

INEFFABLE INFALLIBLE HOUSING

Social housing by Alejandro Gómez and Begoña López

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Ineffable and infallible are the four residential towers that architects Alejandro Gómez and Begoña López, after winning a competition, have finished building in Virgen de la Encina.

Ineffable because it is not easy to make social housing look like luxury housing. Luxury not of the materials that are simple and adequate but of the spaces that, being small, adjusted to the regulations, seem large. The result is very beautiful.

Infallible because they do not make any mistakes. They are of great precision both in their approach and in each of the decisions taken. They have the strength and the roundness of something that seems so obvious, so logical. The result is very accurate.

PLANTS

The plants are impeccable. Although they are logical, they are highly efficient. From the floor plan of each house, which guarantees perfect sunlight and cross ventilation, to its articulation in swastika schemes, which proves to be very effective. The decision of the Greek swastikas against the more rigid symmetrical order, and the skillful linking of these crosses, makes the solution has a strong dynamic sense.

VOLUMES

The volumetry, in comparison with the surrounding monolithic blocks of exposed brick, is like a perfect translation of that "marvelous play of volumes under the light" proposed by Le Corbusier. The entrances to each tower as "sajaduras" are very well resolved. And also their crowning with small roofs.

FINISHES

The facade finishes in Robertson panels of galvanized and treated steel are very successful. Its nuanced metallic finish, silver metallic, makes it seem at certain times that we are already in the future. The large, well-modulated parts give the right scale to the volumes, which are not exactly small. Its base in corrugated steel sheet, to offer greater resistance, is very well resolved both from the conceptual point of view and from the material.

STRUCTURE

The general metal structure, coherent, has its counterpoint with the rigid gray concrete cores that are left, logically, exposed. And with all the large plinth of garages and storage rooms that, logically, are also resolved in concrete.

SOMETHING ABOUT SOTA

These houses have a certain sotiano aroma, something of Sota. It recalls the fair use that the master made of materials. He has already used more than once this Robertson panel in which he shares confidence here with our architects.

There is a book by architect Restituto Bravo entitled: Una inducción a la Arquitectura. Alejandro de la Sota and Architecture. Reality of some materials and industrial systems. It gives a good account of how Sota knew how to understand well how to use new technologies, new materials, to open new paths in Architecture. As Alejandro Gómez and Begoña López have done so well in these splendid dwellings. Ineffable and infallible dwellings for a new millennium.