

Edgy Architecture



Living in the most impossible places

LANNOO

Métraiiller House



The statement of Savioz Fabrizzi Architects is very clear: "Our approach to work is based on the analysis of a site in its natural or built state in order to identify the essential elements that could enhance, preserve or qualify a site. This way, we believe, enhances the cultural role of the architecture based on the analysis of a function, respectively a program, its place in the history and the culture of a region". Their minimalistic and highly distinctive Métraiiller House, beautifully situated between vineyards in Swiss Sierre, proves how well this strategy works in practice. Built against a cliff, the monolithic structure takes on its form. The contours of the house follow those of the landscape. The house was meant to be seen as a rock in the middle of a hilly landscape, and not to disturb the harmonious charm of the vineyards.



PROJECT
Métrailler House
YEAR
2013
LOCATION
Sierre, Switzerland
ARCHITECTS
Savioz Fabrizzi
Architectes

Made entirely of concrete, it has a multi-faceted shape that has been diversified with irregularly placed windows that look out on the location's natural attractions, such as the Rhône Valley or the forest. Curiously, the interiors also respond to the surrounding landscape. Connected by a central circulation channel, the interior spaces vary correspondingly to the volume and are organized into half levels, which results in maximum living space. Large openings allow the owners to benefit from the views from numerous angles. The materials used for the interiors are an elegant mix of concrete and wood.





The team of Savioz Fabrizzi Architectes is also responsible for a very interesting conversion that connects a house dating back to 1860 with today's architecture. Located in the heart of the old village of Ormône, the original structure followed the local scheme – a masonry base of natural stone, whose southern wall is surmounted by a timber structure while the northern side rises up as a kind of backbone. "The timber part is simply raised", the architects explain. "The masonry part is altered. This stone spine, which links the whole project together, is extruded in a kind of 'chimney' to the east and extends to the north to form an annexe", they add. New elements are made from concrete, while previously existing outer walls were treated with a mineral coating to resemble traditional

'pietra rasa' plasterwork. Contemporary materials as well as large glazed openings (including one in the roof section) create a stark yet arresting contrast juxtaposed to the historical part. Both co-exist together in an innovative way. The character of the architecture on site is preserved, while the owners of the house enjoy present-day standards. To once again prove how important the location is, the architects arranged the windows in various spaces so that they are oriented towards particular spots: the Rhône Valley in the east, Savièse in the north, the Val d'Hérens mountains in the south and the garden in the west. The interiors are well connected, spacious, clearly defined and highly functional.

PROJECT
Reynard / Rossi-
Udry House
YEAR
2015-2016
LOCATION
Ormône, France
ARCHITECTS
Savioz Fabrizzi
Architectes