

# São Pedro 27

Sintra, Portugal



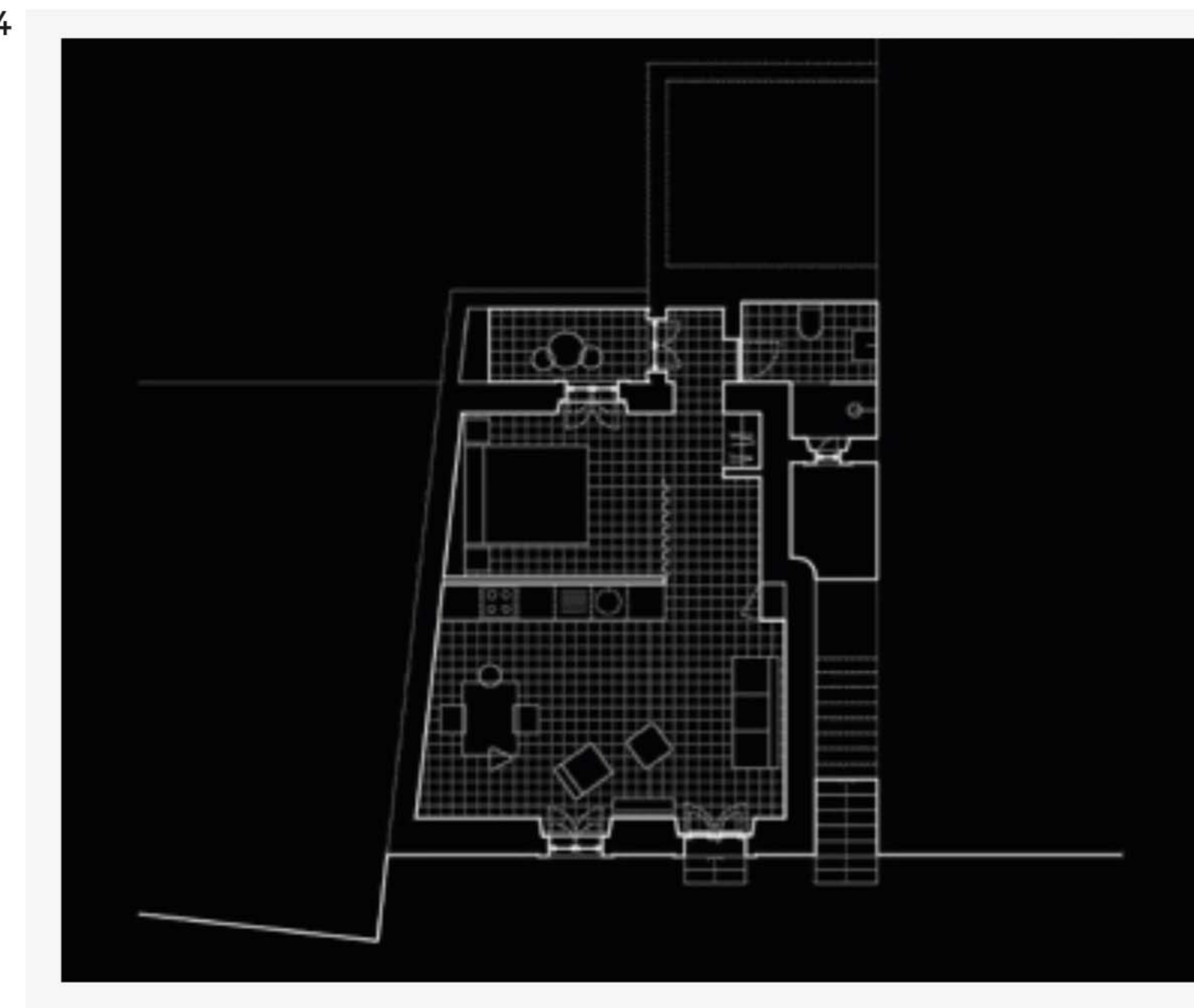
The inviting outdoor space is unrecognizable from the ruin it once was.

