

**A DREAM HOUSE**

**The BC House of Gilberto L. Rodriguez**

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During my visit to Monterrey on the occasion of giving a lecture at the School of Architecture of the prestigious Tecnológico de Monterrey, one of the lectures held by the Luis Barragán Chair in 2009, I had the opportunity to meet a group of young Mexican architects who are not only very valuable, but who were also extremely generous to me. Gilberto Rodríguez, who is one of them, is also the current head of the Luis Barragán Chair.

On this occasion I had the opportunity to visit a wonderful work of his under construction, about to be finished in the spring of 2009: the BC house. On the morning of March 31, 2009, a group of architects were there to enjoy some good architecture.

The house, besides being very well conceived, is very well finished in each and every one of its details. There are uninhabited architectures like mine, and there are well finished architectures, very well dressed, like that of Gilberto Rodriguez. And his Casa BC, besides being very beautiful, is very well dressed.

The house is not only a well planned house, with impeccable floors and sections, but it is also finished in an exemplary manner. So much so that I recommended to the architect, perhaps as a defense of my stubborn imperfection, that maybe a little more imperfection would have been nice. That he should "tousle" it a little. Perhaps because when I wrote a text about Barragán some time ago I spoke, as a compliment to the master, of the certain dishevelment of the floors of his projects.

The materials used to build it are splendid. The perfect exposed concrete, the magnificent coatings in dark gray granite brought from China, and the very white Carrara marble in large dimensions, announce the end of a work that, although very beautiful now, will be spectacular at the end.

The structure is also generous. With the structure some boasts are made in favor of spatial beauty, which give the house a great lightness, despite the power of its volumes. The steel profiles appear on the outside, framing the stone, making the volumes with which the house is composed fly over each other.

The space, with mechanisms such as the entrance, is especially interesting. A large gate that, after opening ceremoniously, gives way to a huge space of large dimensions, the main space of this house, which makes the central idea of this architecture is revealed from the first moment. The impressive space is dominated by a close view of the landscape of Chipinque National Park. The house opens here to the closest nature, avoiding the view of the surrounding houses. This framed view of the surrounding nature proves to be a very wise decision. The access to the property by the long ramp makes these spatial effects even more accentuated.

I think that the intent of our architect is to create a house of our time, for the new millennium in which we are already in. And thus, deepening in the Utilitas, and in the

Firmitas, to arrive once again at the Venustas. To Beauty as the splendor of Truth. To achieve a house capable of making its inhabitants happy.

And architects, we make houses. And a good architect must try to make the most beautiful houses in the world. And to make them he has to dream them: houses that are witnesses of our time and that, in addition, have the capacity to remain in time. So that men can live happily in them. And this, the BC house of Gilberto Rodriguez, is such a house, a beautiful dream house.