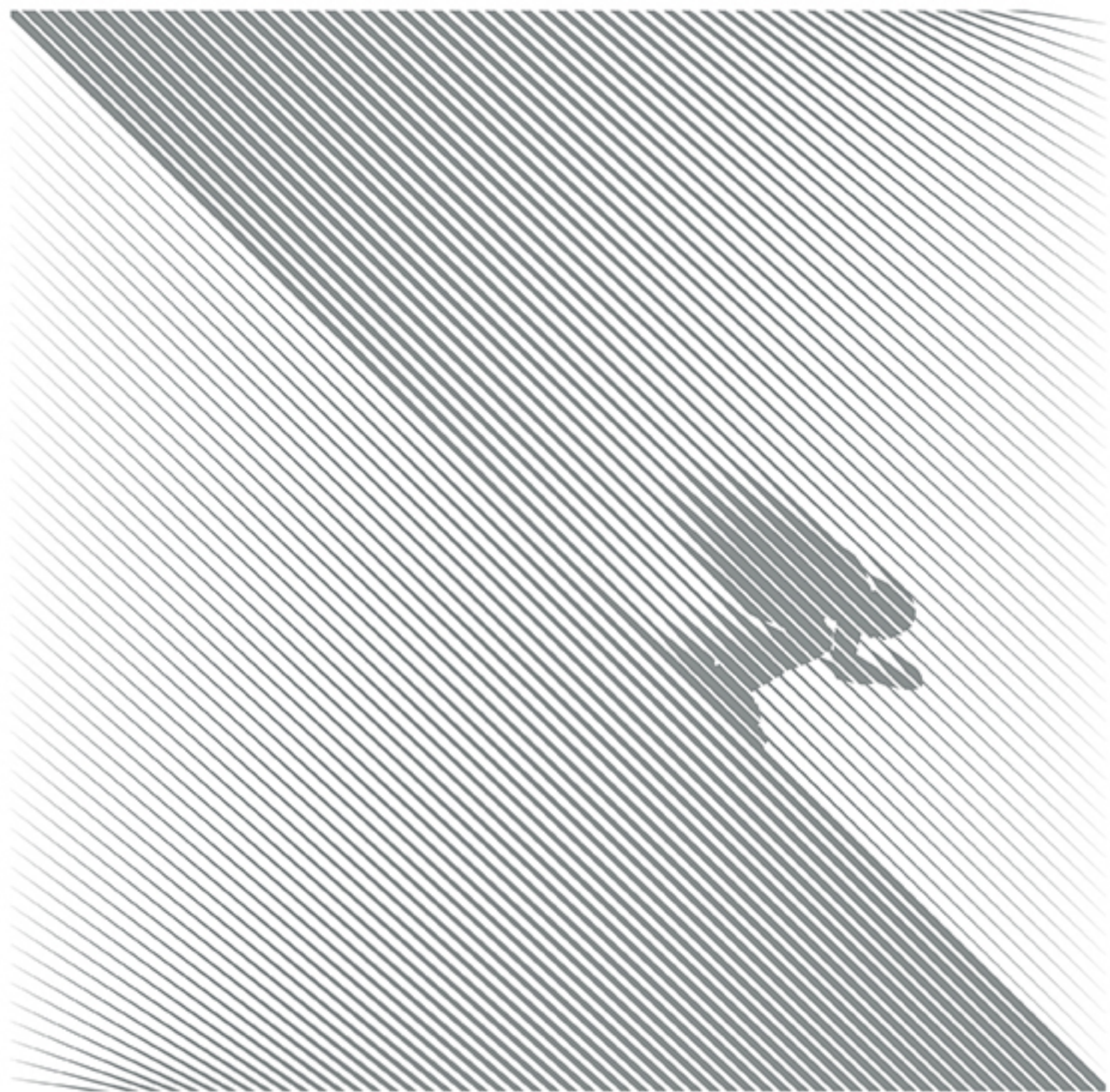


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Sport & Design

GRUPPO  MONDADORI

project by
LPA Lazzarini Pickering Architetti

general contractor Christof Zitturi
photos Josef Obexer, article Antonella Boisi

In the Dolomitic landscape of Alto Adige, a duplex conceived and built in its details like a nautical design, perched between skies and peaks, light and matter

Overall view of the large open space that combines living areas, kitchen and dining room, gauged in their proportions with respect to the scenic fulcrum of the belvedere window.

Family heirloom armchairs. In the bow window, an antique table and modern vintage chairs. Tolomeo lamps by Artemide.

