

LUSTER



Concrete Homes

Pieter Peulen



SpronkenHouse
Spain

In the hills of Les Useres, between olive trees and dry stone walls, stands a structure that feels more like a sculpture than a house. SpronkenHouse is the life's work of Dutch artist Xander Spronken. It is a vast, open composition of raw steel and concrete, designed not just to be lived in, but to be experienced.

It is made of 56 vertical columns, each one hand-welded and individually placed. The grid is strict and almost temple-like, with a rhythm based on the golden ratio giving it its proportions. The house is monumental in size but never heavy. It sits lightly in the landscape, wide and low, open to sun and wind.

Spronken built it as his final project. He wanted to create something permanent – a sculpture you could walk through – something that would last. He found the land by chance and pointed to the spot where it should be built. Once built, he left. The house remained.

Years later, it was taken over by a member of his extended family. Someone who understood its intention and wanted to live within it, not change it. And it was carefully adapted over time. The volumes were refined. The landscape was cleaned, repaired, and extended. The interior was furnished slowly and deliberately, without decoration.

The house consists of two residential units, each just over one hundred and thirty square metres. They sit inside the grid, tucked between columns. The materials are minimal: concrete, steel, leather, and glass. Nothing distracts. Inside, a few pieces of custom furniture and vintage design create balance. There are benches by American artist Stephen Kenn, made from repurposed parachute fabric; a kitchen that blends into the wall; a sofa that becomes part of the space. Everything speaks softly.

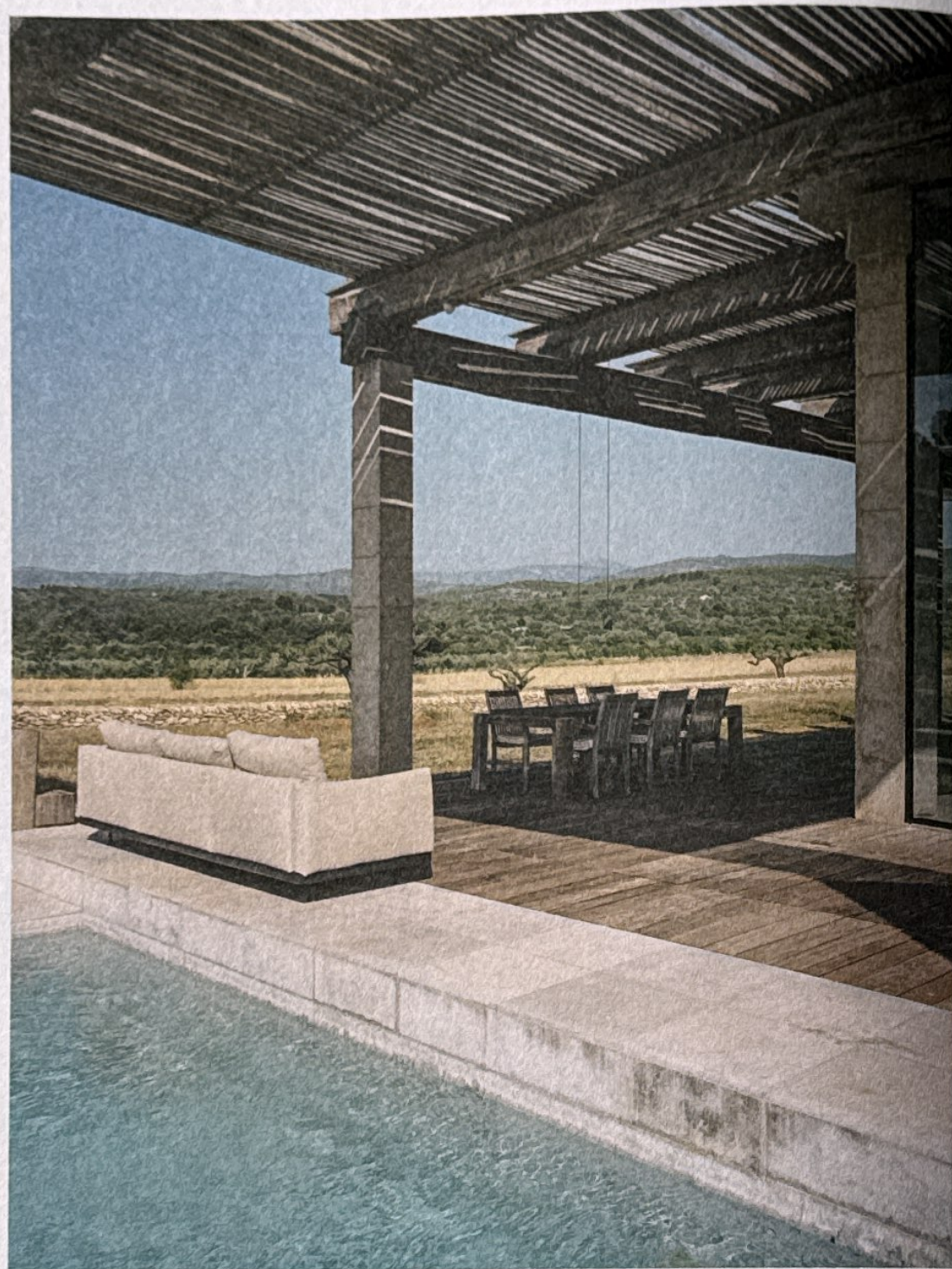
The rear of the site is being cultivated. Old olive trees have been relocated, dry stone walls rebuilt, and an old winery restored. The long-term vision is not one of expansion, but of completion. The goal is to allow the place to mature without losing its strength and to extend the work with care.

