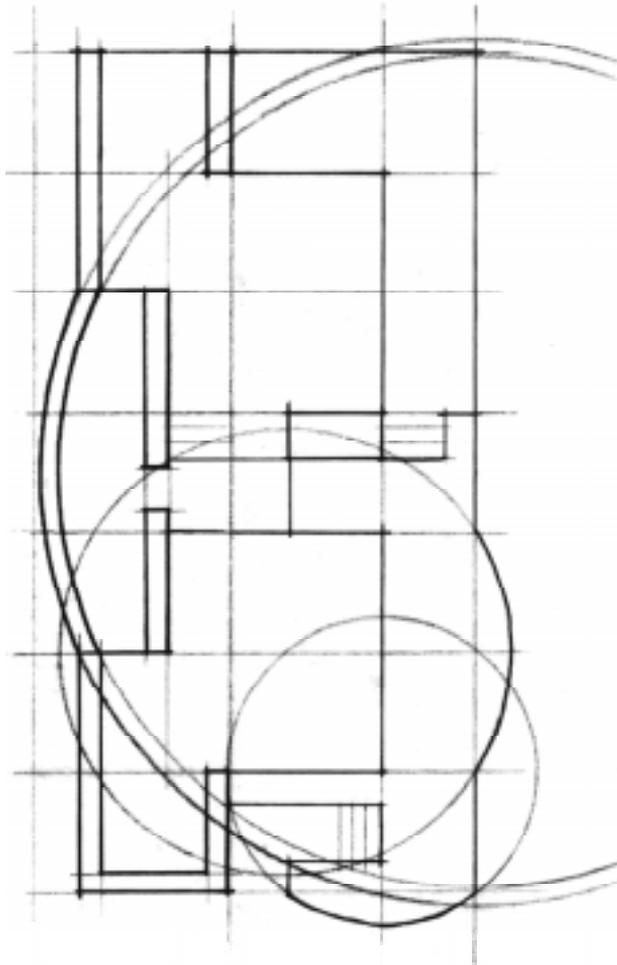
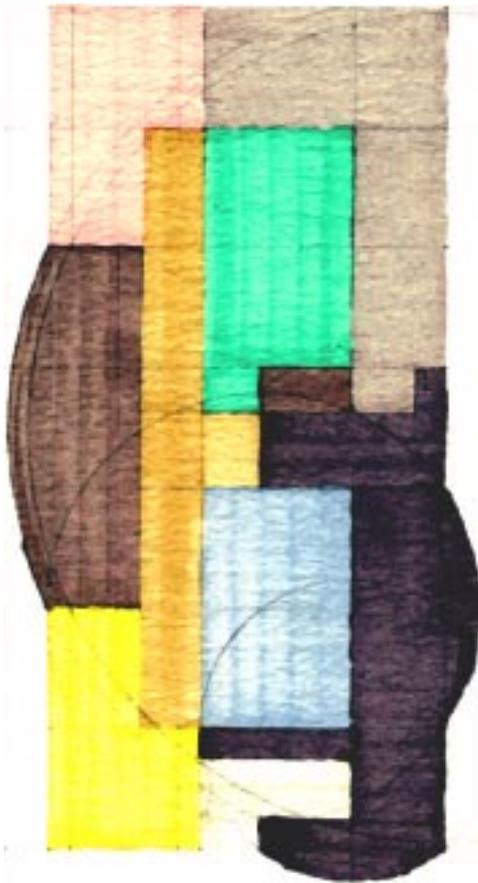
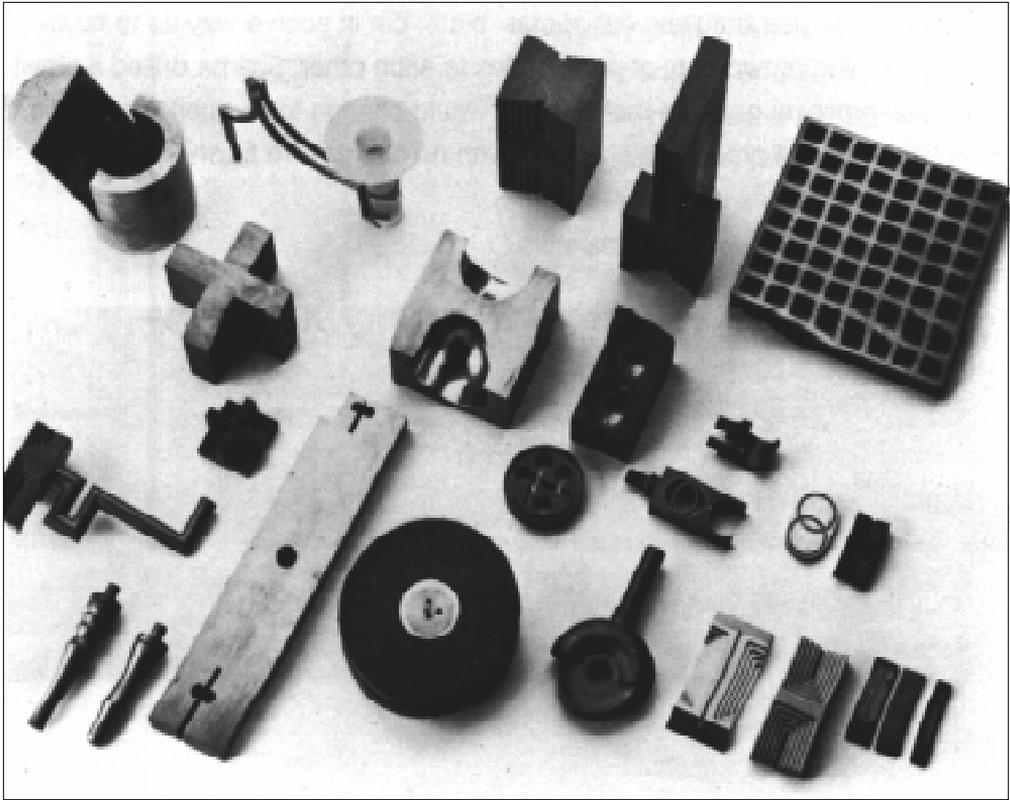


Distinction & Continuity







Assembly

To assemble is to bring together in the spirit of joining. This joining of two things together is the act of indirectly establishing the relationships between them.

The exact nature of the relationship between two or more things may be executed either with extreme refinement or blatant abhorrence. Through the assemblage of things a certain character is established.

