

Eer House b.v



Housing construction is generally based on traditional ideas. The construction of their own house has stimulated the architects to question these basic principles and to think about housing and living in relation to family life. The inhabitant becomes responsible for the mental process and the conception, which allows a certain level of experimentation. The result is a construction wherein form and function, technique and art are complementary so that either of them would lose their reason for being without the other.

The fundamental idea is to give each inhabitant freedom in how to use the house. The functioning of the "plan libre" is parallel with a philosophy of life based on flexibility and respect for the other. Each individual has the possibility to retreat to his own private cell, a small area for meditation, return to oneself. But the plan provides mainly large common spaces in which to live, to work, to play. There are no materialised separations between the functions, space is adjudicated according to the needs of the moment. A technical room and three movable bedrooms act as separation within the "plan libre". The second floor is suspended from the roof, wardrobes along the edge double up as parapet.

In collaboration with structural engineer Laurent Ney, the architects conceived a steel structure that has been assembled on site with bolts only. All structural elements have been cut by "oxycoupage" from two plates of untreated steel, dimensioned $10 \times 5 \times 0.2$ m and $10 \times 5 \times 0.3$ m. Construction period was only three months, included special techniques and finishes. Out of respect for "the art of building", construction details have not been hidden: construction, techniques and finishing materials are shown in their rough state. The house doesn't seem "conceived"... conception has returned to its primary and natural form.

The technical command of the house anticipates on flexibility through the installation of "domotica", centralised in the technical storage room. To lead the necessary ducts through the house, industrial galvanised steel channels are suspended from the ceiling. Flexible metal conduits descend down to the desired height for sockets and switches.

