



THE HOUSE OF LIGHT
Prishtinë, Kosovo



BEFORE



AFTER

challenging the **existing building stock**
(post-war illegal, inefficient building stock)
through **sustainable interventions**



Photos above are taken on the same street, within 500m radius. There is a vast of building stock to be retrofitted and efficiently upgraded



The House of Light is a transformation proposal of an existing single-family home into a live-work place. Located in a dense residential area of Veternik, the newer part of Prishtina, the house is surrounded by neighboring homes in close proximity in two sides, which significantly block natural daylight. As a result, much of the interior was dark, lacking both natural lighting and ventilation.

The intervention aimed to enhance daylighting and natural ventilation throughout the house, while maximizing the re-use of the existing structure and materials. By retrofitting new double-height spaces and three additional skylights, the transformation resulted in bright and airy interiors that best suit the family's needs.

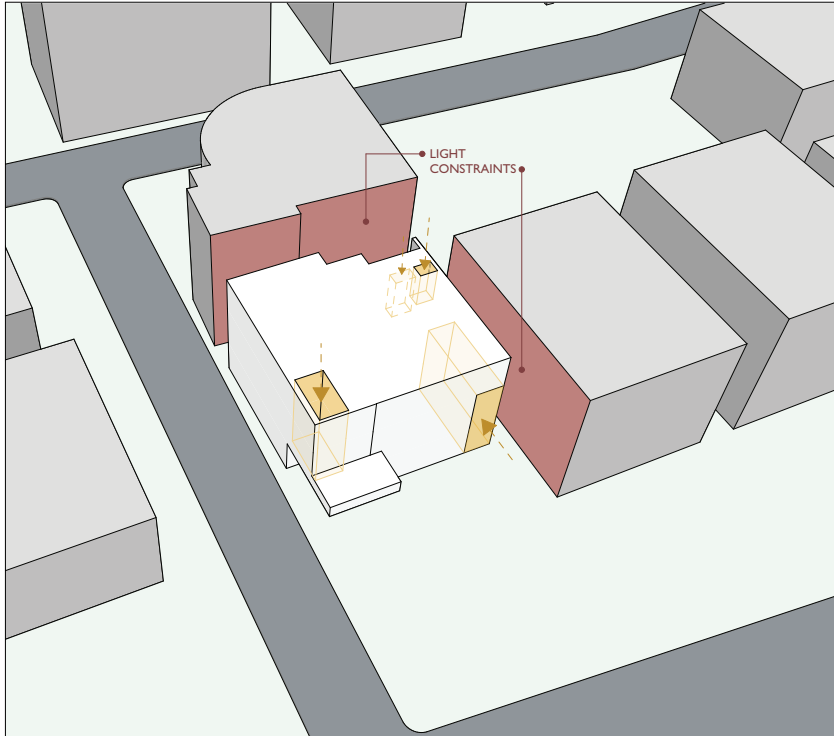
no setbacks
although required per local building regulations

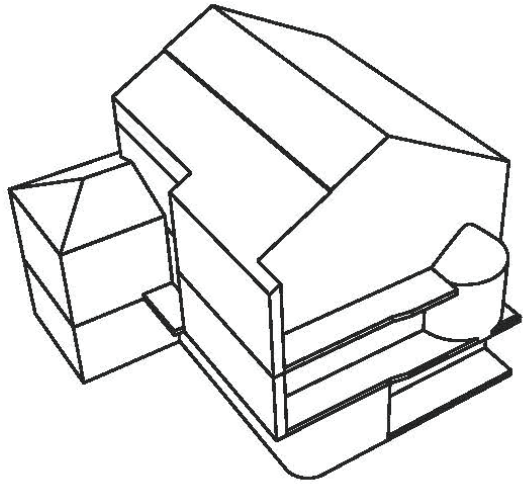


The ground floor will be used for the family's business, operating as a pastry shop and wine bar. A separate entrance leads to the residential area, which is designed to function as a single-family unit or be divided into two separate units to accommodate future family needs.

