

## REMEMBERING VOICES

*collecting memory*

***THE MOMENT AFTER***

*voices in mourning*

Must Rorschach rebuild the hut exactly as it was, or should it be a building that corresponds to today's time?

*"I think they should reconstruct it historically, exactly as it was. It was simply beautiful."*

*"Exactly as it was, exactly. That was a piece of culture we had, and it should remain. Today, look around, everything is these square buildings, that is not beautiful anymore. They have no character. They have no feeling."*

*"No, no, it must be as it was. The design was just great."*

*"If there were a new, good project that I liked, maybe then I could also accept it. But I don't know if it's possible to rebuild exactly as it was. That seems difficult."*

*"I wouldn't make it modern — that doesn't fit here. It must be wooden again."*

*"It should be as it was. It was a dream to walk there, across the bridge, to have a coffee — that's missing now. It belongs to Rorschach."*

*"I could also live with something new, because I don't think it's really possible to rebuild it exactly as it was."*



Robert Rath (President of the City of  
Rorschach):

*"We had version one for a hundred years; version two will certainly not be exactly the same. Maybe it will have a slightly different form, maybe the same form but with a different interior. The zeitgeist is different, and expectations and needs have changed.*

*It is always a participatory process. The population is strongly involved here, perhaps even with a referendum, and in the end one has to say: this we can afford, this is financially feasible.*

*We are open. If you ask me today, I would say the outside should look the same, the inside should be optimized. But that is just one option. There are dozens of other options."*

Peter Röllin, art and cultural scholar:

*"These voices show, of course, that this Badhütte in Rorschach is a very strong point of identification in this city, just like the Kornhaus or the parish church and some other things. Therefore, I understand this very well.*

*It is, of course, through the entire connection to everyday life, that one always went to the Badi and met people there, so to speak also as a social shell, that naturally has a very, very great significance. And when suddenly everything burns down, this reaction comes first, or as the media voices say:*

*Rorschach weeps. Just like in Lucerne, Lucerne weeps when the Kapellbrücke burned down, I can understand that very well.*

That is an example of something that was rebuilt exactly the same way. Does that also make sense from an architectural and cultural-historical perspective, to rebuild a building exactly the same way, visually as it was before?

*Yes, in Lucerne that is not a question. There it was only a partial fire of the Kapellbrücke, and it really is only a bridge of the simplest wooden construction, but in Rorschach of course quite different questions arise.*

Which questions are, for you, the most pressing that arise now?

*The most pressing question is, of course, that now everything that was wood has burned down, now we still have the pier system, the supporting system of concrete, which is also from that*

time, so 100 years old, and the most decisive question now is of course: what is the condition of this entire supporting structure? And if this supporting structure would have to be replaced, then completely new questions arise, not only questions of reconstruction but also: are there new solutions for this bathing facility at the same place?

So you are saying, if much of the basic structure had to be renewed, then perhaps one should also consider a new project?

Yes, I would assume that the whole thing must be examined intensively, and if it is seen that it is still worth preserving, in parts, or even if the whole thing would have to be replaced, then a very large participation process is needed. And then one must also think that today there would also be very good new solutions, which could, so to speak, reformulate the character of this Badhütte. There are also completely new interests in a bathing facility today, new usage interests – bistro, culture – and there would certainly also be very good new solutions. What is important, of course, is that it would be a wooden construction, but as I said, this must be discussed in great depth. And if it could be a new building, then perhaps one would even have to do a design competition with two or three alternatives.

So you think that the fire, as tragic as it is, could also be a chance?

Of course, after a fire that is always a huge chance. Naturally. This is a small matter, we don't have to compare it with Paris, but always when something is gone, something very good new can arise. But precisely in this case it is very important that tradition, building culture, which has been lost, that this plays a role in a new project.

Here we perhaps come to the keyword: heritage conservation, townscape. How strongly does that come into play when one considers a reconstruction or a new project, can one even think completely freely, or does one also have to restrict oneself, in terms of heritage conservation and townscape?

As far as the townscape is concerned, the primary thing is that it is out in the water, that it is basically a solitaire, it is not part of a street ensemble in Rorschach, but really a solitaire that stands out in the water. I think heritage conservation is also open, if it were a matter that nothing more can be preserved, what solutions are there today that could work well for the people of Rorschach, in the sense of this longing or homesickness for the old Badhütte? Of course, it is also a generational issue – these are above all middle-aged or older generations, who have liked this Badi for decades. Younger generations may already be a bit more open, perhaps also to a completely new idea.

For you personally then: a reconstruction exactly as it was, would that make sense?

From the perspective of building culture, I would now rather favor a new solution. If really nothing is left, then also a new building culture, completely new, very strong forms can be set, which again over generations can become very strong architecture, which one would again miss if it were lost again. One must see this as a process — a process of generations, but also a process of the development of architecture, and above all also of bathing culture, which also develops by itself.

The cultural claim is to find a good form. That can also be one that tomorrow one will like very much."

## ***DEBATING***

*voices under a facebook post*

*More than seven months after the fire, the story of the Badhütte continues. The carpenter Martin Hoffmann was commissioned by the cantonal heritage office to document the ruin in detail. Over months, he measured and drew beams, planks, window and door fittings – a detective's work of reconstruction. His effort has made it possible to envisage a faithful rebuilding of the Badhütte. In response to this news, numerous voices from the community expressed their feelings online.*









**Markus Isidor Bellwald**

bei allem Respekt vor der Geschichte und der leider zerstörten Substanz und bei allem Respekt vor der Arbeit von Martin Hoffmann - wäre es nicht klug, darüber nachzudenken, einen guten Neubau zu entwerfen und realisieren, so gut, dass der auch als zukünftiges Schutzobjekt stehen darf.  
auch eine 1:1 Kopie ist nie so wie das Original und die Seele des Gebäudes kann nie rekonstruiert werden, es bleibt auf ewig ein Abbild.

5 Wo.

5



**Chris Bletti**

Und der Wiederaufbau kostet dann 20x mehr als ein normaler Schuppen???? Lieber Steuerzahler, ist dieses "Denkmal" das wert????

5 Wo.

13

[Alle 13 Antworten ansehen](#)



**Reinhard Kaufmann**

Da jammern welche um die Kosten ?!

Unsere Bundesverwaltung hat eben 60 Millionen an die WHO gezahlt, weil die USA ausgestiegen ist.

Dafür wieder eine neue Pandemie!

Ich freue mich wenn es fertig gebaut und eingeweiht wird.

5 Wo.

4



**Alex Mayenfisch**

Das Badehaus ist komplett weg, es gib als nichts zu restaurieren - wieso der „Finanzkrampf“ verbrannte Details zu rekonstruieren?

Da schliesse ich mich gerne bei den Vorrednern an, ein Badehaus in Auftrag zu geben, dass dereinst auch als schützenswert erachtet werden kann und nicht gleich komplett abbrennt?

5 Wo.



**Diana Suter**

Bravo Martiiin 🙌👏

5 Wo.

2



**Romy Steffen**

Super freut uns sehr

2 Wo.



**Alzira Carvalho**

Fico contente com a boa noticia ,da cabana no lago de Rorschach, agora esperamos a reconstrução, para breve

5 Wo.



**Franziska Stauffer**

So schön zu hören.... das Badehaus war einige Male Grund genug in der Ostschweiz Ferientage zu verbringen.... ich komme wieder und freue mich darauf 🥰

5 Wo.



**Miriam Rotgans**

So schön 🥰👍🥰

5 Wo.



**Charly Adler**

Danke Herr Hoffmann 🙏👍

Sie scheinen mir, ein guter Handwerker zu sein. 👍👍

5 Wo.



[Alle 5 Antworten ansehen](#)



**Bea Trixli**

WUNDERbar 🥰👍

5 Wo.



**Patrick Abderhalden**

Ich frage mich ehrlich gesagt, ob die hohen Kosten sich wirklich lohnen. Vielleicht könnte man daraus auch etwas Wertvolleres entwickeln. Manchmal ist es auch notwendig, sich von Altem zu trennen, um Platz für Neues zu schaffen.



