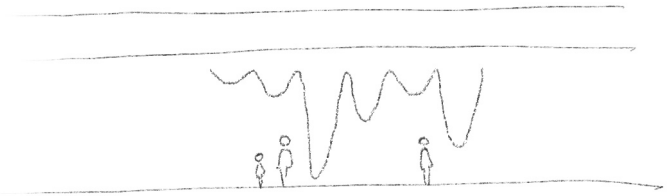
Portfolio

Tslil Strauss



BIO

Tslil Strauss

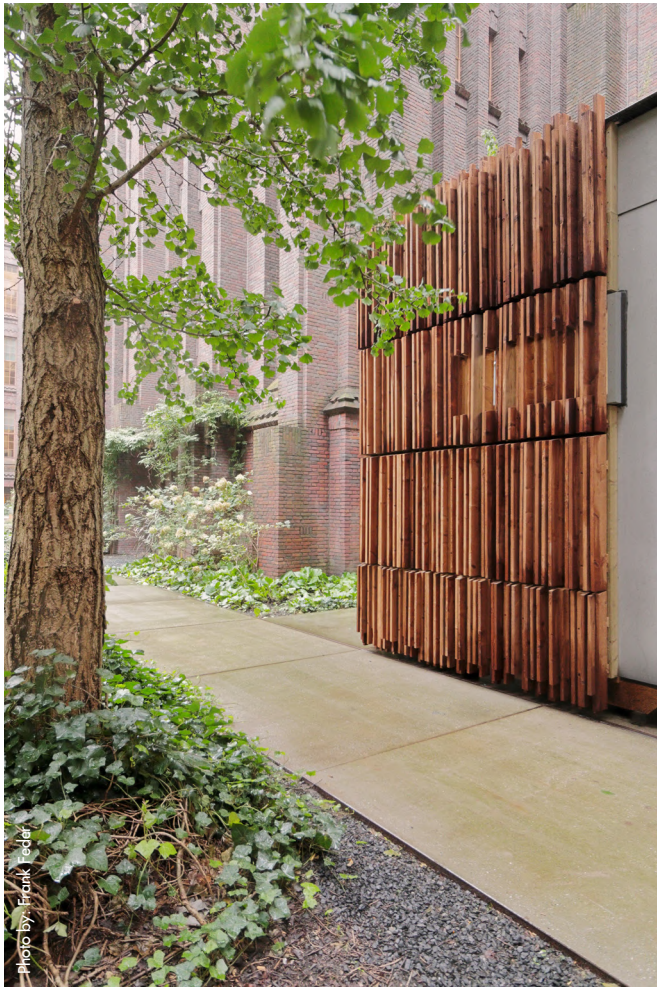
I'm an **architect based in Rotterdam**, passionate about working with **reclaimed materials** and **existing building components** to create meaningful, sustainable spaces.

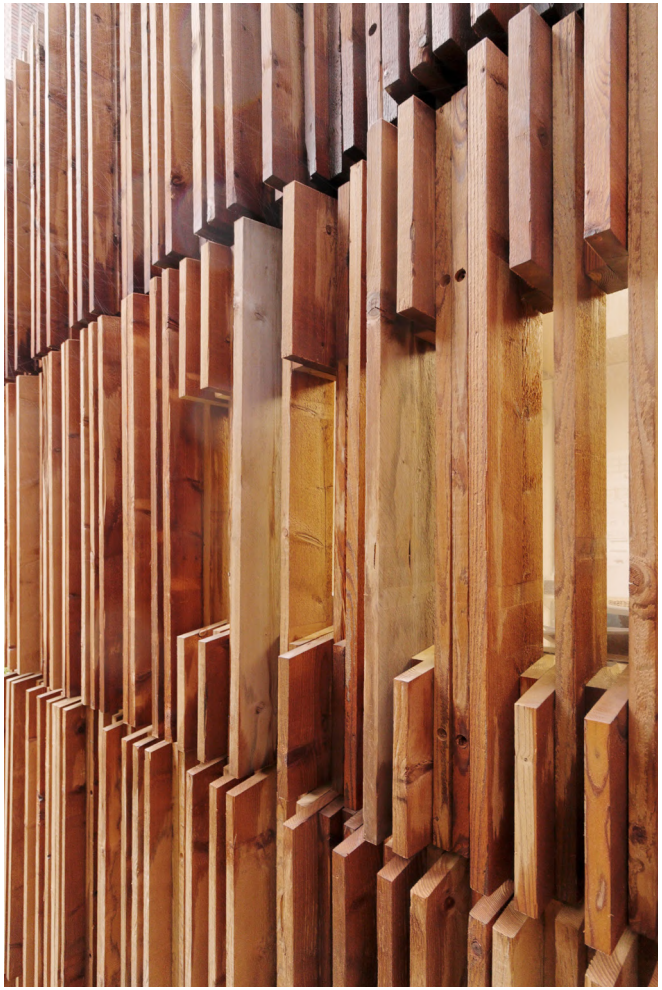
For me, **design is a creative as well as a structured process**, striking a balance between imagination and precision, concept and construction. I'm fascinated by how architecture can evolve through reuse, transforming what already exists into something new and relevant.

My path to architecture began with a **bachelor's in Physics and Philosophy**, which continues to shape the way I think: analytical, reflective, and curious about the systems that connect people, materials, and environments. I later completed both my **Bachelor's (with honours)** and **Master's (cum laude) in Architecture at TU Delft**, where I focused on material reuse and adaptive design.

In practice, I combine **conceptual breadth with pragmatic thinking**. I'm social, proactive, and thrive in collaborative teams that value initiative and shared exploration.

Beyond design, I'm deeply interested in **teaching and mentorship** — guiding others through the process of design and research, and encouraging a critical yet imaginative approach to architecture.