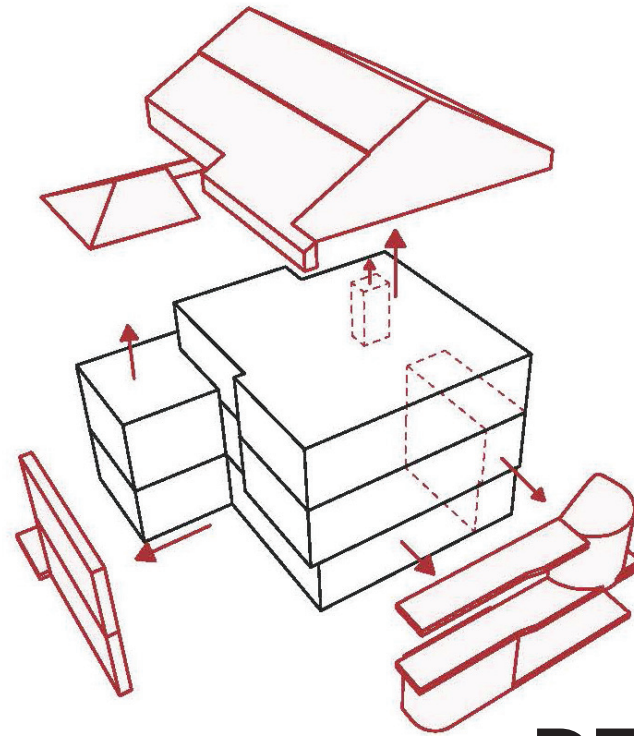
The new façade proposal consists of white walls and white brick façade, which are contrasted with the green framed large windows. Using white bricks adds a layer of texture, adding subtle depth and character without overpowering the design.

The white color reflects natural light, making the outdoor space feel brighter, also beautifully contrasting with the frontyard greenery. White evokes feelings of serenity, cleanliness, and openness, making a home and the pastry-shop feel more inviting and relaxing. The new double-height, gallery spaces that act as light shelves contribute to the façade transparency, blending the interiors with the exteriors. Creating a commercial space to generate family income was an important part of the project as well.

