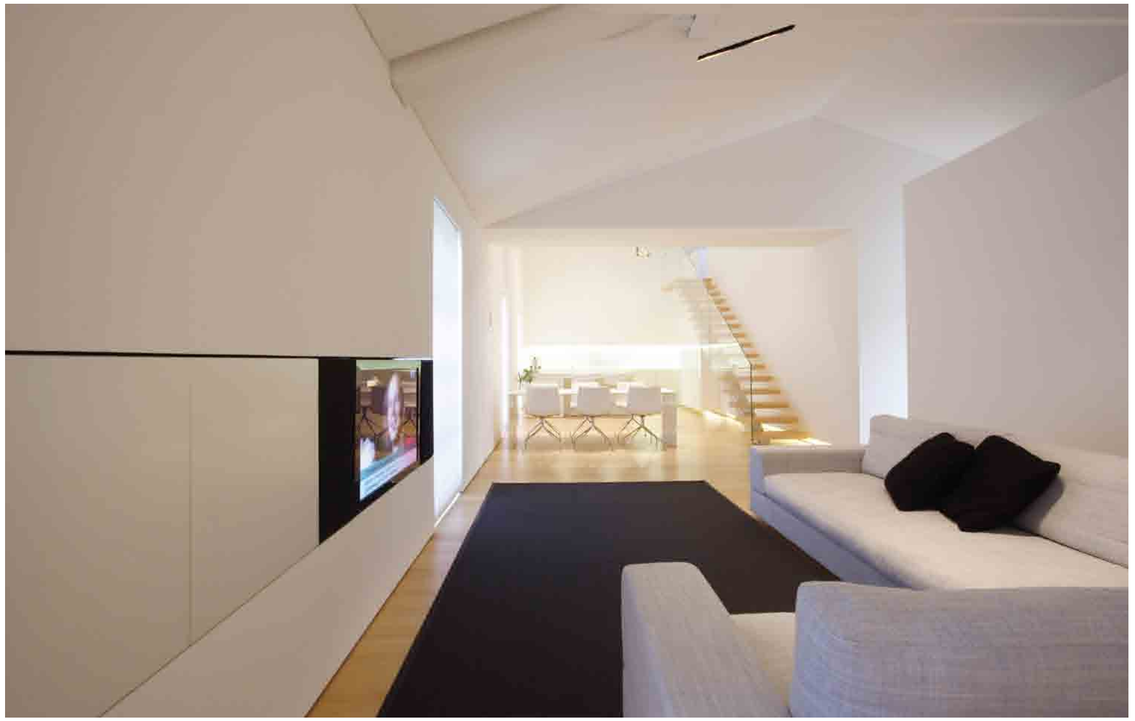
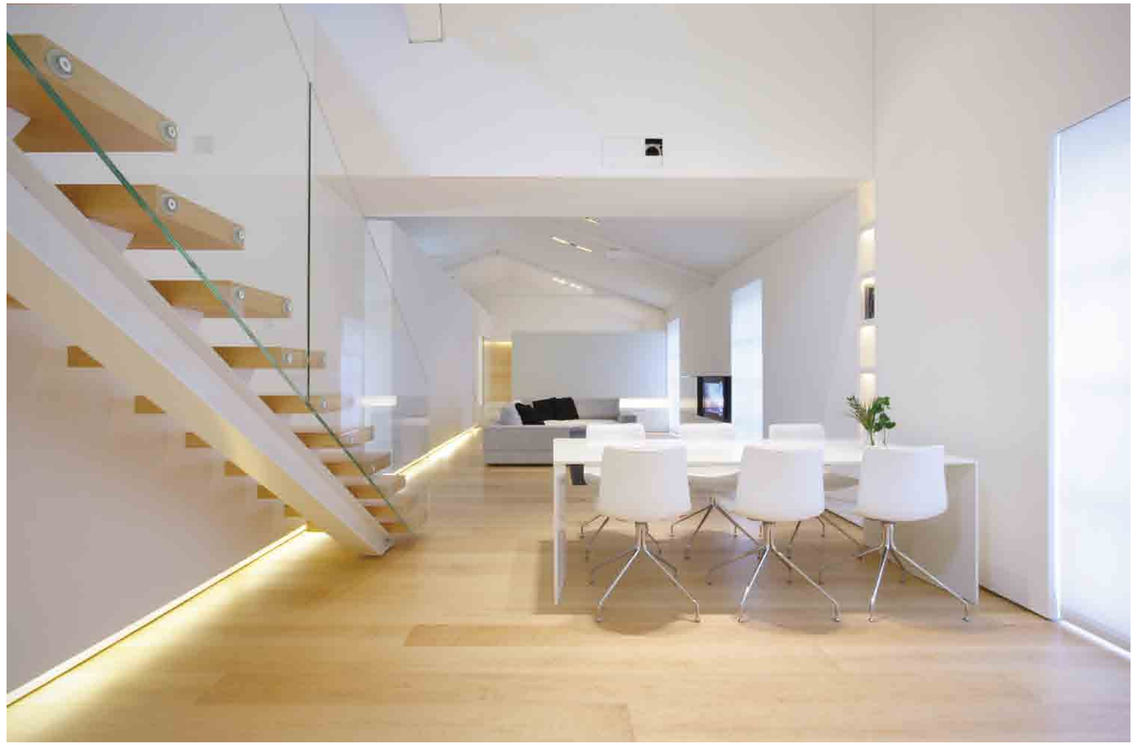
COMOLOFT