**Eggenfreddy Eggenberger**

Gut gemacht Martin!!!!

5 Wo.



**Karin Huber**

da würde ich als Steuerzahlerin vorher andere bauten in frage stellen 😊

5 Wo.



**Judith Metzler-Maag**

Eine super Sache 👍👍

5 Wo.



**Reinhard Kaufmann**

halt ein echter Schweizer 👍👍

Das wird wieder, wie es einmal war.

Was war die Brandursache ?

5 Wo.



**Alban D Berisha**

So en scheiss bauet doch was neus besseres

Das nervt voll da ih de schwizz immer alles alt isch und nie was neus gmacht wird

5 Wo.

[Antwort ansehen](#)

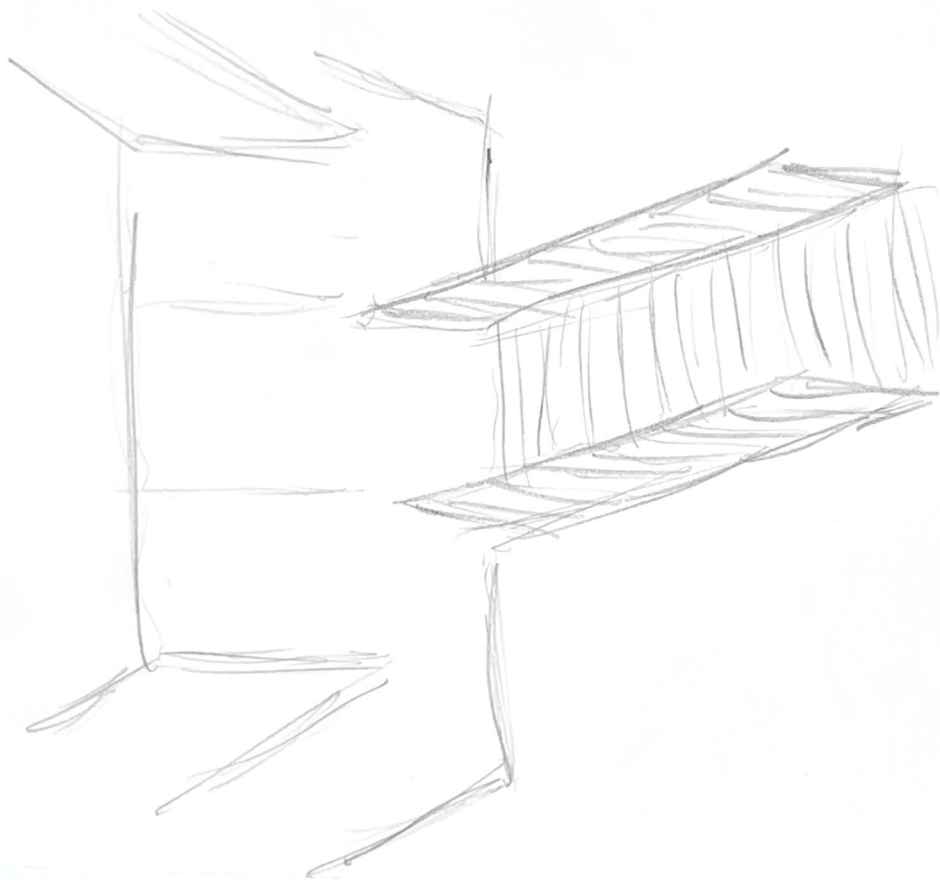


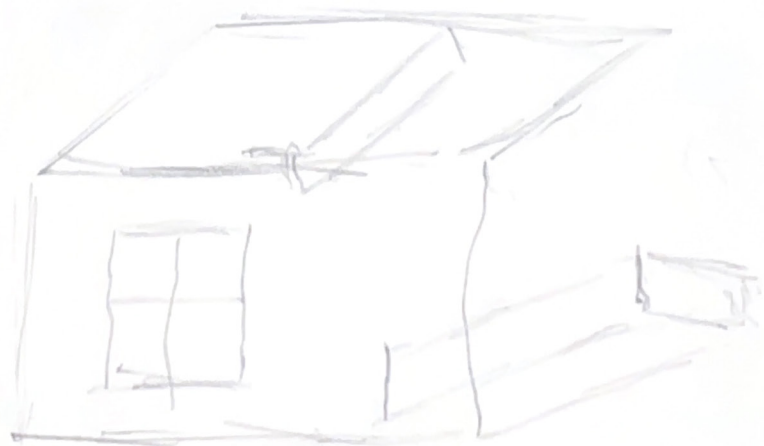
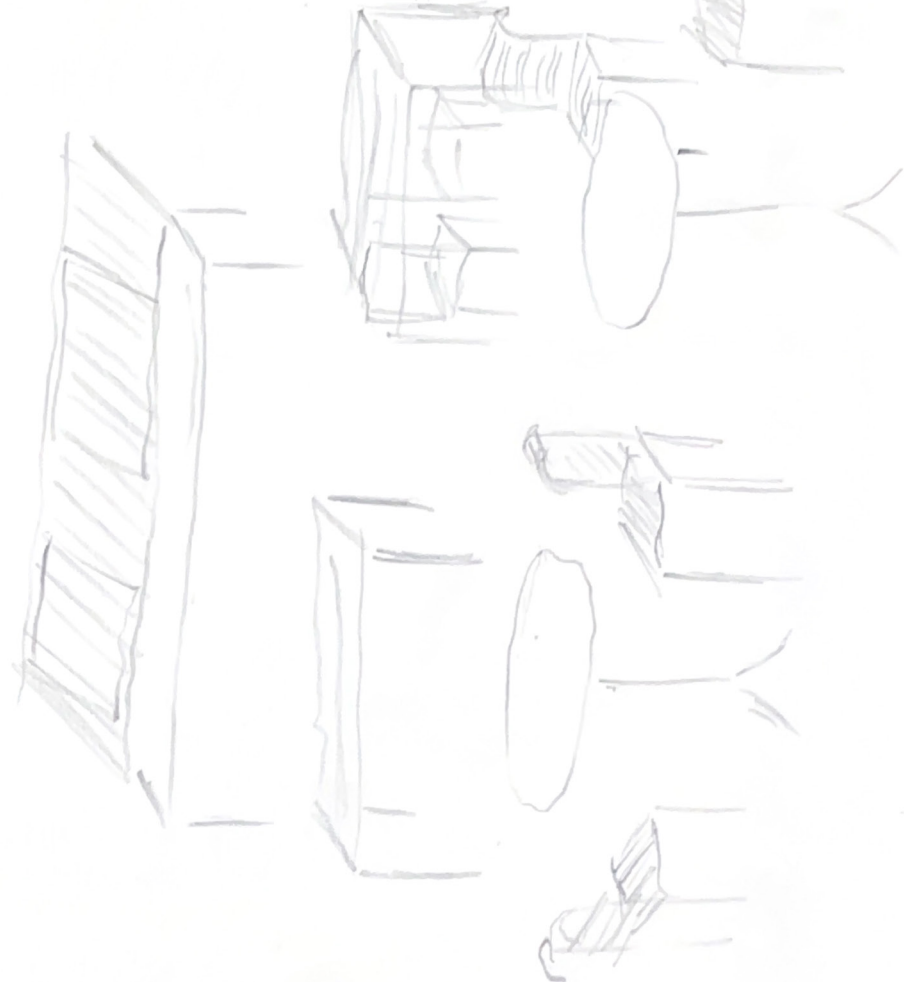
**Roger Mantel**

