



MENU 



31 MAY 2021

The Mulholland household: an apartment renovation inspired by the fantastic world of David Lynch | at2.architecture

EDITOR: **ANGELIKI ASIMAKOPOULOU**

CATEGORY: **ARCHITECTURE**



0 COMMENTS



SHARE THIS



ALL PHOTOS



Can truth and fantasy co-exist in the same space? Can an apartment resident simultaneously feel the coziness of home and the refreshing freedom of a dream world? This was the challenge that [at2.architecture](#) office faced as they called to design the renovation of a top floor apartment on the east side of Thessaloniki; the project that we would eventually come to name as “The Mulholland Household”.



“Mulholland Drive” is one of the most important films of *director David Lynch*, who is famous for using *fantastic realism* in his work and usually depicts it *surrealistically* in his cinematography. In this particular film, the use of colors is almost exclusively symbolic: throughout the movie, *changes in color signal transitions from the real to the dream world and vice versa.*



At2.architecture team designed the residential apartment with a last-century, *retro aesthetic* and transfer it to the “now”, while at the same time “sprinkle” around the space the vague feeling of *fantasy that meets with reality.*



At 80m², this 4th floor apartment initially looked like a typical flat made in the 80s. It was clear from the start that the biggest asset of this home was the *undivided kitchen with living/dining area*. Bright, airy and with big openings overlooking the street, the *open-plan space* immediately got our attention.



For the largest part of the apartment, the choice of the color was **green** and cool white for the walls, together with warm wood for the floors. This color choice was deliberate, as green is famous for its **mental associations with wellness and vitality**; sentiments that the architects wanted to enliven in our residents. A balanced -yet dynamic- **color synthesis** was created, which was carried through up to the hallway that leads to the bedrooms and bathroom.



The loudness of the *old mosaic floors* in the living/dining room areas was replaced with the calmness of *wood floors in pastel hues*. The idea of pairing the inviting simplicity of wood with the passionate wakefulness of the green on the walls, was aimed to create a clean canvas, ready to host the residents' colorful activities.



The accent in colors that was made the protagonist of the open-plan area is interrupted as we enter the bedrooms. This move was intentional, because the architects approached *interior design as a storyline*: design is a storytelling and that story needs to change as people move from the common rooms to the private areas of the home. In fact, these “*plot twists*” are vital parts of the interior design technique.



For the *sleeping areas*, the selection of colors was an *off-white color palette*. The aim was to develop an atmosphere of calmness and give a feel of an *empty stage* that is *to be filled by the residents' luscious dreams*.



The *combination of black and white floor tiles* with pale grey tones on the walls creates a contrast in the atmosphere of the house. The vision was based on forming an echo of the dynamic accent used in the largest part of the apartment, but -again- with a “twist”.



The dark green/white synthesis used in the open-plan space was continued in the kitchen. A *white marble backsplash* was added, which was accented by concealed linear lighting; thus, adding a warm undertone to the kitchen area.



The objective was to construct a new and modern apartment that allows the residents to lead a *pleasant daily life*, while also inspiring them to dream and create. The home that had once belonged to a century gone by had given way to a bright and *contemporary apartment*, leaving no trace of the old era on its trail.



Using color alterations as a primary tool, created a construction of a residence that resonates liveliness and arouses the imagination, without withdrawing the necessary feel of serenity.

Facts & Credits

Project name: The Mulholland household

Location: Thessaloniki, Greece

Architect: [at2.architecture](https://www.at2architecture.com)

Year: 2020

Photographer: Vaggelis Xafinis

Copy: Valia Giannarou