"A character is a complex totality, and a single adjective evidently cannot cover more than one aspect of this totality. Often, however, character is so distinct that one word seems sufficient to grasp its essence. We see, thus, that the very structure of everyday language conforms our analysis of place."¹⁵

The relationships established within the conditions of the house should begin to express a certain spirit that should be reflective of the overall design idea. Alvar Aalto wrote:

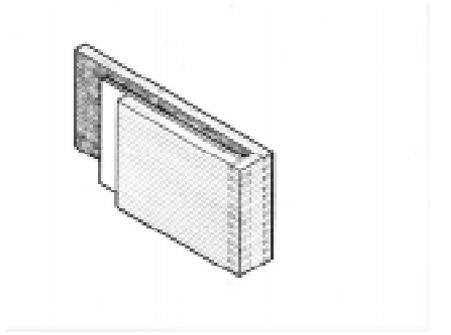
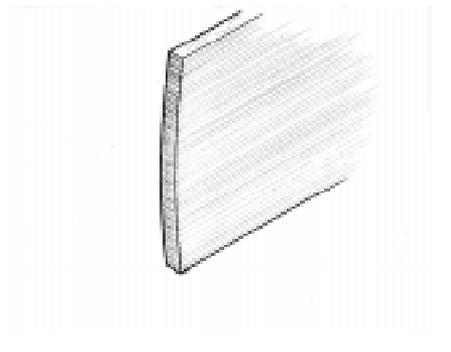
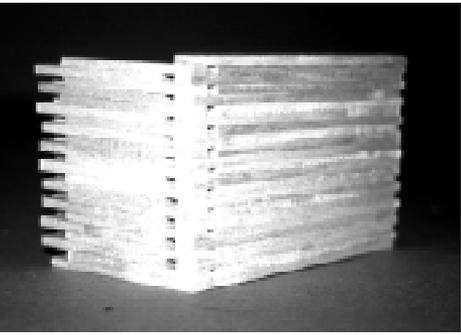
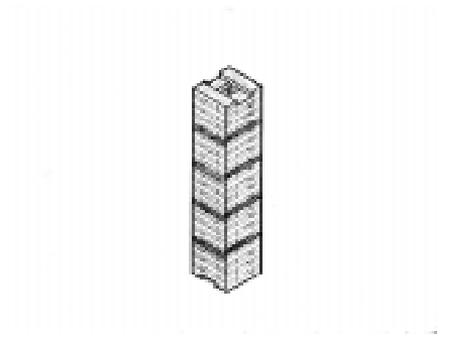
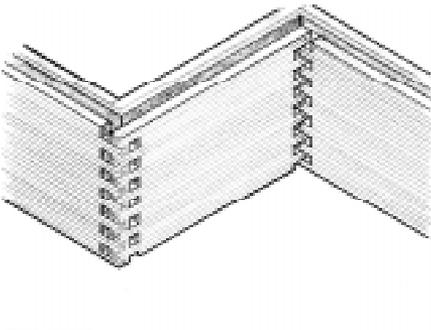
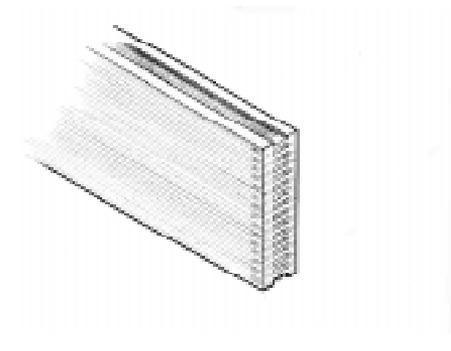
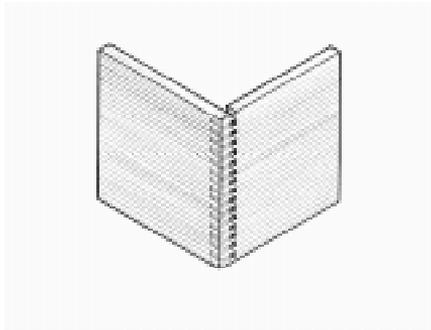
"there has to be a basic element, a constructive standard piece, which somewhat altered, appears in all articles."¹⁶

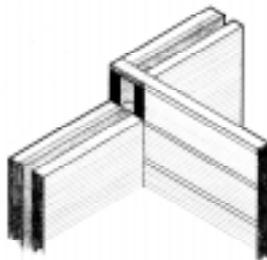
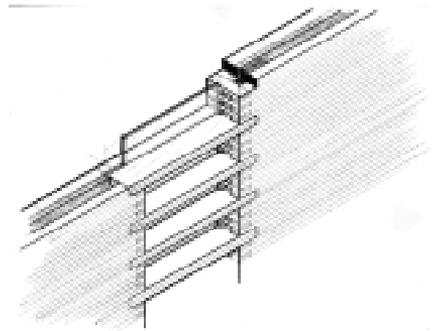
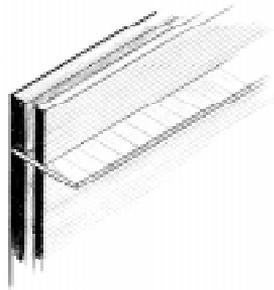
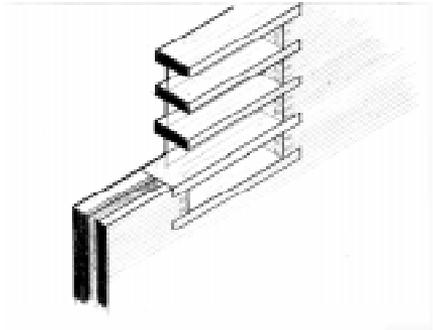
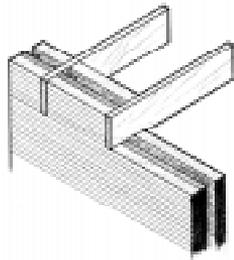
This basic element could vary, from an intangible object to an idea. The fundamental idea should transcend scales and conditions to communicate a collective harmony.

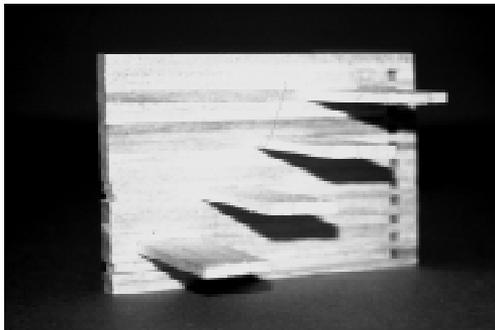
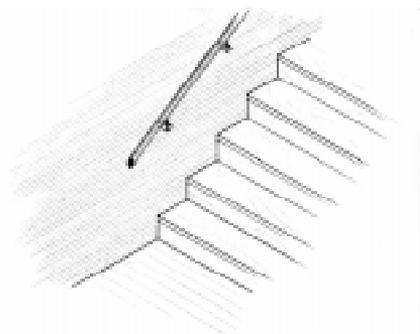
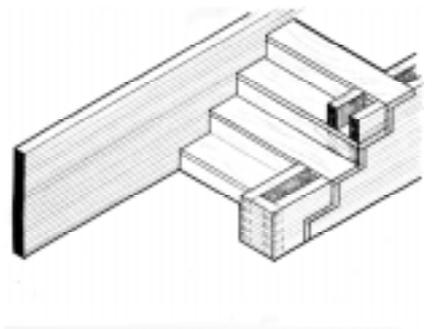
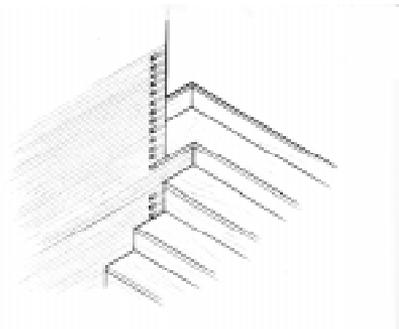
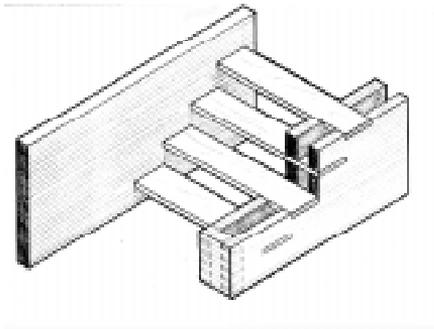