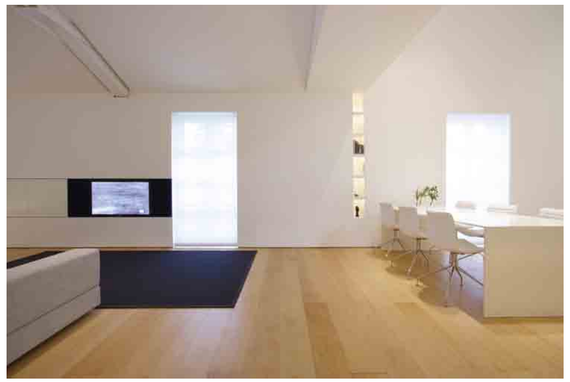
Architects: JM Architecture **Designers:** Jacopo Mascheroni **Photography:** Jacopo Mascheroni

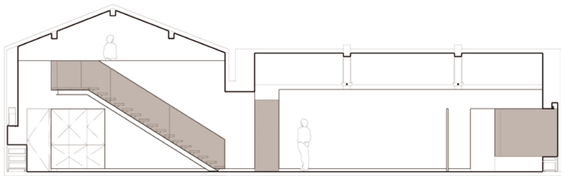
When an old monastery located around the city of Como, Italy, was being remodelled and converted into a residential complex, two adjacent units have been connected to form this duplex apartment. The shape of the original units is clearly enhanced by the different pitched ceiling direction as well as by their different heights. The main idea was to keep the shell intact, maintaining the entire length of the unit open and invading the space minimally. The result is the insertion of an enclosed box on one side containing a small bedroom and two bathrooms, which leaves to an open space the main functions of the home. The main entry is a very small foyer which creates a sense of compression before entering the main gallery, where the living spaces, kitchen, dining and living, are separated from the master bedroom by a lacquered block. In the drop between the two different ceilings, a video projector is inserted to play images on the wall above the kitchen. To allow the maximum projection surface, the upper kitchen cabinets are hidden behind the wall and slide down with a motorized system. The other characteristic element in the main space is the staircase, which is an assembled steel beam with open treads made by a cantilever steel plate covered in wood. Canadian maple has been carefully selected for the hardwood floors, and since maple wood isn't stable with radiant floor heating, the floor planks were custom built with 2.5mm Canadian maple top and back layers on a particle board. The 20cm width of the floor planks modulate the position of all the elements, from the walls to the millwork. The floor planks also runs up the master suite wall, which is lit by an upper light cove.