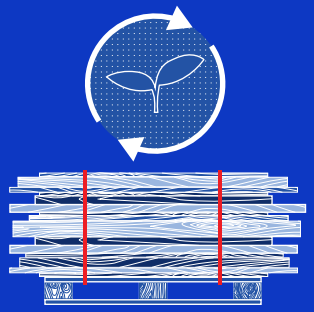
HOUT HET SIMPEL

2023 - 2024

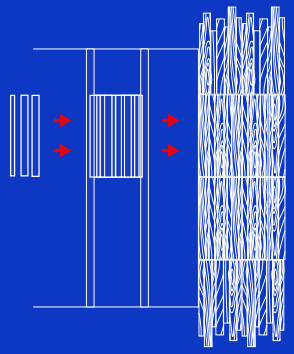
project type:	Modular facade for ProRail
phase and role:	competition to delivery prototype/ **project lead and designer** with Frank Feder en Floris Schiferli
location:	Netherlands
office:	Superuse

The design was developed in response to ProRail's call for sustainable and modular facade concepts for technical buildings along the railway. It embraces **simplicity**, reuse, and **durability** by employing reclaimed, thermally modified wood in a system that is both modular and adaptable. Variations in material size and form are accommodated within a coherent architectural language.

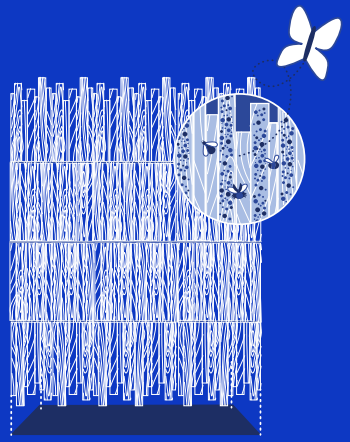
Guided by a low-tech, circular approach—minimal intervention, minimal waste—the design celebrates the **irregularities of reused materials**, allowing texture and rhythm to emerge naturally. The result is a robust yet modest architectural expression: one that does not seek attention but quietly communicates **care and material integrity**. It offers a grounded response—practical, context-aware, and rooted in available resources—providing a resilient solution for a demanding infrastructural setting.



