

R LEECHMERE

Architecture - Interiors - Landscape

Is an architecture, interiors and landscape practice specialising in material cultures, experimental typologies and research into rural densification.

The practice was founded by Rob Leechmere, following over fifteen years of architectural experience delivering design-led work across Europe from concept to completion.

Previous and current work span hospitality, educational, and residential sectors. Notable achievements include; a RIBA Award-winning theatre, hotels in Germany + Norway, and leadership roles at industry-leading firms such as Tuckey Design Studio.

Some of the work documented in this portfolio is shown from this period. These projects are denoted and represent projects where Rob was Project Architect and the Associate in charge the project team.

We hope the projects demonstrate an approach that combines creativity and strategic insight. Working methodologies combine analogue model and image making with modern digital information production and coordination.

The practice is committed to pushing boundaries in architecture, from urban-scale proposals to pioneering sustainable methodologies and has experience of working with multidisciplinary teams and engaging stakeholders at every stage.

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R Leechmere is a Limited Company

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Michelberger Hotel

* TDS Associate

The Michelberger is an independent hotel located in the vibrant Friedrichshain district of Berlin. Renowned for its refreshingly inclusive and open approach to hospitality, the hotel operates less as a conventional establishment and more as a communal house — a place where guests, staff, and the neighbourhood naturally intersect. Housed within a heritage-listed former cigarette factory dating back to 1903, the building's industrial character forms the backdrop for a series of carefully choreographed private and communal spaces, each designed to bring warmth, informality, and a sense of shared living to its robust shell.

At the heart of the hotel is a generous central courtyard. Defined by its glazed brickwork, expansive warehouse-style windows, and impressive vertical scale, the courtyard has been meticulously preserved as the nucleus of the building. It serves as an adaptable gathering space, hosting events,



Fig 2.1



Fig 2.2



Fig 2.3



Fig 3.1

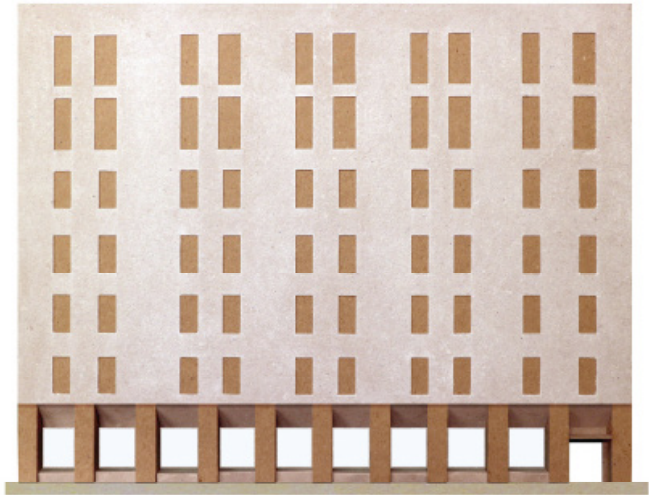


Fig 3.2

performances, and seasonal activities throughout the year, reinforcing the hotel's role as a cultural anchor within its district.

The guest rooms are characterised by a thoughtful interplay of panelled elements and open-framed partitions, introducing subtle layers of enclosure and spatial zoning. Bespoke furniture pieces — crafted from plywood, softwood, and other natural materials — sit comfortably alongside softly textured lime-plaster walls, expressive structural beams, and distinctive terrazzo tiles. The result is a family of rooms that feel both crafted and lived-in, combining functionality with a tactile, human-centred aesthetic.



Fig 3.3

Fig 2.1 Pre-renovation space

Fig 2.2 View from bed to bathroom

Fig 2.3 View from bed to sauna

Fig 3.1 View of tiled courtyard

Fig 3.2 Rear facade study model

Fig 3.3 Specially designed 4 post bed



Fig 4.1



Fig 4.2

Beranger House

* TDS Associate

Set within an idiosyncratic village in the French Alps, Mountain House is a traditional chalet reinterpreted through a contemporary lens. Conceived as a year-round retreat for a family, it offers an inviting base for both summer hiking and winter skiing — a home that shifts effortlessly with the seasons.