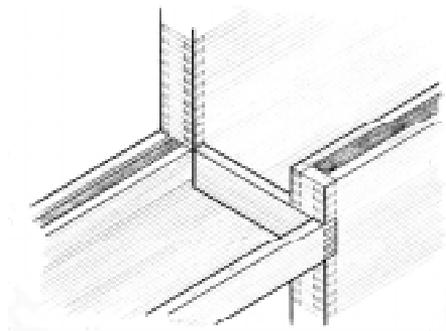
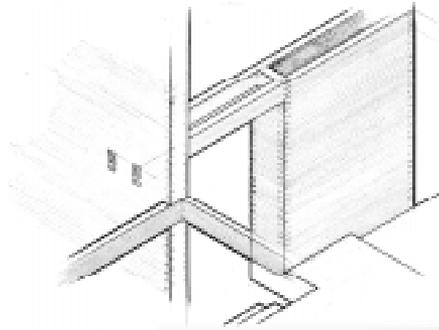
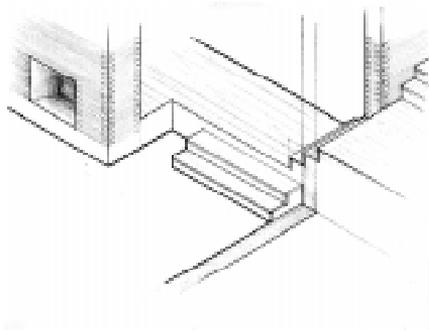
Tectonic Studies

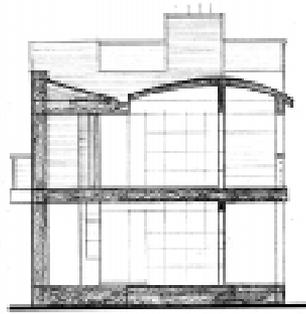
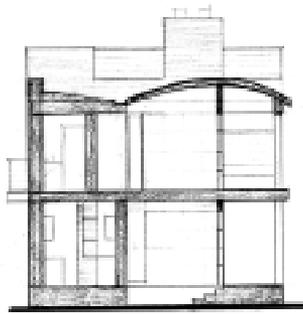
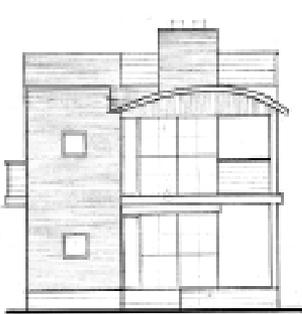
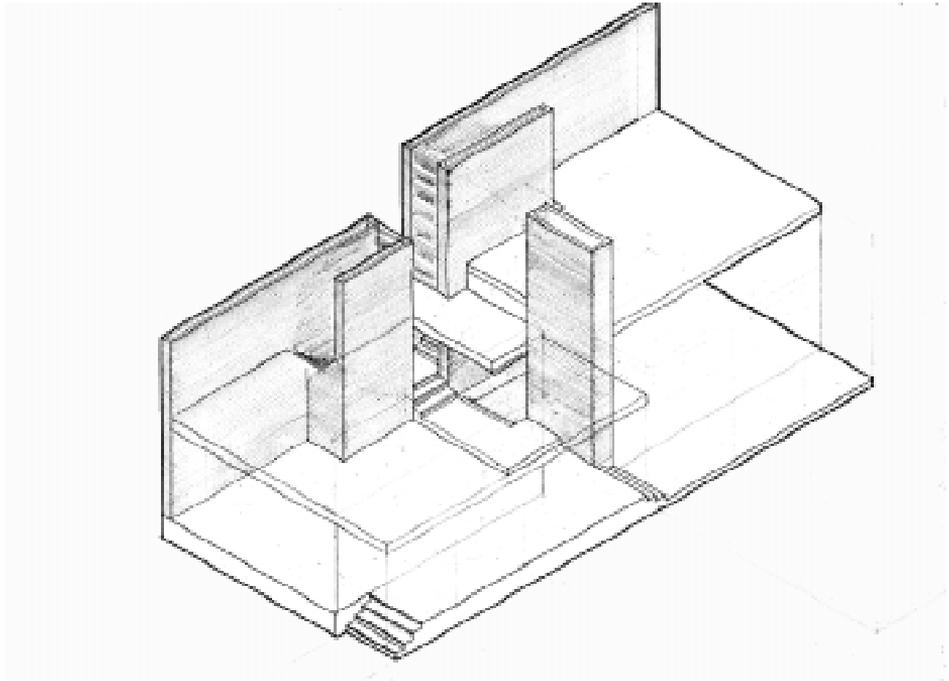




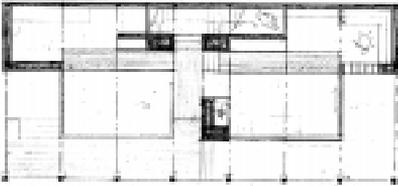
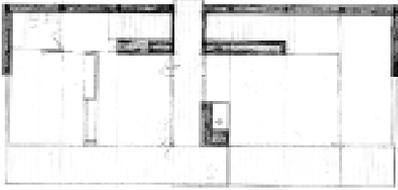






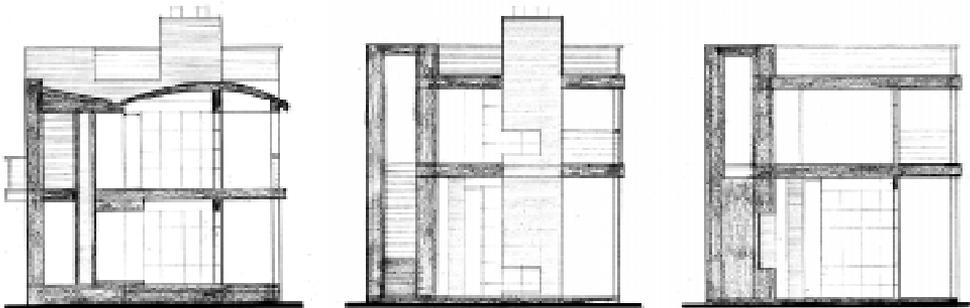


Using a system of stacking 2x4s to construct the heavy wall element of the house proved to be impractical on the exterior. To use this system internally on elements such as the fireplace and stair proved to be more economical while still retaining the required mass.



Acting as the backbone of the house, the zone of the wall had to express qualities of mass and permanence. By accommodating the mechanical requirements of the house, the wall allowed the rest of the house to open up.

The goal is to achieve some coherency of thought and expression between the part and the whole. Establishing clear separations within the elements of construction allows each group to develop its own distinct character while responding to the greater context and idea.



The search to find the elements of architecture as agreed upon by most is futile. There are as many positions as there are people. Turning to Architectural history the earliest to write on the subject was Vitruvius.

In the Ten Books, Vitruvius defines the elements of architecture as Firmness, Commodity, and Delight. Vitruvius also begins to speak to what he believes is the most fundamental component of architecture in contributing to the development of society, Fire.

*"After it subsided, they drew near, and observing that they were very comfortable standing beside the warm fire, they put logs on and, while thus keeping it alive, brought up other people to it, showing them by signs how much comfort they got from it. In that gathering of men, at a time when utterance of sound was purely individual, from daily habits the fixed upon articulate words just as these had happened to come; then, from indicating by name things in common use, the the result was that in this chance way they began to talk, and thus originated conversation with one another. 2. Therefore it was the discovery of fire that originally gave rise to the coming together of men, to the deliberative assembly, and to social intercourse."*¹⁷

Similarly to Vitruvius, Gottfried Semper defines the hearth as the basic element that allows civilization to develop.

