

# *BZIONKOW: A PLACE OF CARE*



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In memory of Lars

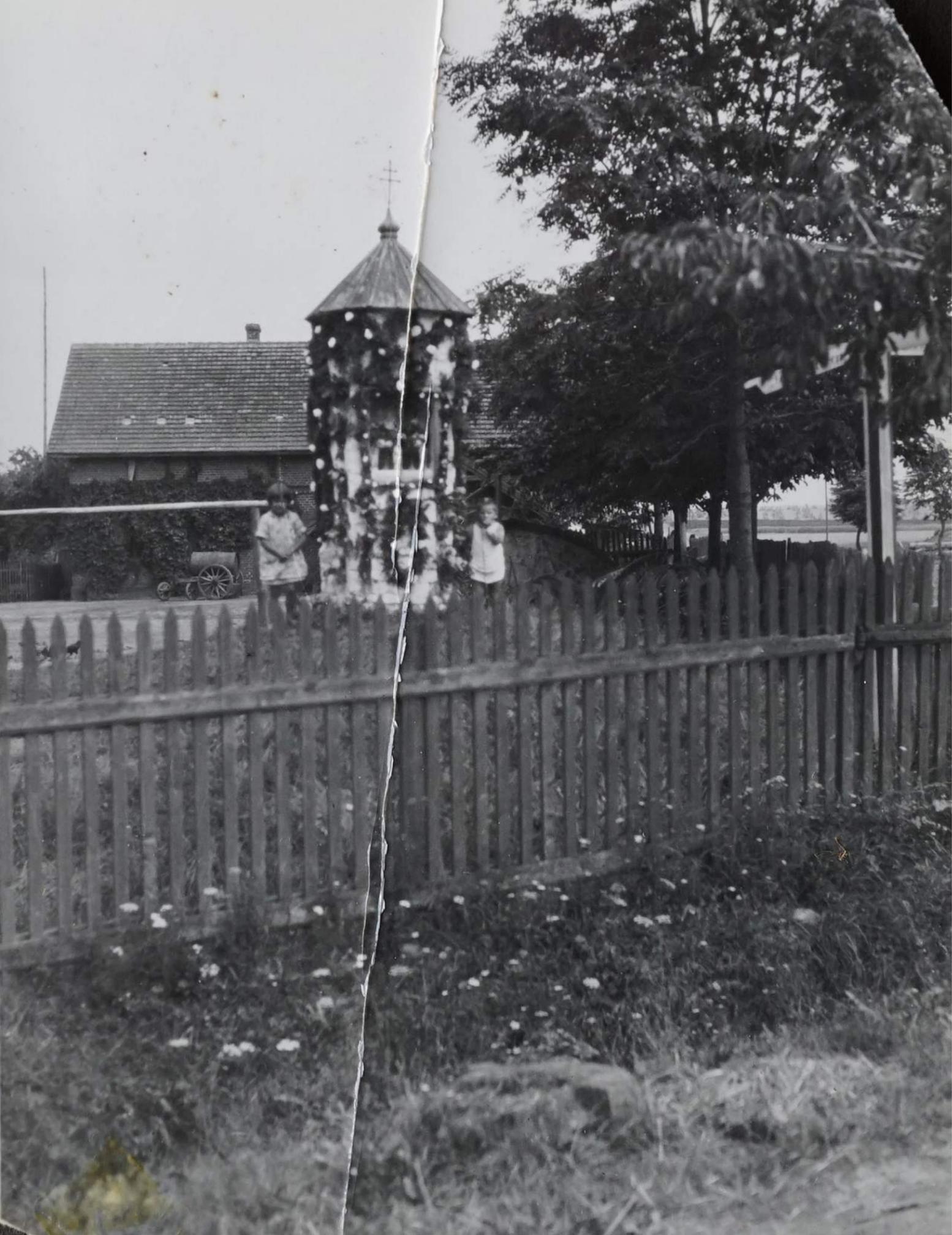












There is an undeniable fear of the past that haunts Dobrodzien as it tries to launch itself into the future. But it is a past that we must hold on to. Is it too late to cure this fear? Can the past perhaps be confronted at Bzionkow?

The abandoned estate is a place in need of care. We propose that the ruins be covered by new enclosures so that they can become inhabitable—so that the space between old and new becomes occupiable as the translucent shells look to the future, the aged brick walls keep on living as witnesses of the past.



