

Family house Donbrinja

PROJECT PLAN

As students from Hogeschool Rotterdam, we are working on a unique international project in Dobrinja, a suburb of Sarajevo with a rich history as the Olympic Winter Village in 1984. The central square of Dobrinja, home to a former market building, has fallen into disrepair following the construction of a modern shopping center. Together with the University of Sarajevo and under the guidance of Professor Elsa Turkusic Juric, we are exploring how to revitalize this market building and its surrounding public space. Our goal is to design a sustainable and future-proof place that connects the local community and offers new functions tailored to Dobrinja's needs. In this multidisciplinary project, we combine expertise in architectural design, construction engineering, and building execution to develop a cohesive and feasible plan that honors the history while responding to the future.

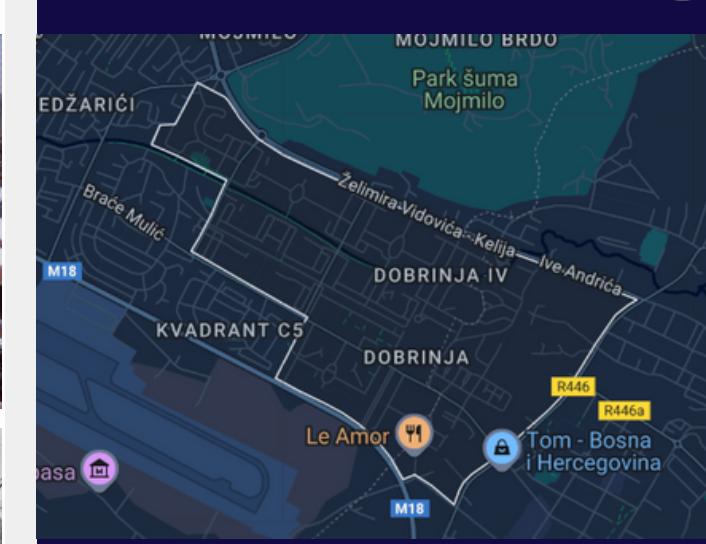


HISTORY



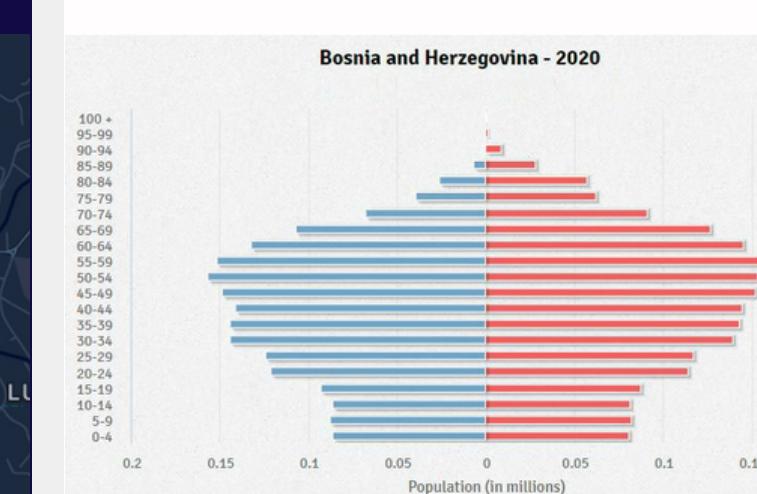
- 1980s: Built for the Olympic Games
- 1990s: Frontline during the war, caused damage and social disruption
- 2000s/present: Reconstruction, but underused market hall

LOCATION

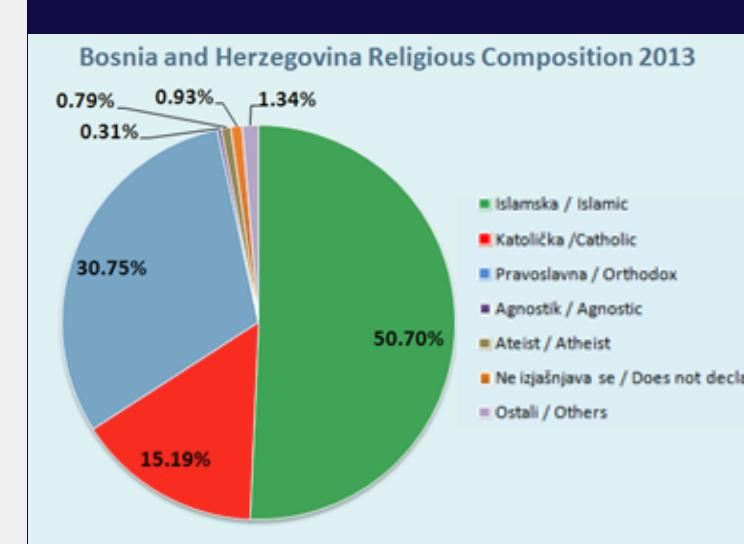


- General Location: Dobrinja, a suburb of Sarajevo with 25,000 inhabitants, located near the airport.
- Urban Structure: Modernist block layout with a central boulevard; predominantly car-free.
- Mobility: Pedestrian zone with limited delivery access and good public transport connections.
- Public Space: Green areas, social use, and a historical war monument.
- Building-Specific
 - Market Hall Structure: Concrete frame with commercial ground floor and flat roofs; suitable for renovation.
 - Location: Centrally positioned near schools, sports fields, and residential blocks.
 - Current State: Underutilized, but with strong potential for social and cultural functions.

