



# COMUNARQUITECTOS

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**SEBASTIAN YURJEVIC ZENTENO** obtained his B.Arch from the Universidad Central de Chile (Santiago, 2000). He founded COMUNarquitectos in 2009, and went on to obtain an M.A. in Architectural Design (Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, 2011), where he is presently a doctoral candidate in Architectural Design. **CATALINA GONZÁLEZ** Cominetti also obtained her B.Arch degree from the Universidad Central de Chile (Santiago, 2000), and a Master's degree in Global Environmental Studies at Sophia University (Tokyo, Japan, 2012). She co-founded COMUNarquitectos with Sebastian Yurjevic Zenteno in 2009. Their work includes the MA House (Melipilla, 2008); MJ House (Melipilla, 2010–11, published here); and the MG House (Calera de Tango, 2011), all in Chile.

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# MJ HOUSE

*Melipilla, Chile, 2010–11*

*Address: not disclosed. Area: 140 m<sup>2</sup>  
Client: Diego Moure, Constanza Jimenez. Cost: \$60 000*

The architects title their own description of this house "The Unpredictability of Wood". It was designed for a young couple of forestry engineers and their two children. Since both architects were based in Tokyo when they designed this residence, they sought to incorporate some of what they had seen in local traditional and modern architecture. They translated their observations into a design that is closed on the street side and open "inwards," with a dialogue created between the two "conditions" created by an overlap on the roof. "Thus," they write, "the ceiling becomes the pivotal element of the house and its movements and angles correspond to an intention to generate a minimal impact within the existing landscape." To avoid concrete, which they consider to be a "foreign, abstract material," the architects used brick and wood. The natural grain of the wood with its "imperfections and unpredictability" is part of what they wanted, but they also chose to create "straight abstract lines." Local artisans built the house using traditional Chilean construction methods.

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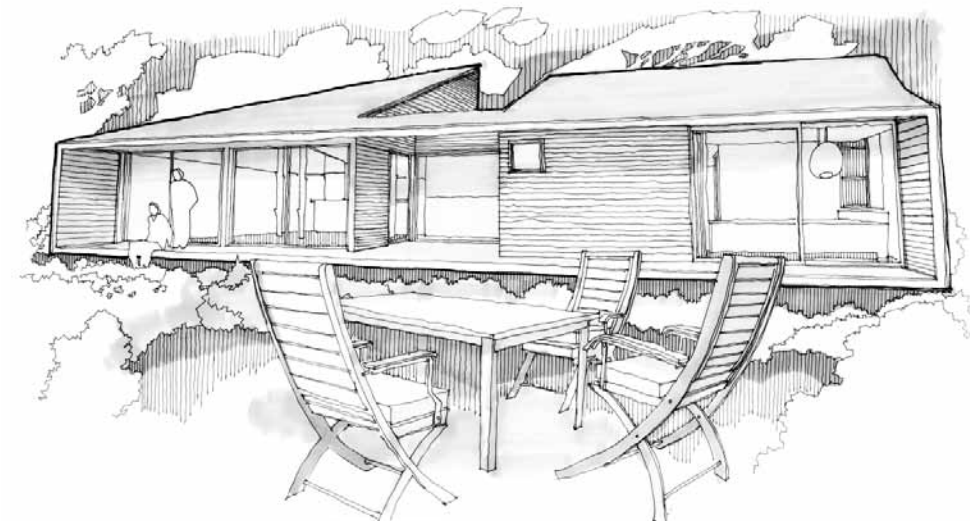
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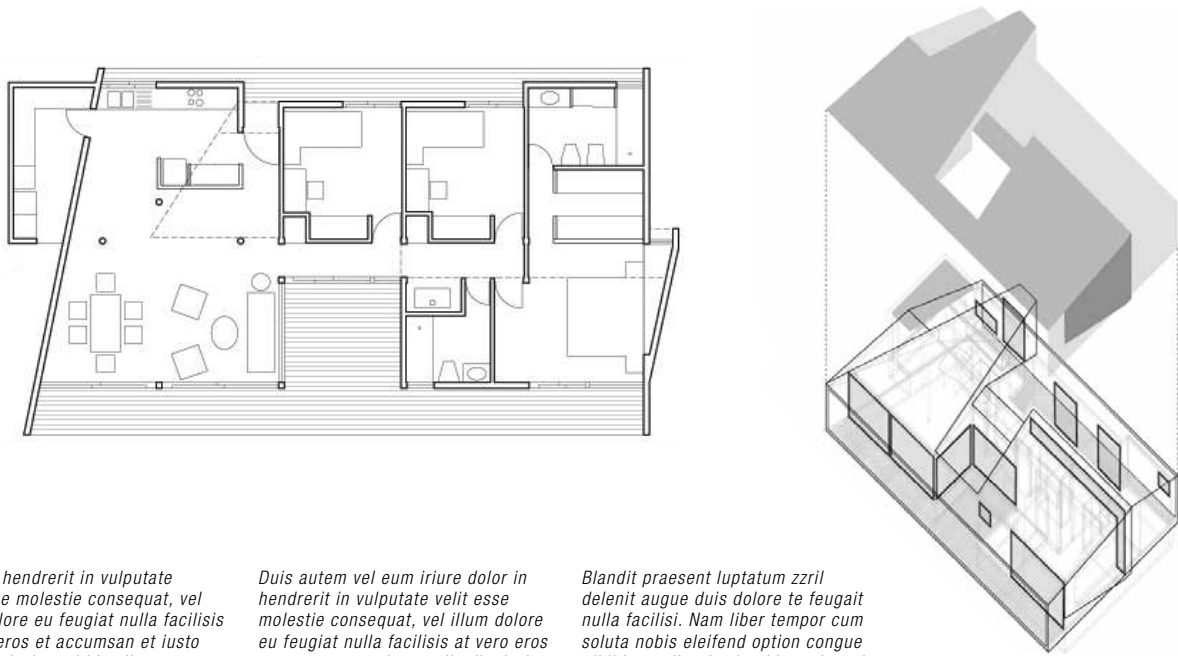
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