



social constructs: STUDIO LUZ

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At DOMA VODKA BOTTLES ALIGNED ON SAPELE WOOD SHELVES GLOW ENTICINGLY, BUT SADDLE UP TO THE BLACK GRANITE COUNTERTOP AND you'll be hard-pressed to tipple a splash with tonic. Rows of mixers and malts edge the perimeter—this intimate space is a liquor store, not a bar. It is difficult to imagine that such a pedestrian program can sum up an architecture firm's philosophy. A house, cultural institution or a museum might illuminate an approach: e.g., the Vanna Venturi House or OMA's Seattle Public Library, but a package store conjures visions caught on a closed-circuit security camera.

Yet for Studio Luz founders, architects Hansy Better Barraza and Anthony Piermarini, Doma, a "liquor boutique" located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, does just that. In 1,200 square feet it efficiently encapsulates the office's methodology: A social space that emphasizes materiality, even on a tight budget. The term "social" is important for the designers: They hope to create encounters on both the large and small scale. This means a tiny, personal detail influences the whole piece of architecture.