vernacular modern

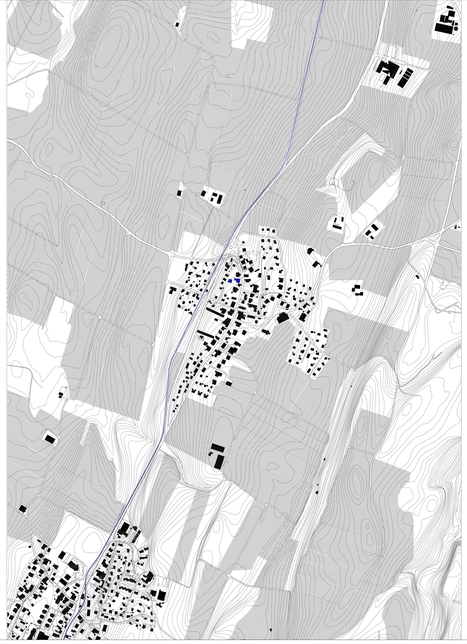
Collective rooms for the village of Assens.

The village of Assens is characterised by two parallel axes: the main street to the east, and the cantonal road and railway to the west. The village has grown exponentially alongside these modern infrastructures, which connect the village and its surroundings with Lausanne. In modern times, characterised by the separation of living and working, the rural landscape is transforming into a sprawl of single-family houses and private gardens. These new developments are resistant to any alternative use, and the village suffers from a severe lack of space for collective use.

The project confronts the vernacular and the modern as it is located between the two main axes, and deals with the architectural theme of solid and light. The design proposal reactivates and transforms two rural buildings. The added elements attempt to build upon the existing fabric of autonomous forms by improving the connections in between them, as well as to make the building suit a contemporary way of living that meets today's acceptance of openness. The old barn, following the typology of the typical *ferme Vaudoise*, becomes an entrance hall for the project, with a new stair that winds its way up through the hybrid structure of the building to reach the attic. Another hall is reactivated by adding a light structure within the modest and solid shell of the hangar building, facing the yard and the garden.

The project does not try to recreate the vernacular, nor does it impose a dogmatic modern vision. Instead, both ideas are embraced simultaneously, the solid *and* the light, the vernacular *and* the modern.

