

Continuity of the city's wooden architecture.

Adaptation of a wooden building with a unique decoration in Vilnius to modern family life.

Type of intervention

Restoration Rehabilitation / Renovation

Concerned elements on the intervention project

- 1. Foundations and underground structures
- 2. Vertical structures
- 3. Horizontal structures and vertical connections
- 4. Roof and terraces
- 5. Façade and building envelope
- 6. Finishes and completion elements
- 7. Integrate services
- 8. General strategies for building recovery

Site Poškos 61, Vilnius, Lithuania

Objectives Reconstruction / extension of a family house.

Property Private

Designer G.Natkevičius, A.Adomaitis, R.Babrauskas.

Date 2006



Background to the intervention

Žvėrynas is one of the districts of Vilnius, now very close to the city centre. It is surrounded on three sides by the bend of the river Neris, a historically formed urban structure in the area. The Žvėrynas has been known since the 16th century, in Lithuanian it means "zoo", as the forest here housed animals specially for hunting. In the 18th c. Žvėrynas was a landscape park with walking trails, rare trees, flower beds and formed as a resort suburb. There were water spas, baths with mineral water, and baths. In the end of the 19th century. The Žvėrynas was divided into the Forest Zone, where the plots were larger, more expensive and cheaper. In 1900 the suburb was connected to the city and it was decided to leave the existing streets in the northern part of the district and a quarter of the correctly arranged streets in the southern part. Richer Vilnius residents started to build in the beast. Wooden villas and homestead-type houses were built, some of the houses were designed by famous architects. Professional architects and simple village carpenters have decorated the buildings with impressive wood carvings, a valuable heritage of wooden architecture. 108 old houses of Žvėrynas residents are included in the Register of Cultural Values.

Wooden house with unique decor Poškos str. 6 was built in 1901. On the edge of a forest area. It was home to an Orthodox priest, so the building was called the House of Pop. 1993 declared protected. Adapted during modern reconstruction to modern family life, preserving authentic values. In 2009 the Lithuanian Society of Art Historians recognized this project as an example of the best reconstruction after 1990.



Fig.1: Vilnius: Žvėrynas is marked in yellow, the centre in red, Cathedral Square is marked in green.



Description of the building

The building is wooden, one floor with a basement. The main volume is symmetrical, with a rectangular device in the back façade. Along the main façade is a gallery with columns, its middle and side parts widened. Abundant wood carving decor.

