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Ghost Barn: Invisible Studio's workshop in the woods

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This ethereal-looking prototyping workshop in Wiltshire was designed by Invisible Studio. With its pared-down, spare aesthetic, its constructional efficiency reflects their approach to design, exploring contingency in the construction process – and using minimal drawings.

Architect's view

Our new prototyping workshop was built for and designed by us to complement our woodland studio. It uses our own unseasoned spruce timber, grown and milled on site. The building will be used for full-scale making projects undertaken by the studio and for the design/make workshops that we organise including the annual Studio in the Woods.

This project is the first of a series of 'equivalent' projects that use same-section timber. The Ghost Barn uses 5 x 2" timber for everything and was an exercise in constructional efficiency, taking less than two weeks from start to finish. The project also relates the founder of our studio, Piers Taylor's PhD topic, exploring contingencies that emerge through incorporating making into design. This project had minimal drawings – leaving much to be determined in an ad-hoc way by the build team.

The project is clad in impact resistant fibreglass and corrugated steel, consciously reflecting the local agricultural sheds that exist locally, giving the project an ambiguity that allows it to appear simultaneously familiar, yet extraordinary.

