

Visible Studio

Bath, UK

Architects → Invisible Studio

Location → The Rocks, Ashwicke, Bath, SN14 8AW, UK

GFA → 55 sqm

Completion → 2014

Client → Invisible Studio

Client's profession → architect

Main materials → timber

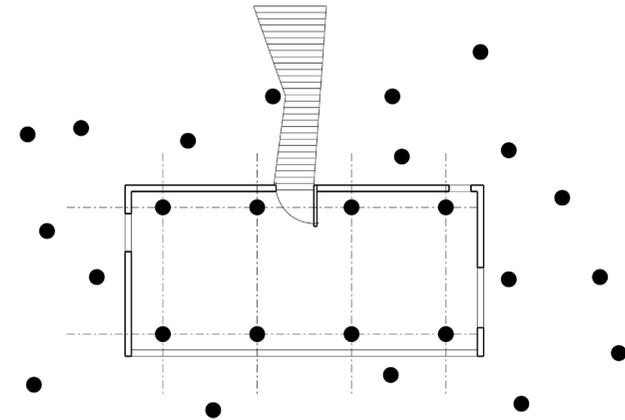
www.invisiblestudio.org

CSp-033,1
Photocredit:
Andy Matthews (UK)

This new studio was built by the practice with the help of neighbors and friends using untreated and unseasoned timber grown in the woodland that surrounds the structure. The studio is on two floors and comprises a 55-square-meter enclosed space accessed via a bridge from the slope and an open workshop below where employees can build full-scale models. No one who worked on the project had any experience in construction. The project was an exercise in establishing a system of building that could be constructed by unskilled labor, with minimal drawings, allowing ad hoc discoveries and improvisation, and avoiding the tyranny of predetermined design. The 'mistakes' of the unskilled team remain evident in the building, and no attempt was made to conceal them. A mobile saw was rented for two days and all of the timber used was milled in that time. This informed the building design, which embraces the constraints of minimal cost and design. For example, the cladding that was milled at the end of the two days was just enough to partially clad the studio. The project was scaffolded with timber that was ultimately used for the bridge and floor, negating the need for expensive scaffold hire. The windows were scavenged from a skip, and the floor paint was left over from an earlier project. All of the boarding used is the cheapest possible grade, and the insulation is carefully pieced together from off-cuts. The structure is heated by waste wood from the woodland, and water from the roof feeds into an attenuation pond that forms a natural habitat.



2/208



↑↑ The studio of the architects lies in the middle of the forest.

↑ Ground floor plan sketched by hand.



← The building has two floors and is reached via a bridge.

↑↑ Since the studio was made from its surrounding trees, it adapts perfectly to the forest.

↑ The footings were mixed by hand, and designed to be the most minimal possible

↑↑ Since the house stands on stilts, even a car can be parked under it.