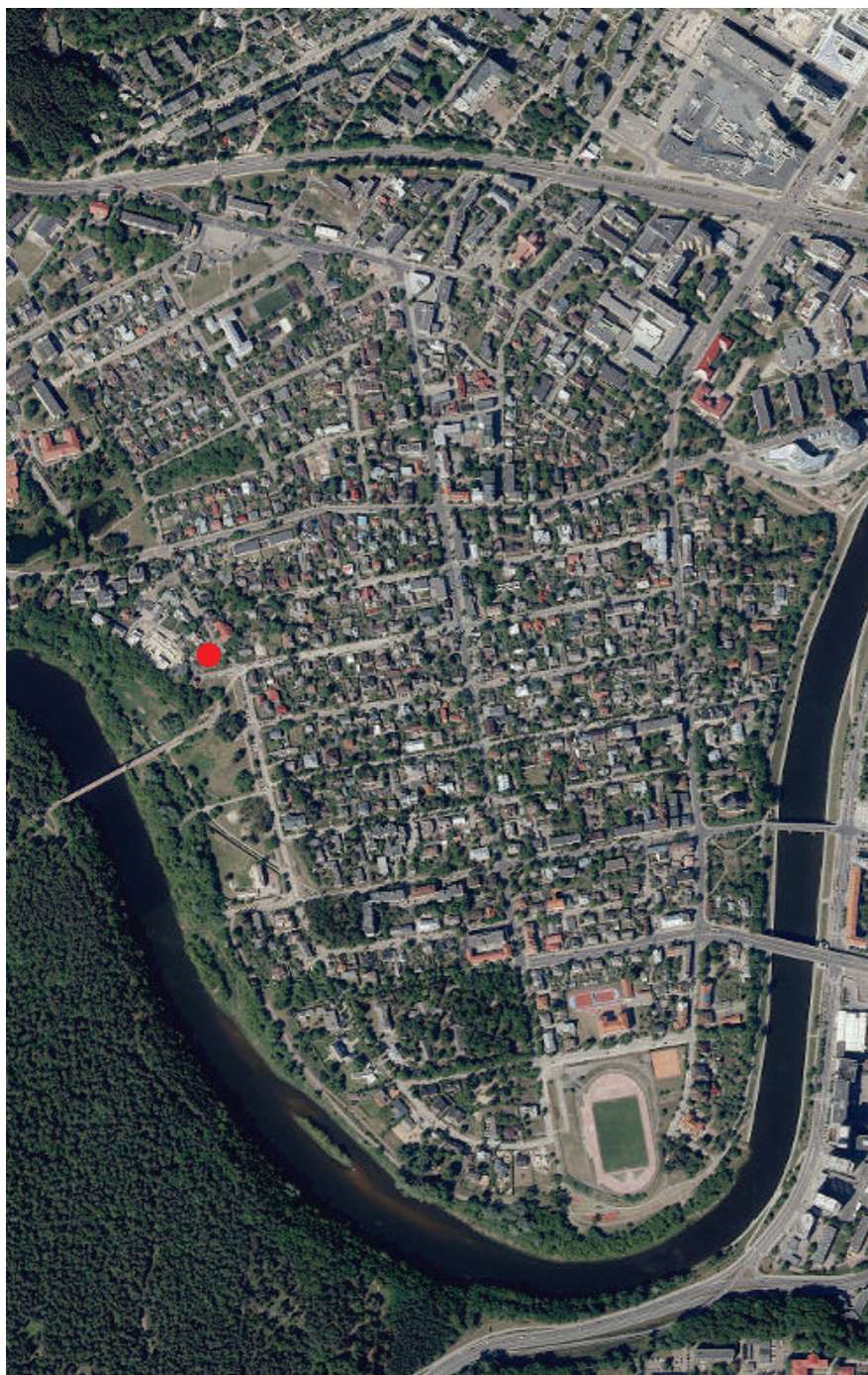


Fig.2: Plan of the Žvėrynas, Poškos 61 in red.

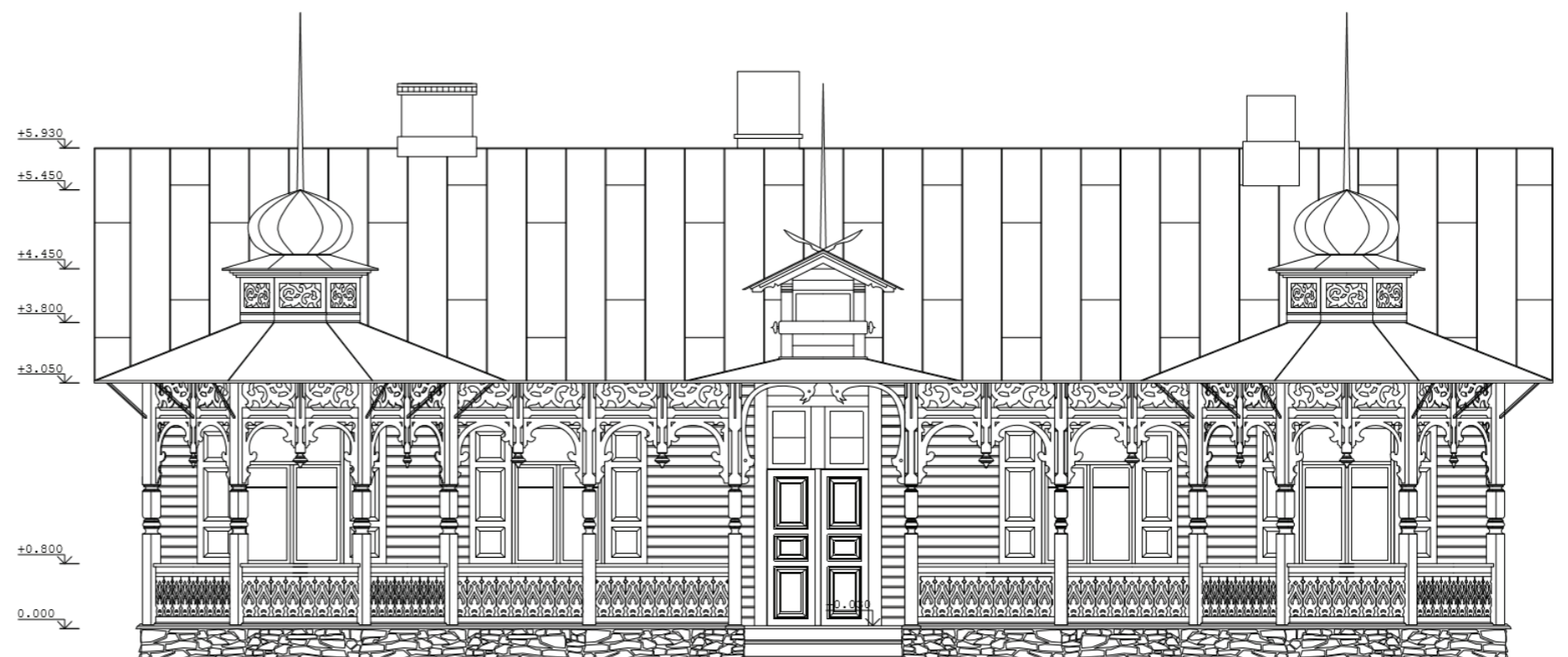


Fig.3: Façade along the Poškos St.

