Proposal Description

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Use of Building

The intended use of the building is as leather bookbinding workshop with facilities for workers and a residence for the owner.

Conservation Approach

The basic principles of my design approach were solidity, transparency and materials. The materials on site and their contrasting nature as well as the decay of the buildingsand their character, persuaded me to restore or preserve the building as little as possible, or not at all in some areas.

Design Concept

The basic concept of the design was about transparency vs solidity and the use of contrasting materials. I split the building into two axss, the vertical axis from the tower throught the classical house and to the back of the site was focus on the more modern, contemporary seeming materials and was focused on the dichotomy between transparency and solidity. The large wall of an old agricultural building acted as a barrier to the site allowing me to place the more textured materials of the workshops on the horizontal axis, juxtaposed with the original building and the other proposed addition, while hidden from view of them.

Main Spaces

The two main spaces are the leather walled workshops and the central, double height, louvered space. These two spaces represent the essence of the two axes and their dichotomy. The leather workshop spaces are simple cells made of stacked leather to the reflect both the materials and the craft housed within. the roof of the workshop wing is angled and slightly raised above the cells to emphasise the cells material difference and to allow diffused light to enter from the south from above. The vertical, metal axis of the proposal concentrates on the use of steel louvers at varied densities to suggest transparancy and solidity from various viewpoints and perspectives. The central double height space located in the classical house adjacent to the tower encapsulates the concept of the central axis. when enytered the sides of the space seem solid, while allowing in various amounts to add depth and definition to the space. as the space is moved through it opens up to the side of the viewer and offers a glimpse at the origianl wall of the building, framing them and mirroring their effect on the natural landscape.

These spaces are different in atmosphere and materiality, but come together to accomplish the same goal, reflecting and exhibiting the original building and allowing the occupant to view them from within their contemporary dwelling.

Site Strategy

The basic strategy of the site was to enter from the northeast of the site, through the trees and directly into the rear of the building. This was done to aid progression through the building, as you are first meet with a new, solid structure which dissapears as you progress towards the tower to reveal the original structure, and ends on the top floor of the tower overlooking the whole site and the full original complex of building surrounding the new, refined building.