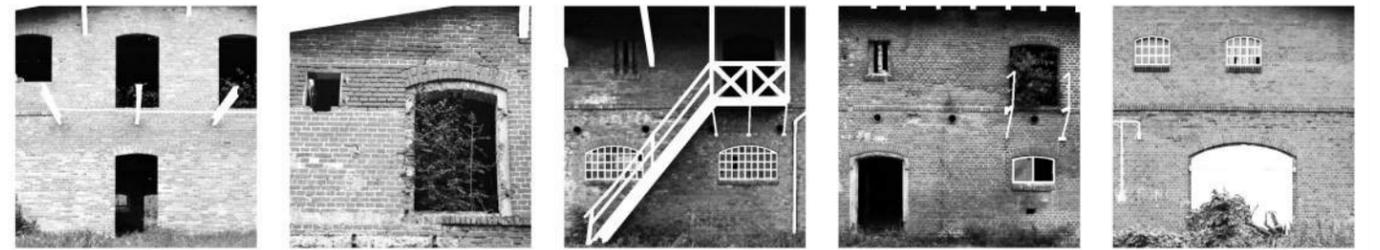
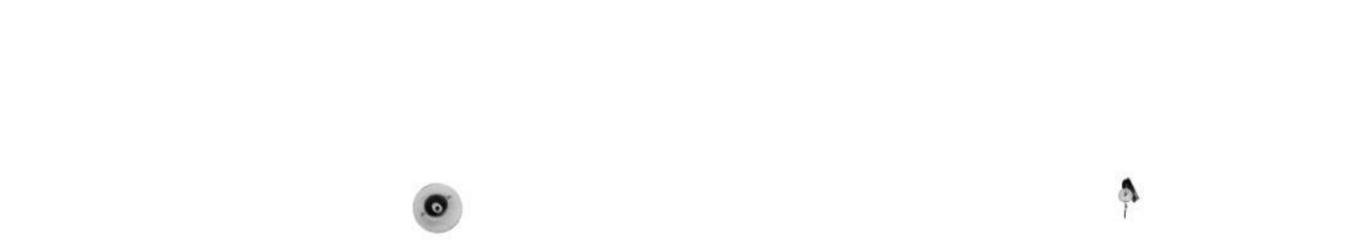
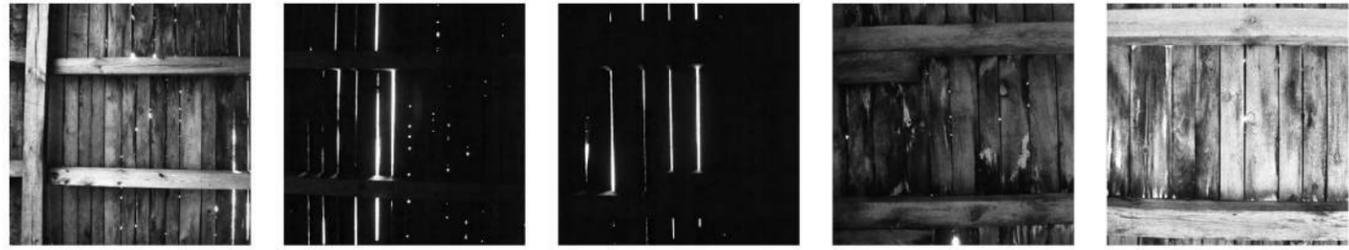
Chapel



And for whom would this place be more suited than the rapidly increasing elderly population? Like Silesia's different pasts, like the ruins of Bzionkow, the elderly are storehouses of memory in need of care. And what about the children? Are they not in need of care as well?



