Mobius House
By UNStudio
In 1993 a couple commissioned the Dutch architect Ben van Berkel to design “a house that would be acknowledged as a reference for the renovation of the architectural language”. Berkel decided to base his studies on the research of a 19th century German mathematician – August Ferdinand Mobius.
What is a Mobius band?

- A diagram studied by Ferdinand – by taking a rectangular piece of paper – twisting and joining the corners.
- Results in a one-sided surface in a **continuous** curve.
Additional Requests

- Clients wanted:
  - An intense relationship with landscape.
  - Their two distinct professions allowed them to work from home – able to spend more time with their children
  - Site chosen surrounded by meadows and tall beech trees in Het Gooi – a residential area near Amsterdam.
Berkel’s Interpretation

- New architectural language would be derived from direct consequences of their way of life.
- Idea of two people moving along their own routes, but sharing certain moments – possible reversing roles at certain points.
- House had to knit together different activates which each member of the house was involved in at different times into the structure: work, sleep, socialize, family life, private alone time.
- **Time and duration** became important concepts.
Incorporation of Mobius Strip

- Spatial quality of Mobius band integrates the program seamlessly – both in terms of circulation and structure.
- Movement through concrete loop traces pattern of one’s day activities.
- Arranged over three levels, loop includes two studies on opposites sides of house, three bedrooms, a meeting room and kitchen, storage and living room, and a greenhouse on the top – intertwined in the voyage of time.

24 Hours of Living
Incorporation of Mobius Strip

- House provides a link between different features of its surroundings:
  - Building’s stretched form and extensive use of glass walls incorporate aspects of landscape – feeling of walking through the countryside.

- Perception of movement reinforced by the changing positions of two main materials used for house – glass and concrete – overlap each other and switch places.
  - As loop turns inside out, exterior concrete shall becomes interior furniture and glass facades become inside partition walls.
Incorporation of Mobius Strip

Twists of house travel beyond mathematical diagram – refer to movement that has molded a new way of life (consequence of using electronic devices at work).

- Berkel manages to give new meaning to Mobius band – blurring the limits between working and living that corresponds to the client’s way of life.
Exterior Elevations
Interior Perspectives
La hall d’accesso alla casa
Floor Plans

Private space
Away from interference

Shared space

Garage
Opposite to the main road

Open space
Share spare time together with a view of Arcadian forest

Ramp
Connect the spaces & change the state of mind

Ground floor
Corridor
Join the entrance hall, close the circulation

Roof garden

Children's room
Receive beautiful sunlight

Private space
Away from interference

First floor

Shared space