

TDK 2019

Integration Into Heritage

MEMORY AND INSPIRATION - VELOGUES,
PROVENCE

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Abstract

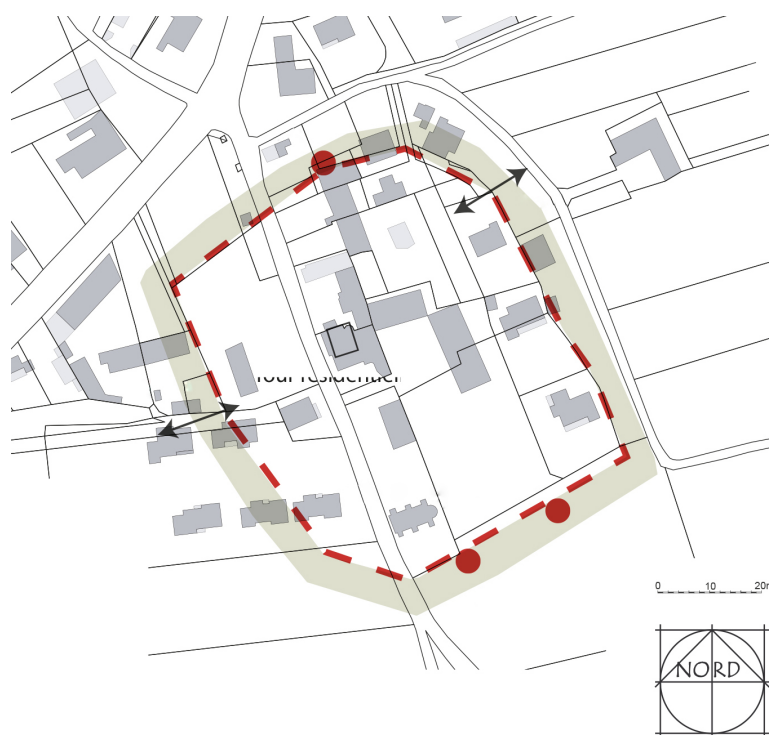
This summer, from 14th to 26th July the Department of History of Architecture and Monument Preservation organised a workshop in L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, a small town in Provence, South France. The place of our interest was the southern, peripheral part of the town, Velorgues. Here stands a small, medieval chapel now between contemporary houses, but once surrounded by residential towers and a medieval city wall.

The current plot of the chapel is unfortunately small, only containing the archaeological excavation around the building. It was up to us, as participants to choose if we wanted to work with the current site, an expanded one, with the neighbouring plot added or an urban scale, the neighbourhood of Velorgues.

For my work I chose the expanded plot, for it could provide a wider range of possibilities as a community space. I found it vital to preserve and emphasize the historical values of the site, while integrating modern elements into it. In my project the part of this plot furthest away from the chapel was separated for a row of social flats. This still leaves enough land for a small centre-like space where the locals could gather on various occasions. This part of the plot contains a visitor centre with a small exhibition hall, an outdoor stage for larger events during the warmer seasons and a memorial space located where medieval tombs were found during the excavations.

Location

The town of L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue is located in Southern France, in Provence, near Avignon. The southern part of the town - once a separate town itself - is Velorgues. It is a small and peripheral neighbourhood, not entirely connecting to the town, and not having a centre of its own. Hence there is little to no community life, the people of Velorgues don't have a place to engage in communal activities.



The city of Velorgues in the medieval era was just like other cities in that period: surrounded by a city wall were residential towers and the construction of our interest: the Chapel of Saint-Andéol of Velorgues.

History

The chapel is a small-scale, single-nave construction, with a semicircular apse facing east. Originally, in the 11th century, when the chapel was built only the walls served as supports, throughout the 12th century, though, the counterforts were added. There is little information on where the original doors and windows were situated, since in the 19th century the chapel was used for agricultural and possibly residential purposes as well. During this period a handful of windows and a door were placed and parts were reconstructed.



Creating a centre for the community

The site

The current site around the chapel is quite small, so I found the idea rather difficult to only use this area. However, the town has plans to purchase the adjacent plot towards the east. This way a relatively large area is added to that of the chapel, even with the easternmost strip of land to be used up by social flats - which are a requirement from the town's part in order for them to purchase the plot.

The medieval city wall was just on the southern border of the land. To revive this, in my design a thick wall was built in its place. To give it a modern twist, it is made of gabion.

