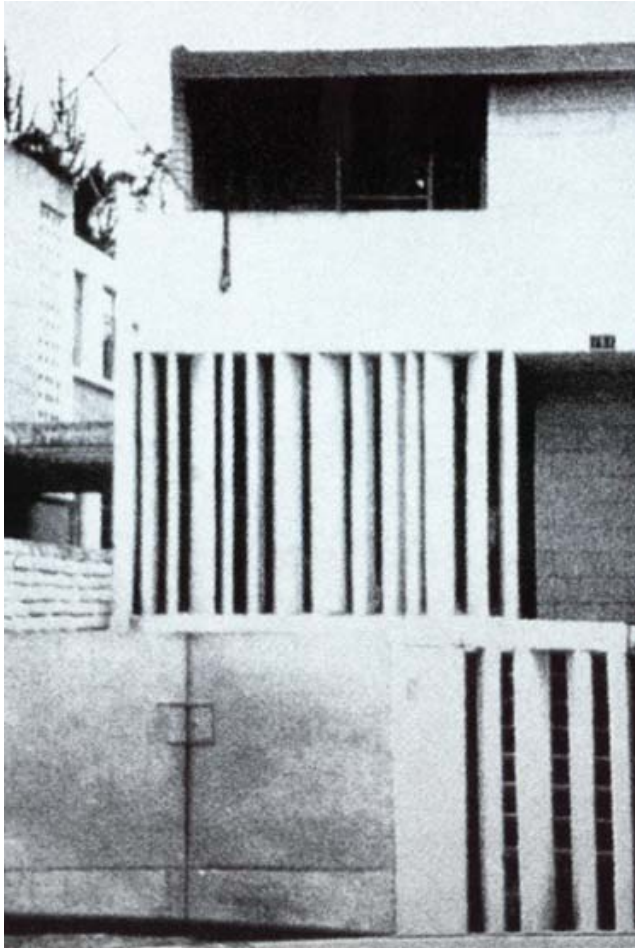


Minimal Documentation Fiche 2003

0.1 Image of the building / site



Item: The architect's house

Source: Architectural Museum of Ecuador

Date: 1962

**1. Identity of building / group of buildings / urban scheme / landscape / garden**

**1.1 Current name of the building**

The Architect's House.

**1.2 Variant or former name**

House on Aguirre Street

**1.3 Number and name of street**

The house number is 284 0e2-54.

Aguirre St.between Versalles St. and 10 de Agosto Ave.

**1.4 Town**

Quito.

**1.5 Province / State**

Pichincha - Ecuador.

**1.6 zip code**

EC170129

**1.7 country**

Ecuador.

## 1.8 National Grid Reference

Diagram lot division, the Architect's House sector.



### Classification / Typology

RES

### 1.10 Protection status and date

Ornate Reward, 1968

## 2 History of building

### 2.1 Original brief / purpose

Once he had finished his studies in Europe, Architect Milton Barragán, as he needed a place to live, he asked his father to help him with a building lot where he could make his house. The building lot used by family Barragán was an access pathway to a lot to the interior of the sector.

The housing solution complied with the people's needs who occupied the building at that moment, a young couple. This program included: a garage, a living room, a dining room, a kitchen, a study, an office for architecture design, bedrooms for: children, parents, service area and a patio-garden.

## **2.2 Dates: Commission /completion**

Both the design and the construction were carried out by architect Milton Barragán in the year of 1962.

## **2.3 Architectonic Designers and other parties**

Architect Milton Barragán was the person in charge of the design and construction which caused the house to be known as the Architect's house.

## **2.4 Other associates with the construction**

## **2.5 Significant alterations with the dates**

## **2.6 Current Use**

Home and Commercial area at the garage

## **2.7 Present condition**

Bad conditions

## **3 Description**

### **3.1 General Description**

The building lot is located on Aguirre St, between Versailles St. and 10 de Agosto Ave. in the parish Belisario Quevedo, with a dimension of 4.8 m in width x 42 m in length, with an approximate area of 196 m<sup>2</sup>.

The priority was to gain as much area as possible for building a patio-garden, besides the house was used as an office for the architect. He considered his should have an independent access from Aguirre St. while being linked somehow to the home, these contributing factors, in addition to the narrowness of the

4.8m building lot, these were the motivators in order that the house develops itself from the underground and in a set of levels. This way although the façade looked as if the house had three levels in the inside of the house they generated 5 Levels, gaining thus a larger quantity of area for the patio-garden and fulfilling the requirements of the program.

The entrance is attained by means of a ramp, from level= 000m up to level =0.70 m crossing the parking lot, and towards the office by means of some external stairs from level 0,00 m to the third level of the house, level =1.62 m.

