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Press release

## The “Case del Prato” – Zirmerhof

### Vaia’s message transformed into an installation of art and architecture

*“I welcomed the idea of building the two Case del Prato using the timber felled by the storm. The wounds produced by storm Vaia are still visible when you look around Zirmerhof and you see the empty patches of woodland. We still find it hard to believe how violent the wind of Vaia was, and how it could fell and carry away so many trees. Yet the message that Vaia left us is quite clear. It is a message that comes from a tale of climate change and that shows us how nature is rebelling against our inconsiderate actions, against those anthropogenic changes that are far from natural.”*

(Michele De Lucchi, June 2020)

Le Case del Prato (which translates as “Homes in the Pastures”) are two small wooden architectures which add 6 master bedrooms to the luxury Zirmerhof Hotel, Redagno di Sopra, situated in the verdant mountains of South Tyrol.

The Case nel Prato are not just architectures, but a product of AMDL CIRCLE’s holistic approach to architecture, interiors and product design, merged from the very beginning of the creative process.

The two buildings are realized with timber salvaged after the Vaia storm of October 2018, which tore down 14 million trees, also damaging the woodland around the Zirmerhof Hotel. The Project transformed this felled timber into an installation of art and architecture. The objects and spaces in the “Case del Prato”, all designed by AMDL CIRCLE, contemplate and complement one another.

The Case del Prato are conceived as sculptural volumes. They are positioned on sloping pastures, in front of the majestic historical Maso (farmstead). All around, tranquillity and beauty, the two Houses appearing as two sculptures inserted into the skyline of the field, the slopes of Adige valley and Dolomite mountains. They replace the former parking lot which impacted the view for the hotel guests and which has been relocated in a more secluded area. Instead of cars and concrete, the two houses form a welcoming piazza where the history of the farmstead dialogues with the nature of the fields and woodland.

Each detail has been designed to be in harmony with the nature, the history and sensibility of Zirmerhof. First and foremost, the choice of using the timber felled by storm Vaia to construct the houses. The salvaged pinewood has been used for beams and to build load-bearing walls, while formwork, cladding and internal walls and floors were realized with the salvaged larchwood. Wood is, of course, the key player in the whole design, chosen for ability to transform over time while maintaining a synergy with the rhythms of nature, also after being felled, sawn, processed and recomposed.

From a formal perspective, the curved lines of the roofs recall the form of traditional barns. Clad with larchwood shingles, the roofs recapture an ancient construction technique that is still used in certain parts of the Dolomites, which enables the cladding of rounded surfaces. Sharing a similar rounded form, the two Houses have different layouts. The first is circular and accommodates two suites located on two different levels, while the second is linear and houses four apartments on two levels and a convivial double-height area in the

centre. Both architectures are completed by panoramic terraces on the top floor, and by the arches of the continuous portico on the ground level. The squared doors and windows are inspired by the traditional windows of mountain houses.

Outside is the landscape, inside is the atmosphere. The scenographic interiors are made possible by Produzione Privata, the company founded by Michele De Lucchi to design and produce experimental objects while supporting local artisans. Produzione Privata allows AMDL CIRCLE to create installations where objects and interior design develop alongside the architecture. The contemporary feel of the environment is determined by the careful and attentive design of each single element. To recall the antique furniture of the farmstead, many of the interior pieces in the Case del Prato have been realized in walnut and are characterized by certain elements typical of local decor.

Nothing must disturb the tranquility of the environment, in a restorative harbour far from the frenzy of urban life. From the interlacing of the truss ceiling that reflects the rhythm of the wall and floors, to the choice of finishes and furnishings, everything has been conceived to provide comfort and relaxation. The colour palette and the textures of wood and fabric communicate warmth and welcome. The necessary technology is integrated and invisible. The windows are conceived as scenic elements that frame the landscape and invite the eye and the mind to wander and find peace and calm in the natural surroundings.

The Case del Prato are an artistic installation made of objects great and small.



Michele De Lucchi, drawing  
Case del Prato, pencil on paper,  
December 2019



Michele De Lucchi, drawing  
Case del Prato, pencil on paper,  
December 2019

## About Amdl Circle

AMDL CIRCLE is a creative multidisciplinary studio renowned for its humanistic architecture and design. It is led by Michele De Lucchi, one of Italy's leading architects and designers. Headquartered in Milan, Italy, the Studio is built on 40 years of pioneering work on iconic projects including the Unicredit Pavilion in Italy, the Bridge of Peace in Tbilisi and Artemide's Tolomeo, the world's most popular designer lamp. According to AMDL CIRCLE humanistic principles, the continuous search to improve the quality of life, both physical and intellectual, constitutes the very foundation of design.

## About Produzione Privata

Produzione Privata is the experimental design laboratory founded in 1990 by Michele De Lucchi and Sibylle Kicherer. It was created to design and produce objects with the maximum freedom of expression, independent of the constraints of markets and industry. The experimental designs of Produzione Privata are expressions of the holistic approach of AMDL CIRCLE and originate from celebrating craftsmanship, humanistic philosophy and the fusion between art and architecture.

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