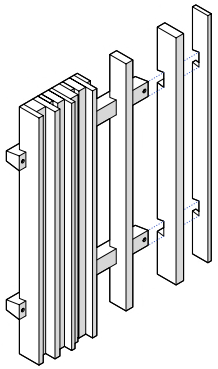
Collecting varied wooden elements



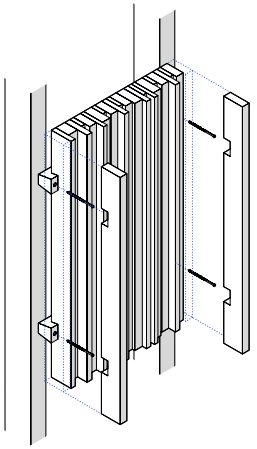
A panel system for easy maintenance



Bio-based cladding with integrated nesting and habitat features



Prefabricated panels



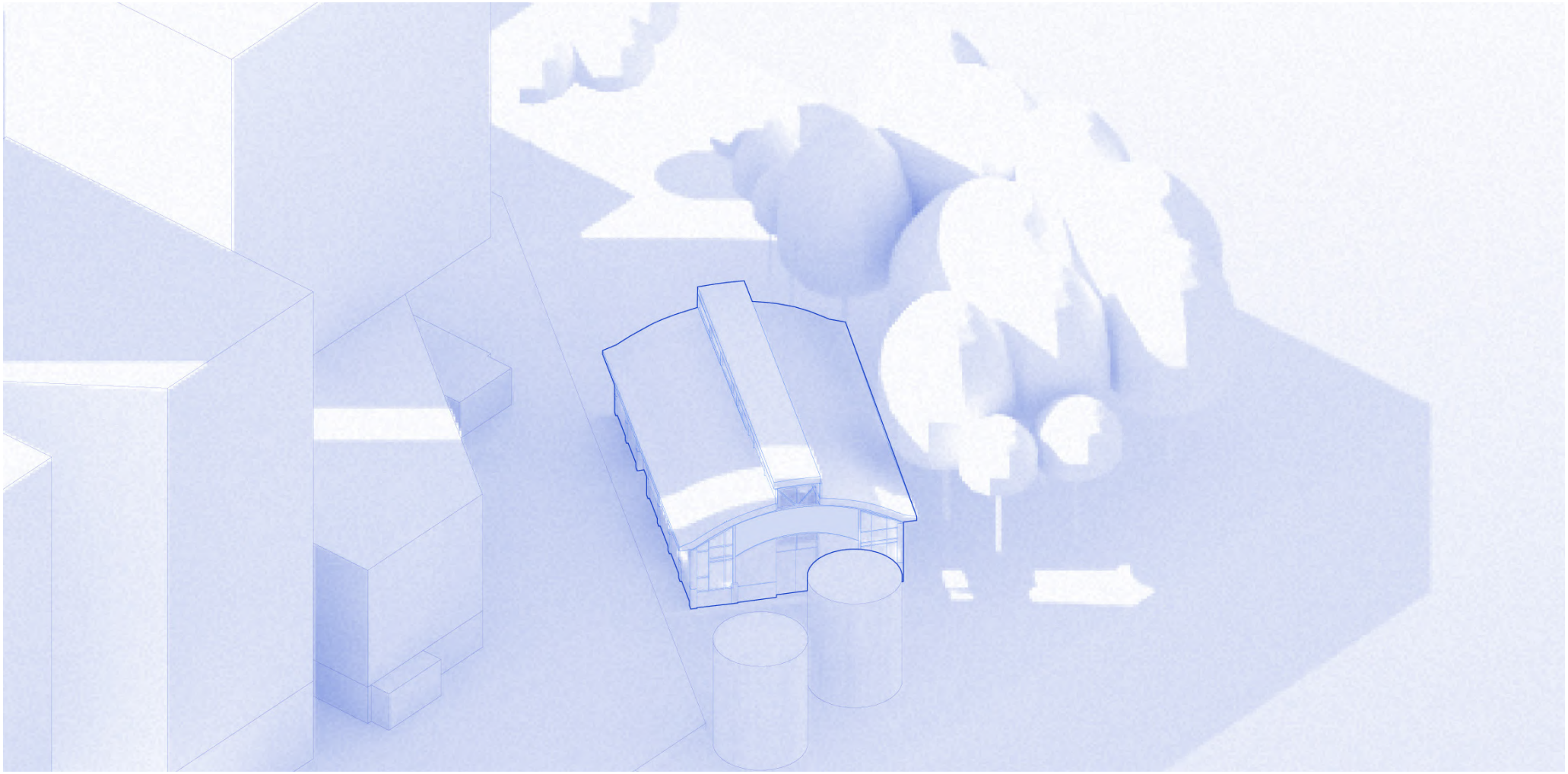
Panel installation on site

This design follows a circular approach that begins with the material. We prioritized the use of reclaimed and residual materials—sourced from production leftovers—and avoided unnecessary processing to reduce fossil energy use to meet ProRail ambitions for 2050. When new components were needed, we opted for **renewable, bio-based resources**.

Components are easily exchangeable thanks to a clear and **accessible construction system**, supporting long-term **maintenance** and **flexibility**.

The selected materials are ones we know well, allowing us to work with their inherent logic and expressive qualities. Rather than imposing form, the architecture grows from the strengths of the material itself—resulting in a distinctive and natural character. Beyond its technical and aesthetic role, the facade also contributes to **nature inclusivity**, with each variation addressing this ambition in a different way.

Artist's impression of facade and detail with nature-inclusive cladding and integrated insect habitats



