

# carlorattiassociati

## MG\_flat

Turin, Italy

*Photographs: Pino dell'Aquila*

The interior design of this apartment in Turin was conceived by **carlorattiassociati** for a passionately enthusiastic client with an unconventional brief: to refurbish the flat for rental; MG\_Flat was the result.

Various conditions determined the outcome of the project; the most important are the following:

According to Italian rental laws, tenants must paint walls and maintain hardwood floors at their own expense. The flat uses only two materials: plaster and low-cost industrial hardwood (legno industriale), which is conglomerated out of the rejected leftovers of sawmills. These two surfaces determine the whole interior surface of the apartment. The floor folds upward and becomes a raised podium overlooking the rest of the room; a parapet around it conceals the bed from view and gives the bed a nest-like feeling of privacy. This raised volume in the middle of the room creates a division, so different activities can occur on different sides of the podium. As one walks into the apartment, the kitchen-dining area is the first space encountered, the sitting area is further round the corner, and the work area (at the end of the line) is the only part from which you can see up the

stairs and into the bed-nest.

Likewise, the floor folds up like a road map to make the stairs up to the bed. The stairs and the podium are independent, sculptural volumes. Natural light comes in through the skylights and creates endless variations of light and shadow on the forms in the room. At the opposite end, the floor folds up and becomes the kitchen work surface, which is entirely clad in stainless steel.

The plastered wall folds outwards to become a shelf, an overhang, a closet. When a new tenant moves in, he repaints the walls and cleans the hardwood floors. The flat becomes new again at no cost to the landlord.

IBM's everywhere display is a video projector with a rotating mirror that allows any surface around it to become a potential screen. Its envisaged use in this project inspired the design and permits the interior space to be constantly modulated.

The flat has been designed around one core ambiente, with low-rise partitions in order to maximize the co-visibility of surfaces. This allows projections on most internal walls and potentially creates a malleable environment.

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