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## La casa piu bella del mondo, Reggio Emilia

### **Brief**

Design a house for two families; a writer and a financier. The two-family house should have private and communal places and the owners should use modern communication techniques to be connected with the outside world.

### **Concept**

Meeting is the central issue of this competition. We took it as a starting point for our design. We distinguish two ways of meeting. A passive way; the receiving of the (electronic) information from the outside world. The result is a defined space and an introvert attitude of the occupant. On the other hand we see a more active way of meeting; an important parameter of this kind is movement. Movement that results in face to face meetings, peeping and spotting.

### **The first movement (situation)**

Although we see the pictures of the environment we are not convinced of the quality of this new area. We try to frame this ambiguous space by creating a walled micro-world for the two families. We changed the strip, in which it is restricted to build, to a real non-building area by creating a moat. The entering of the house, mostly by car, takes place with a hydraulic drawbridge.

### **The second movement (between the two families)**

Inside the walls we designed a configuration of two hooked wings connected with each other. The result of this layout is a succeeding of spaces and non-spaces, where meeting and spotting are possible between the two families.

### **The third movement (between wings)**

This movement connects the dwelling-wing and the working-wing by an internal staircase. During the movement through the connection-zone it's possible to have visual contact with the other family, unless it is limited by curtains, screens etc.

### **The fourth and fifth movement (inside a wing)**

Every wing is divided in three zones, a living zone, a connection zone and a technical zone. If you want to move from one room to another, you move through the connection zone. You then have a constant view on the neighbour's connection zone. There are however shortcut connections between contiguous rooms by sliding-doors.

### **H.I.T. roof**

An important role in the building is played by the H.I.T. roof (High IntelligentT). It divines the existence of the non-material elements: the electronic messages received by satellite and antenna. But also the non-material elements like wind, rain and sun in the non-spaces (e.g. patios). These non-spaces with their different materials divine for a great deal the sphere of the spaces. The owners can regulate the influence of the non-spaces by using screens, curtains, special glass etc. The furnishing of the separated rooms depends on style and taste of the residents.

**Omschrijving:** most beautiful house in the world, Reggio Emilia, Italy  
**Totaal bvo:** 700 m2  
**Projectduur:** 1992  
**Opdrachtgever:** Societa Arcantorie srl  
**Ontwerp:** M. Henssen, R. Winkel  
**Bijzonderheden** prijsvraag