Architects: Eer: Geert Buelens, Veerle Vanderlinden

Structural engineers: Ney and partners

Construction: Bemelmans

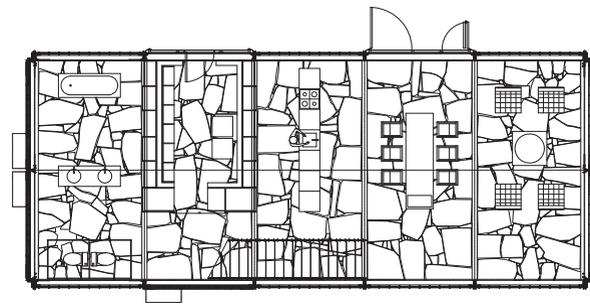
Façade: FMP

Electricity and Automation: Cenlec

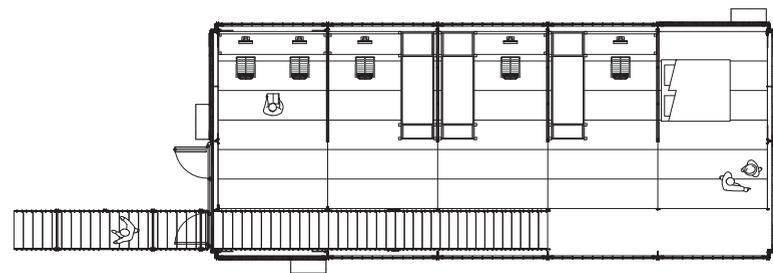
Carpentry: De Noordboom

Photographs: contributed by the architects





Ground floor plan

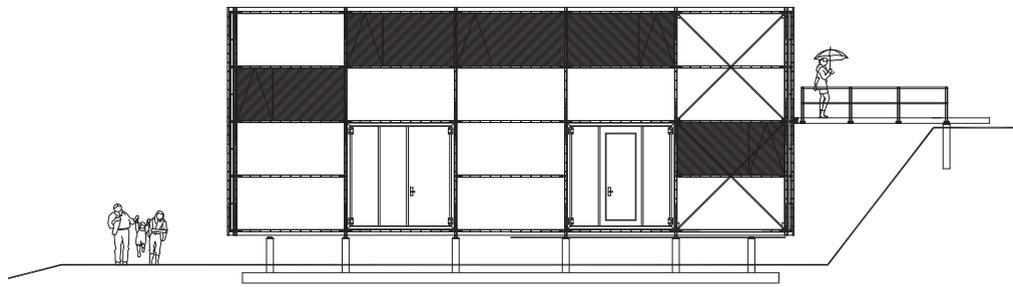


First floor plan

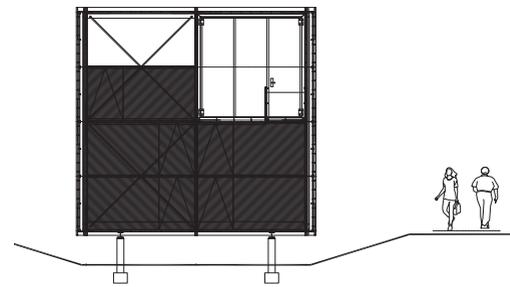


Its construction on "pilotis" makes the house float over the natural curves of the site. The vegetation is an integral part of the concept: large bay windows and industrial folding doors ensure optimal contact with nature. Breeze, birdsong and the smell of pines penetrate the house without limit. Following this philosophy, there are no curtains, but life is ensured by the rain and the sun, the clouds and the moonlight.

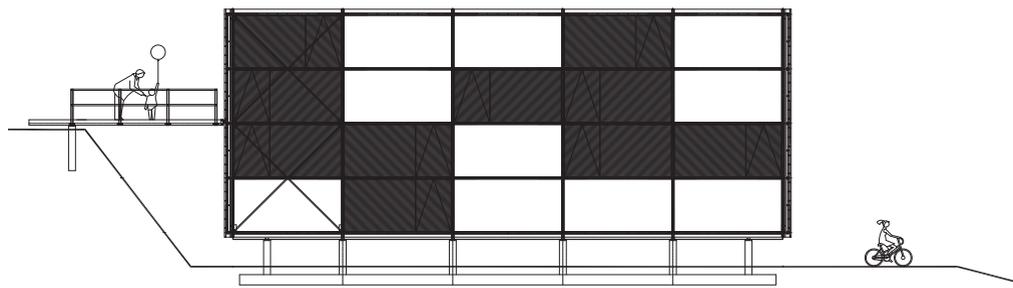




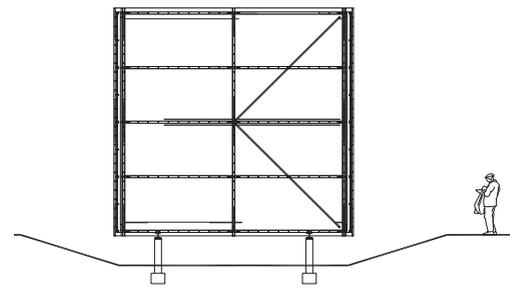
East elevation



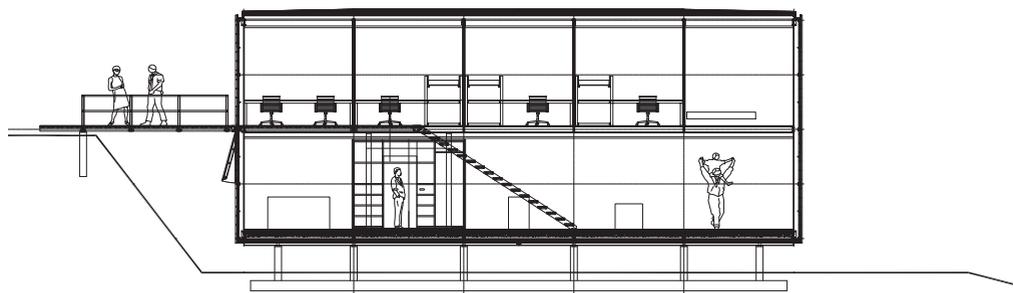
North elevation



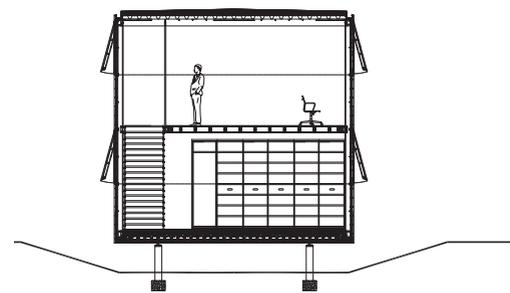
West elevation



South elevation



Longitudinal section



Cross section

The façade consists of 50% fixed bay windows and 50% opening timber panels. As well as providing sufficient natural ventilation, this system adds a dimension to the façade: a traditional window, open or closed, unveils the same view on the exterior, it is transparent either way, whereby the surface creating contact with nature remains unchanged. On the other hand, if a closed panel opens, the additional surface creates new perspectives.



