

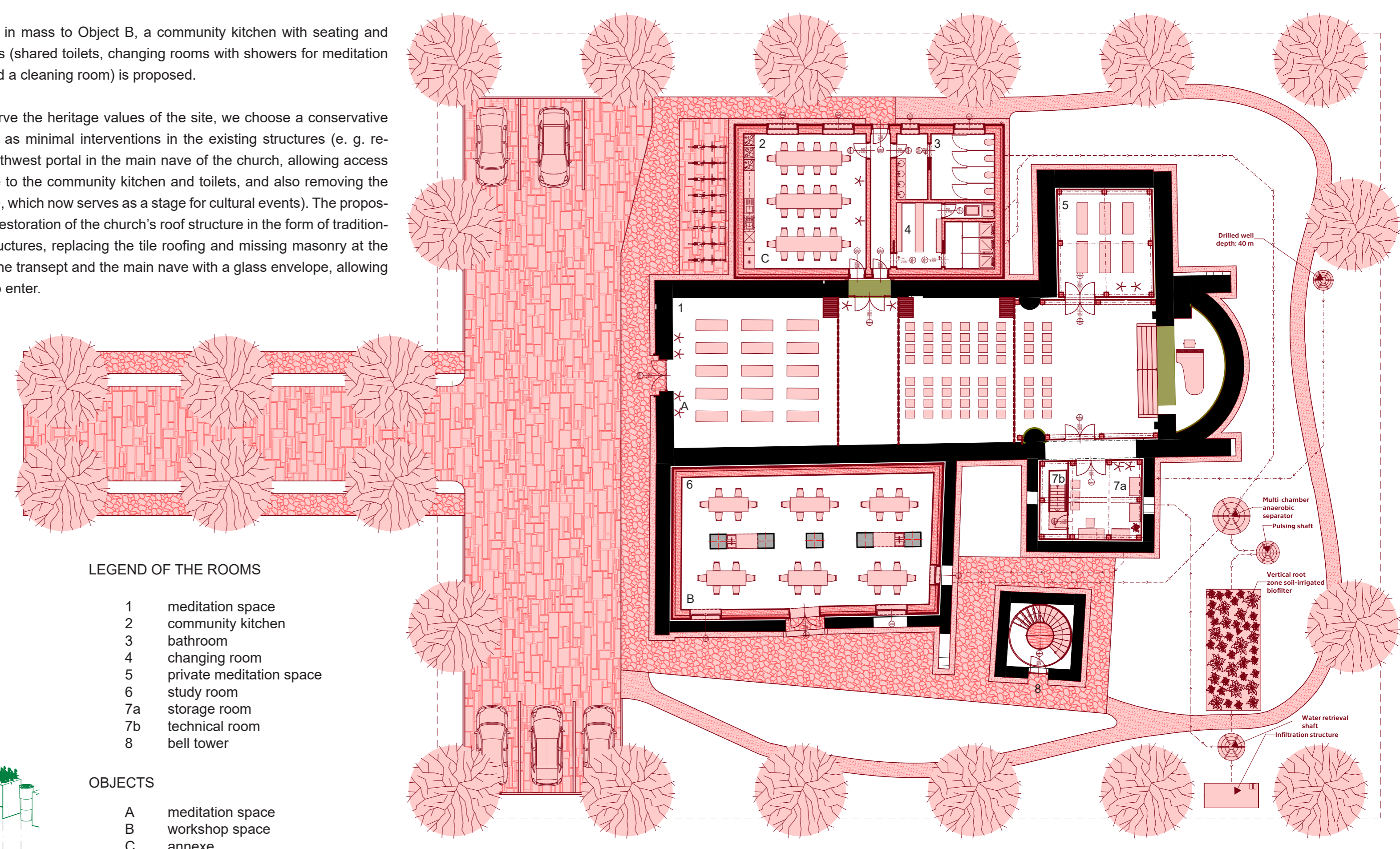


REUSE THE ABBEY

**Meditation Centre "PAX"** – The goal of our design was to highlight the historical value of the site, which stems from the analysis of individual objects and the locality as a whole, leading to an architectural approach that preserves the authenticity of the Central Italian monastic complex. By modifying the current fragmented state, three new masses are created – the Church of Santa Maria del Piano (Object A), the preserved part of the monastery with an infill to the southeast (structurally separated from the historical masonry) (Object B), and a new building at the northwest wall of the church (Object C). The main nave of the church now serves as a divisible space e. g. for cultural events or meditation. Object B can be used as a study room or for workshops or smaller conferences – considering its location in one of the monastery buildings, it follows the historical mission of these structures, which is the dissemination of education and culture. In the new building C,