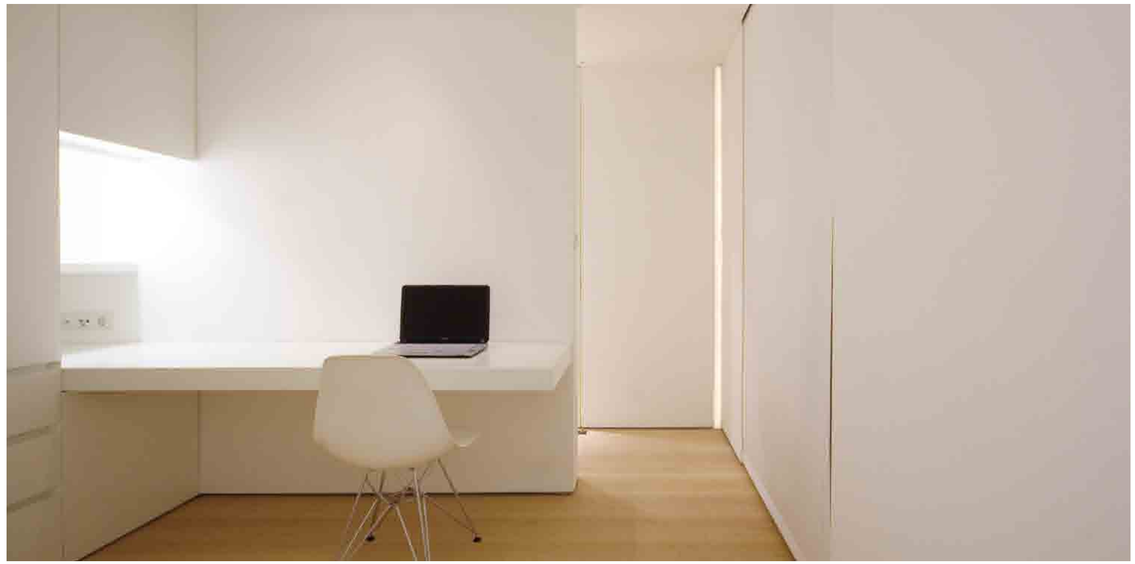
All perimeter walls and ceilings hide an additional layer of thermal insulation and the bathrooms are equipped with radiant panels in the ceiling. The walls adjacent to other units have been covered with a led layer to give additional acoustical insulation. Glacier white Corian is used for counter tops and sinks in the kitchen, laundry room and bathrooms, for the bath-tub, showers and parts of the bathroom walls. The house is fully automated and is managed by a server located in the studio on the second level. Everything has been custom designed, including the entire kitchen, bathroom sinks, beds, dining table, desks and bath-tub.

