

Pergola Residence



Pergola Hotel: a sloping site as an opportunity. Or, in other words: how can architecture be designed for energy-saving? And also: can architecture and the vine-growing industry borrow each other's forms? All this actually happens in some sense in Algund near Merano. The project exploits the lie of the land and works around a discrete strategy of concealment, which is both a way of respecting the genius loci and an energy-saving approach. You can reach the hotel from the valley below, while a well-beaten two-century old track winds higher up the mountain, offering views of everything. A delicately oblique position. The sloping land at the top of the site points towards recessed architecture (i.e. partly built into the mountainside for reasons of shelter and energy-saving), while further down a series of terraces have been constructed along the stylistic and structural lines of a pergola of vines (since the vineyard hill was more important than all the rest). As the vines grow, the building disappears from sight, while maintaining its 2,800 square metres divided into 12 residential units with a terrace (and kitchen) and 2 luxury suites opening on the landscape, a breakfast room and a spa equipped with pools and saunas.

All with great respect for traditional South Tyrol-style building updated

in line with modernity: indigenous larch wood just like the pergolas in the vineyard, accompanying the transition from interior to exterior right through the building; hand-cut stone walls in reminiscence of local Alpine construction work. Cellar and foundations made of reinforced concrete, with all the rest drawing on low-cost technology: material sensations for a low-budget project offering privacy (the apartments all have their own separate entrances), functional flexibility (they can be converted into private living units), cutting-edge technology (but discretely hidden away under its skin), ecology (due consideration for the lifecycle of materials and how they are recycled), and tradition (in the tables and chairs, plus the colour scheme). The senses are also called into play through the tactile nature of the natural surfaces and lighting, and how the simple interiors relate to the exuberant surrounding nature.

An **architectural design geared to energy-saving**, a building that takes its **sloping site as an opportunity**, borrowing **its form from the vine-growing industry**. Pergola Hotel has **recessed architecture** up at the top of the site and a system of terraces at the bottom, working **along the lines of a pergola for vines: a tribute to the Algund landscape** near Merano.

Client

Private Owner

Location

Algund - Meran

Country

Italy

Intervention Type

Architecture, interior design

Project Manager

Architecture:

Christina von Berg, Bruno Franchi

Team

Interior designer:

Elisa Catoir

Stylist:

Gunhild Breloh

Start Date

2002

End Date

2004

Phase

Completed

Total Building Area

2.400 m²

Building Use

Residence and spa

Room Type

12 apartments, 2 suites

Public Areas

Spa-area, breakfast room