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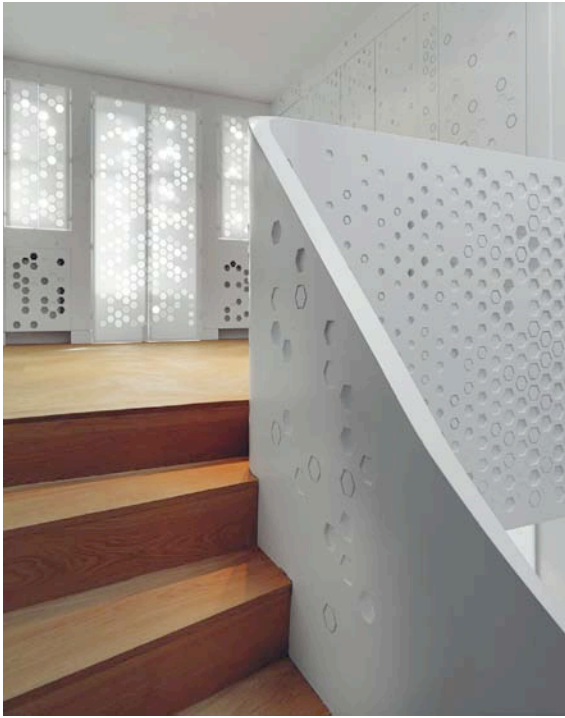
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Best of Both Worlds

Thanks to a fusion of traditional ideas and modern materials, this luxury home brings some real Andalusian style to the Spanish capital





The warmth of a traditional medium like wood is combined with HI-MACS Arctic White, a high-tech, elegant, and durable material that lines part of the home like a skin, unifying the spaces

TAKING inspiration from late Moorish architecture, the MOREMAS architectural design studio has recreated Alhambra in an urban setting for the owners of this 500 sq m home in Madrid.

In a sweeping renovation, the Arab influences present in the existing building have been transformed into a full blown homage to Islamic architecture, taking from it its ancestral shrewdness in organizing space, light, and structure to create a fabulous atmosphere of comfort in the middle of a large city environment.

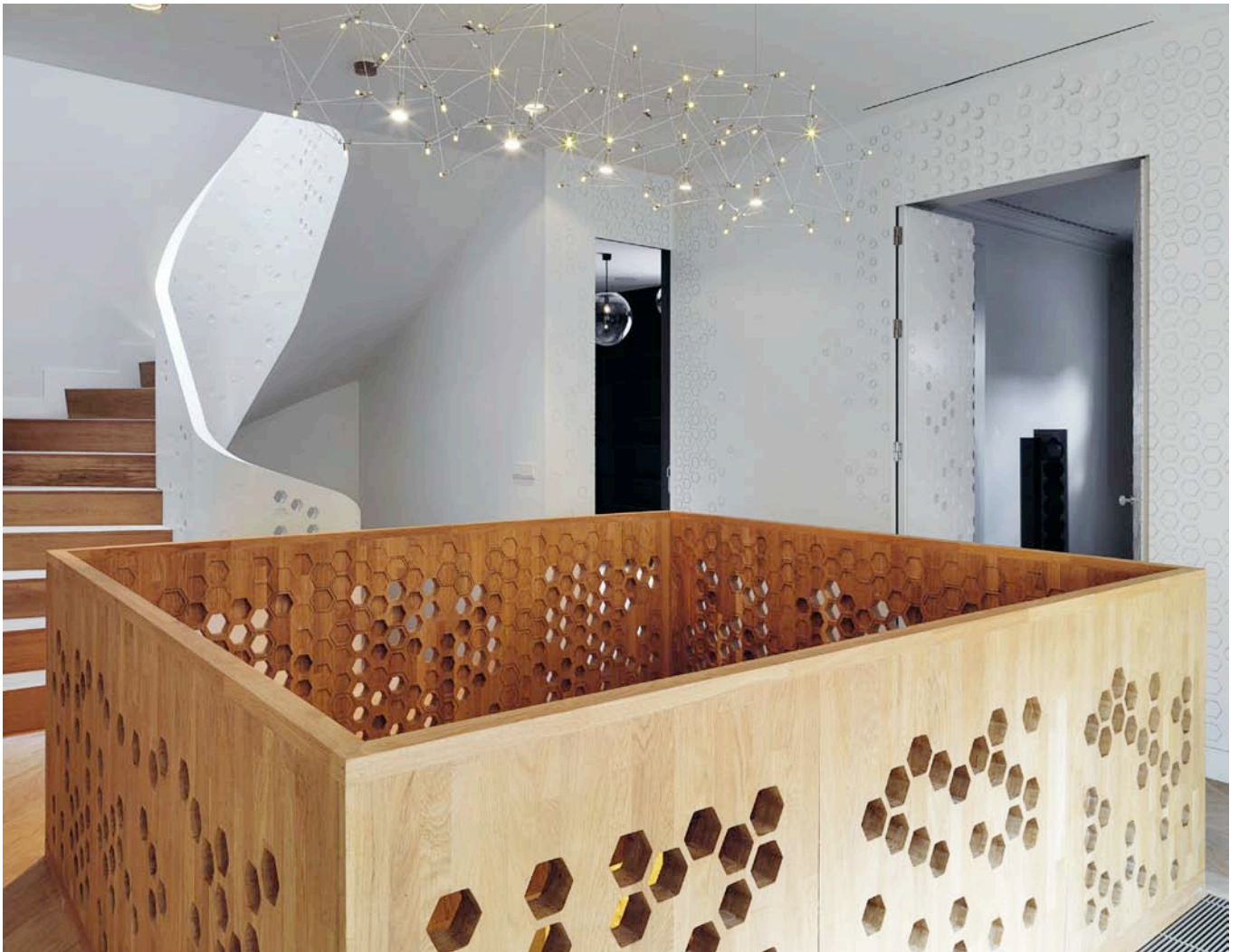
This Moorish influence may be seen in the central space that structures the building from the entrance level all the way to the upper storeys. Far from being a mere vestibule or hallway, this element serves as a central patio, unifying all the storeys thanks to the natural daylight and the continuous surface with hexagonal openings, made in lacquered MDF and HI-MACS.