Originally built as an agricultural grange, the structure once sheltered livestock on its vaulted ground floor, with hay stored in the loft above. Today, those origins are still legible. The roof has been substantially lifted to incorporate a run of clerestory windows, bathing the interior in wrap-around natural light and allowing for the insertion of a generous double-height mezzanine from which the bedrooms emerge. Moving through the house involves crossing a sequence of thresholds — some restored, some newly formed — each offering subtle clues to the building's historic function and the layers of time embedded within it.

Fig 5.1

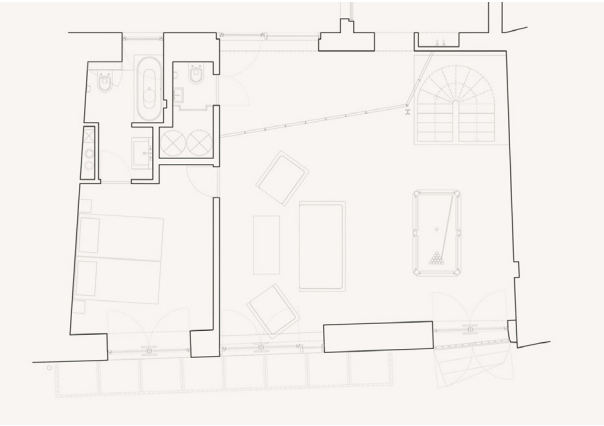
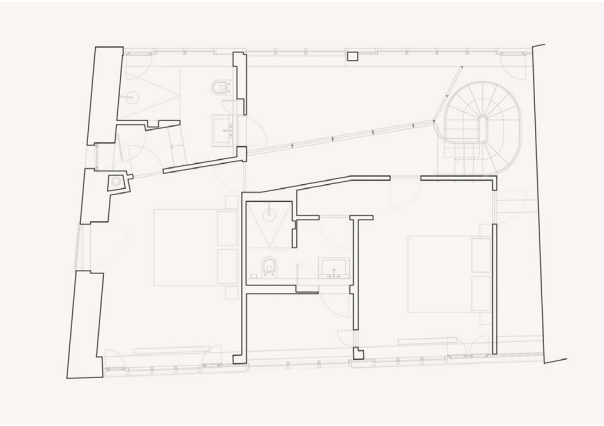


Fig 5.2



Fig 5.3



Fig 4.3



Fig 5.4

The material palette continues this dialogue between past and present. The existing stonework has been carefully repaired, its rough texture framed by new mortar and timber elements. Inside, the softly granular render applied to the walls creates a warm and calming atmosphere, its muted tones echoing the surrounding mountains and alpine terrain. A finely detailed steel staircase provides the main vertical connection between the upper levels, while a contrasting concrete stair descends to the vaulted kitchen below. Together, these elements choreograph a gentle experiential shift between communal zones and more private, intimate spaces, reflecting the building's dual character as both a refuge and a place of gathering.

Fig 4.1 View of mountainside (summer)
Fig 4.2 View from street (West)
Fig 4.3 Rear entrance and balcony
Fig 5.1 First floor plan
Fig 5.2 Ground floor plan
Fig 5.3 View of living space
Fig 5.4 View of vaulted snug



