

A Place of Our Own

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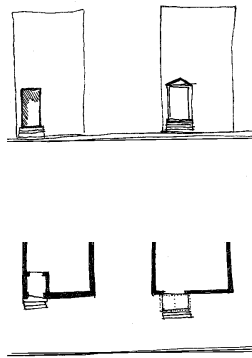
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A place is said to be meaningful when man feels "at home."

Looking at industrial cities, one finds an immense density to them. This results from the communities surrounding the industry. These communities developed from the housing supplied by the factories for the workers, primarily immigrants. They generally formed communities based on their ethnic origins and/or religious beliefs.

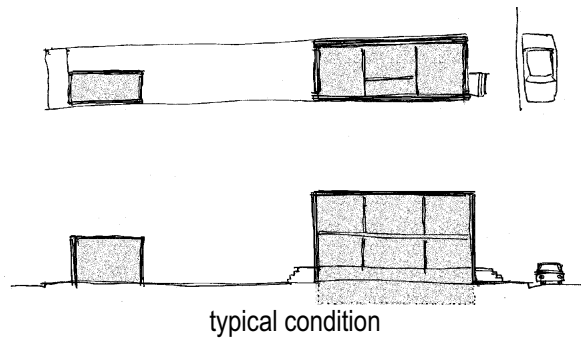
The craftsmanship, quality and conditions were not the best. Within this context some of the strongest communities developed. Industry supplied these families with minimal housing. These families created something greater — a place to live — a shelter they could return to and a community to grow. The workers and their families succeeded in making a place of their own.



To create a meaningful place within the essentials of the row house

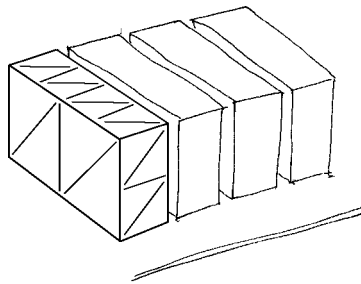
At the street level the row house makes one of the closest conditions between the public and the private worlds. It is an individual unit. The facade separates the public from the private. Entry is defined integral or applied to each unit (DIAGRAM).

The sum of the units creates a whole — an edge between the private and the public worlds. The differentiated facade and entry distinguish each unit within the collective edge. The collective edge depends upon the sum of articulated facades to maintain its continuity.



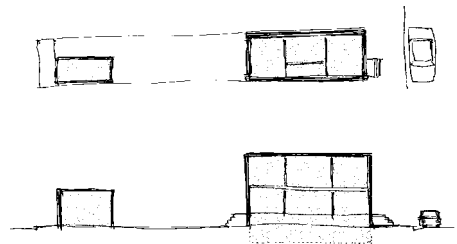
The degrees of public zones define the urban street space. From the general public of the street, to the sidewalk and the semiprivate of the stoop the zones interact within the overall space. Spatial and visual continuity exists, yet a clear definition of the zones occurs. However, the private zones of the house become discontinuous from the external places.

Spaces are both longitudinally and vertically organized within the house. Generally the rooms occur in a sequence. Stacking the floor levels upon one another and/or dividing the floor into rooms diminishes the potential to connect the places spatially and visually. The internal spaces become removed from one another.

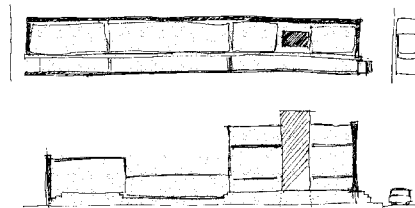


The urban house — row house, town house, etc. — exists as a long narrow volume of space (DIAGRAM). Its width ranges from fourteen to twenty feet. Approximately, its height doubles its width and its length doubles its height. Party walls begin to separate and define these narrow dwellings. Floor area is a critical issue.

The house's minimum width (fourteen feet) compared to its height emphasizes the narrow dimension of itself. Generally all rooms within the house will have this measurement in their proportions — 14'x14,' 14'x8,' 14'x20,' etc. Perceptually this is a narrow dimension when repeated in multiples. Yet, as a singular unit, this measurement makes a comfortable dimension.



