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GAJ’S EXTENSION TO PALM TREE COURT

**CASE STUDY**
SAUDI CONFERENCE CENTRE BY SOM

**CLEAN LINES**
Exploring AGi Architects’ modernist beachside chalets in Kuwait City
S CUBE CHALET

Designers: AGi Architects
Location: Kuwait City, Kuwait

THE PROJECT

Designed by Spain and Kuwait based architecture studio AGi Architects, the S Cube Chalet residential space is comprised of three intertwined seafront houses developed into three levels. Located in the capital, Kuwait City, each house is complete with an outdoor terrace overlooking the sea. The plot is divided into two units with two houses, which are mirror images of each another, named S2 and S3. The two units are separated by a staircase that leads to the third house, S1, which is positioned on top and across the two lower residences.
THE SITE

Increased shaded areas are featured on the north side to frame views out to sea, as well as creating a pleasant outdoor environment. All three houses include individual outdoor areas that are open to the sky, with sweeping sea views, yet retain privacy from the neighbouring units. The outdoor spaces on the ground floor and roof terrace are the main distinguishing elements of the project, with the three houses designed and organised around them. The entire project is designed to optimise and enhance the outdoor experience.

THE CONCEPT

The clients for the S Cube Chalet residence, two brothers and a sister – with two small children each – wanted to continue living in a close environment but also one with a sense of privacy and independence. They called for a duplicated programme with outdoor areas, sea views and terraces. With a highly dense organisation, the intertwined houses are manipulated to create outdoor spaces which harvest the prevailing winds and enhance their circulation within the courtyards. All of the buildings are carefully situated to protect exposure to the sun on the southern façade.
THE DETAILS

AGi also designed the interiors, using materials that were locally manufactured. The flooring, stairs and dividing wall between S1 and S2 are all clad with Indian sandstone. The ceilings and walls of the interior space are finished using plaster and paint, while handrails are clad with wood. All of the units contain two levels, three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen and a living room. The terraces in S1 and S2 are visually separated by a grid. The top residence, S1, enjoys a large roof terrace facing the sea, while the lower units have large courtyards open to the sea.