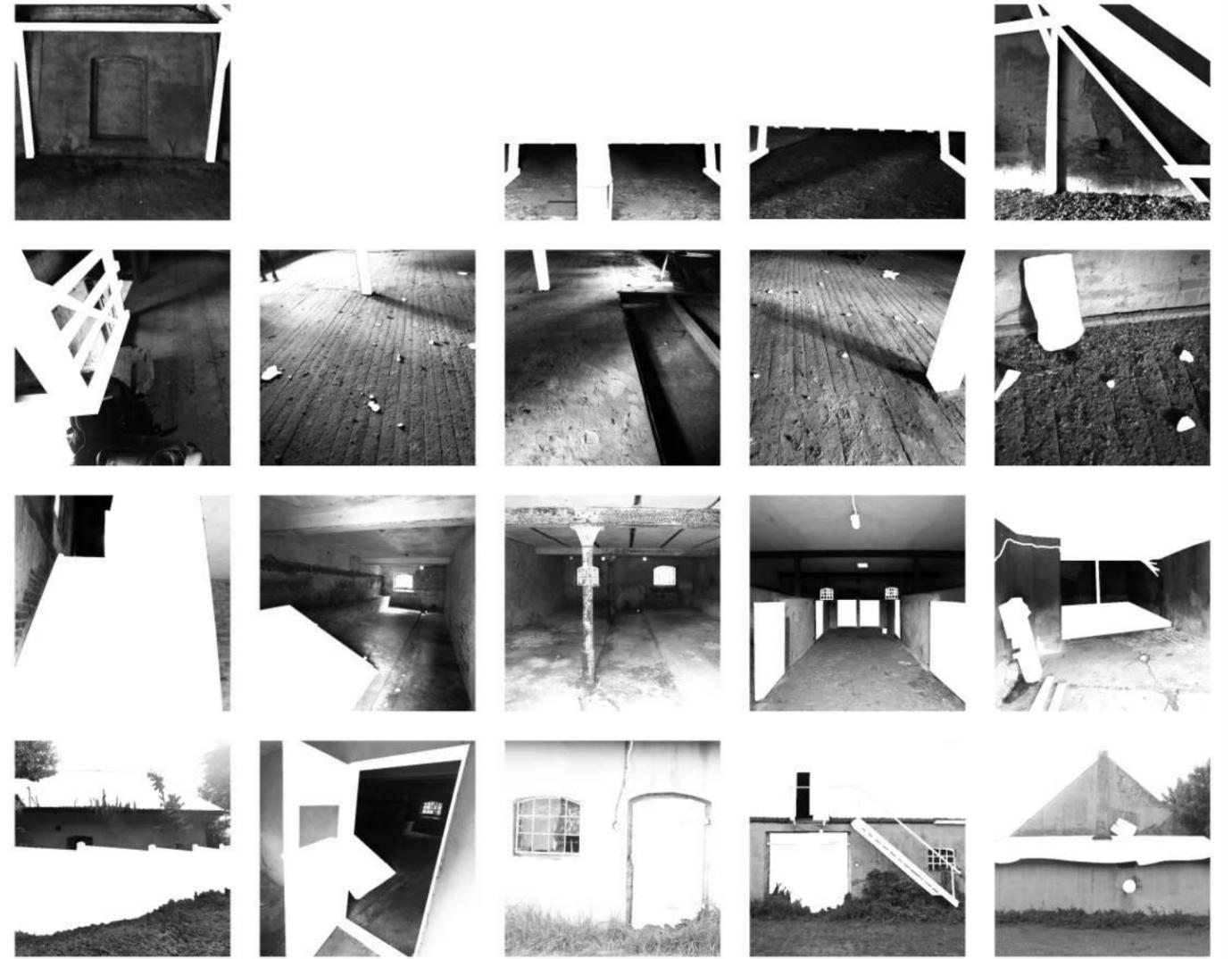
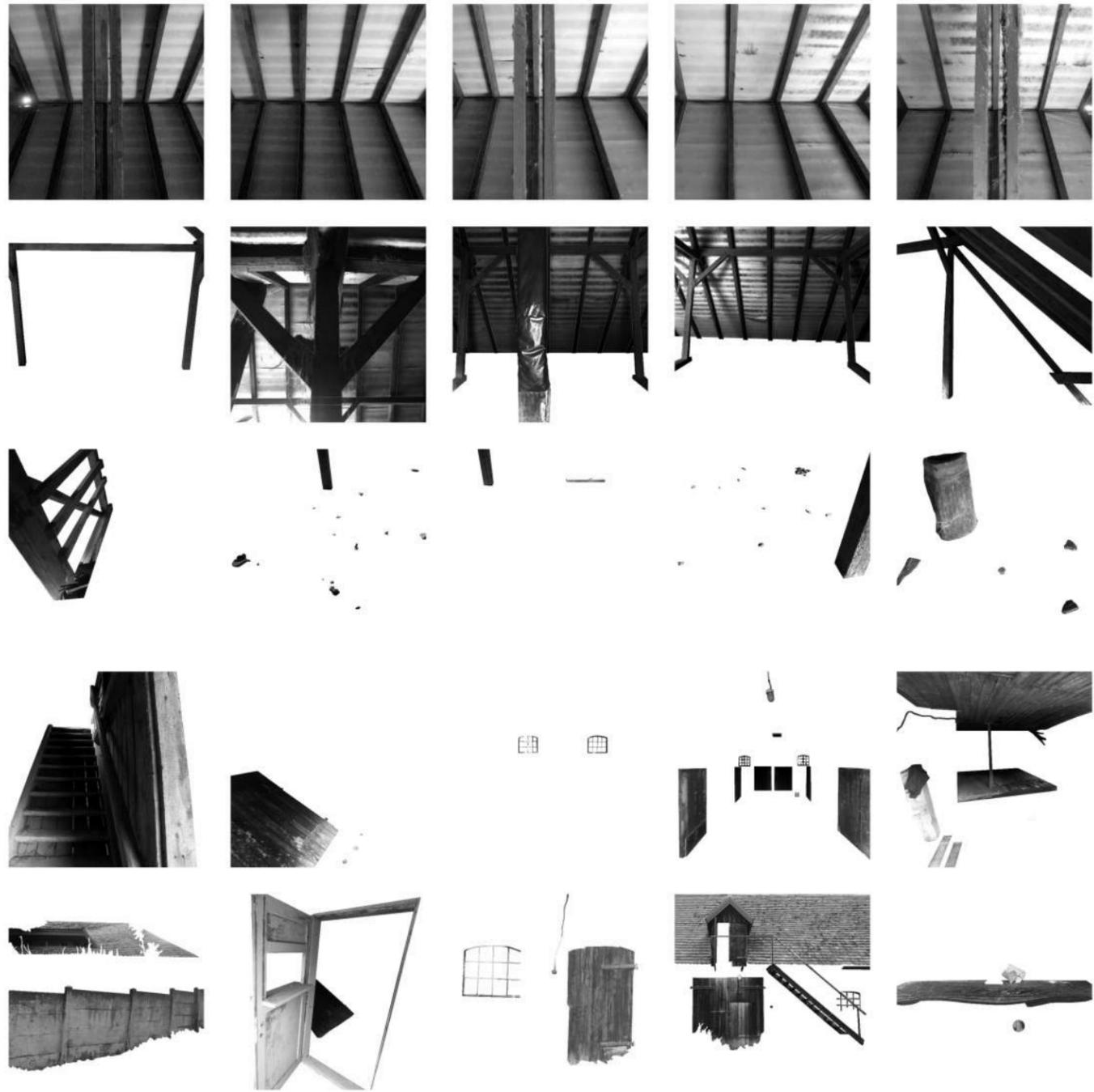
Cow Barn



