

## Visitor Centre and Event Space

WOLFSTEIN, GERMANY

Leo Thumann  
Alissa Bodler

### Conversion design

The design presented for the transformation of the barn at the Wolfstein castle ruins ties in with the theoretical examination of the art object "223" and with its structural substance, and translates this into a real spatial configuration for a visitor centre. The preservation of the existing architecture in its entirety forms the basis for the architectural action. Minimally invasive and additive interventions make it possible to preserve the character of the existing architectural qualities of the barn and at the same time achieve ecological and economic sustainability.

In line with this strategy, both the solid stone base and the wooden roof structure of the former hayloft are fully insulated from the inside to allow the house to be used all year round. The ridge and gable façade of the attic are formed by insulating polycarbonate twin-wall sheets. This translucent façade envelope allows plenty of daylight to flood into the roof space, which is specific to the typology of the barn, and at the same time paints an abstract picture of the context without losing focus on the interior.

The spatial configuration of the existing barn, with its hayloft on the upper floor and the stables on the ground floor, will be fully preserved. The individual room areas will be assigned new functions as part of the conversion: the lower area of the barn will be converted into a back office with a reception counter and sanitary facilities in the former cattle stalls, a central foyer zone that can be used in a variety of ways, as well as storage areas and a new access to the upper floor. The re-structuring of the existing access arrangements with a more spacious staircase and a scissor lift is essential, particularly with regard to future use. On the one hand, these measures enable increased occupancy and barrier-free use of the building and, on the other hand, a high degree of flexibility to the upper floor.

The multi-purpose room on the top floor provides a solution for the limited space available in the barn and thus allows for a productive conversion of the former agricultural building. The room can be equipped with different movable furniture according to the respective programming, using the scissor lift and the storage areas on the first floor. The open-use space can be used in various ways, such as for workshops, dining, film screenings, or as an exhibition venue, and increases the intensity of use of the atmospheric space within the loft.

Leo Thumann



Architectural Visual Designs

Existing Condition

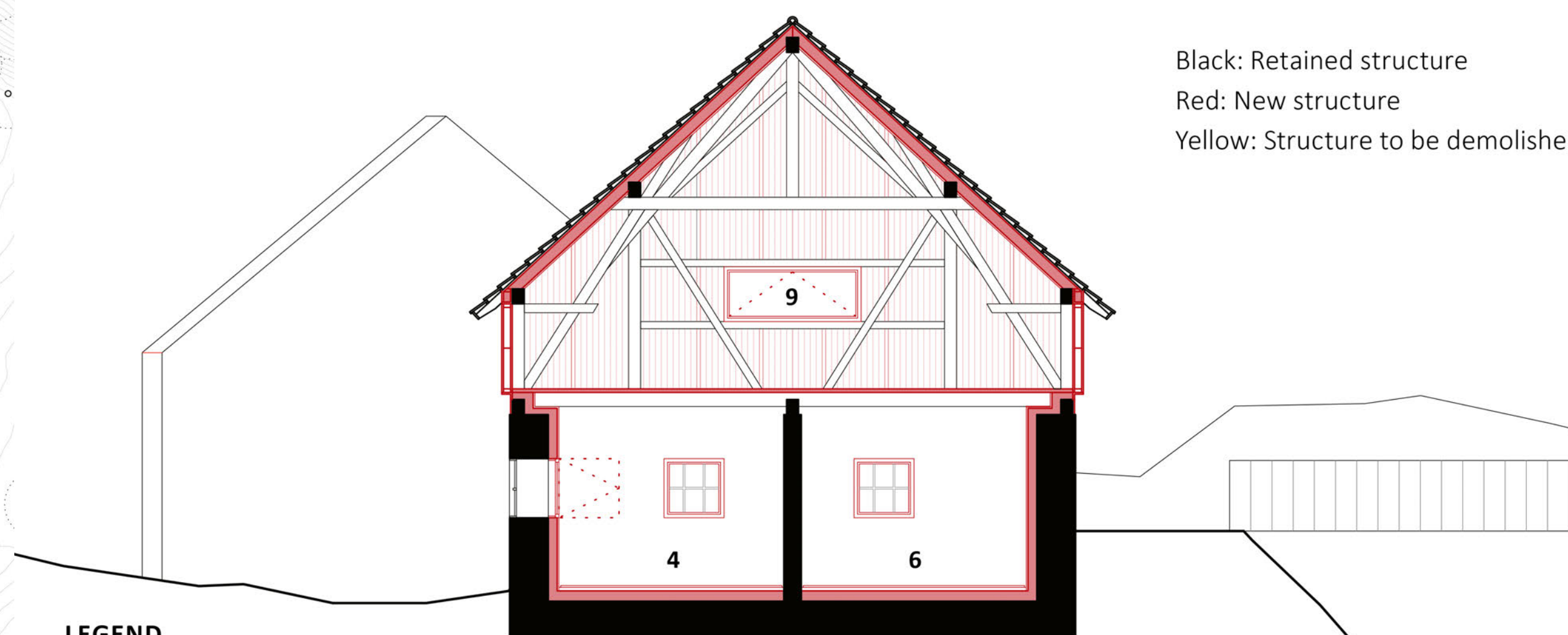


### "223"

The art object "223" is intended to draw attention to the specificity of materials and objects which already exist. Using a simple technique, it is possible to combine existing objects to create a new one. The artwork was created by collecting pieces from and around the barn

at Wolfstein. It brings together at a glance the colour and material spectrum and thus provides a basis for the architectural design. As a symbol for the barn, the object shows that existing things have a value that must be protected.

