

**Location:** D-64546 Mörfelden-Walldorf  
**Architects:** Schauer + Volhard, Darmstadt  
**Construction:** 9/1997-4/1999



## Two half-timbered houses, Mörfelden

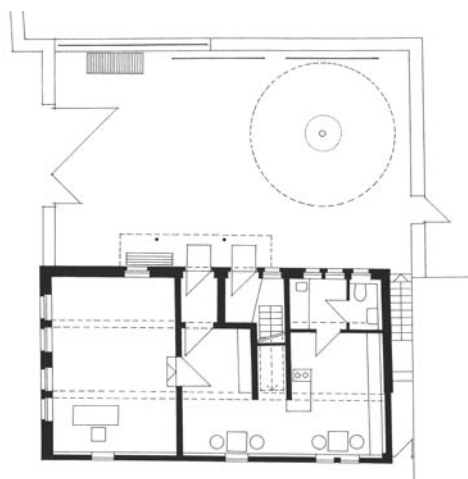


The renovation of two badly neglected baroque half-timbered houses in the centre of Mörfelden have contributed to reestablishing the historic character of the small town. The new uses, an advisory service with serviced flats, a place for social events as well as an archive and library for the town's museum next door have helped bring life back into the centre of the town.

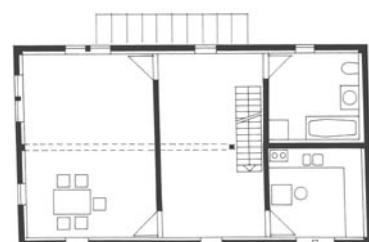
The renovation is based upon a detailed building survey and investigations by renovation specialists. The original half-timbered elevations have been restored and previous alterations corrected by examining the location of old peg-holes in the timbers. In two cases very badly damaged

portions of both houses had to be replaced in their entirety: the extension to the Eilberg house (Nr. 44) and the west and north elevations of the Schneiker house (Nr. 43). These portions were not rebuilt as half-timbered constructions, instead modern day materials were used to build in the same proportions as the original buildings.

For both buildings, the courtyard is an important element and has been regained for use as an outdoor space for events and activities. The design of these spaces is limited to the traditional elements of wall, gate, cobbled floor, a shady tree, bench and in once case a rediscovered well.



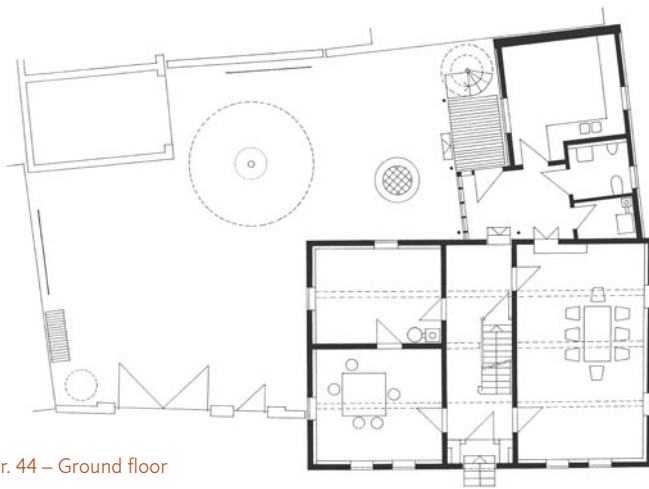
Schneiker house, Nr. 43 – Ground floor



Upper floor

## earthen building · case study

**House:** Eilberg, Schneiker  
**Usable floor area:** 207 m<sup>2</sup>, 141 m<sup>2</sup>  
**Building costs:** 550 000 €, 467 500 €  
**Building cost/m<sup>2</sup>:** 2660 €/m<sup>2</sup>, 3320 €/m<sup>2</sup>



Eilberg house, Nr. 44 – Ground floor



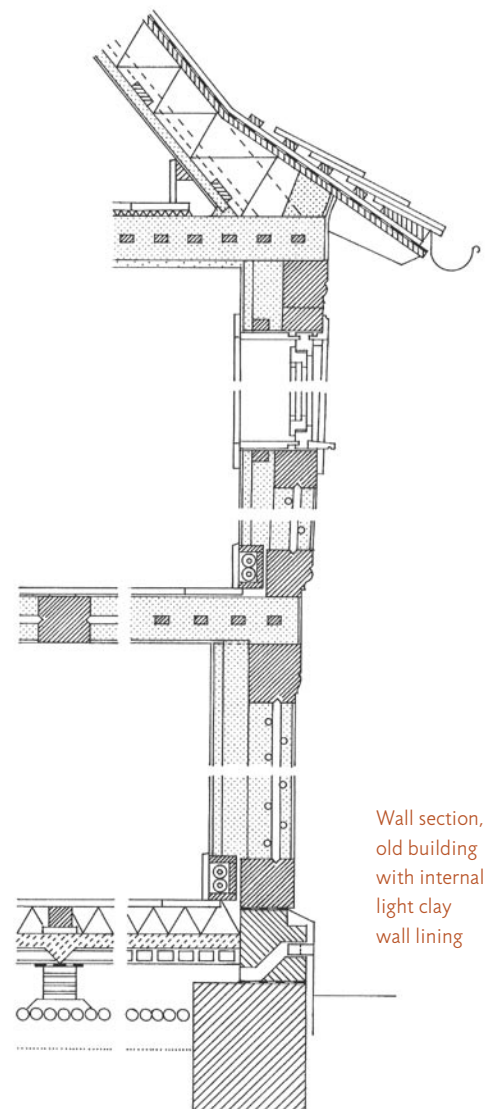
In many cases half-timbered houses are completely restructured behind the elevations. In this case, the architects attempted to keep and repair as much as possible of the original structure. For the most part, the original brick and earth infill, the earthen reel floors, earthen and lime plasters with all their irregularities have been able to be kept. Elements which were removed have been used elsewhere wherever possible, new materials complement the existing materials: e.g. the form and pattern of the flat tile roof tiling, new oak timbers in the half-timbering, wide wooden floorboards repaired and sanded, rough stone walling and brick floor tiling, the use of earthen building materials and lime plasters together with lime-casein

paints. The infill panels of the half-timbered sections were carefully restored with a wattle and daub construction. As with traditional techniques, the undercoat was grooved to provide a key for the facing coat of lime render.

A 15 cm inner wall lining of light-clay increases the thickness of the thin external walls to provide better insulation. Clay panels provide a permanent shuttering.

The newly constructed extension to the Eilberg house was made with new timber-frame elements filled with cellulose insulation and modern dry-stacked earth bricks providing sufficient thermal mass as well as fulfilling the low-energy standard.

The restoration was awarded a prize for exemplary buildings in Hessa in 1999.



Wall section, old building with internal light clay wall lining

New extension to the Eilberg house with wall construction as stacked wall lining



Repairing earthen infill panels Haus Schneiker