Fig 6.1

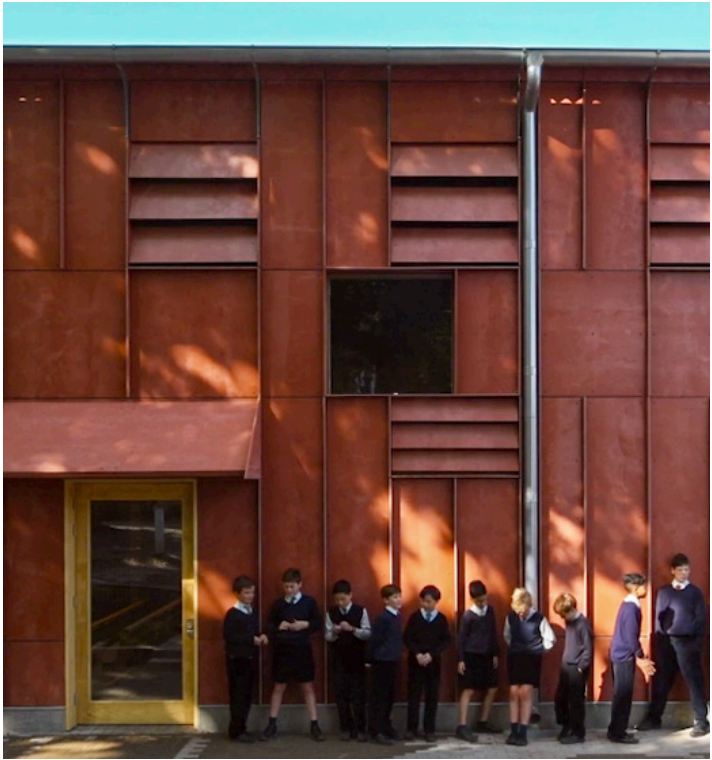


Fig 7.1

A series of pronounced vertical fins structure the elevations, creating a rhythmic play of light and shadow and recalling the measured cadence of Renaissance façades.

Sustainability was embedded from the earliest design decisions. The building's cross-laminated timber structure, paired with internal beech battens, significantly reduces embodied carbon — saving an estimated 40 tonnes of CO2 when compared with a traditional block-work approach. Natural ventilation is achieved through integrated louvres, reducing reliance on mechanical systems, while manually operated shutters introduce daylight deep into the interior volume. Collectively, these measures ensure the theatre performs with environmental responsibility, architectural clarity, and a sense of generosity towards its users and context.



Fig 6.2

Horris Hill Theatre

* TDS Associate

Standing confidently within the rural grounds of Horris Hill School is a contemporary theatre that has become a cornerstone for arts and drama education, serving not only the school but the broader Berkshire community. Designed to foster creativity, performance, and cultural engagement, the building acts as both an academic resource and a civic destination.

The 160-seat auditorium has been thoughtfully composed to sit in harmony with the campus while retaining a distinctive architectural identity. Its materiality and form draw subtle cues from the surrounding Victorian brick buildings, yet reinterpret them through a contemporary lens. The warm red tone of the external cladding visually anchors the theatre to its historic neighbours, softening its presence within the landscape. To the north, a slender portico frames an active civic square, encouraging gathering, informal performance, and community use. To the south, an open-air amphitheatre gently embraces the façade, extending the building's cultural role into the landscape and offering a seasonal counterpart to the enclosed auditorium.

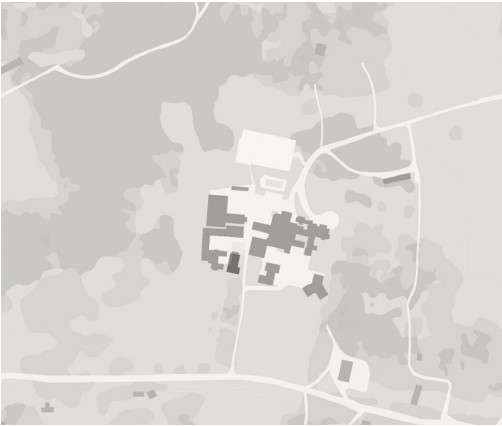


Fig 6.3



Fig 7.2



Fig 7.3

Fig 6.1 View of auditorium

Fig 6.2 View of portico

Fig 6.3 Context plan

Fig 7.1 Side facade and entrance

Fig 7.2 Rear facade and stage

Fig 7.3 Acoustic ceiling and window



Fig 8.1

Lisbon School

* TDS Associate

This proposal outlines a comprehensive design scheme for a primary school and nursery in Lisbon, situated in the historic neighbourhood of Xabregas along the shores of the Tagus. The project seeks to sensitively transform the existing mid-20th-century school while reinforcing its presence within the landscape and community.

The current twin blocks characteristic examples of Português Suave architecture required unification, reorientation, and expansion to meet contemporary educational needs. The site's naturally sloping topography separates the campus into distinct levels, and one of the project's principal gestures is to stitch these planes together. Generous stairwells, shared circulation spaces, and a sequence of carefully placed thresholds create fluid connections across the site. New extensions, constructed from locally sourced cross-laminated timber for both speed and sustainability, introduce additional classrooms and sheltered colonnades. Externally, green Viroc panels echo the linear rhythms of neighbouring façades while asserting a distinctly contemporary material and chromatic identity.



Fig 8.2



Fig 8.3



Fig 8.4

At the centre of the campus, a new cloister frames a revitalised playground, forming a protected courtyard that captures extraordinary views of the Tagus while mitigating the wind and solar exposure intensified by the south-facing orientation. Beneath this courtyard sits the gymnasium: a versatile multi-purpose hall defined by its exposed trusses, recalling the robust yet elegant structural language of modern Pombaline architecture.