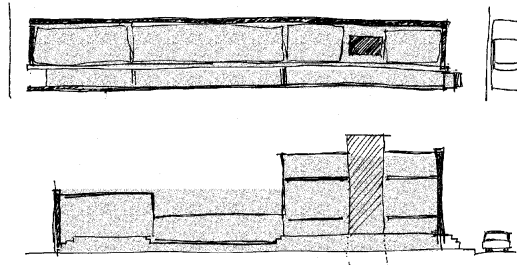
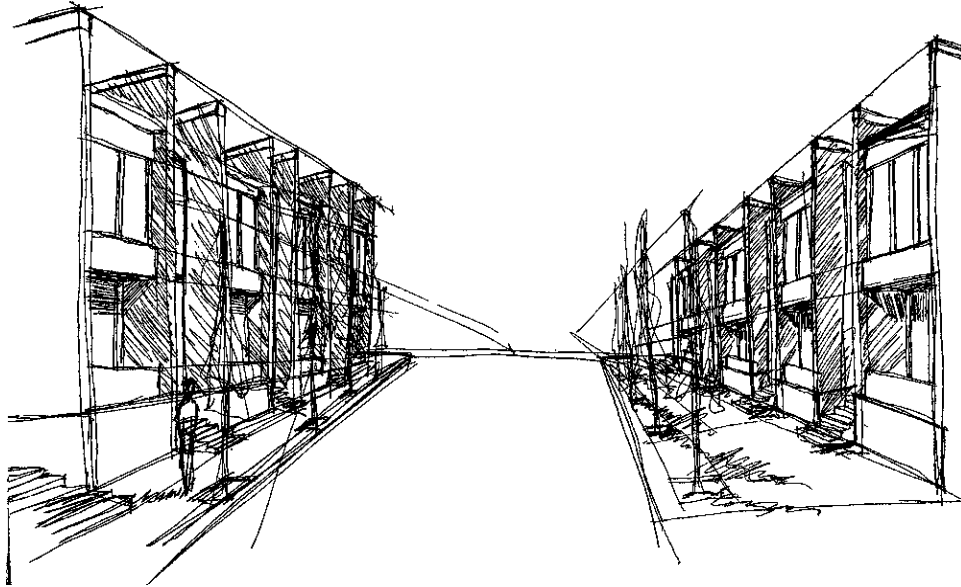
typical condition



proposed thesis

The progression of spaces terminates at the rear of the house. An edge is created — a separation between the private interior and exterior spaces. The progression of space throughout the house, from the public exterior (street) to the private exterior (yard), fails in connecting the two. Another division occurs between the garage and yard. They also fail in relating to each other.

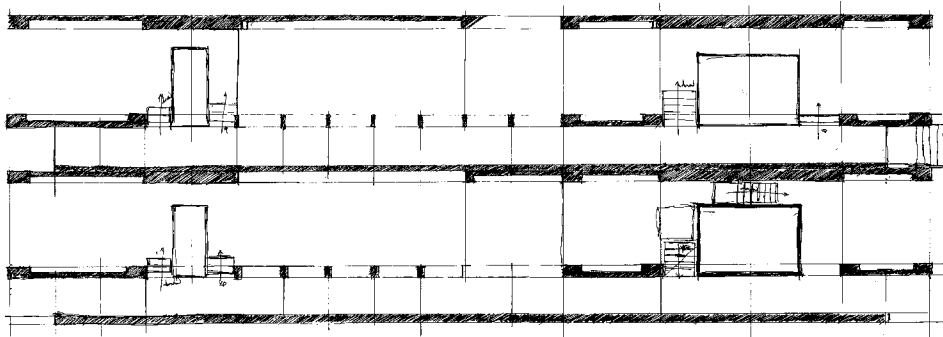
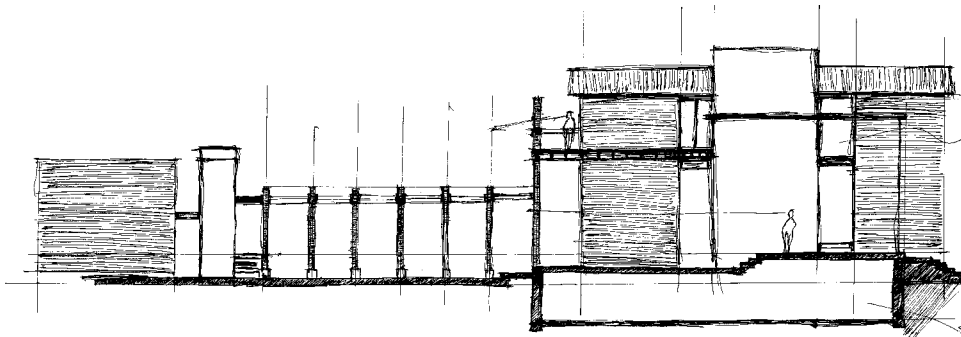
The elements of the house and the garage establish the boundaries of the site. The yard separates these elements from each other. The walls of the house and the garage constrain the visual and spatial continuity. They limit the transition between the fundamental spaces of house, yard, and garage. A lack of complexity in the progression from one place to another does not exist. It requires a connection to organize the progression and transition through space. A new element to unite these elements together.



