

Tangram House 1328

Tangram is an ancient Oriental game, made out of seven different pieces, with its purpose being to make multiple forms using them..

For a better understanding of my creative process it's crucial to establish an analogy between the Tangram game and the proposal. Therefore, this parallelism was established because Tangram House can be explained in seven aspects, which interpretation can lead to different solutions.

First, I was held to the restrictions of the competition, in terms of material and structure.

The peculiar Douro River scenario had great influence, the slopes, the vines orientation, aspects of local living such as the baskets for the grapes are references strictly related with the surface design of Tangram House.

Local architecture had its role too, the "Quinta" of Douro suffered a reinterpretation of program, but its implantation served as reference.

Its mutation capability and personal definition of facade was another principle to have in mind.

The need of an interior and private garden and the utilization of a local tree (in this case an olive tree), were fundamental aspects of the house composition.

As a reference in the spatial organization and program definition, I had as bases a binuclear architecture. In Tangram House case, I establish the difference between social and private space in a very accentuated way, putting them in different layers.

This divergence led me to the seventh and last "piece": the need to create a private space with separated access for each individual, elevating, therefore, the bedrooms to a higher level, to accentuate its personal character.

And quoting a well known Portuguese architect, Fernando Távora: "It was letting talk all and everyone, in a magnificent and unforgettable dialogue, trying a true composite that we achieved this realization".

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