

TÖSS INDEX

access to tools



FUNCTION

Dear Gleaner

The TÖSS INDEX functions as an evaluation and access device. With it, the user should know better what is worth getting and where and how to do the getting, what to use and where to use. It provides an analysis of existing builds and offers examples for different approaches.

PURPOSE

To provide the current and future MAINTENANCE ARTISTS living in Zentrum Töss and Winterthur with a manual and inspirations for their upcoming projects.

An item is listed in the TÖSS INDEX if it is deemed:

- 1) Useful as a tool,*
- 2) Relevant to independent education,*
- 3) High quality or low cost,*
- 4) Not already common knowledge,*
- 5) Gleanable and or easily accessible*
- 6) Buildable in the buildings workshop*

THE GLEANERS OF TÖSS

The TÖSS INDEX is inspired by the work numerable gleaners, builders and creatives already living inside of ZENTRUM TÖSS.

It emerges from the practices, experiments, and quiet labors that have long been unfolding within its walls.

the TÖSS INDEX gathers, documents, and amplifies what is already here. It serves as a living archive—one that recognizes, values, and celebrates the contributions of those who have been cultivating this space through their work, their presence, and their imagination. By collecting these traces and giving them visibility, the INDEX expresses deep appreciation for the ongoing efforts that continue to make ZENTRUM TÖSS a vibrant, collaborative environment.



