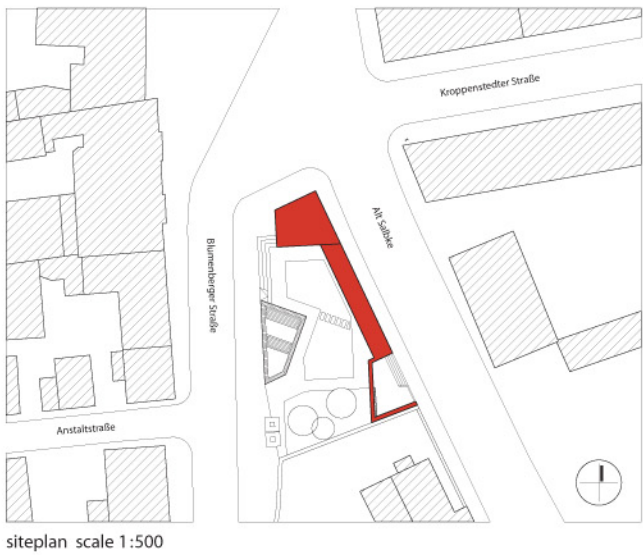


Lesezeichen Salbke

Open-Air-Library Magdeburg

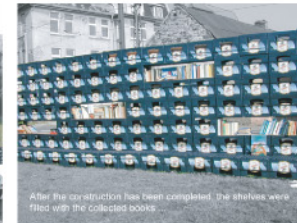
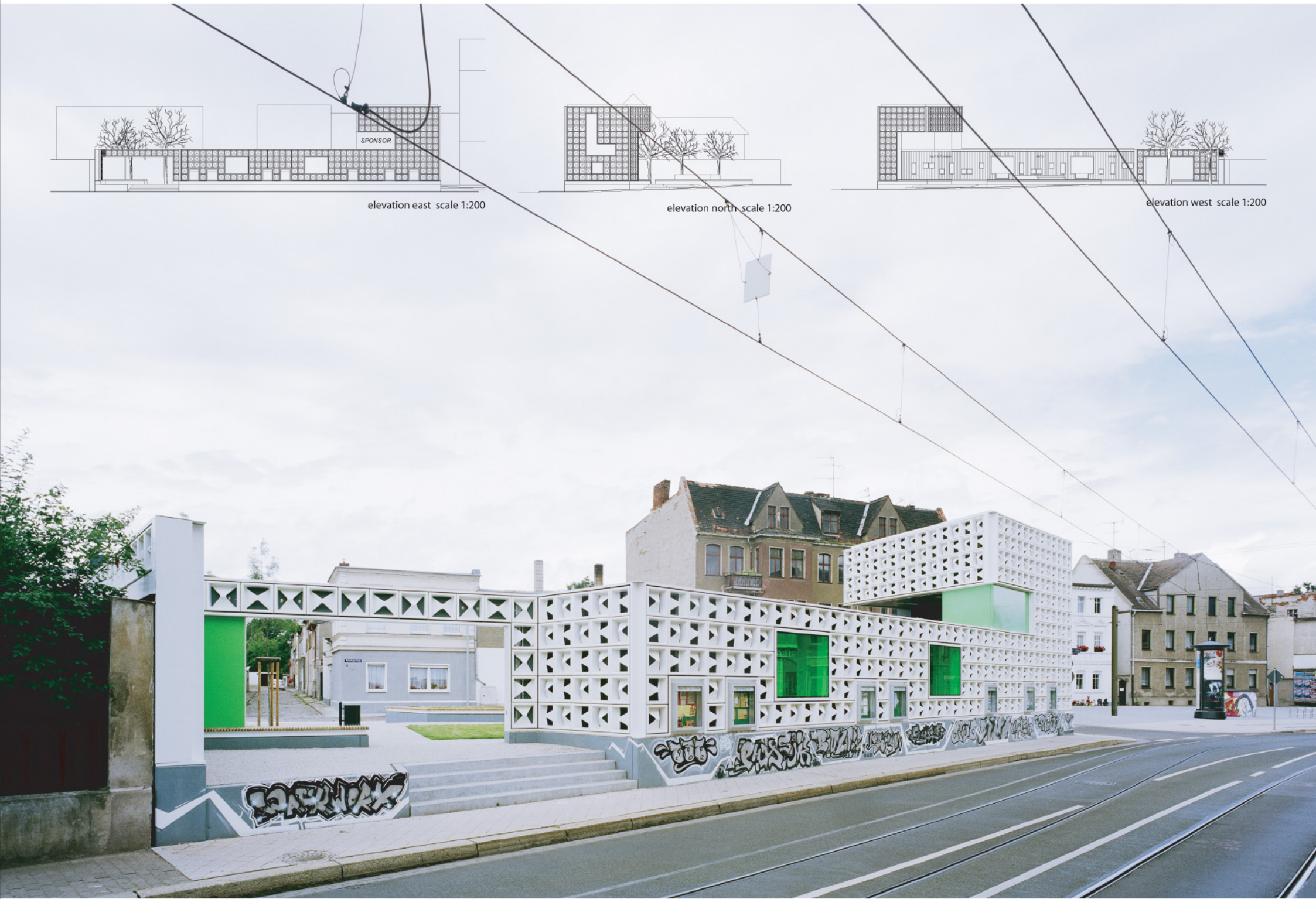
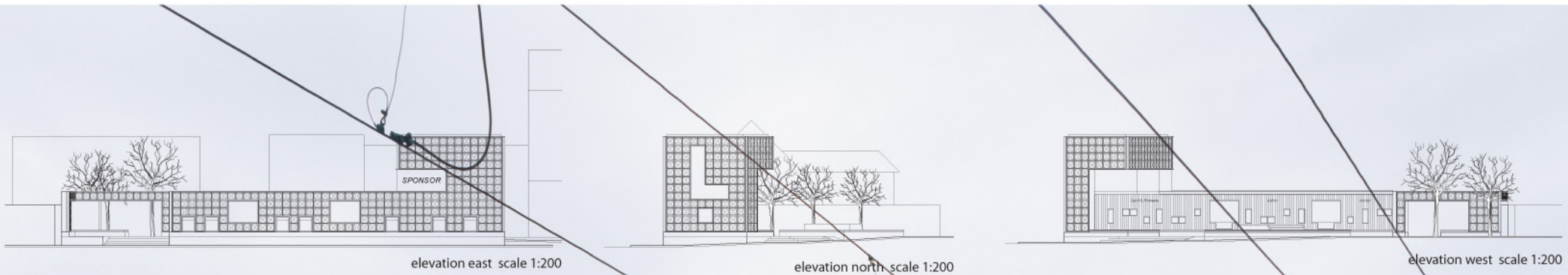
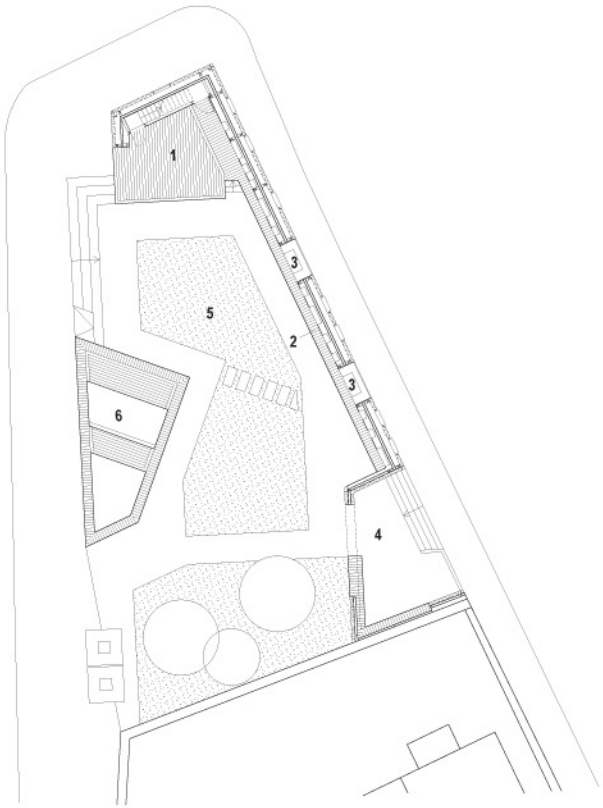


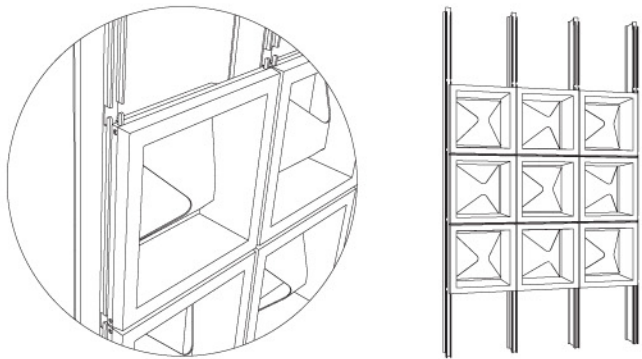
A bookmark for Salbke

The district Salbke in Magdeburg is characterized by shrinkage abandoned industrial plants and brownfields. A post-industrial city landscape with high unemployment and vacancy up to 80%. The spatially intact city centre stands almost completely empty.