Nothing is truly removed from Bzionkow during the renovation. We document everything is recorded, as in these collages, and will be stored in the horse barn. The hope is the things removed will not be seen as waste, but as a material archive of the site's history that resist the collective amnesia that comes with preservation.



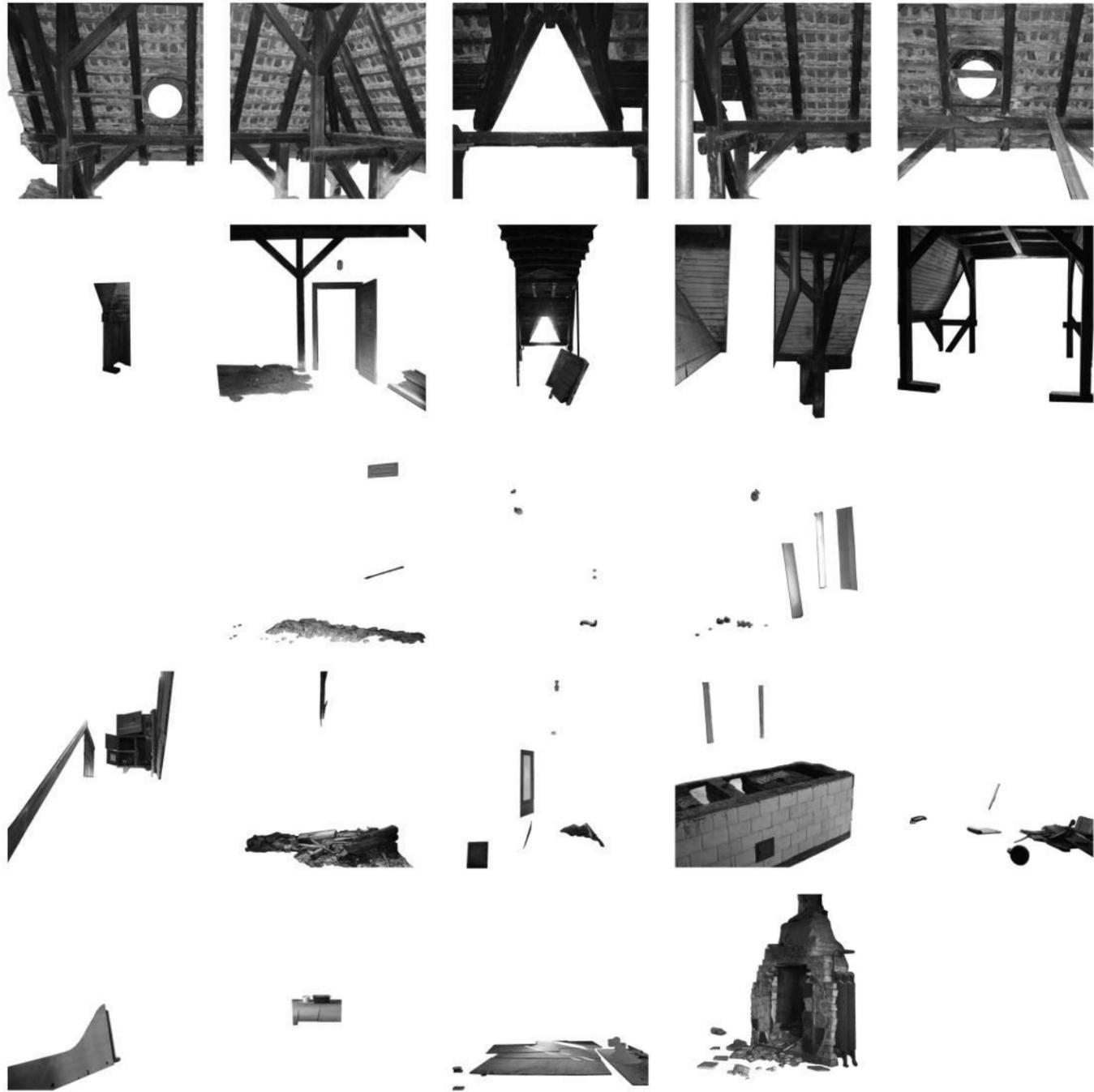
Horse Barn



Only by bringing together old and new can we imagine a better future for