

MONJO HOUSE

PROJECT: Monjo House

LOCATION: Minorca, Spain

YEAR: 1990

Architectural Digest magazine chose this project for its January 1992 cover, dedicated to Spain for the Olympic Games.

The main challenge of this project was to construct on a predominant point in Cala Pregonda, in the north of Minorca, without modifying the beauty of the landscape. Javier Barba came to the conclusion that the main inspirational features should be the existing landscape and the sea. To integrate the house he used the stone from the excavation. In this way the building seems to emerge from the rock. Looking from the sea, it is difficult to distinguish the house from the cliff, as its irregular form and texture of rock is brilliantly integrated into the landscape. The structure of this project is comprised of three volumes. In the central unit, which houses the common areas, the main feature is an old stone tower, which was incorporated into the project as an entrance area and that has guest rooms in the upper storey. The other bedrooms are in the annex building, and there is an apartment for guests in the highest level. These three modules are connected internally and externally through terraces, corridors and stone staircases. The roof, bordered with vegetation, becomes another terrace in the garden.