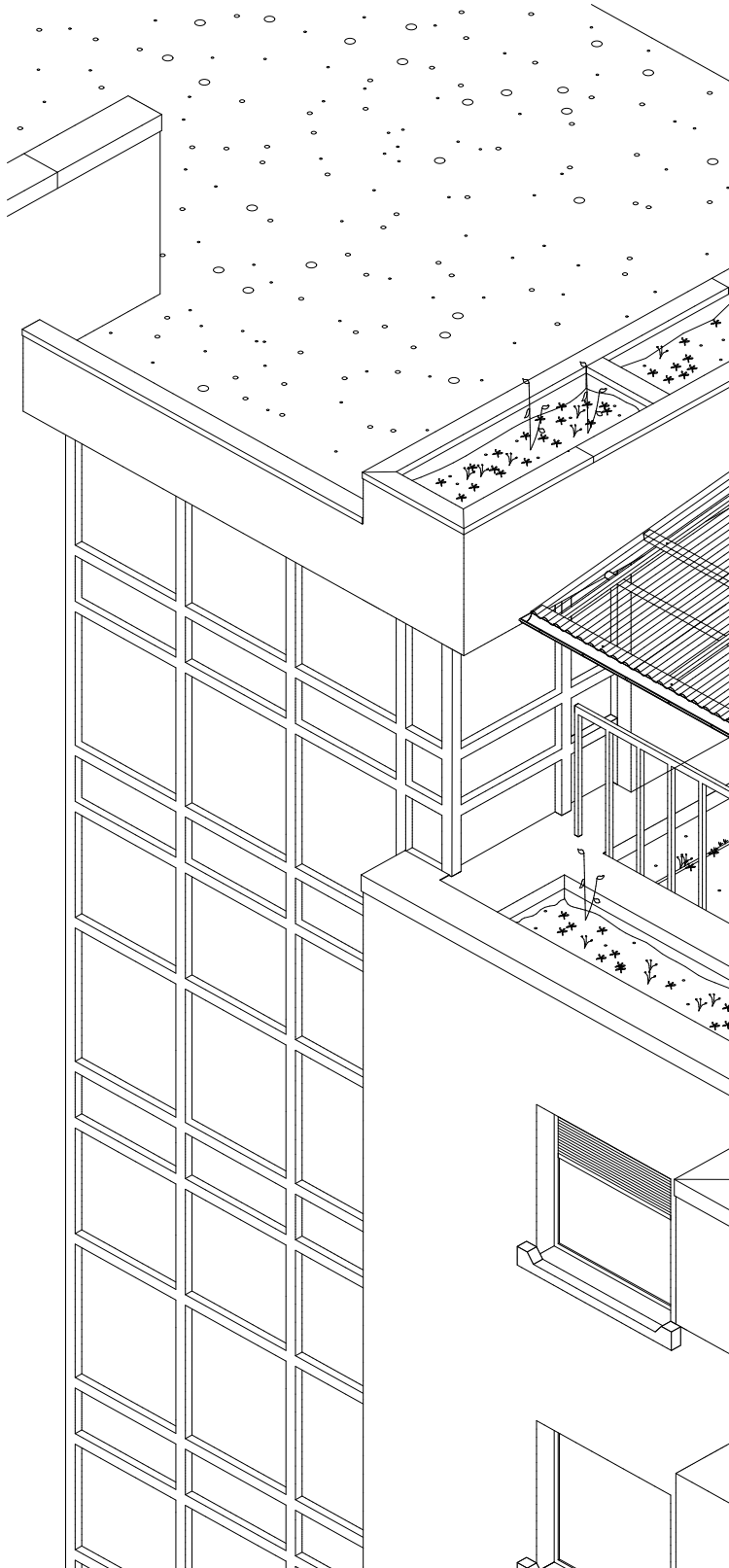
THE WATER FLOWS

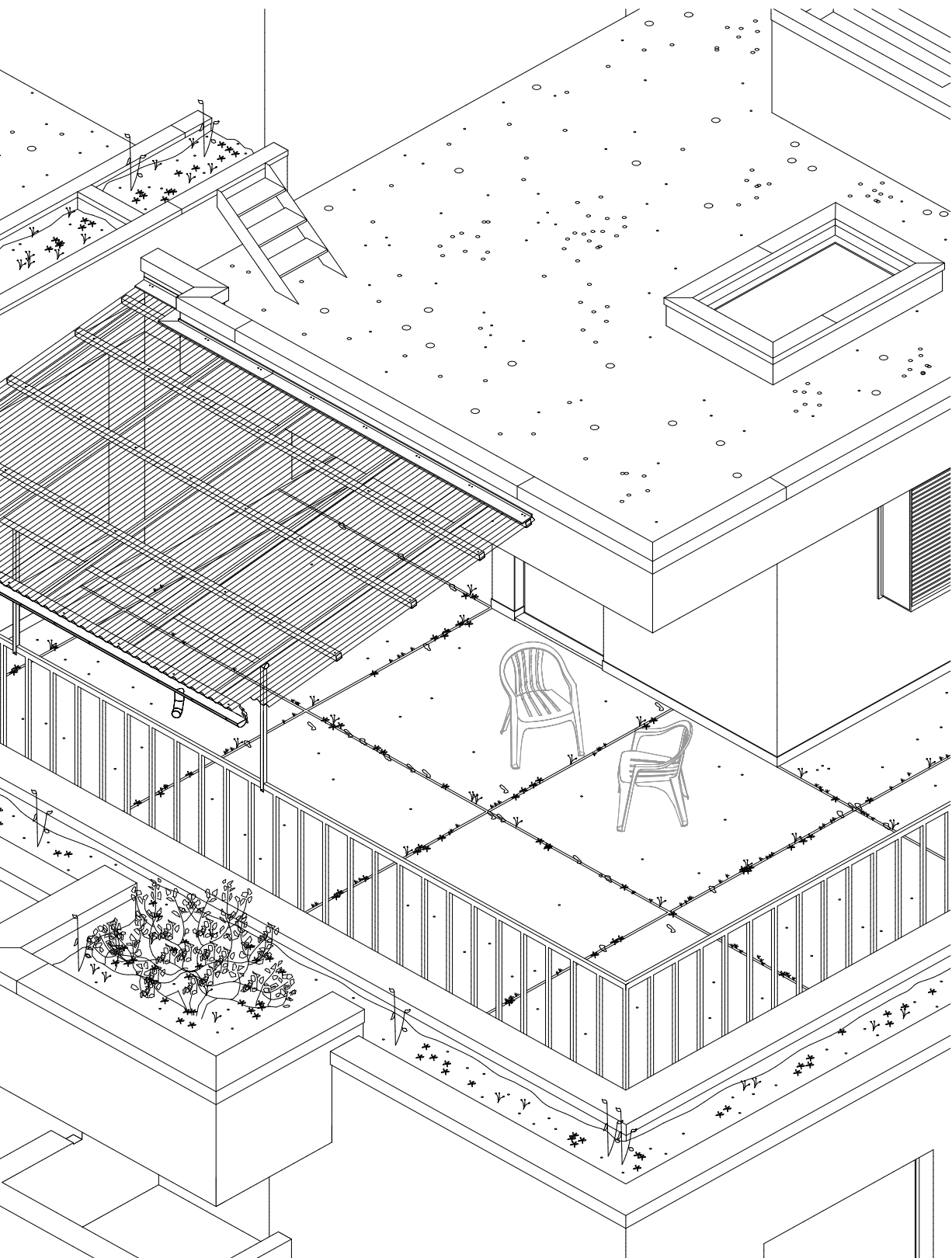
If you make your way through the apartment tower and take the elevator to the 12th floor, then turn left and open the door, you reach a terrace. From here, high above the city, you have sweeping views across Winterthur and its surroundings. At the beginning of the terrace, there is a small roof. It is not a grand architectural gesture, nor was it part of the original design—it is an addition. Yet it provides shade, protection from rain, and a sense of comfort.