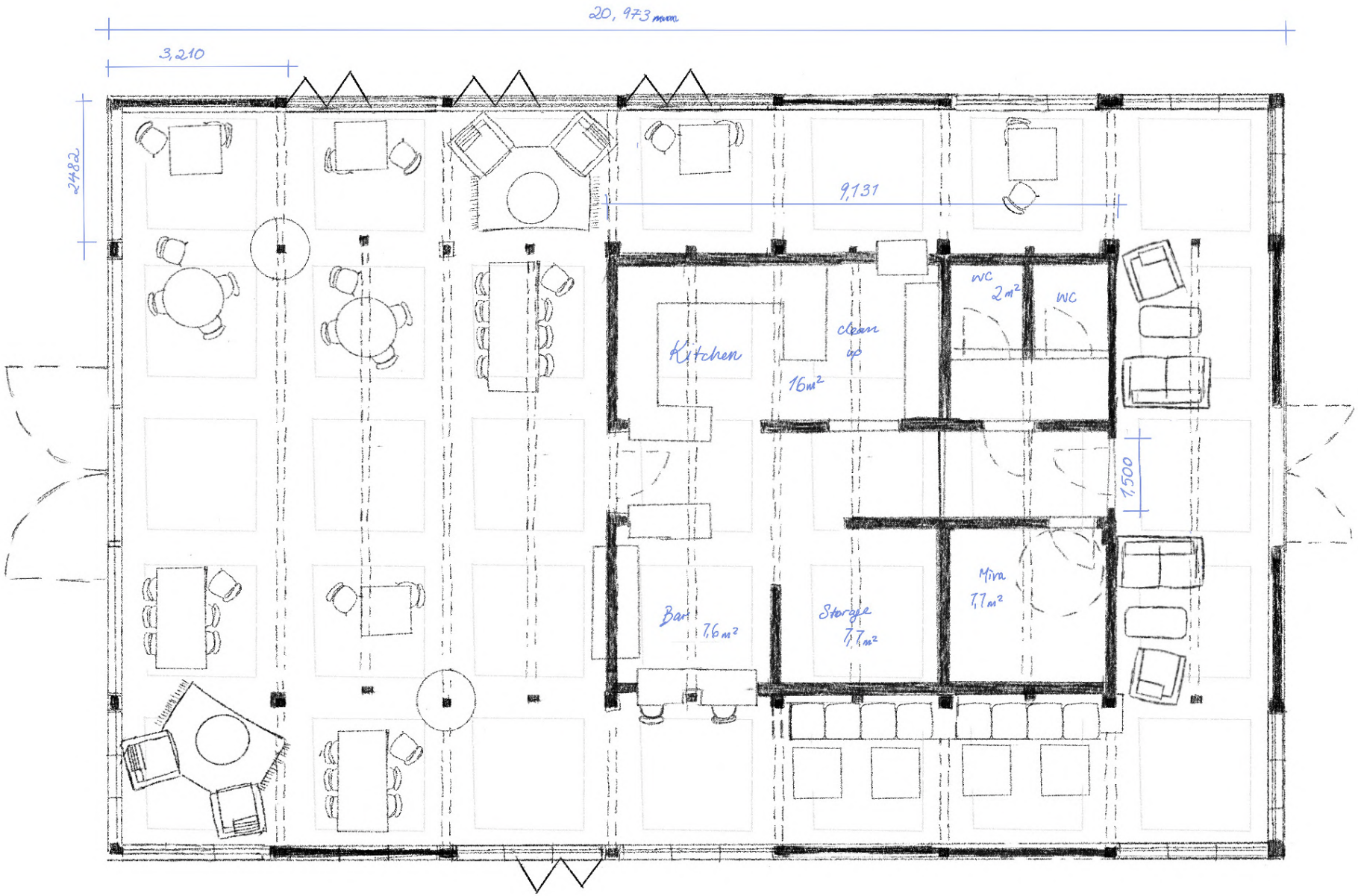
CIRCULAR PAVILION

2024 -

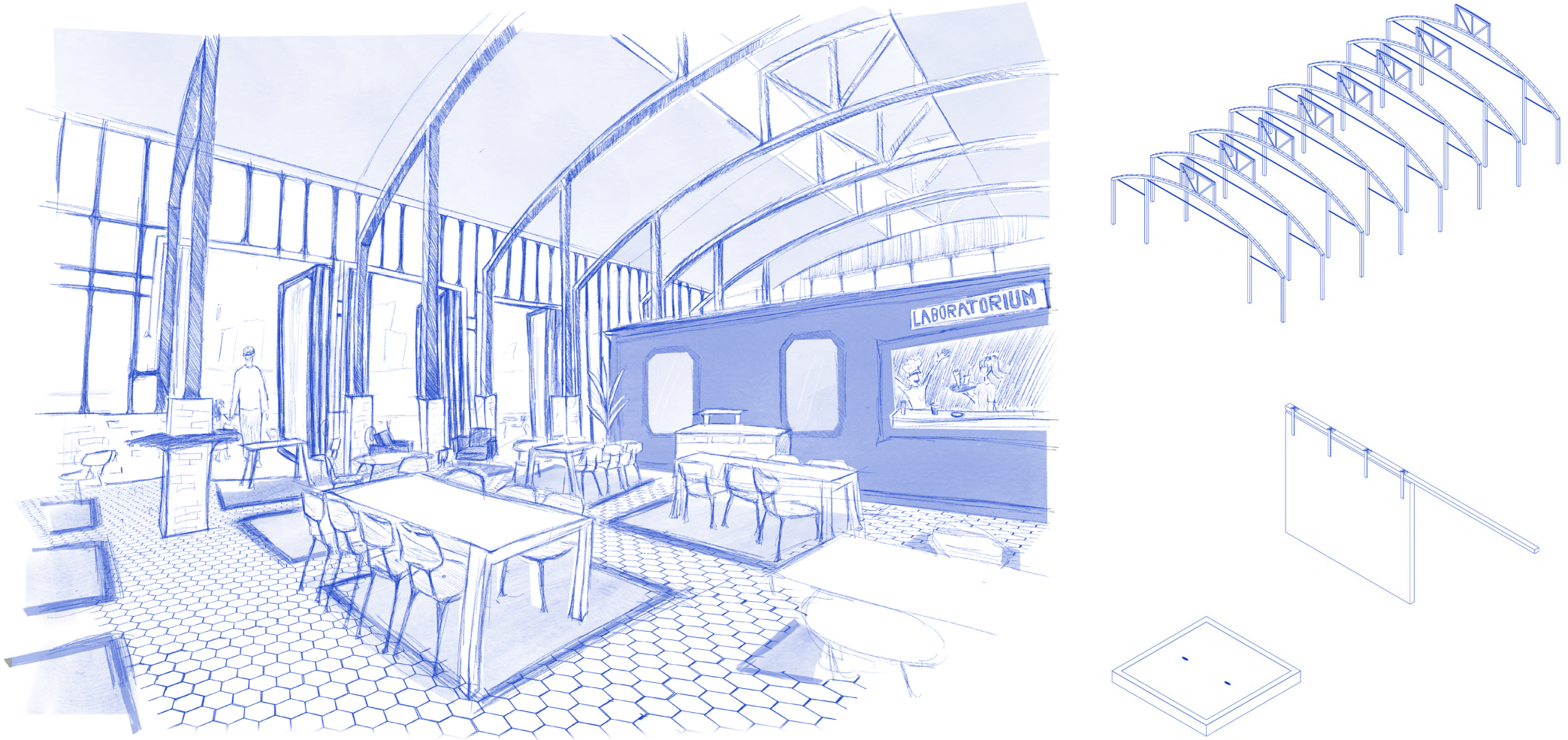
project type:	harvest-driven design
phase and role:	harvest to sketch design (ongoing)/**designer and planner** with Margaux Humbert, Jan Muning, Sofia Evison and Floris Schiferli
location:	Rotterdam, Netherlands
office:	Superuse

As part of the transformation of the former Margarine Factory site in Rotterdam-Zuid, this 300m² open-plan restaurant pavilion is designed as a social anchor within the emerging De Kaai district. The building's form and strict structural grid are determined by the **original load-bearing steel** frames (spanten), carefully **harvested** from the site's former laboratory building. This reuse of existing structural elements not only defines the spatial rhythm of the pavilion, but also significantly **reduces embodied carbon** by avoiding the need for newly produced steel—one of the most energy-intensive building materials. The **façades** are intentionally left **free and open**, fostering transparency and inviting interaction with the surrounding public space.

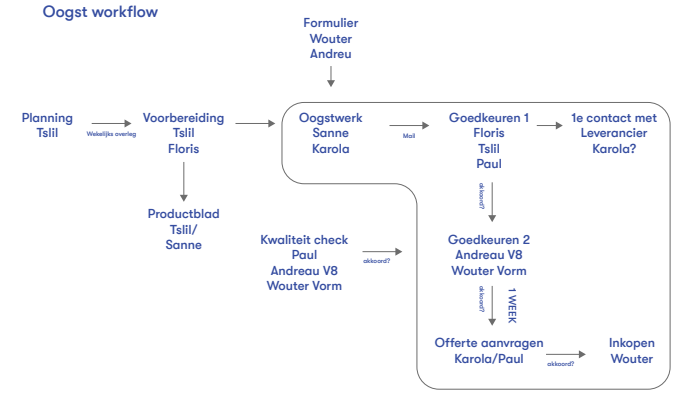
Currently in the sketch design phase, the pavilion is conceived as a low-impact structure constructed **entirely from on-site reclaimed materials**. Positioned at a key urban plaza, it reflects De Kaai's vision of a sustainable, inclusive, and socially connected neighborhood. The pavilion aims to enable a diverse set of activities to suport the local former and new residents of the district.

