Tour Moinat Conversion, Echandens

The 16th century tower, a former granary for the Château d'Echandens, had already been converted in the early 20th century. Neither the floor space nor the apartment, which were crammed in on two levels conformed to modern requirements. Instead, the conversion project was aimed at making additional space in the attic available, which was originally only 1.60 m high.

A new "furniture piece" invades the insides of the tower like a parasite, taking over the functional organisation and access for both floors and the attic, where another 30 m2 of living space were created by lowering the suspended ceiling.

The object is both autonomous and inextricably merged with the building, as it "inhabits" the entire gutted interior of the original stone structure, completely filling it from the entrance threshold to the new room beneath the rooftop. The intervention plays with the stone material of the existing shell and counteracts it with larch triple-plywood, with which the entire construction is made.

The surfaces of the exterior walls and the connected interior fittings are given a white colour as a strong contrast to the expressive grain of the "parasite". The new intervention's wooden material properties make it visible and give it a temporal marker.