This roof uses a piece of corrugated PVC roofing, screwed onto wooden battens, which are themselves fixed to a light-weight, white-painted steel structure attached to the concrete façade and the metal railing surrounding the terrace. At the end of the roof, a simple drainage channel directs all the water into a single spot in the flower bed beside it.

Today, signs of decay are visible. A section of the PVC has been cut away, the wooden batten underneath is damaged, and the PVC itself shows yellowing. What can be done?

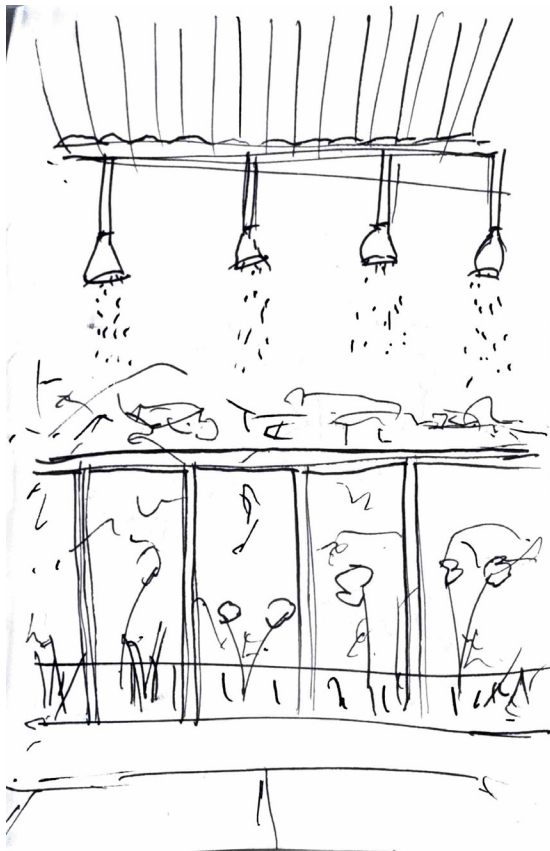
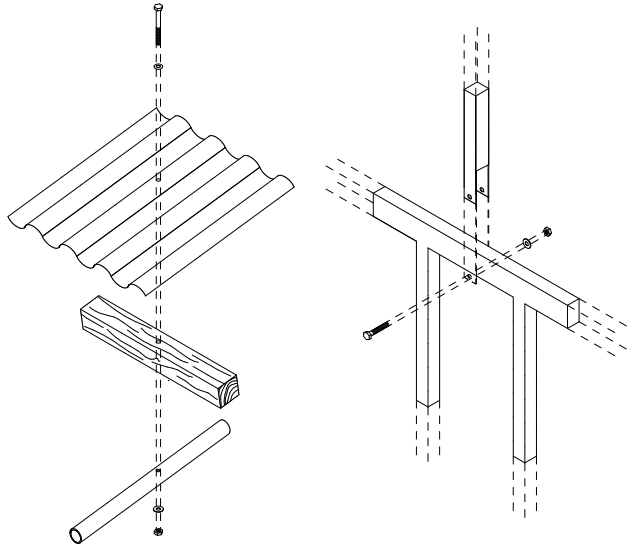




PROPOSAL

Instead of simply repairing the roof by replacing the corrugated PVC roofing, we propose to improve the drainage system. At the moment, all the water is funneled into one small point, flooding it and creating a hostile environment for plants while causing soil degradation. Instead, we want to distribute the water evenly and more gently.

We propose adding several watering-can heads to the drainage pipe. These diffuse the water, spreading it softly across a wider area. And if debris ever clogs the tiny holes, each head can simply be unscrewed, cleaned, and reattached.

