

Social inequality remains a major problem in Germany, especially for children and adolescents. The figures on child poverty are worrying: around a quarter of all children and teenagers in Germany experience threats of poverty or social exclusion.

„Safespace Jugendtreff“ is intended to be a place, especially for socioeconomically disadvantaged children and adolescents, where necessities are met and needs are satisfied for which there is otherwise no room at home.

A vacant World War II bunker in the middle of a social hotspot in my home town of Mannheim becomes the location of the youth center. A place with a historically highly negative connotation is given a completely new meaning without denying its identity or losing its protective character. The new architecture settles into into the empty bunker shell like a hermit crab and awakens it to new life.

During my research into the so-called „Speckwegbunker“, which I chose during my site analysis, I found out that this bunker was part of the bunker construction program developed by Josef Zizler during the Second World War. This envisaged the use of some of Mannheim’s bunkers after the supposed victory of the Nazis. As can be seen on the original design plans and drawings, the Speckwegbunker was supposed to have been extended, supplemented by a facing masonry and two wings, and would thus have become a Hitler Youth Home. The floor slabs were planned in such a way that they could be dismantled without great effort and without affecting the load-bearing structure.

During the Cold War, the Speckweg bunker was converted into an NBC bunker. In the course of this, all the partition walls were removed in order to be able to shelter even more people in the event of a nuclear attack, meaning that only the floor slabs remain today.

Finding an appropriate way of dealing with a Nazi bunker is certainly no easy task. It was important to me to show the raw character of the bunker and the traces of the war without embellishment, but at the same time to symbolize a clear breach with National Socialism.

The work was reduced to the information relevant to the competition. I will be happy to send the complete concept if there is interest.