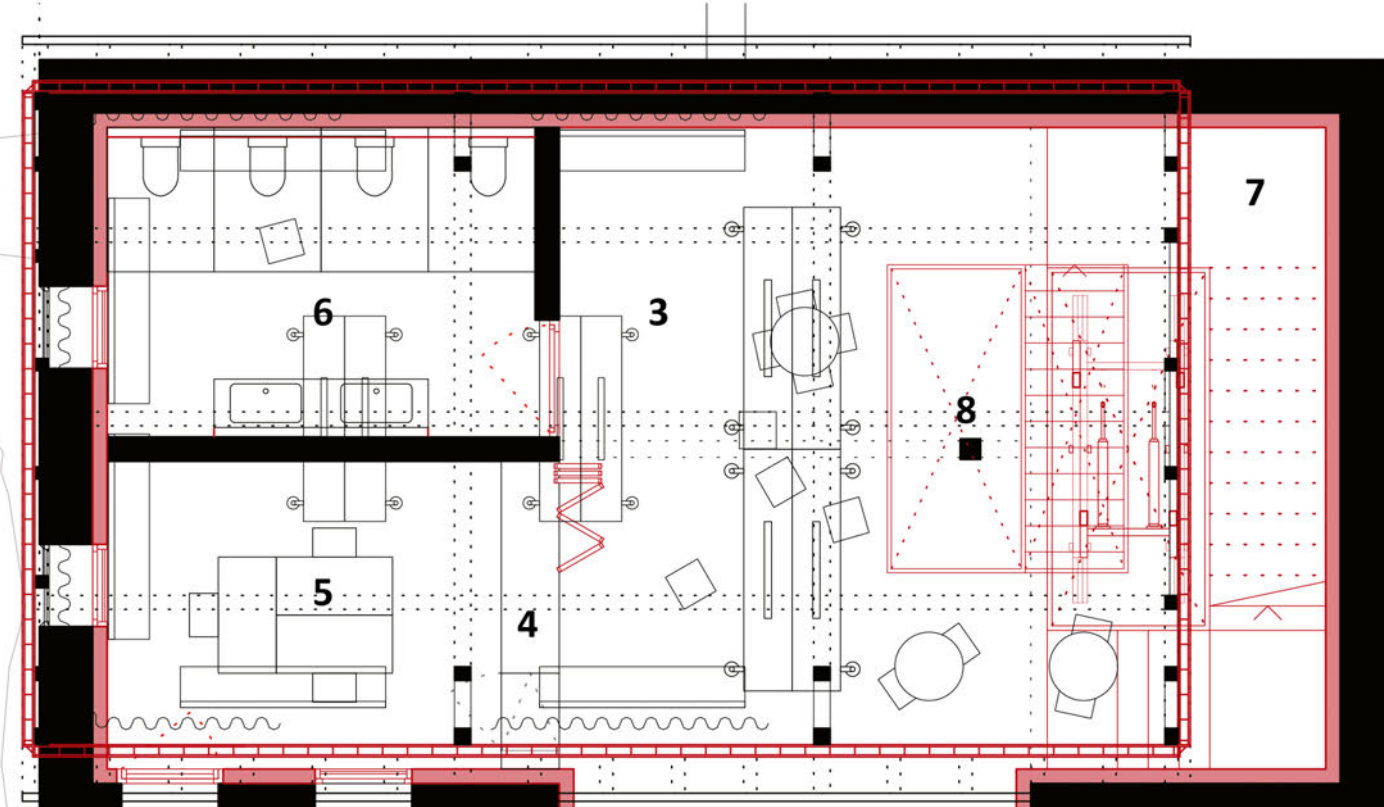
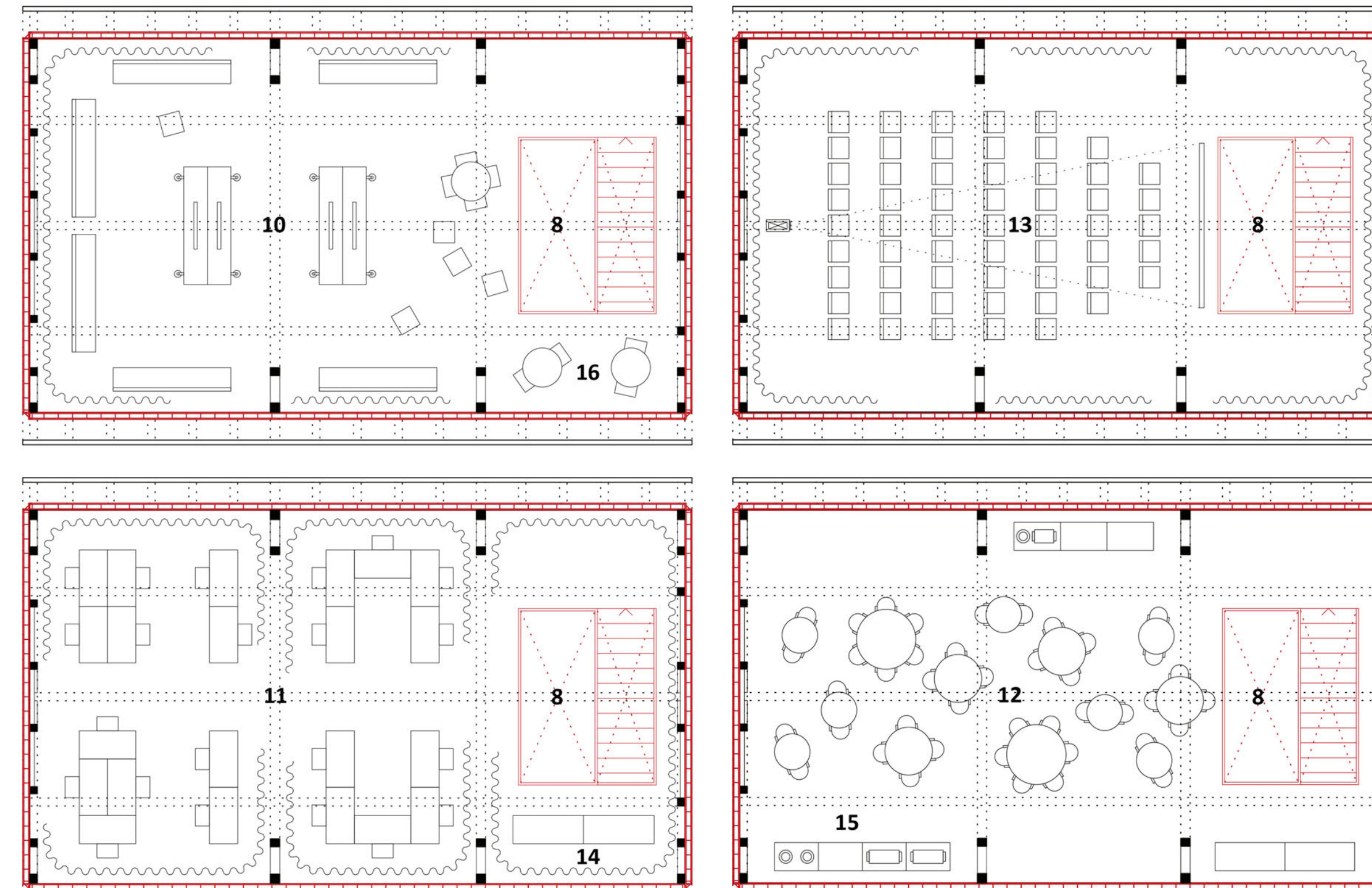
Alissa Bodler



