



The sea inside

This waterfront apartment does its utmost to detach itself from the chaotic scene that Sliema has become. It's illusory simplicity leads to serenity... Up on the eight floor, it strives to continue a seamless connection with the sea.

PHOTOS: ALEX ATTARD





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Location: Sliema
Size: 280 square metres
Project team: Steven Risiott, Patricia Grech from A Collective

Suspended above a chaotic seaside node, this eight-floor apartment strives to create a haven of tranquillity that breaks away from the hustle and bustle of the busy street below.

The apartment forms part of a larger residential block, meaning it was impossible to intervene on the façade and its openings. So A Collective was commissioned exclusively for the conversion of the apartment's outdated interiors.

The conceptual development of the proposal was centred around the notion of creating a continuous visual and audial connection with the sea.

The apartment unfolds as the permeability of the space increases. The wall framing the front door is diminished to slats, providing a teaser taster of the uninterrupted sea views.

Behind these slats on a raised timber platform is the summer living room, so positioned to allow for a view of the horizon when seated.

The timber slats were designed to reflect the flanges of the steel column, which frames the entrance hallway. Aligned with this steel column, pivoted between the entrance, living room and kitchen, is a 10-seater dining table culminating in an elegant marble-clad fireplace.

Built on a site laden with awkward angles and acute corners, order and uniformity was achieved through a number of bespoke joinery elements that exploit the space, while providing a seamless flow.

Concealed behind a pivot door at the end of the corridor, the room furthest away from the sea was transformed into a cosy, winter TV room, library and study. The bespoke cladding and storage elements within this space incorporate concealed entrances to annex service areas. ■