

Project: Gotham House

Design Team: Plan:b arquitectos

Size: 985 m²

Location: MEDELLÍN, COLOMBIA



Feature:

Project - Plan:b arquitectos has completed Gotham House, a striking rental apartment building in Medellín, Colombia that skilfully maximizes natural light and ventilation on a narrow urban site. The five-story development contains one apartment per floor, each benefitting from a deep plan with balconies and terraces at either end to enable effective cross-breezes and sun exposure.

A standout element is the façade treatment which sees six structural concrete arches create a cadence of rectangular and curved openings across the front elevation. This arresting frontage gives the building a striking visual identity while pragmatically allowing ample daylight to penetrate deep into the floor plates.

Internally, the apartments are planned with open-plan living spaces to the east and bedrooms to the west, ensuring the principal rooms receive morning and evening light respectively. Intermediate spaces like balconies provide coveted outdoor amenity for each residence.

On the uppermost level, the penthouse enjoys a private roof terrace with pergolas framing views out over Medellín's cityscape. Throughout, Plan:b has created a sense of luminosity and permeability by expressing the raw concrete structural elements.

With its bold street presence and intelligent environmental response, Gotham House represents an exemplary example of how to design generous, light-filled homes within the constraints of dense urban plots.

Design Team - Founded in 2000 in Medellín, Colombia, Plan:b arquitectos is an acclaimed architectural practice led by principals Felipe Mesa and Federico Mesa. The fraternal duo bring a nuanced and environmentally-attuned design approach focused on creating "permeable configurations" that positively respond to surrounding eco-social constraints.

Over the past 15 years, Plan:b has realized over 40 built works across diverse typologies including public spaces, sports venues, educational facilities, hotels, offices, residences, and art installations. Their contextually-sensitive yet forward-thinking projects have been widely published across five books investigating themes like "partial agreements", "awaiting architecture", and "architecture in reverse."

Felipe Mesa, holding a Master's in Architecture: Critique and Project from UPC Barcelona, is currently an Assistant Professor at Arizona State University's Design School. Federico Mesa, also with a Master's focused on Critique and Project, serves as an Assistant Professor at Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana's Architecture and Design Faculty in their home city. Under their insightful leadership, Plan:b arquitectos continues pushing boundaries through research and innovative built works redefining architecture's relationship to place.