

PROJECT
ANTIVILLA
DESIGNER
BRANDLHUBER + EMDE, BURLON
LOCATION
POTSDAM, GERMANY
BUILT
1980s

A Raw and Revolutionary Weekend Retreat



A stark and boxy structure with ragged holes for windows, this former lingerie factory in Potsdam, to the southwest of Berlin, is now home to German architect Arno Brandlhuber. A central concrete core was added to the building to provide structural support for a new roof, which allowed for the large apertures (punched through by a workforce made up of Brandlhuber's friends) that face a lake and forest.

"The large openings express the physical presence of the existing structure and gain maximum exposure to the landscape," says the architect, who sealed the building's exterior in gray lime and plastered the interior with fine gray mortar. "The traces of the old building therefore remain in its new iteration, visible in the varying shades of gray and textures," he adds. Inside, the space feels fittingly raw and open. It also remains uninsulated, apart from the new roof, with geothermal pipes in the floor providing basic heating and meeting the necessary energy regulations. →