

LÁ-SÁCH HOUSE

A House for Lovers of Trees and Books

Tucked at the end of a narrow alley in Ho Chi Minh City, this three-storey home reimagines the urban tube house for a young creative couple who love trees, books, and quiet forms of sharing. Alongside its domestic function, the house also serves as a private library, open to visitors at set hours each day.

In response to its constrained site, the house steps back slightly, offering the dead-end alley a pocket of openness — a moment of relief amid the dense, wall-to-wall surroundings. At night, the layered translucent polycarbonate louvers turn the house into a glowing lantern. This double-skin façade filters harsh tropical sunlight while allowing for natural cross-ventilation. The name Lá-Sách — meaning both "leaf" and "book," while also referencing the Vietnamese word for "louver" — speaks to the building's material presence and layered symbolism.

All technical and service functions — stairs, kitchen, toilet, and storage — are consolidated into a concrete core aligned to one side, freeing the remaining floor area for more flexible and mixed-type uses: living, sleeping, reading, even screening art films. Materials are kept raw and tactile: concrete bricks arranged in varied patterns articulate textured surfaces, while bespoke wood furniture brings warmth and domesticity.

Modest in scale yet generous in spirit, Lá-Sách House contributes to the alleyway community it inhabits, adapts sensitively to the tropical climate, and quietly celebrates the craftsmanship central to atelier tho.A.



SITE PLAN