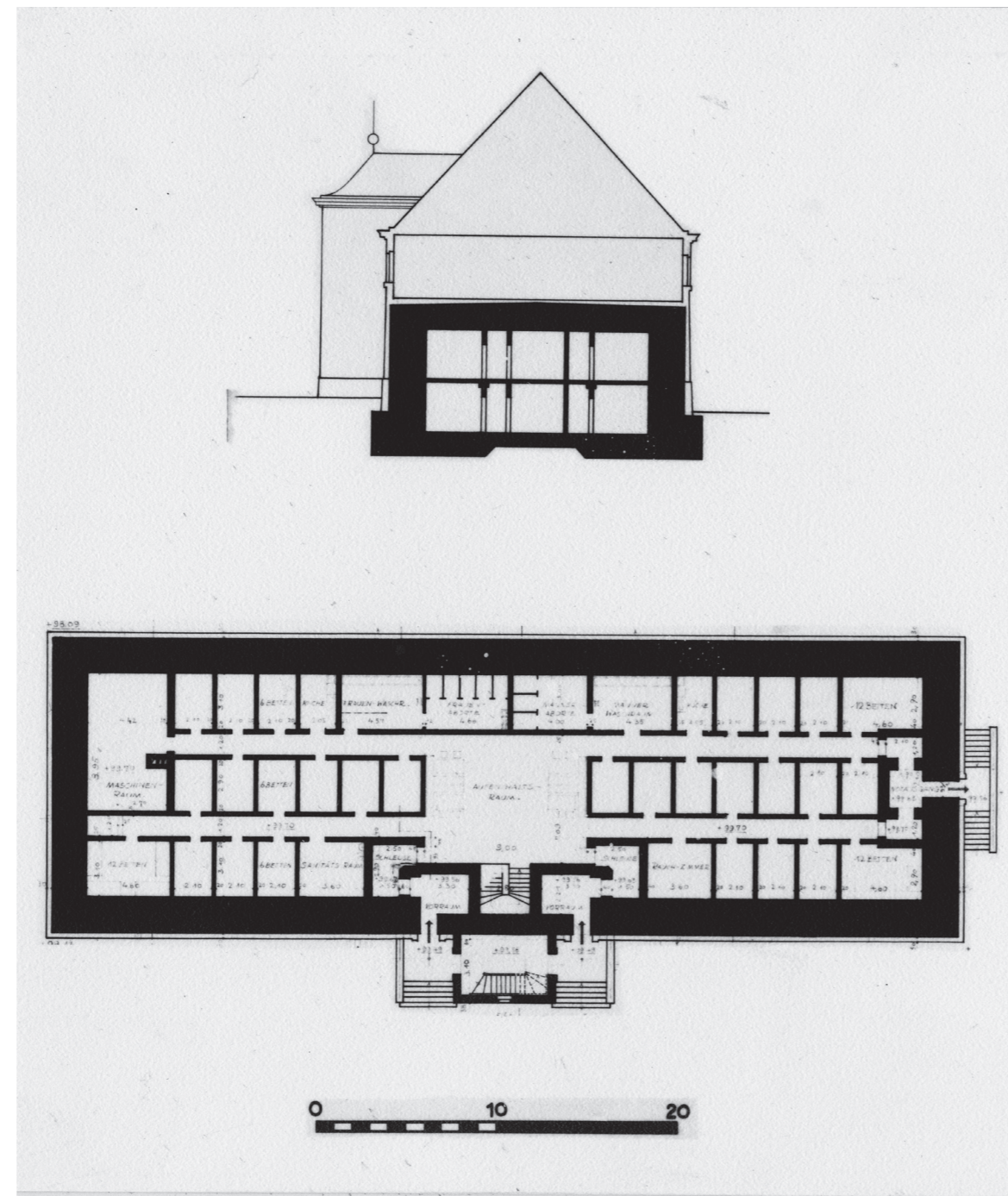


Illustration Drawings of the Speckwegbunker, MARCHIVUM „AB00060-016“



Photo Speckwegbunker after completion, MARCHIVUM „KF01909“



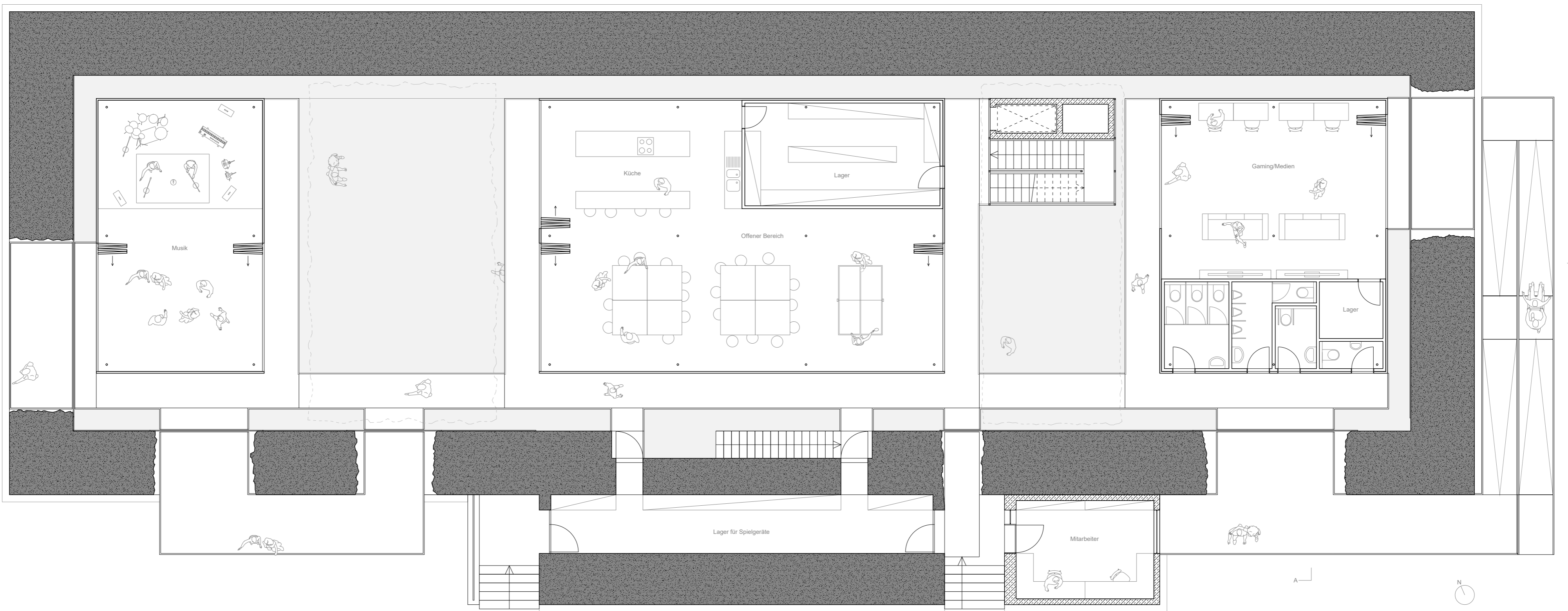
Photo Entrance to the Speckwegbunker with a perseverance message, MARCHIVUM „KF027931“



