

PETER ZUMTHOR

1990–1997

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Buildings and Projects
Volume 2

Edited by Thomas Durisch

Scheidegger & Spiess

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Proofreading: Bronwen Saunders
Lithography: Georg Sidler, Samuel Trutmann
Printing and binding: DZA Druckerei zu Altenburg GmbH, Thüringen

Picture credits, see appendix, volume 5

This book is volume 2 of *Peter Zumthor 1985–2013*, a set of five volumes which are not available separately.

© 2014 Verlag Scheidegger & Spiess AG, Zurich

ISBN 978-3-85881-723-5

German edition: ISBN 978-3-85881-304-6

French edition: ISBN 978-3-85881-740-2

Verlag Scheidegger & Spiess AG
Niederdorfstrasse 54
8001 Zurich
Switzerland

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Rindermarkt Apartment Building, Zurich
Rothorn Gondola Station, Valbella, Graubünden
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Picture Credits

For Maria Angelina

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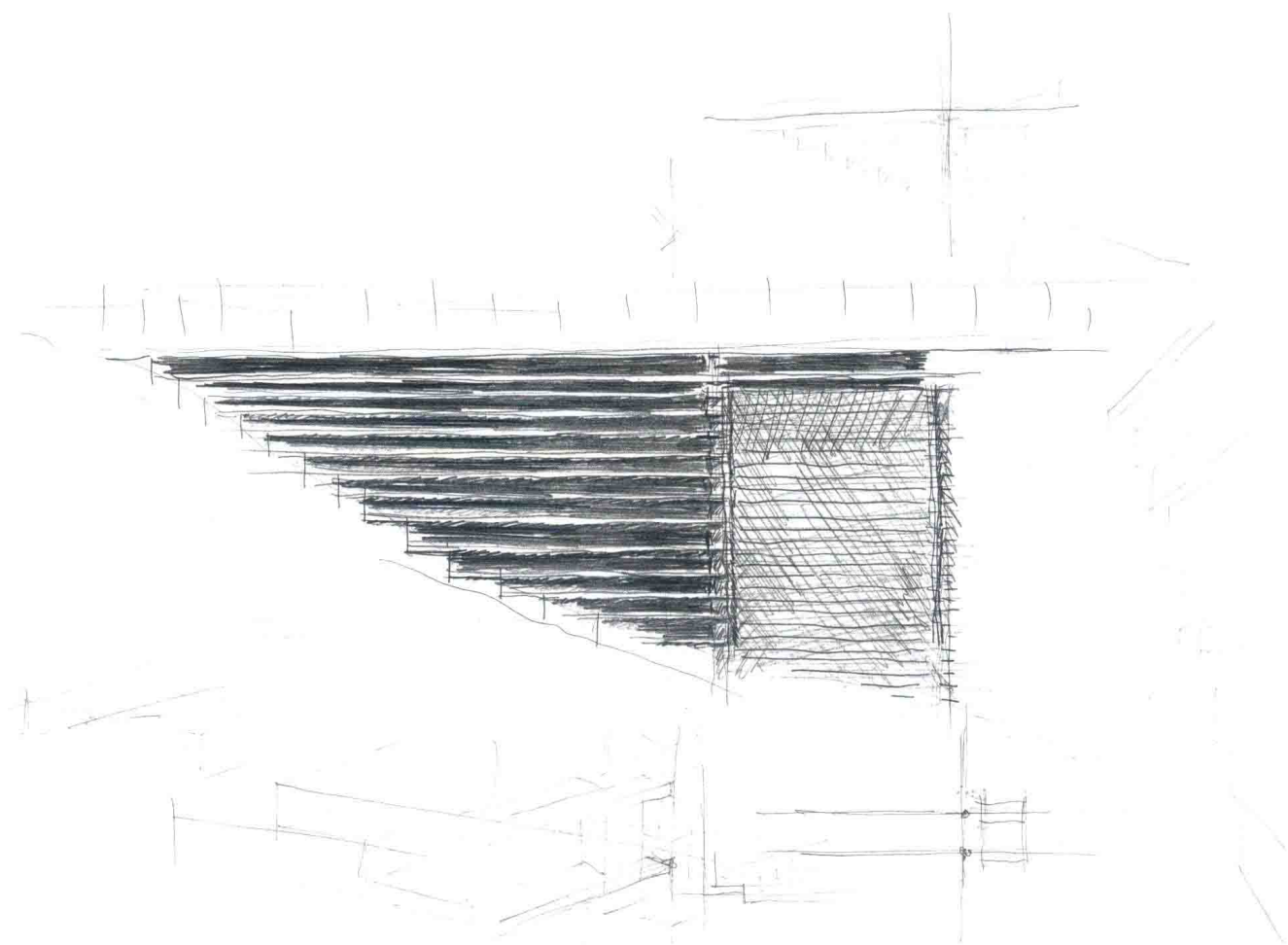
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Gugalun House, Versam, Graubünden
1990–1994



Our theme was Old and New. A simple, seventeenth-century farmhouse that faces north and looks at the moon, as its name “Gugalun” says, was to have a new addition with bathroom, kitchen, heating, and two bedrooms—an important modernization for the continued life of this modest old farmstead. A new roof would shelter and connect the old and the new.

The walls for the addition on the slope side of the house are made of thermally insulated wooden box girder joists, which we developed for this application. The construction allowed a seamless connection between the historical house and the new addition, and the stepped concrete foundation provided a logical response to the upward slope.

The feel of the interior spaces is intimate and modest, but atmospherically dense. In the center of the new portion of the house, as part of its supporting structure, we constructed a monolith of dark, gleaming concrete, in which we left hollow recesses. In winter warm air from the built-in wood stove in the kitchen flows through these hollow spaces. The old section of the house, with its little parlor, side room, and the bedrooms with their tiny windows from olden times, has kept its secret.





