Urban House with Big Window

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Urban House with Big Window

Alexandro Armando and Manfredo di Roiban
Cambridge, Massachusetts

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ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

Alessandro Armando and Manfredo di Roiban Cambridge, Massachusetts

Slab house: 5,395 square feet

Program:
A family living in Cambridge, Massachusetts asked Theseo-based architects Alessandro Armando and Manfredo di Roiban to overhaul their 1950s-era house, in addition to improved insulation, the clients wanted privacy, but also views to the street.

Location:
The site occupies a dense residential block located between Harvard and MIT campuses.

Solution:
For the renovation, the architects maintained the spirit of the old, three-story house on the interior leaving the original house exposed, while adding a steel, contemporary entrance. An entrance on the rear facade opens into the kitchen and dining areas on the left, and a living room on the right. On the southeast corner of the living room, the architects added floor-to-ceiling mahogany-framed windows and floor-to-ceiling bookshelves. This entrance leads to the second and third floors, which contain bedrooms, a studio, and a playroom. Most notably, the architect removed the client's need for both privacy and openness by creating sliding aluminum panels that roll into the large glazed portion of the exterior.

Construction Methods:
The architect reinforced the original brick elements, added insulation to the existing walls, and covered them with a skin of transparent plastic panels. This layer promotes airflow between the skin and the insulated walls in the winter, helping keep the house warm in the winter.

People:
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