DEMOGRAPHICS



CULTURE

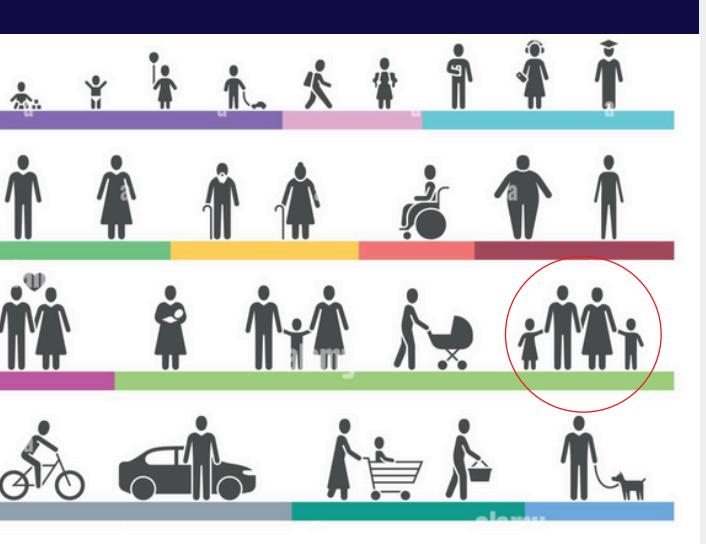


FUNCTION



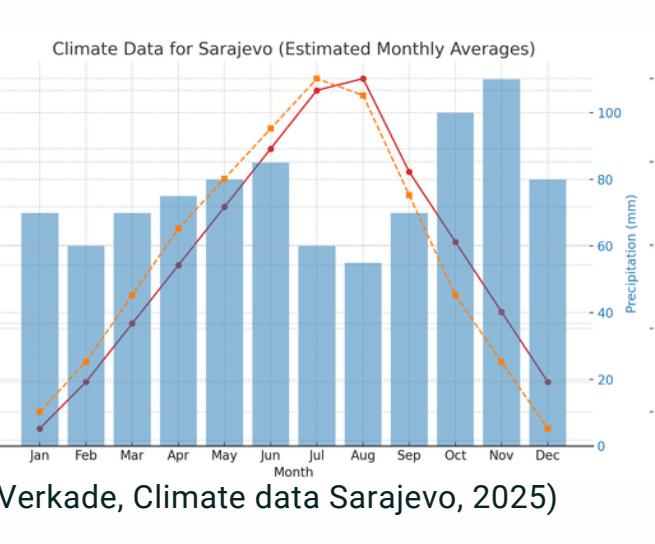
The market building in Dobrinja is centrally located on a car-free boulevard, surrounded by schools, sports fields, public transport stops, and residential blocks. Making it a site with strong potential due to its location, structure, and public space. Currently, the building is underused, with only a few active stalls and several empty shops. The area offers many practical services: schools, shops, a mosque, and sports facilities but lacks social and cultural spaces. Opportunities are emerging. A new primary school is being built nearby, the square is set for redesign into a civic center, and the municipality aims to create more places for culture and community life. This is a key moment to transform the market into a vibrant, inclusive hub for Dobrinja.

TARGET GROUP

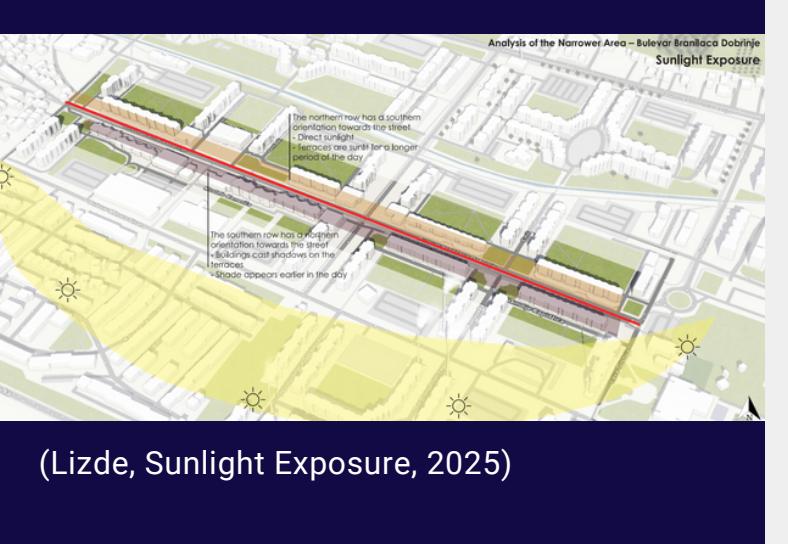


The Dobrinja neighborhood has a young and diverse population, with many children, young people, families, and seniors. There are several schools in the area, including a new one next to the market building, contributing to a strong presence of students. According to the population pyramid (see demographics) of Bosnia and Herzegovina, more than 70% of the population is of working age (15–64 years), about 17% is under 14, and nearly 14% is 65 and older. This reflects an active, mixed neighborhood in which the market building should evolve into an inclusive, multifunctional space for community gathering, culture, and local entrepreneurship.

CLIMATE



SOLAR STUDY



FUNCTIONAL

TECHNICAL

Spaces & Layout

- Entrance
- Vestibule
- Toilets (Women, Men, Accessible)
- Caretaker room
- Technical room
- Daycare office
- Daycare (including toilets)
- Family café
- Kitchen + storage
- Indoor playground/garden
- Garden center
- Storage for urban farming

Façade & Roof

- Façade insulation \geq Rc 4,58 m²K/W
- Roof insulation \geq Rc 5,58 m²K/W
- Triple glazing ($U \leq 0.7 \text{ W/m}^2$) with sun shading

Structural Integrity

- Assessment of existing frame for:
 - Load capacity (incl. green roof)
 - Structural movement/cracks
 - Steel-concrete transitions
- Additional steel structure as per Eurocode and local codes
- Thermal bridge-free, corrosion-resistant detailing