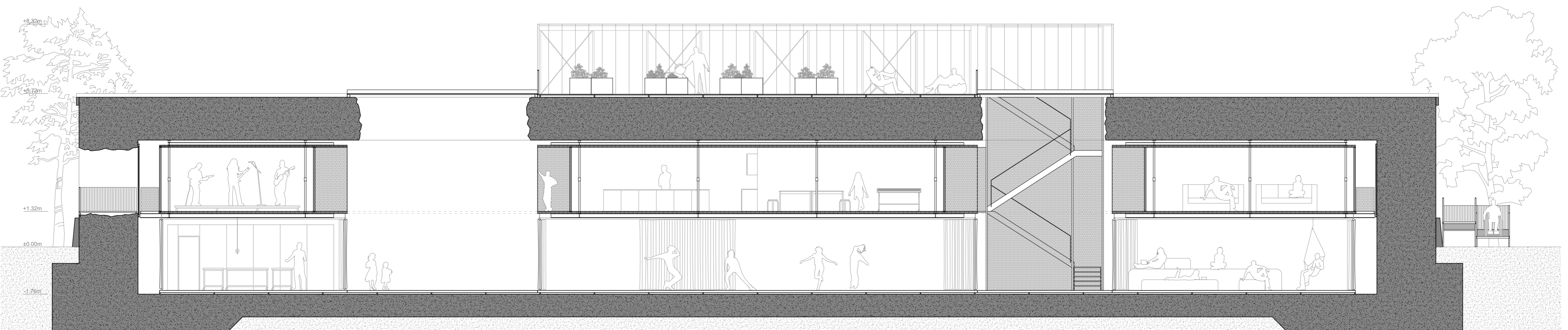
Illustration Drawing of the Speckwegbunker, MARCHIVUM „AB00060-014“