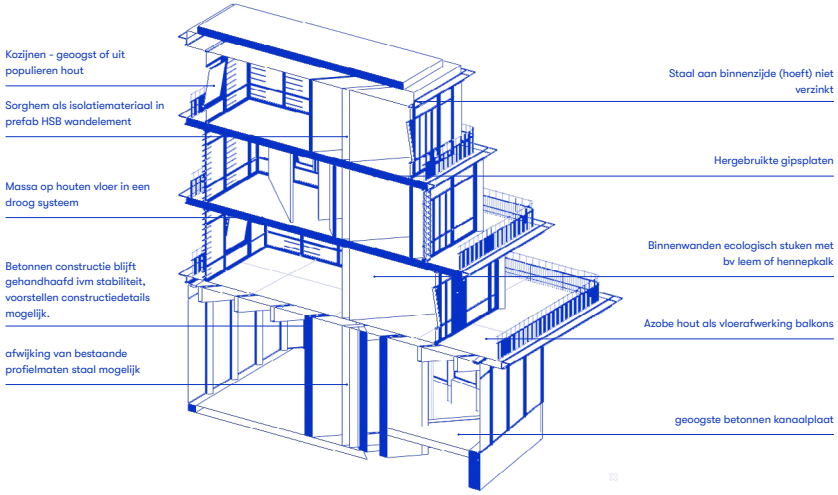


Core with functions detached from open façades, structured by reclaimed steel spanten



The layerd interior with few of the main components, hand sketch by Sofia Evison





Constructie, opbouw en interieur

VILLA RESIDU
V8 ARCHITECTS

2022 - 2025

project type:	design and material consultancy for architects
phase and role:	**advice/designer** with Floris Schiferli
location:	Rotterdam, Netherlands
office:	Superuse in collaboration with V8

Following the successful tender, the developer invited Superuse to support the realization of their promise to deliver a '100% circular building'.

We proposed design ideas based on the Definitive Design phase to promote more **circular material use**—including reclaimed, deadstock, and biobased materials—in order to achieve the highest possible percentage of circularity. Together with the architect and other parties, such as the structural engineer, we defined the degree of design flexibility in the façade, openings, atmosphere, structural elements, and walls.

In addition to providing design and material consultancy, we facilitated a **workshop** to help the organization implement an alternative approach—focused on the use and handling of circular materials—rather than following a conventional linear design and construction process.

The project was a close **collaboration among stakeholders**, where we supported the integration of harvested materials into the overall planning.

WOONHUIS BOSCH

2022 - 2025

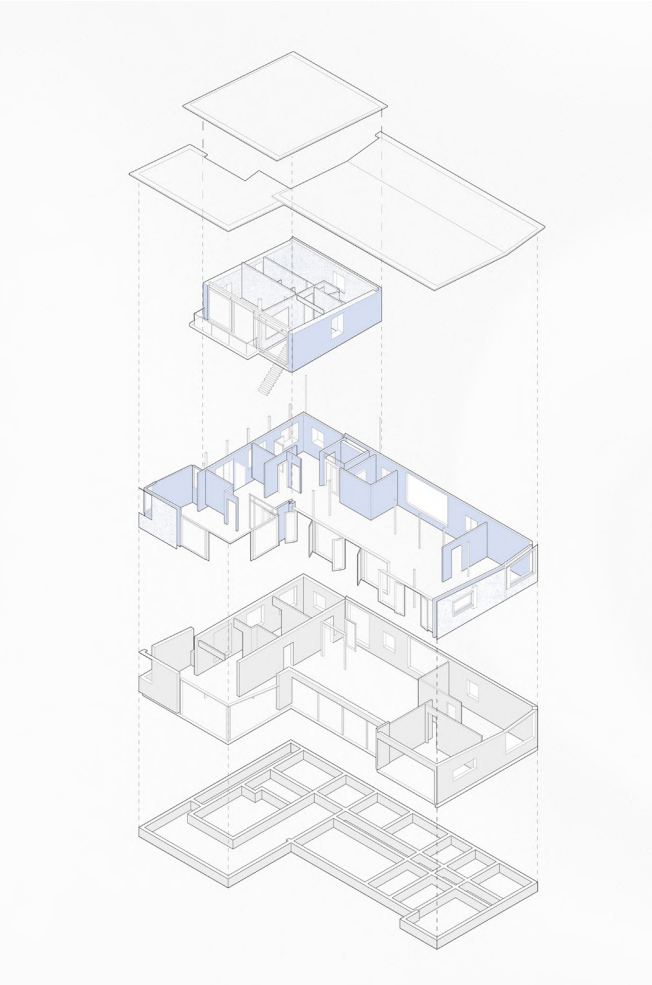
project type:	privately commissioned villa
phase and role:	sketch design to definitive design/ **designer** with Jeroen Bergsma (currently under construction)
location:	Zeist, Netherlands
office:	Superuse

This project transforms a 1955 bungalow into a sustainable villa that balances heritage with contemporary living. In close collaboration with the clients, the design process **explored renovation versus rebuilding**, ultimately preserving key elements of the original structure while upgrading its performance and spatial quality.