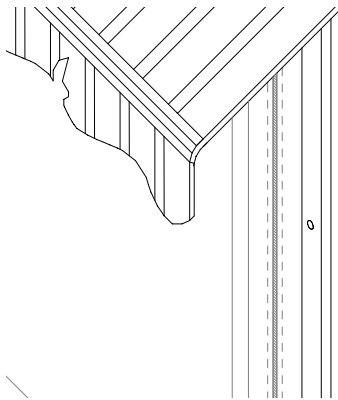
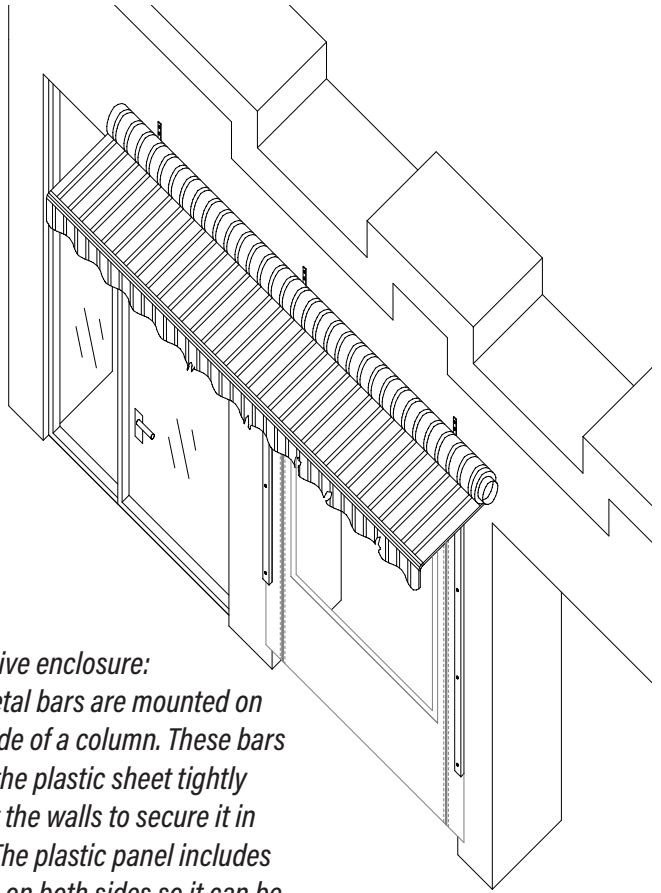


HOW TO SHELTER FROM THE SKY

There are two separate constructions: one provides shade from the sun, and the other closes off the interior area to protect it from rain and wind.

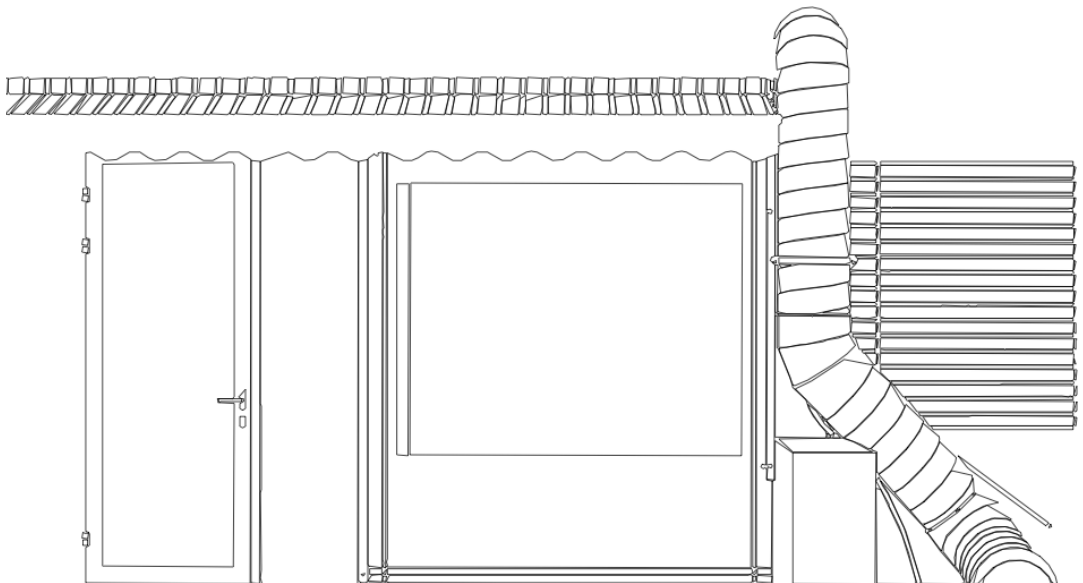
Sunshade:

A sunshade is attached to the concrete structure using three metal brackets that are screwed into the wall.



Protective enclosure:

Two metal bars are mounted on each side of a column. These bars clamp the plastic sheet tightly against the walls to secure it in place. The plastic panel includes zippers on both sides so it can be opened, and it has a buckle closure that allows the rolled-up plastic

