes a multi-faceted living experience where family life always remain in the center.

Architecture by **GO’C**

Photography by **Kevin Scott**







H.A GARDEN HOUSE

Cam Lam, Vietnam

In the outskirts of the Vietnamese city of Nha Trang, a tranquil retreat offers sanctuary for weekend getaway and vacations away from the busy urban life. On a 600 m² plot, H.A Garden House perfectly harmonizes modern comfort and the lush green surroundings of the neighboring landscape.

“Designed primarily as vacation home, H.A Garden House features essential living spaces including a living room, kitchen, outdoor dining area, and two bedrooms - a master suite for the homeowner and an additional guest room. Although distinct, these spaces are connected by patios, fostering a sense of connection and intimacy”, the architect Pham Huu Son begins. At first, there was however a key challenge to address: a busy local road in close proximity to the site, causing substantial noise and pollution. “To mitigate this, the house was strategically positioned towards the rear of the land, facing a tranquil alleyway that welcomes ample sunlight in the mornings”, Pham explains. Simultaneously, a parking area was established in front of the place to maintain further distance to the noise while the indirect entrance through a green corridor with a Koi pond makes one feel welcome from the first second. “Inspired by the concept of the Five Elements, the architectural form mimics the silhouette of five mountains, symbolizing stability and harmony”, Pham continues.

With locally sourced stone implemented – from bathrooms to gardens, the project radiates a sense of uniqueness and sustainability. “Finished in warm earthy tones, the house exudes a cozy yet sophisticated ambiance, complemented by minimalist interiors, reflecting the owner’s desire for modernity”, Pham notes and concludes: “H.A Garden House embodies a powerful message of creating tranquil retreats in Vietnam’s suburban areas, offering an escape from urban chaos while promoting sustainability through the use of local materials and a design that embraces the natural surroundings.

Architecture by **Pham Huu Son Architects**

Photography by **Hiroyuki Oki**

Words of the Week



“

Silence.

The moment when nothing and everything intersect. The time where the mind is stimulated, tensiity is relieved and the body calms. Although silence is paramount to our physical and mental health, we live in a world where silence is either neglected or presented with a negative connotation.

We are taught to speak up, be present, engage in society, and only be silent when we are spoken to. Even in our own homes, societal norms expect us to be perfect caretakers with the family in mind 24/7 – and that is in spite of growing mental health issues in the general public.

I say we start embrace the silence. Take our time to rewind. Do not let anything disturb us. Take control of our minds and stop worrying about how society will respond to it.

I believe it is an absolute necessity in our pursuit of personal development and well-being.

Let there be silence.

CHRISTIAN TRAMPEDACH
FOUNDER, RESTLESS

