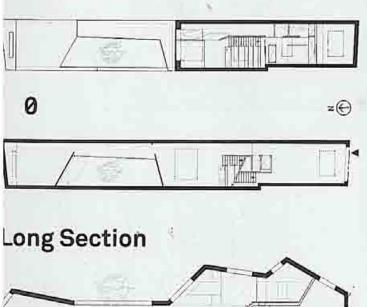


Caramel **seizes the site**









Taxt Lauren Grieco Photos Hertha Hurnaus

Two-storey detached homes with private gardens are ubiquitous in fringe residential areas of Vienna, Austria. Considering the narrow site that was available, Caramel Architekten had to approach the design for CJ5 Haus as a blank slate. The team ultimately realized a solid white structure that occupies the 5-x-35-m strip of land in its entirety. According to Caramel's Martin Haller, the architects and their client 'wanted to prove that it's possible to build single-family homes in dense urban areas'. The 170-m² dwelling questions 'the waste of public space and resources for private reasons'.

Asserting a stark presence, the house stands its ground in a neighbourhood of conventional homes complete with gardens. Demarcating the property on three sides is a concrete wall that partially wraps the perimeter. The narrow floor plan of the house features a linear circulation scheme. During the design phase, while the architects were exploring the potential of the site, the client asked for an interior based on that of a yacht – one that would 'use every square metre under, over and between the spatial limitations'. Consequently, living room, kitchen and bedroom are on stepped platforms above a ground-level garage.

The jagged profile of the roof was designed with the orientation of the sun in mind. Daylight enters the house through north-facing skylights, and south-facing photovoltaic solar panels collect energy that is converted to electricity. Open to the sky, a walled garden beyond the living room buffers the front of the house from a separate atelier at the rear of the site.

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