

## The woods carve in

The project is to create a new Karin Dom Home on a beautiful land full of trees in Varna. To fit into the natural area, the building mass divides into four blocks based on the function categories. The four blocks carefully squeeze into the site to protect the highest number of good-quality trees. This process is like deliberately spilling the wood toy blocks into the forest. Right afterward, the trees on the site start to join this creation game. They carve into the adjacent building blocks by their crowns, smoothly sculpting the building mass and creating various volumetric openings based on different crown geometries. With this move, the building blocks fully embed into the woods as one system. The trees and buildings coexist in this unique relationship—in and out, up and down, hugging each other softly and harmoniously. Building blocks come into the woods and occupy the space in between the trees. Nature comes into the architecture by inducing a much closer relationship, bringing green leaves, tree shading, sunshine, and singing birds into the interior space. Here, the architectural space is fully integrated with nature, welcoming all the parents and children to join the fun forest game.

The wood is the best teacher for Karin Dom's children. It quietly wanders into the interior space, accompanying the children in the rooms warmly—like a sweet, silent friend. It helps enhance children's visual, auditory, and tactile senses. For them, nature is always the best teacher. There is a deep connection between the children and the trees. Kids are susceptible to the natural world, and the trees can help them locate where they are and make them feel protected. Unlike going into a deserted hospital, children are gradually getting healed in a forest full of sunshine with their best "tree friends."

For the space arrangement, the opening carved by the tree crown breaks the solid building mass, creating a porous interior space. The inner space becomes fluid and flexible. All the area is visible to prevent any unsafe matters. Also, these carvings create many exciting and unexpected visual connections between humans and nature. When children are looking into the opening, they can see a group of kids playing under the trees and sunlight falling between the trees. This 360-degree volumetric visual connection can spark their brains and help open their minds. These carvings break into the stone, opening the door to a beautiful world.

At the same time, the carving out space also becomes a small social center. One carving space is an enclosed courtyard with trees shared by several rooms on different floors. Children can gather in the yard to do outdoor exercise and social activities.

For the building area aspect, under the limitation of building gross area, the volumetric carving opening creates several exterior atriums to be used as public space. They are bringing the outer space into the architectural space arrangement without adding more interior areas. At the same time, the interior space and outer space integrate tightly.

For the program layout, based on different usages and requirements, the programs are grouped into four blocks. These coherent programs are put into one block as a close family, and the connection between the blocks is clear and direct.

On the first floor, reception directly connects to the main entrance, along with the Physiotherapy Group, Hydrotherapy Group, and Medical Center. A separate entrance is on the south side for Medical Center and Training Group. The other two small entrances are specifically for the Physiotherapy and Montessori Center (2nd floor) to let children go quickly into the courtyard. Two elevators and staircases are placed

in the middle of the path for everyone's convenience. The Montessori center, early intervention center, center for diagnostics and therapy, and training center are on the second floor. The third floor mainly contains the roof garden, center for family mediated intervention, and staff rest area. The staff's administration and roof garden are on the fourth floor. Roofs are accessible and can be used for exterior dining, activities, and roof farming. The program is rationally, efficiently placed on four blocks. Vehicles can access the underground parking area by an independent entrance and take the elevator to the reception area. Two temporary parking spots are also provided next to the entrance.

The opening carved by trees brings quality to the interior space. The trees become the best signage. The natural light and ventilation provide a highly comfortable internal environment. At the same time, the trees help prevent glares and noise from outside. It saves energy and creates a sustainable system. Vegetation on the roof and rain collection system also give a hand to save energy.

The façade is made out of warm white sandstones. Windows are placed based on each room's requirements. The material is very close to the surrounding buildings, and harmony fit into the urban context. Interior Material is warm and calm, using wood, white wall, and gentle color wall to distinguish different functions. Flooring material is mostly vinyl in different colors.

The landscape design follows the original site rules. The site is divided into several themed courtyards for various uses, such as educational use, soft-land exercise use, and hard pavement practice use.

This new Karin Dom home is not only a building but also a forest wonderland. Architecture and trees accompany children. It's a place for children to play and dream, learn new things, and investigate the world in a new way.