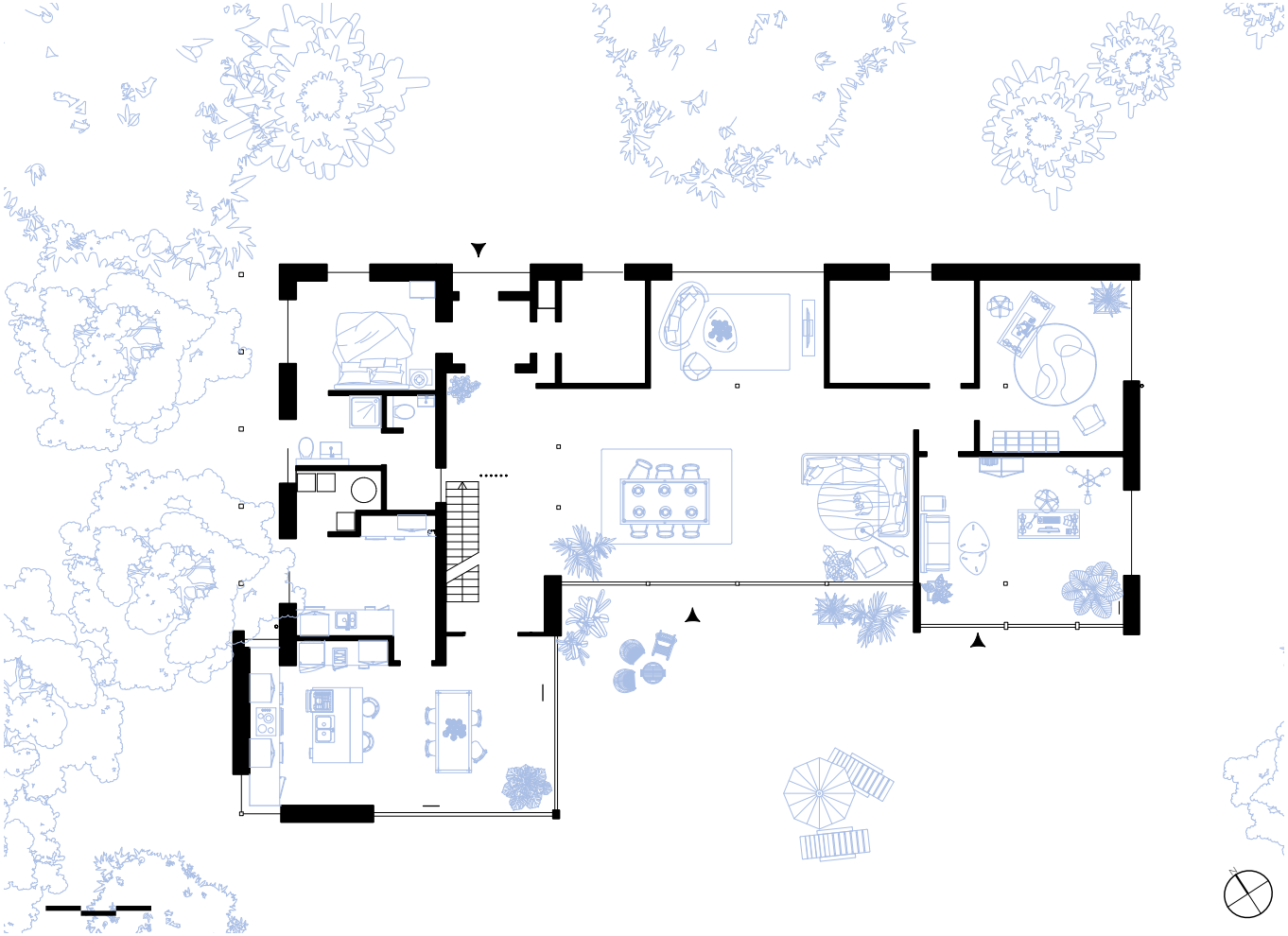
The design prioritizes **long-term adaptability**, allowing the couple to age in place with all essential living functions located on the ground floor. A partial second level provides extra privacy. Environmental goals were central to the project. **Bio-based materials**, energy-efficient systems, and a green roof reduce the home's ecological footprint, while thoughtful orientation and detailing strengthen the connection to the surrounding forest.

The house embraces the southern garden, where the forest is not just viewed but invited in—becoming part of everyday life. The organisation, with the oriantation of both the studies, is carefully tailored to the couple's routines and remote working needs while considering year-round **climate comfort**.

Tslil Strauss



New design built upon and reuses existing structure



Floor plan organized to meet the couple's current wishes and adapt to future needs

The rammed hempcrete visible texture

The western façade features hempcrete for both insulation and finish, paired with a timber structure

A study designed for evening work

View from the kitchen countertop toward the natural swimming pool

5/5 woonhuis wolff

Tslil Strauss

REVISITING THE BAUHAUS

2022

project type:	interior intervention
phase and role:	competition/**designer and project lead** with Frank Feder and Jos de Krieger
location:	Dessau, Germany
office:	Superuse

Three years after the opening of the Bauhaus Museum in the city centre of Dessau, the Bauhaus Foundation invited several architecture offices to rethink the museum's ground floor—to introduce **modularity and flexibility** for a wide range of activities and events. At the same time, the project aimed to respond to how the new museum is **perceived by local residents**.

The redesigned ground floor is intended to function as a new **public space**, bridging the adjacent city park and the nearby shopping mall. The proposal builds on the **generosity** of the existing space, introducing a new layer: **a drape**. This soft intervention creates temporary boundaries that define zones with varying degrees of intimacy. With the drape, sub-areas emerge to accommodate different parts of the programme—inviting children, students, art lovers, and elderly residents from the surrounding neighbourhoods.


