

A home-accommodation for people with social problems stands out for the strong language of the architecture. It consists in two volumes in different forms, colours and finishes that perfectly integrate with each other

Aim of the client, the Association 'Insieme si può', was to build a home accommodating sixteen persons with social problems. Since such persons can live their daily life without continuous assistance, it was necessary to create a specific structure, a sort of community, that is an architecture that should recall a home with every comfort and that should be above all cosy and private. This challenge was enthusiastically faced by the firm of Robby Cantarutti and Francesca Patricich, architects and designers from Buttrio in the province of Udine. The first idea soon became an interesting architectural project thanks to the architects' creativity and also to their great knowledge of the various living cultures and to their studies on the behaviours of the various human tribes in time. They built therefore in Cussignacco, in the province of Udine, an original volume rising over the 'ashes' of the old milk-house.

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The pre-existing building that was now unstable was replaced by a volume in the same dimensions and also by a second volume fruit of an original architectural solution and aimed at accommodating the new activities connected to the home. The resulting volumes measure 2,400 cubic metres and stretch over a 1,050 sq m surface. Main feature of the new architecture is the capacity to merge two very different volumes with a different layout, different facades and colours, thus forming a unique, original and well-shaped building enhancing the geometric windows with continuous frames in contrast with single openings in various dimensions and forms. The black-coated volume houses the public areas for the various daily activities, while the white-coated one welcomes the sleeping area composed of double or single bedrooms, all with private bathroom. The outside staircase surrounding the white volume from the ground floor to the roof-terrace on the second floor is a meaningful expressive means of this architecture. It features an essential line with broken elements. It is made of a stainless steel frame and parapet.

The strong language of the outside structure based on the contrast between black and white is softened inside, where more sunny colours are dominant. As a matter of fact, natural lighting and colours play here a major role in order to create environments that are as much relaxing and cosy as possible. All the interiors are characterised by original cuts in the ceiling to let air enter the environments and their original form recalls the one of the façade windows. Moreover, the interiors are well-ventilated and illuminated all day long. The entrance hall with flooring in red-coloured resin is mainly characterised by the staircase with essential lines and it is edged by a wall in exposed concrete and by a cage in transparent crystal glass. Even the stairwell is illuminated by natural light thanks to a large opening in the roof with a mesh composed of coloured rectangles letting natural light filter inside. The lift well is located inside the lemon yellow wall stretching on two levels and visible through the large opening in the upper loft. The living area with coloured resin flooring is 'lived' by just a few design furnishings in natural wood and softened by upholstery with design patterns in lively colours that liven up the environment, thus providing guests top domestic comfort.