

Marilia Pellegrini transforms old shipping containers into modern micro home

Brazil-based architecture practice Marilia Pellegrini Arquitetura has used old shipping containers to create a modern and minimalist micro home in São Paulo. The micro home covers only 60m² - enough space to live in with basic necessities. The architect's aim was to show how old materials or disused shipping containers can be transformed into a modern and functional house while still offering a high quality of living.



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"The concept of this type of project is based on the sustainability and reuse of materials," said the architect. "The time-frame for elaboration and execution of this model of construction is infinitely smaller, cleaner, faster, dry and with 100% reuse," she added.

"Despite the many advantages, there is still a certain mistrust created, motivated especially by the popularisation of industrial and simple finishes for this type of building, creating cold and impersonal environments due to the physical final aspects of construction. Her first mission was to prove the opposite."



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Pellegrini first presented her concept 'The Container House' at the 2019 Casacor exhibition in São Paulo, an annual architecture and interior exhibition in São Paulo. The house was made from two 40ft (12.19 metre) containers attached side to side and included a living, kitchen, and laundry space, in addition to an en-suite with a comfortable bathroom.

Shades of white were used to expand the space along with a minimalist approach with an impeccable finish so that the container itself and all its industrial and corrugated structure would be imperceptible to the eyes. In the interior, the Japanese atmosphere of space rationalisation and intelligent design is realised in the concept evoked by Kenya Hara, creative director of Muji, in his "design of emptiness" - a great inspiration to the architect. Within this logic, Pellegrini used pieces of the acclaimed designer Oki Sato of Nendo, world-renowned design firm in Japan.



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To coat the external facade for floors and brises-soleil, the architect chose Cosentino's ultra-compact Dekton surface. These materials, which reproduce the noble appearance of the marbles, has properties of high resistance to sun rays, scratches, stains, abrasion and were the architect's choice in this project because they can coat the container internally and externally, giving a unified finish with sophistication and in this way it is not possible to say that the house was made from containers.

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