

Ruins Inspire the Redesign of a French Farmhouse

HOUREÉ BY COLLECTIF ENCORE
LABASTIDE-VILLEFRANCHE, FRANCE
BASQUE FARMHOUSE RUIN → FAMILY HOME



Fiercely connected to the outdoors, Collectif Encore transformed Hourré from a dilapidated farmhouse to a family home designed to encourage social connection and a life incorporated with nature. The architects integrated two large nets as spaces for relaxation and activities—at times resembling a playground. One of the vast hammock-like nets hangs beside a trail of vines on the exterior of the white and green home. The interior echoes a collapse that happened when the building was unused: the ceiling had fallen through the upper-level floor, creating a large clearing above the main room. Here, another net hovers above the living area, connecting the two levels. The home merges with its surroundings, capitalizing on its optimal climate. On the ground floor, greenery overtakes one corner of a covered terrace and spacious openings connect the interior to the outdoors. The upper-level bathroom roof gives way to a vast aperture, revealing the sky and views at the border of the Béarn region and the Basque region of France.

(Left) The house was left as open as possible, allowing it to intimately connect with nature. This large covered balcony is a space for eating, playing, and relaxing.