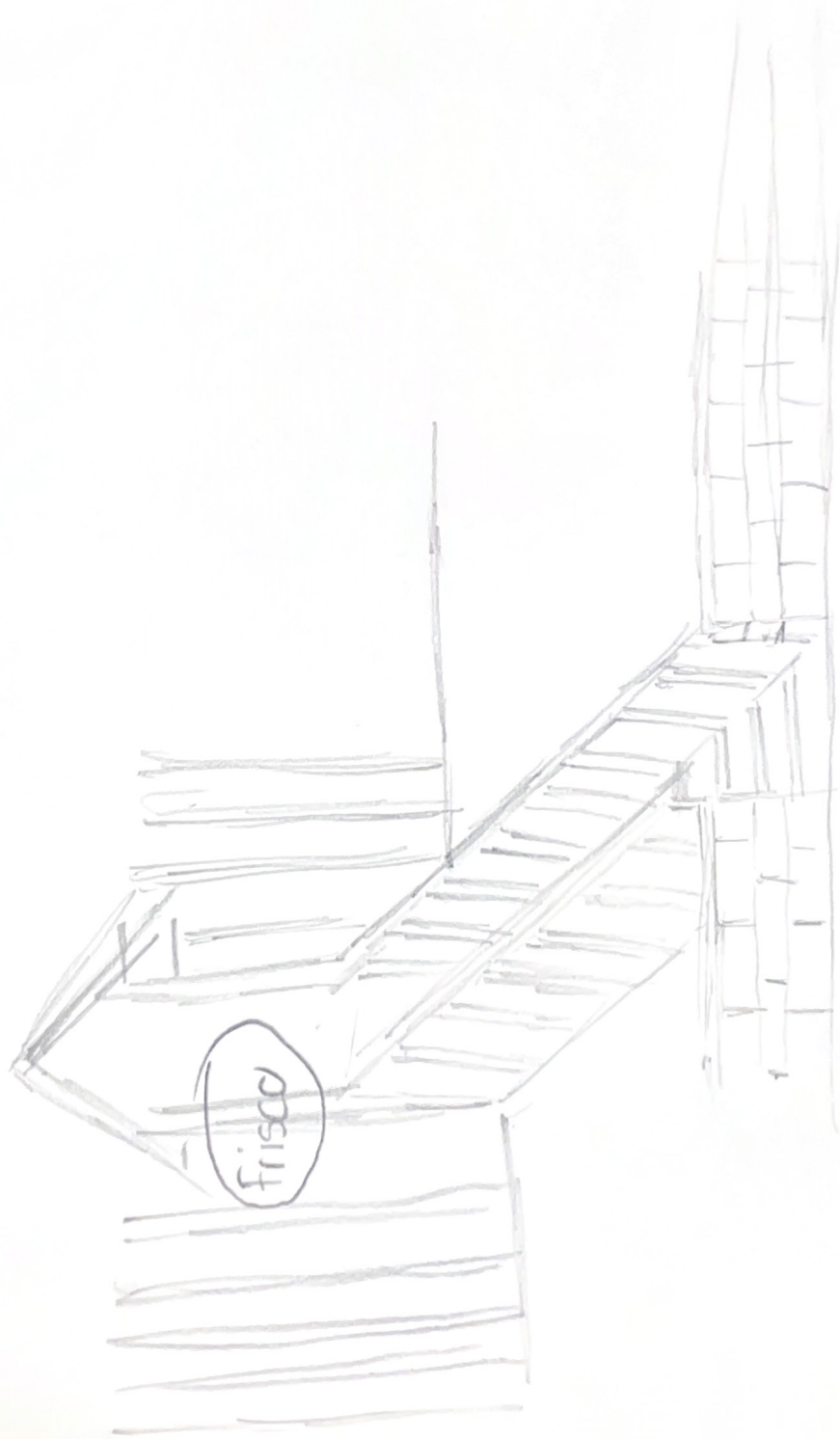
Was für ein Schwachsinn, abbrechen neu bauen, fertig.