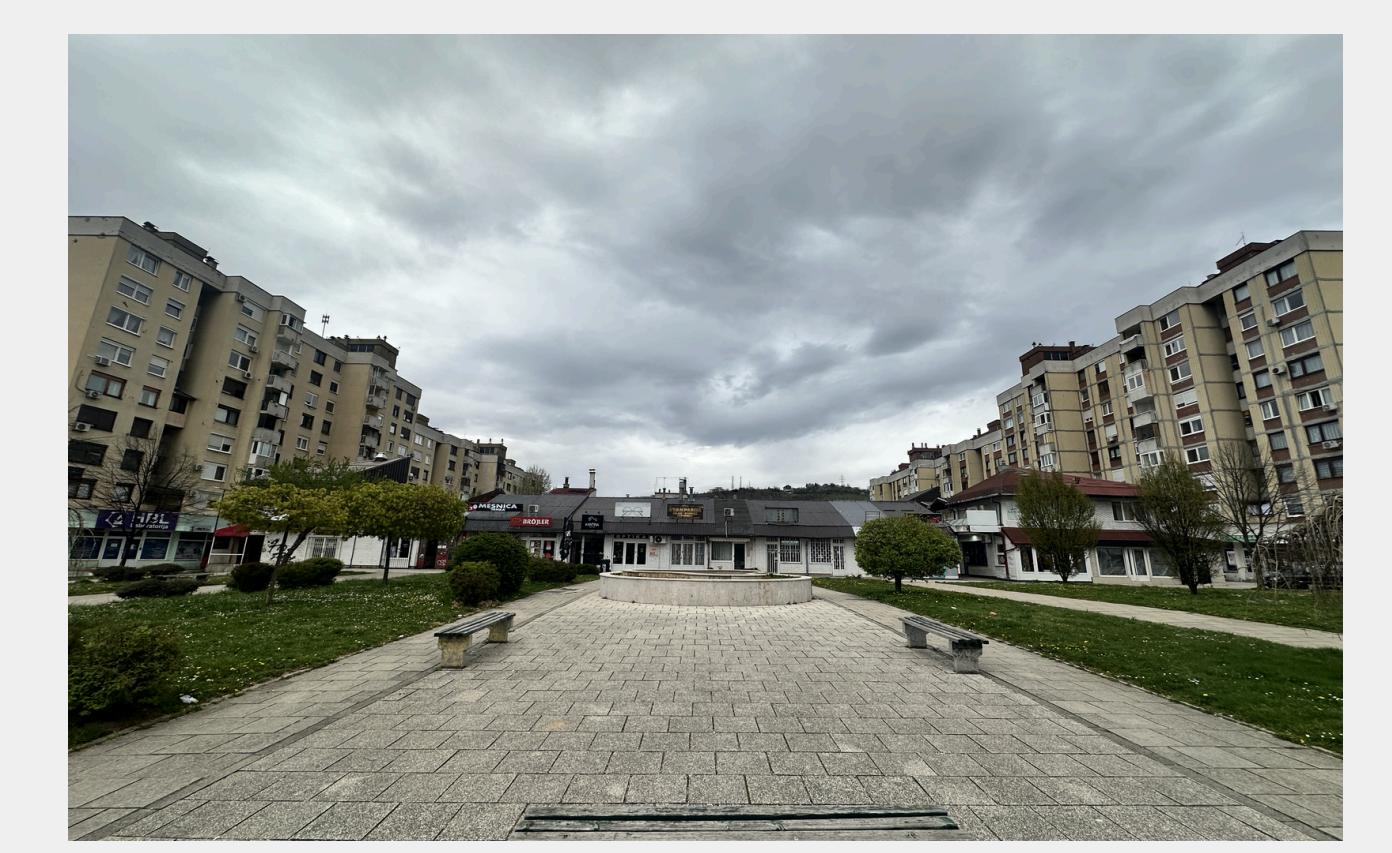
Building Physics

- Façade U-value $\leq 0.25 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$
- Airtightness: $Q_{V10} \leq 0.4 \text{ dm}^3/\text{s} \cdot \text{m}^2$
- Airtight and vapor-control layers in detailing

Installations

- All-electric system: air-water heat pump, WTW unit ($\geq 80\%$ efficiency), PV covering $\geq 30\%$ of annual energy demand
- Greywater or rainwater reuse
- Modular and accessible technical zones (raised floors/ceilings)

PROGRAM OF REQUIREMENTS



LOGISTICS & CONSTRUCTION SITE MANAGEMENT

- Construction traffic only allowed between 06:00–17:00
- Light vehicles only ($<3.5 \text{ tons}$) without permit
- Permit required for heavy equipment or outside time slots
- Use of external logistics hub and phased deliveries
- Electric transport, just-in-time supply strategy
- Noise and dust control measures
- Secure fencing, night lighting, and clear routing

BUDGET & TIMELINE

- Focus on sustainable and cost-effective renovation
- Design, materials, and systems aligned with financial goals
- Fast-track construction methods to minimize time on-site
- Efficient phasing to reduce direct and overhead costs

AESTHETIC

- Turnkey finish of interior and exterior
- Preservation of façade rhythm and modern contemporary style
- Transparency through glazing, sight lines, and arcades
- Use of façade greenery, pergolas, wood slats or textured panels
- Use of connection to the public square and surrounding routes

CONTEXTUAL

- Urban gardens on the southern plaza side
- Café and terrace on the northern side of the building
- Integration of green roof with PV and water retention system
- Respectful design connection to local urban fabric

SUSTAINABILITY

- Use of circular, reusable, or biobased materials
- Energy performance compliant with nZEB standards
- Rainwater harvesting via green roof
- Integrated photovoltaic (PV) panels
- 100% on-site waste separation during construction
- At least 50% reuse/recycling of demolition materials
- Minimized transport movements during execution

COMMUNICATION & PARTICIPATION

- Weekly coordination with municipality and residents' representatives
- Digital scheduling systems and RFID access control
- Partial public space access maintained during construction

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DESIGN

VARIANT 1



VARIANT 2



Conclusion/chosen variant

Variant 2 is the most balanced and future-proof solution. The design scores high on user-friendliness, spatial coherence, social relevance, and sustainability. Moreover, the building in this variant is commercially attractive without compromising on atmosphere and social added value. In short, variant 2 is not only logical and feasible, but also strengthens the neighborhood function of the market building as the beating heart of Dobrinja. (Harris model attached as appendix)

ENGINEERING

THERMAL PERFORMANCE

The current building condition is poorly insulated. No insulation materials are present, and the existing solid masonry walls provide almost no thermal resistance. This results in high heat loss and an extremely low overall energy performance. To address this, we propose applying EPS insulation to the exterior walls. This approach is both cost-efficient and allows us to preserve the existing structure, avoiding major demolition. By finishing the façade with plaster and thin brick veneer, we maintain the original aesthetic appearance while significantly improving the thermal performance. Regarding the foundation, there is currently no reliable information about its construction or whether it includes insulation. Most likely, it does not. It is almost impossible to add insulation to an existing foundation, and insulation on top of the floor does not address the junction at the foundation. As a result, cold bridging may still occur, affecting both energy performance and indoor comfort. A way to remedy this would be to choose for internal insulation but this would completely change the design of the structure.

