

Embassy residences

private comission housing with various apartments, parking and shops
location Tirana, Albania **size** 3.750 m² GFA, 13 units **client:** private **services:** building design **status** in progress **year** 2018 **partners** Martin Sobota
team Francisco Monforte, Jamie Woods, Valentina Fantini, Piotr Kalbarczyk
cooperation studio arch4, Arkon Studio

Embassy residences aims to provide high-quality, family friendly and low energy housing units in the City Centre of Tirana, one of the fastest growing cities in Europe. The project responds to the mayor's ambition to limit the growth of the city and to counter sub-urban developments with a more diverse range of housing typologies.

On top of a commercial plinth and two parking levels rises a series of stacked villas, connected by a semi-public stair. This serves as alternative circulation and additional, shared outside space to the apartments. The stair creates shortcuts between the apartments and a safe place for children to play and meet. The floorplans protect the privacy of the apartments but allow residents to sit on their porch or use the staircase to access their apartment when in the mood for a chat or a Friday afternoon drink.

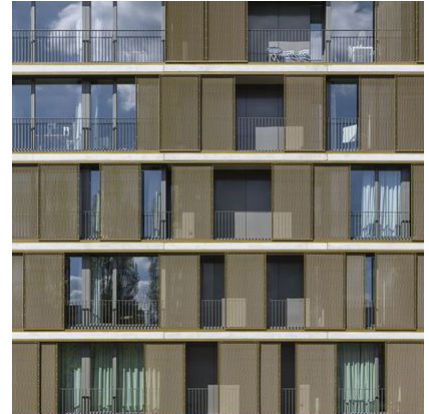
Research has led to a compact build-up of irrigated substrate layers that can support rich vegetation on the stair, balconies and roof terraces. The façade consists of two layers arranged according to insulation. A basic glass layer is protected by a secondary shading layer of anodized aluminium where it is not protected by surrounding buildings or cantilevering volumes.



site plan



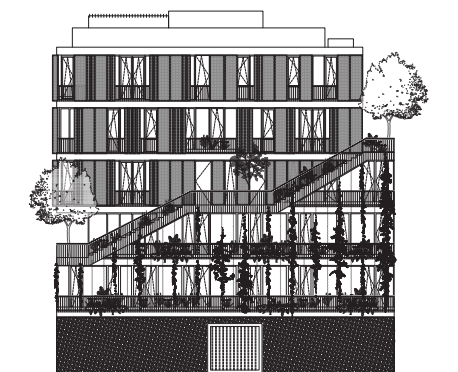
view from the street



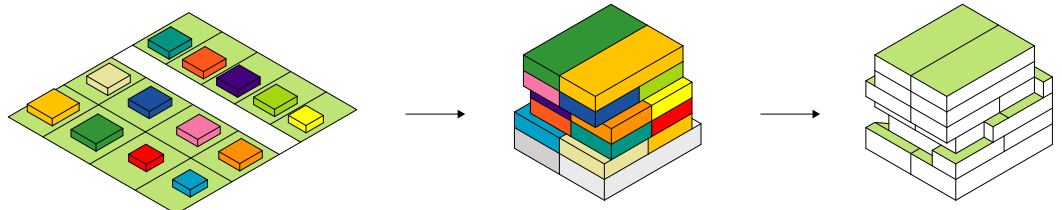
material references



south elevation



east elevation



concept



external staircase