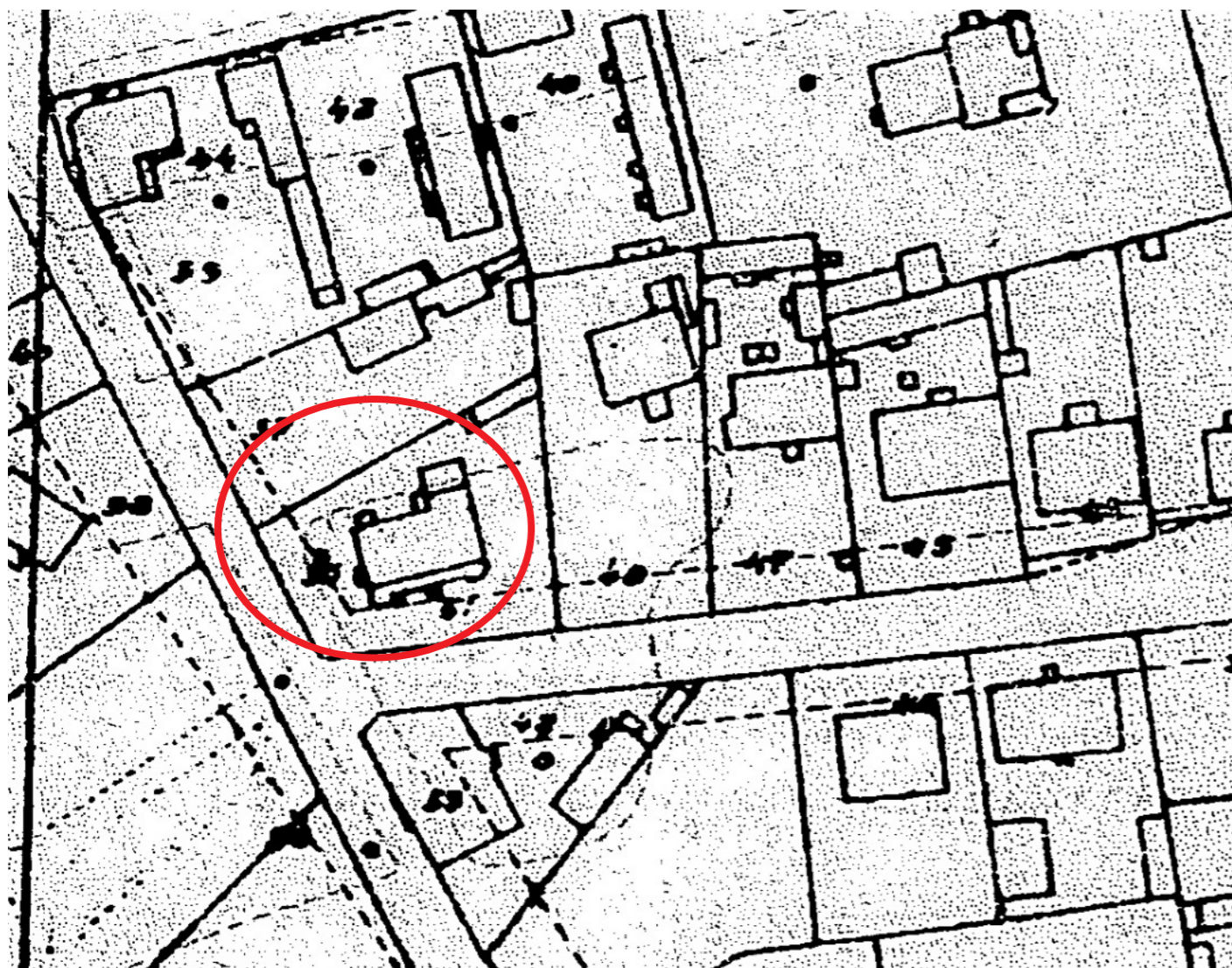


Fig.4: A fragment of the 1938 Vilnius city plan. Plot on Poškos 61 in red.



Fig.5: West Façade.