CONSTRUCTION

The existing structure is made of thick masonry brick walls and concrete beams supported by concrete pillars in the central core of the building. As mentioned in the thermal performance section, the foundation type is unknown, and there are no existing structural drawings available. Given that the building is single-storey and relatively simple in form, we have assumed a strip foundation as the most likely and realistic scenario to proceed with. The new structure has been entirely developed to meet the spatial and functional requirements set by our architectural team. This has resulted in several large spans that required additional structural elements to ensure stability and load-bearing capacity. The most striking part of the structural design is the glazed roof structure. Due to the use of glass, there were strict requirements regarding deflection and deformation, as even minimal displacement could affect the glass panels. To achieve a feasible solution, we explored two structural variants, and after comparative analysis, we finalized the current system, shown in the schematic diagram under this text.

The recommended construction method for the Dobrinja Market Hall is a new steel frame structure. This approach offers maximum flexibility in design, allowing large open spans and future adaptability. Steel is locally available, with skilled labor and fabrication facilities in Bosnia, making the method highly feasible and technically reliable. Despite logistical challenges in the pedestrian zone—due to heavy transport and crane use—the benefits outweigh the difficulties.

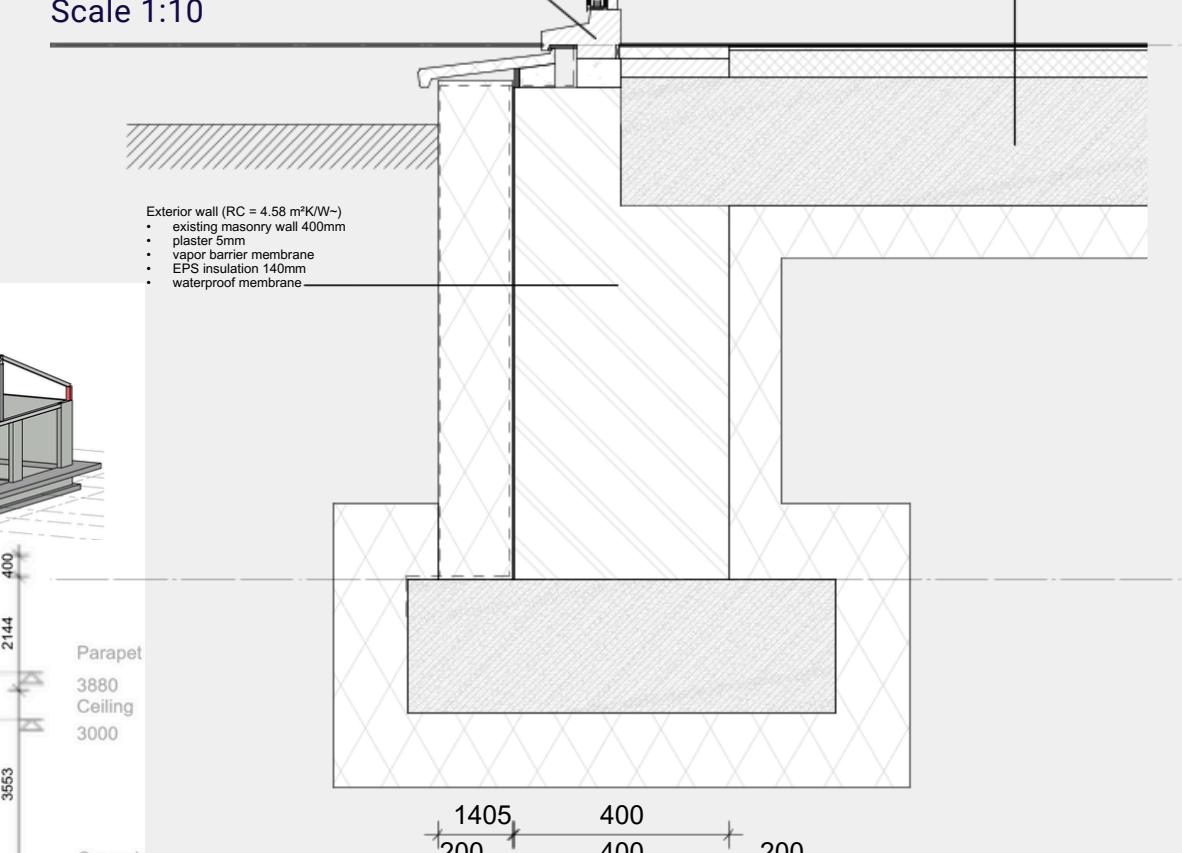
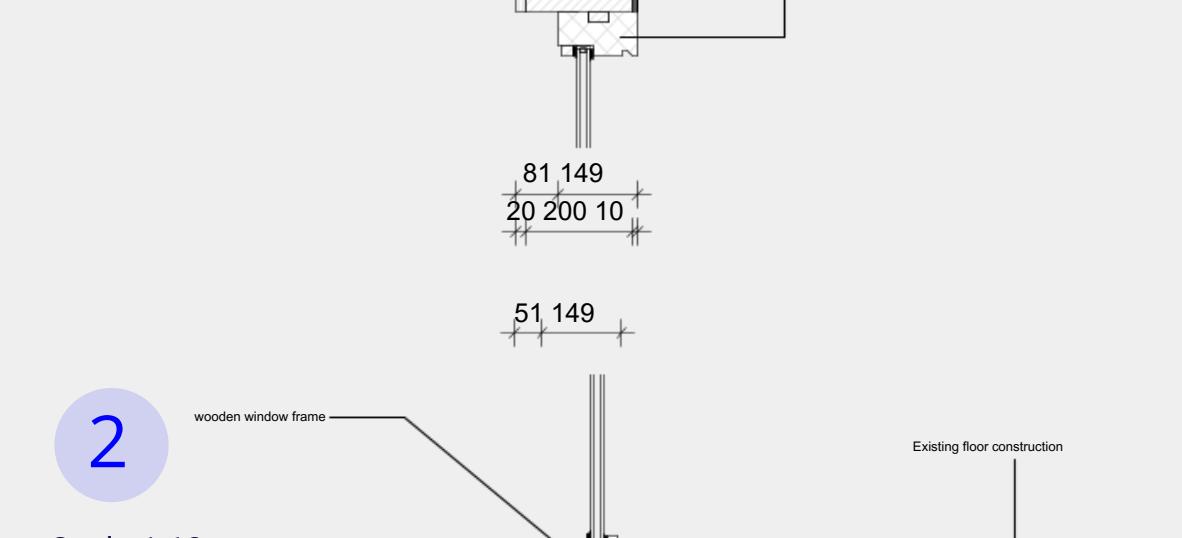
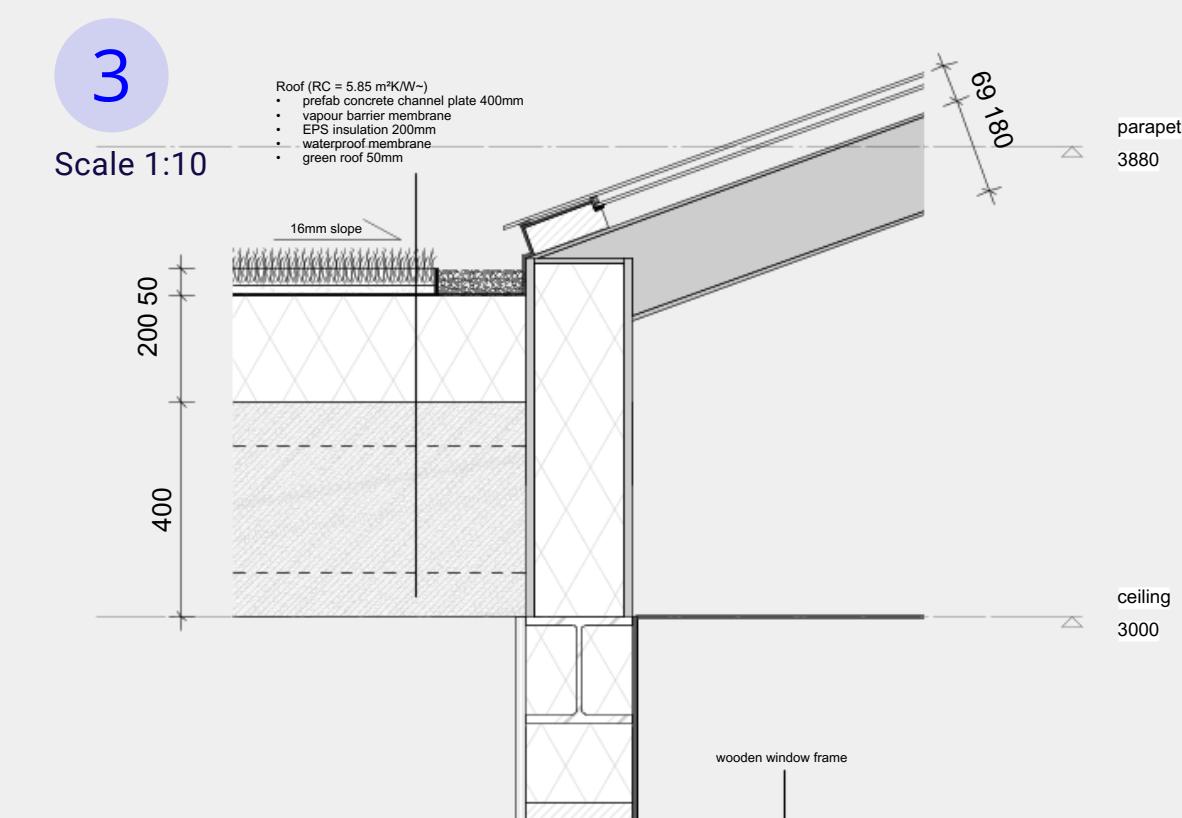
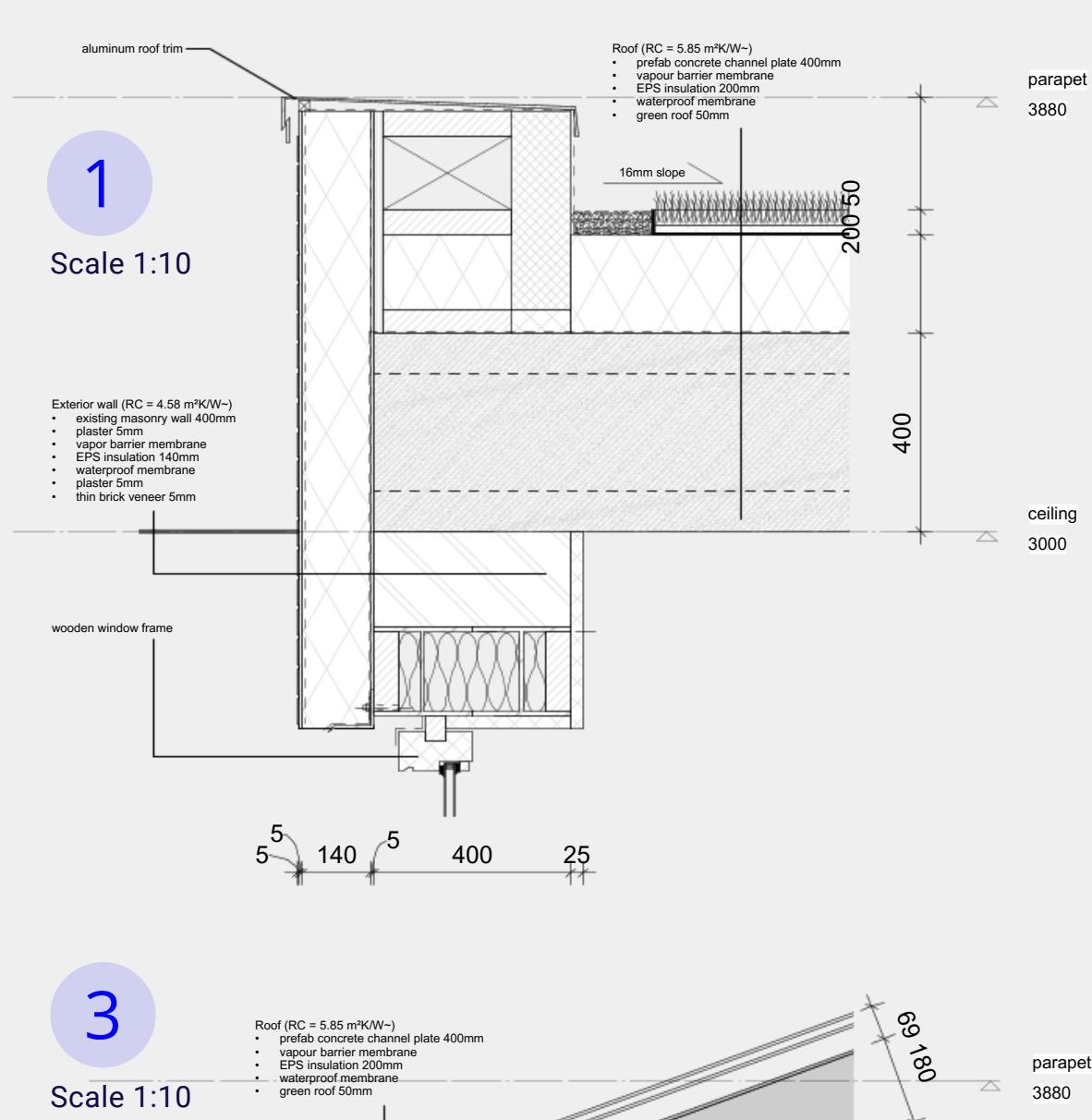
In terms of quality, steel delivers a durable and robust building shell with excellent structural performance and long-term resilience. Combined with modern façade and insulation systems, the result is a sustainable, comfortable, and future-ready building. Although construction costs are higher than concrete renovation, the investment is justified by high design freedom, minimal future limitations, and architectural quality. Overall, a new steel structure provides the best balance between flexibility, technical feasibility, and long-term value.