A new gatehouse anchors the main elevation, establishing a clear and welcoming entrance that reflects the local tradition of aedicula gatehouses. At the rear of the site, a reconfigured reception area leads onto a lightweight bridge that spans between the original buildings, transforming circulation and vastly improving way-finding throughout the school day. Together, these elements form a cohesive and uplifting environment for pupils and staff — a campus that balances heritage, landscape, and contemporary educational ambition.



Fig 9.1



Fig 9.2

Fig 10.1

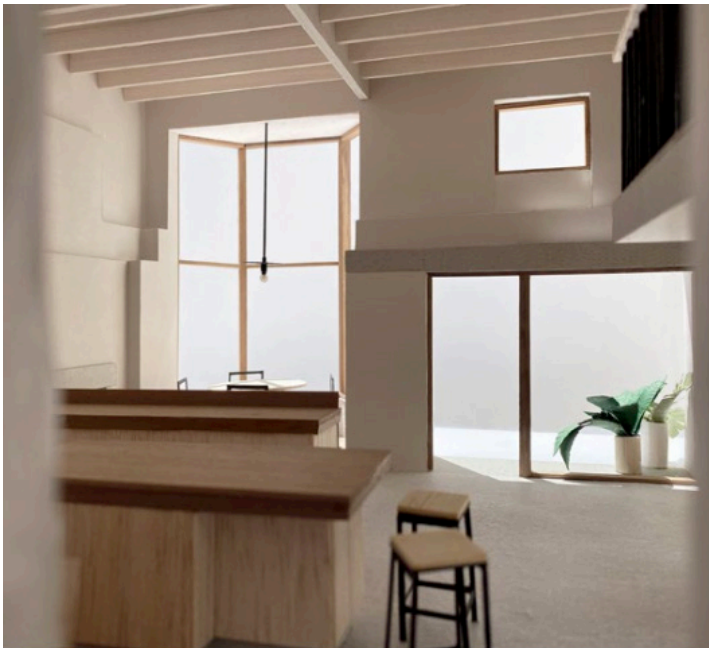


Fig 10.2

Little Strudgates

Little Strudgates sits approximately one kilometre northeast of Balcombe, on the western edge of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Nestled along the gently meandering and sporadically wooded stretch of Back Lane, the house occupies a clearing within its garden, where an orchard slopes from west to east before cascading into predominantly evergreen woodland.

The grounds contain several small ancillary structures: to the west, a disused two-storey outhouse of stone and timber; to the east, a compact brick outbuilding used for storage; and deeper within the garden, a brick-and-tile shed. Approached via a private track tucking itself modestly into the topography and sitting in close dialogue with the surrounding mature trees.

The project comprises a renovation of the interior of Little Strudgates and selective alterations to



Fig 10.3



Fig 10.4

the rear elevation, with the intention of shaping a warm, functional home for a young family. The brief places emphasis on preserving the cottage's original character while introducing lighter, more open and rationalised spaces. This includes the removal of duplicated staircases and a series of small, fragmented rooms, allowing the plan to breathe and function more intuitively.

Previously, the house felt inward-looking and disengaged from its generous garden setting. The proposal therefore aims to strengthen the relationship between inside and out — amplifying views, drawing in natural daylight, and creating a more fluid connection to the landscape beyond. Sustainability sits at the core of the clients' ambition, with a focus on improving energy performance and reducing waste. Wherever possible, materials are to be reused and re-integrated, retaining the texture and character that define the existing building whilst preparing it for the future.



Fig 11.1



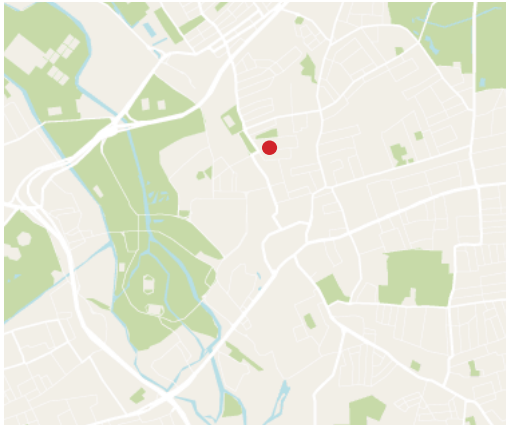
Fig 11.2

Fig 10.1 Proposed kitchen model
Fig 10.2 View of study
Fig 10.3 Existing house from lane
Fig 10.4 View of kitchen space
Fig 11.1 Study model
Fig 11.2 Current building works



Fig. 12.2

Fig. 12.1



Chobham Road

The project proposes a thoughtfully crafted single-storey rear and side extension designed to enhance the functionality, energy performance, and overall spatial quality of the home. The ambition is to create a series of warm, light-filled living spaces that remain closely attuned to the character of the existing house and its garden setting.

