

yohji yamamoto New York gansevoort street store



View from the Gansevoort Street, the continuity between the existing building and the building separated from the existing is naturally kept



View of a cut from the Gansevoort Street



1942 - 2007 existing building



2008 - after cutting



view of the tip of the building



The town is divided into two parts at the tip of the building



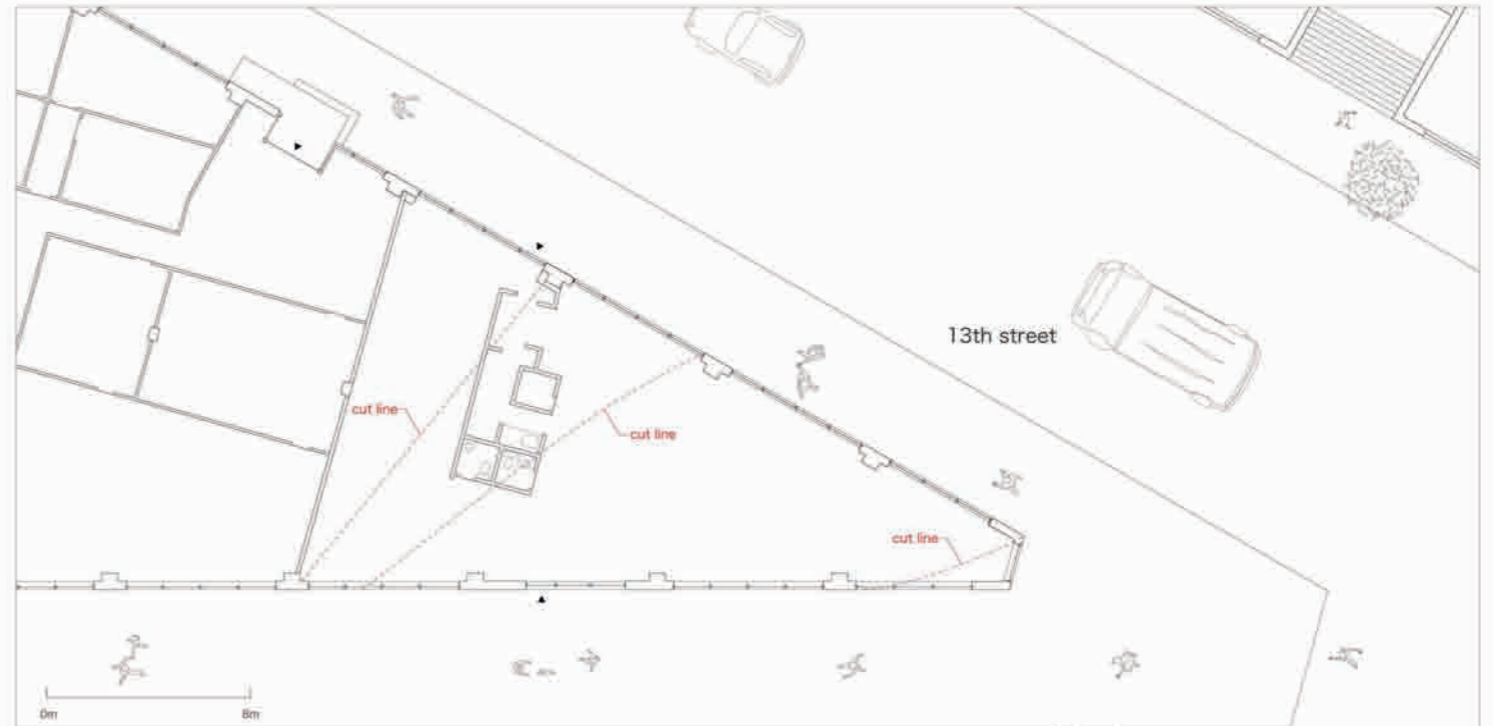
View of the building under construction. All the demolished bricks are reused in the new shape.



View from the 13th street. The Stock room on the right is completely separated from the left side shop which looks like the show case.



View of the 13th street look from interior of the shop. The scenery of town creates the interior.



Designing the Yohji Yamamoto flagship shop in Manhattan's Meatpacking District. Standing on the site was an aging brick one-storey building, about 50 years old (797m²). I converted the area that was the tip of the building (253.9m²). I found the shape of the existing building to be charming like a wedge of cake. So, as if to put knife to cake, I made buildings in new shapes. I hoped that new activity would be generated in the town as a result of interaction between the existing town spaces and the new spaces and that will emerge out of cutting the building. The bricks from the demolished walls we re-used, rearranging them in new shapes like with a child's building blocks. Where we did not have enough old bricks, some new bricks were also used. Because of this the new buildings ended up with an intriguing look, appearing in a way as if nothing had changed, even though the completed buildings were now shaped entirely differently.

The tip of the existing building was cut off and made an independent building. This we made into a shop space with no function aside from product display. In the other building resulting from the separation we made backyard functions. This was a renovation job, but what we did created spaces completely different from the sort of results that would have been, had we planned for just the interior with partition walls and such. Since I planned inner and outer simultaneously for the spaces, this project often felt closer to design on a new construction. But of course we already had had the existing building, so it was completely different from that too. I was designing the building within such a multiplicity.