Project Description

A house that doesn't look like a house but feels like a part of its surroundings and actually rises from them, in this case emerging from the dense forest just behind it – this was what the building owners envisioned for their home. The result, which focuses on calm, cube-like shapes and which masterfully uses the property’s hillside location with its broad view over Graz as a characteristic element, achieves this vision to spectacular effect.

All you can see from the road is a large facade that conceals everything – the structure, the spaces – while the depth and size of the building can only be experienced from the inside. A two-story, mobile pinewood facade forms the outer layer. It offers privacy and sun protection for the generous living spaces, the bedrooms, and the spa area on the upper floor with a built-in pool in the back section from which the forest can be experienced like a framed picture of nature.

Column-free constructions enable span widths of twelve meters, creating the desired expansiveness of loft spaces. The floor makes an equally flowing impression, linking the various rooms with each other, complementing the calm elegance and lapping around the outdoor pool.

The apparent unity between the interior and exterior spaces also certainly owes a great deal to the fact that the architects co-designed not just the exterior structure, but also the interior and furniture. All the lighting was kept deliberately discreet: Long, narrow strands of light and individual spotlights are integrated into the house’s understated interior with great subtlety. The rear facade was also designed to be a moving image. When the large glass and wood elements are opened and moved, the interior and exterior spaces melt into each other. In this way, the “house” integrates into the landscape and enters into a visual symbiosis with the forest in the background.

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