Social flats

The idea behind designing the row of social flats was to use the space well: to place down as many flats as possible while still making them comfortable to live in. It also had to fit in with the surrounding traditional buildings. Of course the height and the exterior can't take the attention from the chapel.

These considered I came up with the following plan. It is a two-story building with a slanted roof. Before the entrances is a strip of pavement which serves as a place for parking. Above it are steel beams to be grown in with plants for shading. Entering into the building we find ourselves on the ground floor that is one large room. It serves as a living and dining room and the kitchen. Facing the entrance is a glass

sliding door leading to the backyard. On the northern side of the flats are stairs to the first floor, where two bedrooms - one with a small balcony - and a bathroom are located.

On the outside the facade is made up of off-white plaster that is unique to this part of the country. The roof tiles are the traditional red that can be seen on almost all the houses in the region.

Visitor centre

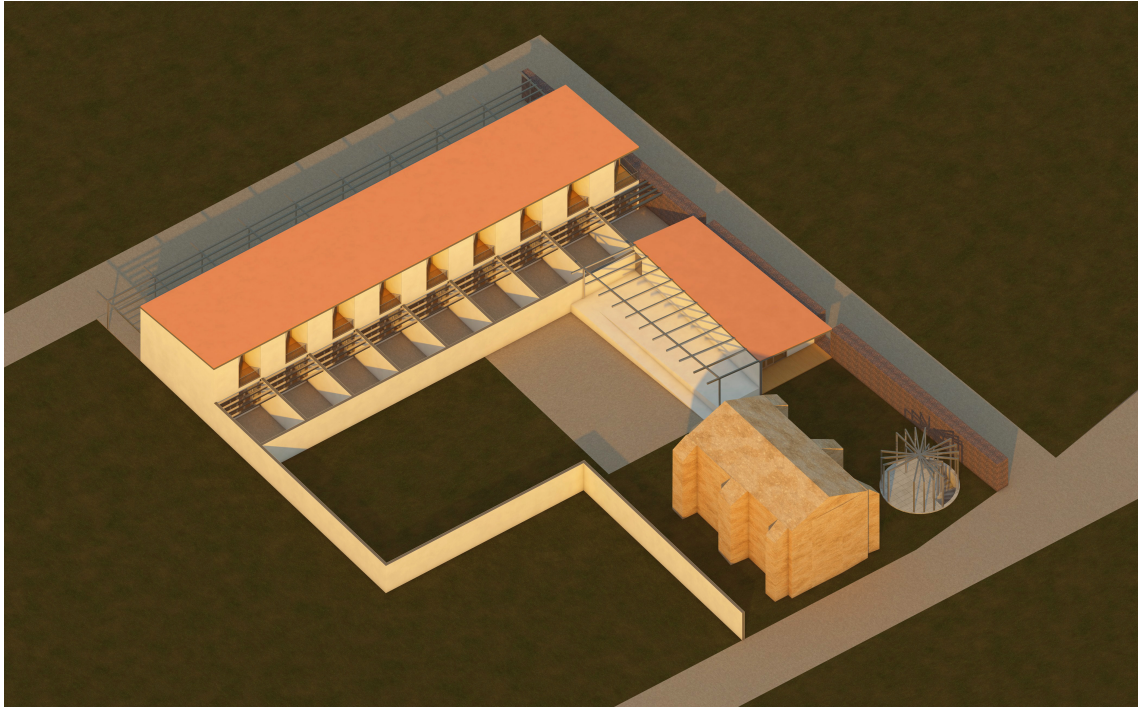
Moving on to the public area, an establishment was needed that could host various events, such as concerts and plays for the community during both warmer and colder seasons. The eastern side is separated for performers equipped with a changing room, a shower and a toilet. There are also stairs from here up to the stage north of the building. Above the stage is a structure of steel beams and pillars, similar to the one at the social flats.

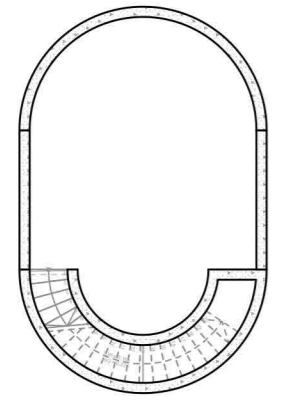
The public entrance leads through the city wall, right next is the reception. Going forward is the entrance to the building itself, where the most important room is, the exhibition hall.

The facade and the roof is identical to those of the social flats.