Bzionkow—a future that does not always erase what has been. Only by taking care of its collective consciousness will Dobrodzien be able to finally confront its precious but fragile pasts.



Manor House



The shrine is encased by a chapel—a vertical marker that announces a new presence in Bzionkow.



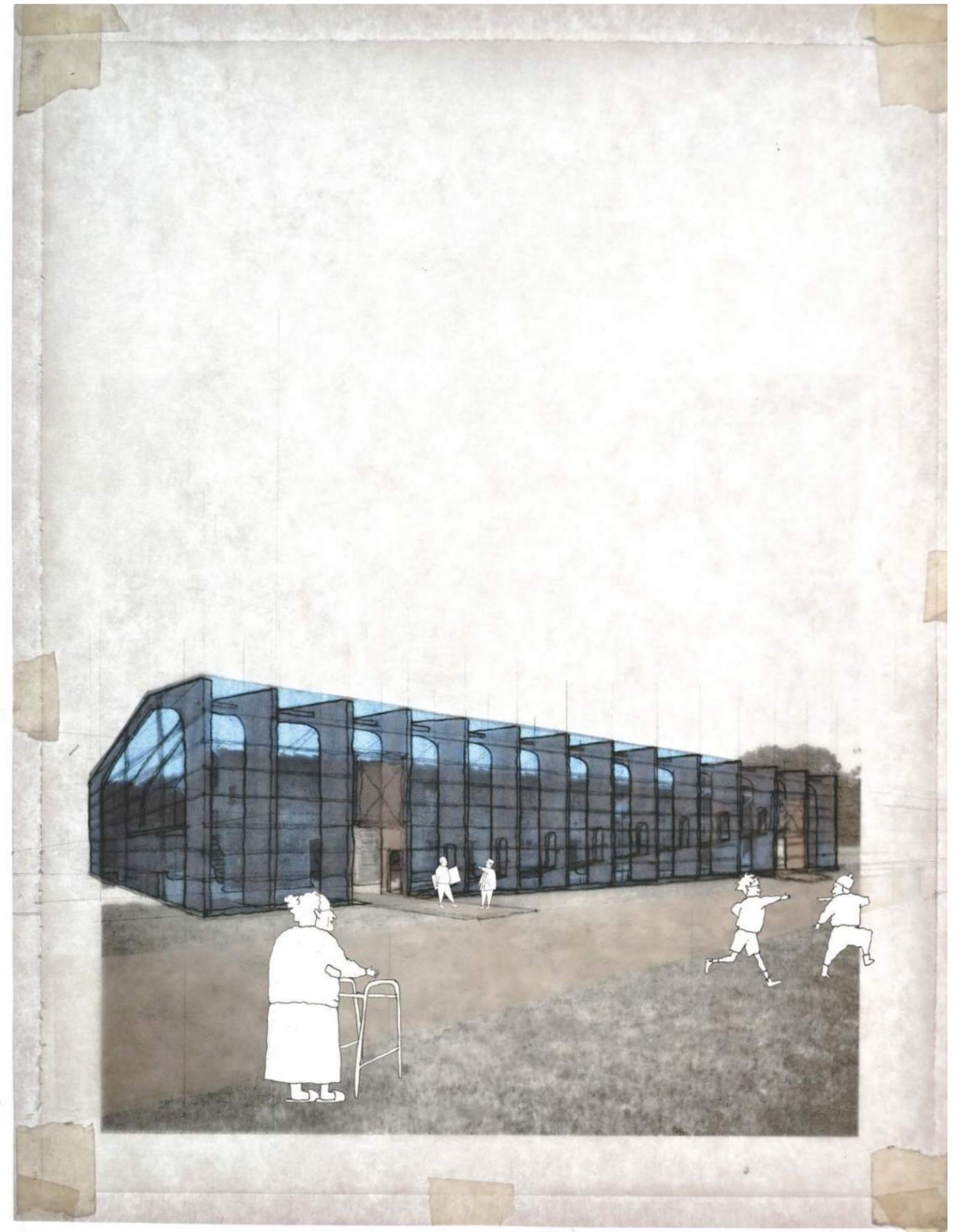
A small window reveals the statue of the Virgin Mary. Here the young and the old gather in solemn contemplation.

