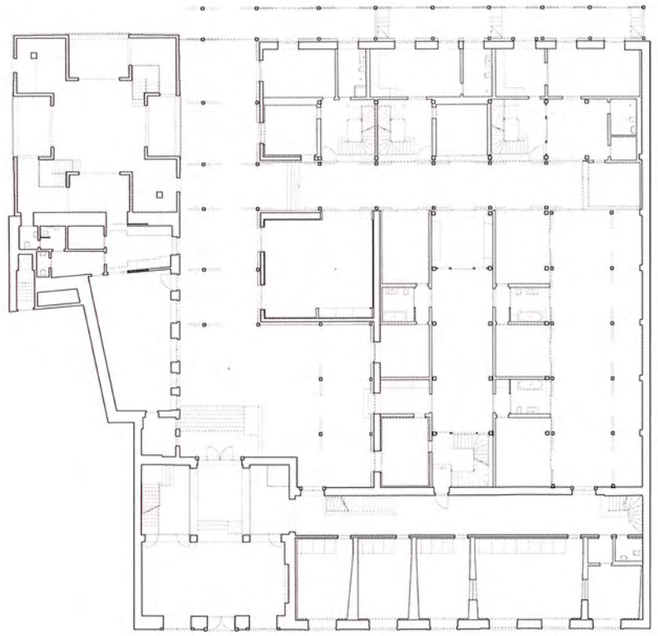
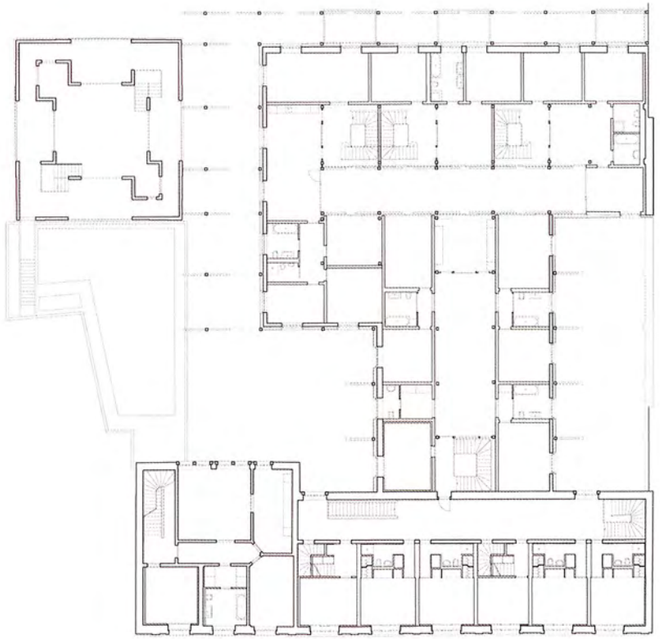
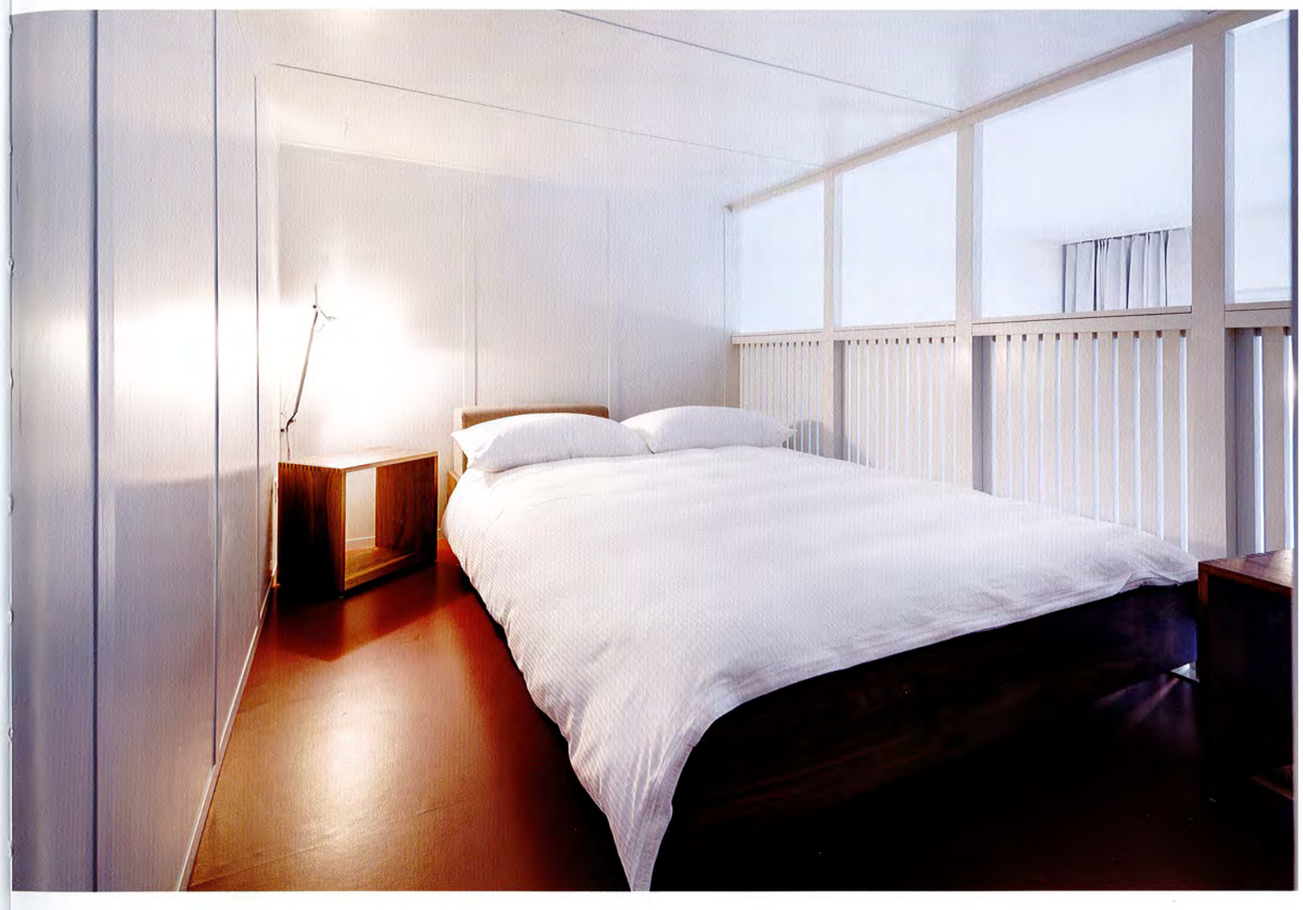
# CONTEMPORARY LIVING SPACE

