

# hotshops









## Pepa Poch Peluquerías Salva G Barcelona, Spain

The clients' brief called for the reform and construction of two hair-dressing salons in buildings which had been designated as historically significant set in the city's old quarter. The idea was to create open spaces above the entrance, preserving the wood beams and sturdy iron columns.

The first site, of approximately 220 m<sup>2</sup>, is on a street of very little traffic in the *Barrio Gótico*, where a number of new designers' shops and trendy bars have sprouted up. This shop has kept the original distribution, with a double-height main space, which is free of vertical divisions, the entirety of which is visible from the entryway. Here, there is a waiting area next to a large picture window and the reception counter with lighted panels. Stairs lead to the mezzanine, where the sinks, tanning beds and hairstyling stations are located. From the entry, the visitor descends to the lower level, where there are also hairdressing stations, as well as a lab, storage area and office.

This shop makes its mark not so much for its spatial distribution as for an eye-catching blend of decorative styles.

The second shop, of 60 m<sup>2</sup>, follows the same criteria. It is located in the recently revived neighborhood called the Born, an area known for its nightlife, restaurants and shops and for being a pleasing area for a leisurely stroll. It is a narrow, yet open, volume of considerable height, with a loft, where carriages were probably originally kept. The original door and iron inner door welcome visitors to the premises. From here, one can easily see the area for washing and styling hair and a shelf unit, which serves as a divider between sections. There are also toilets and a storage area. The rounded steel stations and unusual mirrors with their frames incrustated with tiny light bulbs capture the attention.

Seen from the street, the "chill-out" loft has been set aside as a relaxing waiting area. The walls are lined in wood panels, pieced together as if in a puzzle.

Poch and Mirallvell have opted for an eclectic decorating style in both shops, where the style of the 50s, 60s and 70s and post-modern design are intermingled: reupholstered second-hand furniture, mosaic floors, ostentatious lamps and custom-made illuminated furniture and mirrors.