The high-altitude houseboat



Above, view of the living area with the Elisabeth sofa by Lazzarini Pickering for Marta Sala Éditions. Shanghai fabrics by Pierre Frey. In the background, the TV/fireplace zone. On the facing page, the dining area with the custom table and the Wanda sofa from

Marta Sala Éditions. Spotlights by BCM Illuminazione. Note the kitchen with an island that functions as the back of the sofa, and the mirrored wing reflecting the view of the mountains for a person cooking, with their back to the panorama.

A BOAT, IMMOBILE, AMIDST MOUNTAIN PEAKS. “Paradoxically this project in the mountains has been developed by our studio with the same approach usually applied to sea-going vessels. Every square centimeter has been exploited to maximum spaces and containers.” This is how Claudio Lazzarini and Carl Pickering introduce the project of a duplex of 160 square meters with a spectacular view of the Dolomites. Almost like a suspended chalet, the house does indeed seem to sail in the alpine light of the South Tyrol, occupying the upper part of a small multi-family complex. The merger of two still rustic units and the essential composure of a minimalist matrix have enabled an interpretation of high-altitude living free of decorative accents, as a total experience of listening to nature and wellness. On the ground floor, the layout on two levels calls for a long 12-meter glazing, the striking fulcrum of the composition. The use of mirrors virtually multiplies the spaces, with a large open-plan area for the living room – organized around a classic bow window to create four zones tangential to the kitchen, two dining areas, a TV/fireplace space and a central setting for conversation –

as well as two bedrooms and two bathrooms. The eaves of the upper level thus become the synthesis of an equally vast and panoramic master bedroom, and two small double guestrooms. “Here the placement of skylights on the roof has permitted use of the lower zones of the attic, offering overhead openings that boost the natural luminosity and overall permeability,” the architects explain. The mood of the project reveals itself in the precision of every construction detail, gauged to the millimeter by a graphic and Cartesian scale of symmetries and perspectives, reflections and transparencies, amplifying light and depth in every space. But behind the sartorial rigor of the clear lines and controlled proportions that translate a vision of a



fluid continuum across three levels into a contemporary architectural form, it is possible to perceive an emotional quality that belongs deeply to the site. It is the quality of materials. Larch wood wraps and warms almost all the surfaces, like a living skin: ceilings, walls, floors mingle in a vibrant texture, changing over the seasons. In contrast, they light up in the juxtaposition with HPL laminate, selected in a joyous tone of chanterelle yellow. The raw iron and the famous fabrics of Moessmer, based in Brunico, complete the range of materials, most of which are locally supplied. The furniture also narrates a double spirit. They enter into harmony with the context, but also display their contemporary character. Next to family heirlooms and modern Tyrolean →

In pursuit of exclusive comfort without ostentation, in harmony with the context, the project interprets the traditional elements of alpine architecture in a contemporary language



To the side, the main bathroom featuring a transparent glass panel at the position of the shower cabin, to offer a view of the panorama outside. Duravit washbasin, Zazzeri faucets. Facing page: above, the overall volume that contains the en suite bathroom, clad in HPL laminate produced by Arpa in chanterelle yellow. Below, the custom bed designed by Lazzarini Pickering Architetti, framed at the sides by two skylights. Moessmer fabrics, Brunico. Wood floors in brushed and lightened larch.



The rooms breathe with the mountains and the rhythm of the seasons, absorbing their light and returning it with fluid, mutable transparencies

→ crafts, there are elements of custom design, or pieces from the collection of Marta Sala Éditions, like the sofa in the living area and the one that accompanies the large bespoke dining table. Everything joins forces to construct a sense of visual continuity, where even the Tolomeo lamps by Artemide or the spotlights by BCM establish tactful dialogue with the space, like the notes of a single luminous score. The place of meditation par excellence remains the master bedroom, set under a sloping roof, where two large skylights cut the pitches and provide a direct view of the sky. “We have the good fortune to be able to spend long periods in the house during the winter,” say Carl Pickering and Claudio Lazzarini. “The owners are still out lifelong friends, which is not always the case after working together. As true friends, they let us stay in their loft bedroom, the one with windows and skylights. It is wonderful to lie under the quilt and see the mountains, the moon, the falling snow, the starts above, which then become no longer visible because the snow, one flake at a time, covers everything, after which it melts to give you back the moon and the vibrant dawn.” A refuge and an observatory, the idea of the houseboat that sails, immersed in nature, not in the sea but in the mountains, amidst valleys, ice, snow and light, becomes a vividly tangible atmosphere. ❶

