

Name: **Three Gardens House**  
 Type: Residential | 1,300 sqm  
 Location: Al Funaitees, Kuwait  
 Date: 2016  
 Client: Private  
 Cost: Confidential  
 Photography: [Fernando Guerra – FG+SG](#)

Awards: *Identity Design Awards 2017* – Winner in the “Residential Interior” category  
*WAF Awards 2017* – Shortlisted in the “House-Completed Buildings” category  
*MEED Quality Awards 2017* - GCC Winner “Residential Project of the Year”  
*MEED Quality Awards 2017* - National Winner “Residential Project of the Year”  
*The Plan Awards 2017* – Finalist in the “House” category

## Project Description

### It all started with a question:

*Are you able to design an outside space that can be used 365 days a year?*

For moderate climates such as the Spanish it seems quite simple, but in the case of an **extreme weather** like that of Kuwait it was necessary to think about **new strategies**. So we asked the client:

*Could you live in an outer space located at different levels?*

*Could you classify your outdoor activities in evening and daytime actions, summer and winter events?*

These enquiries may be very difficult to answer for a Mediterranean family, but definitely not for those who are used to living in adverse weather conditions and who easily know what can -and cannot- be done during the summer outdoors.

We decided to **stratify the external uses** according to the **period of the year** and the **hours of the day** in which these activities could be developed, and accordingly we designed **three gardens**.

**The first one is a Wet Garden on ground floor**, which allows us to activate related spaces during the hottest periods. The pool and some fountains are located in this garden, which is surrounded by the main social spaces of the house.

The **Summer Garden** stands in the **coldest layer**, 4 meters below street level. Protected by the soil's thermal mass and the projected shadows of the housing volume, a large sheet of water is placed to catalyze the **evapotranspiration** that -through convection- rises and refreshes the air towards upper spaces.

The **third one** lies on the **roof**, an ideal place for winter days and hot summer nights. A **perforated skin** covers the **Winter Garden**, avoiding direct solar radiation and raising the privacy of its inhabitants.

**These three gardens become unified as a single outer space** and are connected -visually and physically- through exterior stairs; we begin to develop the rest of the home from the generation of the aforementioned voids, articulating the program of required uses around them.

Another important aspect to understand is the **internal circulation** of the dwelling, strongly linked to the concept of "family" assumed by the clients. **From the main entrance, the separation of spaces and levels acts as a filter** with guests; therefore, those who circulate through it are only the ones closest to the family (including service staff and workers of the house). The **circulation inside the building** -both vertical and horizontal- is conceived in a fluid way, creating multiple routes and possibilities for the inhabitants to



reach the rooms in a more or less direct way. The **routes can be interior or exterior**, offering differently qualified views and experiences. In this sense, all "public" areas are visually connected, leaving the most private rooms more intimate and looking outwards. **Opposite to the closed volume towards the outside** - emphasized by the uniform stone cladding- is the **total transparency of the spaces facing the interior courtyard** -covered in white ceramic tile-, which reflect the light and help to illuminate the rooms in a natural way

The same perforated skin that serves as a filter on the roof -a "déployé" metal mesh of anodized aluminum- has been used to maintain the **privacy of the inhabitants** from the neighbors' eyes and to filter direct sunlight, serving as a shelter for the vegetation inside the aggressive Kuwaiti climate.

## Team

*Main Architects:* Nasser B. Abulhasan  
Joaquín Pérez-Goicoechea

*Project Leaders:* Stefania Rendinelli  
Sara Barranco

*Project Team:* Willy Ollero  
Gwenola Kergall  
Lulu Alawadhi  
Ana López Cerrato  
Alfredo Carrato  
Cristina Ruiz Nolasco  
Hanan Alkoush  
Samer Mohammad  
Babu Abraham  
Abdulhafiz Bahi El Din

*Lighting:* Irene Bas

*Interior Design:* AGi architects  
*Furniture supplier:* Gunni & Trentino

## AGi architects

The international design firm [AGi architects](#) was founded by two architects educated at Harvard University, **Joaquín Pérez-Goicoechea** and **Nasser B. Abulhasan**.

With a noticeable **international** character and a **multidisciplinary** focus, [AGi architects](#) offers a **professional service** emphasizing **quality**, **creativity** and **exclusive design**. AGi has a vision to create environments that create a lasting value for clients through distinctive and imaginative solutions. At present, the studio has offices in **Kuwait and Madrid**, with a team comprised of **more than 70 professionals**.

The studio's architecture is based on four founding pillars: **innovation**, **an inherent life component**, **ecological and social interventions** and **research**. AGi architects provides comprehensive services in architecture, interior design and urban planning.

[AGi architects](#) has been recognized with more than **40 international awards** such as: Lafarge Holcim Awards, WAF Awards, Middle East Architect Awards, MIPIM Architectural Review, Identity Design Awards and Cityscape Awards, amongst other prizes.



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