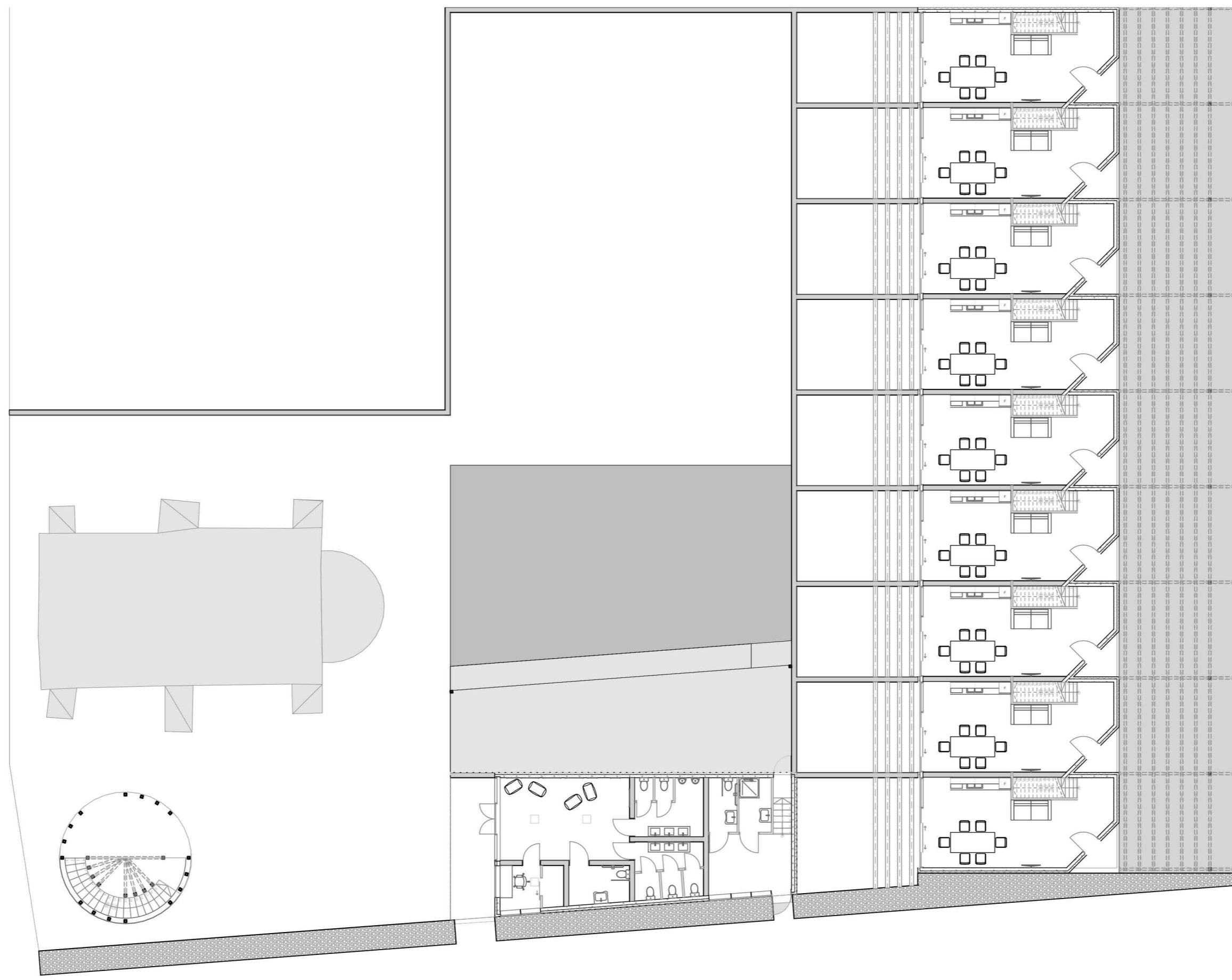
Memorial space

South of the chapel an old cemetery was found during recent excavations. For this reason a small central construction was designed that on the ground level is more of an installation than an actual building, made of steel pillars and beams. Spiral stairs lead down to the underground level, that is slightly elongated to serve as an exhibition space