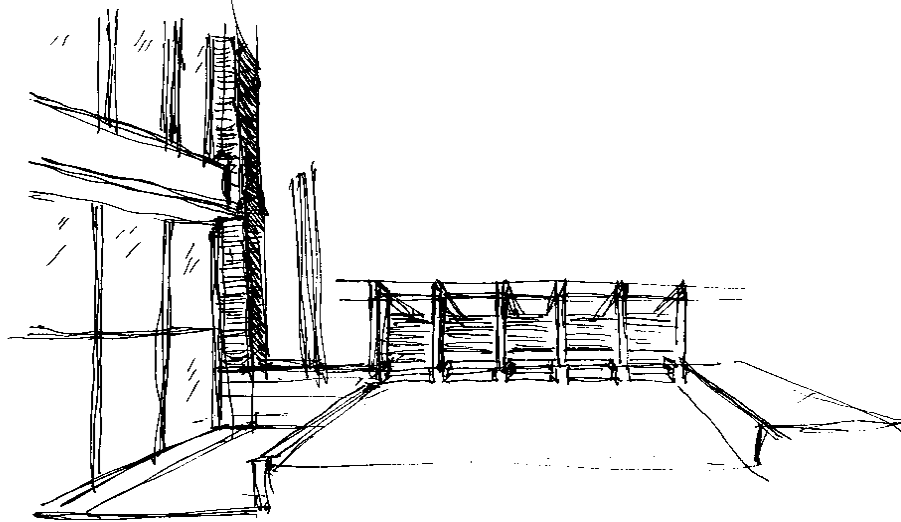
proposed thesis

To make many places within a long spatial construct without disrupting spatial and visual continuity

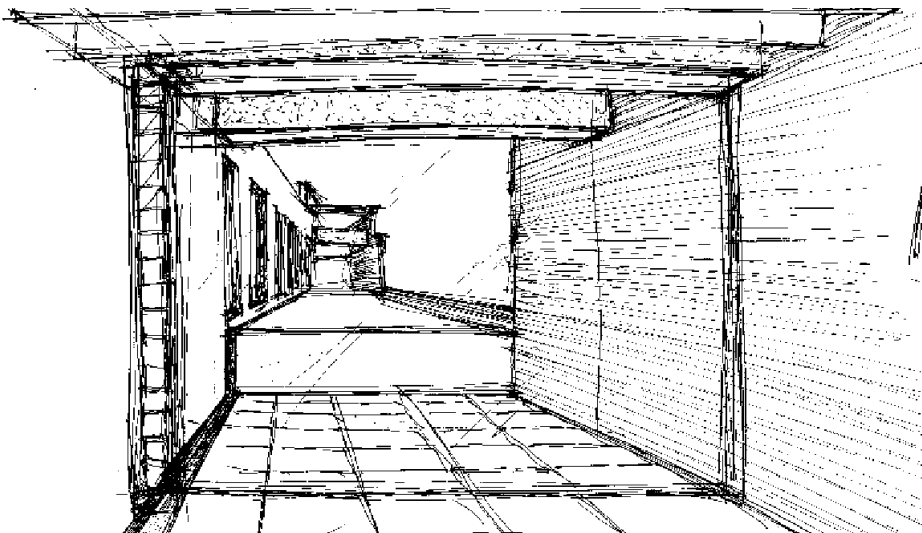
How do we explore spatial continuity within this typical construct? Studying the spatial conditions through a series of models enabled this exploration. An understanding develops of the ideas of continuation, organization, definition and transition translated into these spatial conditions. Testing these ideas of space through modeling furthered the understanding of making places. Within this series, the introduction of an object and a wall will test the idea of making many places.