The Open-Air-Library started with a public intervention, using beer crates as building material: On the fallow site of the former district library a 1:1 model of a possible Open-Air-Library has been mocked up for two days and the shelves have been filled with book-donations. The residents took over the energy of the temporary project and opened up an informal district library near the site which now offers more than 30.000 books. The outdoor space as an addition has been designed together with the residents and opened in June 2009. The bookshelves are never closed; you can take a book when ever you want. There is no bureaucracy; it is a library of confidence.

The project was planned right from the beginning as a SOCIAL SCULPTURE. The design and the functions were planned in a very close and open participation process.





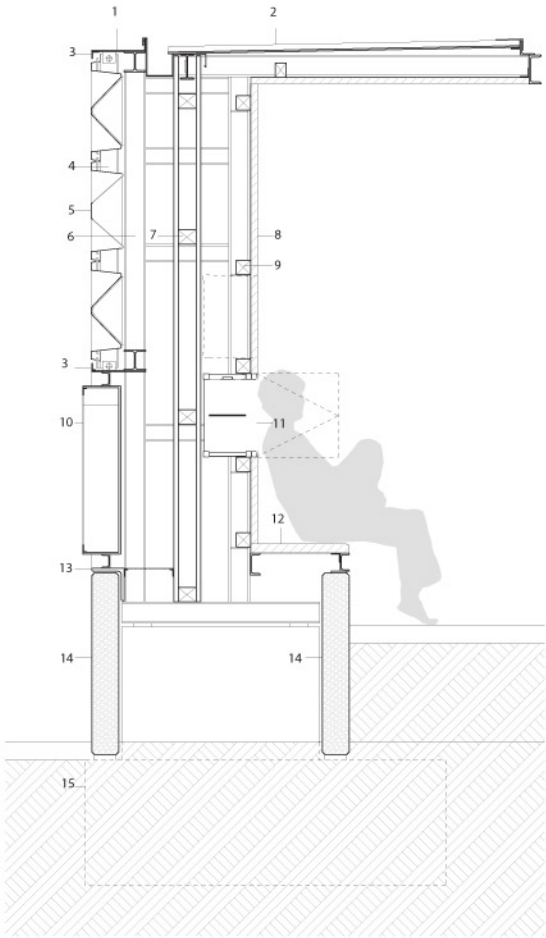
facade system

Recycling of post-war modernism

Beside the aspect of SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY, the architectural highlight of the project is the re-use of the modernist facade of the abandoned HORTEN warehouse of the City of Hamm. The warehouses of the entrepreneur Horten, built in numerous German cities - with a more or less similar facade - have soon rose as target of fundamental modernist critic. Today there is a re-evaluation of these kind of facades, which are in principle based on Edward Durrell Stone's façade-design of the US American pavilion for the EXPO 58 in Brussels. In this sense, the project stands beside energetic aspects for a SUSTAINABILITY OF SIGNS of the post-war period.

During the participation process several citizens demanded to construct the facade out of recycling material. It was a fruitful coincidence that in the same period the 1960s structural modernist warehouse facade was available for very cheap conditions and in an astonishing proper maintenance. Beside the renewal of the colour of the aluminium modules the facade was reused including its sub-construction without any structural change. Today the proposal is celebrated enthusiastic by all citizens of Salbke. With its retro-futuristic design the Open-Air-Library is seen as a new VILLAGE ICON and as sign towards a brighter future. As another communal function a stage is included. This is used by the elementary school for theatre plays, as well as for public readings, for concert-gigs of local youth bands and other cultural and communal events.

The location is quite new and still in a tough environment. Nevertheless the first houses in the surrounding have been sold and it looks as if they would be renovated. The residents who take care of the site and the library tell that it feels like an exiting new toy and one can be curious for the program of the next years. For judging the success of the project, it is way too early. It is since the beginning an experiment with an open end.



- 1 steelplate 6mm
- 2 trapezoidal sheet metal, zincd
- 3 removable structural steel shape L40
- 4 aluminium facade beam
- 5 aluminium module facade
- 6 steel-frame construction, HEB120/HEA100
- 7 squared timber 10/8 cm
- 8 wall segment, removable
- 9 squared timber 8/8 cm
- 10 showcase
- 11 bookshowcase, diameter 300mm
- 12 bench segment, removable
- 13 structural steel shape L180, bearing of aluminium facade beam
- 14 prefab concrete element, diameter=15cm
- 15 concrete fundament

section of bookwall scale 1:20

