

Casa al Parco: Ignazio Gardella's design strategies

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Abstract

Casa al Parco is one of the most emblematic residential buildings in Milanese Modern architecture and of Ignazio Gardella's career. This isolated building, located next to Castello Sforzesco, has a strong relationship with Parco Sempione, which guides the project since the first drawings.

Ignazio Gardella started working on the project in 1947, experimenting with various alternative solutions based on common/constant elements. This experimentation, explores the decomposition of a unitary volume, which later will be regrouped in different parts until it's transfigured and resumed in a more complex unit, composing spaces characterized by a spatial and visual continuity.

Based on a careful analytical reading of the design process evolution, we intend to highlight the architectural intentions, principles of composition and characteristics of the different design phases. Based on an ordering grid, the proportional set of compositional elements are organised as layers motivated by the logic, in which, each element is treated in a particular way. The building's overall expression creates a particular spatial rhythm which focuses on exterior and interior relationships, play of light and an arrangement of elements that create a scenic backdrop and gives a theatrical character to the whole environment.

The goal of this work is to understand the evolution of the design process of this project, and map the different design themes and architectural notions. The deepening of these notions aims to understand Gardella's methods and design strategies to highlight the influence of Modern architecture in contemporary narratives.

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