

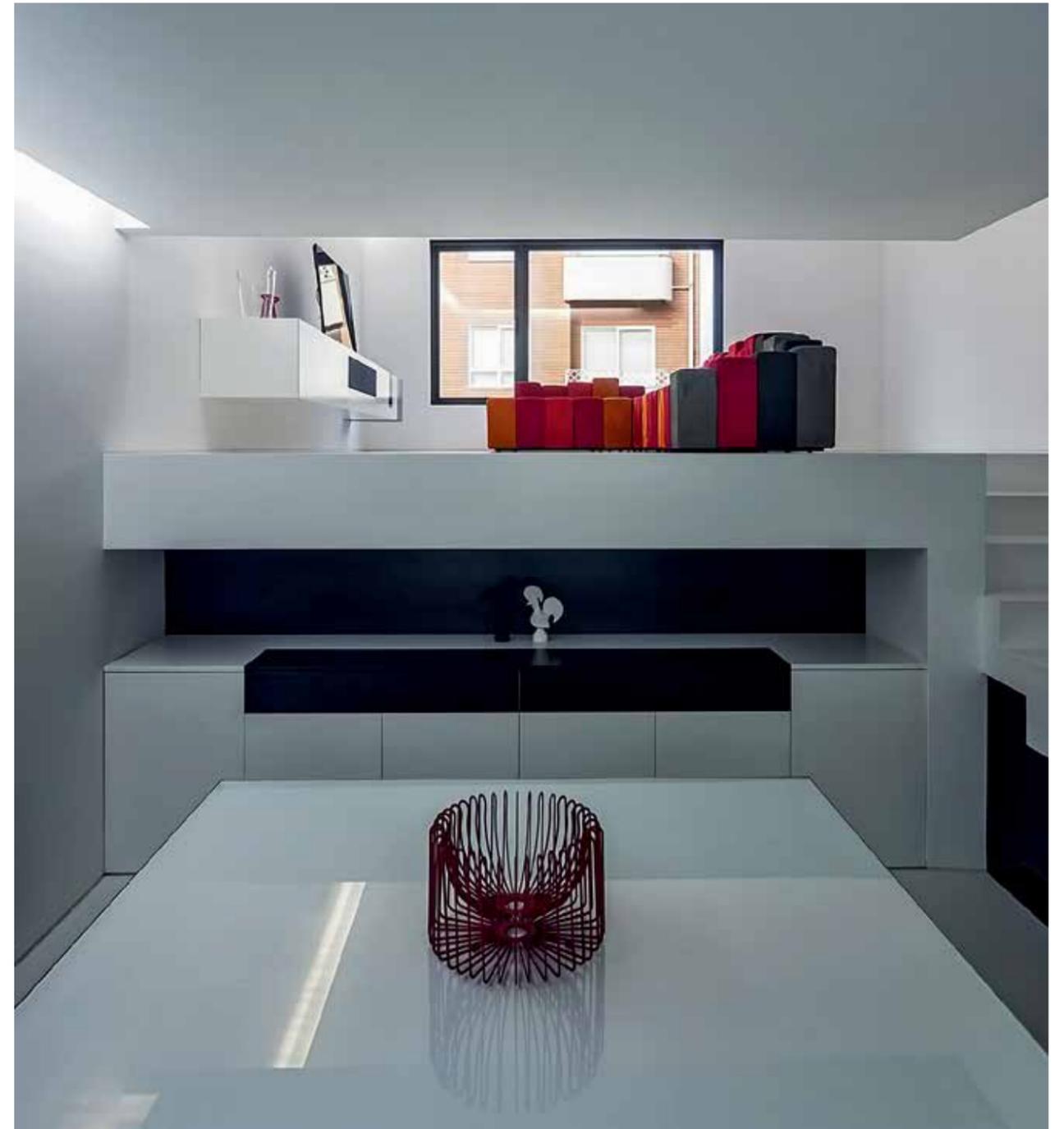
## STRAIGHT UP

### — *Creating Space Through Architectural Ingenuity*

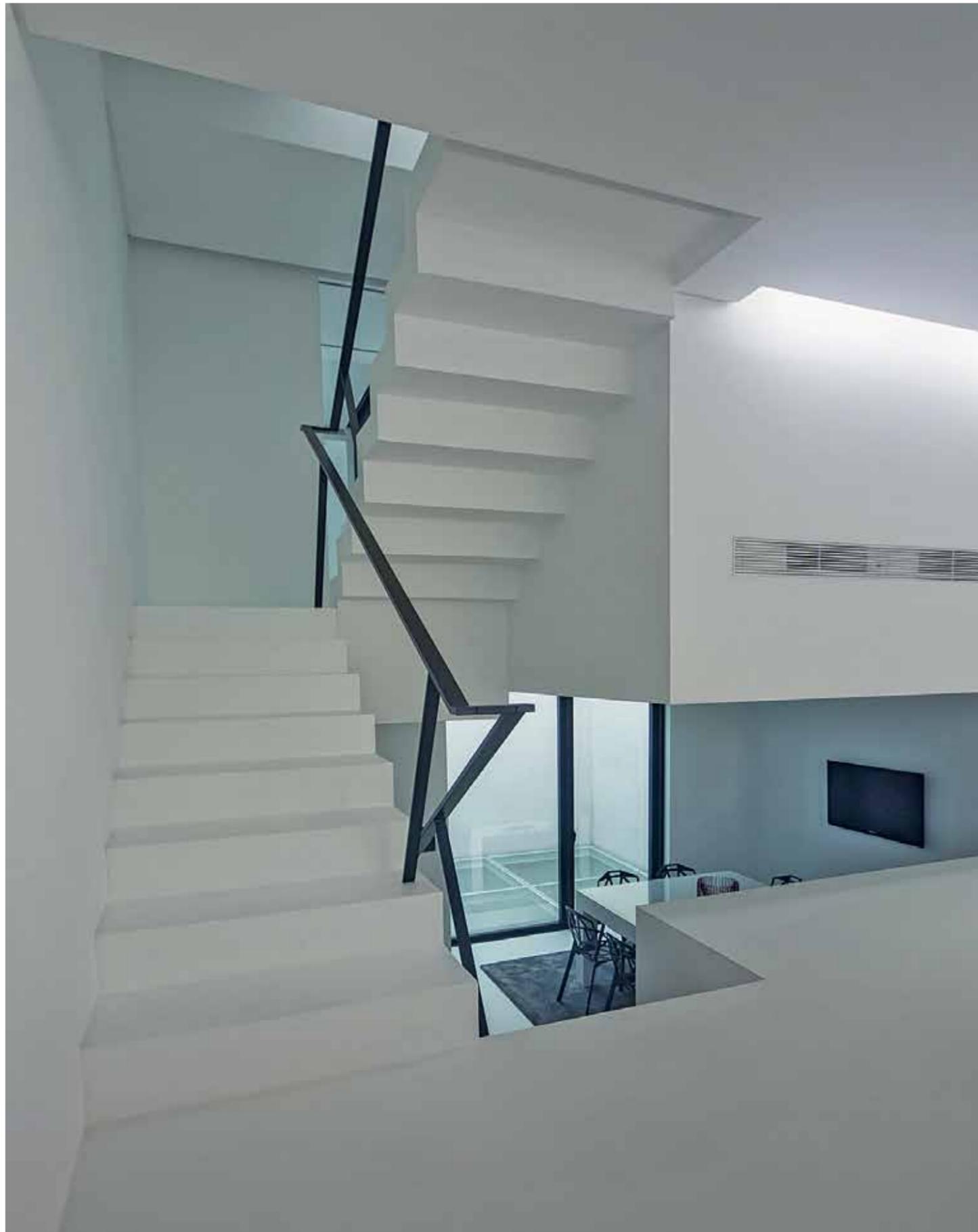
A unique, vertically integrated city house, Halffloors is strikingly minimalist and acts as the perfect location for modern living. The project, by Pedro Brito, was built on a central city plot with a footprint of only 80 square meters. However, thanks to the use of intricate architectural techniques, the designers managed to create a living space of 277 square meters. The house has three bedrooms, one dining room, one living room, one office, three easily accessed exterior areas and a two-car garage with a car lift.



Photos © Pedro Brito



The house is organized in a vertical and hierarchical way where the social areas are located on the lower floors and the private areas on the upper levels. To achieve great visual amplitudes and dynamic interconnections between spaces, the interior was structured in half-floors with a central staircase running through the property. Positioned adjacent to those spaces is a courtyard that, together with the half-floor structure, creates a sense of vertical continuity, along with a gentle horizontal connection. The courtyard affords a sense of depth and expansion to the spaces, allowing for the levels from the basement to the first floor to be experienced as one space, connected vertically and horizontally. The exterior of the house was set up using a structural façade where the glass was glued to an aluminum frame using



