

Evening view of the front of the main portion of the urban villa. To the left, the two-story glazing that follows the size of the internal space, with the staircase and the library. The first floor contains the bedroom zone. In the garden, the Fold Collection by Royal Botania. Right, view of the lawn, partially created on the roof of the two-story volume towards the street, and of the sheltered walkway containing the staircase for descent to the main dwelling and the outdoor lakefront zone.

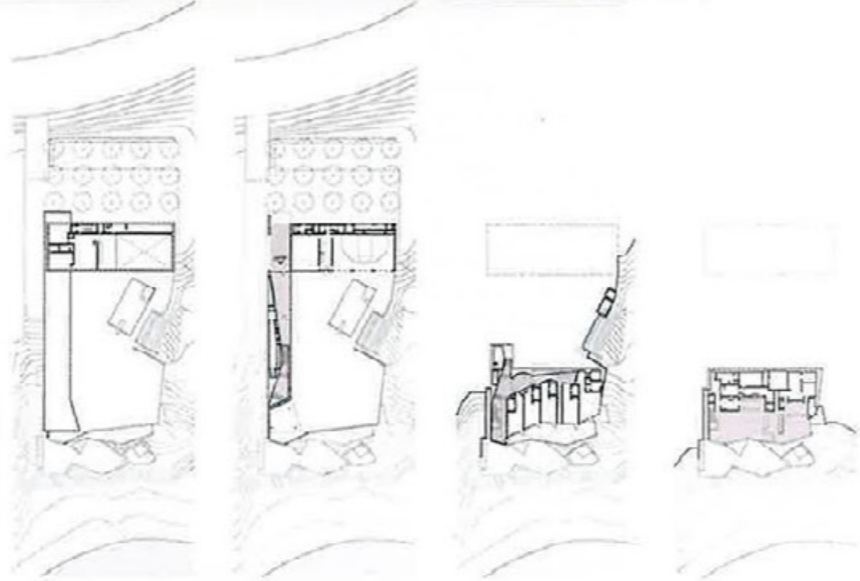


URBAN VILLA

At the **North Shore of Chicago**, on a busy traffic artery along Lake Michigan, an **urban villa** is isolated from the chaos of the city, taking advantage of the natural **topography** of the land and developing a work of architecture on multiple levels that **turns its back** on the **urban** context, **toward the horizon of the lake**

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The house stands on a rectangular lot that descends towards the lake from the curve of an urban street. The conditions of the surroundings, including the presence of a large white marble temple of the Bahá'í religion, the continuous noise of traffic and the sloping topography of the lot, suggested planimetric and landscape choices, developing specific episodes for this urban villa, to generate a sense of the pleasure of vacation in everyday life. The project starts from the street, retreating to create an initial landscape filter in a tree-lined area bordered by hedges, with three symmetrical, parallel rows and outdoor parking places.



Above, plans of the various levels. In the small photo, the entrance and the downward path beside the lawn.



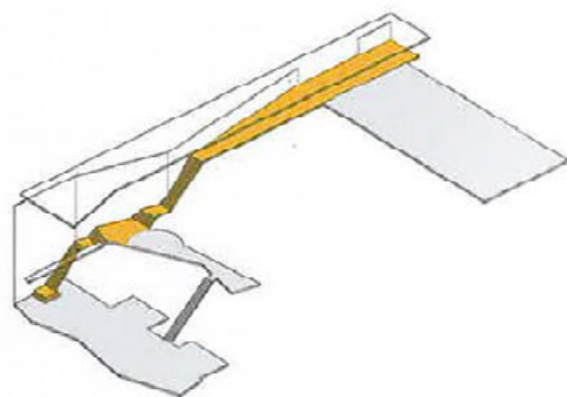
Above, the swimming pool with a concrete border, and the collection of chaises longues by **B&B Italia** (Design Richard Schultz, 1966). Note the volume of the path of descent, designed as a glass pavilion concluding in a small portico-belvedere.

A two-story volume with a regular, compact form, without openings and conceived as an enclosure wall and protective volume, contains a two-story zone on the ground floor, beyond the entrance to the right, for a basketball court and a gym, facing the internal lawn created partially on the roof, in the part closest to the lake. The first floor of the volume on the street contains an area for guests, and is organized as a small independent house with respect to the main dwelling that develops further on, taking advantage of the descent towards the shore.

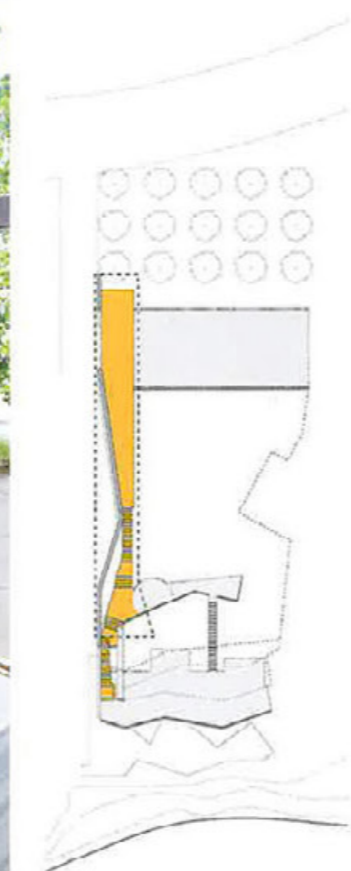
The two volumes, from the public zone towards the street towards the more private zone facing the lake and surrounded by greenery, are united by a sheltered architectural promenade that develops along the right part of the lot, from the entrance, tapering to reach the lower level of the large living area, a level that corresponds to that of the terrain in front, towards which the living room extends to create furnished outdoor spaces, paced by the lawns and the trees around them. This ordering promenade, faced by the various episodes of the house, moves



The staircase descending to the spaces of the main dwelling, with steps in terrazzo mosaic. Outdoor seating by **Roda**.



Above, view of the last part of the staircase in the two-story space that contains the library with a glass walkway. Left, view of the landing at the level of the living area. The central table is the Surface model by Vincent Van Duysen for **B&B Italia**. In the drawings, view of the route, highlighted in yellow, that connects the various architectural episodes.



Views of the corner master suite. Ginger armchair and Fred desk, designed by Roberto Lazzeroni for **Poltrona Frau**.

on different levels connected by a staircase of multiple sectors, in gray terrazzo. Once past the tree-lined zone and the initial volume on the street, the view opens to a large lawn that is part of the design of the house; a green space that hosts the swimming pool, placed diagonally in front of the sheltered portion of the basketball court. The lawn is a connective element and raised zone from which to observe the lake. The house proper is discovered only after descending on the covered promenade, appearing as a glass pavilion that concludes the lawn to the right and contains a small portico-belvedere in its end. The first space one encounters going down the staircase is a circular landing that generates the 'corridor' of the nighttime zone, composed of five bedrooms facing a large shared terrace. Taking the second ramp of stairs, after a few steps one reaches the level set aside for a long bookcase with a glass walkway that flanks the last two-story descent to the living area. The descent towards the lake is emphasized by the large window that extends on two levels and continues at a lower height along the entire living area, while the bedroom zone is clad on the facade by dark wood planks. The entire project is based



on the interlocking of three volumes in white stucco: the parallelepiped of the volume on the street, the sheltered pathway faced by the various architectural and landscape episodes, and finally the main house on two levels, characterized by a dynamic, zigzag facade on the lake. A compositional synthesis capable of uniting the urban reality, projecting it towards pursuit and conquest of the nearby nature. ■