

care blanket

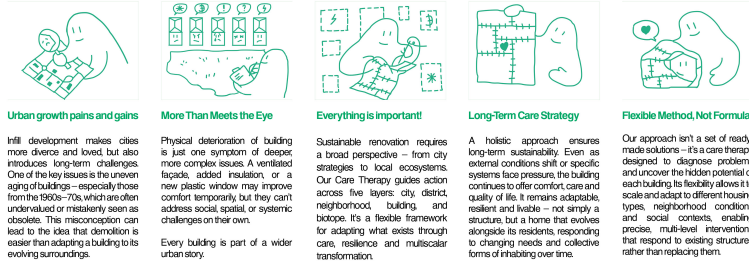
Care as Repair vs. Replace

Chapter 1: Care as repair

Cities grow by layering – buildings, systems, people, time. But what happens when some layers fall out of sync? Many housing blocks from the 1960s–70s now face growing aging, underused, undesired, and often deemed obsolete. This misdiagnosis leads to default replacement.

We propose a different approach. Instead of erasing, we repair. Not just physically, but socially, spatially and ecologically. We see each building as part of a broader urban story – one that can be updated through care, not replacement.

Care blanket isn't a fixed formula, but a flexible framework. It reads local conditions, scales accordingly and applies tailored interventions across five levels: city, district, neighborhood, building and ecosystem. By reactivating neglected structures and reformatting them as shared infrastructure, we aim to build a model of transformation that is circular, inclusive and replicable – one that turns what is seen as obsolete into an opportunity for renewed urban life.



[X.] The city



The district is like a green peninsula – surrounded by nature, yet cut off from the city by the ring road and railway. This makes it essential to establish a local infrastructure and community hub, similar to those found in other districts of Vilnius-Gastė, to strengthen connectivity and support everyday life.

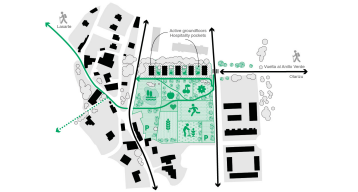
[.] District



The site is publicly owned and strategically located within a short walking distance from all parts of the neighborhood. It also presents an opportunity to be integrated into the Green Ring reinforcing the city's broader goals for sustainable mobility and green connectivity.

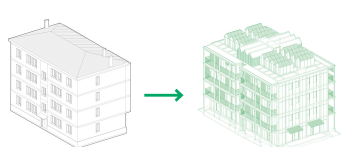
The active ground floor of Butadė is a planned community garden and the forthcoming health center and kindergarten to the south are shaping a vibrant and dynamic 'core heart' of the district.

[M] The neighbourhood



Minimal, removable structures – easy to assemble, flexible, and low-cost – are deployed on the plot to fully activate the space with immediate social and spatial impact, while keeping the site open for future transformation. These temporary interventions form a dynamic patchwork of uses that adapt to changing needs over time.

[S] The Building



A modular 'care blanket' wraps existing structures in protective layers that go beyond insulation – creating attached living spaces, integrating environmental systems, and expressing local identity. Prefabricated components enable rapid, minimally disruptive installation while residents remain in place. Community co-design transforms technical results into neighborhood expression: standardized thermal performance meets customized colors, patterns, and materials that echo local vernacular. The bio-based envelope system becomes a scalable prototype, addressing the region's 500+ vulnerable areas through replicable technology with locally unique character – turning building restoration into community building.

[XS] Biotypes



Golokė has historically been an agricultural area, where humans and animals coexisted in harmony. To help preserve the local ecosystem, we propose creating a green corridor between Olaičiu and Lazais, along with green roofs planted with pollinator-friendly vegetation and nesting opportunities for birds and bats.