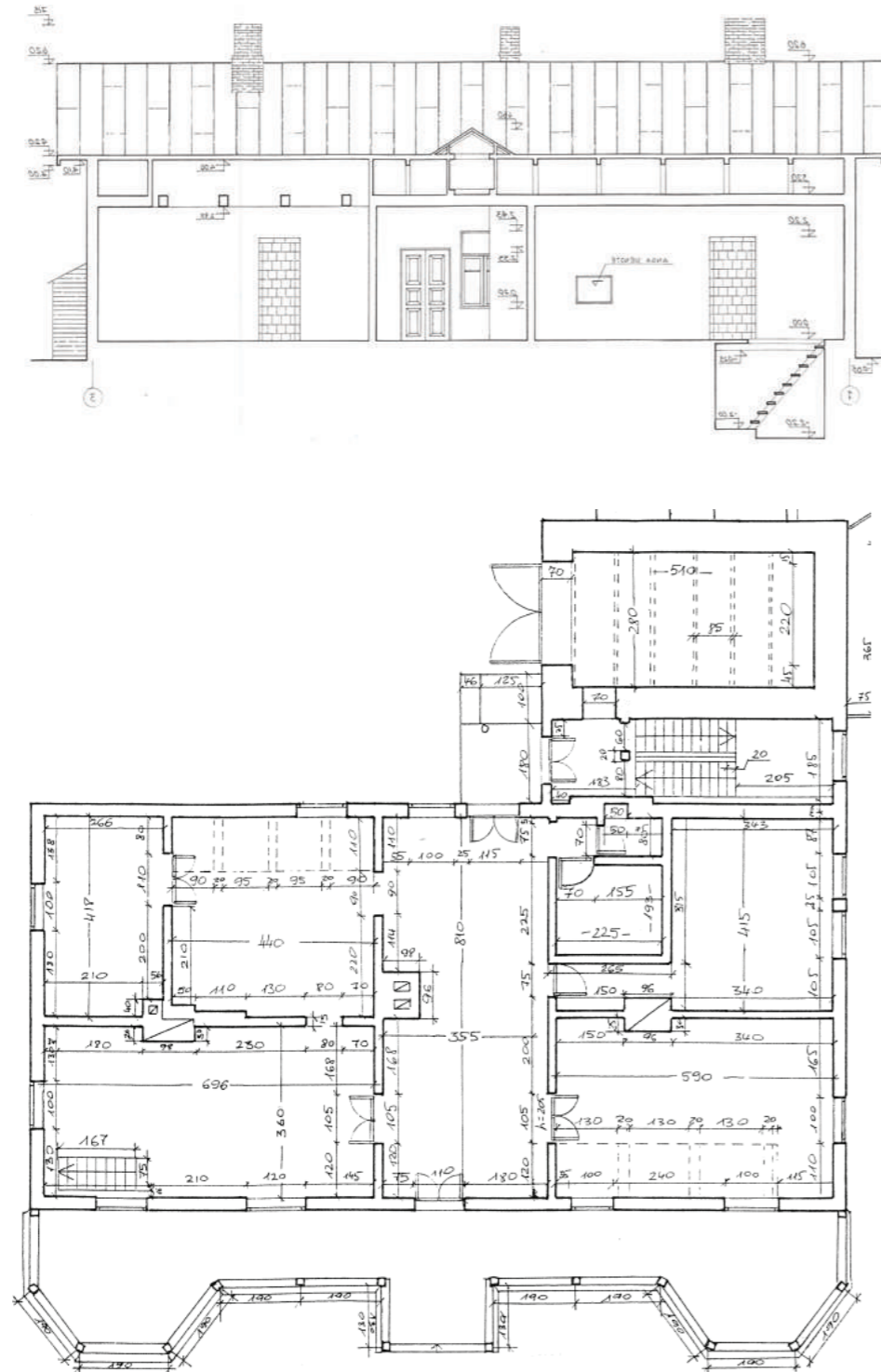


Fig.6: Floorplan and section drawings before reconstruction.

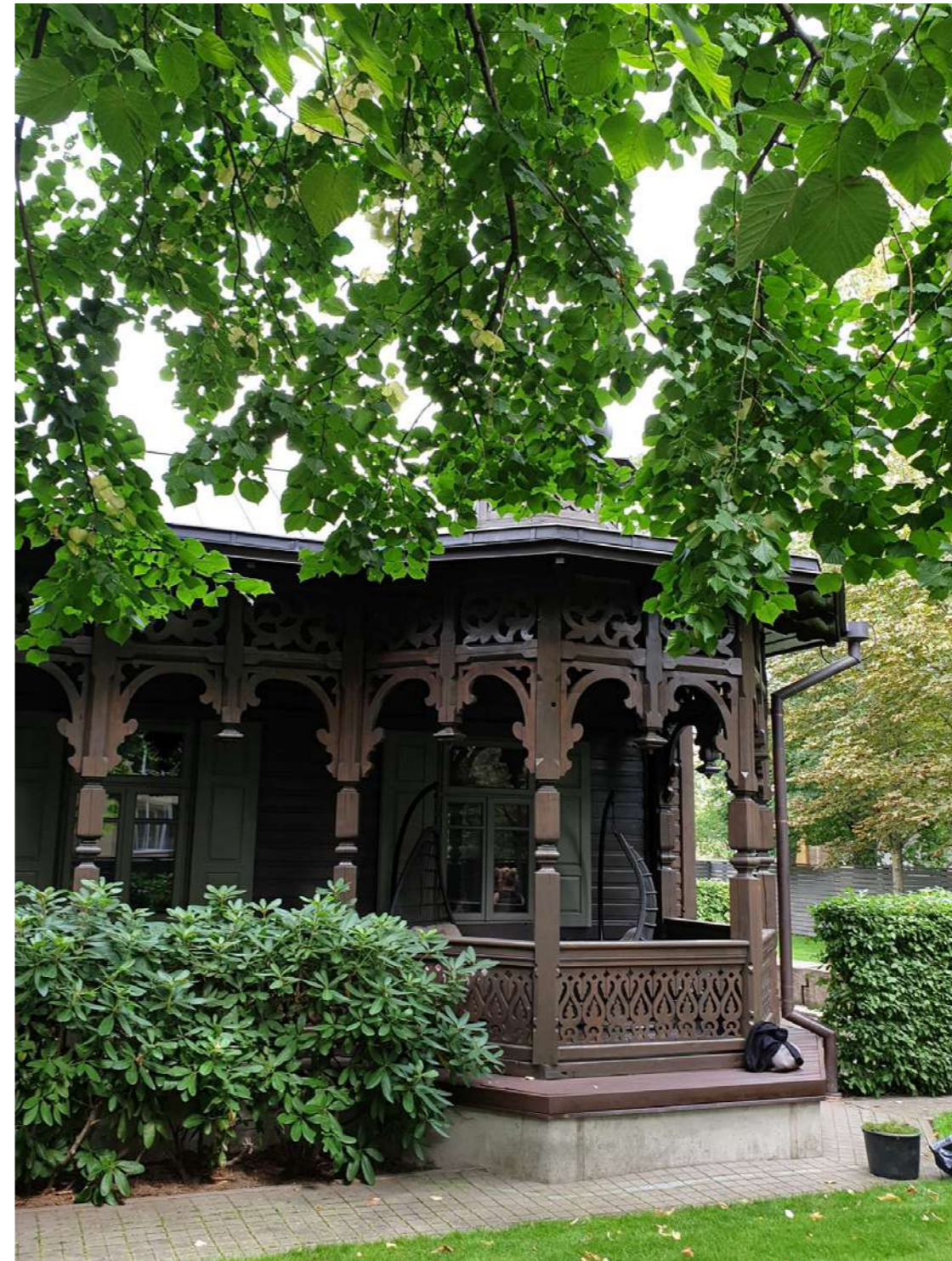


Fig.7: View of the side of the gallery.