EXECUTION

DEMOLITION

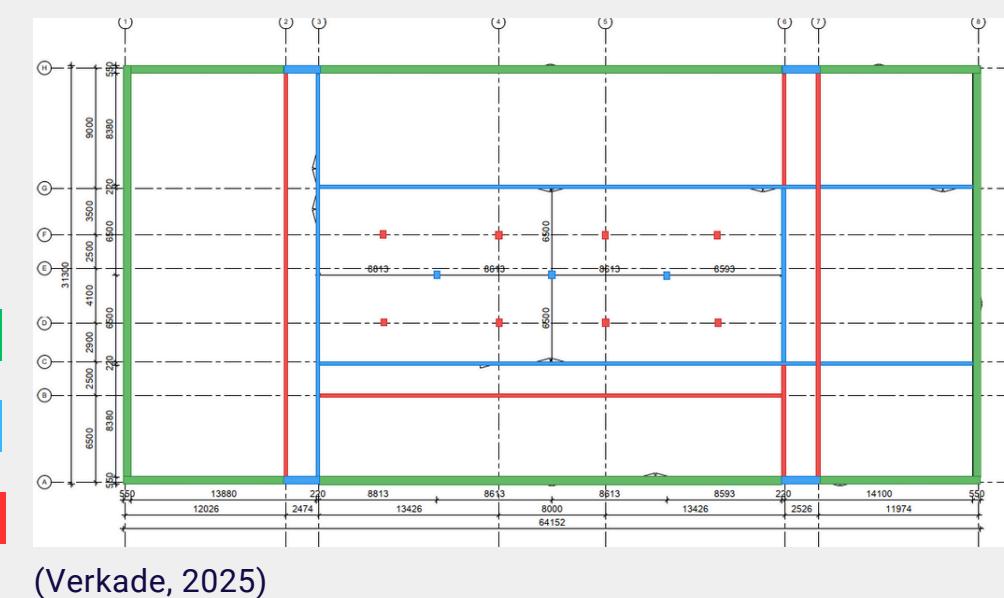
First, demolition work will take place before the renovation of the existing building can begin. Prior to the start of the demolition, an assessment of the current architectural and structural condition of the building must be carried out. Once this assessment is completed, demolition can commence. The following components will be demolished:

- The central block, including the skeletal structure consisting of concrete columns
- Installations
- Floor finishes
- Window frames, including the glass
- Any interior walls
- The entire roof



NEW BUILD/RENOVATE

- New load-bearing walls
- New columns
- New façade structure
- New roof structure including green roof and solar panels
- New interior walls including door frames
- New interior finishes
- Renewal of building services installations



LOGISTICAL CHALLENGES

Sources: Municipality of Novi Grad (2020), Dnevni avaz (2021), Aida Lize (2025)

Access and Time Restrictions

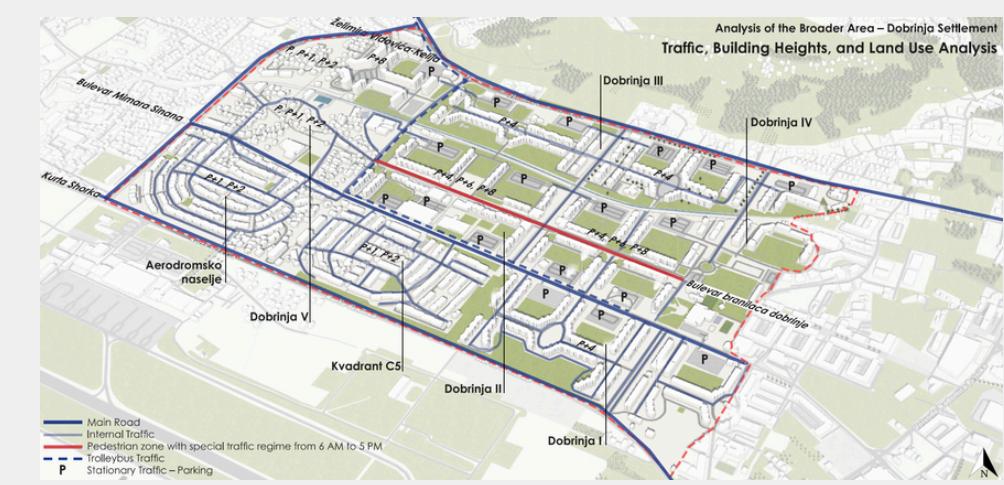
- Pedestrian zone: construction traffic only allowed from 06:00 to 17:00
- Only light vehicles permitted (≤ 3.5 tons); heavier equipment requires a permit
- Physical access control via automatic bollards and surveillance systems

Delivery Pressure

- Construction logistics overlap with commercial delivery time windows
- Just-in-time delivery is essential
- Requires use of small, flexible equipment
- Demands close coordination between contractors, suppliers, and the municipality

Space Constraints

- Square is surrounded by residential blocks and public facilities
- No space for on-site storage or lifting zones
- Requires external consolidation points and phased execution



(Lizde, Analysis of the broader area, 2025)

- Permits and temporary access passes issued by the municipality (RFID)
- Key requirements: timely applications, clear agreements, and communication with residents

Conclusion

A flexible and carefully planned construction logistics strategy is essential. Only through close cooperation with the municipality and local residents can disruptions be minimized and public space remain functional during the redevelopment.