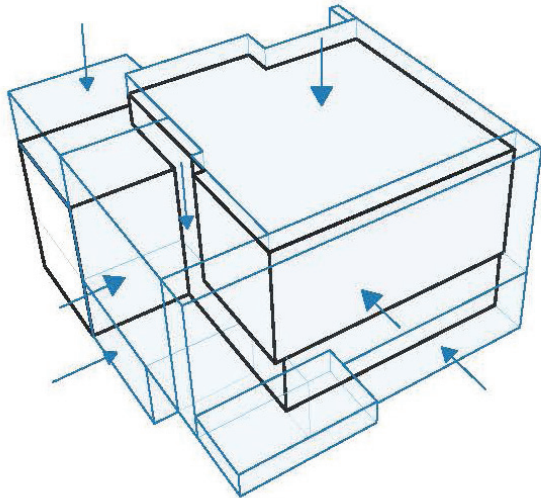




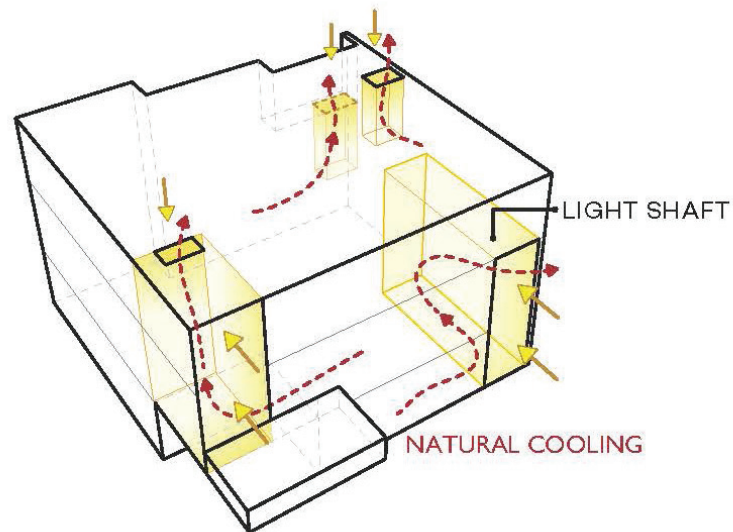
EXISTING



DEMOLITION



NEW



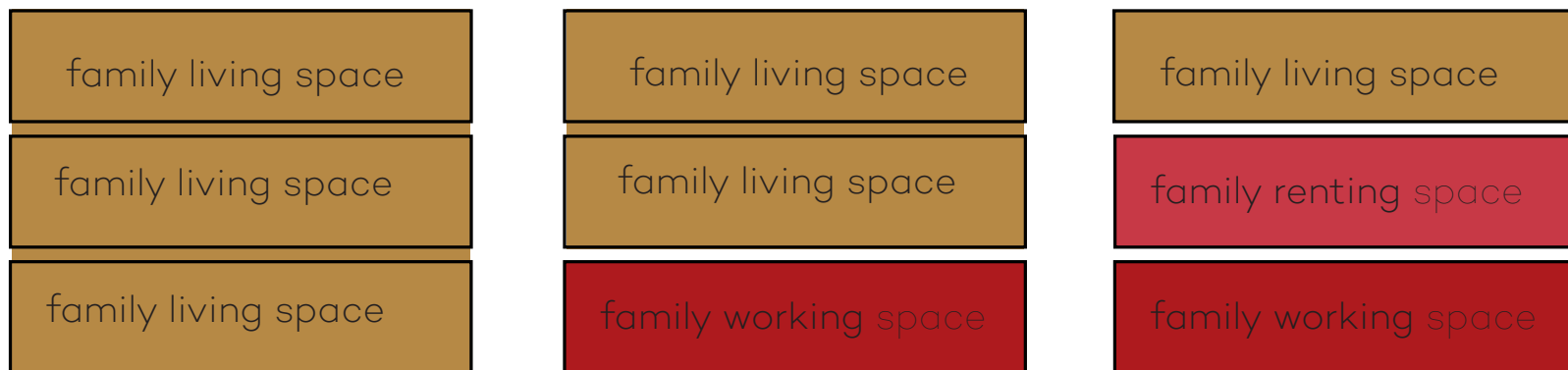
FINAL

A sustainable house can be:

- contemporary, with high **esthetics**
- pleasing and **healthy** environment for family well-being
- mix-use, a place to live and work, improving family's **economic** standard
- energy **efficient** (natural daylight and ventilation, high performing facade and openings)
- cost effective, through **reusing and recycling** existing building stock
- reduction for local coal-based energy, which means less **polluted environment** and lower **cost** for the family
- **water** efficient, using **rainwater** collection for irrigation

program transforming diagram, from past, to now, to future

(to support family needs and priorities)



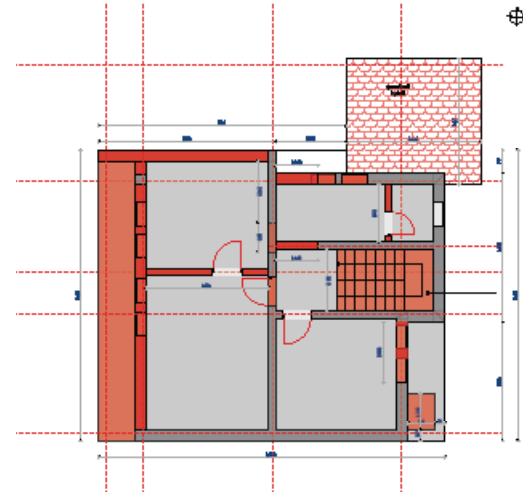
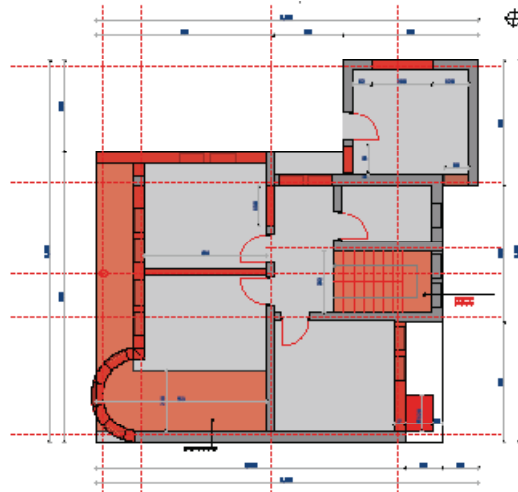
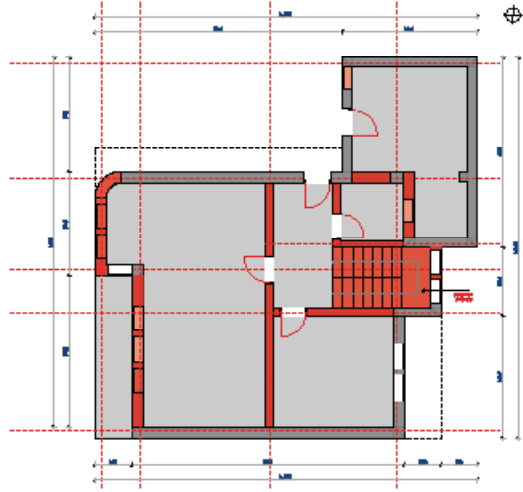
existing house program