The Diagnosis of the building (values and state)

The building is valuable as part of the surrounding cultural landscape, urban development and as a unique example of the city's richly decorated wooden architecture. The authentic volumetric spatial composition of the house is distinguished by a gallery formed over the entire width of the façade, the central part of which protrudes from the sides and is covered with roofs of complex shapes. Facade decoration and decoration - horizontal cladding with wooden profiled siding, wooden traction, profiled wooden columns, window decoration, perforated details. The style of the decor is "Russian", as are the "onion" shapes that adorn the roof of the gallery. The interior is modest, before the reconstruction the building had a small basement with vaults.



Fig.8: Photo of the end of the 20th century.

Rehabilitation works

During the reconstruction of the building, the wooden above-ground part was restored, essentially without changing the former view, except for the ground plane. Forms of the wooden villa were carefully restored. Original exterior shape was successfully preserved, adapting the interior to new needs. For this purpose, a basement was installed, which is illuminated through the windows in the base part of the building and the light pits formed next to them. The novelty does not detract from the authentic image as it does not change either the volume or the proportions of the building. The upper house is richly carved with intricate shapes and details carefully restored to the original example. This reconstruction is welcomed not only because of its professionalism, but also because of the socially and culturally significant position of the client and the architects, which elevated the 19th and 20th centuries.

The interior space is adapted to modern city life. Distributed and the newly installed basement space now covers the entire area of the lodge, with wide light pits adapted for its lighting. The remaining valuable basement structures are on display. Part of the shelter is used. The interior style is modern, laconic, modern materials are combined with wood, masonry and plaster.



Fig.9-11: Reconstruction works.



Fig.12-13: Views of the gallery after reconstruction.

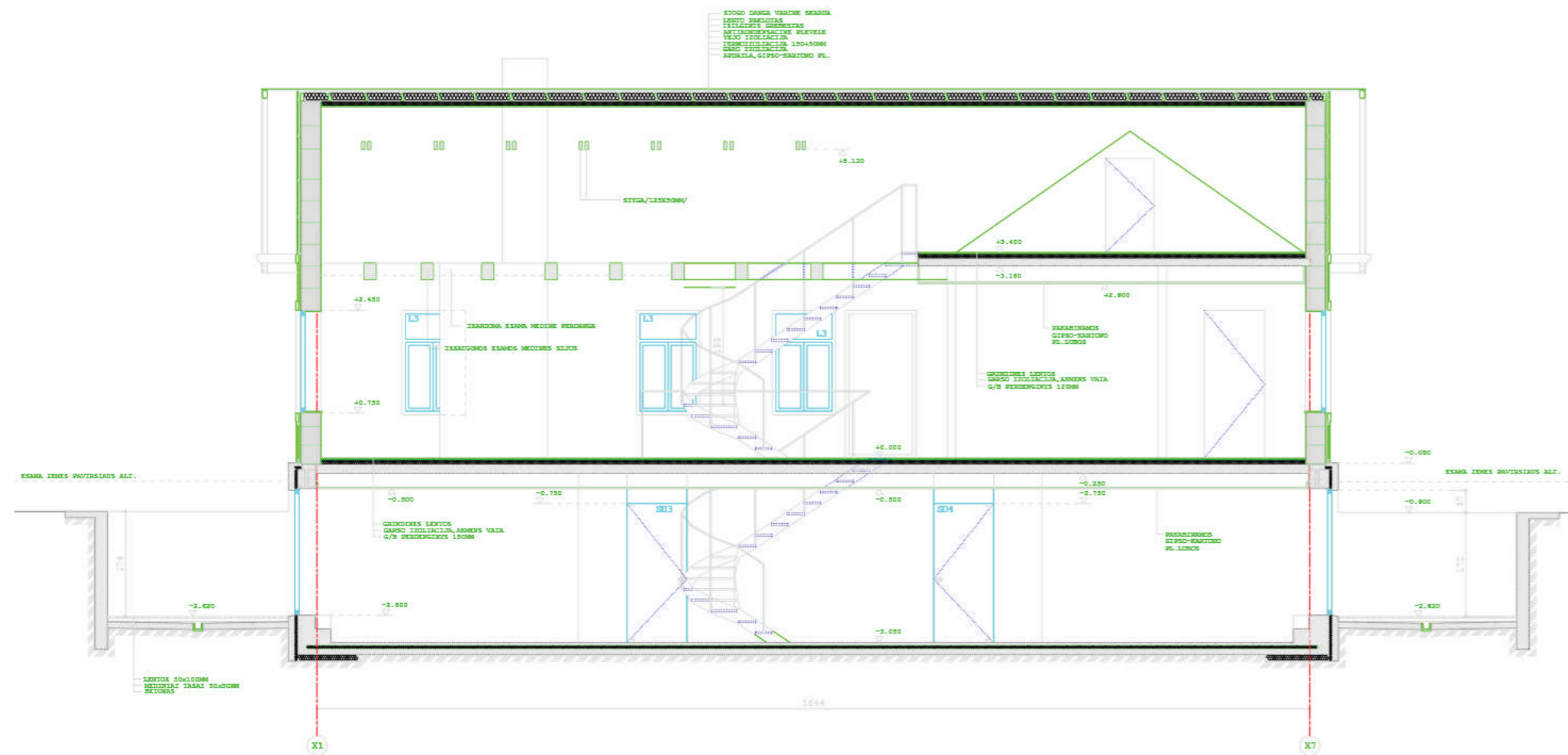


Fig.14: Section after reconstruction.

