

The Award Winner in the Architecture Category

Casa Ter (Rupià, Girona)

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LA BISBAL'S CERAMIC *GENIUS LOCI*

Based on the principles of a physical and cultural respect for the local area, a decision was taken to create a house made of ceramic materials (and, in specific places, concrete), since ceramic is one of the most widely used materials in the La Bisbal area.

A big long section made of ceramic materials acts as a joint, linking the home's two volumes. At the same time, it is designed to stretch across the plot, creating three separate spaces: an area in the back yard facing south toward the wood; an inner gallery with an open feel; and an outdoor area culminating in a swimming pool, which leads to the surrounding fields. The whole of this section is paved with handmade terracotta floor tiles, laid in rows. This part of the house is intended to contain the home's more "public" areas, whatever the time of year. In this case, the tiled floor is its most important feature, embodying what we understand to represent "Mediterranean life".

The same tiles are also used on the walls, serving as an expansion joint for the one-coat render (whose texture imitates aged walls, using pebbles from River Ter) and as a boundary between the wall, the windows, and other openings in the wall. The whole thing is horizontal in composition to give the impression of a house that rests on the land. The windows fit in with the horizontal lines of the handmade tiles on the façade and with the size of the tiles.