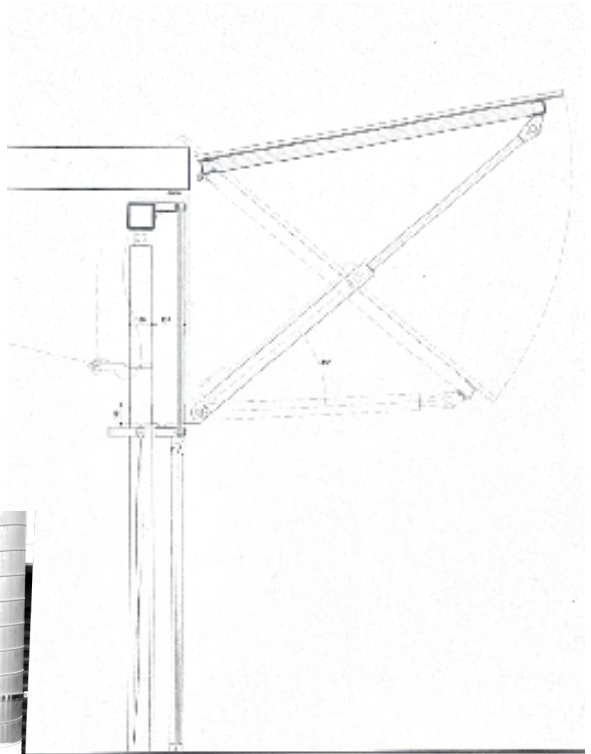
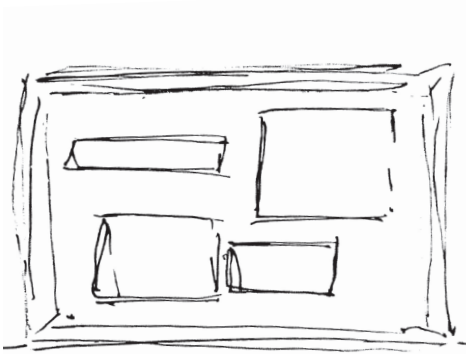


PROPOSAL

This approach provides a more stable and robust enclosure for the workshop space.

By using a hydraulic system, the enclosing doors can fully open toward the Dorfplatz, allowing the workspace to extend into the common area. This creates an open, accessible environment where people can easily participate and observe the work.

At the same time, the system offers shade and reliable protection from the weather, ensuring comfort-



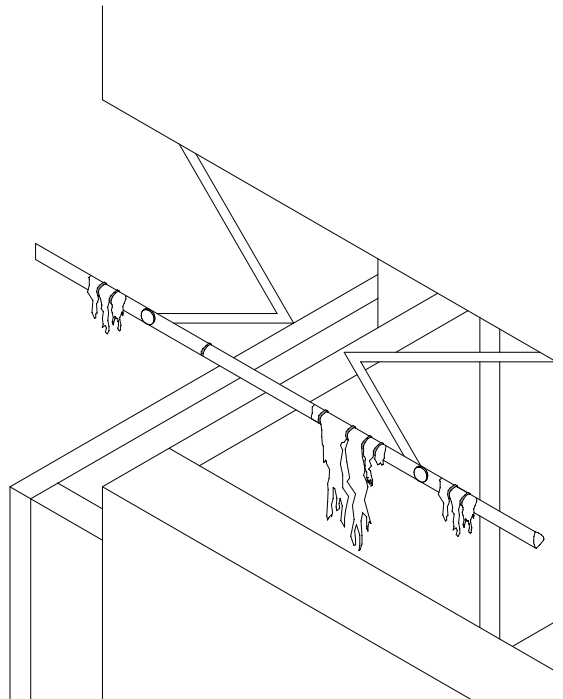
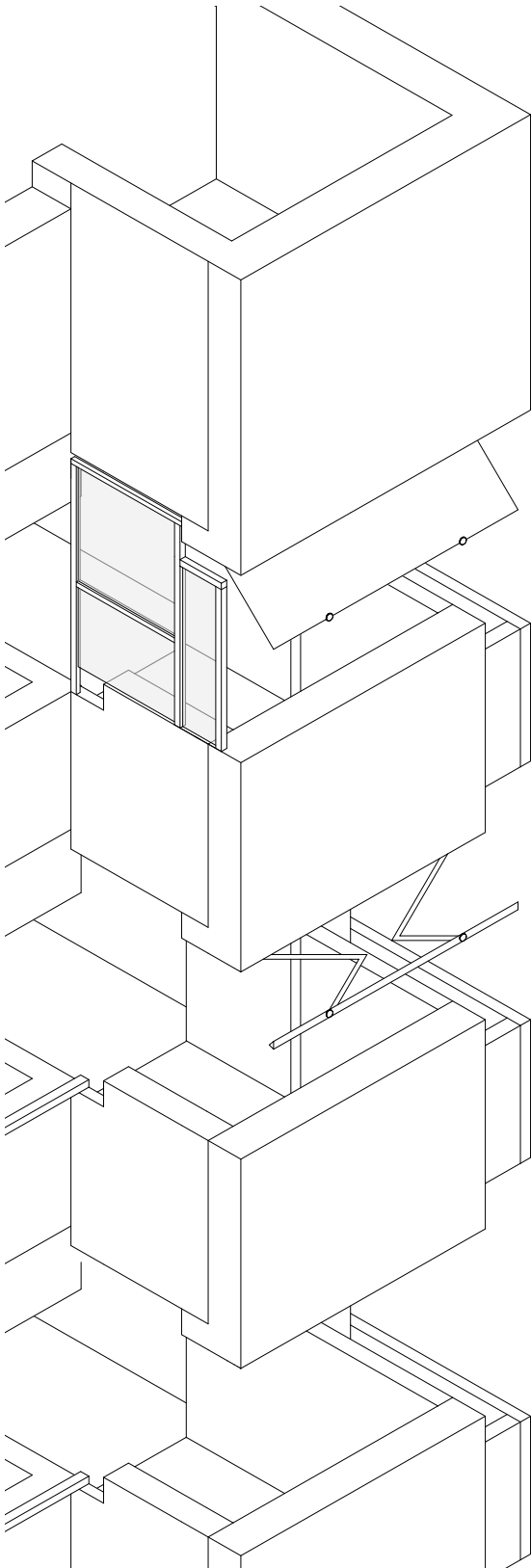
BALCONY

