

Avsaralani Villa

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Avsaralani Villa

The village of Avsaralani (+1500m) is situated in a desirable mountain area 100km north of Kayseri in Central Turkey. Most people live and work abroad and stay here only during summer. During winter time Avsaralani is an abandoned place and frequently covered with snow. By building a house here, in a prime location at the south edge of the village, our Dutch-Turkish client creates a pied-à-terre in the valley of birth of both his parents.

The Avsaralani Villa is a 500m² contemporary house, using native materials and construction traditions common to the region. Everything in this building is executed with considerable craftsmanship, which contributes to the building's specific expression. The natural stone facades, hardwooden doors and window frames are inspired by the local stonemasons in the Yozgat Province. Although the house is integrated with the natural site through its materiality, it is significantly different from the local architecture in its appearance by its rectangular shape, strong geometric forms and storey high window frames. The stones originate from demolished old neighbouring houses and accumulate like built out of time between the modern horizontal concrete floor lines.

The house is orientated to the south, facing the panoramic view. The villa is a composition of massive stone walls and volumes, which protect against the harsh climate. A long stone wall running north-south blocks the view from the main village road into the private garden and at the same time guides one to the entrance of the house. The main living area on the ground floor is a designed negative space, a meandering space between solid blocks. The wide openings between the volumes enable spectacular views at the mountains. By integrating the serving spaces into the stone volumes, corridors are limited in the house.

The floor plans of the ground floor and first floor show the different use of the house in winter and summer: the ground floor is intimate and divisible, sliding doors enable to close off unheated areas from the heated ones in winter time; the first floor is orientated to the sun and connected with an extensive terrace where life takes place during summer. The low stone walls around the terrace function both as balustrades and as sitting facilities and recall the endless stone retaining walls that frame the surrounding Yozgat landscape.

CLIENT

Private

LOCATION

Avsaralani, Turkey

PROGRAM

Residential

GROSS FLOOR AREA

500 m²

YEAR

2011

TEAM

Serge Schoemaker

Dik Houben