## **VISUALIZING**

*a first try of asking people to draw  
their most pressing memory*

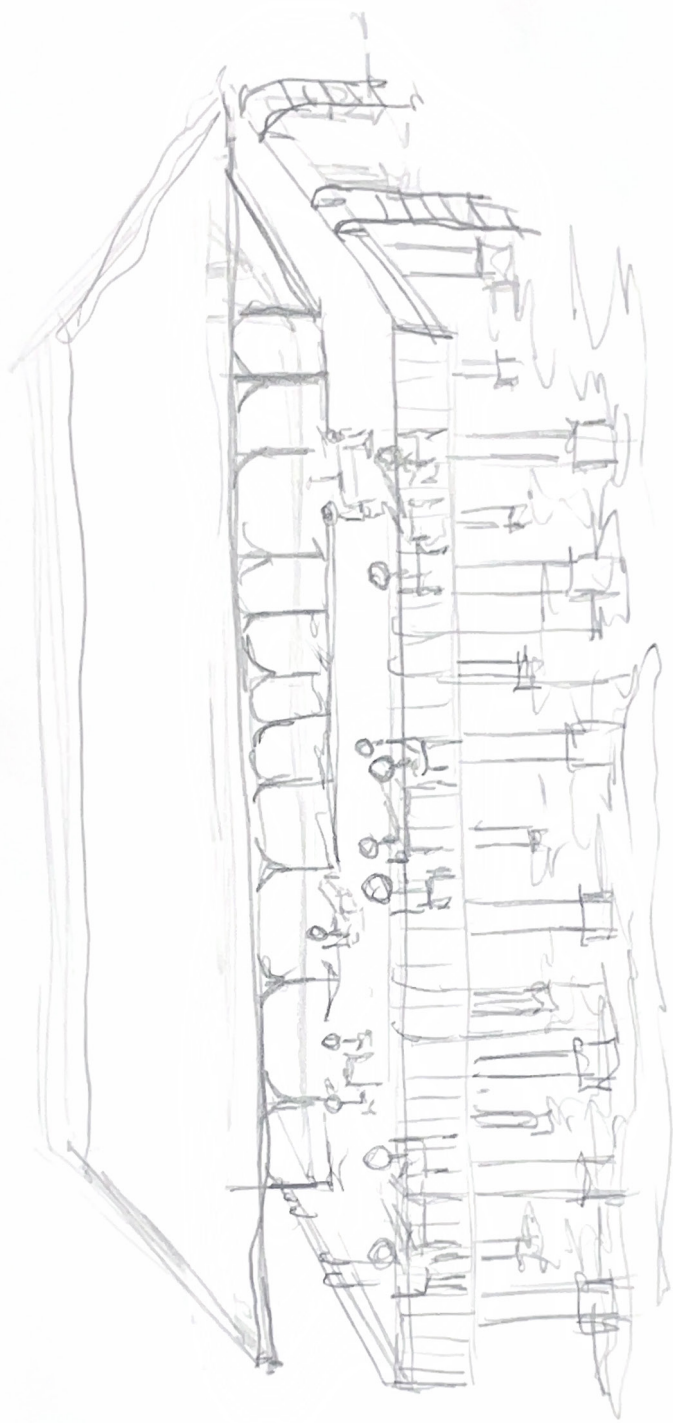


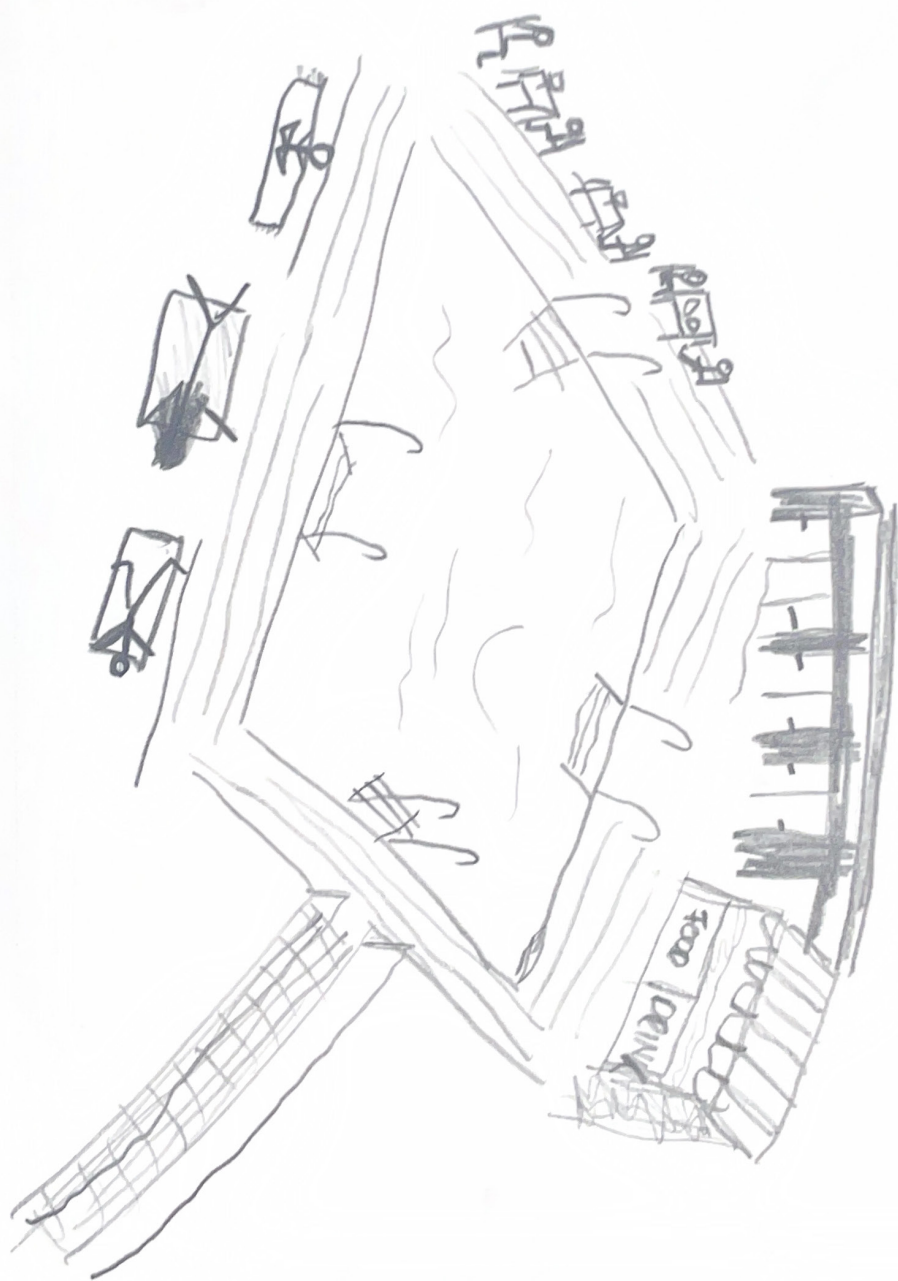


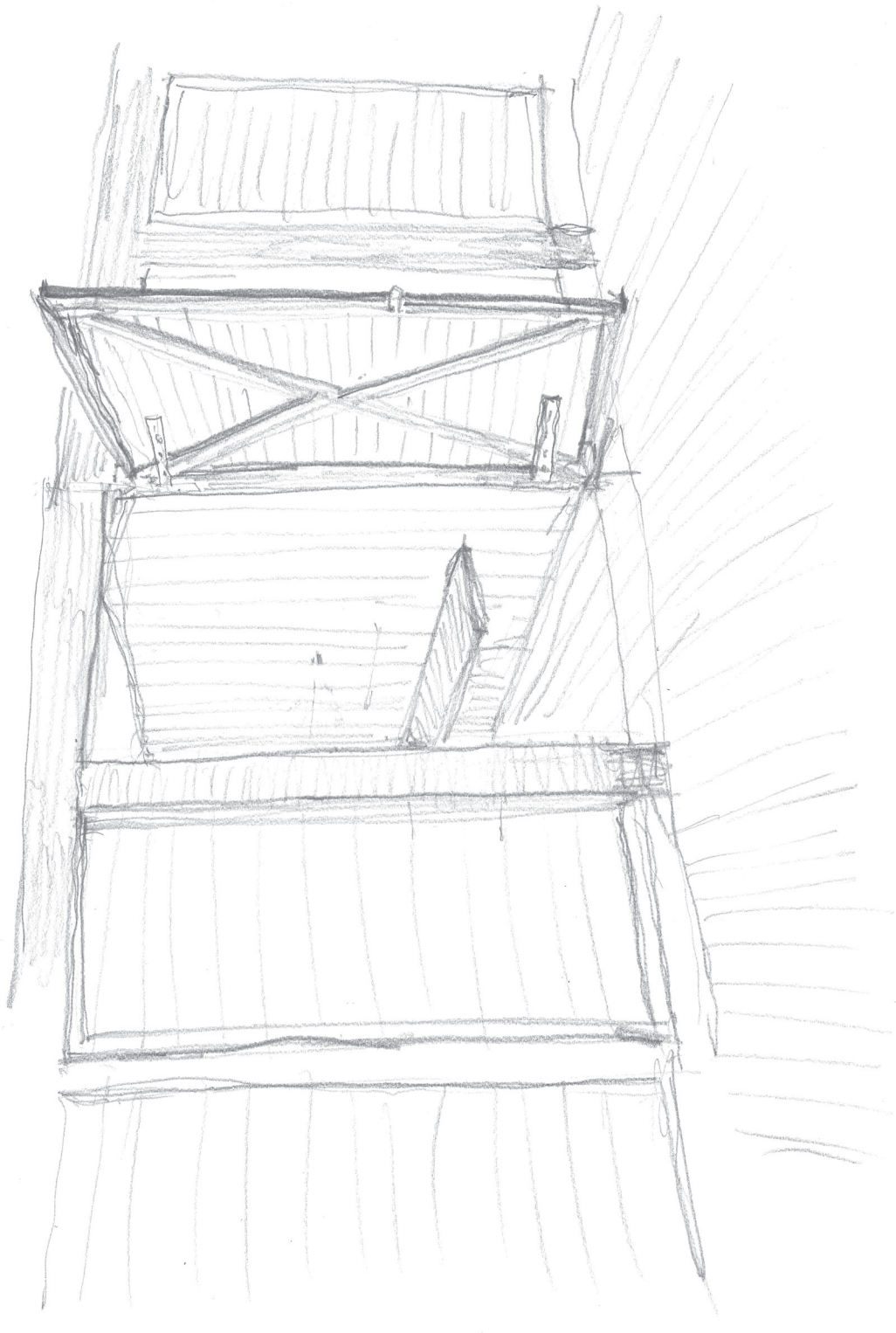


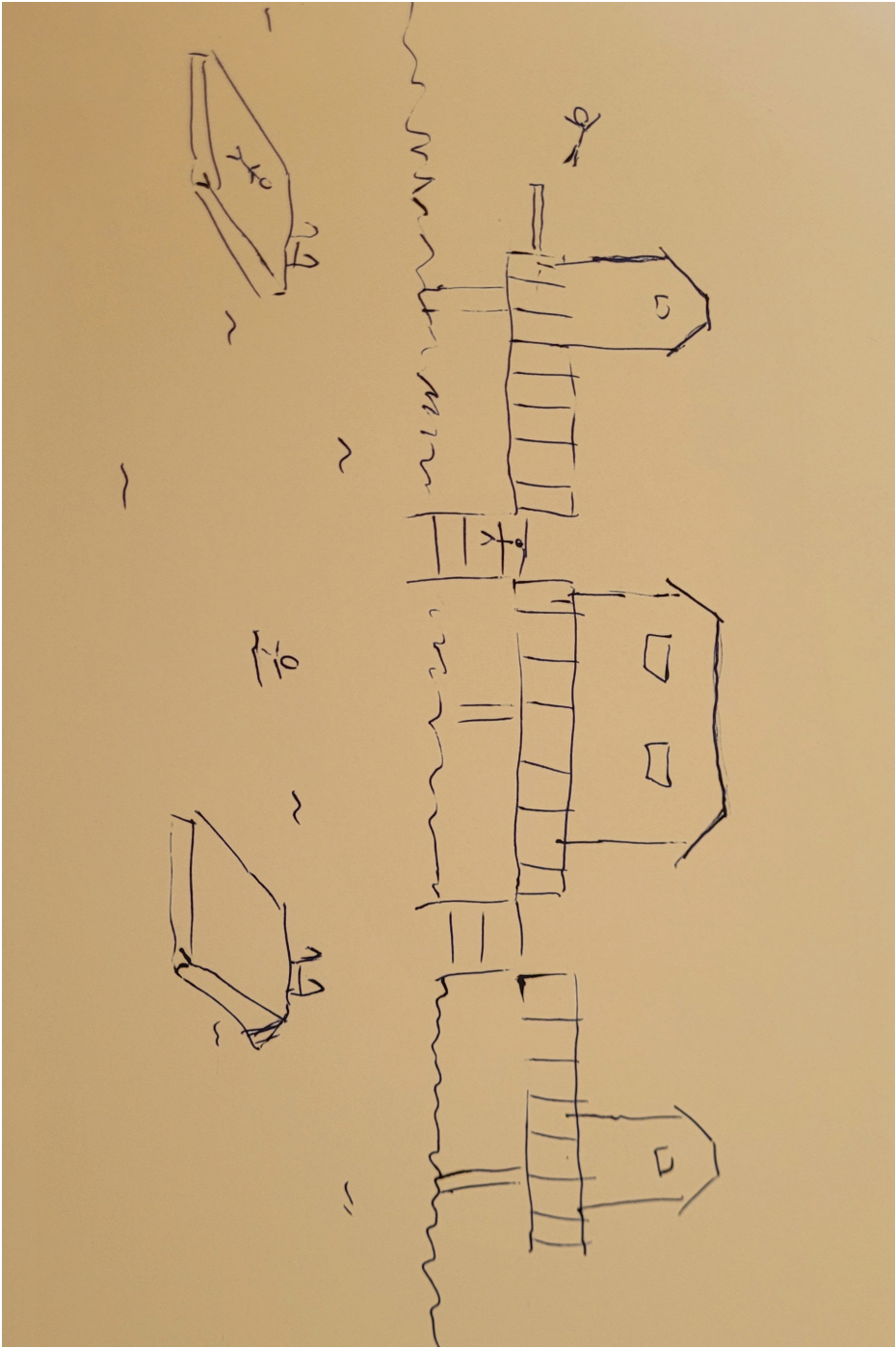




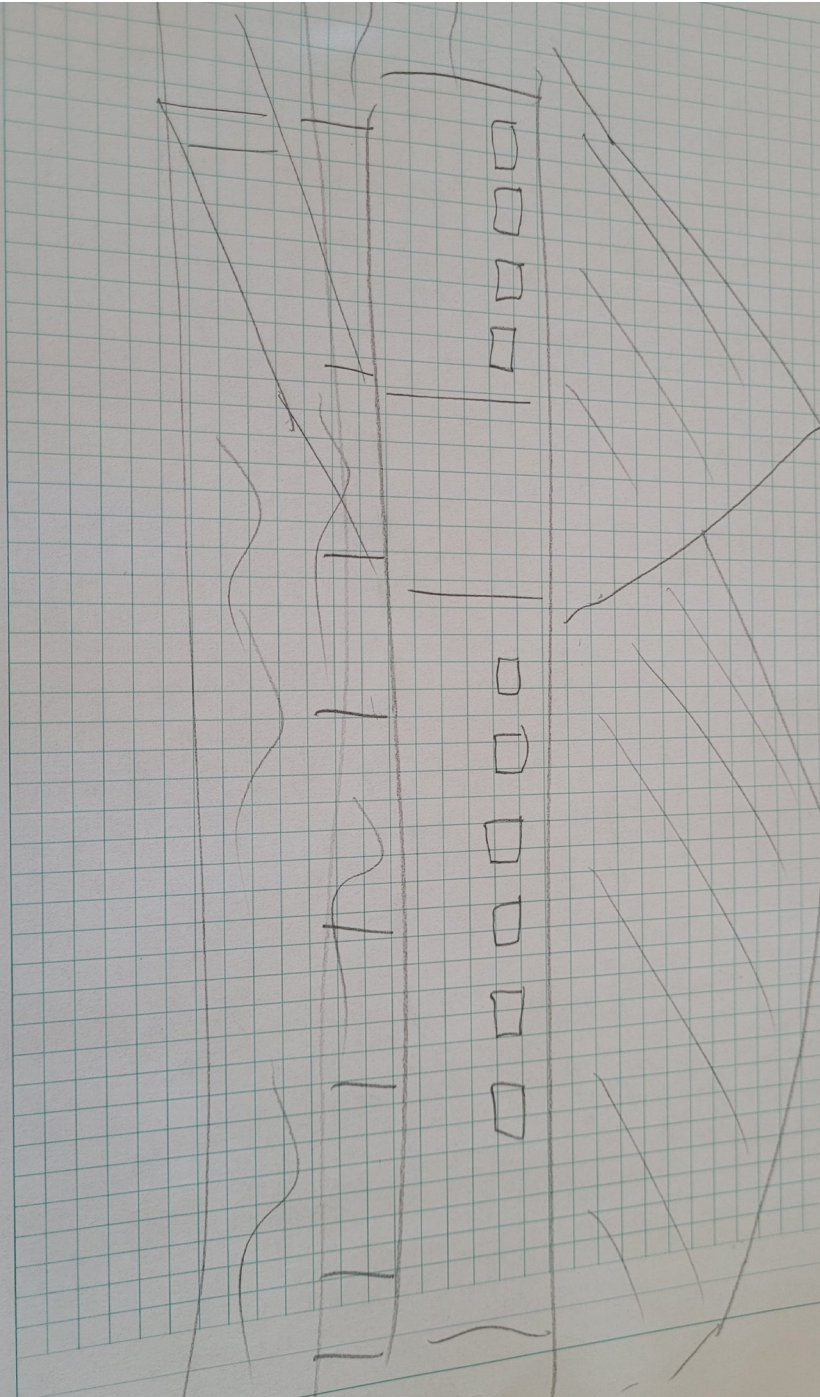












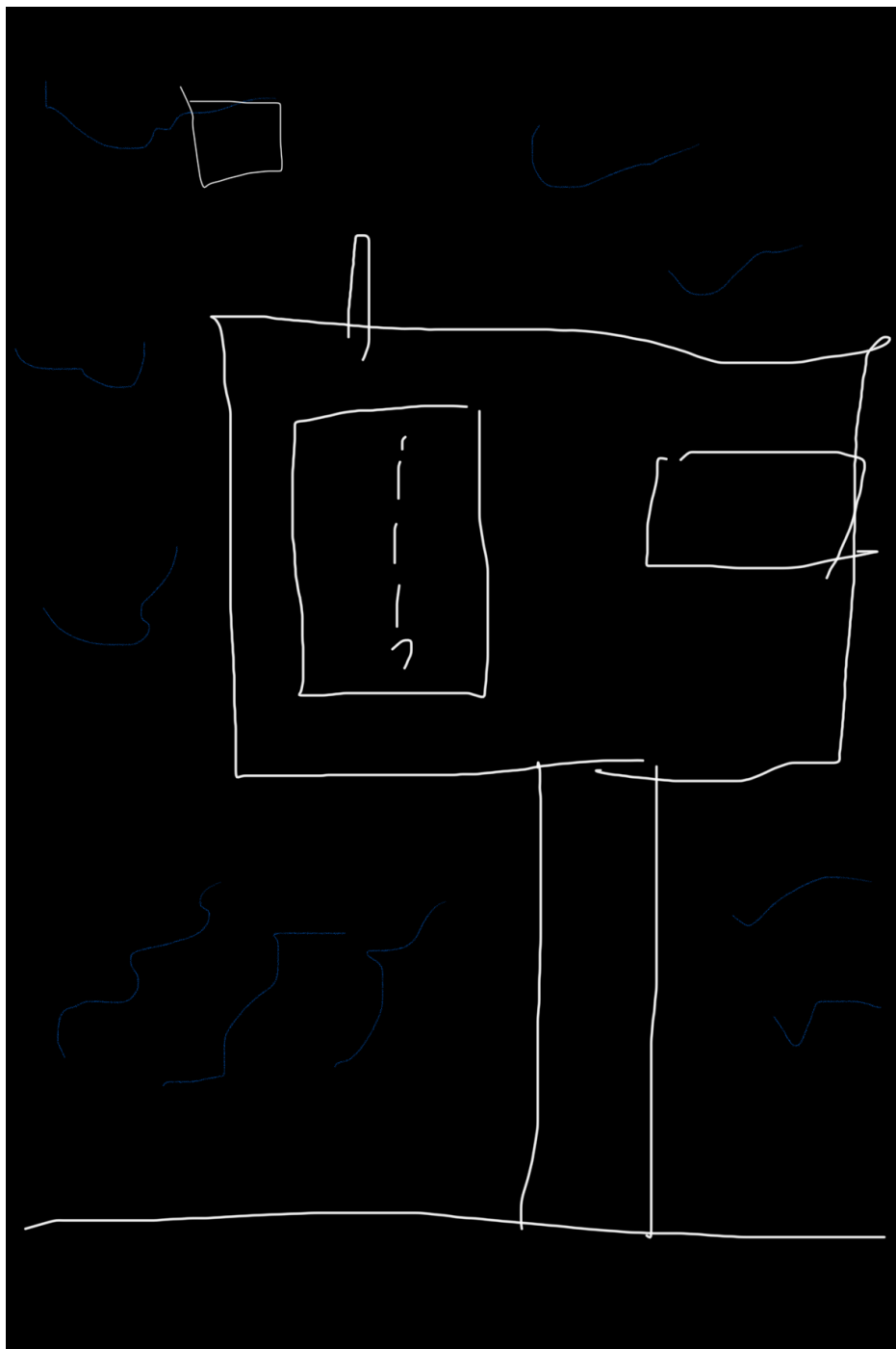
Herren

Kiosk

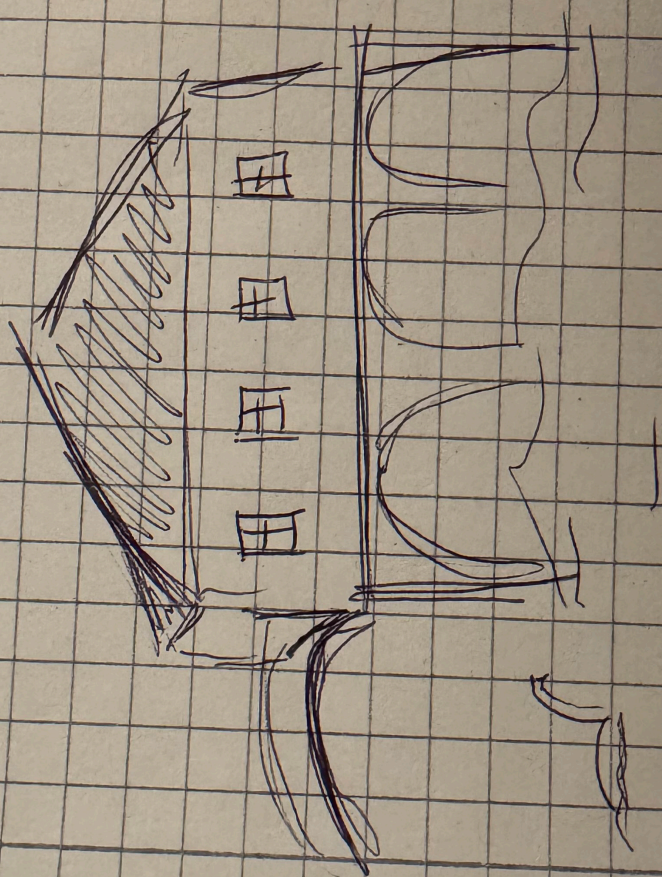
Kasse

Damen

↑  
Eingang









## ***Streetinterview 01***

*in Rorschach, Do. 11.09*

*THE VISITORS*

*Coffee, yoga, and the urig atmosphere*

What was the nicest thing for you about the Badhütte, when you visited it?

*Woman 1: Well, I have to say, I wasn't a regular visitor to the Badhütte, but I went there from time to time, not necessarily to swim, but often with a good friend. We would take a walk by the lake, like I'm doing now with my sister, and then we'd have a little coffee there. I only actually went swimming there maybe three or four times in my life, not much more.*

*Woman 2: I went because on Friday mornings at 6 a.m. there was a yoga class through the summer, and I often went there and then straight into the lake afterwards. Also, sometimes just to sunbathe and have a coffee. The restaurant they had was really nice too.*

And if you think back now, what was something you especially liked? Positive things that stood out?

*Woman 2: I just found it so homey, with all that wood. Really, it felt like imagining 50 years ago. In Zurich I also really like the Frauenbadi, I think it's something similar. The loungers they had and also the lockers I thought were really charming.*