2

OLD BECOMES NEW







- 1 Turquoise frames accentuate the house front.
- 2 The sweet pastel colored façade feels infectiously positive.
- 3 The courtyard functions as an extension of the interior space.
- 4 Ground floor plan
- 5 Section

**2**

ARCHITECT  
PM-ARQ

COMPLETION  
2017

ORIGINAL BUILDING  
19th century

GROSS FLOOR AREA BEFORE | AFTER  
145 m<sup>2</sup> | 145 m<sup>2</sup>

NUMBER OF ROOMS BEFORE | AFTER  
4 | 5



# Quad of Gourd

Beijing, China



Reconstructed from scratch, these buildings are a modern reinterpretation of the traditional Chinese neighborhood.

3

OLD BECOMES NEW





Situated in the Luanqing Hutong neighborhood of Beijing, this residence and its small courtyard were in ruins – the roof, doors and windows were so deteriorated they seemingly disappeared. Instead, two large trees have grown inside the house. The goal was to renovate the building as close to the original layout patterns as possible, as they are characteristic for these historic neighborhoods. However, the architects wanted to keep the trees and thus made a few changes to the floor plan.

The courtyard was extended into the structure of the house, splitting the garden into an outer courtyard under the roof and an inner courtyard at the center of the house. To realize the outer court, the roof's structure was repaired using laminated bamboo beams and traditional tiles. Leaving only the area above the trees untiled allows for sufficient sunlight to facilitate their growth. In order to reclaim the space lost to the court expansion, the original living area was expanded through side rooms lined by a continuous vertical grille with series of bamboo screen doors.

The east wing and the southeast corner each contain an apartment including an office in the southwest corner. The bigger west wing functions as a gallery and can be used as an exhibition and event space. The two entrances in the north and south can also be used separately. Skylights bridge the space between the buildings and the curved grille wall. The emerging gourd shape of the garden opens its center to the sky strengthening the Siheyuan spirit while redefining the excessively rigorous spatial order.

Ultimately, this successful intervention helps rebuild the peace of the inner city by creating an introverted utopia to neutralize the bustling outside world. It presents a new model for the regeneration of the old city while transforming the interior into a unique spatial experience.



