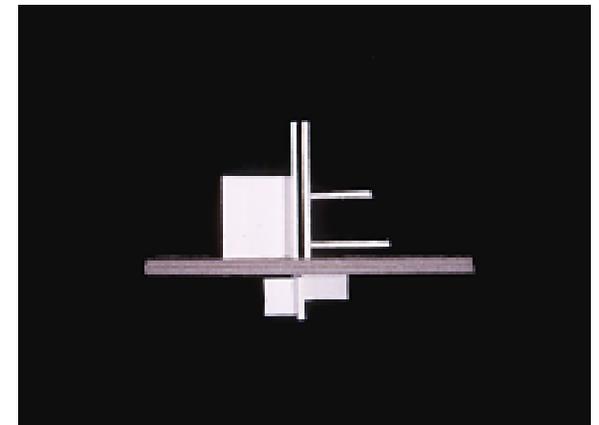
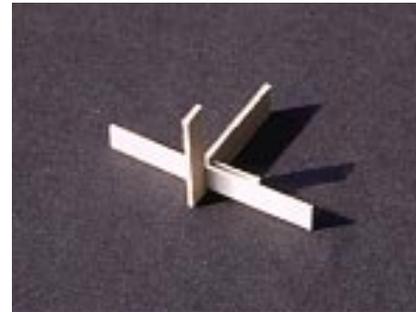
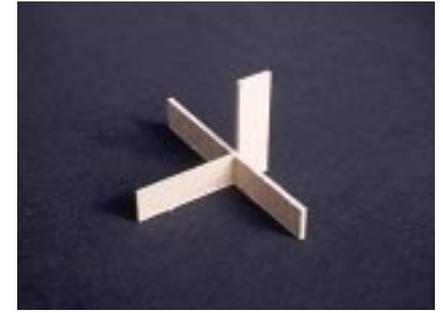
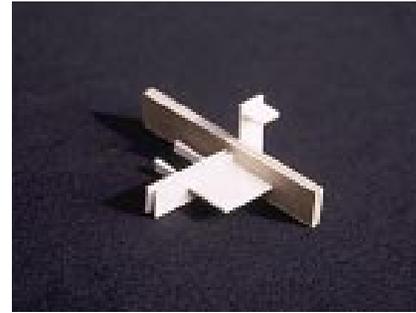
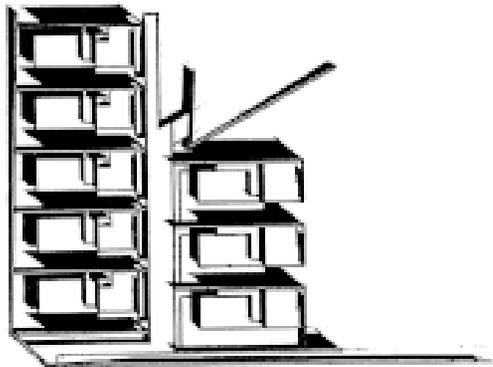
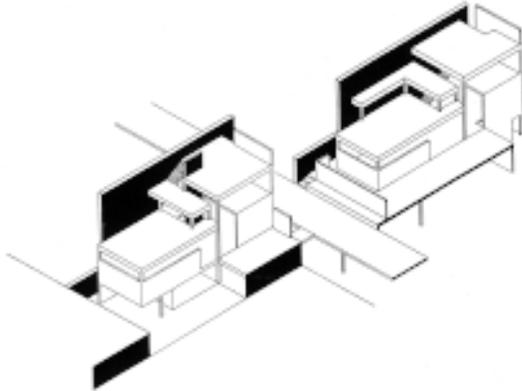


## Cardinal Directions

Early gestural models for the tidal retreat hark back to a previous studio project, a proposal for a series of housing units located on an abandoned industrial parcel near the center of the valley between Riva San Vitale and Capolago, Switzerland.<sup>48</sup> Large walls and parallel alignment of adjacent courtyards facilitate specific, directional views of the mountain faces both east and west, with glimpses of views of the open horizon to the north and south.