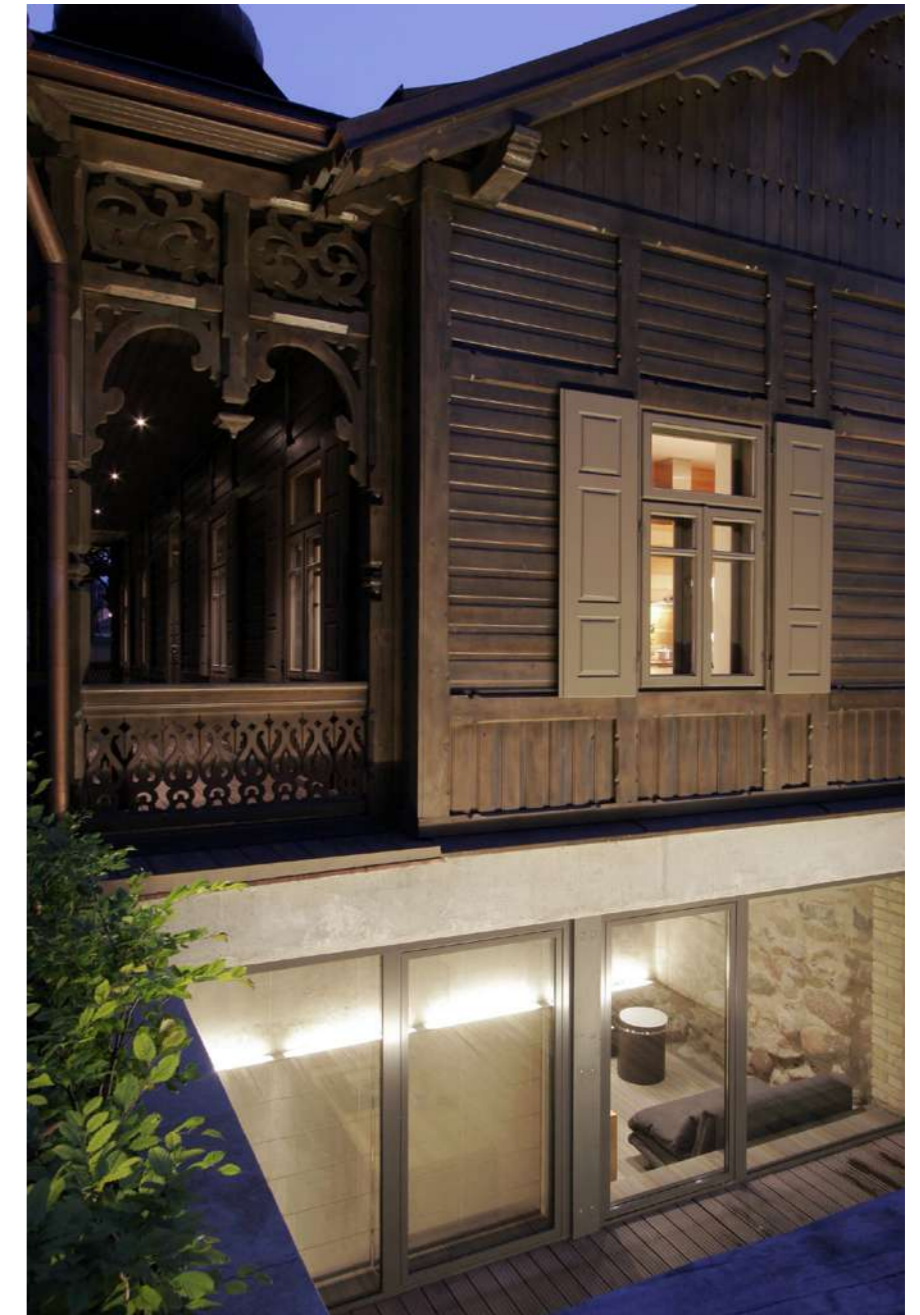


Fig.15: View of the light pits.