1 The open skylight above the tree allows its unimpeded growth.



# Fitzroy House

Fitzroy, Australia



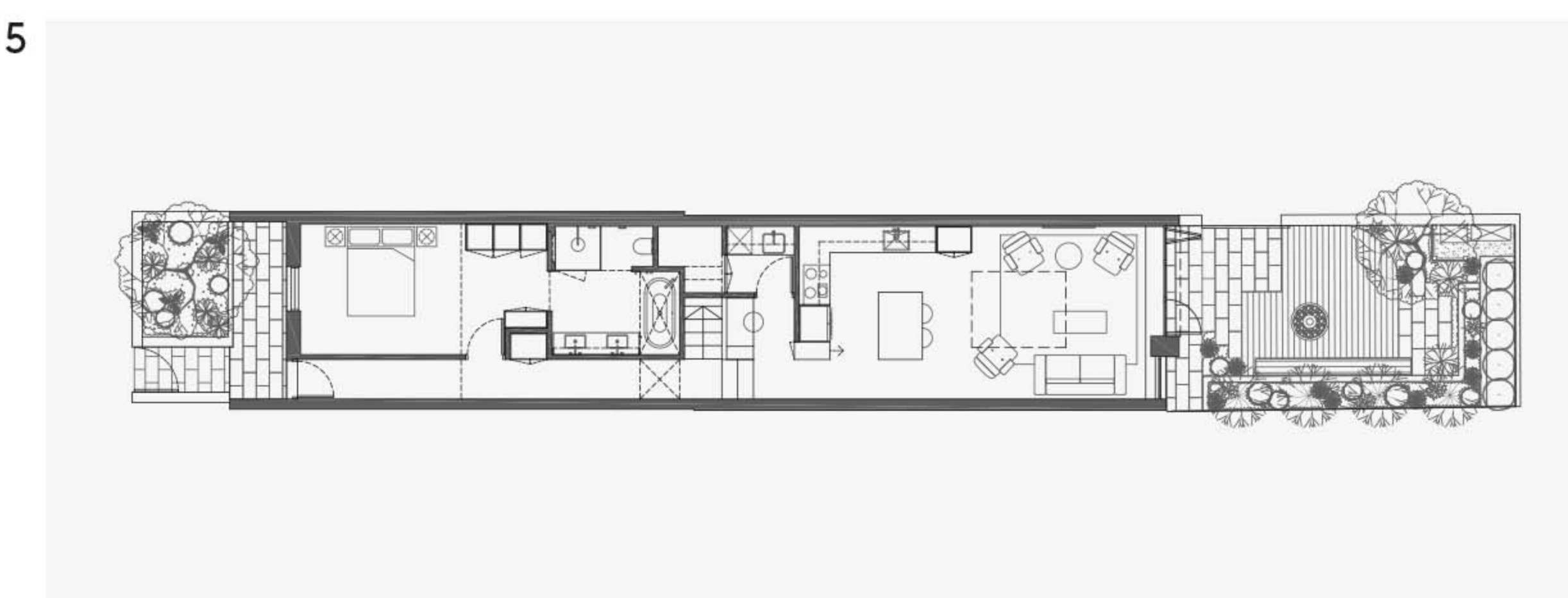
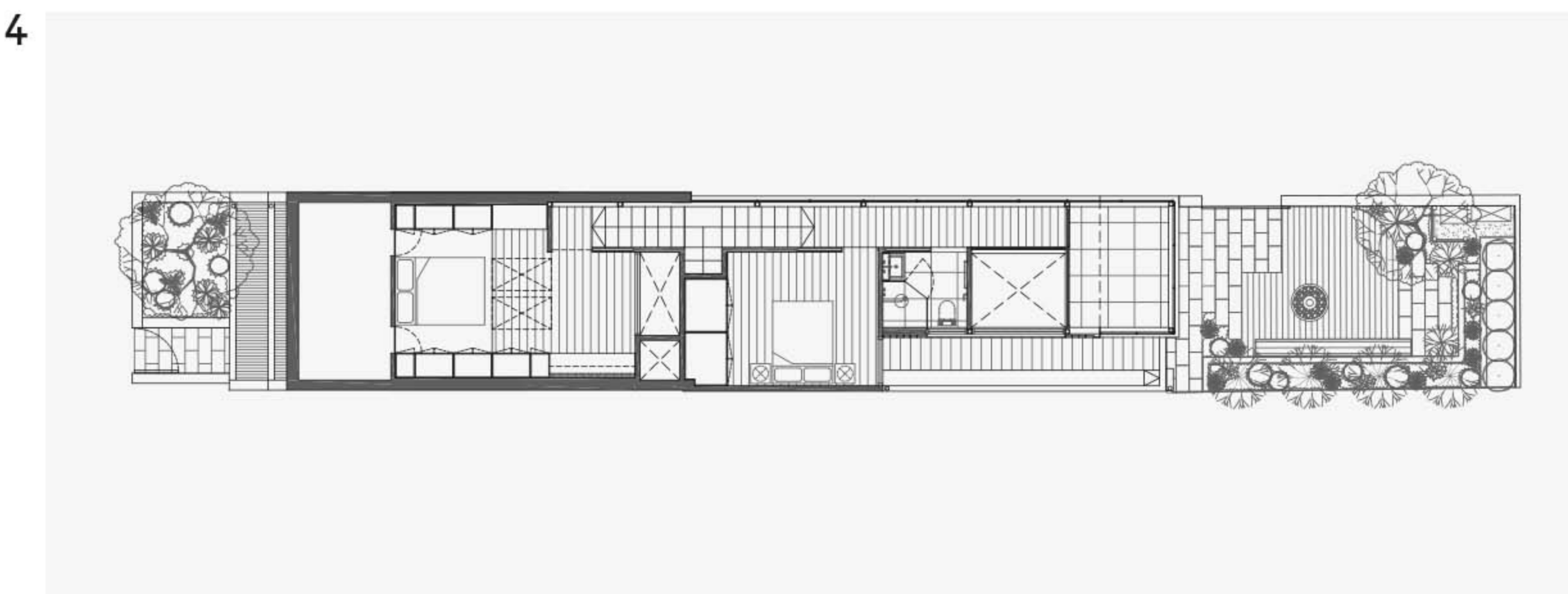
A compact terrace house was turned into a functioning family house.