*The cardinal directions “are not mere geometry, but qualitative realities which follow man everywhere.”<sup>49</sup>*  
Christian Norberg-Shulz

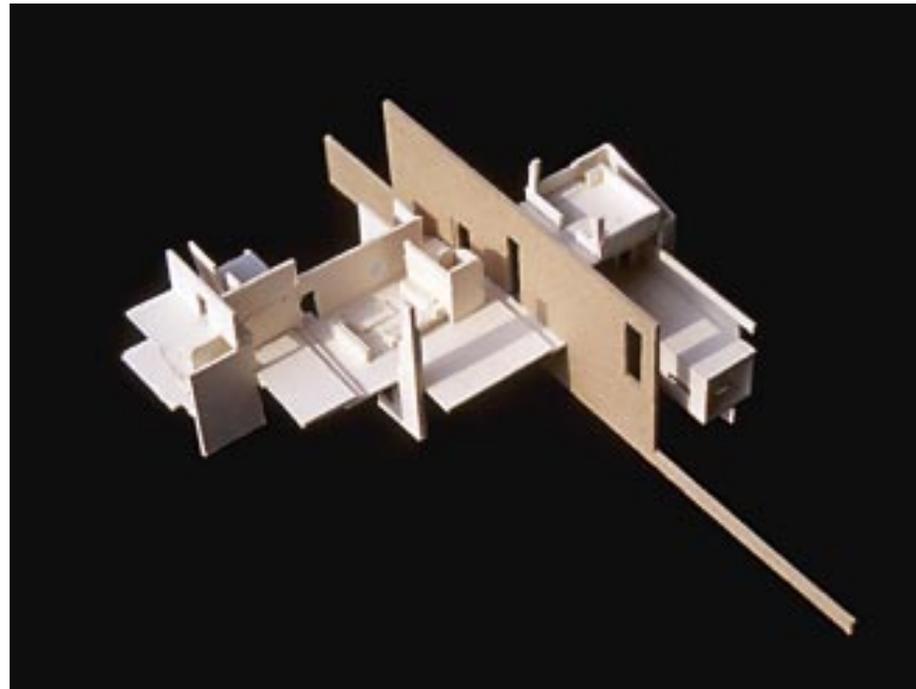
## Early Model Development

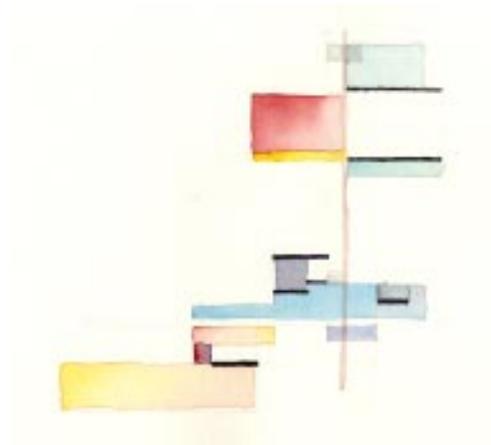
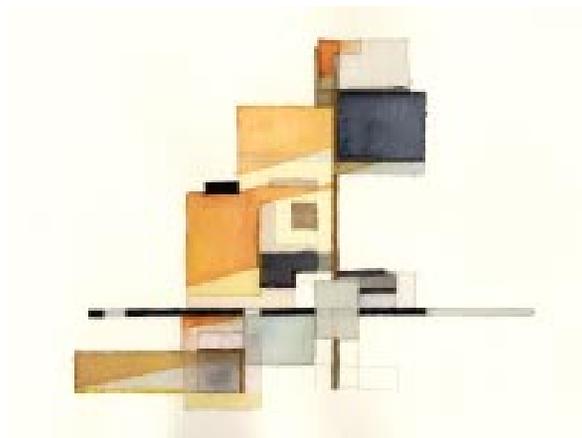
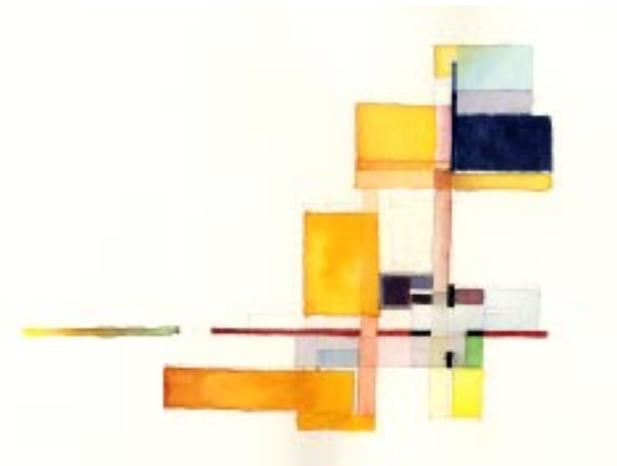
Points of the compass coupled with specific site conditions generated early thoughts of the house's basic functional organization. A strong east-west demarcation acknowledging the rising and setting sun and moon provides an elemental order, an order dependent upon recurrent cycles. The lure of sunsets over the western horizon generates a notion that the main living space acts as an open receptor of light, placing the inhabitant in a somewhat exposed position, integral to the unfolding scene instead of simply as observer. The ritualistic close of each day is celebrated at the gathering for the evening meal, at a large dining table placed in the northwestern corner of the first-floor, an offered pedestal placed amid the subtly changing natural light, imbued with the characteristic calm which embraces the marsh at sunset.