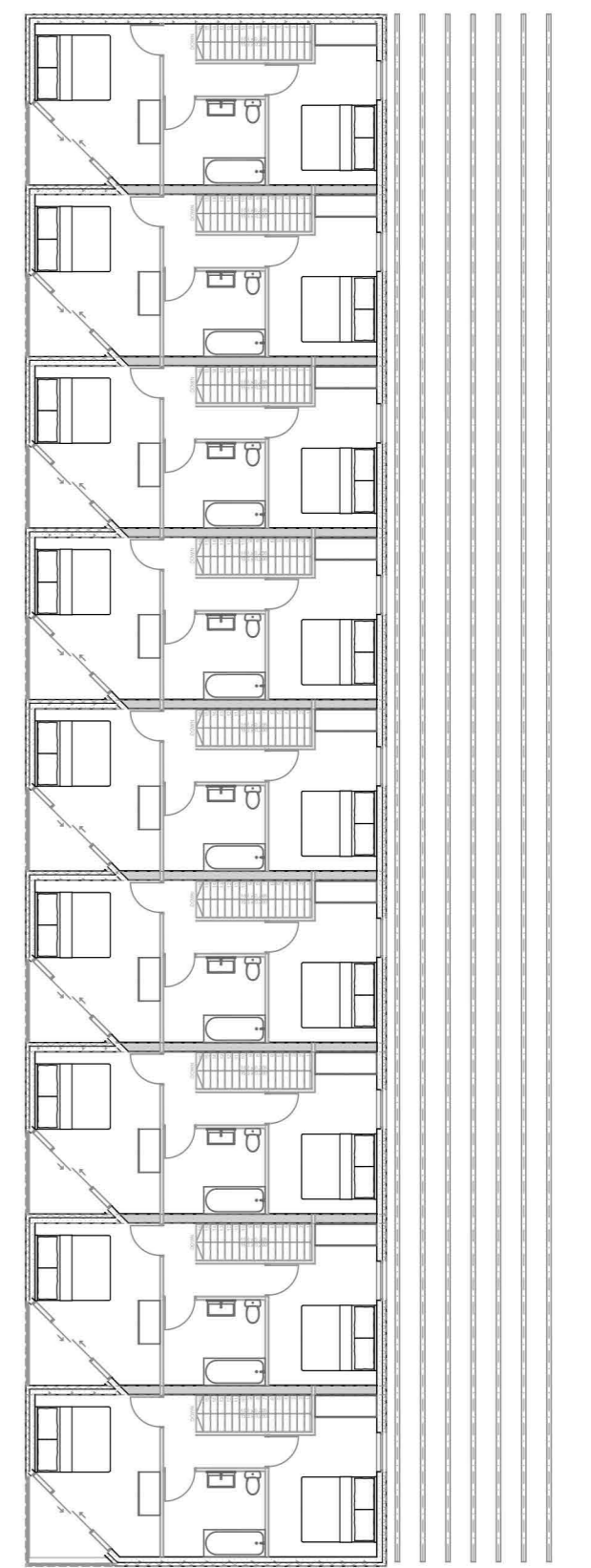




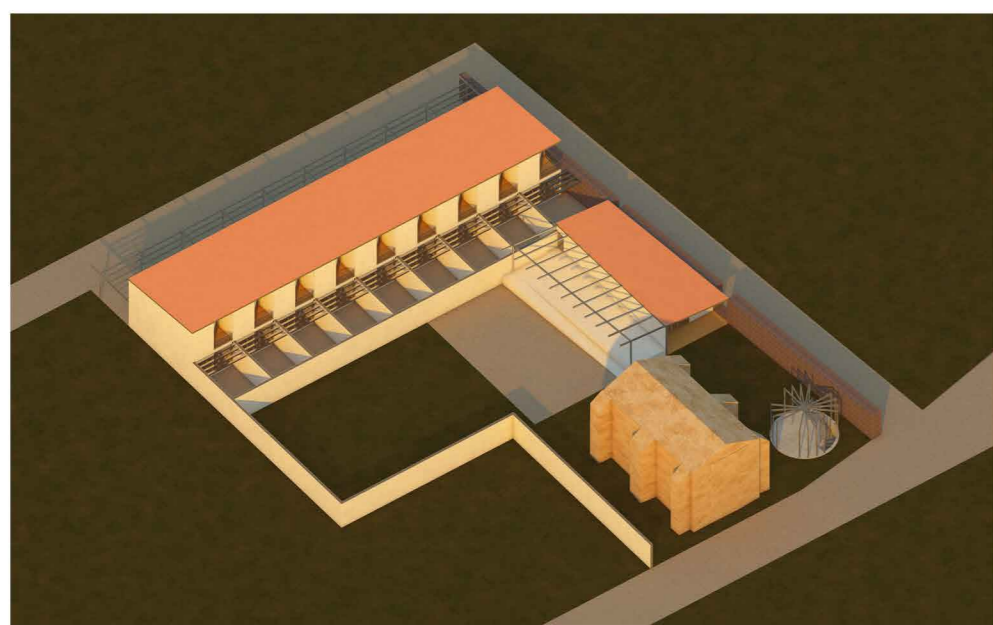
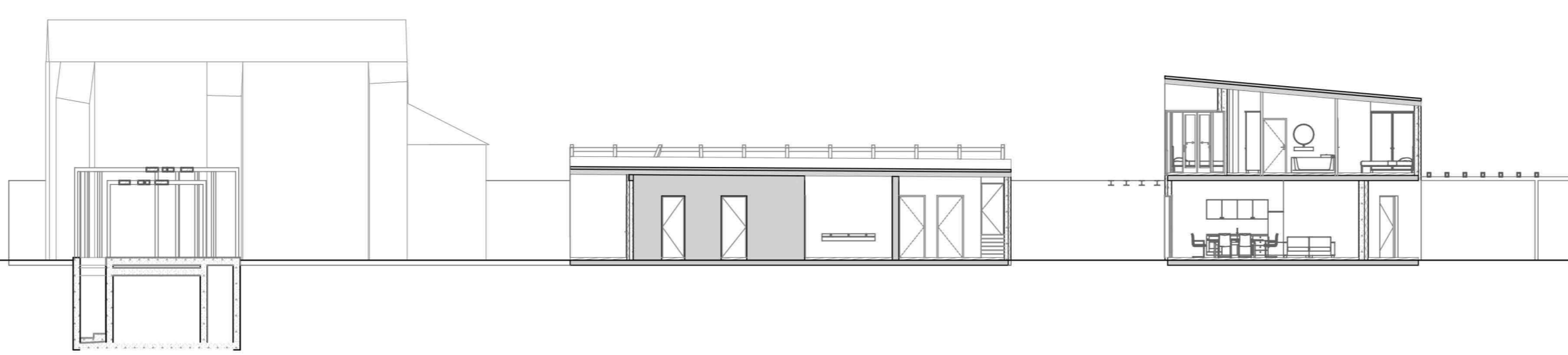
-1st floor plan 1:200



