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Yácatas 475

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Mexican studio *Estrategias para el Desarrollo de Arquitectura* was commissioned to develop a housing project in Mexico City, that would add a contemporary gesture to the cityscape while keeping in mind its history and irregularities. The dilemma posed by the erratic architectural system (or rather, lack of) of the City was just one among the many other problems the EDAÁ team had to face. High land value, densification, construction regulations, construction costs, market demands, and timing all tied the architect's hands - but were inspirational at the same time.

Yácatas 475 ticks all the boxes: it conforms the demands of authorities, fits in the neighbourhood, and offers luxurious houses that look spectacular. Shape-wise, the building is a black square-shaped box, with a reflective quality that is due to the black tile cladding. Covering the facade with small, shiny black tiles makes the building modest and unexpectedly striking at the same time. It captures not only light but the neighbourhood reflections as well, incorporating the surrounding architecture in a smart and subtle way. The tiles paired with the wooden railing of the terraces take a further reference to the architectural heritage of the city and reinterprets it for the 21st eye. Although it is definitely the dark yet luminous facade that steals the show, the interior is also worth a mention: Yácatas 475 features 9, spacious and light apartments, open corridors, generous terraces, and a rooftop terrace as well for community purposes.



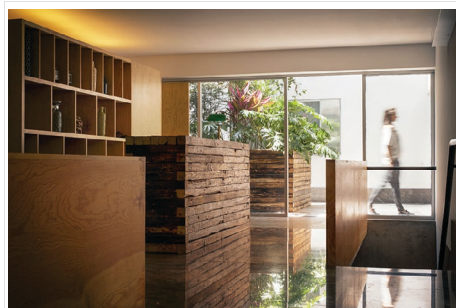
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