On the right, is Sonja. She moved to Poland because care for the elderly in Germany was bankrupting her family.

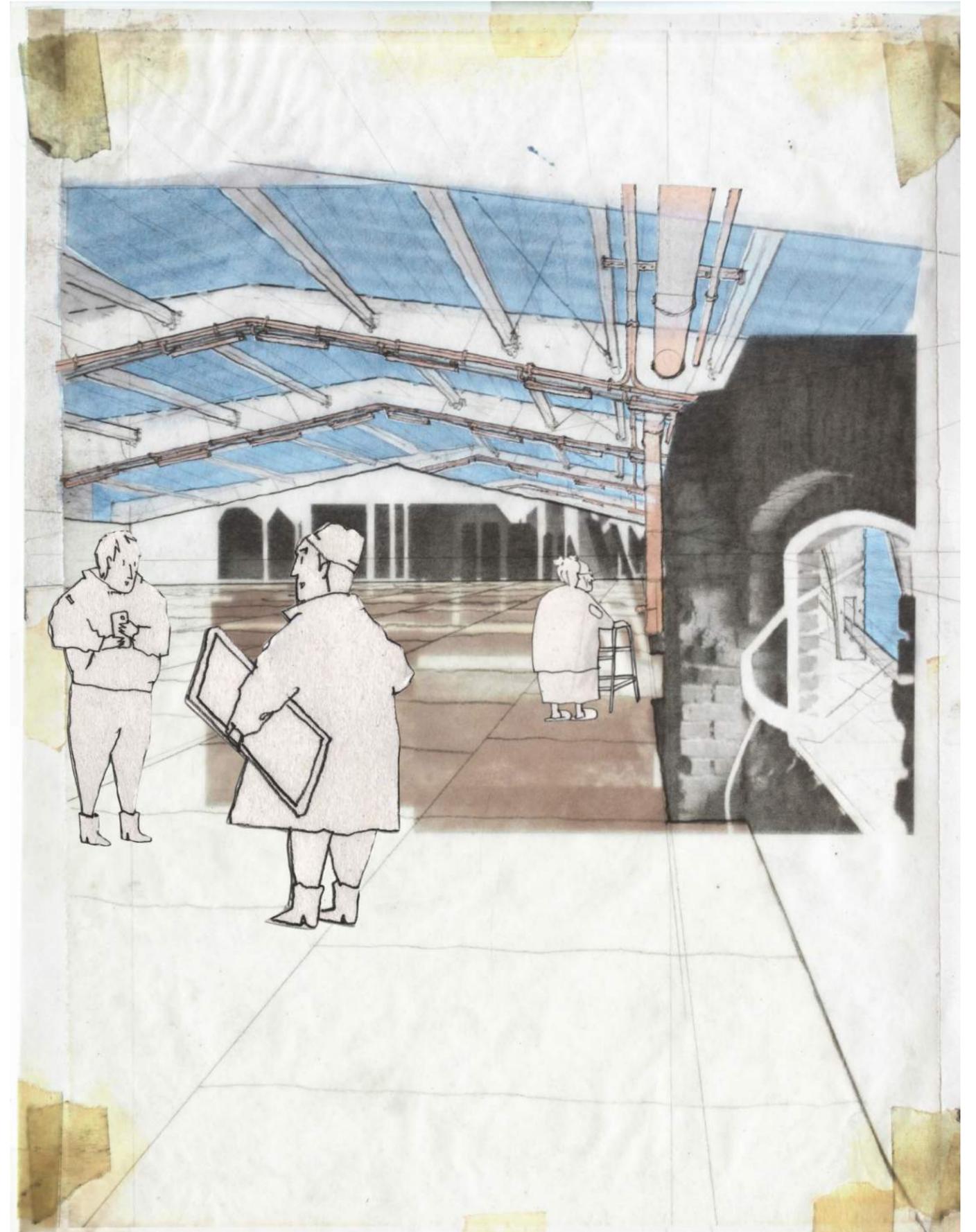


In Bzionkow she not only found better care for the elderly, but also a lively and vibrant place.

