

Plastic House I

2007

In Hjuvik just outside Göteborg Anna och Marcus Bohlin bought a property containing an old detached house. The area is a pure residential area which has been thoroughly developed over the past 20 years with a great density of houses as a result. It has also led to the paradox that although all inhabitants have moved there for a view of the sea, no sea is visible from their own property as the nearby neighbor's house is obstructing the view. This, combined with current Swedish building regulation which states that a kitchen, living room, bathroom and a bedroom must be accessible for a disabled person, leads to the tragic fact that despite the proximity to the sea, most people do not see it from the spaces where they spend most of their waking time - the kitchen and living room.

In the initial calculations, it proved too expensive to extend the existing house and it was consequentially torn down. The foundation was saved and thus defined the depth of the new building. Since the ground floor in this case had a dark and cramped position it was desirable to switch the floors - to move down the bedrooms and move up the living room and kitchen. It was possible to prepare for a lifting plate outside of the building, if the house is to be adjusted for a disabled person in the future.

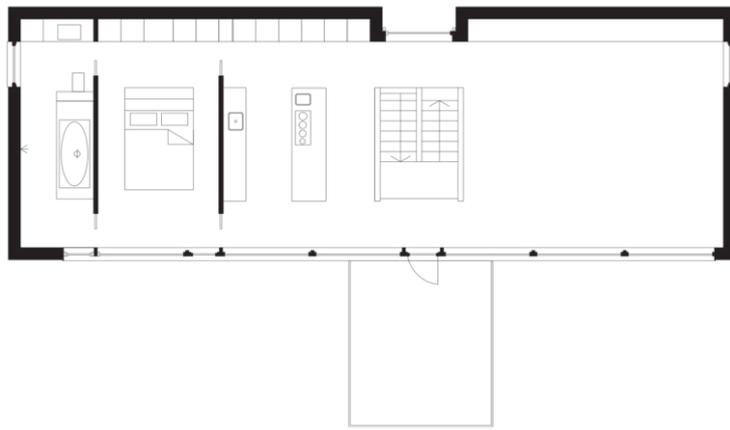
The clients wanted a larger house than the budget really allowed. This was made possible by a genuinely simple geometry and common materials; the outer form follows the logic of the shoebox and the layout is as straightforward as possible. It was the size of the rooms that was defined as a luxury and not building materials. The materials of the facade reflects the different activities inside the house. The ground floor houses mainly bedrooms, private dwelling and non-representative parts. The facades on this floor are clad with the most Swedish of facades - the sawn spruce panelling. This is painted with a mixture of equal parts turpentine, linseed oil and tar - the traditional west coast protective treatment for their wooden landings. This floor has a conventional placement of windows. The upper floor is the representative part of the house clad with a flawless and proper facade material - 5 mm translucent white acrylic plastic or PMMA. The magnificent view is captured with large panoramic windows. A large balcony with a pragmatic steel construction and cheap railing compensates for the lack of outdoor space in connection to the living room. The ground floor has a pragmatic layout built around a transversal corridor with storage as a buffer towards the northeast. On the other side there is a row of rooms. The upper level is inspired by the Moore and Kubly Houses - both designed by Craig Ellwood and built in the 60s - with their free walls only interrupted by sliding doors in closed position.

Client	Privat
Area	210 m ²
Status	Completion 2007
Architect	Klas Moberg & Mikael Frej (design principals), Anders Holmér

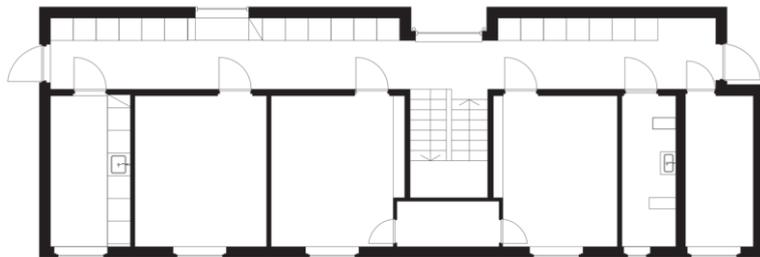
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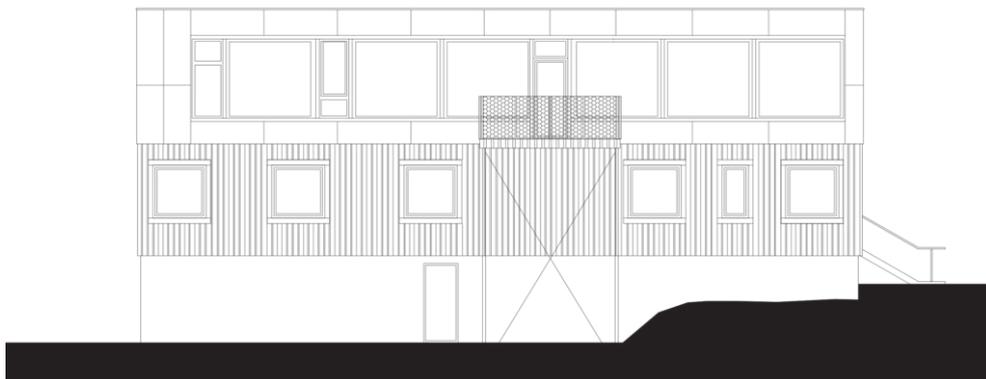
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Upper floor
1:200



Ground floor
1:200



West elevation
1:200