"Around the open fire the first groups of hunters gathered after the chase; the hearth was therefore the germ, the embryo of all social institutions."¹⁸

The three other elements that Semper considers to be formative motives in architectural development are: the mound, the vertical enclosure, and the roof. These exist to protect the flame from the weather.

In Leon Battista Alberti's Ten Books, he is slightly more specific with regard to some tangible qualities within the realm of construction. He defined six elements of architecture: locality, area, compartment, wall, roof, and opening.

Upon closer study of the definitions of Vitruvius, Semper, and Alberti, they all have similar thoughts. The particular terminology that each employs to frame his definition is unique but essentially the ideas are similar.

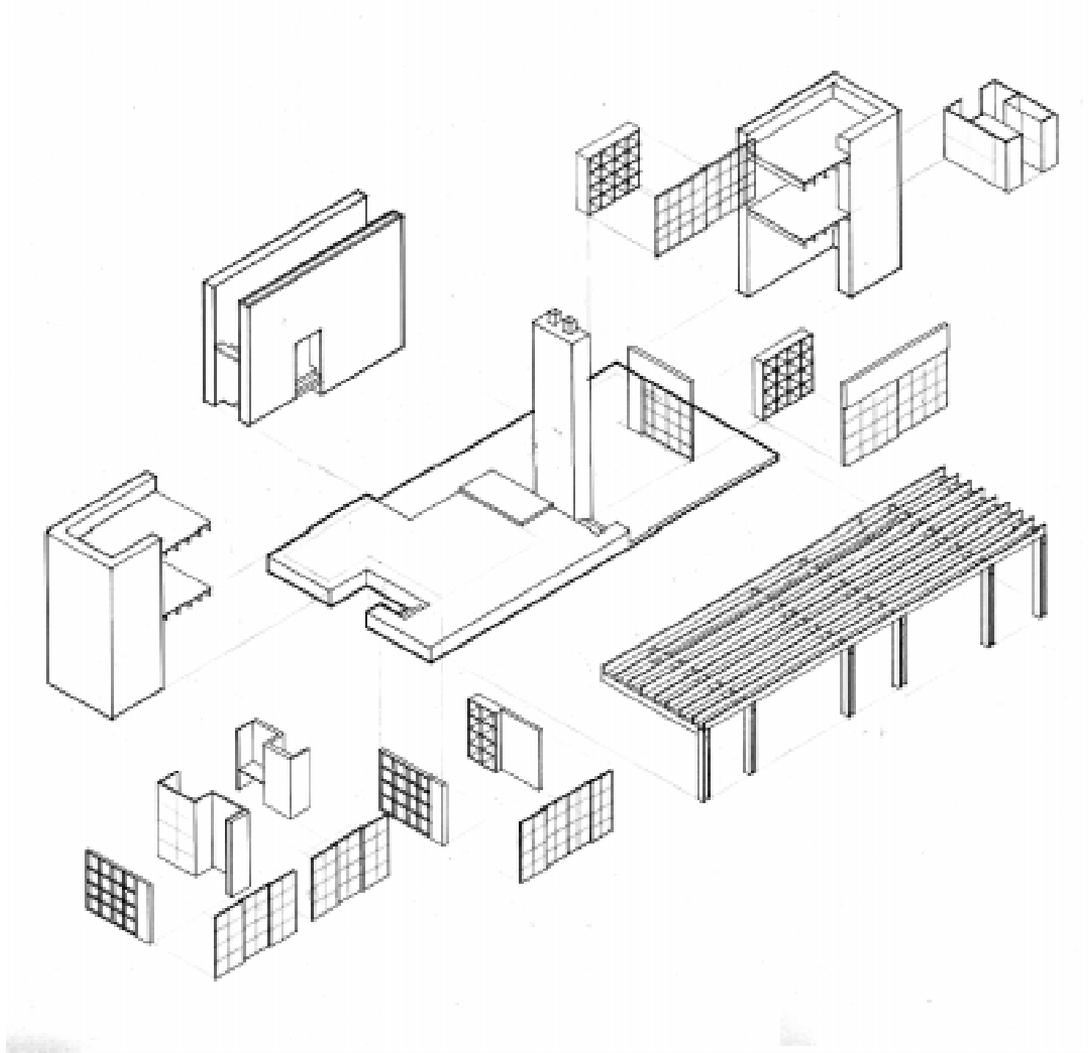
Using these definitions of the elements I began to look specifically this project and ask the question; what are the elements here?

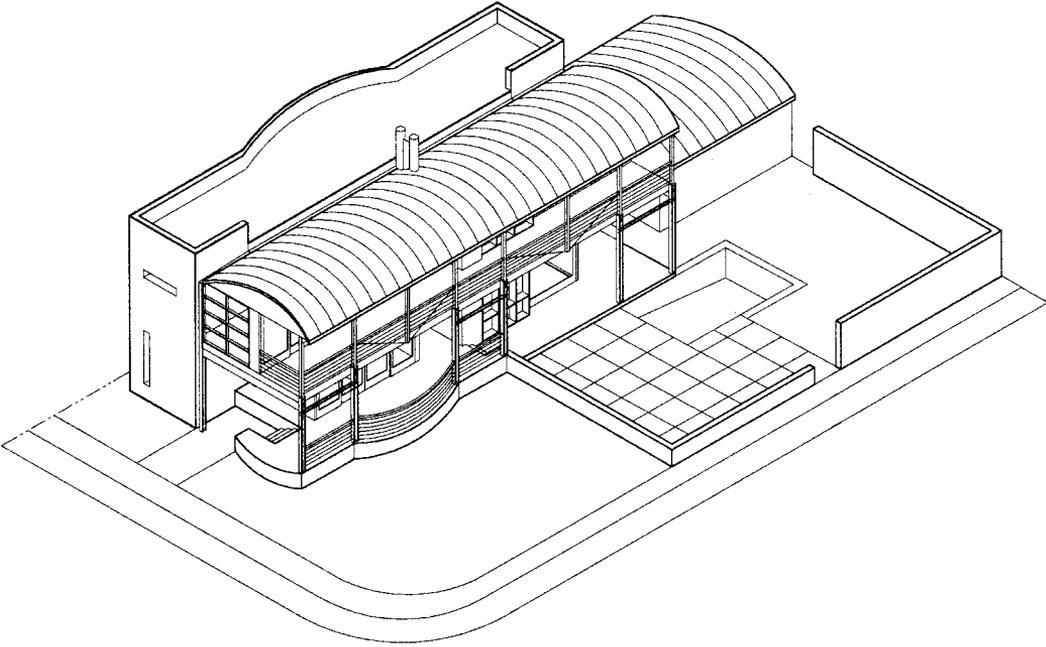
Having dealt with some of the intangible qualities or elements earlier in the project, the focus shifted to the physical constructive elements that define the spaces.

