



Project
The Four-Window House
Designer
Gonzalez Haase AAS
Material
Concrete fragments, wood, and OSB
Resource Type
Existing building fabric
Country of Origin
Germany
Area of Use
Architectural design
Category
Reused

## Preserving the historical elements of a rural family home

Gonzalez Haase AAS has converted an old German farmhouse for contemporary living, with concrete, wooden roof trusses, and oriented strand board (OSB) insertions.

Nestled into the rural landscape, three farm buildings are arranged around a U-shaped courtyard. Two of the structures were already restored; this project focuses on the third—the family home. The original house underwent low-cost alterations in the 1980s, leaving it with limited preservation value.

Due to its poor condition, the architects carefully stripped away the redundant layers, retaining only the historical elements of the original structure. These pieces were thoughtfully incorporated into a new, cohesive concrete structure, with the scars of this intervention left exposed and legible.

The roof soffit, interior partitions, and formwork of the concrete walls were all shaped using OSB, imparting a textural imprint to the concrete surfaces. Although concrete is carbon-intensive, the architects used it sparingly, prioritizing durability and longevity. OSB utilizes entire trees, including irregular, deformed, and knotty wood strands that would otherwise be discarded. The house adopts a minimalist approach, with no internal doors and all surfaces left untreated—without paints, varnishes, or paneling.

