

Roque + Millan Architects: Budding Firm Set to Ignite Fresh Ideas in Architecture

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Photography by Lyndonn Bañez

The 2 storey residential building incorporates a contemporary design showcasing clean building lines thru railings and its facade, tall windows for allowing light to enter which achieves the feeling of spaciousness , sliding doors in each room to gain access to the outdoors for view of the natural environment and a color scheme of brown white gray and green which resembles nature. lastly, landscape (plants, shrubs and pebbles) serves as one of the key elements in achieving this building style.





The family area was designed to provide entertainment for the family. The shelves were custom made by the owner, painted in black, that serves as an accent to the wall as well.



Dining and kitchen area are integrated into one space to bring a spacious feels and to accommodate guest casual entertaining or to formal dining



The owner wanted the living area to be simple and for light to enter as much as possible, hence providing windows as high as the ceiling.

dealism, they say, is within the youth's nature. A fresh enthusiasm and aspiration for self-determination are now more imbibed by today's young career-driven individuals.

Two years ago, two architects sought to pursue this ideal goal among Filipino millennials. Backed by raw talent and a considerable experience in design and architecture, Architects Raquel Joy Roque and Jose Lorenzo Millan, who both hailed from Legazpi City, did what most young professionals dreamed but dared not do.

"We met in college as classmates, became partners, and after passing the board exams, decided to take a big leap of faith, leave the corporate world, and give professional practice a chance," the Aquinas University of Legazpi graduates recalled with an encouraging ease that depicted self-fulfillment.

This leap of faith led them to establish their own architectural firm known today as the Roque + Millan Architects, with a mission to deliver design solutions that are aesthetically, economically, and functionally sound while reflecting the character and values of each client.

"We started getting projects when we were in our corporate jobs from friends and family," the young architects imparted.

Little did they know that these part-time endeavors would eventually serve as the turning point of their professional lives. They used their practice as an opportunity to build their portfolio and to establish a promising name in the realm of architecture.

Two years on, Roque + Millan Architects continues to make its presence



A spacious and well lit hallway of second floor. The area was Designed with accent ceiling lighting to provide contrast to the flat white color of the area and to add a warm atmosphere.

known in the Philippine architectural scene. The firm's vision is to "implement its expertise on a wide range of projects and to scale to bigger heights by continuously sharpening its architectural edge."

They offer standard design services comprised of the usual "consult plan and design" process. Occasionally, they would offer "design and build" services, conceptualizing designs while also serving as the project contractors. Apart from this, the firm also offers specialized architectural services such as architectural interiors.

The foremost strength of Roque + Millan Architects lies in its founders' personal and immersive approach to building. Both lead architects are hands-on with their projects and maintain a highly valuable relationship with their clients.

"We make sure the clients are always informed and updated regarding the status of their projects. We are approachable and make ourselves available as much as we can," they noted.

Young as they are, Architects Millan and Roque already have a firm grasp of a vital philosophy in design and architecture. Adopting the words of well-known Roman architect and engineer Vitruvius, they make sure to always inject three key elements in their design solutions: "Strength, Utility, and Beauty."

"We believe that this should be the core of any architectural endeavor—strength because safety is first; utility, second, because function follows form; and lastly, beauty because aesthetics should not be forgotten," they stressed.





Windows on each corners provide natural lighting for the masters bedroom



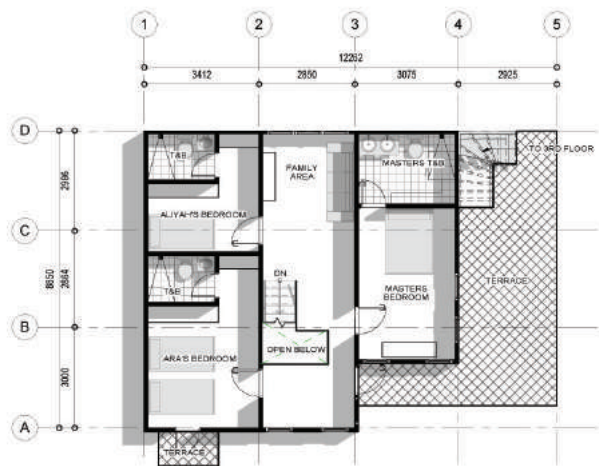
The gray wall behind the head board serves as an accent wall



For the boy's room/xedric's room.the black paint in the cabinets shows the masculinity of the room.