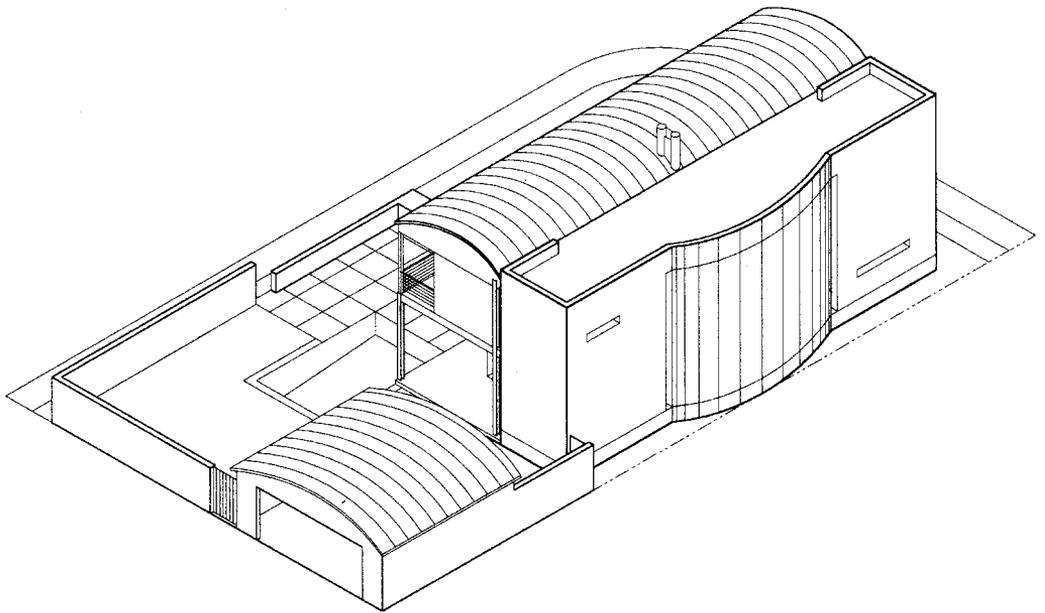
Fundamentally the project began to reveal five categories of these elements: the Hearth, the Frame, the Enclosure, Compartment, and the Roof. These five groups are essential in the physical distinction of space.

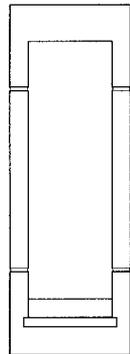
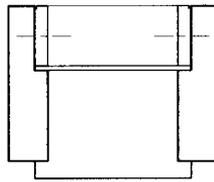
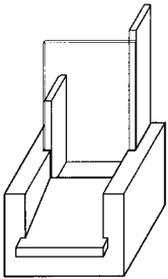
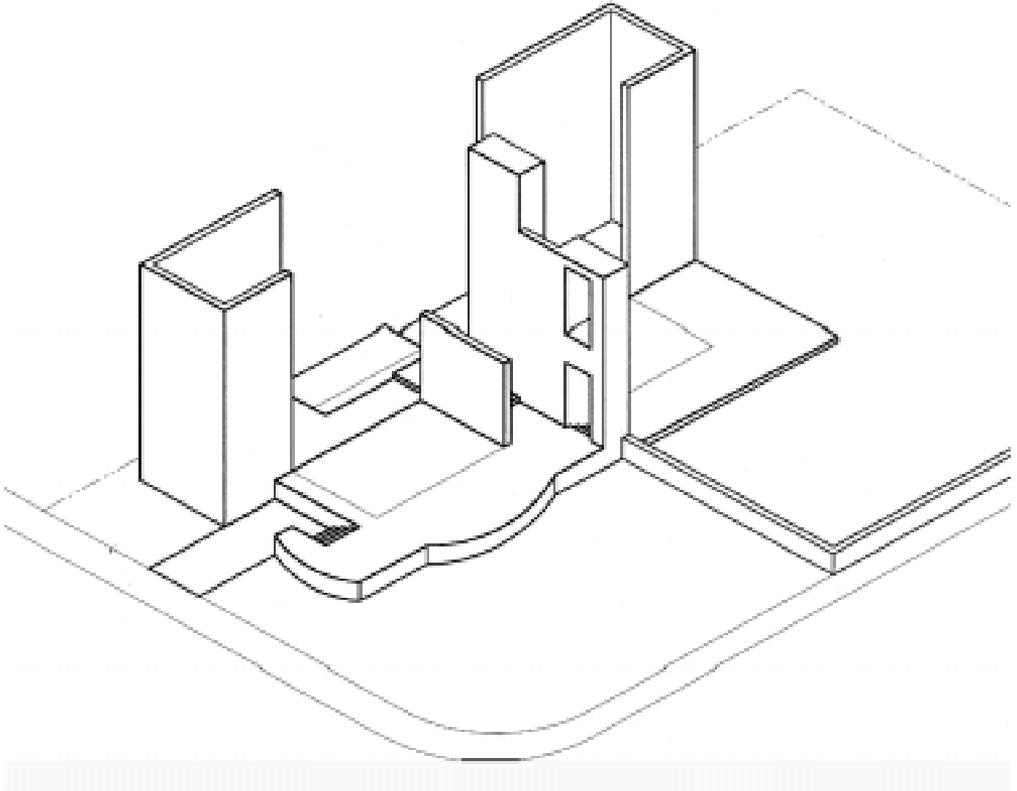
The tectonic expression of the house was developed as a function of the elemental phenomenological qualities of place.

The distinction of each group was made through the nature of the material used. The character within each group was established through a set of conceptual details. These details developed a unique tectonic expression in each group while still remaining sensitive to the overall context of the house.

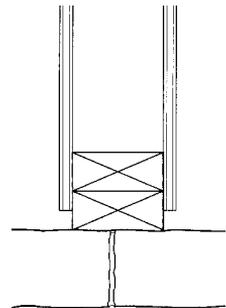
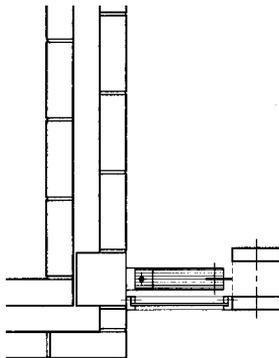
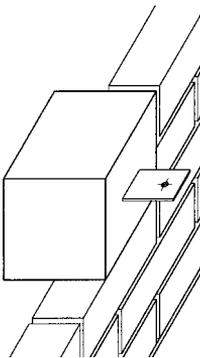
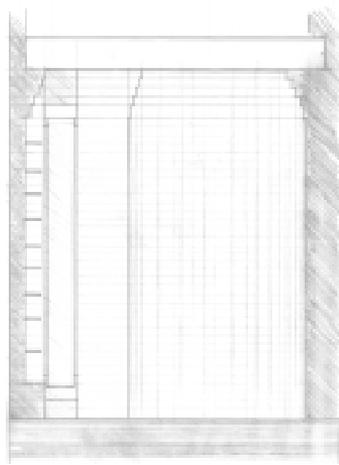
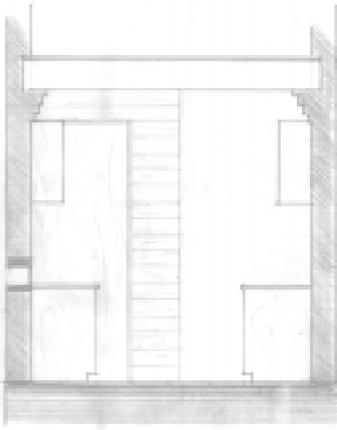