0th floor plan 1:200



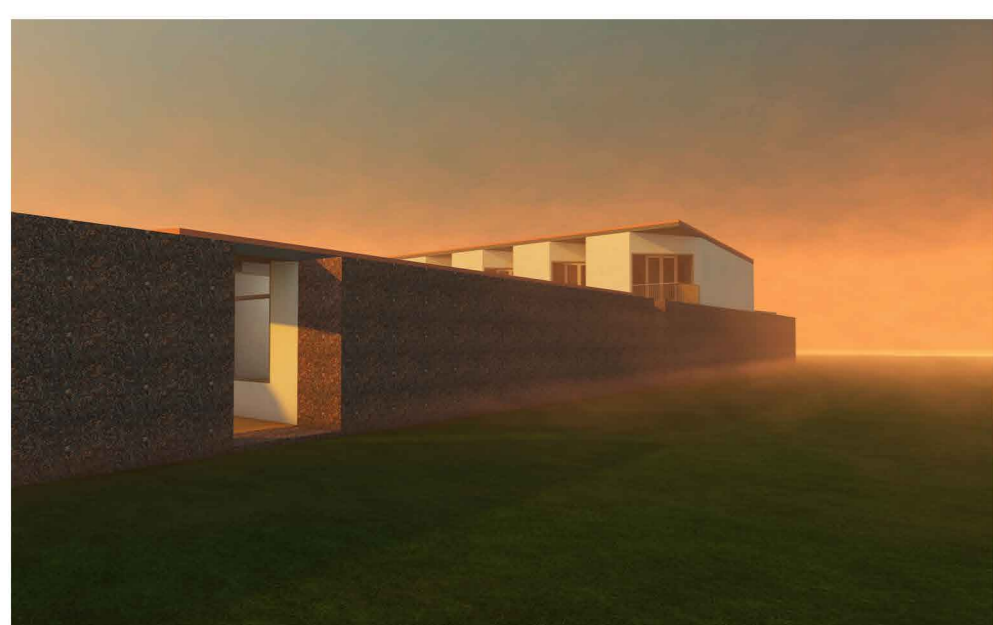
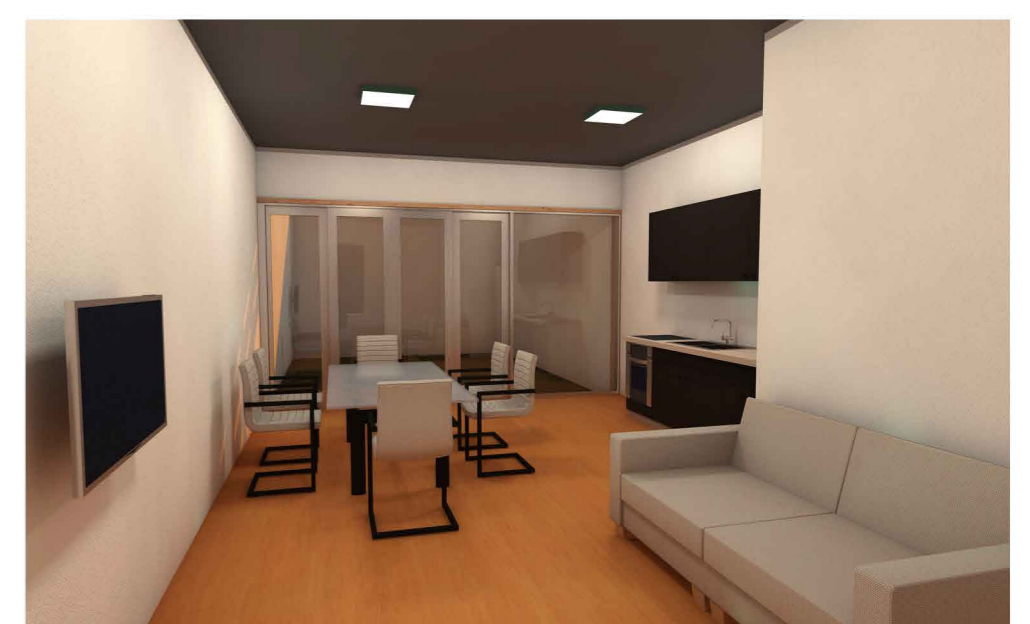
1st floor plan 1:200



