Flemish Provocations
Garcés De Seta Bonet
lets the light in

Valldoreix, a hilly community overlooking Barcelona, a
cluded 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 ambiance
inclusively to reflection, introspection and creative insight.

Conceived as a continuous mendicant structure, the
building has a raw but refined stucco finish in light grey. A bal-
ance of conspicuous design and subtlety, the enigmatic vol-
ume boosts 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 manipu-
lation 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 ceil-
ing. A staircase running along the 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 leav-
ing the impeccably applied interior finishes untouched and
demonstrating the architect’s respect for materials and his
determination to treat them with meticulous care.