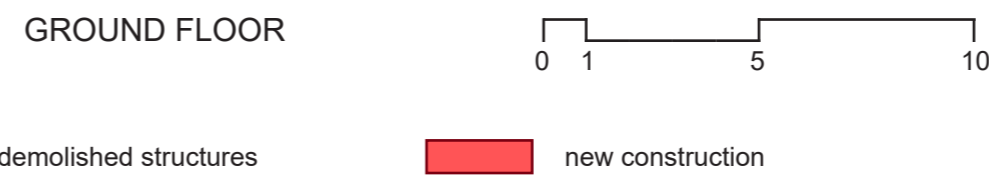
which is similar in mass to Object B, a community kitchen with seating and sanitary facilities (shared toilets, changing rooms with showers for meditation participants, and a cleaning room) is proposed.

To preserve the heritage values of the site, we choose a conservative approach, such as minimal interventions in the existing structures (e. g. re-opening the northwest portal in the main nave of the church, allowing access from the temple to the community kitchen and toilets, and also removing the bricked-up apse, which now serves as a stage for cultural events). The proposal includes the restoration of the church's roof structure in the form of traditional carpentry structures, replacing the tile roofing and missing masonry at the intersection of the transept and the main nave with a glass envelope, allowing more daylight to enter.

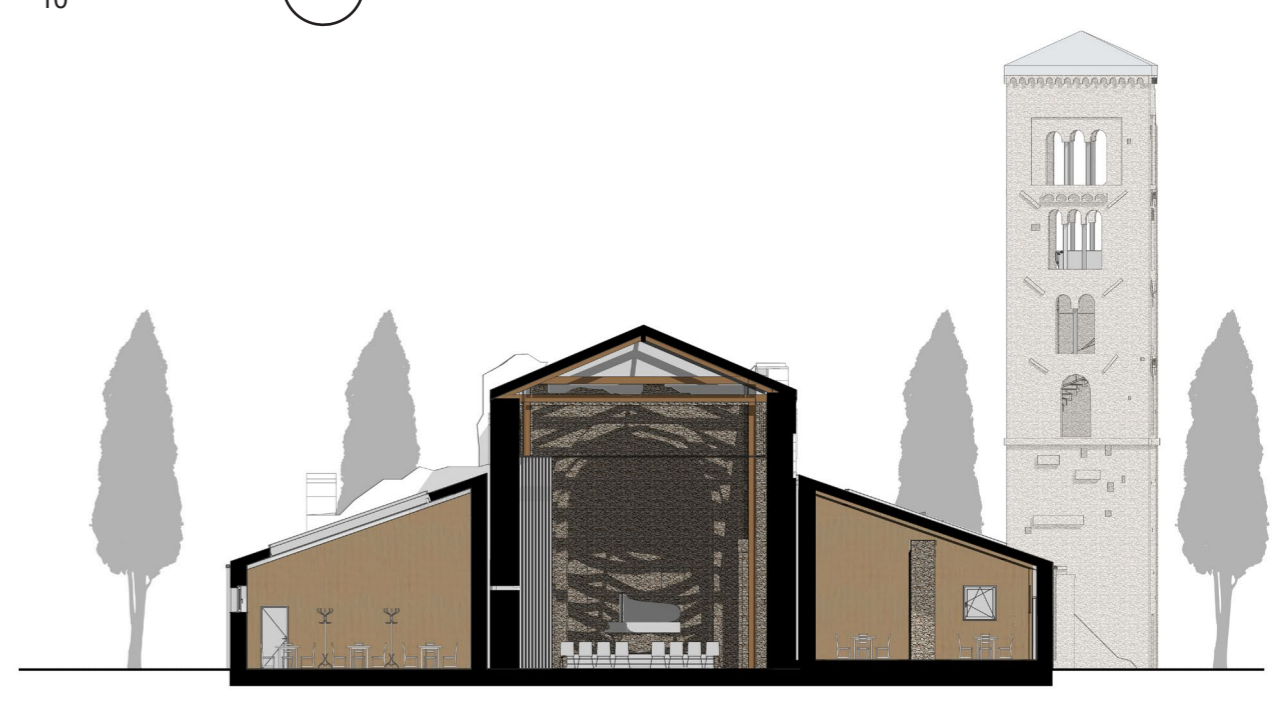
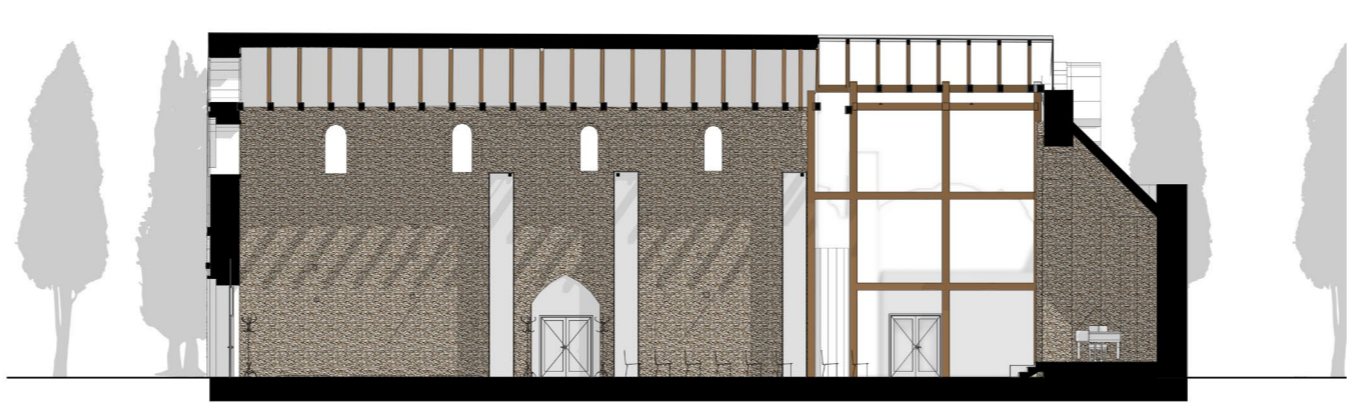


