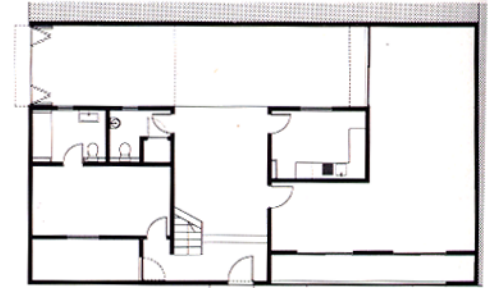
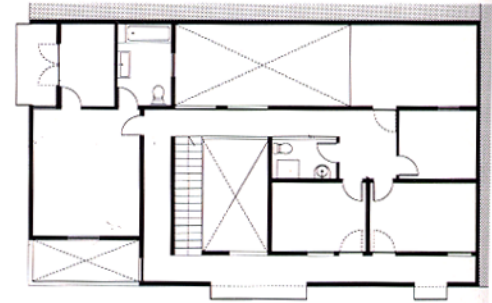


Dame's House in Dakar, Senegal

Abdou Sene, Marlène Chaussé Sene/Sene Studio, London



The house is located in a newly developed area in Dakar, the capital of Senegal. Since colonial times, Dakar has been intensely, yet incoherently developed. The city is characterized by a juxtaposition of many influences from abroad as well as from different times and cultures, regardless of the existing context. Rather than imposing an imported architectural style, the design of the house focuses on the way people live, local construction techniques and the climate. Hospitality is an important issue in Senegalese culture. The house is open to guests all year round; occasionally there are big events with up to 100 people gathering in

the house. Apart from its domestic functions, the building has the capacity to house such social events. The ground floor is a combination of internal and external spaces that can be used as a single space if needed. In contrast, the upper level is dedicated to the intimacy of the family. Local materials, such as cement blocks cast in a mould and dried on-site, which are commonly used due to their low cost and ease to manipulate, represent the main material used in this project. Some of the openings can be closed with handcrafted perforated panels made of recycled aluminum to provide natural ventilation.