proposed house program
NOW, year of 2025

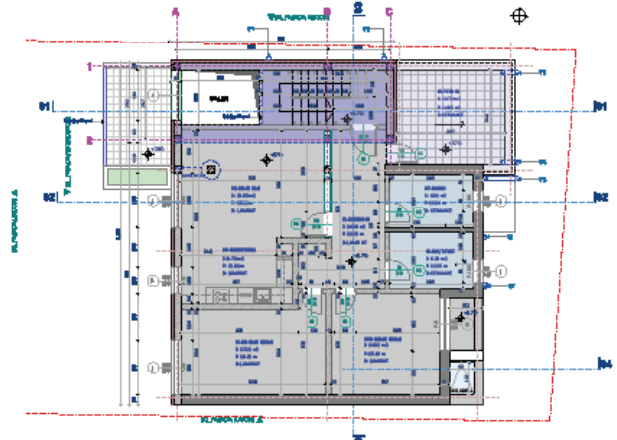
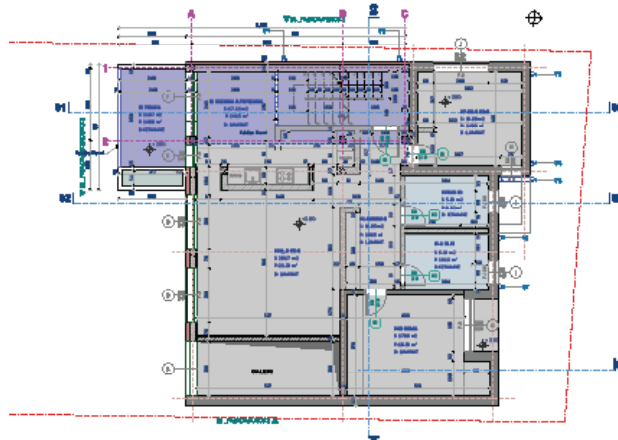
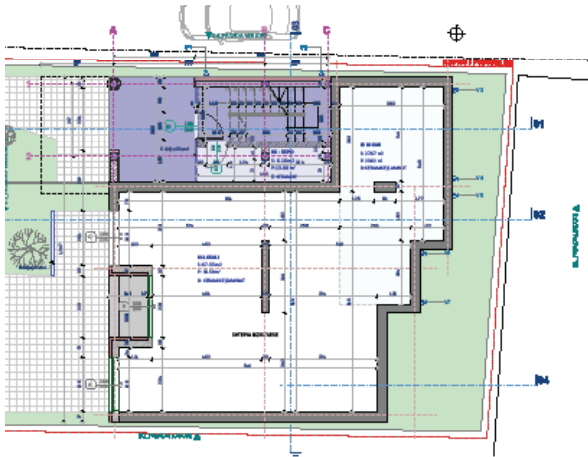
proposed house program
for **future** family rearrangement,
year of 2035

