

# PORCH HOUSE

Santa Pau, Girona  
2007-2010

The project consists of the rehabilitation of Can Creuet, a traditional 18th century farmhouse situated in Santa Pau, inside La Garrotxa Volcanic Zone National Park.

The original structure sits on one of the geological formations resulting from the site characteristic volcanic eruptions which cause terraced drops in the terrain of the main valley.

The original building: compact, hermetic, and made of local stone, was conceived as a shelter from the harsh climate and as a base for the activity and storage of a farmhouse.

## TYPOLGY

Residential - Refurbishment

## AREA

310m<sup>2</sup>

## PROMOTER

Private

## BUILDER

Puig Alder s.l.

## COLLABORATORS

GMK associats s.l.p., structural consultants  
Enco, Aplicacions d'Enginyeria i Control,  
facilities consultants  
Xavier de Bolòs, technical architect

## PHOTOGRAPHY

José Hevia

Häuser Award 2015.

Architectural Award of the Counties of Girona 2012.

Nominated to European Union Prize for  
Contemporary Architecture - Mies van der Rohe  
Award 2013.





## F1

Portico square in Santa Pau. Year: 1902-1944. Credit: Ajuntament de Girona. CRDI (Valenti Fargnoli Iannetta).

## F2

Overview of Santa Pau. Year: 1911-1936. Credit: Ajuntament de Girona. CRDI (Valenti Fargnoli Iannetta).

## F3

Porch House site plan. Institut Cartogràfic i Geològic de Catalunya (ICGC), 2016.

*Porches and galleries are part of the spatial repertoire of the rural architecture of this territory.*





Building a porch on the south façade of the house, originally occupied by the farm animals, offers much needed open space for daily life, and connects the house with its privileged site.

The transparency of this new volume aims to restore the north-south guideline of the house and connect it with its exceptional surroundings.

The porch was conceived as a giant, inhabitable window that regulates the relationship of the dwelling with the exterior climate: inviting solar rays deep inside the house in the winter and in turn providing shade in the summer.

Its lightness and clear geometry contrast with the massiveness and irregularity of the original house. The black zinc skin of the new volume, prefabricated using industrial techniques, contributes to the neutrality of the intervention, focusing attention on the spectacle of the exuberance and variability of the surrounding landscape.

The different depths of the porch, according to uses and orientation, added to the adjustable positions of the solar protection and closings, create a configurable relationship between the house and the environment, between the dwelling and the landscape.

#### F1

The porch as the main intervention strategy.

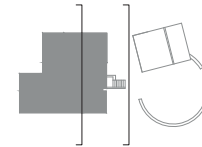
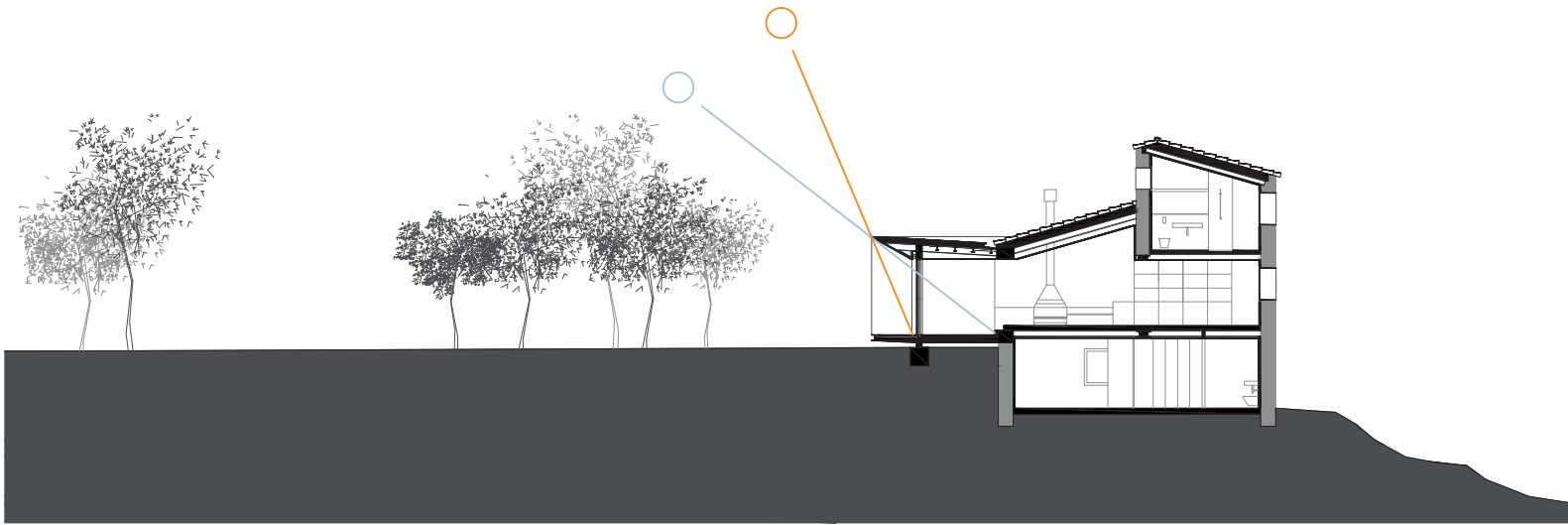
#### F2

