

PEDROCCHI MEIER ARCHITECTS TURNED AN APARTMENT THAT'S HALF UNDERGROUND INTO A HOUSE OF LIGHT.

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Pedrocchi Meier's design for the conversion of a flat in the Wohlgelegen apartment complex has a Japanese flavour. The client's second home is in an unobtrusive building in Davos, a well-known Swiss ski resort and spa surrounded by stunning mountain scenery. Inside the flat, however, occupants are unaware of the landscape. The three walls of the main room that have windows are covered with curtains. Daylight filtering through the translucent white fabric bathes the room in a diffuse glow and, as it passes through the cotton cloth, reveals a pattern that lends texture to the material. The self-contained room seems detached from its surroundings.

The challenge lay in illuminating the rest of the rooms, of which only the bedroom receives any natural light at all. The architects designed a folding fibreglass screen, which divides the daytime areas from the bedrooms and bathrooms. This spatial structure, with its silhouetted patterns, features an irregular zigzag form. The relief of the screen is manufactured in a way that resembles the method used to cast sculptures.

On the side facing the main room, the fibre-glass screen is partially covered by a white resin, leaving certain areas opaque and others pellucid. As the screen approaches the rooms unlit by daylight, light within the wall sculpture shines as though it were 'bundled', creating a play of light and shadow that is determined by the way light falls on surfaces in this part of the flat.

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