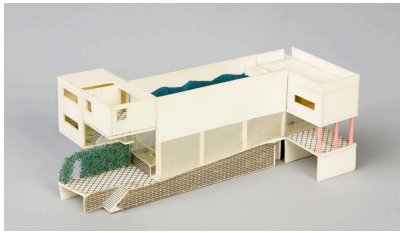


Villa dall'Ava by OMA architects

Villa dall'Ava is located in Saint-Clouds, which is a characteristic area with a typical landscape in the west of Paris. With a view over de Seine and the city of Paris. The villa is design by three architects of the OMA, Office for Metropolitan Architecture, constructed by three different spaces, two apartments and a common living room. Also three different levels the ground floor, first floor and the rooftop with a swimming pool.



The client wanted a glasshouse with a swimming pool on the roof and two separate "apartments" - one for the parents, the other for the daughter. They also wanted a panoramic view - from their swimming pool - of the surrounding landscape and the city of Paris.

The site is like a big room, with a boundary made of greenery, garden walls and slopes. It is composed of three parts: a sloping garden, the main volume of the villa, the street level garage with access in a cavity.

The house is conceived as a glass pavilion containing living and dining areas, with two hovering, perpendicular apartments shifted in opposite directions to exploit the view. They are joined by the swimming pool, which rests on the concrete structure encased by the glass pavilion.

The design is made with cheap material such as corrugated aluminium panels combined with expensive material such as natural stone, which is also a significant of Rem Koolhaas. Which

for him is a way of mocking modernism by using materials and building structures that are different of what is commonly esthetical accepted. Another way of mocking modernism is by using different building systems that can have practical disadvantages such as sloping floors or ceilings which you can also see in the design of Villa dall'Ava.



Rem Koolhaas used unconventional ideas in it's earlier projects, and is still using his ideas nowadays. But because of that his design can turn out to be less functional. And for certain spaces it can become an obstacle. The design of 'De Kunsthal' a art gallery he designed in Rotterdam got a lot of critic because one of the main connection floors from one space to another space was a sloping floor. It is quiet a sloping floor with can be very unpractical for a certain visiting public. And the question is if that is acceptable for a space that should be accessible for everyone who wants to visit a art gallery.

First I wasn't sure why I choose this marquette and why exactly I liked it. I found it interesting that these marquettes were made in a 'simple way' out of some cardbord and paper.

Also I think it is nice to see several designs for one house. Because it makes me think of the research the architect went through and you can wonder what he was thinking while he was working on this project.

But what for me was more interesting, was that when I started my research I saw the actual pictures of the house of which we saw in the NAI.

I was surprised of the outcome of the project, I didn't realise the design was really 'used' and I was also surprised that the marquette was build in 1991. The marquette seemed to me to come from an earlier time period, while the actually villa didn't seem like that.

I started to wonder about villa dall'ava and it's architects; how it would be to live there and who would live there but especially why it looked the way it did and why did it become such a famous and appreciated building. What makes this building so special that when people speak about this apartment they say the person that lives there is privileged to live there.

Personally when I look at the pictures I get a bit confused, when I look at the pictures and see the use of aluminium panels its reminds me of cheap industrial building that I saw before many times in Holland.

I think it is nice that Rem Koolhaas wants to criticize modernism. It adds something that is unique to the villa. Still when I look at the Villa it is not visually very appealing to me at first sight. After having another look it start to have it's own charm and it actually start to look more pleasant. Maybe eventually I will end up liking Villa Dall'Ava.