

From the essence of Place to Compositional Harmony: Casa al Parco, Ignazio Gardella

Ferreira, Verónica Marques, Faculdade de Arquitectura, Portugal

Ribeiro, Helder Casal, Faculdade de Arquitectura, Portugal

Abstract

"My kind of architecture adapts itself to each place and situation (...) from my point of view, architecture must be thought in harmony with the essence of the place and destination through most spontaneous and natural forms". Ignazio Gardella

Casa al Parco is one of the most iconic buildings from the modern Milanese architecture era and a landmark in Ignazio Gardella's portfolio. Its design process began in 1947 in which Gardella clearly willed to set a strong dialogue between Casa al Parco, which is an isolated building, and Sempione Park. This premise led to a very complex development process with many interesting particularities.

Through the establishment of a relationship of mutual contamination, the project allows itself to be moulded according to the architectural framework, based on the contemporary Milan scene assessing the relationships between its interior and exterior, seeking to design a unique atmosphere inside the house. It is the characteristics of the place that suggests the typological definition of Casa al Parco, as well as the figurative differentiation of the building. Starting from a harmonic scale, it provides a compositional whole in which the various elements complement each other, proposing a principle that explores the relationship between the pillar and the beam which mirrors the relationship of permeability with the landscape. These elements do not only grant a constructive solution of the building, but also became part of its identity.

This investigation intends to understand and interpret the evolution of the design process of Casa al Parco which has as main premise the characteristics of the place where it is integrated, as well as its compositional principle. This study is part of an ongoing dissertation, in the Master's Degree in Architecture, at FAUP, 2021/2022, under the guidance of Helder Casal Ribeiro and Angelo Lorenzi. It is our purpose to showcase the importance of Modern architecture in the contemporary narratives.