

**A NEW HEART FOR A NEW HOUSE**

**Transplant in Cercedilla of Pablo Fernandez Lorenzo and Pablo Redondo**

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When someone has a serious heart condition, they get a transplant, or better still, a new valve. Well, that is what good architects do sometimes with architecture that is beset with serious problems. They act in the very same way as a good heart surgeon.

So that is exactly what Pablo Fernández Lorenzo and Pablo Redondo have just done with an old house in Cercedilla. A little gate lodge which, thanks to the labour and skill of a masterly intervention, an almost surgical operation, has been transformed into a truly lovely house.

The main operation consisted in placing a vertical nucleus in the centre, entirely made of wood, an essential area of access, with the bins the stairwells and closets and two empty spaces filled with light, which, continuing the medical simile, would be the auricles or the ventricles of this new heart implanted in an old organism, in the old house

The spaces served by this central nucleus are the living room, dining room and kitchen downstairs and the parents' and children's bedrooms upstairs. All of these are arranged around the central nucleus in such a way that while small they appear large. The operation is that successful.

A house that was small and now appears, and is, large.

A house that was old and that now appears, and is, new.

A house that was dark and that now appears and is, bright.

The living room which has a very special light preserves the original hollow spaces of the old garage as well as the large stone archway. And included in these hollow spaces are the large new windows.

The bedrooms in the upper floors retain the old hollows but now bask in the light and space achieved with the central vertical hollows, or ventricles, which are effective shafts of light.

Worth highlighting is the beautiful woodwork of this new heart, similar to marquetry, with which the architects devised a system of sliding wooden and glass doors, vertical and horizontal, providing quite unusual flexibility and spaciousness, which takes us quite by surprise.

In short, we are faced with a great little gem, a work, while small, but so precise and so beautiful that it displays above all the mastery of its authors. A first rate work of architecture.