A planar projection to the north further divides areas of the house while directing attention to the waters of Rich Inlet, gateway to the Atlantic for creatures and nutrients of the marsh. Closed functional spaces are clustered against this north-south wall, with a large break occurring at the kitchen, allowing full exposure to the warmth of the morning sun. Not yet developed in this model is a morning breakfast porch, exposed to the southeast yet still having directed views of the marsh.

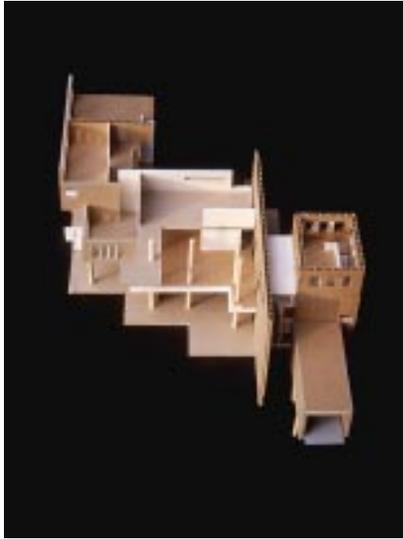
A separate guest tower, isolated to the south of the linear element, offers greater complexity of conditions, enabling

individuals to experience even greater privacy from the larger group areas. The tower structure also can exist as a separate rental unit, or a more humble dwelling for the solitary visitor.



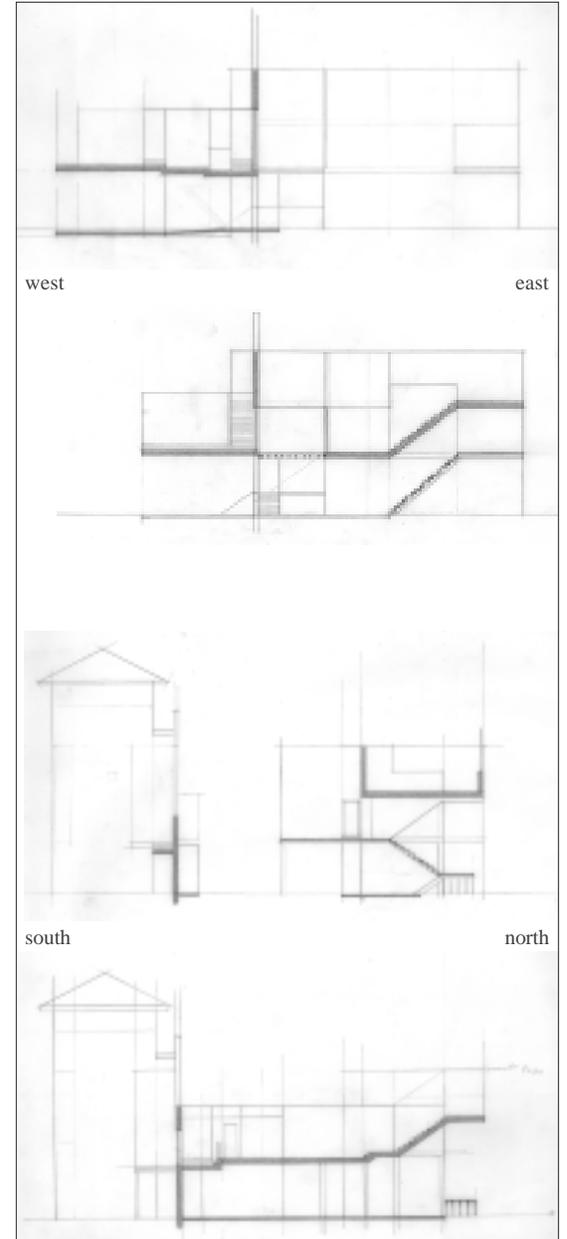
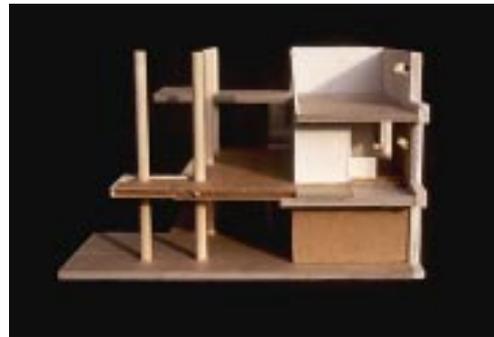