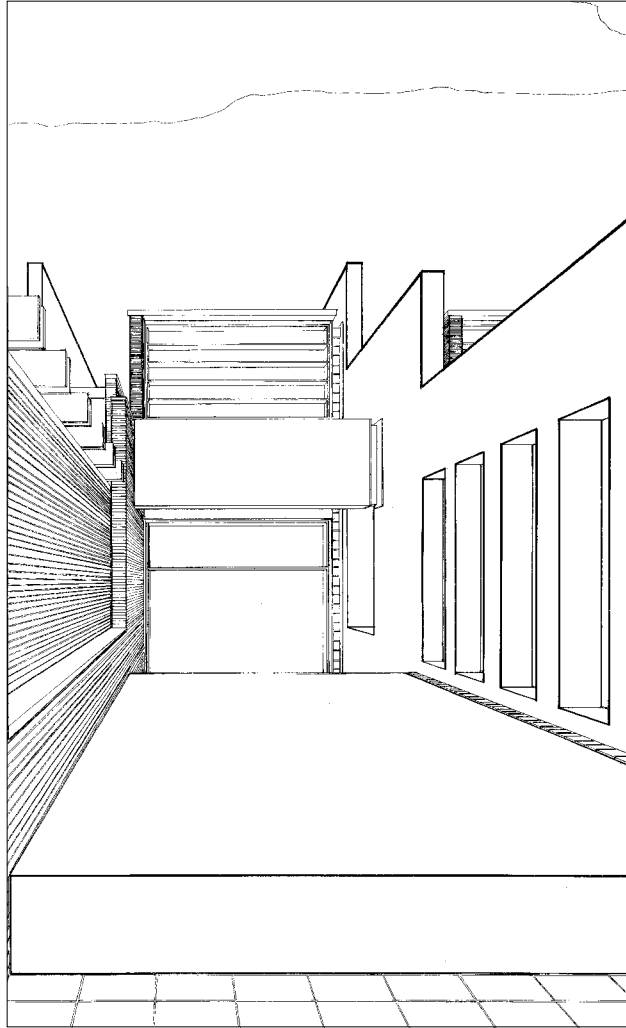


The wall cuts through the volume of space. It organizes the space through its continuity of form and material. It defines two fundamental places — a place for dwelling and a place for passage. The wall connects and relates these two spaces with each other. It is a line, an edge and a surface. It is continuous from the inside to the outside.

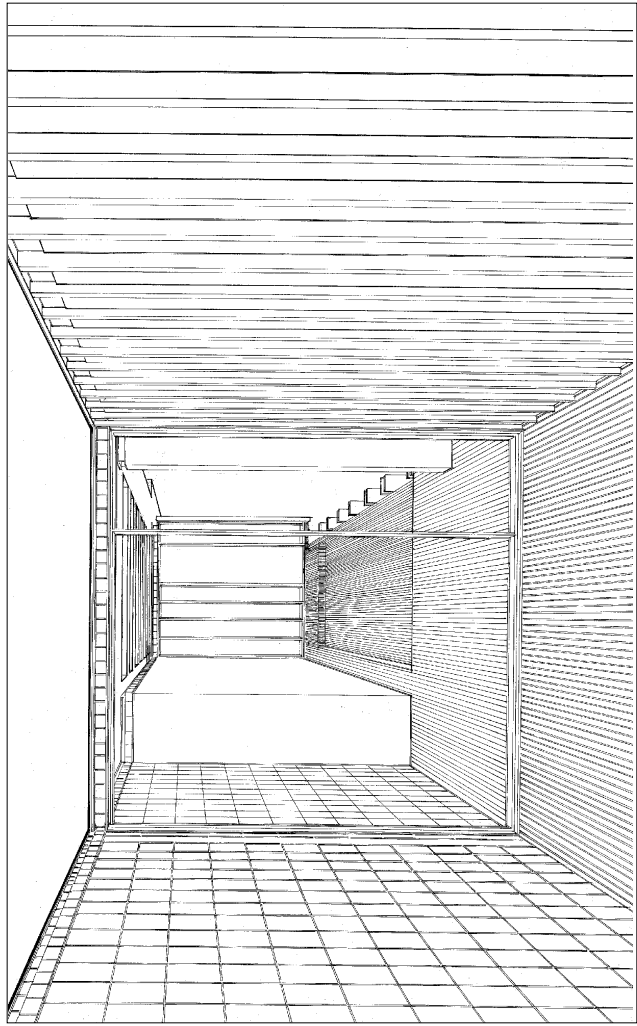


The outdoor space becomes connected to the house, no longer a separate element. The room extends from the inside to the outside. This place maintains visual and spatial continuity, yet it has a boundary to its extent. The outdoor room embodies the properties of the interior places — transition, definition, and entrance. The previously separated exterior space becomes integral to the house. It functions primarily as a semipublic space for gathering — an outdoor room.