BUILDING METHOD

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INTERNATIONAL PROJECT



Collaboration between Faculty of Architecture, University of Sarajevo and Institute for the Built Environment, Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences.

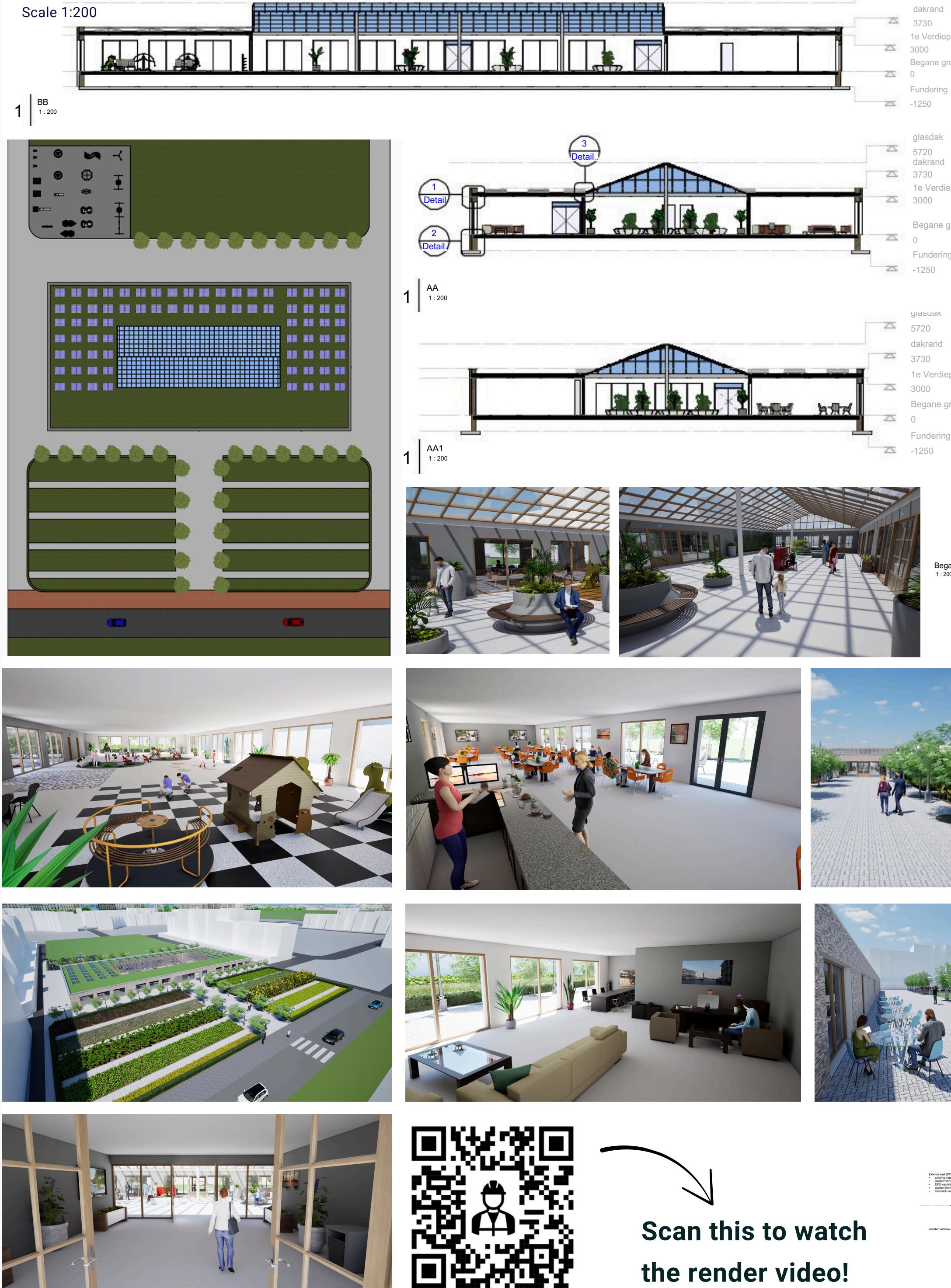


SOLUTION

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DESIGN

Scale 1:200

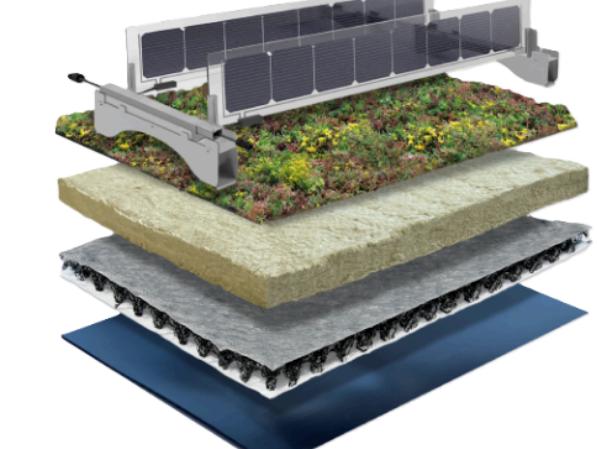


THERMAL PERFORMANCE

To move forward, the team must physically uncover the foundation to assess its composition and determine whether additional insulation measures are needed at that level. Only then can we decide where said EPS insulation should be placed to prevent cold bridges and an overall lower thermal performance.

THERMAL PERFORMANCE

The new construction makes functional use of the existing outer walls but does require new foundations to carry the glazed roof structure. By integrating the architectural vision with the necessary structural adaptations—such as large-span beams and a carefully engineered glass roof—the design ensures both stability and spatial openness. Despite uncertainties regarding the existing foundation,



Scan this to watch the render video!

