



MAX'S HOUSE IN A SMALL LAKE, NÎMES, FRANCE

If life is not a coherent event, should architecture be? This and bedrooms on whose terrace is set a high, luminous livquestion stimulated the design for this house.

The house, shaped as a boat, is set against the wooded banks of a little lake in the countryside of Nîmes, south of France. The building (with a height of 10m) is made up of two entities contrasting over two levels.

A compact basement in travertine comprises the hall

ing room, articulated by a slender white metal structure. This prompts the textures of the perimetral glass surfaces.

Brise-soleil screens regulate the mid-day light, while deep, containing walls partially block the morning and afternoon sun

The landscape, from within, is thus broken up into myriad quadrants and undergoes an analytical process of reconstruction. The arrangement of the metallic elements regulates the sunlight: an ample brise-soleil screens it at midday while deep, containing walls, covered in teak and suspended a metre off the floor, partially block the morning and afternoon light.

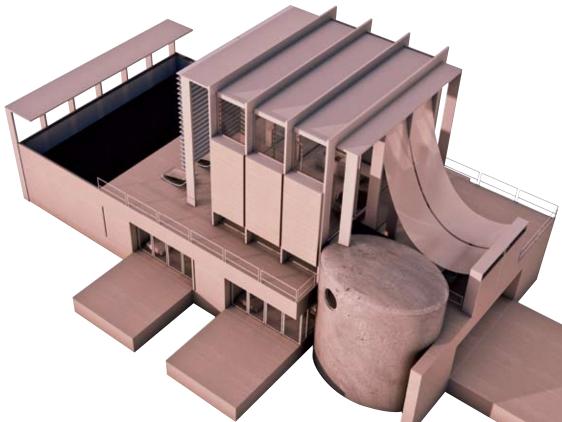
Outside, to the south, the living area extends its own

teak flooring so as to lap the swimming pool. Beyond the water body, a portico in place measures and interprets the landscape.

To the north of the glass room, a textile parabola is stretched between the two edges of the building to shade the external dining area. Lastly, the large tower that houses the stairs contrasts the symmetrical composition of the building, providing hints of its internal spaces.







HOUSE OF TWELVE, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

The ruins of ancient Rome inspired the design of this house. It tells of the passing of time, of the melding of contemporary ideas and ancient motifs, such as the theme of intersecting rings or the horizontal sequence of multiple spaces and forms, linked and united with the works of Frank Lloyd Wright and the villa of the emperor Hadrian at Tivoli.

Furthermore, the house on two levels draws inspiration from Frank Gehry's American Center in Paris, in its fractured geometry, sculpted roundness and thickness of the façade. The hollowed spaces within this composition open to the winter sun. Courtyards at the rear form cavities that illuminate with a grazing light. The living space—with a diaphanous vault in gold mosaic, ripples of water reflections at the edges and the consequent manifold reflections of light—appears from the main courtyard as a baroque 'room of light'.