#### LEGEND

- |                     |   |   |
|---------------------|---|---|
| 1. Visitor Center   | 7. Storage                                    | 13. Layout for Screenings/<br>Video Presentations |
| 2. Castle Ruins     | 8. Staircase and Lift                         | 14. Wardrobe                                      |
| 3. Exhibition Space | 9. Multifunctional Attic Space                | 15. Buffet  |
| 4. Reception        | 10. Layout for Exhibition with Display Panels | 16. Lounge Corner                                 |
| 5. Back Office      | 11. Layout for Workshop                       |   |
| 6. Restrooms        | 12. Layout for Dining                         |   |

Various layout options for the upstairs multifunctional space



## Visitor Centre, Educational Trail

WOLFSTEIN, GERMANY

Philip Stöckler  
Sven Grothues



Architectural Visual Designs



### Conversion design

The spatial installation "Reflection" (page 55) serves as an instrument to visualize past and future scenarios of the barn in Wolfstein. The title of the work refers, on the one hand, to the material surface of the object and simultaneously implies the process of reflecting on the given space. The object itself becomes spatially mobile only through pneumatic inflation with a helium-air mixture and floats through the balance of the object's body in relation to the density of the surrounding air within the barn's structure. Furthermore, the biconvex geometry of the air cushion creates a distorted reflection of the actual spatial situation. This distortion or alienation of the space opens up to the viewer the notion of new spatial conditions of the barn.

Thus, the artwork becomes a curative artifact of the spatial and architectural intervention of the barn at Wolfstein. Externally, the archaic cubic structure of the barn remains unchanged. Internally, the horizontal elements of the hayloft are removed, making the entire space perceivable as a large hall. The sense of space is heightened by the semi-transparent glass roof, equipped with solar cells, which floods the space with light. To traverse the space, an opening is cut into the longitudinal façade, making the barn the gateway to the Wolfstein Castle ruins.

Philip Stöckler and Sven Grothues



Existing Condition

### Conversion concept

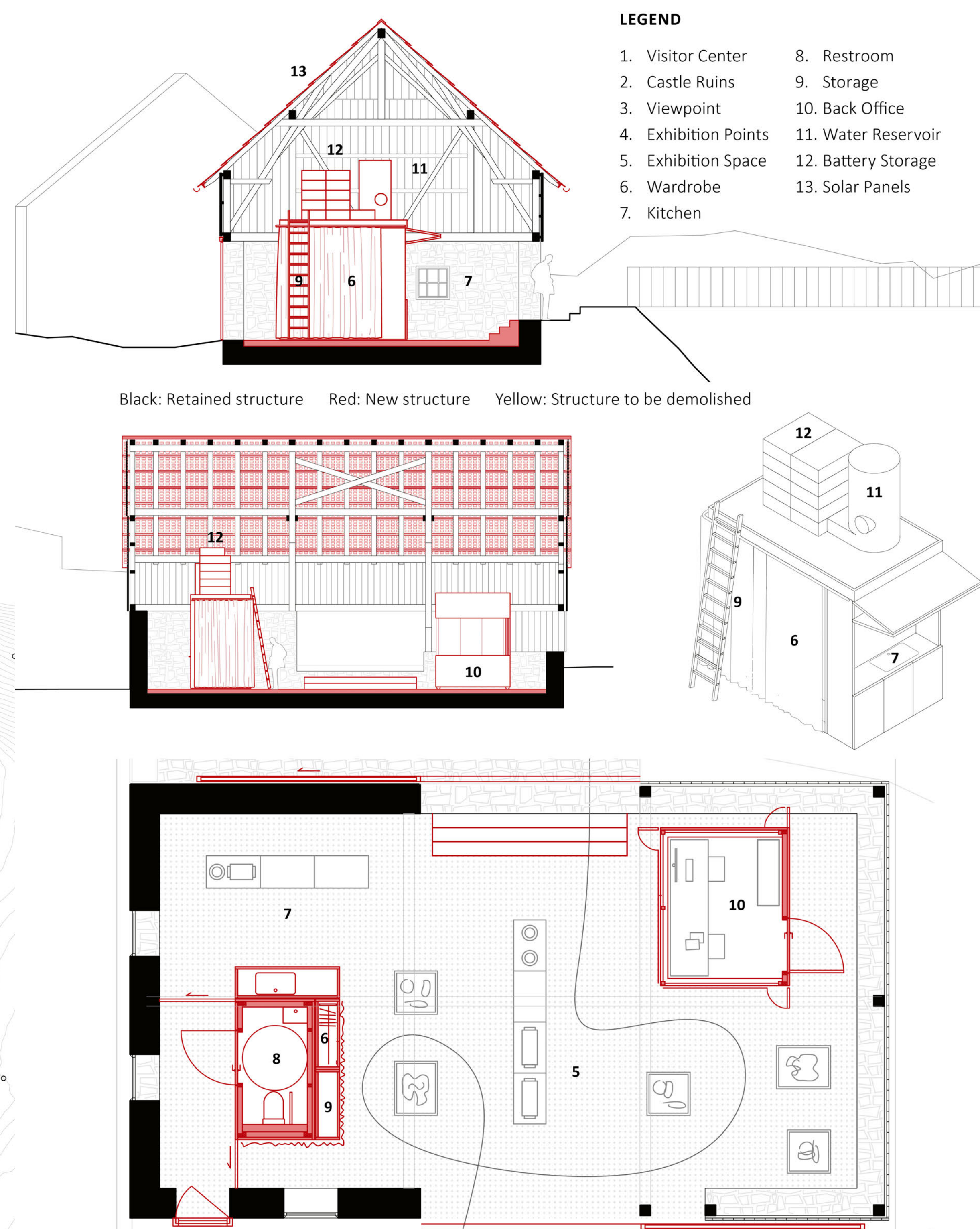
The newly inserted infrastructural elements transform the barn from an original storage space for animals, machines and food into a repository for modern goods such as knowledge and energy. These goods are housed in rollable boxes that, through their mobility and reflective surfaces, allow for various spatial configurations. Many arrangements are conceivable, ranging from exhibitions to panel discussions. In this way, changing conditions respond to different needs. In the proposed configuration, the barn serves as the starting point of an educational trail featuring exhibitions about the district and the Wolfstein Castle ruins, extending across various stations on the castle grounds.