The sunshades of the balcony have degraded over time. You can see multiple attempts of inhabitants trying to repair them, but the fabric ripped again.

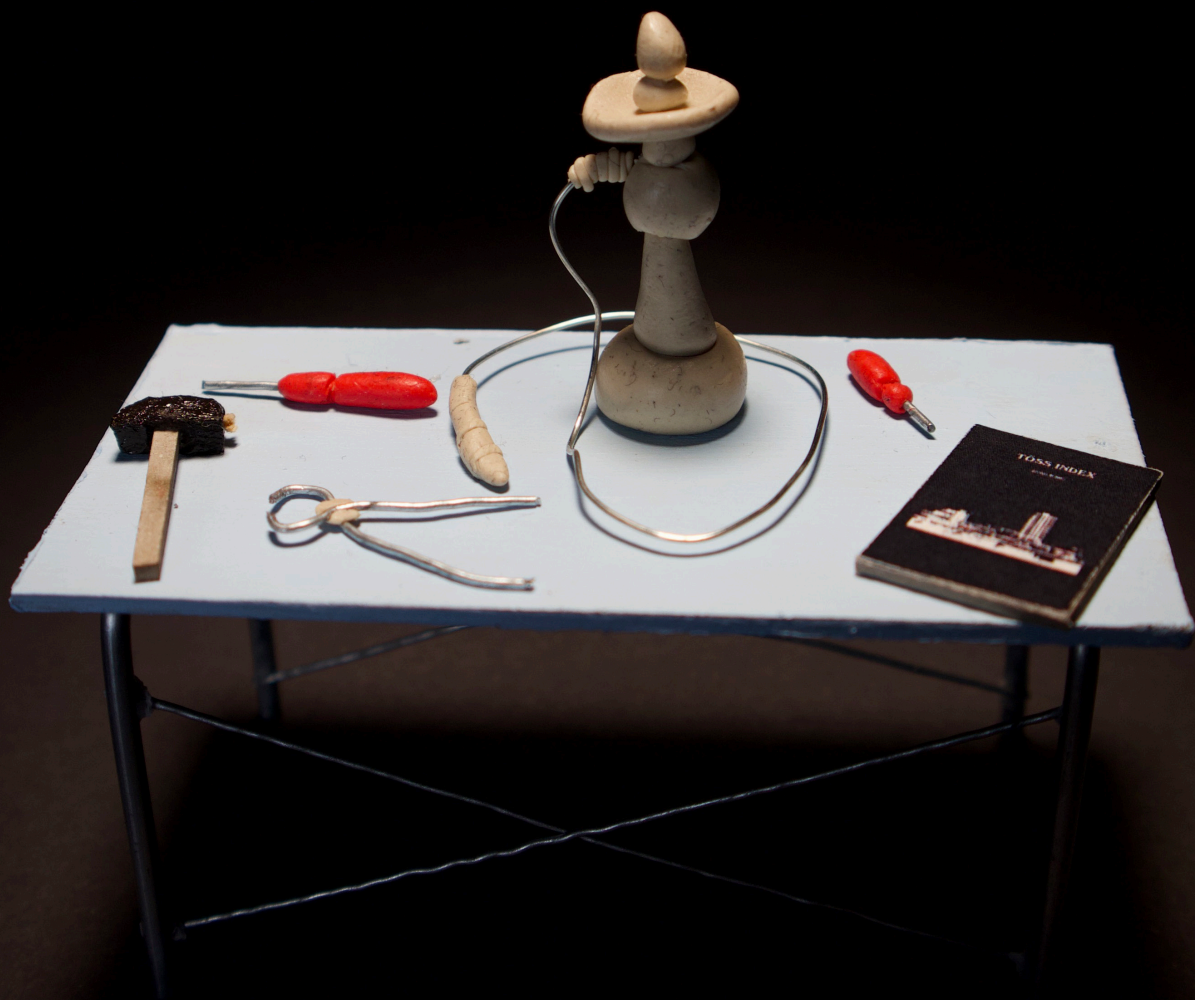
Additionally People started to shield themselves from the wind by placing various plastic planes on the side of their balconies.