The new addition introduces a bright, open-plan kitchen and dining room that enjoys an improved visual and physical relationship with the landscape. Its form is deliberately modest and domestic in scale, defined by a simple pitched roof that resonates with the surrounding architectural language. Internally, the ground floor has been reconfigured to make more efficient use of space, drawing daylight deep into the plan. Large timber-framed sliding doors open directly onto a new terrace, encouraging an easy flow between inside and out.

Fig. 12.3



Materially, the extension is conceived as a tactile and enduring structure. The external walls are built from insulated clay blocks and finished in a lime render, bringing a softly textured surface that echoes traditional methods of construction while offering significant thermal benefits. A band of slate detailing is expressed within the render, introducing a subtle horizontal rhythm and adding depth to the façade. The roof is formed in timber, with selected elements left exposed internally to emphasise the warmth and honesty of the structure. High-performance timber windows and doors, finished naturally, contribute both environmental responsibility and a grounded material presence.

Across the design, materials and details have been chosen for their longevity, their low environmental impact, and their ability to age gracefully. The extension sits comfortably beneath the scale of the existing house, offering a quiet contemporary addition that balances clarity of form with a sensitive, contextual approach — a simple, calm, and robust backdrop for daily family life.

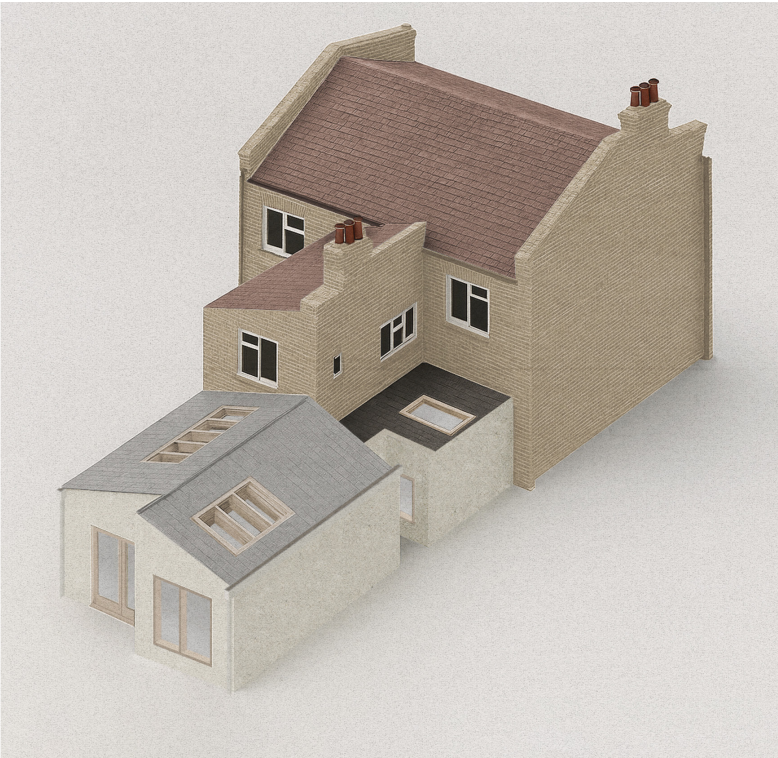


Fig. 13.1

Fig. 13.2



Fig 12.1 Site location plan

Fig 12.2 View of new garage doors

Fig 12.3 Current street view

Fig 13.1 3D model of rear alterations

Fig 13.2 View of new rear extension

Blank Street UK

The proposed Blank Street kiosk is envisioned as a gently expressive object in the townscape — a light green structure complemented by warm natural timber and soft, tactile upholstery. This palette brings together freshness and warmth, echoing the familiar cues of Blank Street’s brand identity while feeling grounded and approachable. The materials strike a balance between softness and contemporary clarity, with internal mirrored panels adding a subtle reflective shimmer that animates the interior. Together, these elements create a kiosk that feels distinctive yet welcoming, sitting comfortably within the refined material character of the Liverpool ONE public realm.

