

Upgrade Your House

Rebuild, Renovate, and
Reimagine Your Home

gestalten



An Antique Barn Becomes an Intimate Chalet

CONVERSION IN CENTRAL VALAIS BY SAVIOZ FABRIZZI ARCHITECTES
VALAIS, SWITZERLAND
PASTURE BARN → MINIMALIST CHALET



Set in the mountainous green slopes of central Valais, Switzerland, this alpine pasture chalet, or *mayen*, was converted from an early 20th-century barn. The architects retained the original barn's format, utilizing the natural gradient of the land; on the lower level, a masonry base provides support for the upper timber layer. The upper section strikes a balance between openness and privacy by integrating with the stunning natural surroundings while providing cozy places to relax. Giving direct access to the exterior and allowing airflow across the

house, floor-to-ceiling glass that can be fully opened flanks the double-height central kitchen and dining room. Contrastingly, the living room and the mezzanine—which was converted into an additional bedroom—are encapsulated with timber, creating a refuge of warmth and peace. On the lower level, the main bedroom and bathroom are the most private and intimate parts of the minimalist chalet.

(This page) From the open kitchen, a simple ladder leads up to a mezzanine bedroom. (Opposite) The chalet sits on a slope in one of Switzerland's sparsely populated alpine regions.





(Right) The home is perforated, which separates the timber and masonry sections. This reinforces the transverse effect and minimizes the need for other openings in the outer walls.



A Stone Masonry Barn Becomes a Compact Home

BORNET HOUSE BY SAVIOZ FABRIZZI ARCHITECTES

OLLON, SWITZERLAND

DILAPIDATED BARN → MODERN HOME





Through a process of care and patience, Borner House was built from a former dilapidated barn. The lower level once housed livestock, while the upper floor formerly stocked hay. Constructed using the original structure of undulating stone-rubble masonry, making the house liveable was a delicate process due to the proximity of other houses and the instability of the walls. The lower level's shaky stone walls were cautiously extended, and the ground was partially excavated to have enough height in both floors and to insulate the ground floor. The west wall, which needed to be reconstructed, now has a large window spanning its width that provides wide views across the valley. Other existing openings were retained in the same places. Inside, black-stained wooden board covers the walls and the pitched ceiling, and underfoot, the exposed concrete-slab flooring is also stained black to match. The repurposing of this barn means that this modern home follows the vernacular of the location while sustainably reusing materials.

Due to its slope-side positioning, the home had unobstructed space on one side. Taking advantage of this, the architects devised a large living room window overlooking the Rhône Valley.





(Above) The rubble masonry moves downhill with the natural gradient of the land. The design retained existing openings on the ground floor, with wooden screens installed above.