Photo Entrance of the Speckwegbunker today

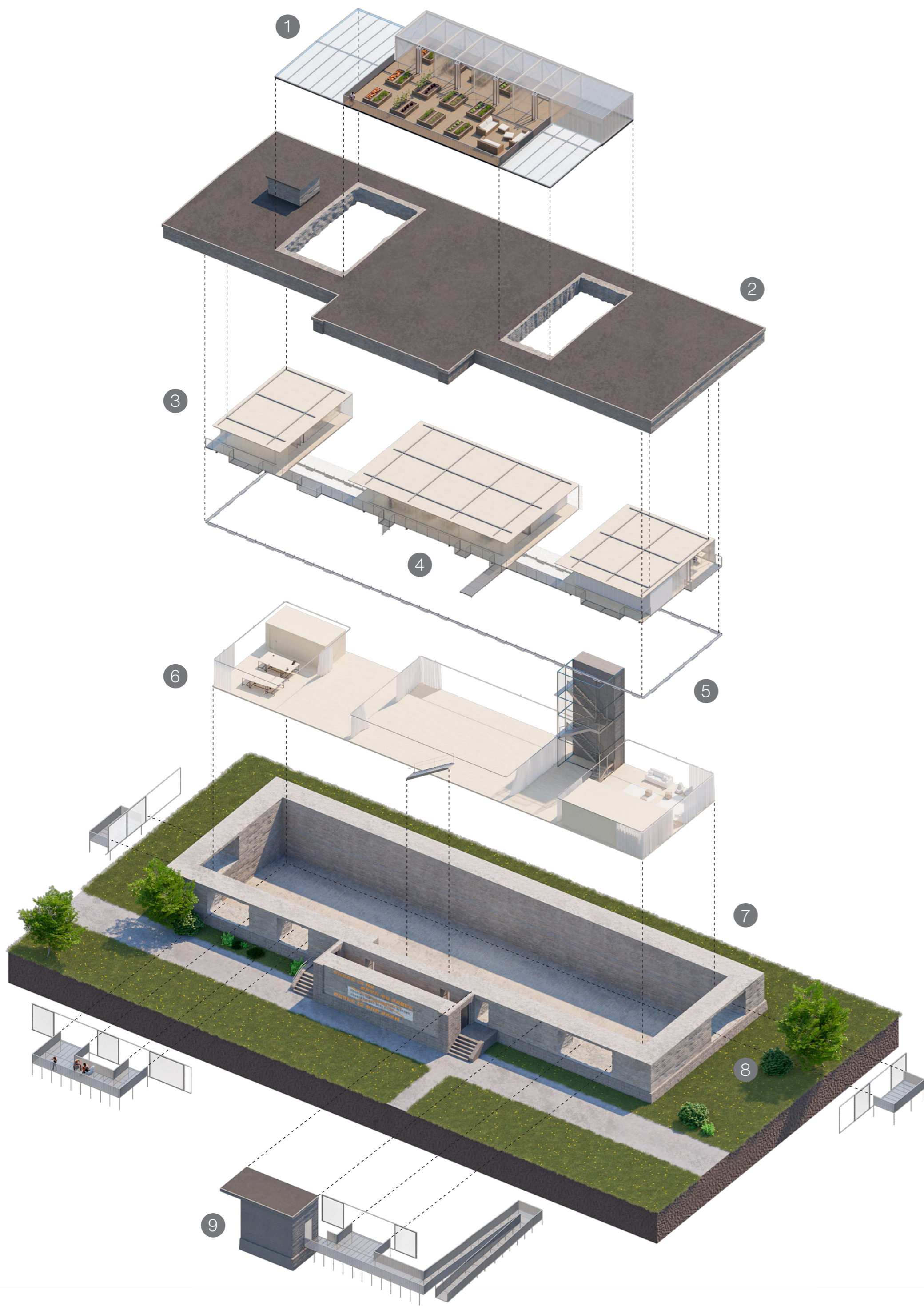


floorplan upper floor 1:100

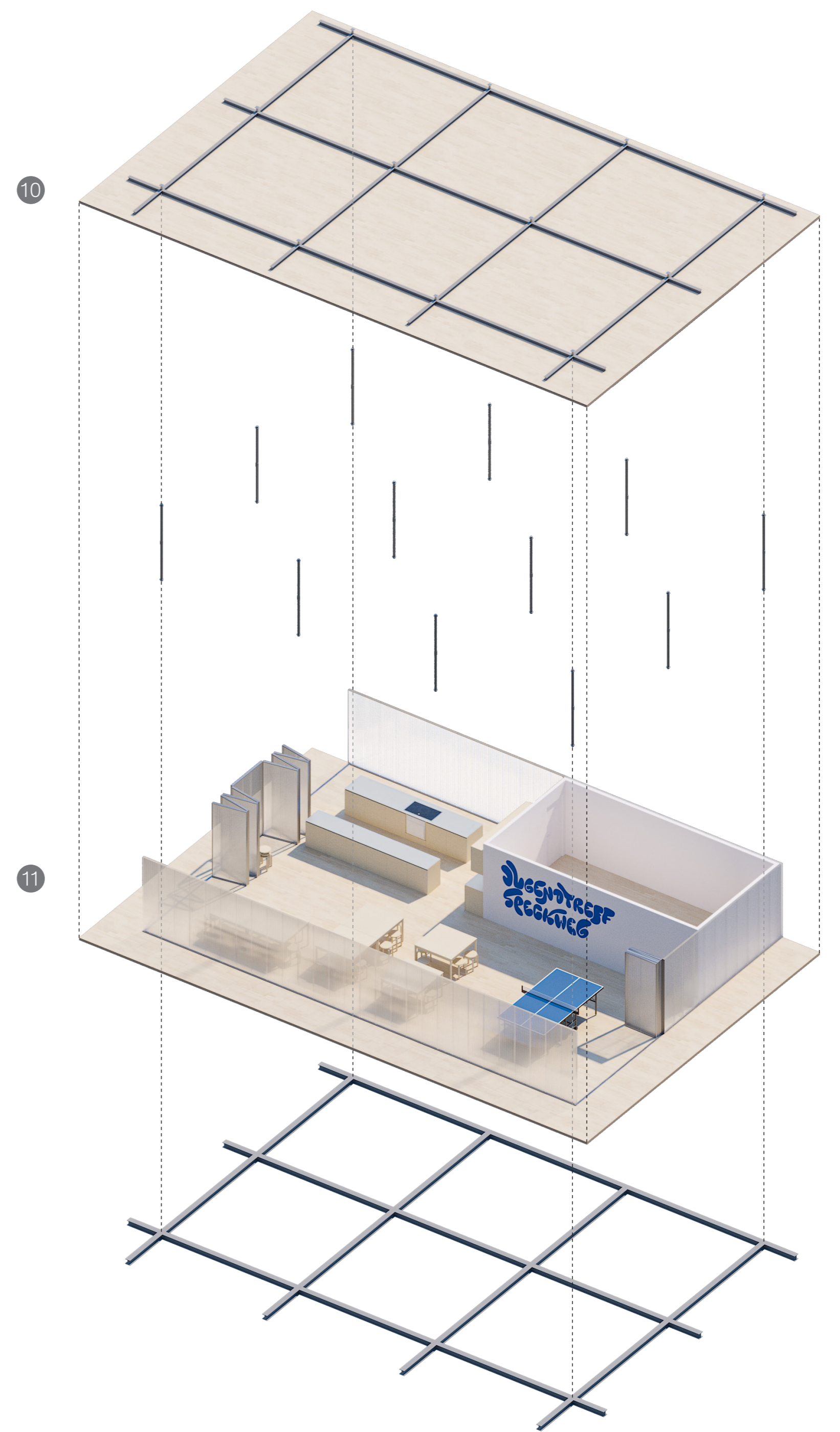


section BB 1:100

PW174



Isometric drawing of the overall structure



Isometric drawing of the interior structure

- 1 In addition to a terrace, the roof of the bunker also has space for raised garden beds, a greenhouse and a beehive.
- 2 The solid concrete roof freely spans the twelve-meter width of the bunker. To bring daylight into the interior, two large openings are cut into the roof, forming atriums inside the bunker.
- 3 The massive and heavy architecture of the bunker contrasts with the delicate and light interior architecture. The massive roof, which was designed to protect against direct bomb hits, makes it possible to suspend the entire structure from the ceiling and allow the rooms inside to „levitate“.
- 4 All circulation areas are located outside the structure, so that the bunker can be experienced with every change of room.
- 5 The architecture maintains a circumferential distance of 80 cm from the bunker walls. This not only creates a clear separation from the existing building, which sets the scene for the bunker,

- 6 but also creates space for a circumferential, visible installation level that supplies the individual rooms.
- 6 The hanging upper floor allows the entire open space of the basement to be used. Curtains allow flexible subdivision into rooms of different sizes. Room boxes are independent of the upper floor and can be used flexibly as storage, retreats etc. as required.
- 7 At the start of construction, the bunker's floor slab is removed to reveal the special dimensions of the space. The partition walls were completely removed during the Cold War when the bunker was converted to protect against NBC weapons.
- 8 Openings are punched into the 2.2 meter thick outer walls. In contrast to the conventional construction method using diamond wire saws, however, this does not create precise openings with smooth edges, but rather rough wounds to the bunker shell through which light can enter the interior of the bunker. Sliding windows are placed in