With the design, the previously unused barn gains a new function adapted to the present while remaining true to its original essence as a simple shelter. Moreover, the flexible usability of the barn offers a platform for cultural and social events.

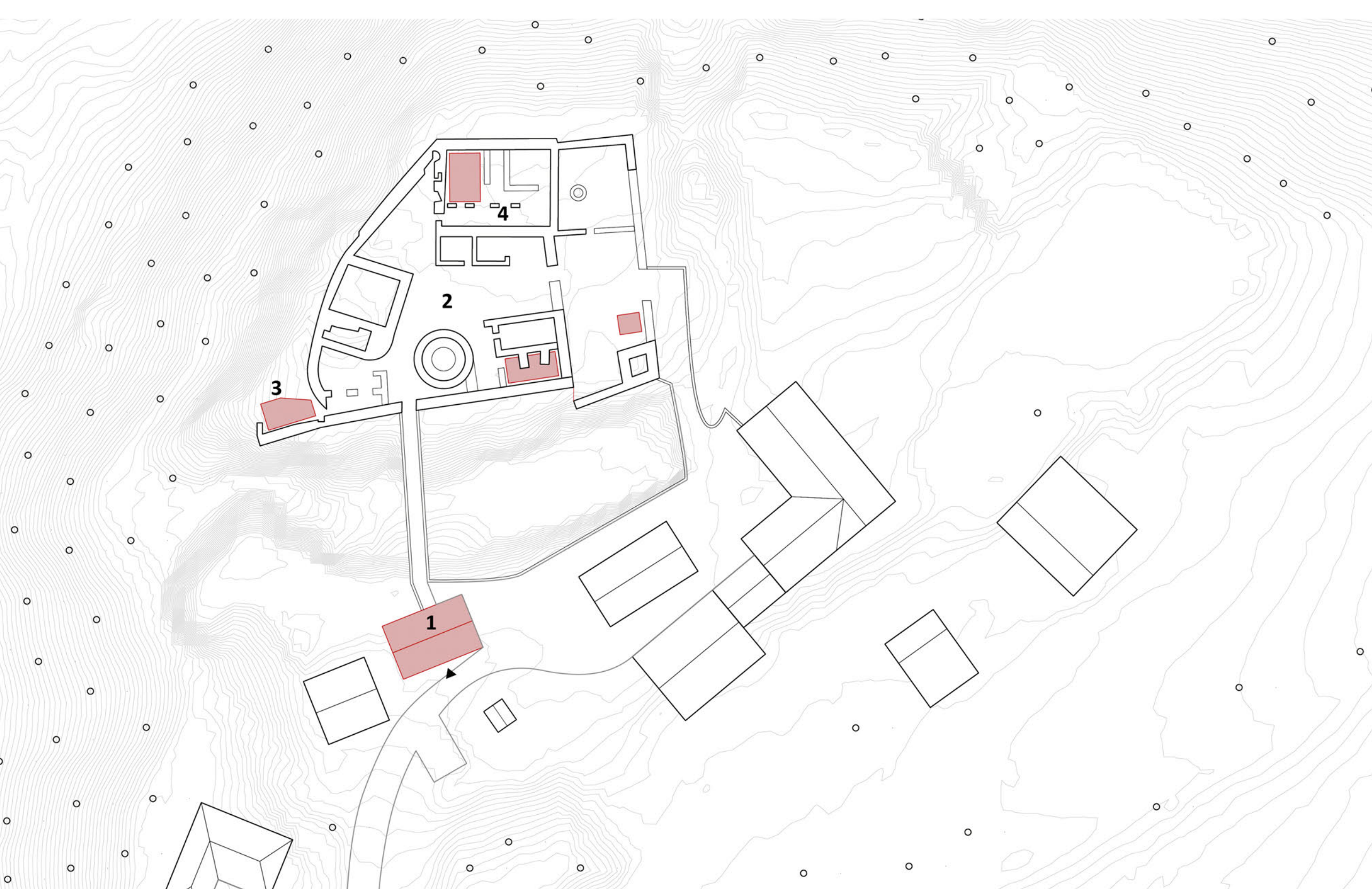
Philip Stöckler and Sven Grothues



Existing Condition



### Reflection



## Residential Barn

PELCHENHOFEN, GERMANY

Aldis Pahl  
Florian Roth



Architectural Visual Designs

### Artwork: “Ein neuer Anschliff” – A new finish

Characteristic of the typology of the barn in the Upper Palatinate is the vertical weather-boarded façade. The surface of the rough sawn boards turns grey to black in the first few years due to weathering and UV radiation. As an intervention at the Pelchenhofen barn, this top grey-black layer was sanded off on two rectangular areas of the gable façade, and the wood grain with its natural light colour re-appeared. Without the use of new materials and without destroying the existing, it was possible to draw an abstract image onto the façade merely through surface treatment. This new façade image thereby becomes an indicator of the reuse of the empty barn.

Florian Roth