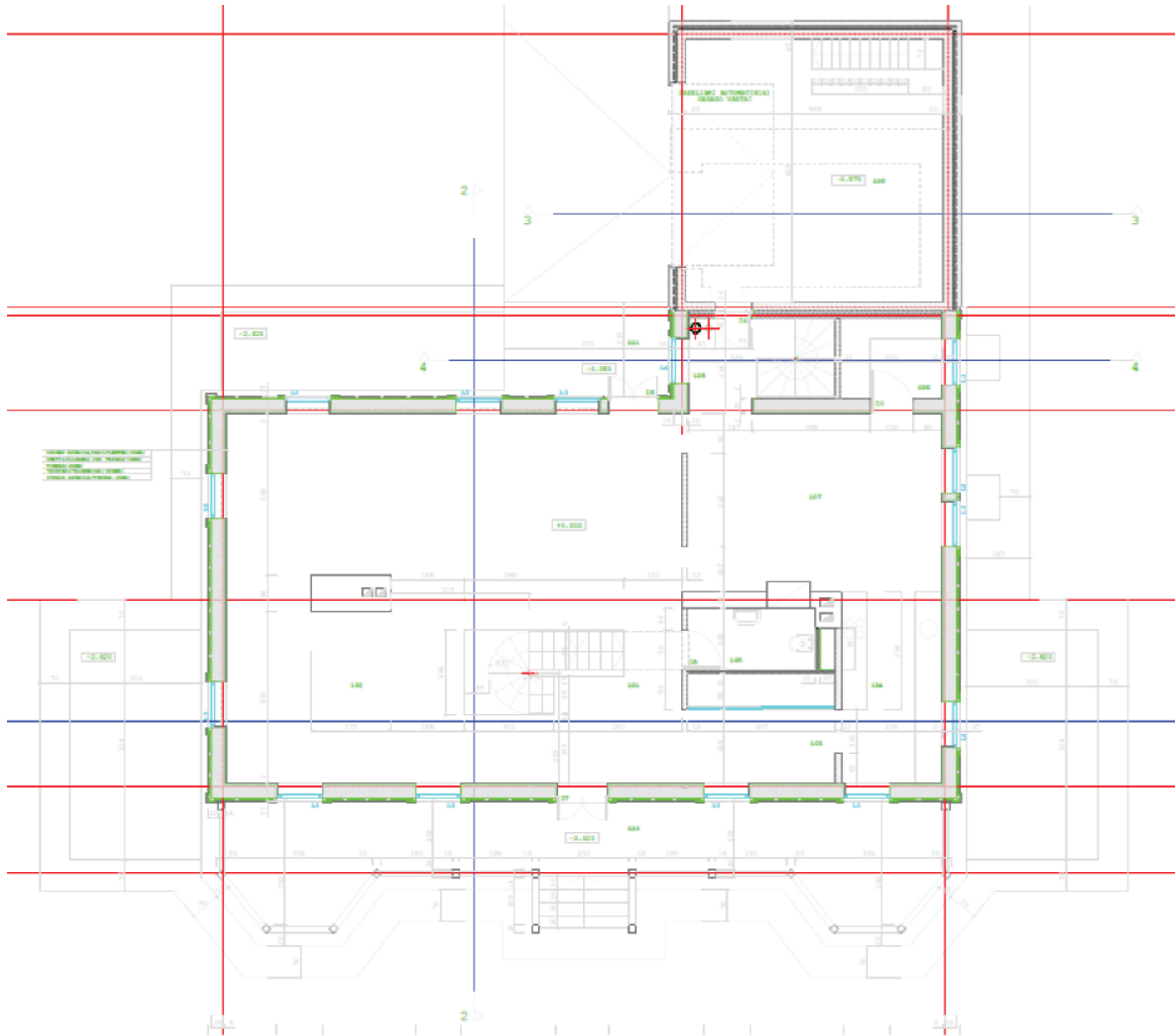


Fig.16: Basement floorplan after reconstruction.

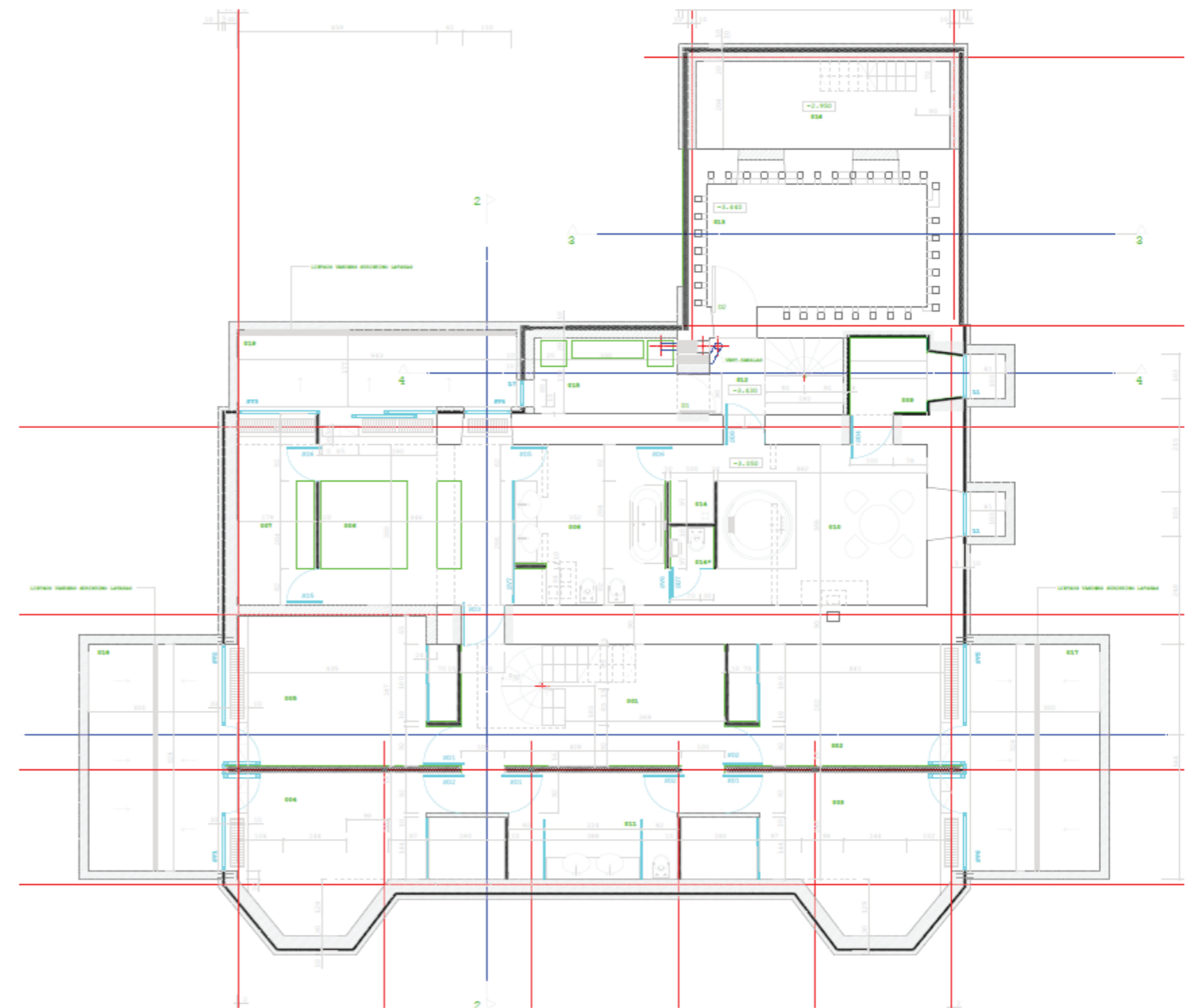


Fig.17: Ground-floor plan after reconstruction.