structural silicone while the entry door and garage were aligned with the exterior house walls. This was done so as to present the house as a unique object. While the house might well appear to be modern and minimalist, a nod to Portugal's heritage can be seen in the sidewalk outside the house. The cobblestones are part of the country's cultural heritage and are formed of irregularly shaped stones, including limestone and basalt. Traditional colors tend to be black and white, and the contrasting colors, shapes, decorative patterns with pictures, drawings and geometric patterns are typical of traditional sidewalks.

The interior décor was specifically designed for the property, from the wardrobes, dressers and kitchens to the bedrooms bathrooms and office furniture. The predominant colors in the house are white and black and the pieces were intended to form unity between the spaces through the creation of an internal, interconnected design. The designers strove to create an energy- and environmentally-efficient property through the use of materials such as thermal bricks and acoustic insulation on the exterior of the building. Throughout the property, the team included a range of systems to improve the sustainability and livability of the building. Examples include interior sound insulation, the choice of frames and window glass, solar panels, system inverter air conditioners, along with an expensive but effective system that works by ducts and the use of blackout blinds to reduce the amount of external light entering the house at nighttime. The structural façade enjoys an excellent heat transfer coefficient thanks to the use of colorless double glazed tempered glass to achieve a greater thermal and acoustic insulation while allowing more natural light to enter the property.