

**DIAGONAL SPACE**

PUBLISHED IN

Trece trucos de arquitectura. Ed. ACB. Madrid, 2020

## DIAGONAL SPACE

### THE SIMPLE DIAGONAL SPACE

Architects call a double-height space a space that can accommodate a mezzanine. And if we open a hole at the highest point so that the light crosses diagonally that space, we will make visible an elementary spatial diagonality.

### THE COMPOUND DIAGONAL SPACE

If we take a double-height space and put it in front of a double-height space, almost nothing happens. You get a larger space in plan and with the same double height. But if we put them together and move one of them vertically until both have a single height in common, we will obtain a very special diagonal space. The higher space will overturn on the lower one. And if we open a hole in the highest point so that the light crosses diagonally this new space, even better; we will have made visible the compound diagonality of this new space. So, as a good architect friend of mine used to say,  $2+2$  is much more than just 4. Of course, another good friend of mine, also an architect, of course! used to say that in the end that was nothing more than the spatial mechanism of the siphon boat.

### THE DIAGONAL CONCATENATED SPACE

And if encouraged by the efficiency of the compound diagonal space we dare to do the same operation attaching to the highest space another double height space with a new vertical displacement and a ninety degree turn in plan, we will obtain a new richer diagonal space, where it can be stated that  $2+2+2$  are much more than just 6. And if we perforate in the right high points so that the light makes these spatial diagonalities visible, even better. This concatenated diagonality is the main operation with which I have worked in the last house I have built in Madrid, the Cala house.

Diagonal space, whether single, double or triple concatenated, are effective spatial mechanisms of architecture.

As in my last house built, the Casa Cala, the mechanism of the concatenated diagonality is developed, I cannot resist transcribing here the memory, where the operation is explained in detail. RAUMPLAN House  $2+2+2$  are much more than just 6.

The house is situated on a sloping terrain with a distant horizon landscape that is the western cornice of Madrid as seen from Camarines. At ground level nothing interesting appears, but, as we get up, the urban landscape of a panoramic view of part of the west cornice of Madrid appears with more clarity. From the four towers on the left, to the tower of Madrid on the right. Beautiful and curious. Logically a vertical house is decided where

the most public spaces of the house will be at the top, to be able to frame and enjoy these great views. An eye on Madrid.

Complying with the conditions required by the regulations, we work with a 12x12 m. square floor plan that is divided into four 6x6 m. squares. Following these traces, the floor plans are raised, square by square, with a simple helical movement. These spaces are of double height so that they intersect to produce a concatenated diagonal, also helical. The result translates well that 2+2+2 are much more than only 6 with which this proposal is headed.

In the history of architecture, Adolf Loos proposed the Raumplan as a sequence of different concatenated spaces as opposed to the continuous and transparent space of which the orthodox Modern Movement would later make its flagship. Something, much of this Raumplan has our RAUMPLAN House.

The Raumplan's spatial mechanism of concatenation of double spaces in a spiral is thus employed. Every two double spaces are connected by moving vertically so that a diagonal space is created. If at the same time that we ascend we turn 90 degrees and connect it with the other two double spaces, and if we continue ascending, turning again another 90 degrees, a surprising spatial structure is achieved: the concatenation of three diagonal spaces in spiral, as if it were a corkscrew. With which it is understood that it is possible to say here that 2+2+2 are much more than only 6.

Once the house is built, as if it were a musical instrument, the appropriate holes are opened so that it can be crossed by the light so that, after tuning the instrument well, we can show the movement of the solid light of the sun throughout the day. Especially beautiful will be the roofs that, planted with jasmine and vines, will frame with large horizontal holes this unique landscape of Madrid. Vines and jasmines will also frame the porches with which the lower openings open onto the garden.