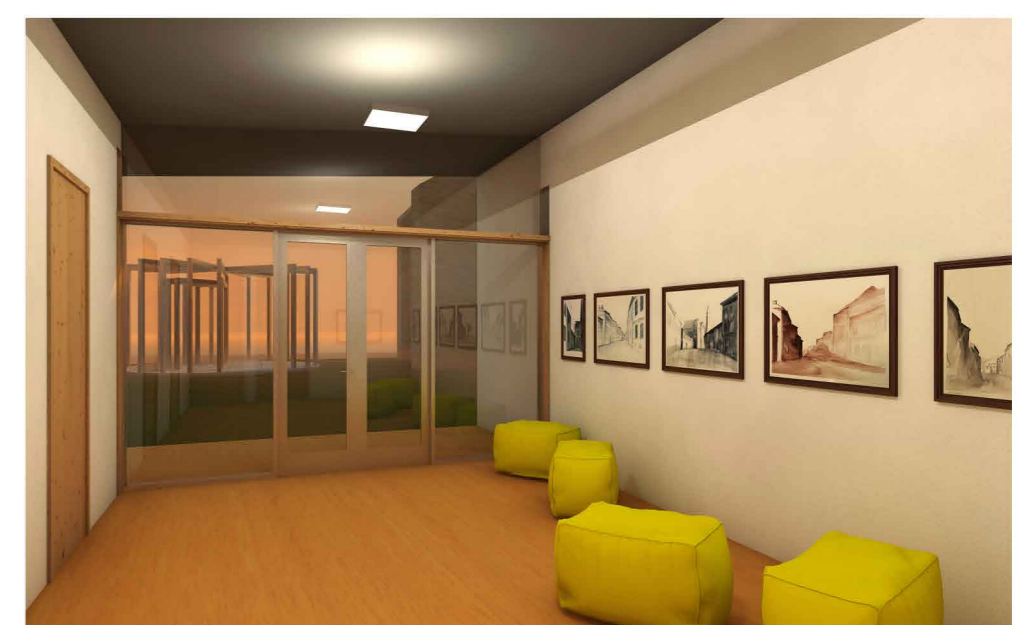
memorial space



social flats



visitor centre



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP
AND TDK SESSION / 2019
VELORGUES

/ DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE AND MONUMENT PRESERVATION BME
/ DIRECTION DU PATRIMOINE DE L'ISLE - SUR - LA - SORGUE
/ FRENCH INSTITUTE OF BUDAPEST

Integration Into Heritage

Fanni Budaházi
Revitalization of the
Chapel of Saint Andéol of Velorgues as Cultural Center
12/11/2019