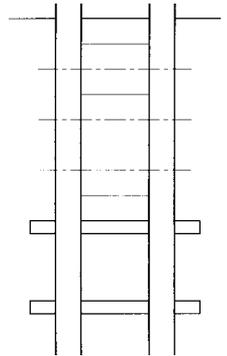
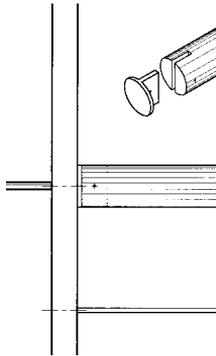
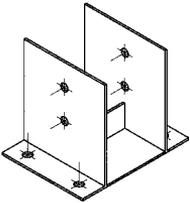
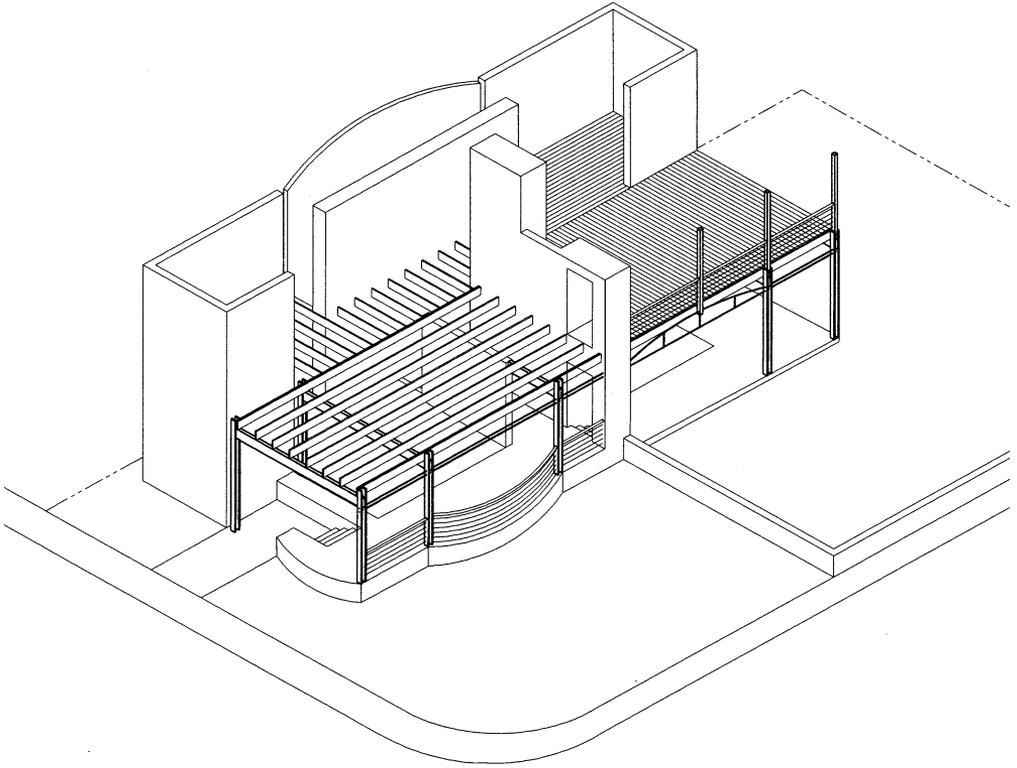