SANDU

PHOTOGRAPHER: WALTER MAIR, B&Z

# Musicians Apartment House

The various buildings of a disused factory dating from 1885 were transformed into a spacious home and work environment for musicians and their families. The building materials were not all good quality. The brick structures of the workshop and warehouse were adequate, and the buildings on Iothringerstrasse, which once housed both the administrative offices and the factory floor, were used in the ensemble since they had a certain formal panache. Structures of minor architectural value were demolished and the remaining elements incorporated into the new development, forming an interesting conglomerate with special qualities.

Acoustic adaptations enable people to both teach and live in the new apartments. Guest apartments, training rooms, a sound/recording studio, a canteen, and a spacious children's play hall all form part of the new musicians' apartment house. The structural diversity of the original factory site meant that a separate conversion strategy had to be developed for each building. The former warehouse was the biggest building – a wooden structure with a spacing of 4 x 4 x 4 meters, surrounded by a massive external wall.

These characteristics have been integrated into and adapted to the new building; the internal wooden structure was copied onto the external wall with the use of concrete pillars and beams, and the diagonal steel supports also show the internal structure outside. The layout of the marionette apartments and flat shares mirrors the grid pattern of the old wooden structure. However, in one part the existing structure was weak and was therefore replaced with a new open courtyard living space.