

RESTLESS LIVING

"...restlessly dedicated to contemporary living."



VOLUME 148





HOUSE THAT OPENS UP TO THE SUN Malé Kyšice

In a small town west of Prague, a distinctive home opens up on the edge of Křivoklát forest. Towards the public street, the entrance indicates a very introvert home, completely lacking openings and windows. On the southwestern side, however, the home finally opens up to the sun.

"In the southern part of Malé Kyšice town on the edge of the Křivoklát woods, there is a residential district originally home to weekend cottages. One such cottage on a flat plot of land was replaced by a passive home", architect Ján Stempel says. Resembling a quarter-circle with walls made of exposed concrete blocks, the house is oriented towards the garden and a fully glazed façade of windows set in anthracite frames allow each space to enjoy nature and privacy simultaneously. "The building's story began to be written before the world was paralyzed by the pandemic and before Europe was gripped by an energy crisis. Did the owners' sixth sense motivate the family to acquire a low-cost house surrounded by a beautiful garden? Not at all: it was their natural and responsible approach to life and their respect for nature, which must be protected", Ján explains. "The principles applied during construction will continue to be relevant even after we overcome today's pressing issues, when we all accept the threat of climate disaster, which we have perhaps ignored too much in the face of the uncertainties of the past few years." The house is built with respect to the concepts of 'light and warm', 'earth', and 'water'. "The building opens up to the sun's rays like a fan, soaking up its energy and seeking to use it economically", Ján tells. By thinking of earth, the house is built primarily using the renewable material of wood with concrete to provide durability and lifespan while water is emphasized through a small pond, which "optimizes the use of rainwater, meaning there is sufficient water for watering the garden even during dry periods, thanks also to its own root zone treatment plant."

'House That Opens up to the Sun' is hence incredibly thoughtful in its concept as well as its aesthetic.

Architecture by **Stempel & Tesar architekti**

Photography by **Filip Šlapal**