The form is defined by a rounded, ribbon-like geometry that avoids hard edges in favour of a more inclusive, human-centred presence. This soft perimeter gently settles the kiosk into the plaza, encouraging interaction and easing movement around it.

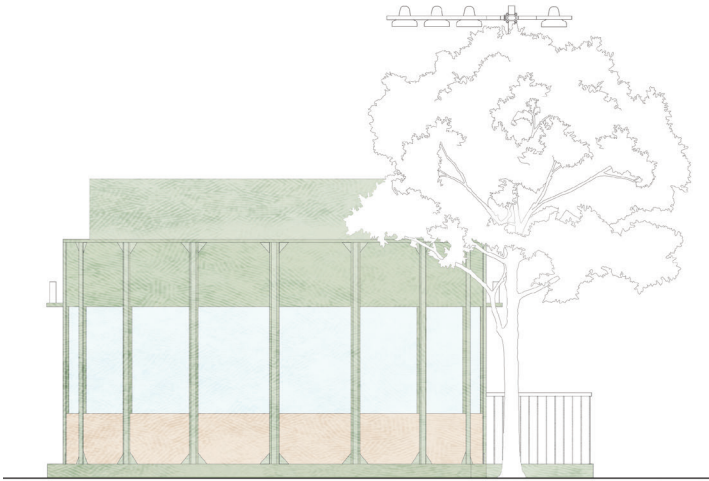


Fig 14.1



Fig 14.2

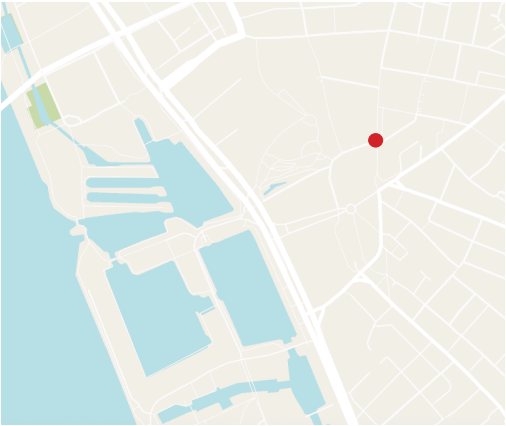


Fig 14.3



Fig 15.1

The curved lines offer a quiet counterpoint to the ordered grid of the Liverpool ONE master-plan, introducing a sense of relief within the linear paving while maintaining overall harmony with the spatial rhythm of the square.

The design draws inspiration from a rich mixture of references, including the soft contours and chromatic optimism of 1950s American diners, as well as the iconic streamlined forms of Airstream caravans. These influences subtly acknowledge Blank Street’s roots in New York, where such design language forms part of the everyday street-scape. At the same time, they resonate with Liverpool’s own historic connections to New York — ties shaped by trans-atlantic trade, migration, and long-standing cultural exchange. Locally, the kiosk’s sculptural quality also nods to architectural precedents such as Peter Ellis’s pioneering Oriel Chambers, where curved forms and generous glazing helped shape a distinctive architectural identity for the city.



Fig 15.2



Fig 15.3

Fig 14.1 Side elevation drawing
Fig 14.2 View of kiosk in context
Fig 14.3 Site location plan
Fig 15.1 Oriel Chambers precedent
Fig 15.2 View of kiosk in context
Fig 15.3 Front elevation drawing