*Woman 1: What I thought was cool – the word "urig" comes to mind – it had such a rustic atmosphere, and even though everything was happening right next to it, you somehow felt like you were away, away from the world. And there were always special people there. Many older people, and really quite unique people. Maybe I connect it*

to the first time I went there during my teacher training. We went with our German teacher – she was a very special woman – and first we were allowed to swim, then we had to come out, sit down in the sun, dry off, and just write endlessly. If nothing came to mind, we wrote things like “blub, blub, blub, the water, the waves, lalala”, just anything. We were simply never allowed to stop writing. That was a very special experience. Maybe that’s why I connect the Badhütte with special people. But yes, define “special,” right? I always ran into people there, often teachers – they’re the only ones I really know – some I hadn’t seen in ages. You’d come down from St. Gallen to here. I’m not from St. Gallen, I’m from St. Gallen, and you (her sister) from Goldach. It really was a place where many people from the area went. Simply a place of encounter.

Were there also things or routines in the Badhütte that didn’t work so well?

Woman 2: No, honestly, not in terms of the building. It was rustic, sure. But you go there because you like that.

Woman 1: I was going to say the same, you know what to expect when you go there. I can’t think of anything negative. You could say it wasn’t the most comfortable, but then you just brought your own air mattress or something. But you know that going in. Architecturally, I really liked those slanted wooden things to lie on. That’s also where we did our yoga.

Woman 1: Yes, under easier conditions.  
(breaking into laughter)

*THE FORMER RESIDENT*

*childhood memories and the pain of loss*

What was the nicest thing for you about the Badhütte, when you visited it?

*It was simply an outdoor pool, yes. Yes, the Badhütte was just always a to-pic.*

Can you still remember particular details, something you especially liked? Or something you didn't like?

*No, nothing specific comes to mind now. The style — it just fit. It hurt when I heard it had burned down, because, yes, those are childhood memories. It was simply always there. Like this house here, I also know it from my childhood. If that were gone, it would very likely hurt me too.*

Would you like to quickly sketch a memory?

*THE NEIGHBOR*

*The warmth of wood and the joy of en-  
counters*

What was the nicest thing for you about the Badhütte, when you visited it?

*Phew, everything was nice. You always ran into people you knew. In the evening, you could swim in peace when the sun had gone down. The calm, the nearness – I live nearby. It was simply a dream. Yes, I miss it.*

Were there also things that didn't work so well?

*Yes, like everywhere. But no, overall it was great. Toilet, shower, of course, naturally. But that's a Badhütte.*

Would you like to quickly sketch a memory?

