



Technical information

Client: Repubblica e Cantone Ticino,
Sezione della Logistica
Architect: Enrico Sassi
Date: 2017 - 2020
Photographer: Marcelo Villada Ortiz

Concept

The building called “Casa dell’Ape” is an “educational apiary” (structure dedicated to the training of beekeepers); it is built within the “Mezzana Cantonal Agricultural Farm - Professional Green Centre”.

“Casa dell’Ape” is a building made of wood. It’s a volume with a roof supported by pillars that create a portico; under the portico there’s a volume enclosed by four walls: two transparent (glass) and two opaque (wooden). This volume is divided in two separate rooms, a classroom with a full-height window that allows you to assist in the manipulation of the hives and a laboratory in which honey extraction takes place.

The building is made of two main elements: a base and a pavilion. The reinforced concrete base has been sanded to make the aggregates visible and is characterized by three steps on each side. The pavilion is placed on top of it, **50 cm** higher of the surrounded countryside level, and has a **2 x 1** proportion. The layout of the pavilion is based on a **130 cm** raster (distance between pillars centre). The longer side of the pavilion measures **12** modules, the shorter side **6**.



The pavilion consists of a prefabricated fir wood structure. The pillars have a section of **14 x 14** cm. Two of the sides of the pillar are marked by a **2** cm groove. The pillars support **13** laminated fir beams measuring **794 x 39 x 14** cm made by a local sawmill. The structural parts have burned and brushed finish. The curtain walls are made with yellow construction site panels.

The wooden pillars are connected to the base through an iron plate the will rust through time. Each structural element is autonomous and can be replaced without compromising the structural integrity.