### **3.2 Construction**

The structural system is defined by a reticule in the two blocks, by means of concrete beams and columns represented by the iron rods interweaved and founded in the interior of the brick wall, in the architect-s office the floors are wooden and the other spaces are constituted by gridded slabs put together on ceramics joists.

The house was mostly built in brick masonry without plastering; the exposed structural elements were worked in concrete like the sun screens and the balustrade.

### **3.3 Context**

The building lot presents a flat topography, the house is placed between dividers, and the architecture that predominated was neo-colonial, a transition between colonial and modern styles, architecture style that lasted until the late 1930s.

## **4 Evaluation**

No doubt that the narrowness of the building lot, its double condition of home and worksite and the presence of the patio-garden t are the building generators, revaluing the intimacy of the home, giving as a result, the development in height of the main block from the underground, to medium levels, where most of the spaces of the program are developed, and where the roof light in the middle of the block is a part of the solution to the natural illumination of a house between dividers. The Architect's house is one of the buildings where the values of modernity are present in an obvious way, their spaces are very well arranged, each one in its place and with a formal relation of a reduced number of elements which shows that there is order, rigor and economy.

### **4.1 Technical**

The house was constructed in a large extent with brick masonry without plastering, which generated a texture of the building, the exposed structural elements made in concrete, Like the sun screens and the balustrade were painted in white making contrast with materials like wood and non carved stone that

was used in the paths toward the ramp, paying attention to the construction details as a means for a formal result in the house.

In the longest space of the house, the ground floor (level =0.00m) made up by: a study, a living room, a dining room and a kitchen, with a wood coating on the walls and false ceiling, which helped to differentiate the two spaces: study- living room and the dining room – kitchen, in this way, a too long space was visually reduced. The carpentry of the windows, doors and banister were made of wood, as well as the furniture of the interior of the house, which in the area of the dining room and the kitchen were used as a panel to divide these two spaces.

#### **4.2 Social**

The architect projected his own house, so specific variables come into scene. The architect as the author and the interested party places himself on both sides of the project. Then, it was not strange that house built works as a place for testing, for exercising new solutions, for spontaneous and interesting proposals, in a search of own interpretation of this new trend, without forgetting the effort of integrating the modern culture to the different own cultures of each region.

#### **4.3 Cultural and aesthetic**

The house is made of two blocks, separating the service area of the house and linking them by means of the patio-garden. The main façade divided in three stripes by the slaps of the house levels, the last slab forms a cover with a 4 % slope and formally as the final element for the building completion. La position of the entrance to the office with its steps and the corridor creates an axle in the extreme of the façade that the architect obeyed, axle that is reinforced in each level of the house, working with openings and using elements like in the façade: sun screens, balustrades and windows, working with the 1/2 and 1/3 of the width of the façade that constitutes the house module. The posterior façade still keeps an order in windows and doors on the basis of their structure, responding thus also to a functional use both for illumination as well as in the correct placement of accesses. The fence has been worked as part of the front façade by using the same guidelines, which by means of a sun screen element gives priority to the axle worked on the extreme of the façade of the house, besides, it is constituted by a metallic door, these two elements dimensions are constructed in height and width on the basis of the dimensions of the house module.

The vertical circulation of the house has a double function: as a transition and as a connector of the levels in the interior of the house, they were intercalated between the stairways, beginning from the ground floor level (parking lot), to the 5th level (children's bedroom). This multilevel set allowed the generation of a terrace and balcony in the posterior and front façades. On horizontal circulation, at the upper floor there is a corridor hall that communicates the bedroom area and give way to natural illumination in the inside of the house, which is created by means of a zenithal light that is located in the

center of the main block since it is a construction among dividers.

#### **4.4 historic**

Since the current of modernity was trendy, when these houses emerge they are accepted by the population, and it immediately deserved the Ornate Reward, granted to the best house in the year 1968, with the best comments of architects and people knowledgeable on art, according to architect Barragán.

#### **4.5 general evaluation**

Le Corbusier was possibly his greatest referent, when young he attended some of his talks in Paris, and visited his study, he continuously visited the works that were scattered all over France and Europe, and his library is full of information about his projects.

### **5 Documentation**

#### **5.1 Main references**

Sketched plans of the house taken personally of the studied home.

Information compiled from the personal files of the architect in the preliminary plans of the house.

Interviews carried out with the architect.

Magazines and books such as: Trama, "30 years of modern architecture in Quito", " The Ecuadorian house".

