



↑ Like its partner, K2 initially presents a very closed facade to the surrounding neighbourhood.



↑↓ The sloping site enabled the architects to treat the front (above) and rear (below) of Dom Zlomu very differently.



## Dual domiciles, Kynceľová

Infusing a rural residential area with contemporary flair, **Paulíny Hovorka** separates yet unites two generations.

🇸🇰 SLOVAKIA — TEXT: PETER SZALAY, PHOTOGRAPHY: BRANISLAV HOVORKA

Although located in central Slovakia, a region that has been awarded the status of cultural and social bearer of the Slovak identity, the municipality of Kynceľová is becoming more and more infused with a global character. Due to its proximity to Banská Bystrica, the regional centre, the community has been caught up in a strong wave of residential building coming straight out of everyday catalogue designs. Regional specificities are progressively retreating from the architecture of the old continent, and the overall look has become interchangeable with hundreds of other municipalities in Central Europe.

On the last two adjoining vacant land parcels among this mix of Alpine- and Tuscan-style housing, however, something unusual has recently emerged: architecture. Here, the local office of Paulíny Hovorka has built two independent family houses for two generations of a single family. From the first glance, these constructions stand apart from the surrounding buildings due to their non-traditional form and their very conception. Simultaneously, this distinctiveness accentuates the fact that they compose a unified, two-generation settlement on a common property.

In 2006, the client, a friend of one of the architects, contacted the young

studio with the intention of building a home just for his family. During its construction, however, he decided he would take a chance and purchase the neighbouring building site as well. The client thus gained a larger territory and greater privacy for his relatively open house. In the end, he passed this lot on to his parents-in-law to build their own home. The Paulíny Hovorka studio was again called in for a design proposal.

The white Dom Zlomu, the first house implemented at the site, is designed for a family with children, and is the embodiment of the idea of constructing, on a sloping terrain, a single-floor house with enough of a comfort zone for a married couple with two children. The bulk of the house is essentially supported on one side by the hillside and on the other by the garage, situating the residential spaces on a single level. Shaping the construction in the form of the letter 'L' allows the house to catch the southern light and creates intimate seclusion for the garden and its pool. The grey K2 house, by contrast, is adapted to the terrain and follows the slope rising from the street. The three degrees of the building's mass make for three functionally united living areas. On the ground floor is the entranceway, with garage and storage ▶



**(Dual domiciles, Kynceľová)**

premises, on the mezzanine is located a modest guest room, and the floor above provides a living area for the owners, an older married couple.

Despite their conceptual distinctness, the principle that combines both houses is their double face. The wing facing the street is sculpturally closed, communicating with the outside world only through narrow window slits, while the other wing is marked by an openness expressed by the continual glass wall accessing the privacy of the shared garden. The architectural unit for two-generations therefore expresses the concept of building a private family 'kingdom' – something that perhaps best characterizes the design of rural residential housing today. The architects did not conceive a treasury for family treasures behind high walls, fencing out the neighbours and greater world, but wrapped the family in a visually attractive yet inaccessible facade.

The double house has significantly raised the level of architectonic quality in the community of Kynceľová and signals alternatives for approaches to building in the countryside. At the same time, these possibilities contain not a hint of nostalgia for vernacular romance nor a search for bygone local specificities. One of the authors, Martin Paulíny, assesses his creation by means of the term

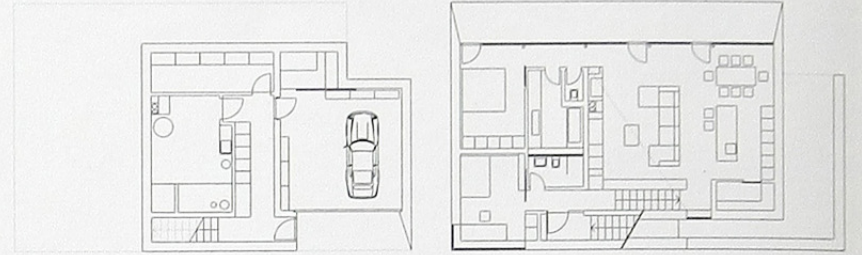
innovation, 'which implies development and a certain evolution,' and not as an 'experiment which is in fact a revolution which we in no way wish to undertake.' Without hiding behind bloated attempts at experimentation, the architects have changed the face of the locality with this project. The cosmopolitan inclinations of these houses points out the current relativity of the division between centre and periphery. ◀

**TWO HOUSES: 'K2', 2010–2013, AND 'DOM ZLOMU', 2007–2010**

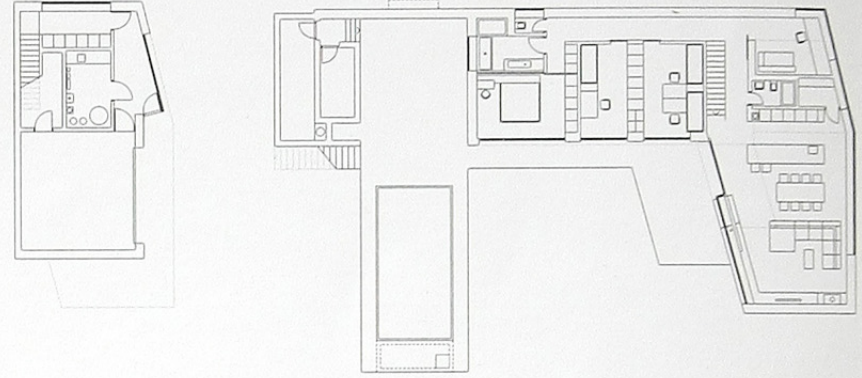
**Architect** Paulíny Hovorka (Milan Paulíny and Branislav Hovorka) together with Zuzana Reháková  
**Established** 2006  
**Client** Private  
**Address** Kynceľová, Banská Bystrica  
**Info** www.pha.sk



↑ Together K2 (left) and Dom Zlomu (right) form an intriguingly modern presence.



↑ Ground floor (K2) ↓ Ground floor (Dom Zlomu) ↑ First floor (K2) ↓ First floor (Dom Zlomu)



↑ Living room of K2 ↓ Open plan living room, dining and kitchen areas in Dom Zlomu



↑ Stairway to K2's living room ↓ Hall in Dom Zlomu



**FACTS & FIGURES**

Three examples of a comparable approach to the design of private houses in rural districts in Slovakia.



Passive family house in Melčice-Lieskové by studio oximoron (Martin Šichman, Boris Meluš), 2013



Weekend house in Nižný Klatov by studio Fusioon (Michal Mihafák, Ján Kánocz), 2013



Family house in Tisovec by studio N/A architekti (Benjamin Bráďňanský, Vito Halada), 2008