### Conversion design

The aim of this design for the conversion of the barn on the old farmstead on the edge of Pelchenhofen was to find out what interventions were necessary to transform the empty barn into an autonomous residential house. The biggest challenge was to meet the thermal and other requirements for a comfortable living space. The assessment of the existing building revealed that the load-bearing structure of hand-carved wooden beams and the floor slab were in good condition and handle the existing loads well. However, new external loads from the proposed insulation layer, for example, could not be accommodated. For this reason, it was decided to place an insulating and self-supporting shell made of timber frame elements over the existing structure and to base it on a new foundation ring. Additionally, two solid rammed earth walls were installed. These form a space-containing volume that zones the living space, forms a further support for the floor slab and the roof slabs, and accommodates all the functions required for living, such as bathrooms, pipework, staircases and a chimney shaft. Forming two oversized chimneys, the rammed earth structure also pierces the roof and is thus visible from the outside.

Aldis Pahl



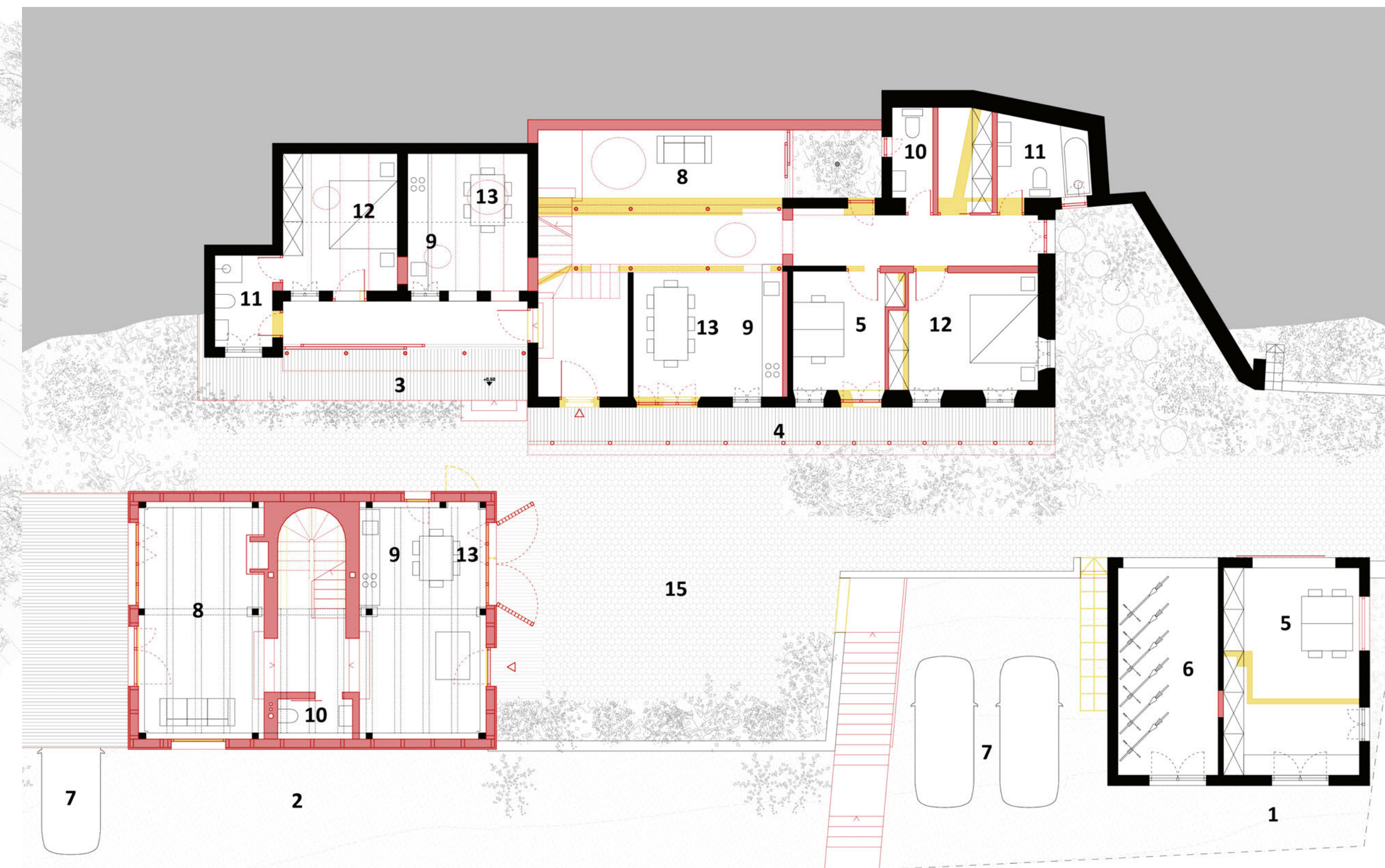
### LEGEND

1. Reception building
2. Younger generation
3. Older generation
4. Apartment group
5. Office
6. Storage
7. Parking
8. Living room
9. Kitchen
10. Toilet
11. Bathroom
12. Bedroom
13. Dining room
14. Veranda
15. Shared garden