[1]

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Chapter 2: Commonalities

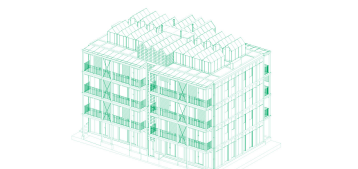
We focus on the intermediate scale – the building, the courtyard, the passage – to explore how minimal yet strategic interventions can trigger deep and lasting transformation. Instead of demolishing, we choose to reorganize, repair and reprogram what already exists. We act with precision on the everyday infrastructures of the housing block, understanding that the latent potential lies precisely in what is already built.

We reclaim the ground floor as a shared infrastructure, capable of hosting diverse programs and responding to existing neighborhood needs. At the same time, we transform the internal street into an accessible public passage, connecting what was once fragmented and opening the site to the city.

Each element – facade, units, rooftop, patios – becomes part of a system that balances continuity and renewal. Butadė is not just a site to be fixed, but an open model replicable, adaptable and sensitive to context. Reprogramming the everyday becomes a powerful way to transform the common.

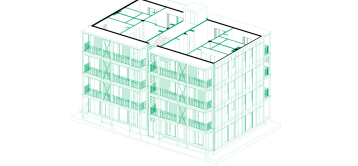
Rooftop as shared infrastructure

We transform the roof into an ecological and social platform: solar panels, rainwater collector, urban gardens and communal greenhouses.



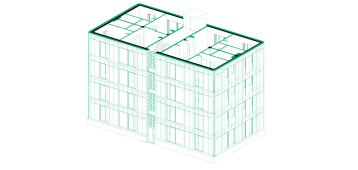
Habitable balconies

We apply a second skin – a cork-and-tember facade mounted dry onto the existing wall. Added balconies break the thermal bridge, extend outdoor living, and enrich the building's spatial expression.



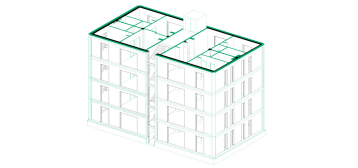
New thermal envelope

We apply a second skin – a cork-and-tember facade mounted dry onto the existing wall. Added balconies break the thermal bridge, extend outdoor living, and enrich the building's spatial expression.



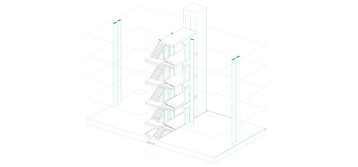
Interior reorganization

We reorganize unit layouts while preserving the original envelope and window openings, improving ventilation, daylight and adaptability.



Preserve and connect

We reprogram the ground floor with new uses open to the neighborhood. An elevator is added at street level, improving accessibility without altering the existing stairwell or main entrances.



Original Building

We acknowledge the building as it was originally constructed. We don't erase it – we take it as the starting point for careful, strategic transformation.



[2]

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Chapter 3: A New Domestic Layer

Transformation begins within the unit. We reconfigure interior layouts through light interventions – removing non-structural partitions while preserving the original envelope and load-bearing structures. This allows for compact or cross-ventilated units, adaptable to new living arrangements.

A new facade system is dry-mounted onto the existing wall, enhancing thermal and acoustic comfort without demolition. Each panel is customizable by residents, forming collective identity through patchwork logic: cork, concrete, reclaimed bricks or solar modules.

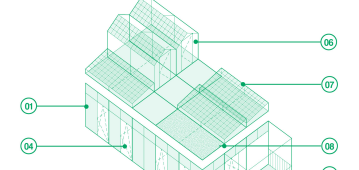
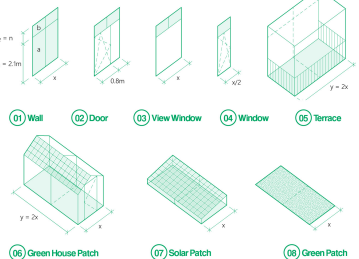
The facade gains depth and becomes habitable. Balconies and loggias act as thresholds for res. cultivation and encounter. Above, the roof is reimagined as productive infrastructure: solar energy, water harvesting, gardens and shared greenhouses. The dwelling becomes more than a sealed unit – it becomes an open, layered and evolving system built through care.