bauhaus museum dessau

Photo: Frank Hanswijk

FUTURE SCHOOL

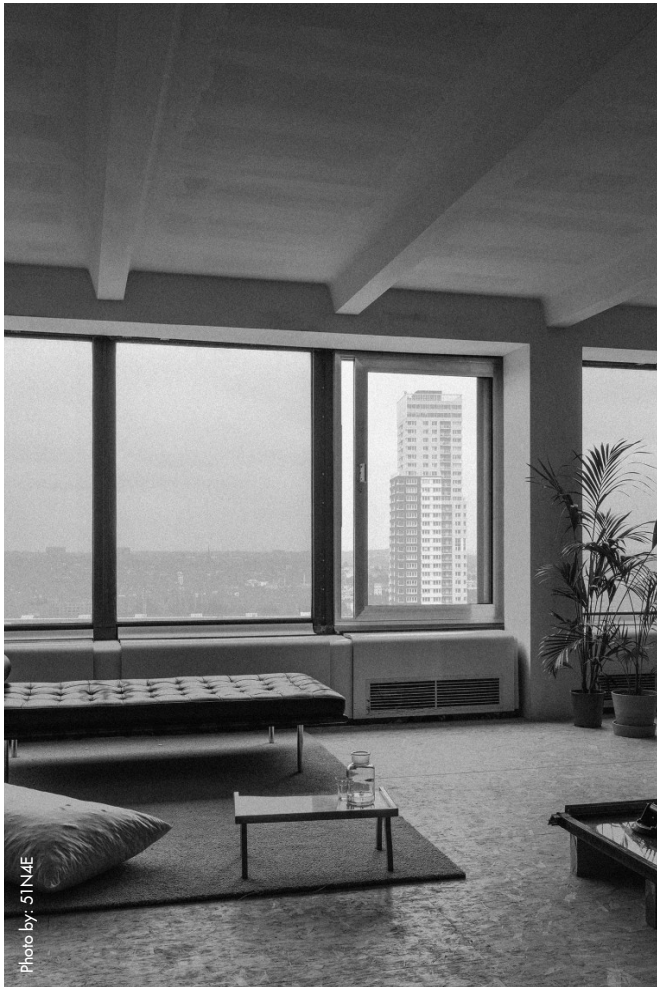
2021

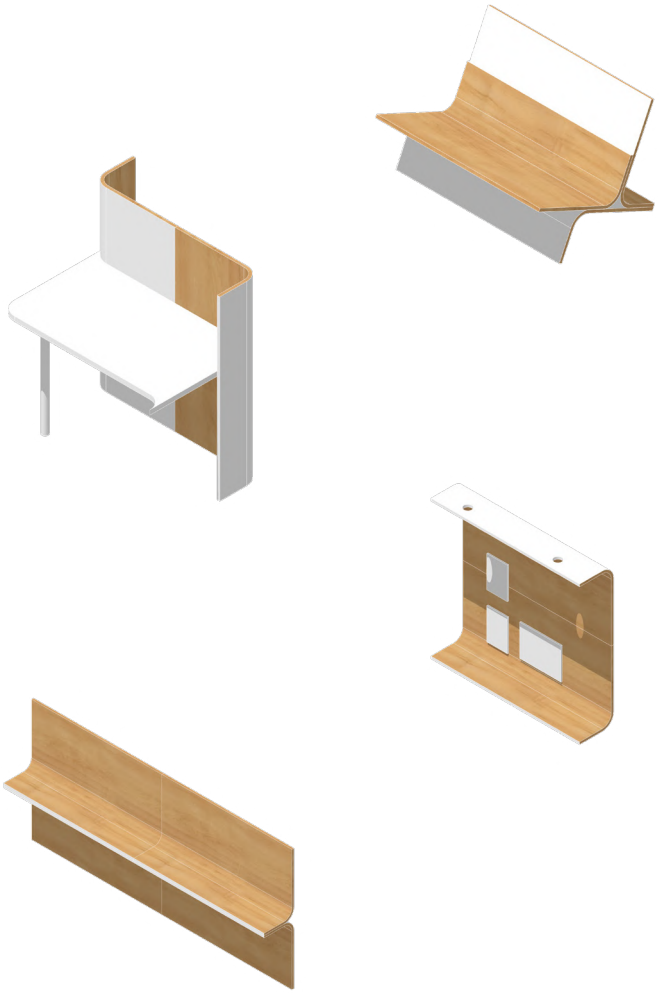
project type:	Interiors within existing casco new-built tower
phase and role:	sketch design to realisation/**designer** with Jeroen Bergsma
location:	Haarlem, Netherlands
office:	Superuse

The new location of After's COOL is situated in the plinth of a residential tower in Haarlem. This after-school learning centre supports pupils with homework and study activities. The interior design serves as a **pilot project for the (re)design of future workspaces**—repurposing components from former office environments to create new, low-impact interiors.

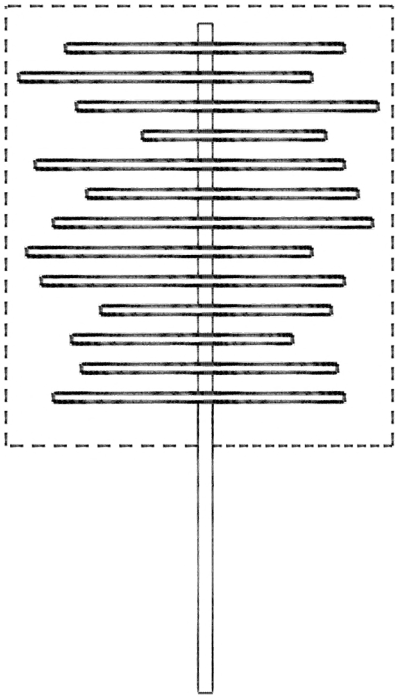
In a fully harvest-driven design approach, curved wooden panels—originally part of the World Trade Center tower—introduce a playful, dynamic formal language to the learning environment. The result is an open, flexible workspace composed of varied zones and distinctive elements.

These rounded partitions form a **catalogue of functional components**, from desk, tabels, shelves, seatings, kitchen cabinets and ventilation shaft, are intended for use across future locations of the organisation.





Harvest-driven design process, from the original function as window sill panels to a furniture collection



OBSERV-A-TREE

2022

project type:	open call, tree house for slow tourism in an a ncient castle in rural France
phase and role:	competition/**designer**
location:	Mothe Chandeniers, France
office:	own project in collaboration with Harald Peters

This project has a poetic and meaningful concept—beautifully rooted in both **place and emotion**. Set in rural France, it responds to an open call for a tree house at the historic Mothe Chandeniers, an ancient castle slowly reclaimed by nature. Once a symbol of human grandeur, the castle's ruins are now home to trees and small animals. Inspired by this transformation, the project invites humans to inhabit the forest with equal humility and wonder.

The Architectural Tree becomes a **forest observatory** and a retreat for slow tourism. It offers a space to pause, to reconnect, and to engage with nature playfully, evoking the lightness of childhood: a time free from schedules, rich in imagination, and open to exploration.

The design is based on a **modular system**, allowing each visitor to **personalize their temporary home**. This act of adjusting and configuring one's environment fosters a sense of ownership, however brief. Each stay becomes unique—a personal imprint within the forest canopy.

