

The studio posed a challenge, which consisted mainly of designing a living space for a mother with two children in joint custody. The space is designated for both sleep, and work. She is a furniture upholsterer, thus needs an open space to work and store fabric rolls, as well as display samples of her work.

The rolls of fabric were an immediate inspiration for us.

Our initial impression when arriving to the 'Schocken' compound was of a gray, old, neglected area. The buildings were originally used as industrial buildings in the 1960s, and the entire compound, which is currently undergoing renovation, is monotonously constructed, repetitive and boring.

We realized that we wanted the woman we design for to undergo a process of discovery, from the moment she reaches the gray area, until she enters the apartment. Our inspiration for creating the plan and dividing the spaces was a labyrinth. We wanted the woman to go into the apartment and see her children through the canvas screens as she walks amongst them.

Since her needs vary (her children stay with her only part of the time), we wanted to create a modular space that changes as needed. We divided the apartment into private and public segments, with fabric partitions separating the spaces which can be closed or opened. These dynamic partitions allow creating multiple space formations throughout the apartment, from very small and confined to very open and airy.

The rolls of fabric are embodied in the delicate, romantic paper partitions that offer variable transparency, thus creating interest in the apartment. The different thickness of each partition allows penetration of light to a certain degree. When the partitions are fully rolled in, they are transformed into cylindrical lightning fixtures that act as light poles inspired by the rolls of cloth.

The size of the apartment was also a challenge. The dimensions of a long narrow rectangular cube forced us to come up with efficient solutions for storage and utilization of space. We decided to raise the floor on a three-feet / one-meter platform, thus putting some furniture such as beds, a work table and closets into the floor itself. When these are not in use, they disappear and allow an open space for the children to run around and play, or to work on furniture Upholstery, a task that requires a great deal of space.

In conclusion, we tried to create a colorful and sensual, quiet space that stands in contrast to the noise, industry and dirt outside. The space changes according to the tenant's needs and can be adapted to accommodate moments of work, privacy, and togetherness & family time.

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