

## **The Winner in the Interior Design Category**

**Ávila. Proyectar el vacío (Designing emptiness)** (Barcelona)

**ALL AROUND LAB** (Noelia de la Red and Jordi Ribas)

Photography: José Hevia

### **REPORT – Ávila. Proyectar el vacío (Designing emptiness)**

Ávila is a project for the reinterpretation of a former open-plan warehouse situated in Barcelona's Poble Nou district. The intention was to convert it into a 120 m<sup>2</sup> multi-functional liveable space. The proposal aimed to carry out this transformation by using what we have termed as “the minimal means for inhabiting a space” – in other words, storage, wet areas and circulations, taking into consideration the total volume available, rather than just its surface area.

Starting with the arrangement of the project elements that articulate the various settings and limiting the number of partitions to a minimum, we worked on emptiness as the principal element of our design. Likewise, the landing on the upper floor was conceived as a square shaped space positioned diagonally, which despite its apparent simplicity, affords an obstacle-free vision of all the rooms, as well as the view of the rear façade from the staircase.

Slim, large format ceramic tiles were chosen as the main material, suitable for adapting to various situations thanks to the large number of thicknesses and sizes available. In turn, this allowed for the use of a single finish for both the floor tiles, the island furniture and the sofa, heightening the sense of continuity perceived throughout the space.

The use of light tones and materials that make for a sense of continuity is intended to create a bright space that is both neutral and warm, reinforced by the choice of furniture which has been integrated from the onset of the project. This proposal brings out the full potential of this space, thanks to its simplicity and the use of materials with different textures and light, leaving aside all forms of excess and ornamentation in order to focus on meeting the needs of its inhabitants.