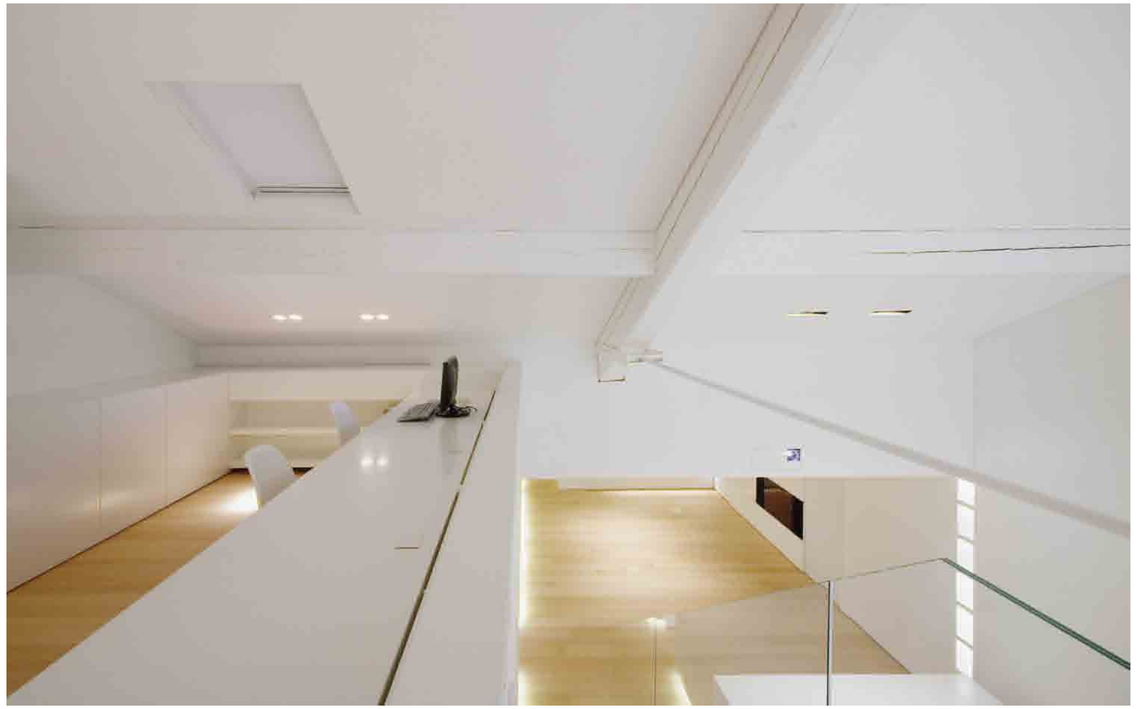


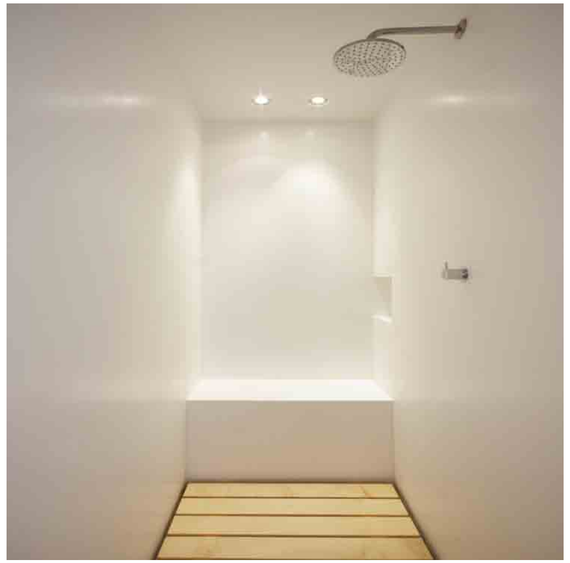


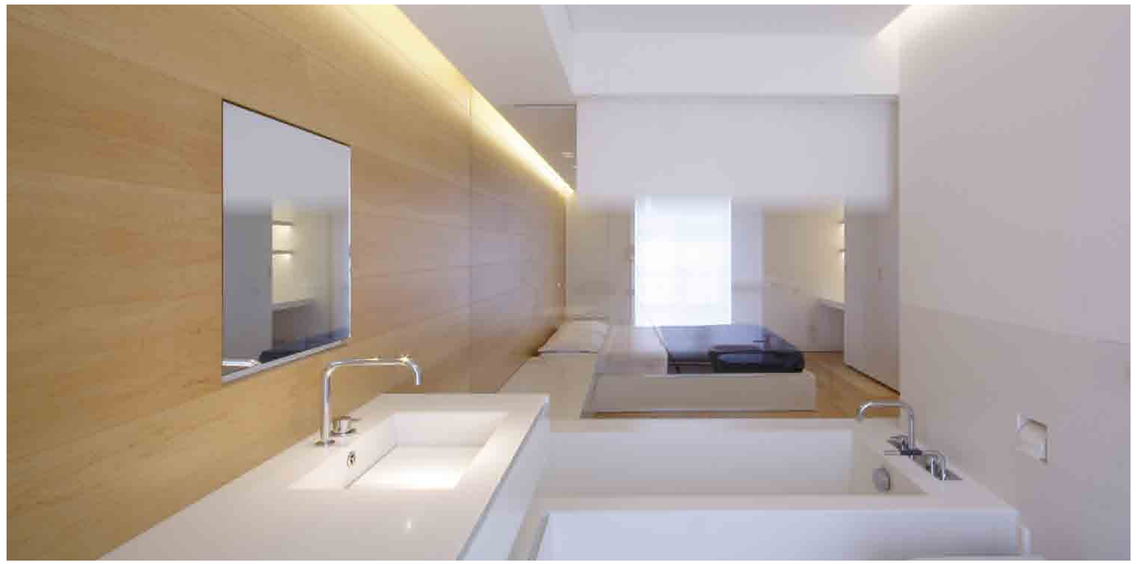








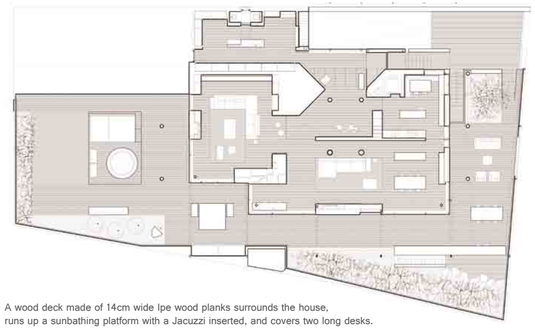




DOLOMITES HOUSE

Architects: JM Architecture **Designers:** Jacopo Mascheroni
Landscape: Nippon Bonsai, Carate Brianza (MI) **Photography:** Hermann Gasser, Jacopo Mascheroni

The idea of remodelling this house in the Dolomite mountains at the border between Italy and Austria started because of an uncomfortable living situation. The existing building presented a very large and high entry hall with the rooms arranged around it, and it was always necessary to walk through it to move around the house. On the ground floor, the kitchen, dining room, living room and the stube were not proportioned to the size of the house and they couldn't get enough light.
For this reason the entire ground floor has been demolished, and a new interior clear glass envelope with a gyp wall inserted is now the only separation among the different spaces. Few new volumes have been added around the house to extend the entry hall and the oversized family room, which include dining, relax and study areas.
To allow the maximum amount of light into the rooms, the façades have been replaced by a custom designed structural silicon curtain wall, with base and head mullions flush with the floor and ceiling, and large pop-out sliding doors to create interaction between indoor and outdoor. Because of the very low temperatures of the winter, the heating solution is the combination of radiant floor heating, perimeter floor radiators along the curtain wall, a gas see-through-the-outside fireplace and a wood one.
The house is controlled by a fully automated iBus system, and a particular attention has been given to the audio video equipment, which also includes invisible speakers plastered into walls or ceilings of different areas. Almost everything has been custom designed, from the entire kitchen to the tables, desks, gas and wood fireplaces. Since maple wood isn't stable with radiant floor heating, the floor planks were custom built with 2.5mm Canadian maple top and back layers on a particle board. The 20cm width of the floor planks modulate the position of all the elements, from the walls to the millwork.
The garden is enclosed by a 2.5m tall wood wall with horizontal slats to emphasize the perspective and cast shadows of sunlight from above and of spotlights from below.



A wood deck made of 14cm wide Ipe wood planks surrounds the house, runs up a sunbathing platform with a Jacuzzi inserted, and covers two long desks.
The sun shading is an horizontal system that runs on tracks inserted in steel beams, as if the interior ground floor ceiling would be extended out. A steel framed wood canopy on one side allows to sit outdoor in a rainy day.