The cow barn lends itself generously as a workshop and multi-use space. With a new exterior enclosure, the ruin becomes inhabitable almost immediately.

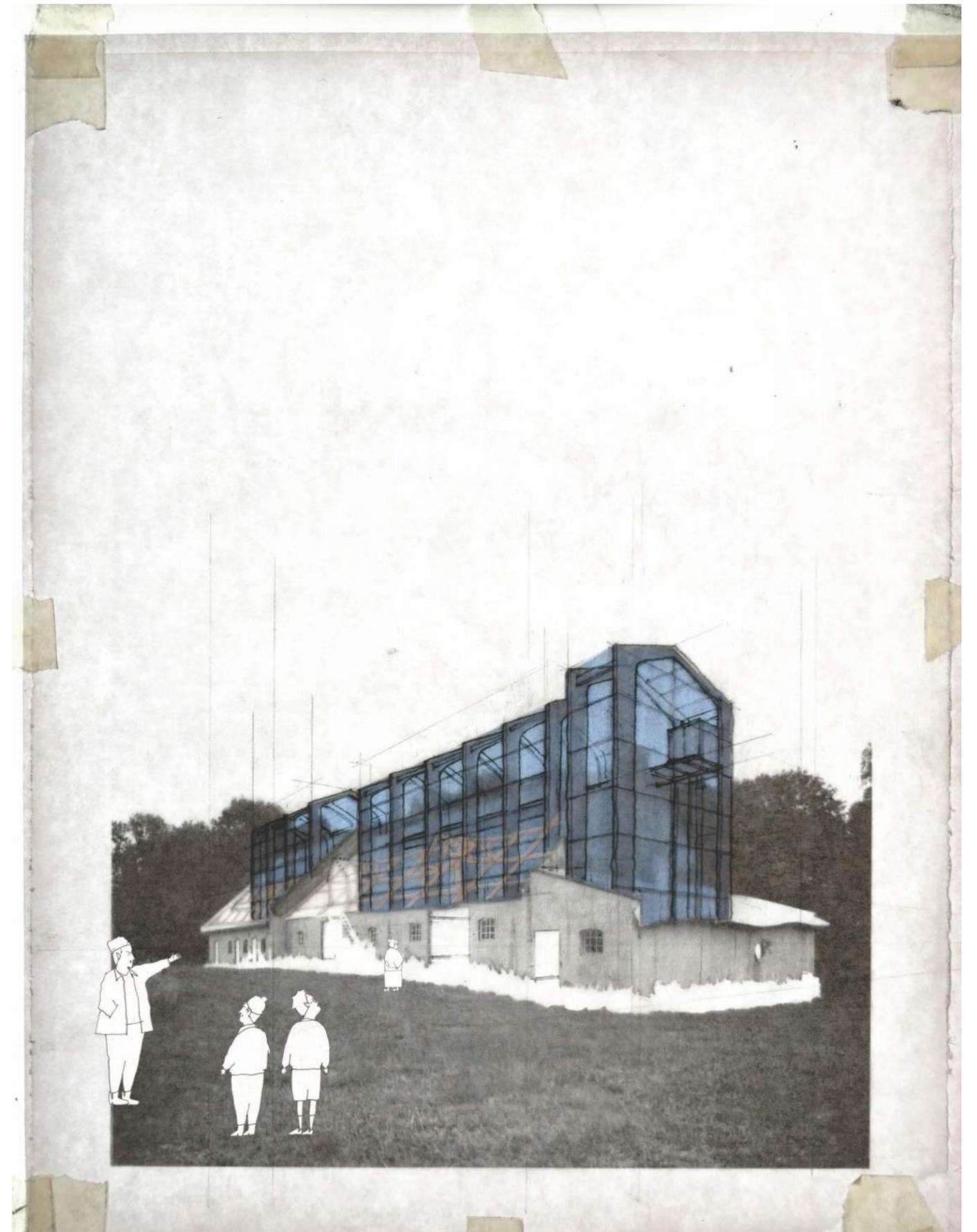


The upstairs is an open workshop for stained glass and taxidermy, whereas the downstairs is used for heavier construction such as milling the plywood structure for the new enclosures.



