

Concept - Refuge

The environment that surrounds us directly affects the way we feel, it has the potential to attenuate or exacerbate sensations. During the pandemic people have retreated back to their homes for refuge against the spreading virus. It is now a new normal to work or study from home. For this reason, a home must be a therapeutic place that helps in healing its habitat, a true reflection of refuge. This has been achieved through the biophilic design strategy. The house provides a healing environment for the habitat at a low-cost budget through sustainability approach and environmental consciousness. The sleeping spaces are on the eastern side with a courtyard in between. The courtyard provides the habitat with an experience of nature and enhances the quality of air into the house through ventilation. Openings offer some beautiful unobstructed panoramic views, natural lighting and cross ventilation. This therefore increases the immunity of the habitat. Vinyl has been used for interior flooring as it is easy to clean and archive sterile surfaces. More so, vinyl can imitate some natural textures which enhances the healing effect of the home. The living spaces are open in their configuration which enhances transparency and a quick flow of natural light. The outdoor spaces which cover 160 square meters of the total plinth area, offer a feel of tranquil and serenity to the habitat as it opens out to the landscape thus creating a healing environment around the house. The building also collects its own water and manages its waste water to help against the water crisis in the city and in the country at large. Automated venetian blinds control the natural lighting into the living spaces and also offer security. The house therefore, opens out into the prospect (landscape) and at the same time provides refuge for the habitat.



REFUGE

1148 KENSINGTON
BULAWAYO
ZIMBABWE