Black: Retained structure  
Red: New structure  
Yellow: Structure to be demolished



Existing Condition



Existing condition

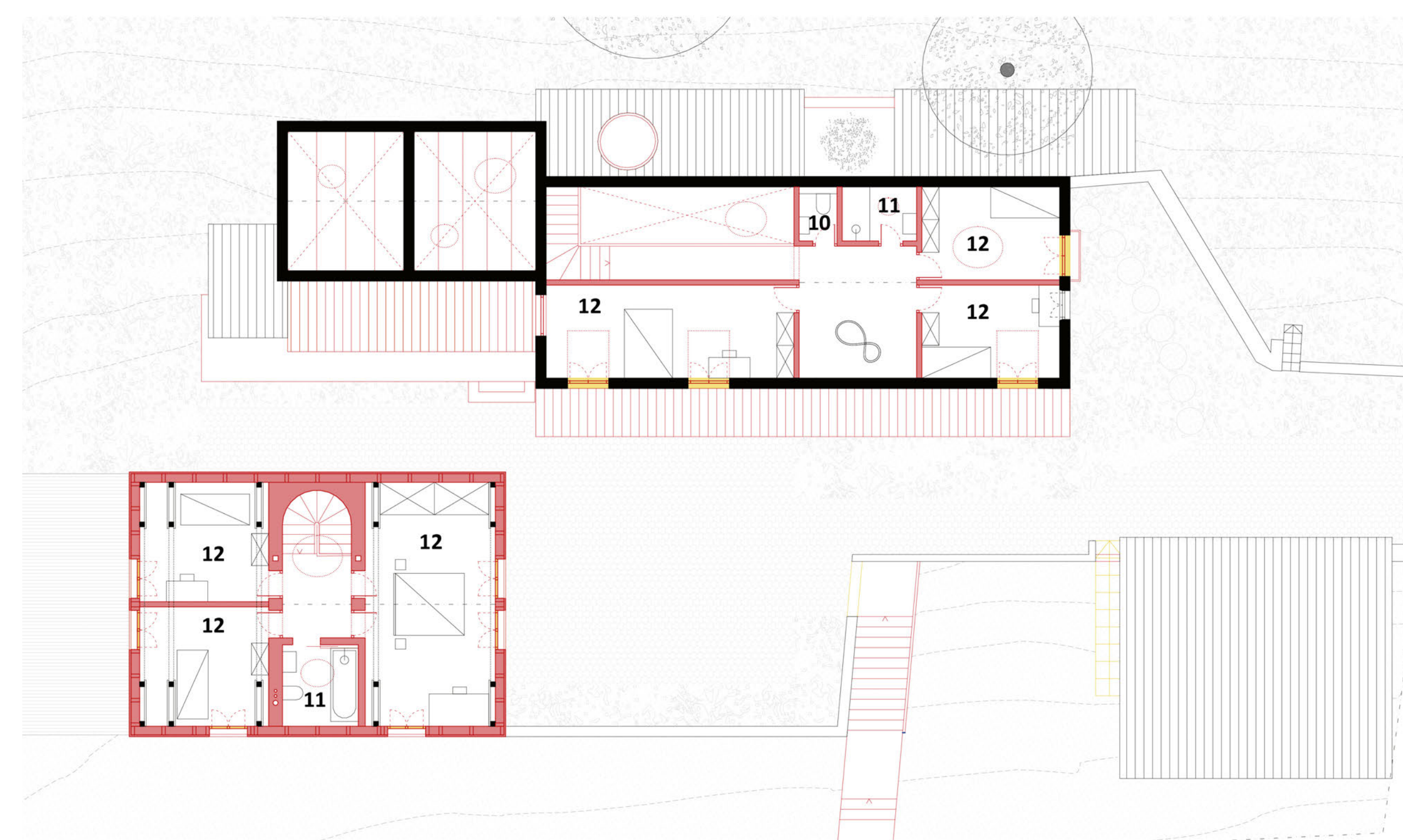


### Conversion concept

Although the barn becomes an autonomous residential house, it only functions in conjunction with the existing farmhouse. The immediate proximity of the two makes communal forms of living seem viable. The barn can be rented out as a vacation home, or can become the new home for the children who have grown up. The central forecourt becomes a communal outdoor space, to which the entrances and kitchens are attached. The more private residential areas are then oriented towards the private outdoor areas at ground floor level. The individual rooms and the bathroom are located on the upper floor of the barn.

The design shows that major interventions are necessary to create living space where no-one had lived before! It is legitimate to ask whether demolition and new construction would not be more efficient. However, this can be firmly denied. The design shows how the old wooden structure is not only preserved, but also exposed and portrayed. The site's memory of a bygone era and old craftsmanship is preserved and made tangible in the new living space. The existing wooden façade and roof covering are in very good condition and can be reused, so that the appearance of the converted barn is a collage of old and new. The barn as a residential house becomes an expression of the development prophesied in the artwork "A new finish."