This particular treatment in HI-MACS acrylic stone works as an integrating element. As well as filtering to the interior the light streaming in from the skylights and windows, it also regulates it by adjusting the various levels of opacity to suit the privacy needed in each room.

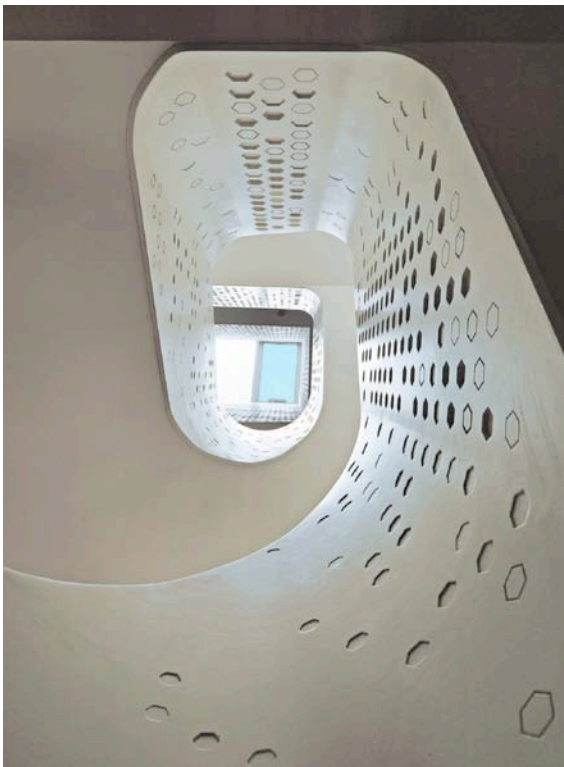
The air circulation is an essential part of the smart heating system designed for the home - the thermal mass of the radiant flooring in open stone maintains the heat during the day, and hot air rises to the floors above. Where this heating does not reach, steam radiators complete the work, providing a level of humidity to offset a dry climate like Madrid's.

The numerous innovative solutions to design challenges are something of a signature of MOREMAS, an architectural practice operating from Madrid and New York and whose European projects are led by Paula Rosales. The firm works across commercial and public sectors too but many of the examples in its extensive portfolio of residential projects demonstrate a significant emphasis on utilising high-tech materials - and blending them with other contrasting materials - in order to best fulfil the brief.

For the decorated surface of this home's central structure, MOREMAS chose HI-MACS for its resistance and translucency. The acrylic stone is long-lasting and easy to maintain. It is also a low-emissions material, meeting the sustainability requirements established for this home. →



A wall with hexagonal decorations made with 12mm HI-MACS Artic White. The light penetrates into the house from the roof and descends vertically to the ground floor, unify all of the building's spaces



In addition to HI-MACS, prominent use is made of Macael marble and Alcantara Black granite, both Spanish stones, and therefore strictly local. These materials have been combined with appropriately adapted original tesserae, and FSC certified wood so as not to contribute to deforestation.

But this home's sustainable approach is not limited to materials alone: the outside garden with pool has been designed to create a pleasant microclimate that combats the hot Madrid summer while insulating against the noise of the surrounding traffic.

Species of plants that can be found in the gardens of Alhambra coexist with deciduous trees that provide shade in the summer and let the light through during the winter months. In this way, a house located in the middle of a large city becomes a place of peace cocooned in a protective oasis.

With its unusual layout, the effects of light, and its way of combining new technologies with Andalusian architecture's masterly use of natural resources, this house offers a unique architectural experience, bringing together tradition and the most innovative and efficient materials.

The result is a new architectural language, with elements of history and the modern, and of comfort and elegance designer



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