*Oooo, I can't draw, but I can describe it. Warmth, the feeling of the wood, nature was also reflected in the Badhütte. Yes. The simplicity. The encounters. You could always go, and you always met someone.*



## ***Streetinterview 02***

*in Rorschach, So 21.09*

## The Woman from Rorschach

*Memories of the entrance, the kiosk,  
and the atmosphere of a small wooden  
world*

Do you still remember what was the most beautiful thing for you about the Bad-hütte?

*The family-like atmosphere, that it was so small, and the wood, it was simply nature and directly on the lake – that I liked very much.*

Were there also things that didn't work so well for you?

*The swimming attendant back then was a bit grumpy. That was the only reason I sometimes didn't go. Otherwise, everything was great. It was just old, the toilets as well. Either you accept such things or you go somewhere else. And I also thought: there were these lying surfaces, they could have been a bit more comfortable, everyone lay there like in a sandwich next to each other. Since it was private, it was really for those people who always came there, but that could have been a little bigger. And the restaurant was super cool, especially at the end. But of course it also took up a lot of space.*

Are you from Rorschach yourself?

*Yes, yes.*

Would you also quickly sketch a spatial element?

*Yes, I think the entrance area, the kiosk and those two corridors leading inside – I simply liked them.*

## The three Generations

*A grandmother and mother and son from  
Rorschach – swimming lessons, rituals,  
and family life across decades*

Grandmother starts talking without a question:

*You had tears in your eyes, and the little one too. Yes, it was very sad. From four o'clock it was always free for the children of Rorschach. And then, over there was a railway crossing, and the children had to wait there. And there was a woman who operated the barrier, and then the swimming attendant came, blew the whistle, and all the children ran over. After that the adults came. We all learned to swim there. And we always had to swim at least three times around the basin before we were allowed into the deeper lake.*

Mother: *Mrs. Görtzi was still the swimming attendant there, she was the one who ran it. She watched from above, and you really had to swim three times around. And if you managed it without standing up, then you were allowed to go to the raft in the lake.*

Grandmother: *For us at the end of the season there was always a closing event, the school classes came and then we were allowed to jump into the lake with our clothes on. Just a huge celebration.*

Mother: *That still existed for me as well. In lower school before the summer holidays we were allowed to put on old skirts and then jump off the diving board.*

Grandmother: *That was really nice, because where you could get into the lake it was really deep, you didn't first have to climb over all the stones and everything. And earlier it was, of course, separated, men and women.*

I believe in the 1960s or 70s this gender separation was abolished, right?

Grandmother: *Yes, yes, more like the 70s. Yes, some met downstairs, because with the men there were also two basins, there was a dividing wall, or they met at the raft. It was simply always a family meeting place. My sister, for example, also always liked to go. Sometimes she went in the morning, or at lunchtime during work, and then again in the evening. Yes, they still meet today for coffee. And you were already there with the teacher, right?*

Mother: *Yes, I also learned to swim there, and with you I always went too.*

That means both of you learned to swim there?

Both: *Yes, yes!*

Mother: *I really wanted to get onto the raft. I think by the age of 3 I could already manage.*

Grandmother: And we had a brother, and the teacher used to just throw him in. He was a little afraid of water. He was scared and never dared. And when he was older he had a girlfriend, and then he had to learn to swim so that they could meet on the raft. Even my father-in-law used to go, and he still had the old swimming style, with his legs pointing downward. We would already have gone three times to the raft, and eventually he also arrived. Yes, yes.

And when you look back now, purely regarding the building, what elements did you particularly like?

Grandmother: Everything, those wooden cabins, most of them still had some holes, so you could see into the lake, see the fish.

Mother: Yes, those ornaments in the cabins, where you could hang up your bathing suits. And we often got splinters.

Grandmother: But yes, we didn't know anything else. Earlier the parents maybe didn't have much money, so they were glad if the children could go for free.

Mother: And at the beginning, up front there wasn't even a restaurant, just bicycles parked there. The cabins and also the entrance with those ornamented wooden elements.

Grandmother: You even took your wedding photos in front of the Badhütte when you got married. So many memories. Yes, we even had a lifeguard who couldn't swim.

Mother: No, he could swim, but he didn't have the lifeguard's certificate.

Grandmother: But he cleaned nicely. Because there were also those who didn't clean so nicely. Then there were spiders and such things. But there was also a large cabin, a public one. Or you could rent a single cabin.

Mother: Right, all the kids met there. Either you were Team Strandbad or Team Badhütte. But there were always lots of kids.

Were there also elements or routines that you think could have been solved better, or that you would improve if it were rebuilt now?

Grandmother: I think it was just right the way it was.

Mother: Yes, the first version of the Badhütte already looked a bit different.

Grandmother: Yes, you can see, in Arbon there was one too, but they tore it down. In Austria there are some too, and they are somewhat plain. Here it was so beautifully ornamented. It was really special. No, I always liked it.

Mother: More fireproof, that would be something.



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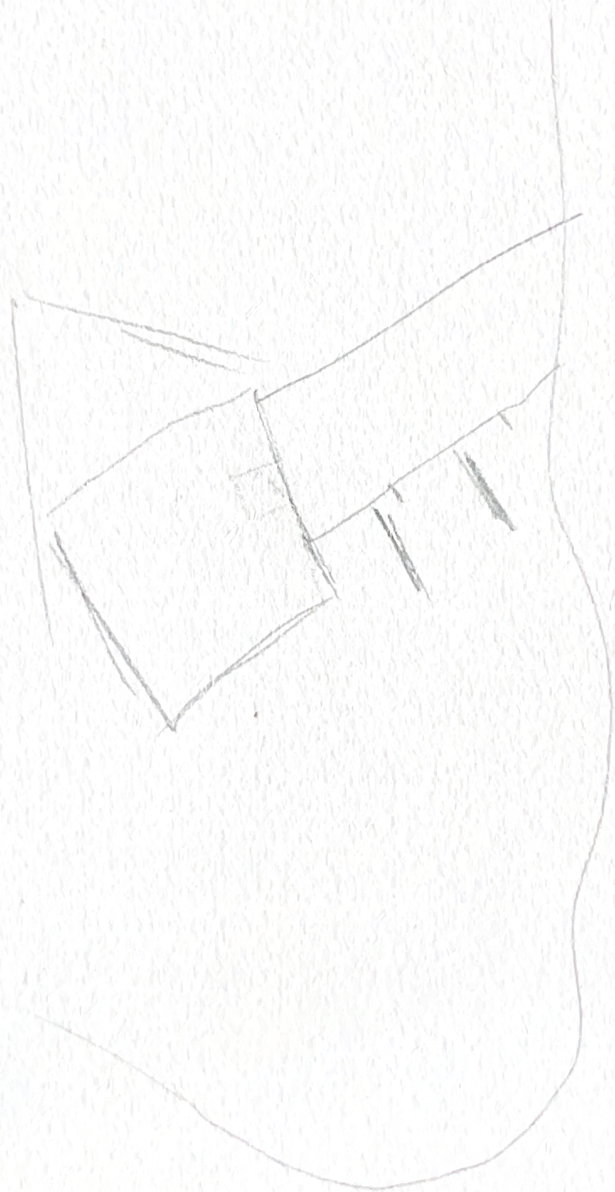
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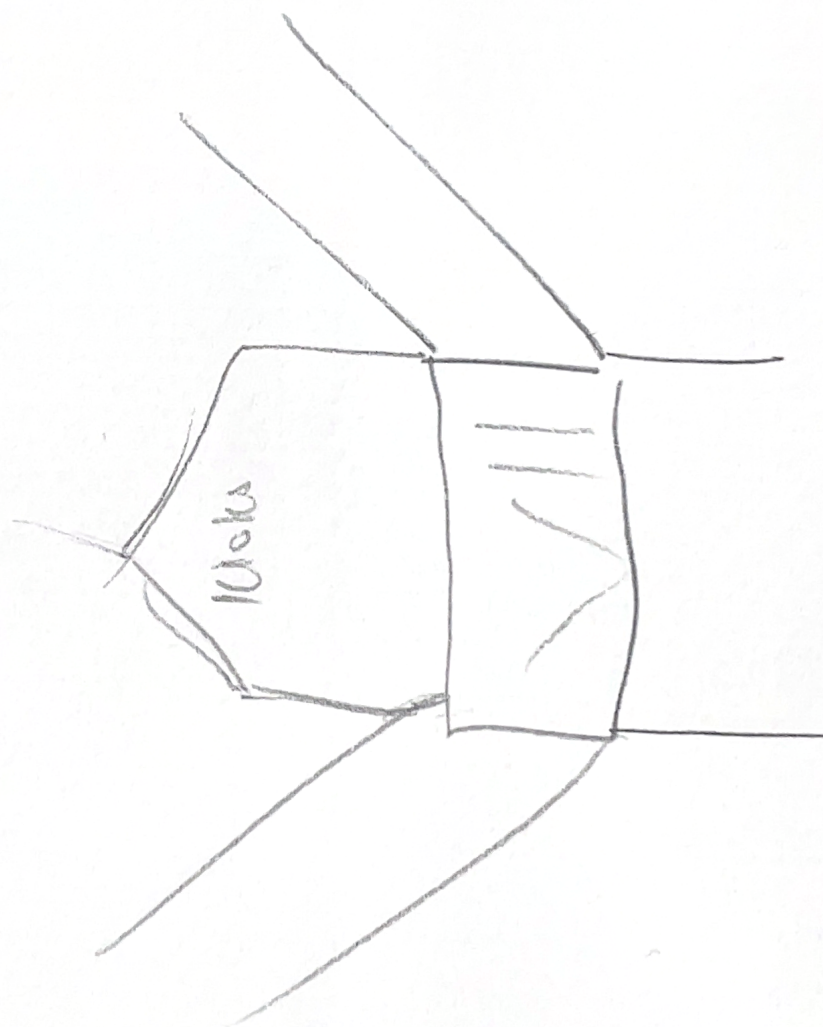
Grandmother: I remember, when you were still small, then came Thomas, and the two of you always liked each other. Then you always said, "Thomas, you have to bring me sand." Then he dove for sand. You could also feed the fish. And sometimes on the lying boards people dropped things, their keys. Often they had a cork attached so they floated, but sometimes not — or coins and such. The older kids who could dive well then went to fetch these things, and the finder got a reward.