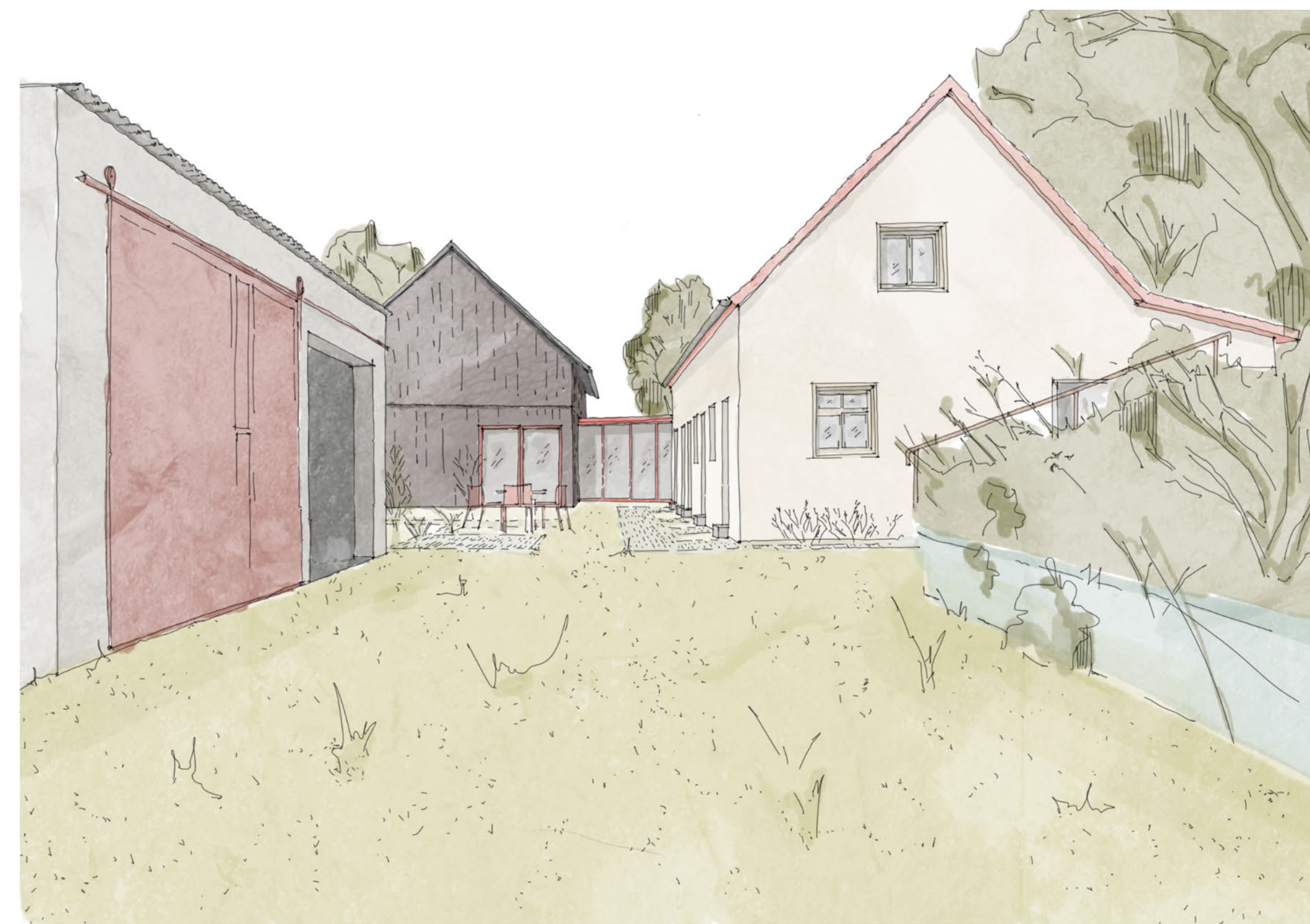
Aldis Pahl



## Event Centre with Guest Accommodations

PELCHENHOFEN, GERMANY

Aldis Pahl  
Leonard Thumann



Architectural Visual Designs

### Conversion concept

The central intention of the design is to use and further develop the existing potential of the site and to revitalize it through clear and minimal interventions. The insulation of the barn and the warm transition area play a particularly important role in making the existing complex usable. From the outside, the barn appears with its original wooden slatted façade, apart from a few new window openings. The insulation is on the inside and placed within the existing structure. To give the barn a spacious feel, part of the suspended

ceiling has been removed and the gallery has been made accessible via a spiral staircase. The connecting building, which is rounded towards the inner courtyard, picks up on the "Neo" art installation with its orange colour and special shape, and deliberately sets itself apart from the existing buildings as a new structure. All other changes try not to interfere too much with the existing building and to blend subtly in order to retain both the visual image and the enchanted essence of the atmosphere on site.

#### LEGEND

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Workshop Barn      | 7. Bedrooms       |
| 2. Living Space       | 8. Lounge         |
| 3. Reception Building | 9. Kitchen        |
| 4. Storage            | 10. Lecture Hall  |
| 5. Showers            | 11. Office        |
| 6. Restrooms          | 12. Shared Garden |

Black: Retained structure  
Red: New structure  
Yellow: Structure to be demolished



