

APR | MAY
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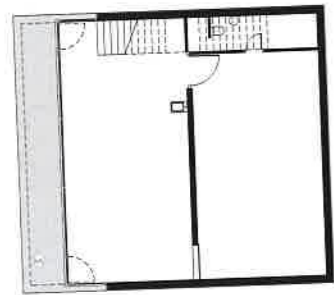
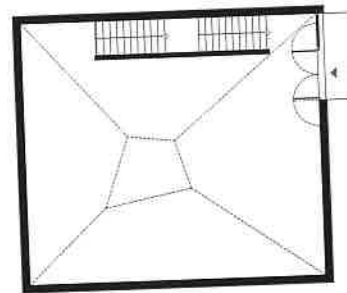
BUILDING AT
3,912 M
Leap Factory

'SPACES SHOULD
HAVE A STORY TO TELL'
Hyo Man Kim

THE INTERLACE
IN SINGAPORE
Ole Scheeren

'GET RID OF PRIVATE
AUTOMOBILES'
Kent Larson

Garcés De Seta Bonet lets the light in



Text François-Luc Giraldeau
Photos Adrià Goula

Vallvidrera, a hilly community overlooking Barcelona, a secluded haven designed by local outfit Garcés De Seta Bonet Arquitectes for Catalan painter Eduardo Arranz-Bravo tucked into a wooded setting. Perched quietly on a slope of Mount Tibidabo, the studio breathes an intimate ambience conducive to reflection, introspection and creative insight.

Conceived as a continuous monolithic structure, the building has a raw but refined stucco finish in light grey. A balance of conspicuous design and subtlety, the enigmatic volume boasts a strong sculptural presence yet manages to give way to the surrounding landscape. The building, which is close to the client's residence, warrants attention precisely because of its tectonic qualities. Its stark, compact mass embodies a near-primitive architectural expression, which, when com-

bined with an astute attention to detail and a skillful manipulation of scale, exudes elegance and grandeur.

The project holds a 160-m² studio that curiously ignores its lush green environment. Nonetheless, the interior is bathed in natural light, which streams from a soaring skylight that accentuates the sharp angles of an expressively faceted ceiling. A staircase running along one side of this room descends to a lower level, where we find the artist's private gallery and sculpture workshop. Exposed concrete lends the bare interior a robust feel and an austere solemnity.

External insulation keeps the building cool, while leaving the impeccably applied interior finishes untouched and demonstrating the architect's respect for materials and his determination to treat them with meticulous care.

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