



CADEMPINO
Three simple houses by Meyer Piattini have a complex relationship to their environment.

The houses in this southern Swiss town's Ronchetto quarter reflect an interest in an architecture positioned between tradition and modernity, writes Meyer Piattini. The work of Arne Jacobsen in Charlottenlund was a reference, as were the ideas developed in the Smithsons' housing projects.

We have worked to create a kind of symbolic 'habitat', in which are found, in some form or other, the basic human needs – a piece of ground, a view of the sky, privacy,



the presence of nature and symbols of the basic human urges – to extend and control, to move.

The quarter is formed of 12 single family houses, constructed in two phases. The first group of nine houses dates from 1998. Three different plans with the same dimensions were alternated, introducing the theme of the project: the construction of an articulated front along a common driveway. The houses are set back from the street creating a series of varied semi-public spaces – a filter between public and private. Small green surfaces distinguish the individual entrances and their parking areas.

The three new houses, with their main facade facing the driveway, confirm the theme of the project. Both floors of the houses are organized in a functional way; 'corridors' were eliminated in order to enlarge the usable space. One enters directly into the living, dining, and kitchen areas. On the upper floor the bedrooms are accessed from a space which can be used as an office or play area.

The sandy-coloured plaster and white frames around the windows refer to the architectural language



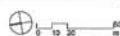
of a large agricultural complex opposite. Elements of the first nine houses, such as white-framed windows, are repeated. The careful use of colour – white, brick and ochre – increases the articulation of the street and gives texture to the surface of the houses.

Above Views of the three second phase houses (ph: Enrico Cano).

Left Nine first phase houses (ph: Gabriele Basilico).

Below Site plan, ground and first floor plans and section.

Project team: Architect: Meyer Piattini; engineer: Giovanni Balmelli; client/contractor: Direzione Lavori.



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



SECTION A-A