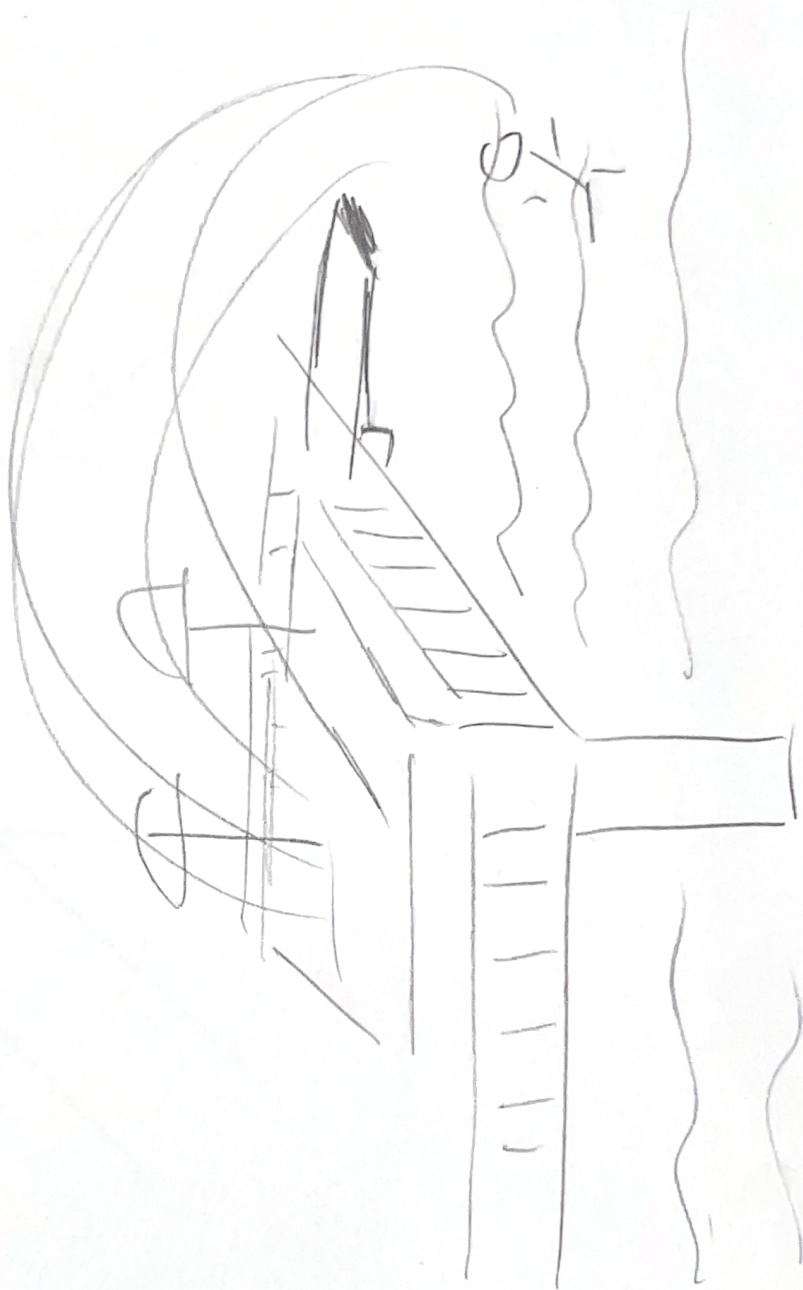




Yoga ida  
Badhante U











***Onlinesurvey***

Do you still remember what was the most beautiful thing for you about the Badhütte?

#1

*I associate it with visits to Rorschach with ice cream, pizza, and a holiday feeling.*

#3

*That the bathing hut stood directly in the lake and you could jump straight into the lake from the sunbathing area via the diving board.*

#4

*After a hard day, quickly jumping into the lake, relaxing on the raft, and diving from the springboard.*

#5

*Sunset mood, after-work feeling as part of the service team of the bathing hut.*

#6

*Sunbathing on the wooden deck.*

#7

*Pleasant climate, one felt comfortable; lots of wood was great, good loungers, beautiful jetty.*

#8

*I don't have any. As far as I can remember, I was never there.*

#9

*Water polo between the concrete pillars, tag game especially in the water.*

#10

*Childhood memories – swimming with my sister!*

#11

*A beautiful historic building in a wonderful location. Nice for lingering.*

#12

*The bathing hut positively shaped the character of the promenade.*

#13

*A love affair.*

#14

*Walking past it.*

#15

*All beautifully made of wood. Good design with optimal use of space.*

#16

*Diving headfirst into the water from the railing.*

#17

*Swimming out to the raft and back again alone for the first time.*

#18

*Everyone always met there, no matter if young or old.*

Were there routines that didn't work so well for you? Or was there something you missed in the bathing hut?

#3

*More sunbathing spots.*

#4

*Sometimes I wished for a warm shower.*

#5

*No.*

#6

*No.*

#7

*Not that I know of — too many algae.*

#8

*I can't say anything about that, since I was never there.*

#9

*Everything perfect.*

#10

*No — it was always a special experience!*

#11

*I can't say anything about that.*

#12

*Unfortunately, I can't provide any information on that.*

#13

*No.*

#14

*Something more modern.*

#15

*No, the routes were clear.*

#16

*The gastronomic offer could have been  
better.*

#17

*The changing rooms or the constantly  
reserved cabins were annoying.*

#18

*The bathing hut simply belongs to the  
appearance of Rorschach. It was the  
only remaining bathing hut on the Swiss  
shore of Lake Constance. Pure nostal-  
gia!*