- LEGEND OF THE ROOMS**
- 1 meditation space
  - 2 community kitchen
  - 3 bathroom
  - 4 changing room
  - 5 private meditation space
  - 6 study room
  - 7a storage room
  - 7b technical room
  - 8 bell tower

- OBJECTS**
- A meditation space
  - B workshop space
  - C annexe



- existing structure
- demolished structures
- new construction



By placing the entrance to the annex from the northwest (Object C), the interiors are separated in terms of the cleanliness of individual operations (the passage from the exterior to the meditation spaces is realized through a separated corridor and a changing room) and at the same time, the guests in the community kitchen and dining room are not disturbed by course participants. The technical room (water pumps, batteries for energy storage from solar tiles, and others) is located in the new basement of the southwest part of the transept and accessible by a separate staircase in the changing room.

The adjacent bell tower is very well preserved, so we chose to restore it by supplementing the missing masonry and roofing from local sources at the upper corner. A spiral staircase is proposed for the empty tower, where after climbing 71 steps, it is possible to visit the lookout over the picturesque landscape of the Lazio region; after placing the bell in the highest floor of the tower, the bell tower will also serve its original purpose again, and the monastery complex will become a significant point in the landscape in this sense as well. The fragmented past of the complex is recalled by a new pedestrian path that surrounds the entire area and offers a view of the apse and both parts of the transept, preserved in a fragmented form with glass masses. The entire meditation centre is open not only to the residents of the nearby settlements of Orvinio, Pozzaglia Sabina, and Montorio in Valle, but also to pilgrims on the Cammino di San Benedetto trail, visitors to the Cammino Naturale dei Parchi route, and generally to all who want to return in history almost 1000 years back and experience the uniqueness of Italian Romanesque architecture.

In terms of operation and ecological sustainability, the entire complex is designed to be passively energetic, a decision also driven by the absence of engineering networks in the area. The use of individual objects includes the recovery of wastewater, purified by a root cleaner, primarily for irrigation and flushing toilets; drinking water for the community kitchen, showers, and other activities is obtained from the nearby stream Fosso di S. M. del Piano and a new drilled well. Electrical energy for basic operations (kitchen, water pumping, sound system for cultural events, etc.) will be generated by solar tiles placed on the roof of the main nave and the side objects B and C, resembling historical roofing; for meditation meetings and courses, more intimate lighting is proposed, such as candles or oil lamps.