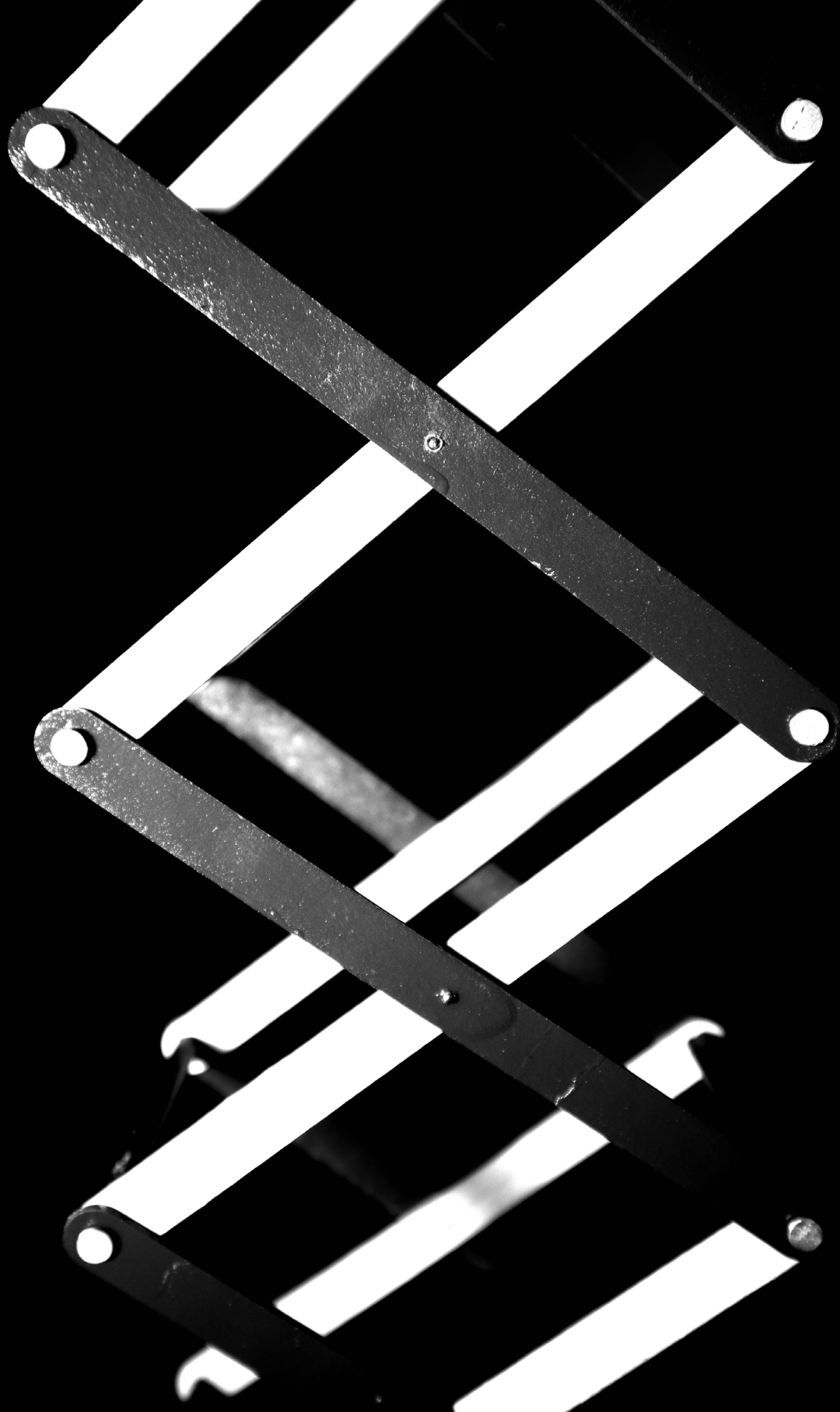
PROPOSAL

You can learn how to fix your broken sunshades in the sewing area of the workshop. There you can find detailed instructions, fabrics and sewing tips on how to repair efficiently.



