

A Dilapidated Farmer's Cottage Modernized

NIEBY CROFTERS COTTAGE BY JAN HENRIK JANSEN AND STUDIO MARSHALL BLECHER
NIEBY, GERMANY
TENANT FARMER'S COTTAGE → MODERN RESIDENCE



Surrounded by barley fields and facing the marshy Geltinger Birk nature reserve is Nieby Crofters Cottage. Abandoned for over a decade, the home was dilapidated and the roof had partially collapsed. The home had low ceilings and a pig sty, and sheds had been tacked to its rear. The architects sought to modernize the home yet stay true to its historic style—a vernacular that is slowly disappearing from the area. The streetside facade was maintained, but at the back, the home's peaked thatched roof charmingly contrasts with substantial modern alterations. Large black-framed windows are cut into the historic brick, partitioning a sunken outdoor terrace from the interior, oak-lined living space. The center of the home—once a maze of 14 rooms—is now a spacious kitchen and dining room, with a chapel-like ceiling. German oak joinery, doors, and furniture feature throughout, while sustainability considerations ensure a high level of insulation with under-floor heating and triple-glazed windows.

(Left) Architects Jan Henrik Jansen and Marshall Blecher contrasted the historic craftsmanship of an original thatched roof with a bold and elegant new glass extension.