26

OLD BECOMES NEW







- 1 The terrace offers a comfortable and private seating area.
- 2 Timber wood beams are shown through in the kitchen ceiling.
- 3 The kitchen is characterized by dark surfaces.
- 4 First floor plan
- 5 Ground floor plan

26

ARCHITECT  
Mitsuori Architects

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT  
Andrew Plant Landscapes

COMPLETION  
2020

ORIGINAL BUILDING  
1890s

GROSS FLOOR AREA BEFORE | AFTER  
115 m<sup>2</sup> | 160 m<sup>2</sup>

NUMBER OF ROOMS BEFORE | AFTER  
5 | 7



# Mar Mediter- ráneo 34

Mexico City, Mexico



The original façade has been restored without changing its iconic design.

30

OLD BECOMES NEW

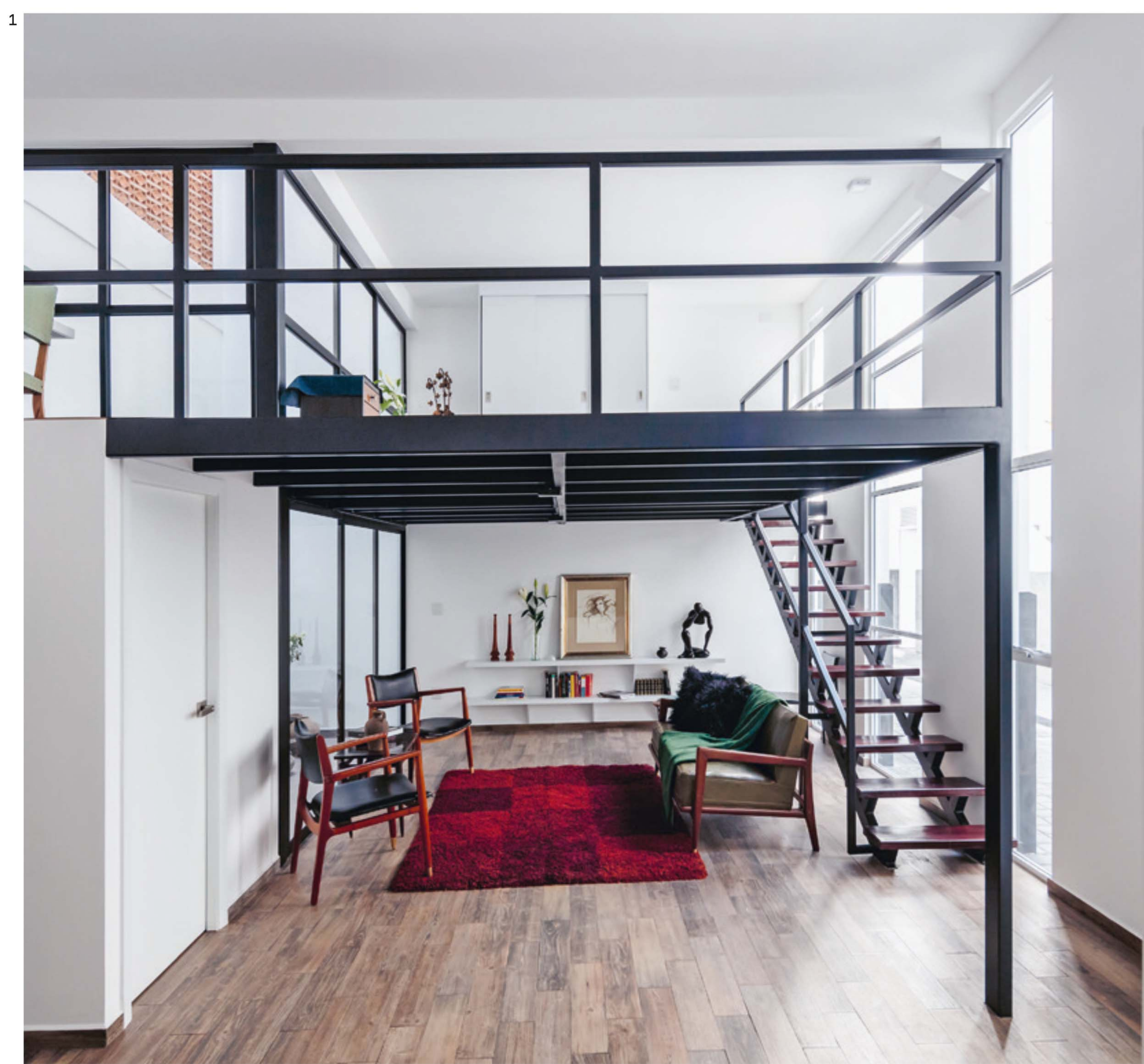




Tacuba is one of Mexico City's neighborhoods located north-west of downtown. It is full of cultural and architectural heritage and has undergone social and urban transformations that have lasted to this day. Many vestiges forged at different times can be found here. Among these the Mar Mediterráneo 34, built in 1910, remained, surrounded by abandoned or collapsed buildings. It is thus historically significant to the National Institute of Fine Arts and the National Institute of Anthropology and History. The goal of the intervention was to create a legacy that encourages the transformation of Tacuba, enhancing and rescuing its heritage, by taking advantage of existing spaces in a sustainable way to give life to this magical neighborhood.

To achieve that, original elements of the façade were restored with replacement pieces made by local artisans. This recovers the main elements such as the carved quarry, the iron railings, the large windows and the glass roof tiles. The historic layout of the courtyard features a set of original lattice

portals opposite the floors raised to double height, which focuses the gaze on the sky in a play of light and shadow. The entrance baseboard made of volcanic stone surrounds the entire ground floor – a metaphorical foundation to lift the resurfaced history. The restored house has three levels and seven apartments, which interact with the main patio through two additional terraces. New interior spaces are flexible and adapt to contemporary lifestyle, creating an interconnected home that distinguishes itself through its simplicity. Intermediate floors by Efrain Hernández, who also did the construction, were installed to make optimal use of the double height rooms. To go beyond the selection of materials for sustainability, the integration of vegetation avoids an increase of the urban footprint. All those carefully taken measures turn this project into a new layer of the city, preserving the marks left by the flow of time.