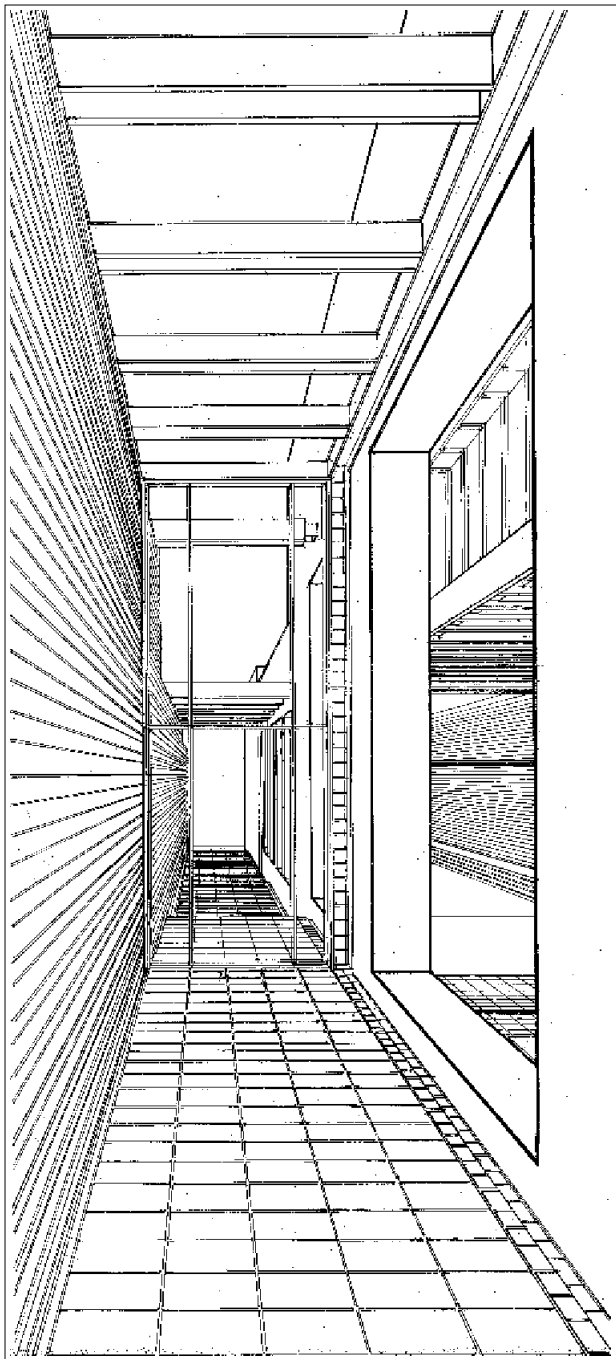




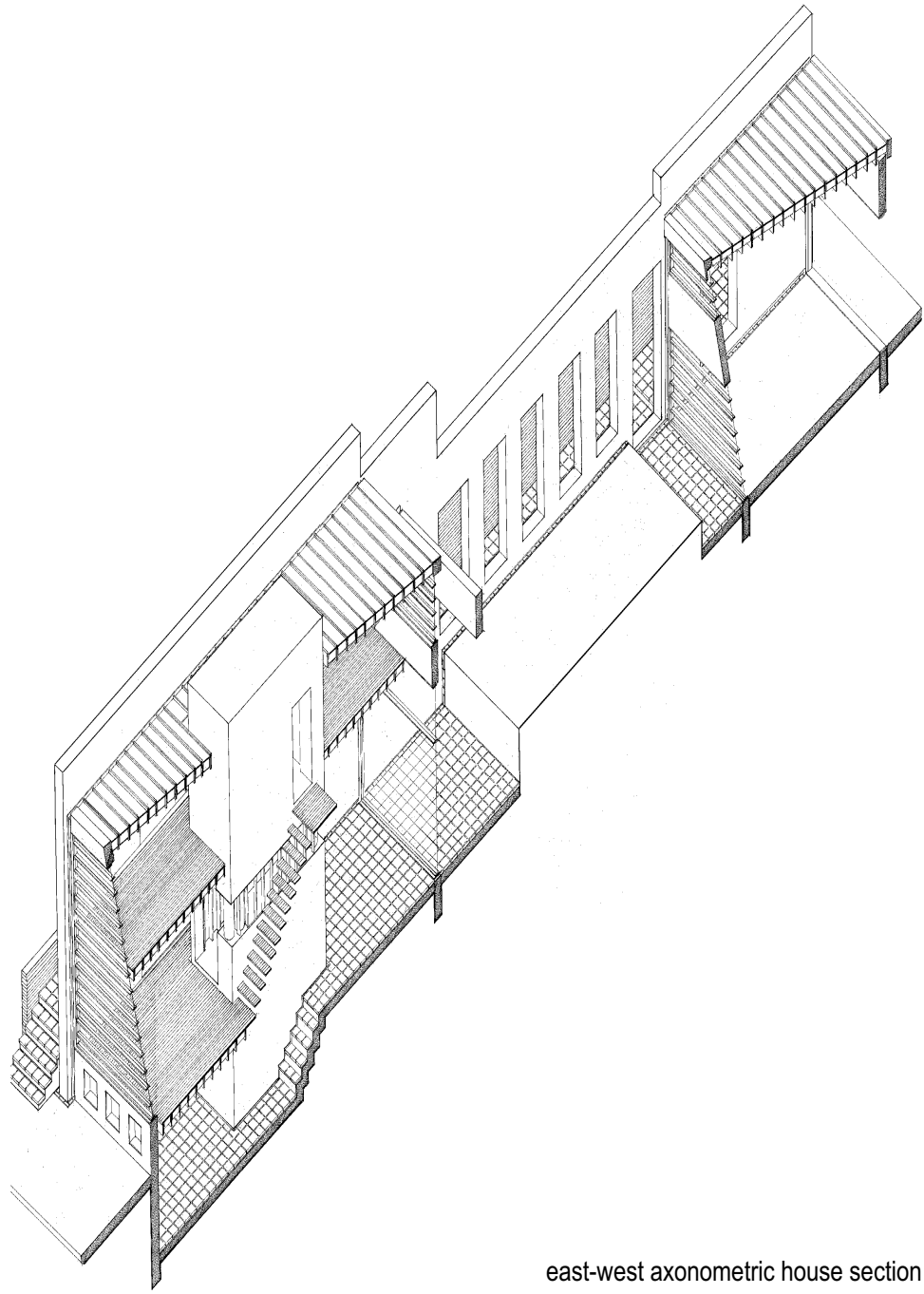
exterior perspective



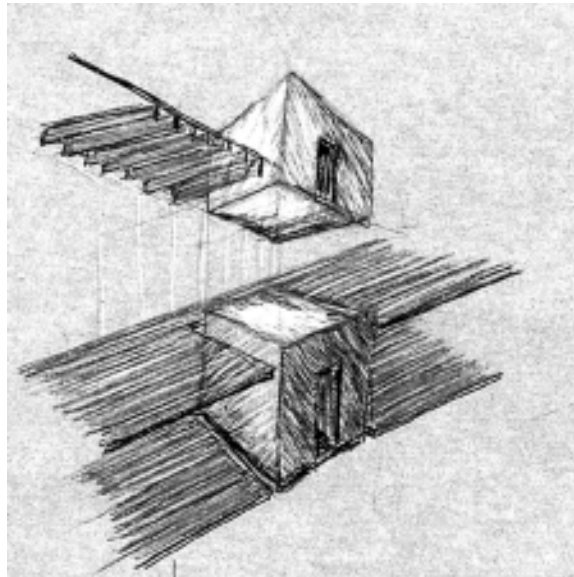
interior perspective



interior perspective of hallway

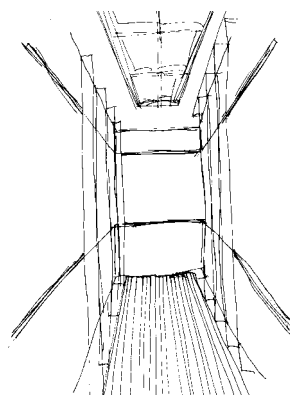
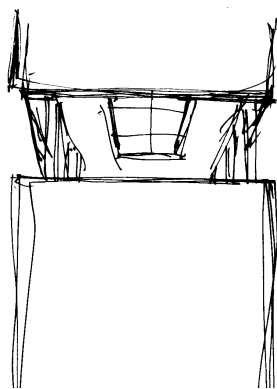
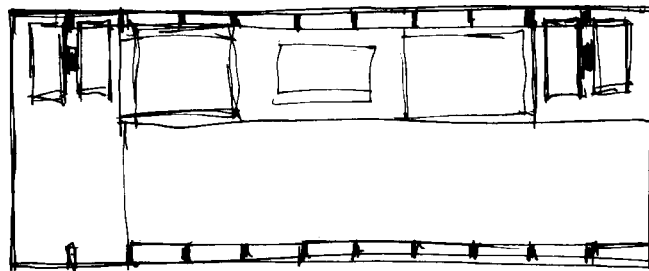
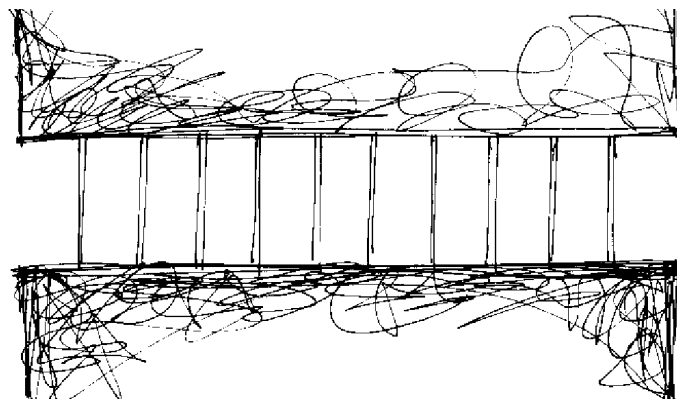


east-west axonometric house section

