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HOW GREEN IS MY CITY?

NEW SUSTAINABILITY SPROUTING ALL OVER



Infiniski Manifesto House, Chile James & Mau Architecture

Photography by Antonio Corcuera, courtesy of Infiniski

ECO factor: House made of 85 per cent of recycled, reused and eco-friendly materials

The Manifesto House is designed by Jaime Gaztelu and Mauricio Galeano for Infiniski, a Chile-based company that specialises in building eco-friendly houses and buildings with recycled, reused and non-polluting materials. This prefab house is divided into two levels and uses three recycled maritime containers for its wireframe. A container cut into two parts on the first level supports the containers on the second level. This creates an extra space between the container parts at the top, which are insulated with thermal glass panels. The resultant structure takes the form of a bridge which responds to the bioclimatic needs of the house - form follows energy - and offers an effective natural ventilation system. It also helps take full advantage of the house's natural surroundings, lighting and landscape views.

Both exterior and interior use up to 85 per cent of recycled, reused and eco-friendly materials: recycled cellulose and cork for insulation; recycled aluminium, iron and wood; noble wood from sustainable forests; ecological paint; and eco-label ceramics.

Thanks to its bioclimatic design and the installation of alternative energy systems, the house achieves 70 per cent autonomy. As if it had a second skin, the house 'dresses and undresses' itself with the help of ventilated external solar covers on the walls and roof, depending on its need for heating. Aiding this process is a folding screen that creates a porch when extended, or shades the interior from the sun when folded down. Geothermal pumps also help provide heating and cooling.

The house uses two types of covers: wooden panels sourced from sustainable forests on one side and recycled mobile pallets on the other. This cladding also serves as an aesthetic exterior finish that helps the house to better integrate into its environment. Although not totally prefabricated, this home in Curacavi is built using premade materials to allow for quick, cost-effective and sustainable construction. Manifesto House thus stands as a showcase for the Infiniski concept and its potential, combining bioclimatic design, recycled or reused materials, non-polluting construction systems and the integration of renewable energy.

