Casa Malaparte is located on the eastern side of the Isle of Capri, Italy. The villa is embedded into the rocky summit of Punta Massullo and sits approximately 32 feet above sea level. This unique piece of architecture overlooks a breathtaking panorama of the Gulf of Salerno and is located in the most solitary and dramatic part of Capri. In fact, it can only be reached from the sea or by an hour walk along a narrow footpath. Curzio Malaparte, the owner and designer of Casa Malaparte, bragged that it was, “a place meant for strong men, free spirits” and that he was “the first to build in the midst of nature”. The house itself, a red rectangular box with reverse pyramidal stairs, is strikingly simple in plan. What makes Casa Malaparte truly unique is its complete immersion in its beautiful and rugged landscape.
One of the most distinguishable features of Casa Malaparte is the wedge-shaped staircase to the roof that extends for about one third of the entire structure. The gradual slope of the staircase and the linearity of the building seem to echo the linearity of the site with its gradual ups and downs, while also giving the structure its unique silhouette. This staircase not only serves to unify the building into a single, streamlined whole, but also provides access to the rooftop terrace. The rooftop, another unique feature of this seaside Villa, was meant for sunbathing. This rooftop patio is adorned by a freestanding curved white wall that stretches toward the sea. Its primary function is to provide shade and privacy to sunbathers at Casa Malaparte.
Like the cliff on which it sits, Casa Malaparte is a massive structure. The building is approximately 92 feet long and 22 feet wide. It sits primarily on two floors, with the ground floor occupying exactly half the area of the upper floor. A small basement sits below the ground floor and occupies about one third of the area of the upper floor. Casa Malaparte is made entirely out of brick, so its exterior walls are about 6 feet thick in order to support the immense weight of the structure. Despite the Villa’s monumental size, its interior is strikingly simple. The rough stone floors, large plate glass windows, and large sparsely furnished rooms reinforce the impression of an outdoor public space. The structure truly celebrates the landscape, rather than the architecture itself.
It has been said that Casa Malaparte both dominates and engages its natural surroundings. The Villa’s massive windows help to highlight the structure’s closeness with nature. In the central hall, a massive room of 26 x 50 feet, four enormous plate glass windows are set into the walls. The windows mirror each other, creating an impression of double symmetry and allow viewers to feel that they are surrounded by nature. The windows have no casings, and their smooth curved moldings frame spectacular views of the landscape.

Above: Interior View of Fireplace Window

The highlight of views is the back wall of the central hall. A window made of fireproof glass sits behind fireplace and provides a magnificent view of the Gulf of Salerno through the flames.

Above: View of Central Hall

Below: V-ray Rendering of Central Hall