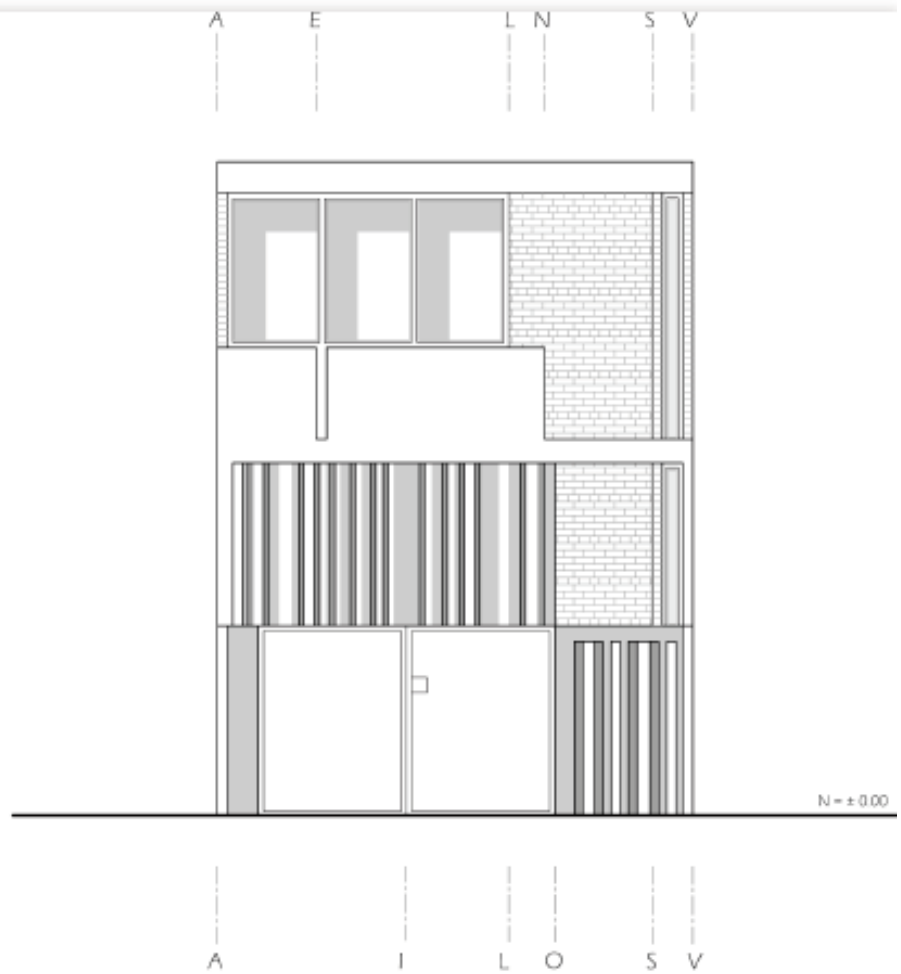
Ecuador Museum of Architecture – MAE- provided the information, in photographs of the epoch as well as the biography of the architect.

