

IN FORM AND ENTERTAIN

Infiniski changes the house rules



THE FOUR INFINISKI PARTNERS: LORETXU GARCIA, JAIME GAZTELU (JAMES FROM JAMES&MAU.COM), MAURICIO GALEANO (MAU FROM JAMES&MAU.COM) AND JULIETTE FREY.

Photos ANTONIO CORCUERA, PABLO SARABIA, INFINISKI

– Sustainable, stylish, and simply outstanding. That is how Beyond would describe a typical house or structure by construction firm INFINISKI. Their designs appeal greatly to the eye, to nature, and also to the pocket.

It has a second skin. It can dress and undress itself. It is no robot but very much a living organism. Say hello to **Casa Manifesto**, a home in Curacavi, Chile that is a manmade marvel. It is an embodiment of the concept and potential of boutique designers Inifniski. The house uses up to 85 percent of recycled, reused, and eco-friendly materials including recycled cellulose and cork for insulation, recycled aluminum, iron and wood, noble wood from sustainable forests, ecological painting, and eco-label ceramics.

The 160 square-meter dwelling is divided into two levels and uses three recycled maritime containers as structure. A container cut in two parts on the first level is used as the support structure for the containers on the second level. This structure in the form of a bridge creates extra space in between the container structure, isolated with thermo glass panels.

So with only 90 square-meter worth of container, the project generates a total 160 square-meter, reducing significantly the use of extra building materials.

Like its sister Infiniski homes, Casa Manifesto employs the bioclimatic approach, where each home's form and position is adapted to its energy needs in its specific natural surroundings. As form follows energy, the ventilated external solar covers on the walls and roof work depending on its need for natural solar heating. The house uses two types of covers: Wooden panels coming from sustainable forests on one side and recycled mobile pallets on the other. The pallets can open themselves in winter to allow the sun to heat the metal surface of the container walls and close themselves in summer to protect the house from the heat. And insulation is made of newspaper

– not recycled, but created by shredding unsold newspapers. Based on a prefabricated and modular design, which allows a cheaper and faster constructive method, the ultra-functional, luxe project was executed in 2009 in 90 days at a cost of €79,000 (\$110,566). "Infiniski offers sustainable designer living spaces at affordable prices and in fast execution timeframes," says Juliette Frey, marketing and communications consultant and co-partner, Infiniski. "Our motto could be summarized as: Save your planet, save your time, save your money ... and be cool!"

In addition to Frey, the super cool Infiniski foursome comprises Loretxu Garcia, Jaime Gaztelu, and Mauricio Galeano. Gaztelu and Galeano are the force behind James&Mau architecture firm in Madrid. The pair specializes in ecological designs, and they are the architectural powerhouse behind the Infiniski homes. Each of Infiniski's homes is naturally different from the next but interconnected by their maker's ethos.



CASA MANIFESTO (C) ANTONIO CORCUERA/ INFINISKI



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CONDOMINIUM CHILE
(C) INFINISKI



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In the province of Avila, Spain lies Casa El Tiemblo, a 190 square-meter L-shaped two-floor home that attempts to achieve maximum energy autonomy. Consisting of four reused maritime containers, the house depends on natural biomass heating and natural cross ventilation. The inner enclosure is comprised of cellulose insulation from recycled newspaper and cork as well as the fermacell insulation board. Seventy percent of Casa El Tiemblo is made of recycled, reused, and non-polluting materials. The portfolio of the Chile and Spain based company is long, and includes **Condominium**

Chile, an eco-condominium of 17 apartments of 90 square meters with a 30 square-meter garden on the Bay of Valparaíso, Chile. The building has a mixed structure of used maritime containers and slabs of concrete resistant to the earthquakes of Chile. Each apartment is distinguished by a color different from the other container and resembles a small house with its own garden/outdoor terrace. The condo uses individual solar thermal panels and its gardens are irrigated by treated wastewater.

While they are yet to develop any of their visions in the Middle East,

Infiniski tell *Beyond* they are open to partnerships there. They think eco architecture is a global affair now. "We receive mails on a daily basis from all over the world and we are currently working on projects and possible offices in Argentina, Nigeria, (...) France, Italy... This seems to demonstrate that eco/sustainable and affordable architecture is receiving positive feedback from most parts of the world," Frey says. With such forward thinkers changing the house rules, the world's homes are surely looking more sustainable, personalized, and sexy. ◯

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