

LA GRAA – TRANSFORMATION OF A CHESTNUT DRYING SHED IN BRUZELLA, VALLE DI MUGGIO

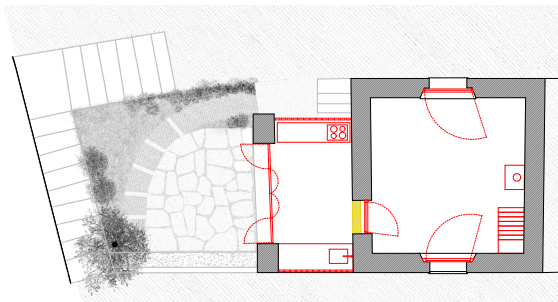
Planning and execution 2022–2024



▲ Reuse of old chestnut wood and stone remnants for the kitchen's pavement.



▲ Former fireplace on the ground floor. The burn marks on the walls and the original grate flooring bear witness to its former use.



▲ First Floor with the new terrace paved with reused stone slabs.



▲ Helicopter installation of the new roof structure. The detail of the new support was designed to allow for a thin roof overhang.



▲ Reuse of stone remnants for the terrazzo floor in the kitchen.



▲ Grinding of the Terrazzo floor.



The Graa, a typical Ticino chestnut drying shed that had been unused for decades, was in danger of collapse when the project began, and the building was overgrown. The transformation into a weekend home for the summer months, combined with the decision not to install a new thermal envelope, made it possible to keep interventions in the existing structure to a minimum and maintain its appearance. Preserving the historic substance of the building was essential to the restoration. Everything that could be reused was reused, which meant that virtually no construction waste was produced. Most of the original roof stones were reused for the new covering. Small remaining pieces were embedded in the concrete slab of the annex and then ground into a terrazzo floor for the kitchen. The chestnut wood boards that were found inside were reused to make a large folding door and rotating blades for the annex's cladding, supplemented with local chestnut wood where necessary. The characteristic grate flooring was cleaned and repainted, and the historic doors were refurbished and reinstalled. The concrete ring anchor required to secure the damaged wall crown was designed in an L-shape to accommodate the new roof structure and reduce the visible construction thickness.

▲ View of the transformed building "La Graa" in the historical village of Bruzella.