WORKSHOP EQUIPMENT





DISC SANDER



Disc sander

The disc sander enables fast, controlled sanding of surfaces, edges and angles.

It is ideal for precisely adjusting and cleanly refining pieces of wood.

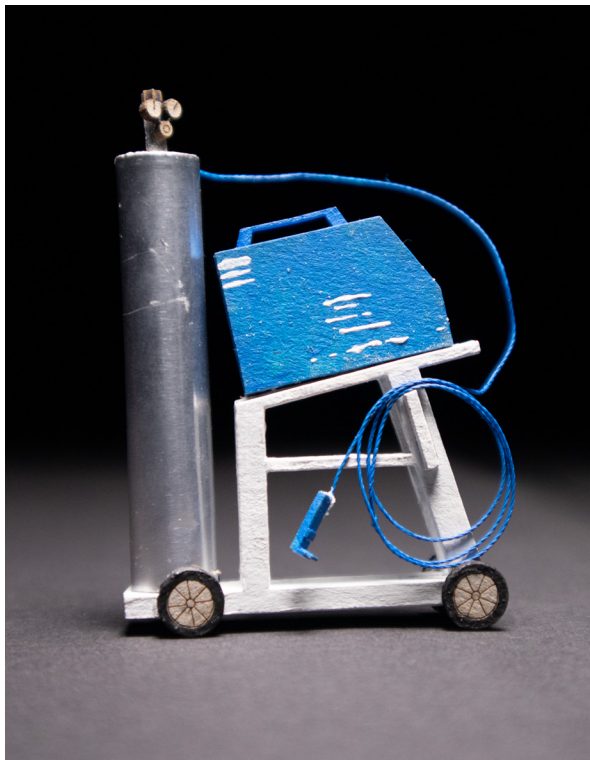
BANDSAW



Band saw

With a band saw, you can cut wood precisely, both straight and curved. The endless saw blade enables clean curves and exact cuts – ideal for versatile shapes and larger workpieces.

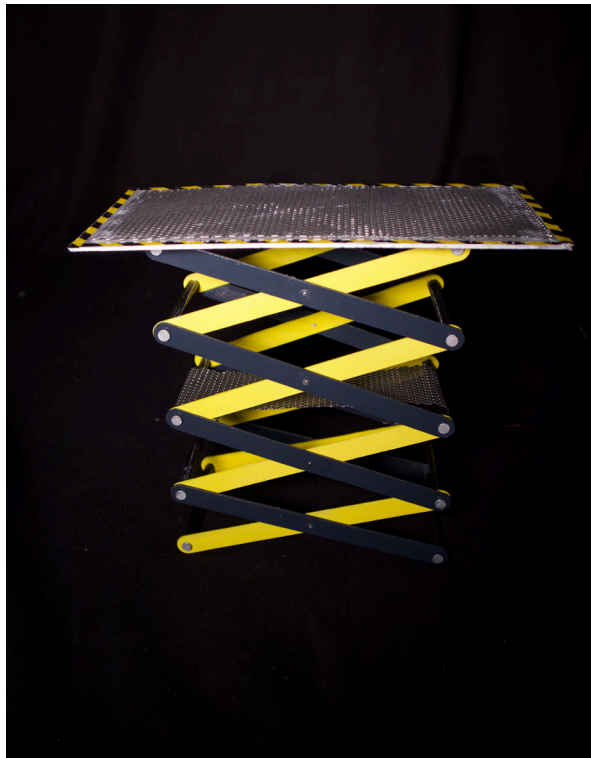
WELDING MACHINE



MIG welding equipment

MIG welding is one of the most commonly used welding processes, including at our company. Our six machines are in use every day. MIG welding is relatively easy to learn and

HYDRAULIC SCISSOR LIFT



Hydraulic scissor lift

A hydraulic scissor lift connects the workshop and warehouse safely and efficiently. The hydraulic drive allows heavy loads to be raised and lowered smoothly. The lift facilitates material transport, saves time and ensures ergonomic workflows.

SHISHA



Shisha

The Shisha is a Tool for bringing People together to enjoy smoke while working in the workshop or discussing with your project group. Thanks to various attachments and flavours, the shisha is versatile and can be customised to suit individual tastes.

CURTAINS



Curtains

The curtains are a Tool for protection. The welding curtains protect the eyes from harmful light radiation generated during welding. The chain-mail curtains protect from projectiles.

TABLES & TOOLS