The girls room is simple with white cabinetry to bring softness/ femininity of the area



1 SECOND FLOOR PLAN
1 : 75 MTS.



Opaque glass partition walls were used to separate the toilet and bath of masters bedroom.



These principles are what made the two young architects thrive in their past ventures. All their triumphs, of course, came with a few noteworthy lessons.

They learned a great deal from the first project they worked on, a design-and-build residential unit for a lawyer couple. It was then that they understood that the smallest and the biggest details were equally important and contributed to the overall quality of the design. They also learned to accept a significant lesson in architecture, "construction will never be perfect, but this does not preclude clients from being satisfied."

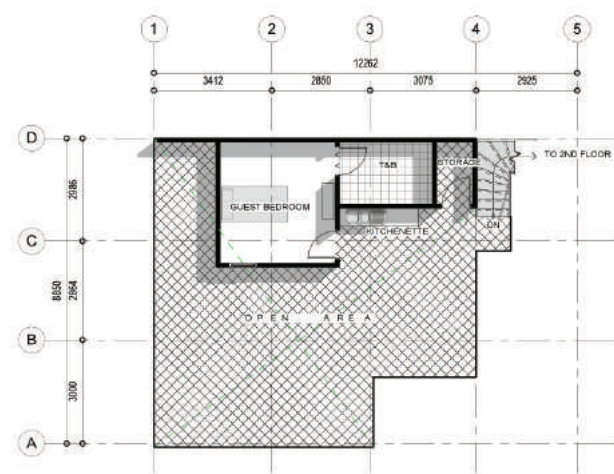
They now try to achieve this level of satisfaction and nearly perfect outputs by constantly opening up the discussions for progress, bottlenecks, and solutions with their clients.

Today, Roque + Millan Architects continues to go all-out in applying the same lessons in their present and future projects. They are currently working on an apartment building apart from other residential projects, and are set to build a five-storey commercial building in Naga, which is still in the design development stage.

"We are hoping to design resorts and health facilities in the future," they added.

Amid its growing clientele, Roque + Millan Architects strives to preserve the idealism that originally guided this newly emerged firm to where it is now. They go by the principle of being "architects first, entrepreneurs second," always giving priority to client satisfaction and project delivery.

Asked how they strike a balance between their professional vision and their clients' preferences, the architects pointed out that they always provide feasible



1 THIRD FLOOR PLAN
1:75 MTS.

*“We strive to be always truthful and fair in our work.
We believe in hard work and in doing things the right way.
Client satisfaction is what drives us to put our best foot forward”*

options to their clients and leave enough room for further discussion. This, they said, allows clients to envision the architects' ideas while also incorporating their own personal preferences.

“We meet halfway. The key is always communication.”

Judging by its current undertakings, it is safe to describe Roque + Millan Architects as a budding architectural firm to watch out for in the country. The youthful idealism of the firm's lead architects offers a desirable package deal:

with this idealism come originality, integrity, good work ethics, and reliability.

“We strive to be always truthful and fair in our work. We believe in hard work and in doing things the right way. Client satisfaction is what drives us to put our best foot forward,” they noted.

These architects' adventurous leap of faith could very well inspire other hopeful Filipino professionals to ignite a new wave of fresh, ultra-modern ideas in an industry that has long been dominated by big, affluent companies.



Archt. Jose Lorenzo Millan & Archt. Raquel Joy Roque



The front gate is a custom designed gate made of steel. The design incorporates curve lines to provide contradiction to the vertical and horizontal lines of the building.



The exterior view of from the ground showing the contemporary building lines