Contrast between the compactness of an old caravan and the lightness of the unfolded awning. Author, date and origin of the photograph unknown.

#### F3

View of the house and the hayloft from the era before the rehabilitation.





**F1**  
Section. The porch regulates the energetic conditions of the house throughout the seasons.

**F2**  
Eastern elevation.

0 1 5m







F1

The new porch, light, monochrome and smooth, contrasts with the massiveness and irregularity of the original house.

F2

The added volume opens the house to the north-south direction, hitherto imperceptible.







**F1**

A single added element transforms the space of the whole house by connecting it with the nature of the environment.

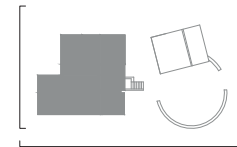
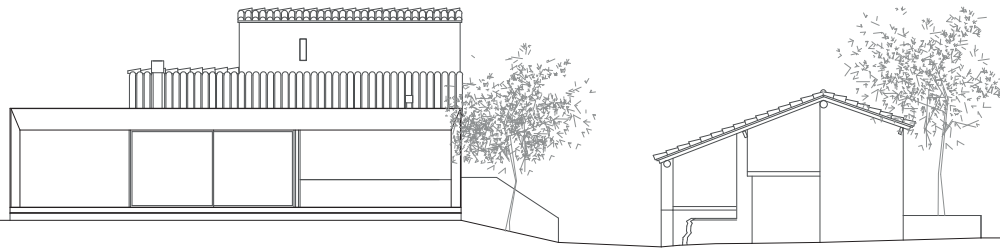
**F2**

Materiality: Zinc.

**F3**

A large inhabitable window provides openness and light to the house.

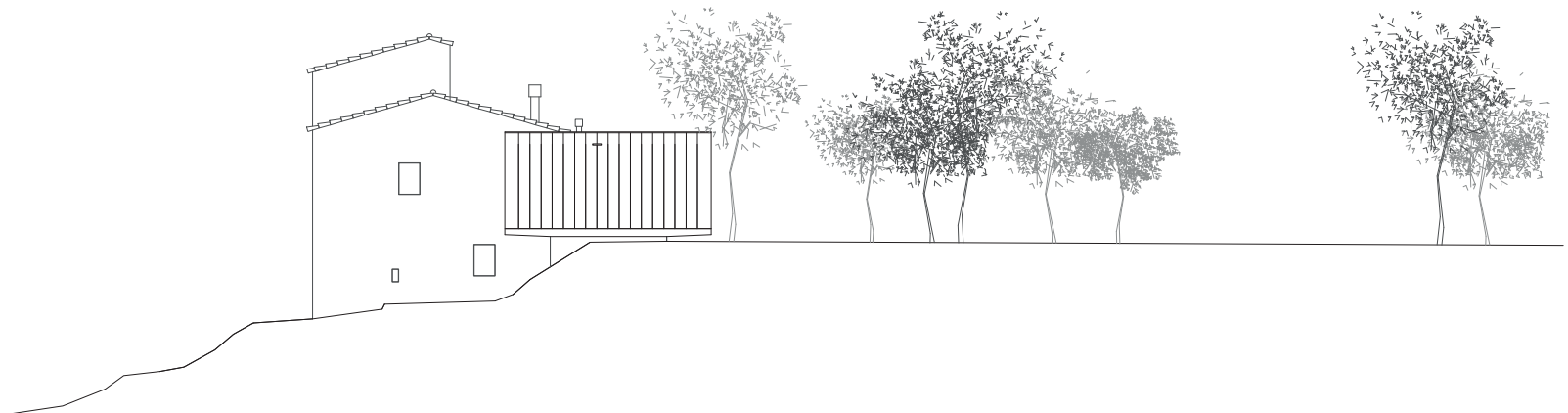




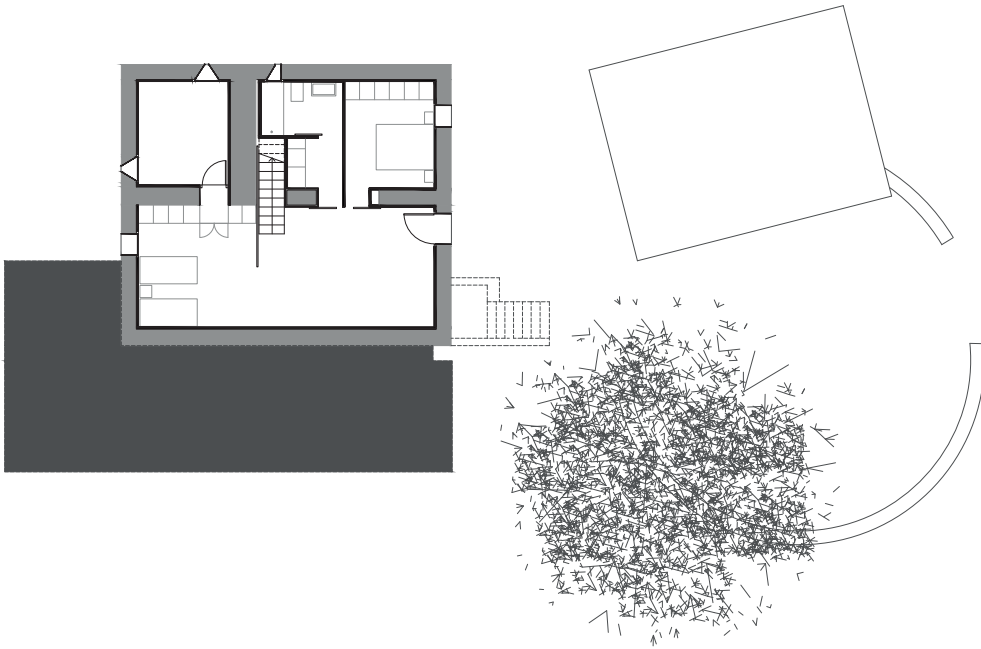
**F1**  
Southern elevation.