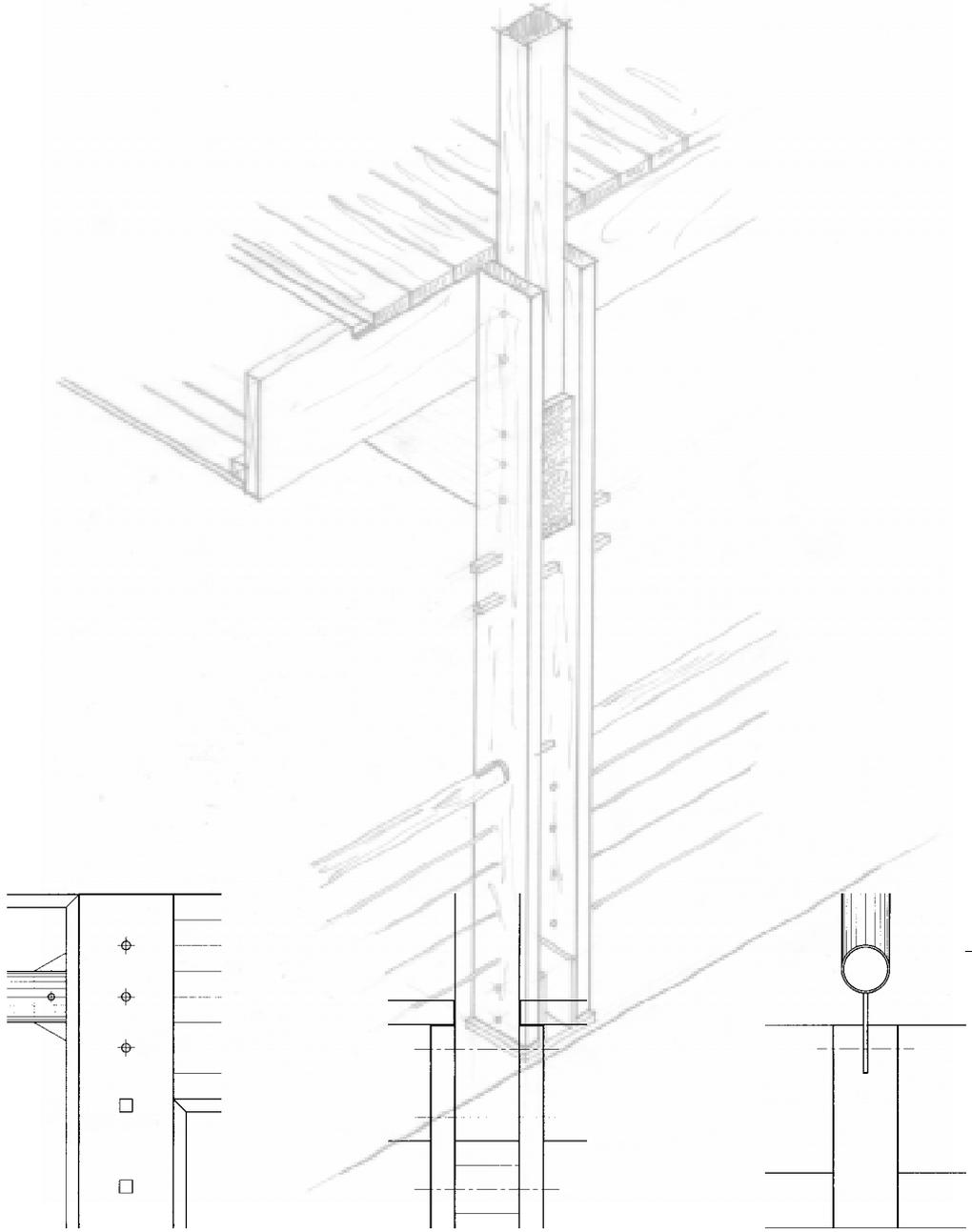


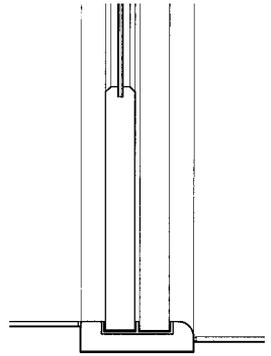
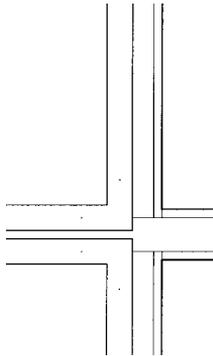
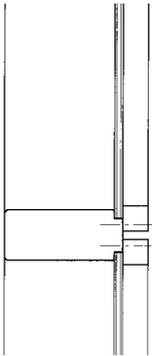
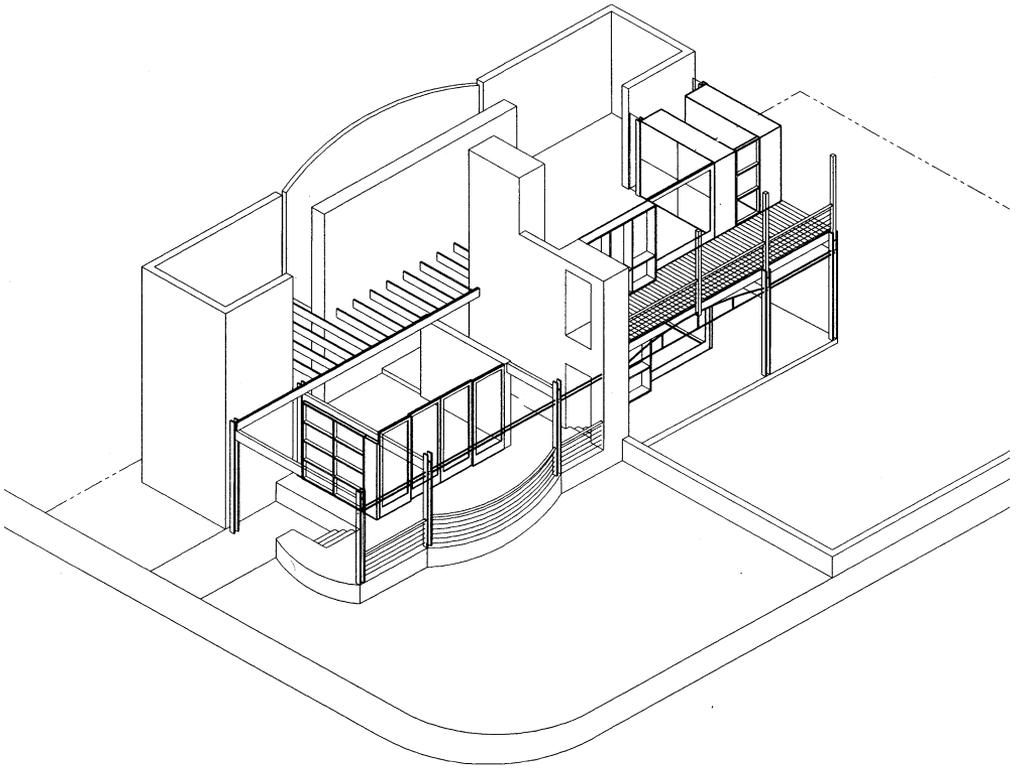
Hearth



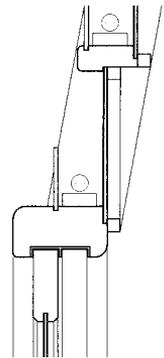
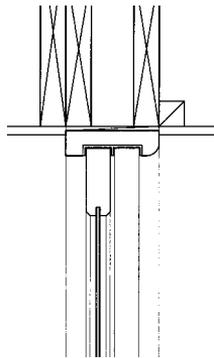
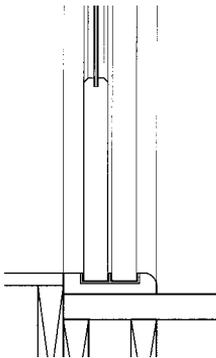
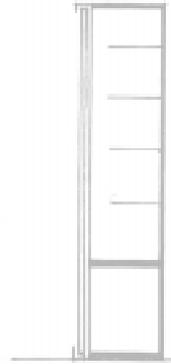
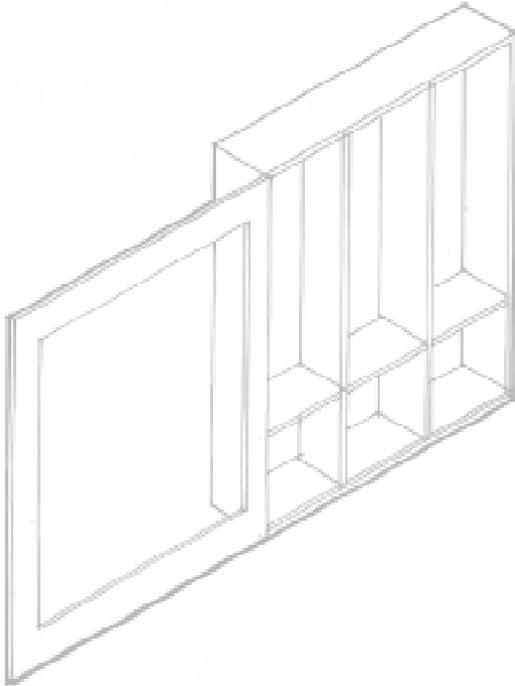


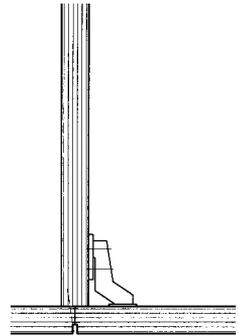
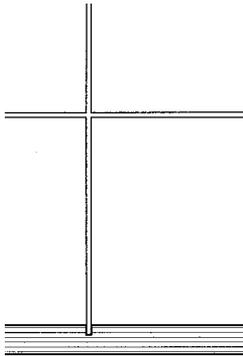
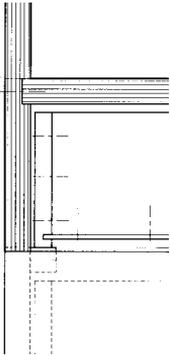
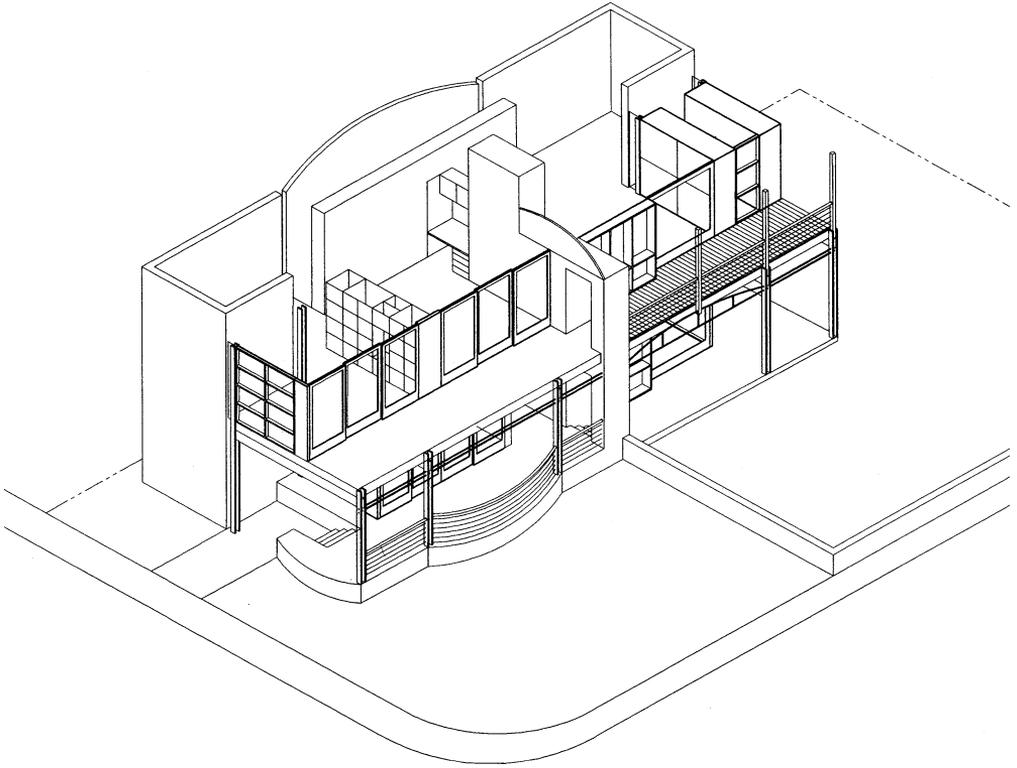
Frame