EXECUTION PROCES

The project involves the renovation and partial reconstruction of an existing building. During the demolition phase, the existing floor finishes, interior walls, window frames including glazing, and the entire roof structure will be removed. In the subsequent construction phase, new load-bearing walls made of calcium silicate blocks will be erected, along with a steel structure to support a transparent roof. The roof structure will be completely renewed and executed as a green roof, incorporating photovoltaic panels. Additionally, the interior walls, finishes, and all building-related installations will be replaced.

The construction will be carried out in phases by a team of approximately six to eight skilled workers. For the installation of the precast concrete floor slabs (hollow core slabs), a mobile tower crane will be used, depending on lifting capacity requirements and site accessibility.

Due to the project's location in a pedestrian area, significant logistical constraints apply. The delivery of building materials will primarily be conducted using electric trucks (<3.5 tons). For heavier transport or deliveries outside regular time windows (06:00–17:00), a municipal exemption is required. These exemptions must be applied for and granted prior to the start of construction (see also the section Logistical Challenges and Logistics plan).

Throughout the construction process, various quality controls will be performed, including dimensional inspections, material checks, and functional testing of building services systems. These procedures ensure the technical and functional performance of the completed structure.

The construction process is fully supported by a BIM model, developed by Juwan. This model serves as an integrated coordination tool among disciplines, enabling clash detection and supporting both scheduling and logistical planning throughout the project.

LOGISTICS PLAN

Access and time windows

- Only light vehicles (< 3.5 tons)
- Permitted hours: 06:00 – 17:00
- Municipal permit required for exceptions

Administrative coordination

- Timely applications (permits + RFID)
- Clear agreements and stakeholder communication



Minimal disruption

Supply logistics

- Just-in-time via external hub
- Using small electric vehicles
- Close coordination with suppliers and the municipality

Space usage

- Limited space for storage and lifting zones
- Phased execution



Results



Reduced CO2 emissions

Renvo:

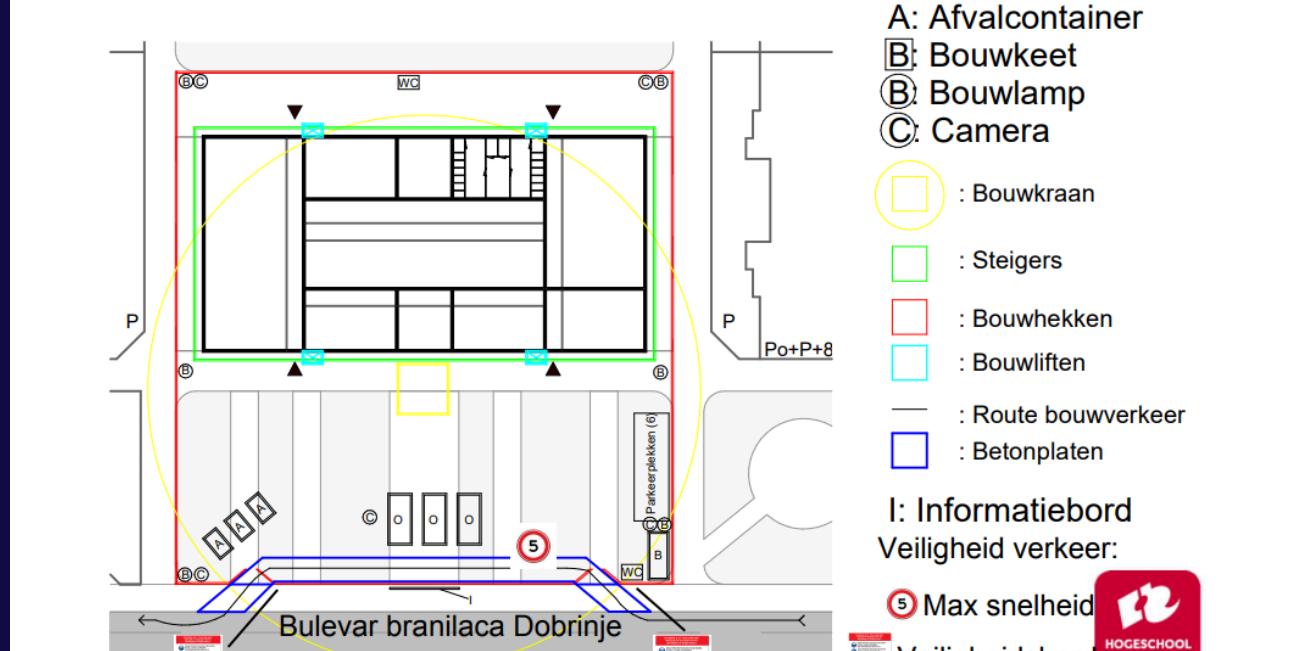
- O: Opslagcontainer
- A: Afvalcontainer
- B: Bouwketel
- C: Bouwlamp
- D: Camera

- E: Bouwkraan
- F: Steigers
- G: Bouwhekken
- H: Bouwliften
- I: Route bouwverkeer
- J: Betonplaten

- K: Informatiebord
- L: Veiligheid verkeer:

- M: Max snelheid
- N: Veiligheidsbord

- O: Hogeschool Rotterdam



CONSTRUCTION SITE LAYOUT

This construction site is located in an urban pedestrian area and includes facilities such as six parking spaces, two toilets, several storage and waste containers, and a tower crane with a lifting radius of around 36 meters. Site access is at the north side, and the logistics are adapted to limited maneuvering space. Prefab elements and steel reinforcement are used for renovation.

MAINTENANCE

The new Dobrinja market hall is built with a steel frame and hollow-core slab roof, topped by an extensive green roof. Brick facades reflect the local architectural style. Without solar panels, the focus shifts to maintaining drainage, structural integrity, and energy systems. The green roof requires yearly checks for waterproofing, plant health, and drainage, especially due to the vulnerability of hollow-core slabs to water damage. Every five years, the steel structure should be inspected for corrosion and stress at joints. The brickwork needs periodic cleaning and repointing to prevent frost damage. Technical installations and flexible interior elements must be checked regularly to ensure safety and comfort. With routine upkeep, the building will serve the community reliably and efficiently.