URBAN TRANSPLANT

2020 - 2021

Framework for post-capitalist architecture and concrete transformation methods with re-use in Molenbeek

studio: **Graduation** in Architectural Engineering
location: Brussels, Belgium
tutors: Roel van de Pas, Paddy Tomesen, Jos de Krieger

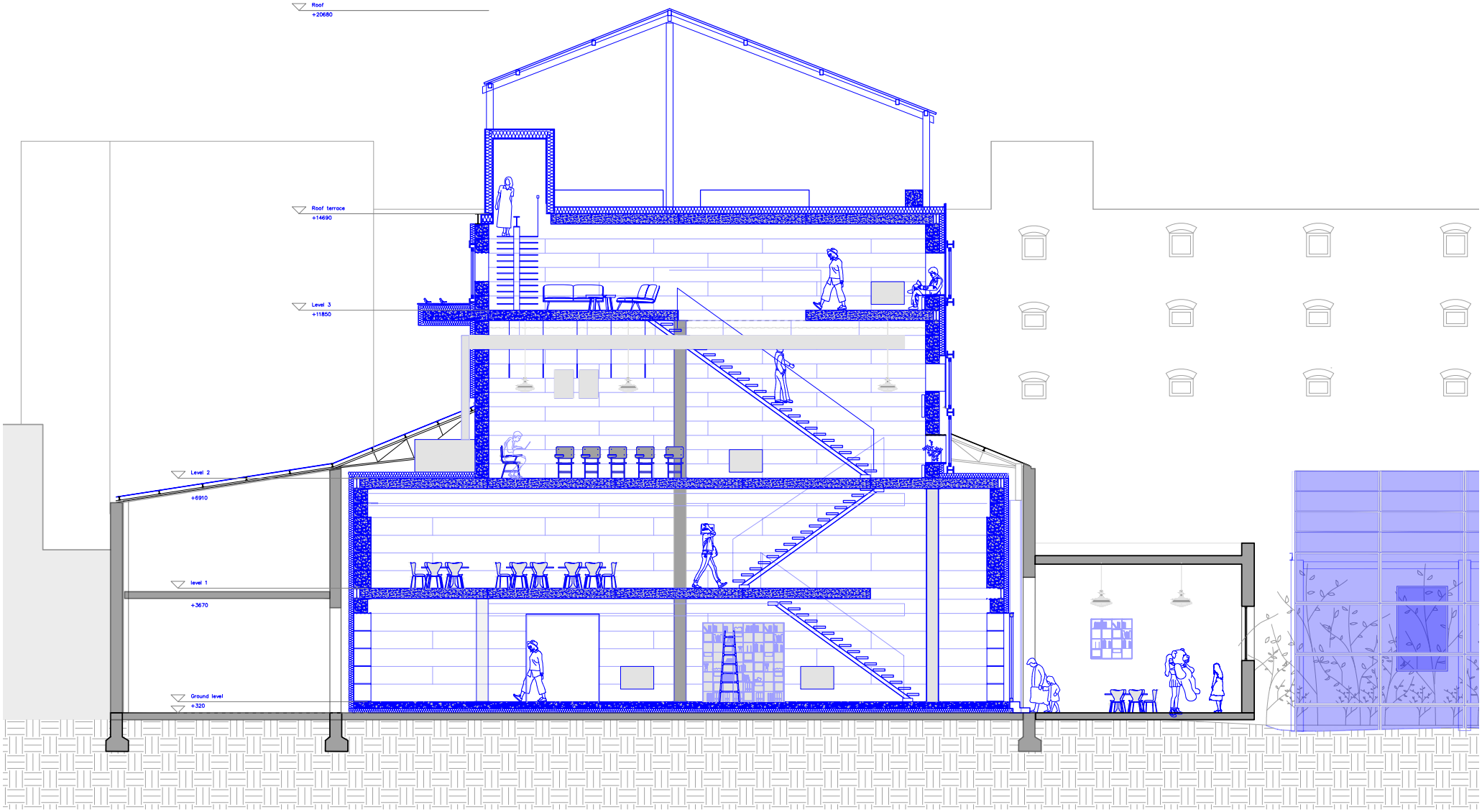
In light of the urgent climate crisis and widening socio-economic gaps, Urban Transplant (UT) demonstrates a new **architectural framework** for a post-capitalist city—one that sees the built environment as a living system of renewal rather than constant replacement. The project sees the city as a reservoir of reusable space, materials, and social value—**challenging the default to demolish** and rebuild.

This method raises important social questions around belonging, labor, and transformation. It also confronts the regulatory and design challenges of adapting reused materials to new norms, all while questioning the **link between comfort and excessive resource use**.

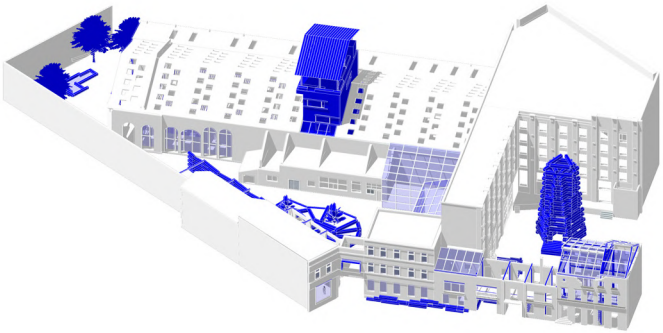
The programme aims to support a sustainable lifestyle for the community. It emphasizes that architecture should respond to both ecological limits and **social equity**, not only during construction but also throughout the building's long-term use.

The design proposal demonstrates a site-specific yet transferable circular approach—one that seeks to transform not just buildings, but the systems that shape them.

Tslil Strauss



A transplant showcasing the feasibility of the construction method, independent from the existing structure



Urban Transplant is a series of interventions exploring the spatial and structural opportunities of **reusing concrete**. It explores a technical strategy to support circular architecture: the cutting and reusing of in-situ concrete structures as standardized components. Rather than demolishing buildings entirely, UT investigates how structural concrete can be surgically removed and reassembled in a different location—effectively transplanting the building's bones.

A dual site in Brussels—the World Trade Center and a post-industrial terrain in Molenbeek—serves as a theoretical proof of concept for the idea of a donor and host site. The donated components from the WTC towers carry with them specific associations, materiality, and proportions. The host, in turn, evolves rather than being erased and rebuilt, helping to preserve **cultural memory** and reduce displacement or gentrification.

It challenges **comfort standards** and regulatory norms that often prioritize convenience over sustainability, or energy performance over material use and embodied enrgy. Instead, it proposes a more balanced approach to resource use, among others by tapping into residual energy from the surroundings.