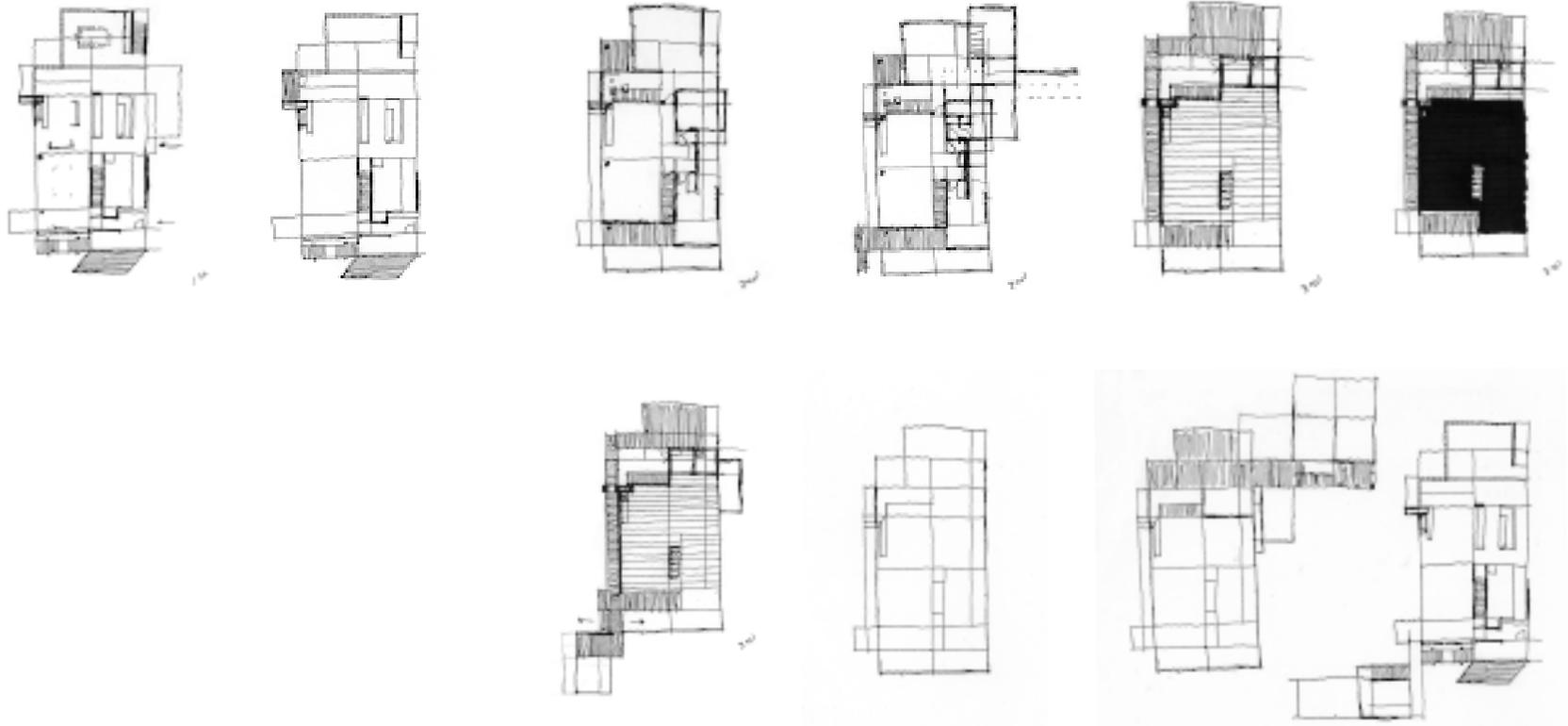
Watercolor  
Studies  
of Sensory  
Conditions



Solid and Void

Reductive reading of section:  
Model of central portion of house  
revealing sectional clarity of  
solid and void





Planimetric Development of Main House