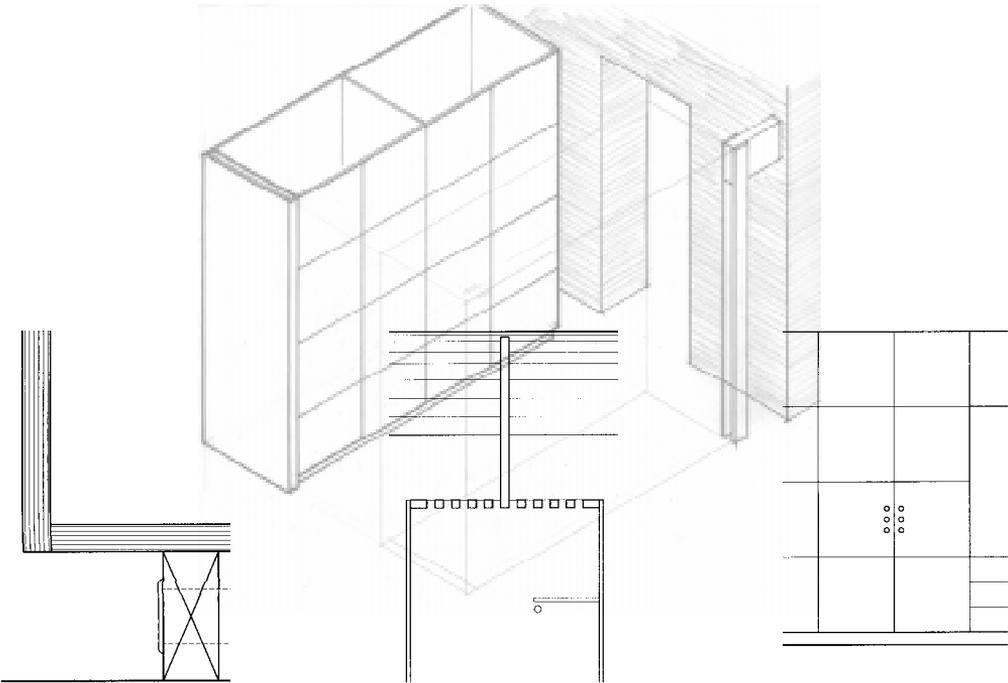
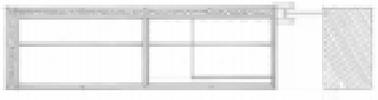
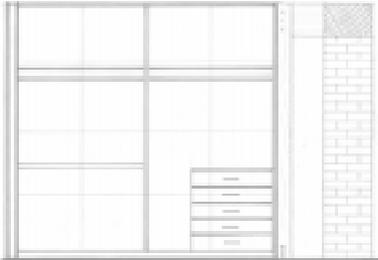


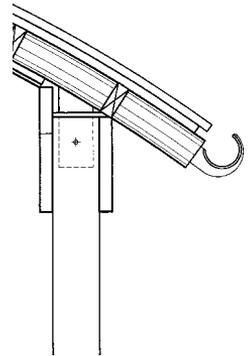
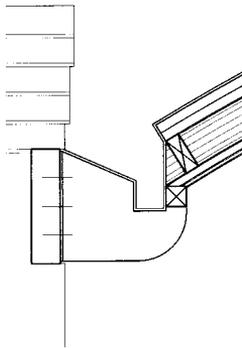
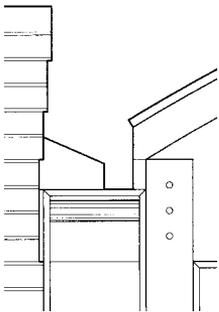
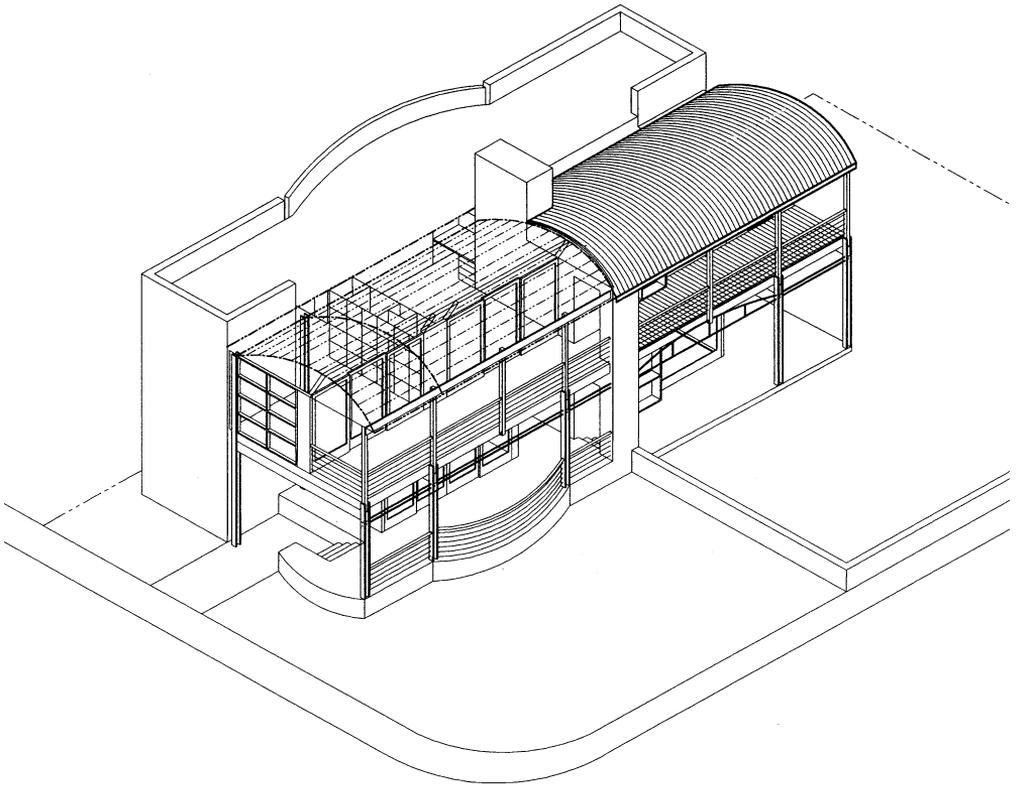
Enclosure





Compartition





Roof

