Synergetic retrofitting

The cooking school and visitor center are two complimentary activities designed to achieve a site economic synergy in order to ensure the permanence of the intervention. On the one hand, visitors can eat at the restaurant while enjoying the panoramic views of the kitchen in an industrial atmosphere. On the other hand, cooking school students benefit from the presence of a critical mass of visitors that provide a continuous flow of clients into the restaurant. These two activities mutually benefit from this presence, but do not interfere with one another because each one is developed on a set of differentiated planes.

At the same time, these activities are housed within a framework of residual scale. The core buildings of a unique set of local products and a strong culinary tradition that lacks a central facility to articulate the existing network. Rehabilitating the complex would also benefit from the multiple industries that stretch along the Dashur River and are currently part of an industrial heritage touristic route.

Each program is linked with its own dedicated infrastructure. By means of equipped cubicles, the necessary infrastructure is provided inside the existing spaces in order to develop the cooking school. New smooth lightweight construction creates with the residual grammar. It is located on the lower level of the factory, which is formed by spaces that are in good condition (covered with vaulted ceilings).

The visitor center consists of an exposed walkway that moves above the ground level of the factory and provides the workshops, bringing the visitors closer to the real workings. A new terrace is provided that facilitates the understanding of the complex as a whole and alternates landscape and interior. With this new infrastructure, the site becomes fully accessible.