SpronkenHouse was never meant to be finished. It is an open structure, both physically and conceptually. It frames the sky, it holds the wind, and invites people to stop and listen. It is a house, but also something else, a place that stays with you.

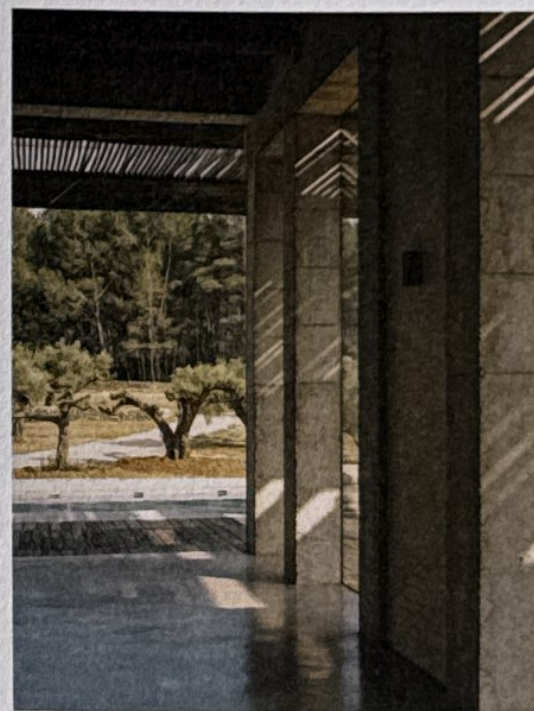
Project: SpronkenHouse
Location: Spain
Architect: Xander Spronken
Year of construction: 2017
Floor area: 310 m²
Resident: Joris Dassen
Resident's profession: retired, in real estate

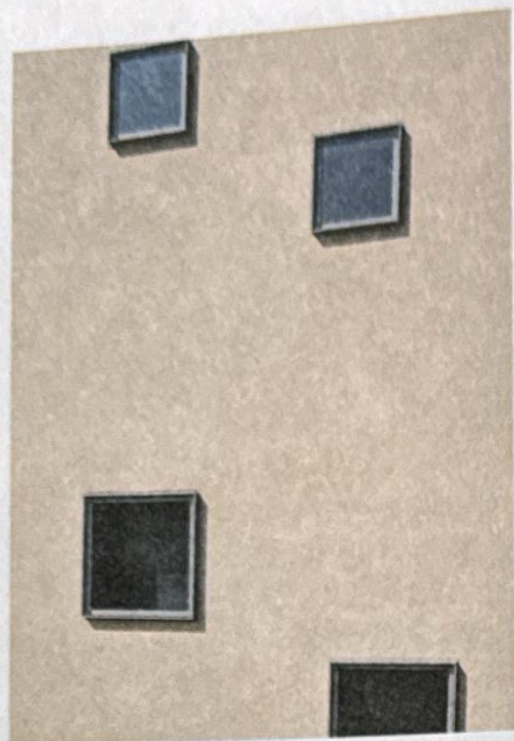






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*"The concrete and its warm colour make
me feel humble and at peace."*

— Joris Dassen