5.2 Attached visual material









ALZADO FRONTAL  
ESC. 1/75



V O C A



N = + 0.60

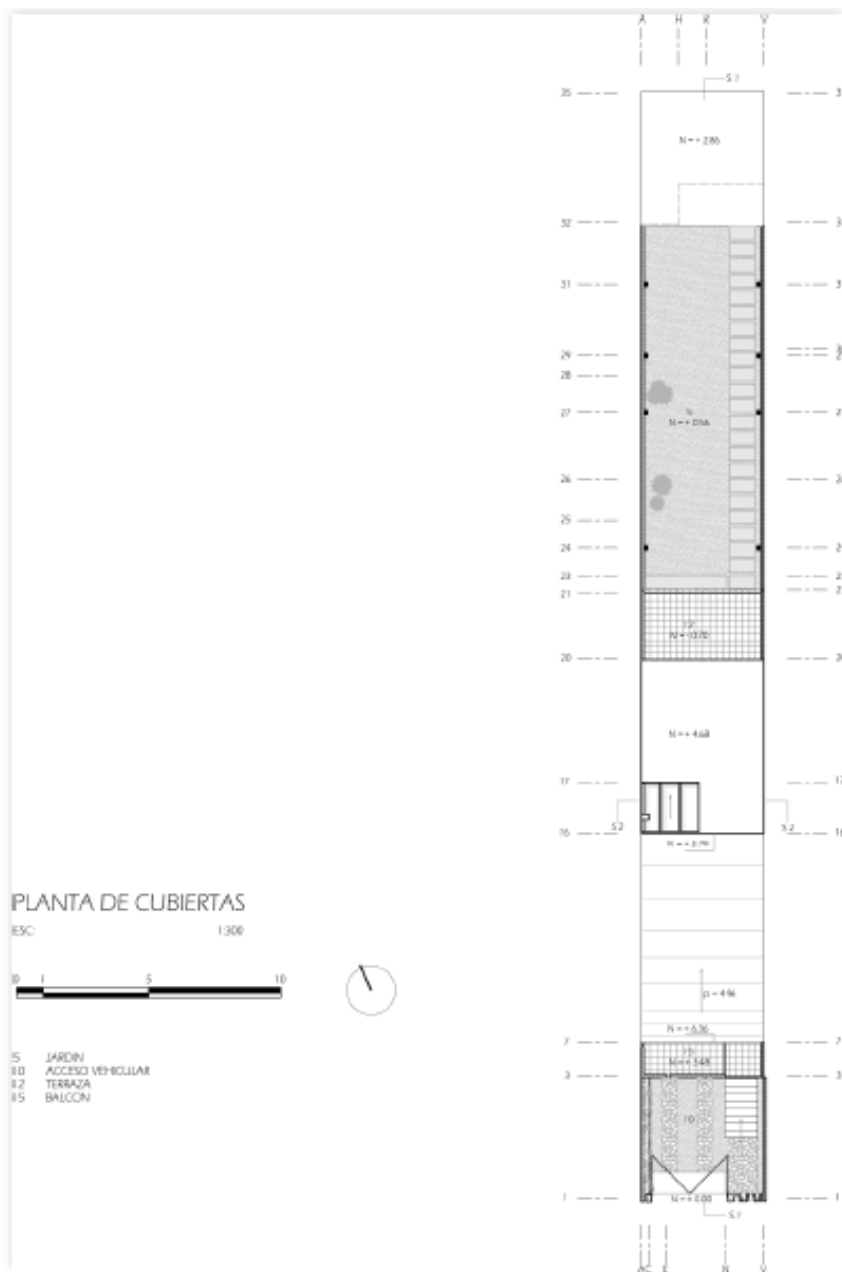
V R O F A

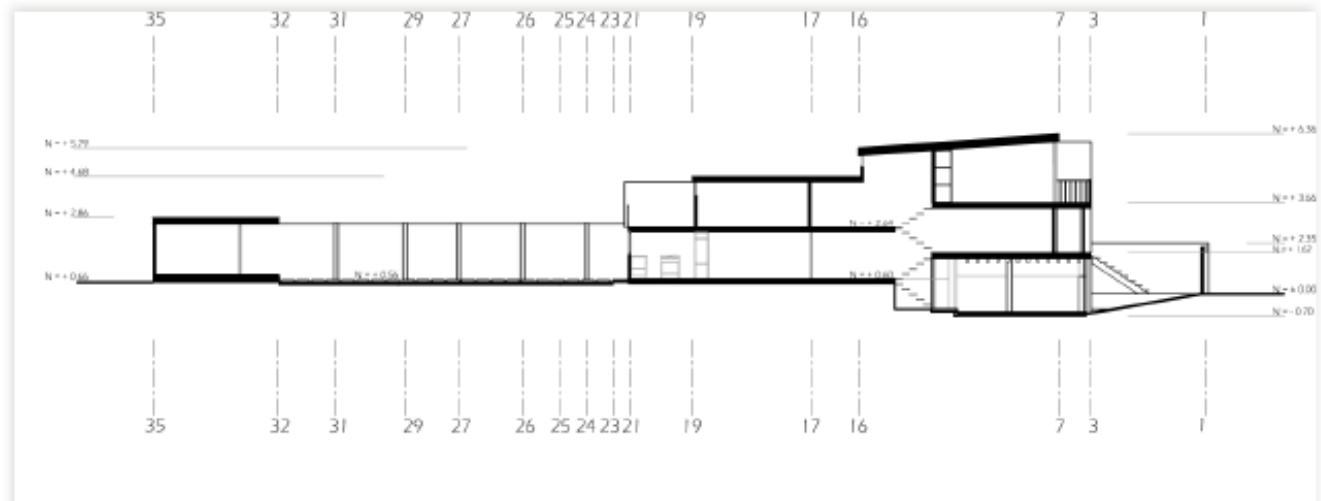
ALZADO POSTERIOR  
ESC. 1/75











SECCION S1  
ISC 1300



### 5.3 Presenter / date

Architect José Hernán Sánchez 2006-2007

### 6 Fiche report examination by ISC/R

Name of examining ISC member: date of examination:

Approval:

Working party/ref. n°: NAI ref. n°:

Comments: