



'ALMA' OUTDOOR COLLECTION

by Francisco Gomez Paz, for Paola Lenti

'When you have an unconventional design idea, you need to work with a company that has courage,' says Francisco Gomez Paz. Fortunately, the Argentine designer's concept – an outdoor seating system designed using generative algorithms and numerical control technology – found a courageous collaborator in progressive Italian brand Paola Lenti. The seed for 'Alma', Gomez Paz says, was sown eight years ago. 'I was seeing a lot of new architecture driven by algorithms and

wondered if this could be used to create industrially produced, highly personalised furniture,' he says. A study in refinement, the 'Alma' armchair and sofas have lightweight stainless steel components bent to precise angles using advanced CNC technology, and polyurethane-free cushions; both frames and seats can be recycled. As Paola Lenti herself puts it, 'Alma' is 'not just a collection of seats, but a micro-architecture that embodies the company's values.' paolalenti.it



'It was clear that the goal was for the house itself to be a sculpture. We decided to keep the design as clean as possible so that when scaling it to large volumes, the materiality wouldn't work against us'

the common areas and the upper floor bedrooms, pinning together the house's two rectangular volumes like the hands of a monumental clock. A 35m-long body, on a north-south axis, overlaps perpendicularly with the smaller, 25m-long body below to create a composition that reads differently from all angles.

Almost 4m in diameter, the oak veneer-clad staircase took artisans 90 days to complete. 'It's the heart of the house, and follows the Fibonacci spiral that repeats throughout nature – in shells, in plants, in the universe itself,' says Pérez. The staircase provides a dramatic counterpoint to the home's other defining feature, a V-shaped concrete column that supports the striking overhang of the upper body and permits the living and dining area to open out fully to the verdant mountain scenery at ground level.

Plunging into the pool, lined with black Bali stone tiles to reflect the play of light as it passes over its surface, the column composition represents 'victory, dreams and stability', themes that, according to Pérez, resonate throughout the project. The dark hues of the tiles reference the blackness of the Rio Negro, which backs on to the property and gives its name to the municipality that is home to most of Medellín's most luxurious residences. The garden is also dotted with monumental rocks, plucked from local rivers for their energising properties, and native plants selected by landscape company Arte Natural Paisajismo,

creating what Pérez calls 'a vibrant environment that combines the natural with the modern'.

The house's raw concrete interiors contrast with the more elaborate exterior cladding. Even the roof was treated with the same careful consideration as the façades – covered in stone sourced from local rivers, it creates an unexpected fifth elevation that aligns with the five platonic solids that give the architecture studio its name. According to Fernández, 'design is rarely thought from above. That's why we gave the roof the same importance as the other four façades'. Aluminium shuttering, painted to replicate the wood used throughout the house, softens the lighting and casts shadows as the sun passes overhead. Furniture by Paola Lenti and B&B Italia was chosen by Pérez to soften the otherwise brutalist interiors.

It's in the passage from day to night that Casa Haras reveals its dual nature most clearly; as a place for profound reflection, it is both a powerful architectural statement and an intimate family home. 'The sturdiness gives a sense of security, but it also represents how important and beautiful it is to be located in one's own centre,' says Pérez. Since shaping his dream home with 5 Sólidos, he has assembled his own team of architects in Miami to launch his design studio, Studio KP2, with a second brutalist project due to complete later this year. ★ cincosolidos.com, studiokp2.com

Opposite, the double-height living room features 'Agio' modular sofas by Francesco Rota for Paola Lenti alongside sculptures by Danilo Cuadros