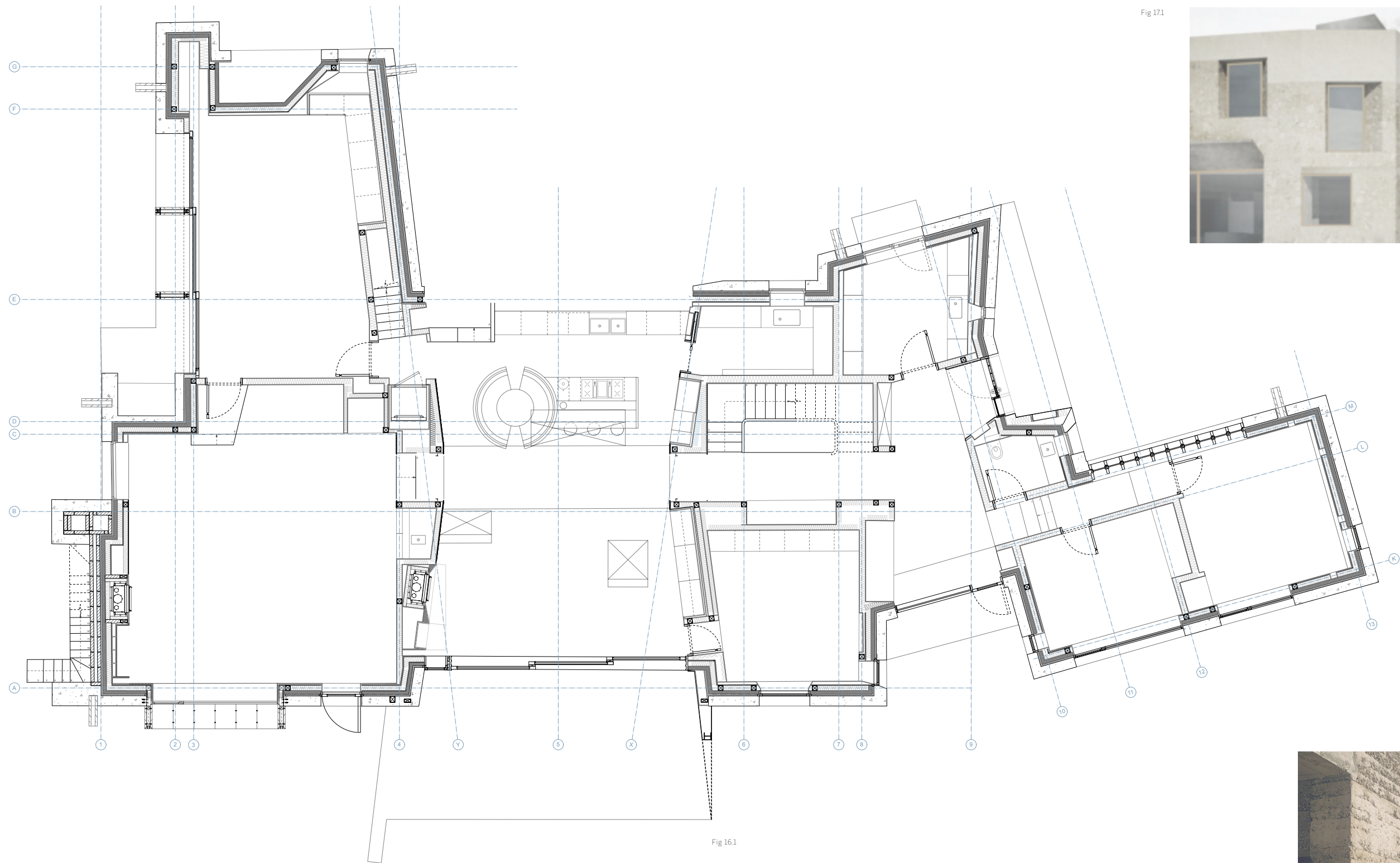


Fig 16.1

South Downs House

Set within a historic estate in the South Downs National Park, the project comprises a substantial new country house, together with a pool house and gatehouse, conceived as a cohesive architectural ensemble within the wider landscape. This project is an example of Project Recovery which the practice offers as a service in special cases, in this case a contractor in liquidation and two previous architecture practises.

Working closely with Tier 1 Contractors, CC Construction, the project is being taken from a half finished ruin with numerous technical, structural and aesthetic issues to a special stand alone country house. The design centres around a new north-facing courtyard that forms the heart of the composition.

Fig 17.1



This space creates a direct connection between the house and the estate's historic structures — the walled garden and the stable block — binding old and new into a single, legible sequence. Beyond this point of anchoring, the language and form of the new house establish a calm focal point for the estate. Its scale and presence are carefully judged: confident yet not dominant, allowing the building to sit respectfully within its expansive rural setting rather than imposing upon it in the manner of a traditional country house.

Fig 17.2



Fig 16.1 Ground floor plan

Fig 17.1 Partial view of front elevation

Fig 17.2 Study model

Fig. 17.3 Current building works



Fig 17.3