Fig.18: Ground-floor interior.



Fig.19: Basement-floor interior.

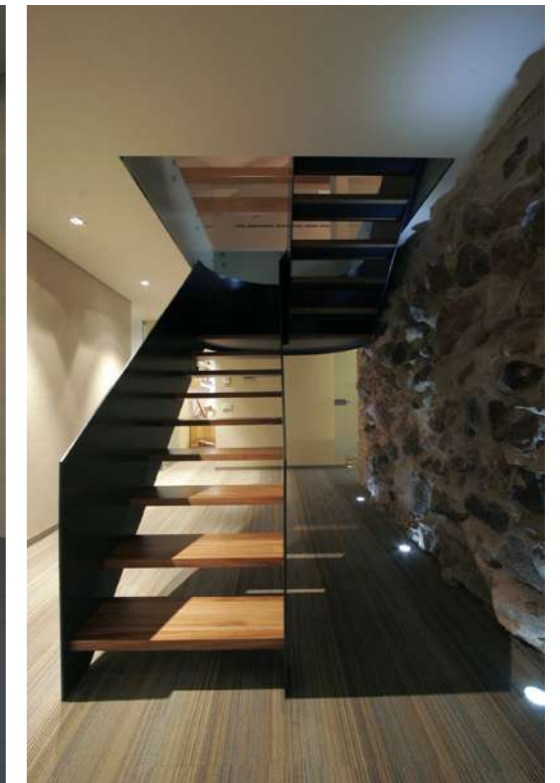


Fig.20: Stairs between the ground floor and the basement.

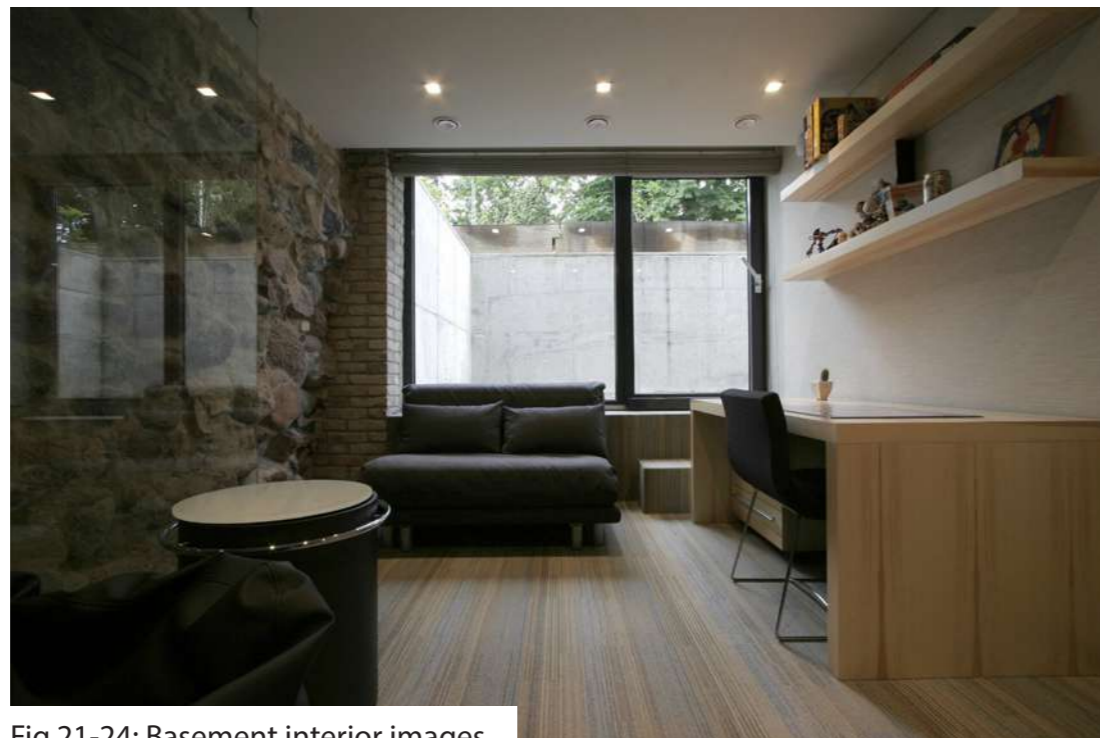


Fig.21-24: Basement interior images.

Assessment of the results

An element of urban structure and cultural landscape has been preserved.

A unique architectural object has been arranged and preserved

The historic building is suitable for its intended use and modern life

In 2009 The Lithuanian Society of Art Historians recognized this project as an example of the best reconstruction after 1990. New buildings in the historic environment and reconstructions of historic buildings adapted to new needs were assessed.

References

<https://www.geoportal.lt/map/> (Fig. 1, 2)

Vilniaus miesto savivaldybės administracijos Vyriausiojo miesto architekto skyriaus Kultūros paveldo apsaugos poskyrio archyvas (Fig. 8, 9)

Kultūros paveldo centro paveldosaugos biblioteka (Fig. 4)