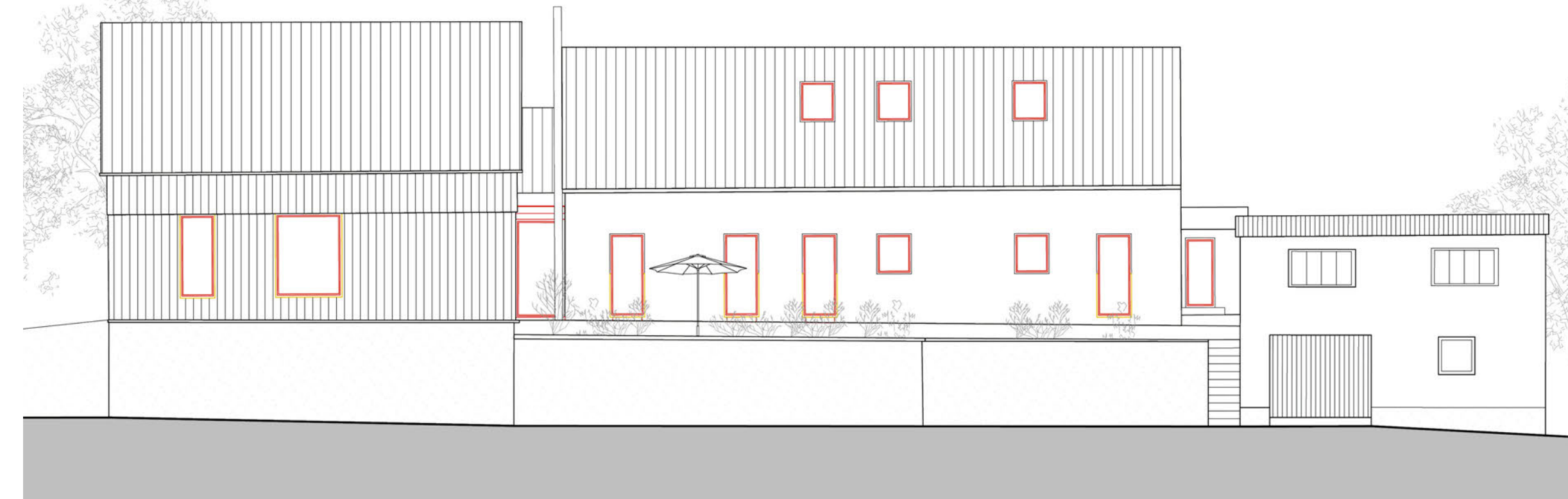
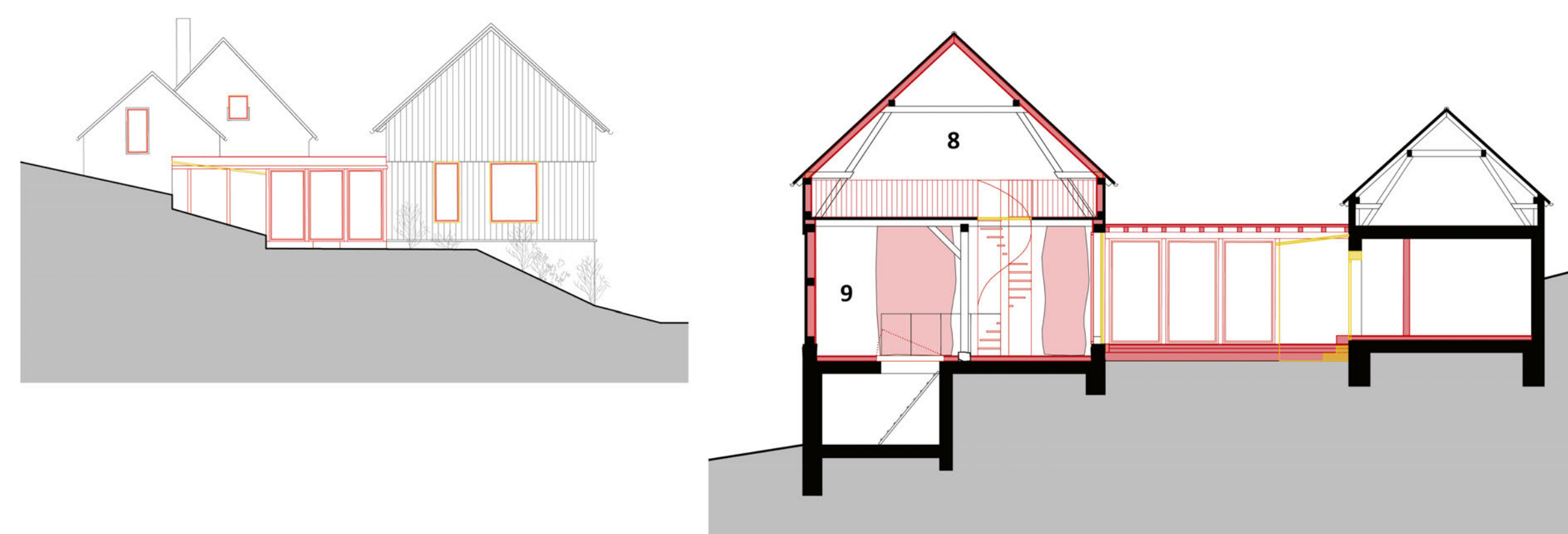
### Conversion design

The following design for the barn complex in Pelchenhofen takes up the idea of the installation "Neo". The existing barn is gently connected to the farmhouse by an intermediate structure. This makes it possible to incorporate the barn as a warm part of the building and to create an additional communal area. The new planned use is a centre with overnight accommodation for various workshops that can take place in the barn and on the site.

The barn contains an open seminar area with a gallery and kitchen. The cooking area can be separated from the rest of the space by a heavy curtain. At the same time, the curtain creates a connection to the new, curvilinear intermediate space. The new connecting space contains a communal dining and seating area. Separated by the former existing façade, the sanitary areas and a staircase lead into the roof space of the farmhouse. Small, cloister-style rooms and an open sleeping area in the attic offer overnight accommodation. The existing garage is used as a storage and reception area for guests.

Leonard Thumann

Existing Condition



Black: Retained structure Red: New structure Yellow: Structure to be demolished

### Neo

The installation "Neo" deals with the potentials of the spaces, the objects and the materials of the place, and shows a striking revival by the purposeful connection of the found with newly introduced neon-orange elements. While it can only be speculated as to what the original use of the objects was, the parts of the installation in their newly assigned function represent, quite precisely, a new access, new seating, new storage. Always with the focus on what possible new qualities are in the existing and how they can be re-thought through specific additions.

Aldis Pahl – Leonard Thumann