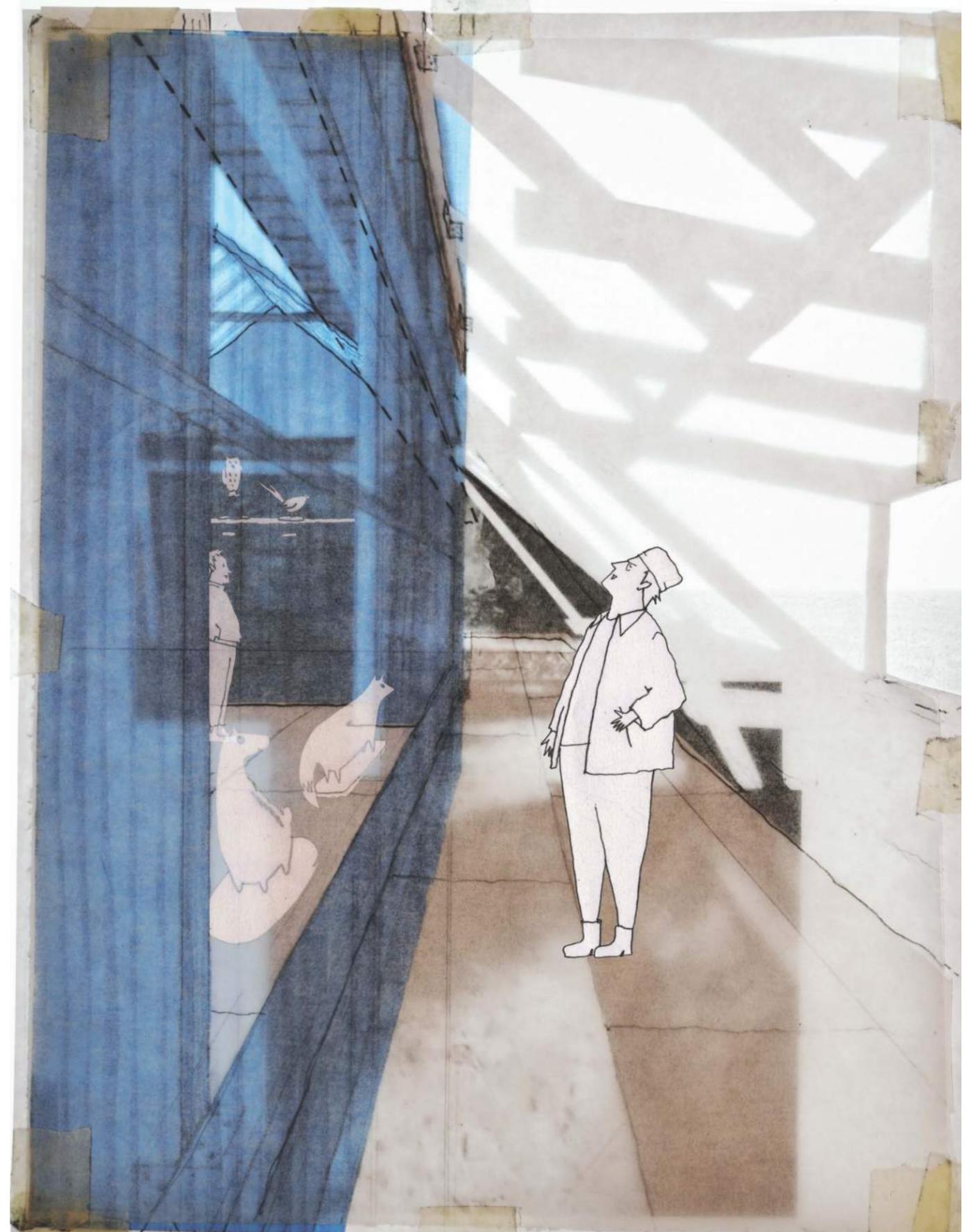
The horse barn becomes the Museum of Bzionkow. Everything that is removed from the buildings during the renovation is preserved here.

It is a place where young and old come to learn about Bzionkow. Later, they can pass down this knowledge to visitors preserve keep the collective memory of the site alive.



Inside, we find our taxidermic exhibition of local animals as well as a collection of farm tools from Rzedowice.

The architectural insertion itself is a kind of taxidermic preservation of the horse barn. In the space between old and the new, the visitor is just as amazed by the building as they are by the animals.



The treatment of the manor house is most taxidermic of all. Only the windows reveal how the building has been wrapped from the inside.



The inside is an unexpected ghost, molded in the trace of the old interior.

This is the children's daycare. It is the heart of the site that pumps new life into the the previously abandoned estate and makes it an animated place for both young and old.

