

TEMPORARY HOME AND CARE CENTRE FOR FAMILIES WITH SERIOUSLY ILL CHILDREN

location: Catania (Italy)
client: LAD ONLUS Association
consultants: ALGA studio (landscape architecture)
gross surface: 995m² (care centre); 275m² (multi-functional hall)
cost: 955K € excl. VAT (care centre); 300K € excl. VAT (multi-functional hall)
phase: competition
timetable: 08.2014-10.2014

Having to deal with a lot of abandoned land, a "terrain vague" in the middle of a fragmented urban environment, and taking into account the delicate task that the new care centre Wonderlad has to perform, our will was to create an empty space inside an empty space. The reference image has been a clearing in a forest, an introverted and quite place protected from the surrounding chaos, a place where the guests could find the peace needed to deal with their difficulties. An oasis surrounded by greenery. To do so, we decided to design low volumes, self-enclosed, but with the open view on the surrounding garden. The references that inspired the project remind to atmospheres typical of this region, where very often the country houses were closed by a fence, a high wall or by some service volumes, creating beautiful courtyards that became the real heart of family life.

These are the items that led us to imagine a low building, with a courtyard, generated by four pure volumes. The only variation is given by the blocks height difference. These small variations are an asset of the project and, in particular, of the inner courtyard, designed as a real outdoor room. Even the internal distribution undergoes the evocative power of this space, so that all the access to the main living areas are directly made from the courtyard itself. Real beating heart of activity and potential, the inner courtyard could be used, from time to time, as a space for group dinners, discussions, games, screenings, concerts, parties or simply as a connection gateway.