1 A mezzanine ensures efficient use of the extra space in the new double height rooms.



# House in Kawasaki

Ise, Japan



The iconic wooden house fronts and the gabled roof structures have been maintained since the Edo period.

31

OLD BECOMES NEW





This project is located in an area of Kawasaki's Mie Prefecture where the townscape of the Edo period still remains. The main house of a well-known, long-established general merchandise wholesaler in Ise, originally built in 1929, needed to be repaired and renovated. Today, this house is a family home and thus needed adaptations to current lifestyle and interior design suited for raising children. However, the gabled roof and the exterior of the building are symbolic structures of the area, so it was necessary to keep the shape of the building as unchanged as possible.

The dining room, kitchen, bedrooms, and bathrooms are arranged to place the Tatami room and the guest room between them. These had not been used for a long time. Wanting to preserve them, the plastering and other work that had inadvertently caused severe damage in the past were returned to their original state. Shoji screens, room dividers made of translucent sheets on a

lattice frame, are used to gently connect the rooms in the building. This allows the movement of people within the house to flow evenly and free of congestion.

The architects pass this building on to many future generations by incorporating contemporary lifestyle into the design, while also paying respect to the history and longevity of the building and the townscape surrounding it. To achieve that, traditional construction methods and materials were used in the designs finishing of each space. The texture of these materials will change with the passing of time, gradually blending the old and the new into each other.



- 1 The Japanese style Tatami room features an open view into the garden.
- 2 Wooden interior design can be found in the entire house.
- 3 Translucent Shoji screens allow for natural light to enter the room.