A tool-kit to assemble

We propose a new facade system mounted dry onto the existing envelope – with no demolition or perforation of the original walls. The system combines a timber frame with expanded cork panels and attached loggias, significantly improving the building's thermal and acoustic performance.

Each module acts as a 'patch of care', customizable with different finishes: exposed cork, reclaimed bricks, artisan ceramic pieces, perforated metal screens or integrated solar panels. This patchwork logic invites residents to participate in the design of their facade, building collective identity through expressive variation.

All components are dry-fitted, with no foams or adhesives. The facade can be updated, disassembled or reused in the future, following circularity principles. This new skin doesn't just insulate – it creates depth, identity and opportunities for individual and collective appropriation.



1. Identify the existing
Recognize the original facade as the base structure, with no need for demolition.

2. Adapt openings
Reinforce and adjust existing openings to improve interior light and enable new layouts.

3. Define the grid
Establish a modular system to organize patch elements and align to the building's rhythm.

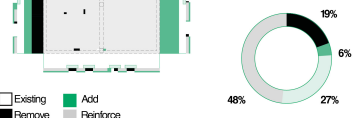
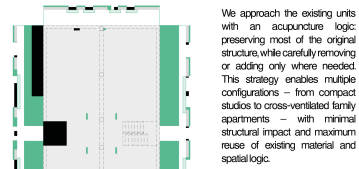
4. Install the first skin
Mount timber frames and cork panels as a dry, breathable and low-carbon envelope.

5. Attach balconies
Add loggias and balconies to expand living space and activate the facade as a lived threshold.

Energy Class A in 5 Steps

The building achieves Energy Class A in five coordinated steps. First, a cork-and-tember insulating blanket (U_{wall} reduced from 1.40 to 0.21 W/m²K) wraps the envelope. Second, airtightness is improved through blow-door testing (0.6 ACH₅₀) and the implementation of heat recovery ventilation (HRV 80% efficiency). Third, glazing is replaced, reducing U_{glaz} from 4.0 to 1.0 W/m²K with a solar heat gain coefficient of g = 0.52. Fourth, systems are electrified using an air-to-water heat pump combined with floor heating coils (SCOP 3.0). Finally, a 15 kWp rooftop photovoltaic system provides 3.5 kWh/m² of self-consumed electricity. As a result, heating demand drops to 42 kWh/m² year (178 kWh/m² year), meeting Class A requirements (≤ 50 kWh/m² year). Non-renewable primary energy use is reduced to 48 kWh/m² year (Class A ≤ 60), and CO₂ emissions fall to 8 kg CO₂/m² year (Class A ≤ 10).

Minimal interventions, maximum adaptability



[3]



Redistributing without demolition

We start from the existing structure and reorganize the footprint through a precise reconfiguration of the core and access points. An external elevator is added to ensure street-level accessibility without altering the original stairwell. The stairwell is retained, the new layout works with or without the lift.

The landing becomes wider and brighter with natural light entering from both sides of the building. On each floor, up to four compact units are organized, each 30m² in size, with 10m² of balcony expansion.

By aligning wet cores (kitchens and bathrooms) based on the original vertical shafts, we enable flexible combinations between units. With the removal of a single partition wall, two studios can be merged into a 75m² cross-ventilated apartment (10m² of balcony), adaptable to 2 or 3 bedrooms – offering spatial diversity with minimal intervention.

Typologies Catalogue

A1 1 bedroom
36m²
+ 10m² balcony
A2 (studio)
36m²
+ 10m² balcony

B1 2 bedrooms
75m²
+ 20m² balcony

C1 3 bedrooms
75m²
+ 20m² balcony

Floor area calculations

Type Building	Base	Surface	Common Areas	Superblock UG
Base	157 m ²	157 m ²	157 m ²	157 m ²
Surface	157 m ²	157 m ²	157 m ²	157 m ²