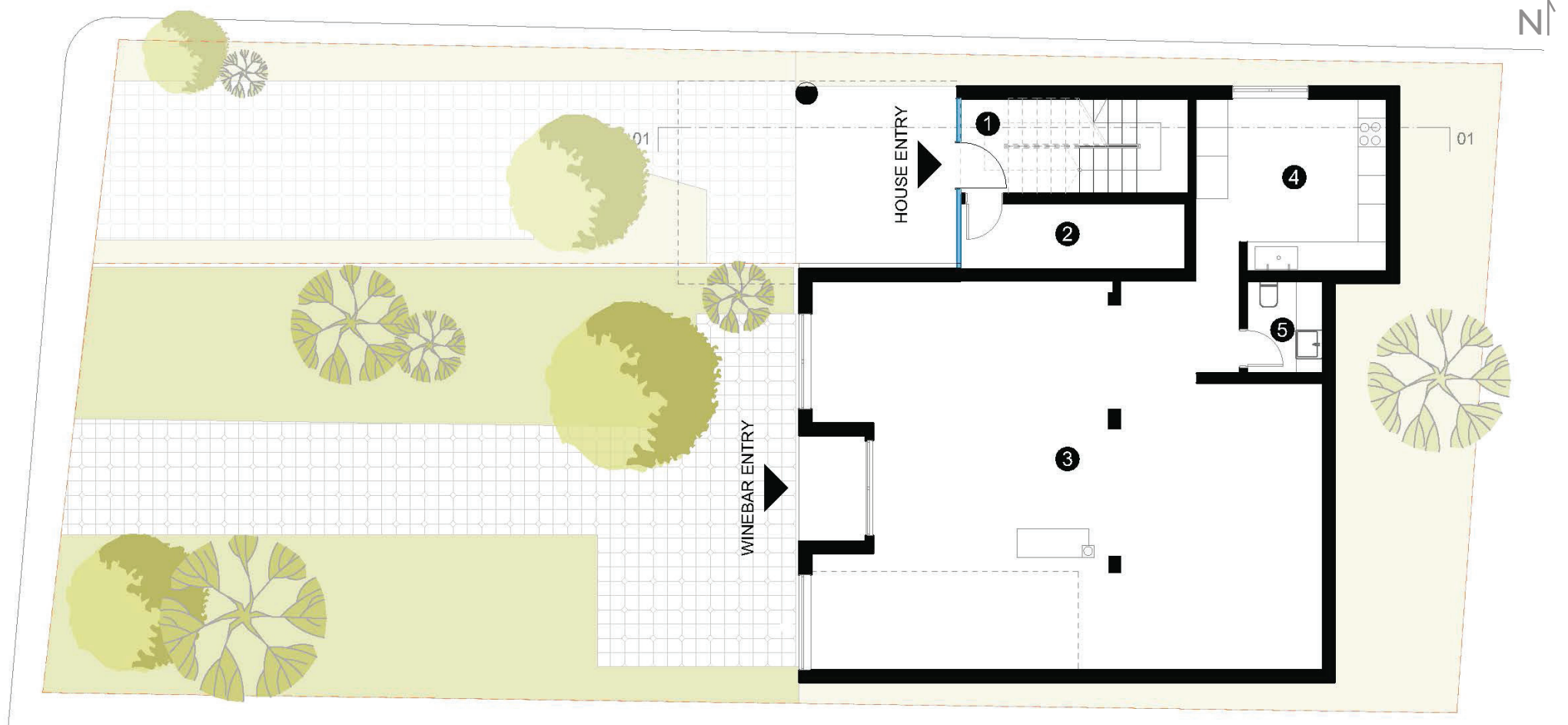
DEMOLITION

TRANSFORMATION



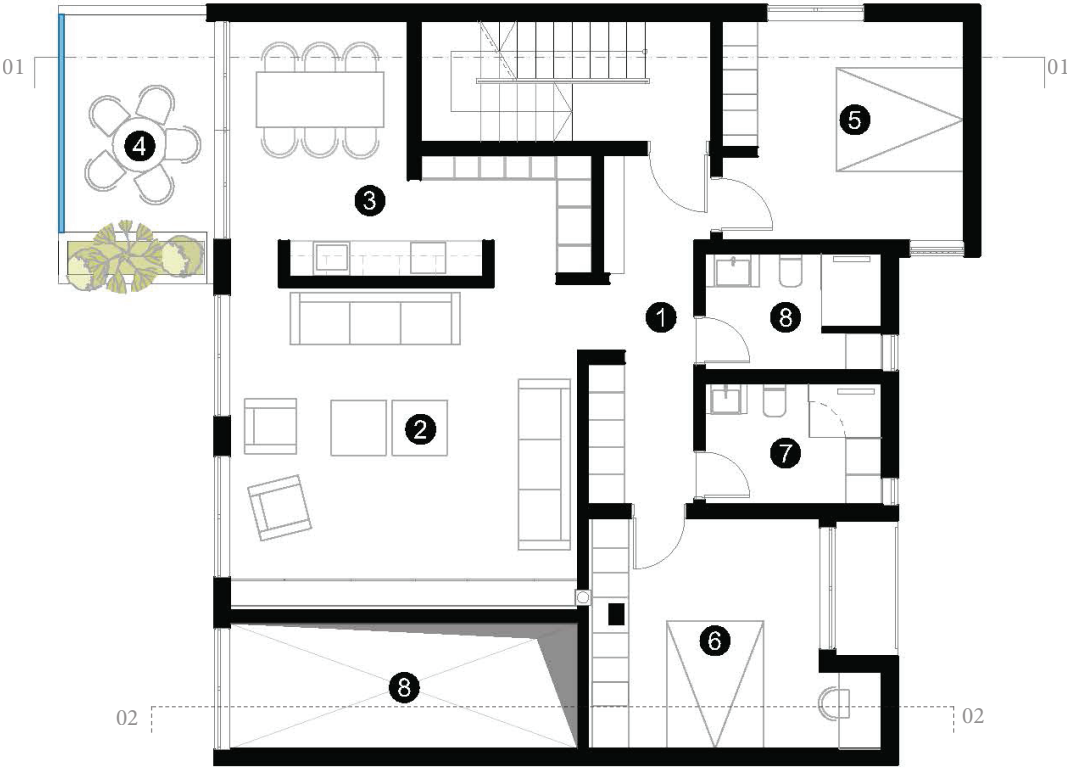
NEW



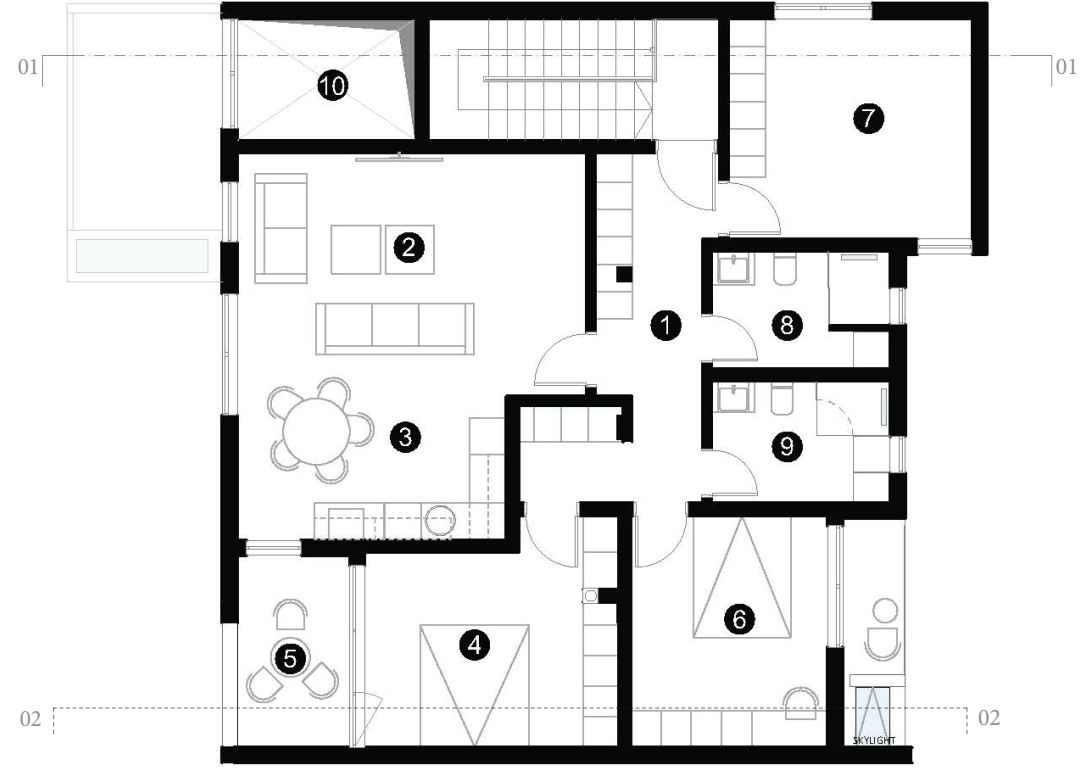


GROUND FLOOR

- ① ENTRY
- ② STORAGE
- ③ WINEBAR
- ④ KITCHEN
- ⑤ TOILET

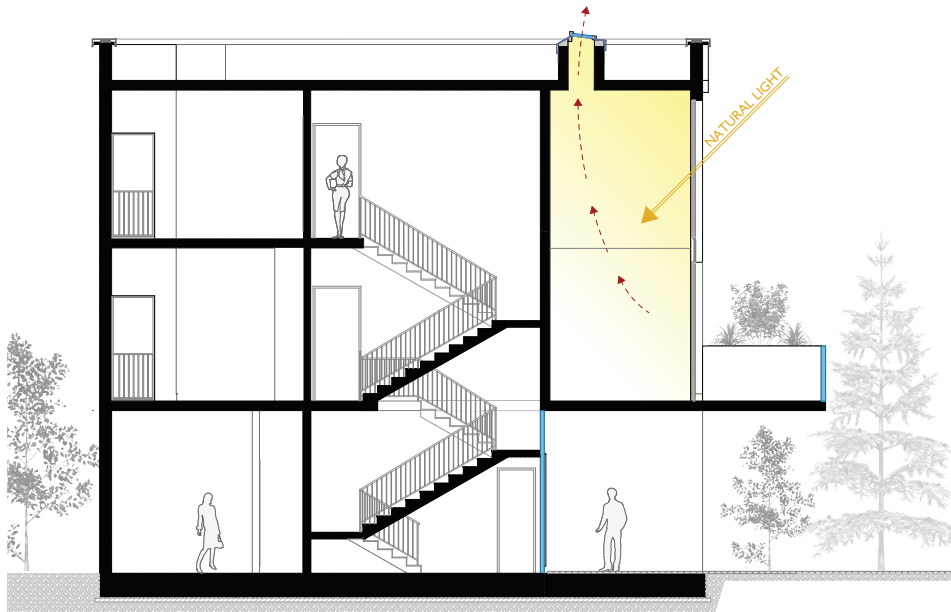


- ① HALLWAY
- ② LIVING ROOM