- front of these openings, through which the temperature inside the bunker can be regulated. Balconies are inserted into the openings themselves. Due to the enormous wall thickness, the opening itself does not become a doorway, but a place with a high quality atmosphere.
- 9 The Speckwegbunker exhibits typical features of National Socialist architecture, such as the symmetrical geometry, which is modeled on the style of classicism. To break the symmetry, an extension is placed next to one of the two original entrances and forms a clearly recognizable new entrance.
- 10 160 mm HEB beams at the top of the ceiling and 200 mm HEB beams at the bottom of the floor form the skeleton of the structure. These are set back from the edges to make the construction appear even slimmer. The floor and ceiling consist of 80 mm thick cross-laminated timber panels. Between them are 60 mm thick, semi-transparent hollow-chamber

- polycarbonate panels are stretched between them, which can be folded open at the ends of each body to provide a view through the bunker. 60 mm thick tension rods hold the construction together and subtly structure the space.
- 11 A particular advantage of the solid construction of a bunker is not only its structural properties but also its physical properties. The walls, which are almost two and a half meters thick, strongly dampen both particularly low and high temperatures and ensure a very constant climate in the interior throughout the year. The mild climate enables construction without the use of a lot of insulating material, which means that the structures can be designed to be particularly delicate. As the individual rooms are not connected to the bunker walls but are decoupled, each room forms its own physical unit. The bunker is not completely insulated and heated, but only essential rooms.



visualization exterior



visualization entrance



visualization upper floor



visualization basement