Siteplan 1:5000



Echallens 4 km
Bercher 13 km

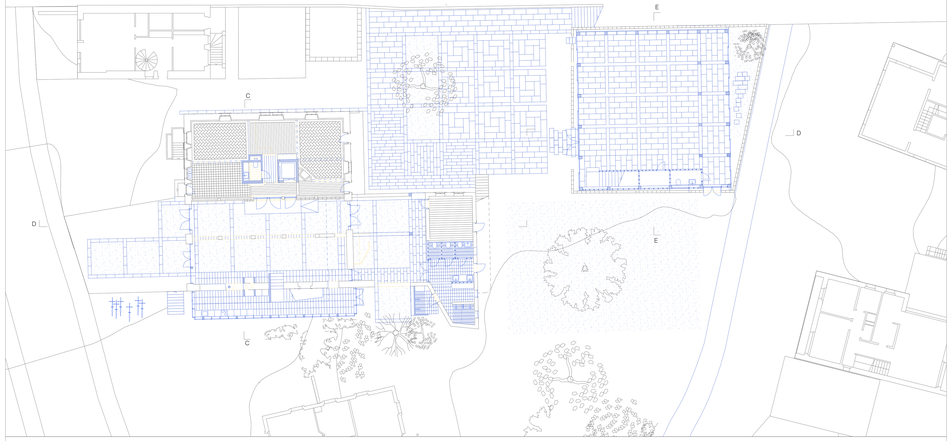
Lausanne 13 km

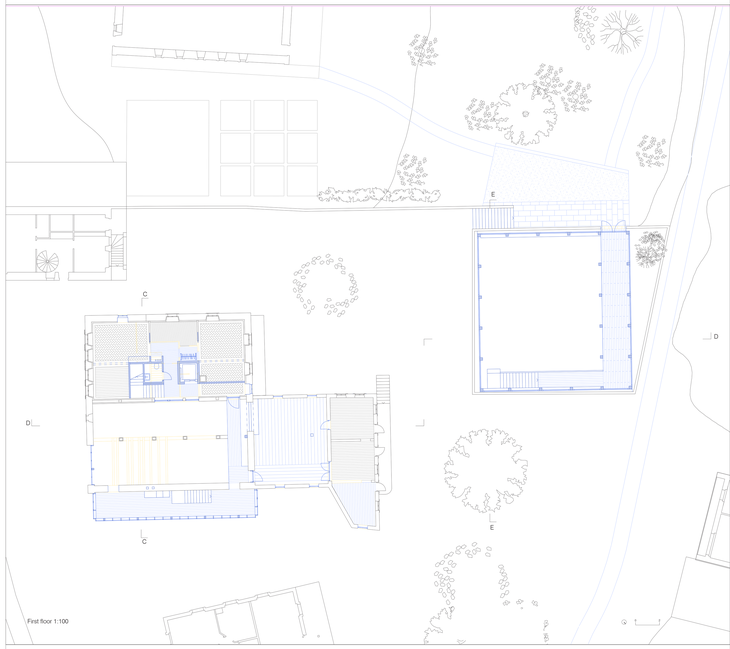
Elevation A-A 1:500

Siteplan 1:500

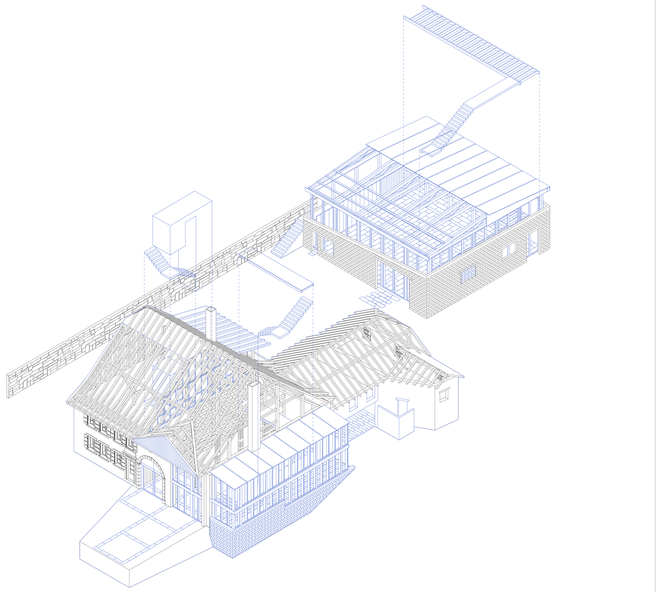
Elevation B-B 1:500

Ground floor 1:100

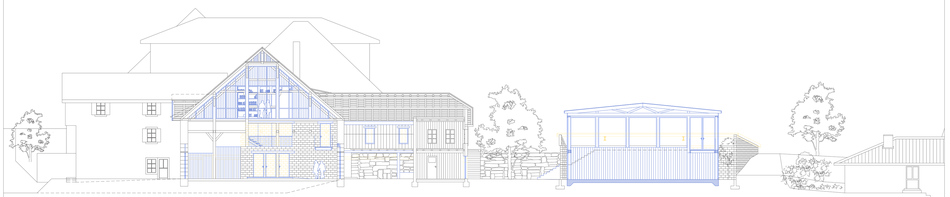




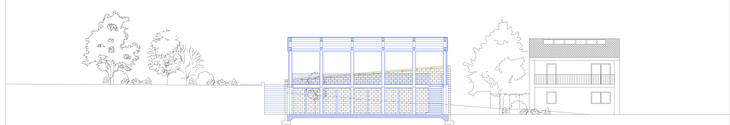
First floor 1:100



Section C-C 1:100



Section D-D 1:100



Section E-E 1:100