- ③ KITCHEN & DINING
- ④ TERRACE
- ⑤ BEDROOM
- ⑥ BEDROOM
- ⑦ BATHROOM
- ⑧ BATHROOM
- ⑨ GALLERY

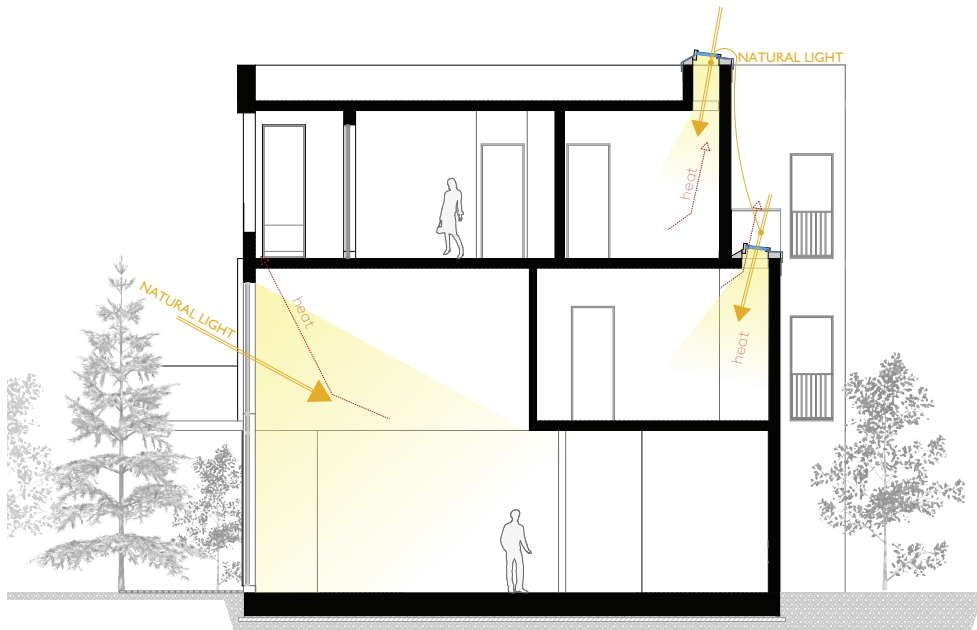


SECOND FLOOR

- ① HALLWAY
- ② LIVING ROOM
- ③ KITCHEN & DINING
- ④ BEDROOM
- ⑤ BALCONY
- ⑥ BEDROOM
- ⑦ BEDROOM
- ⑧ BATHROOM
- ⑨ BATHROOM
- ⑩ GALLERY



Section 01



direct **light**
penetration
+
natural ventilation



entry to the house living area





entry to the family pastryshop



view from northwest corner



ground floor



first floor



ground floor



first floor

light studies
+
proposed natural light
sequences



The House of Light