**F2**  
Western elevation.

0 1 5m



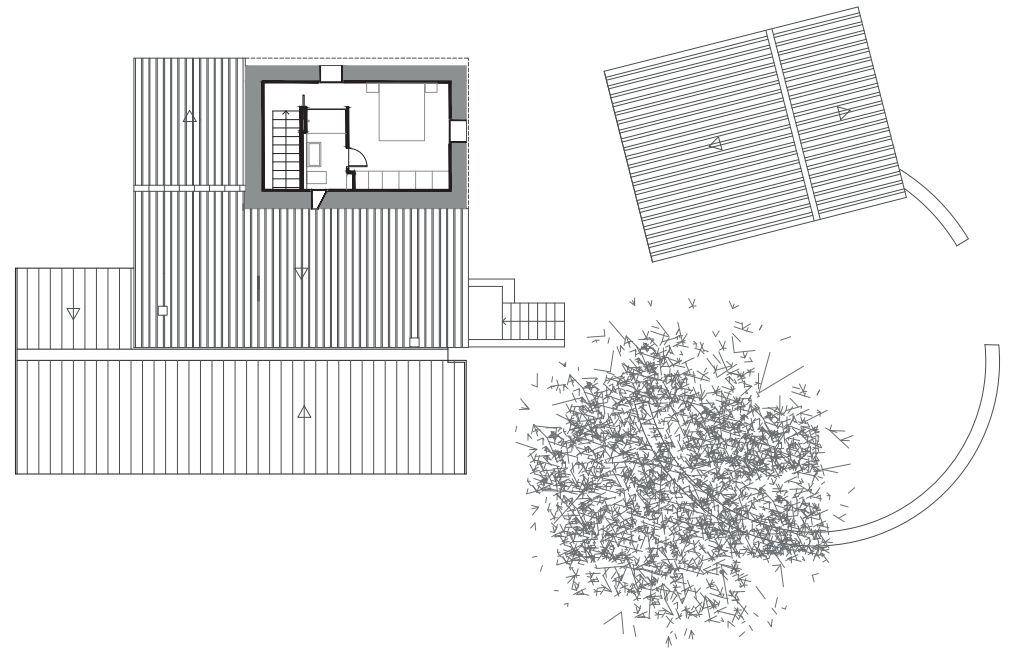
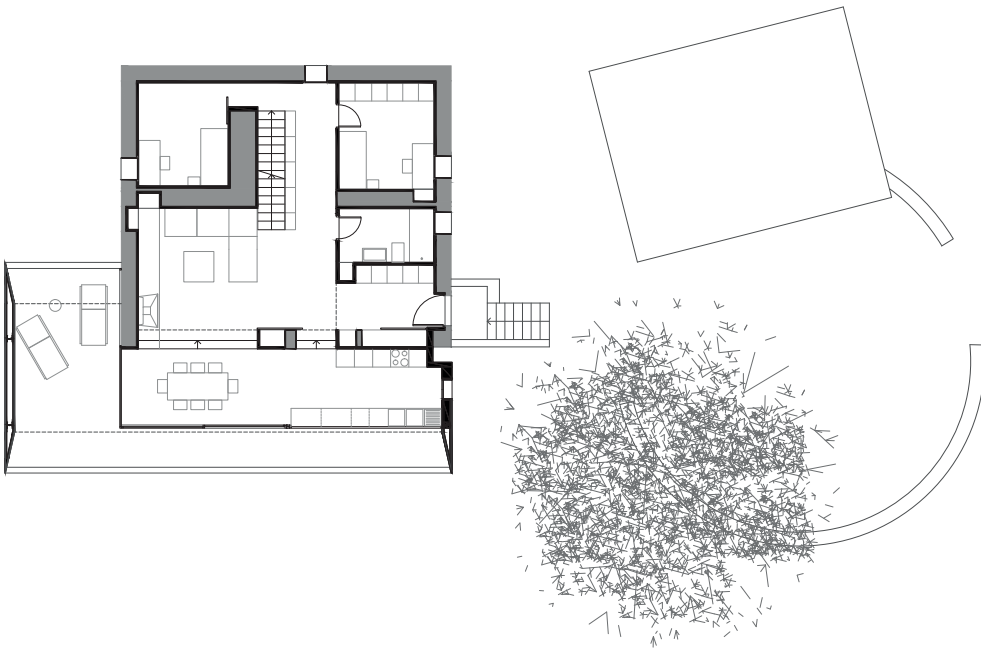




**F1**  
Semi-underground plan.

**F2**  
Ground floor plan.

**F3**  
First floor plan.







*The addition of a completely open living threshold to the landscape intensifies the relationship between the house and the place.*

**F1**

The new rooms that are located on the ground floor are housed in a single wooden envelope.

**F2**

Sliding windows promote complete continuity between the house and the porch.

**F3**

Zinc frames both the territory and the new living spaces.