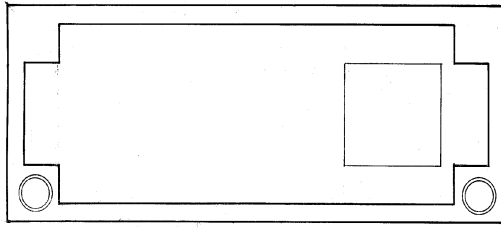


The object is a separate element, independent from the house. It penetrates the vertical order of space. The house receives the object. Its edges begin to define places along the volume. Its proximity to the wall and position in the space allows spatial and visual continuity. It is the vertical connector within the space.

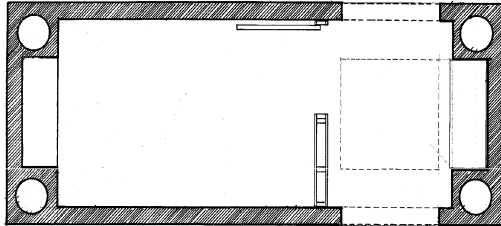
The object contains the services and facilities necessary to the house. These functions require privacy and separation from the other functions of dwelling. The object is a place for things. It contains these services to maintain the integrity of the space surrounding itself.



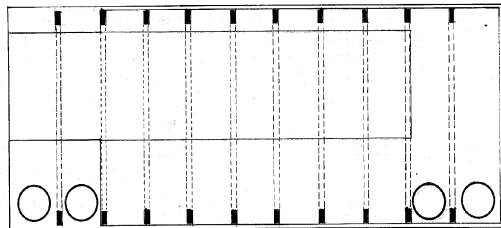
study sketches of object



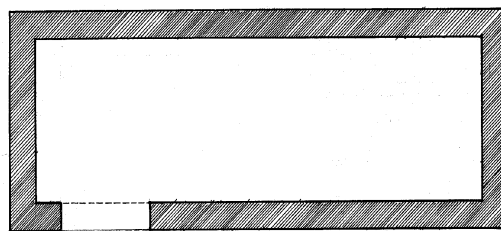
roof plan



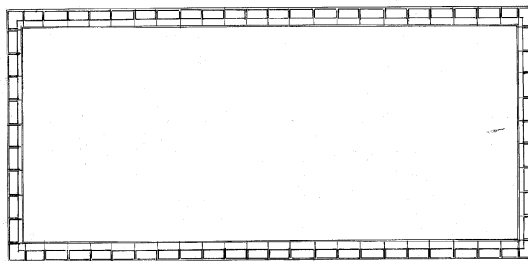
bathroom plan



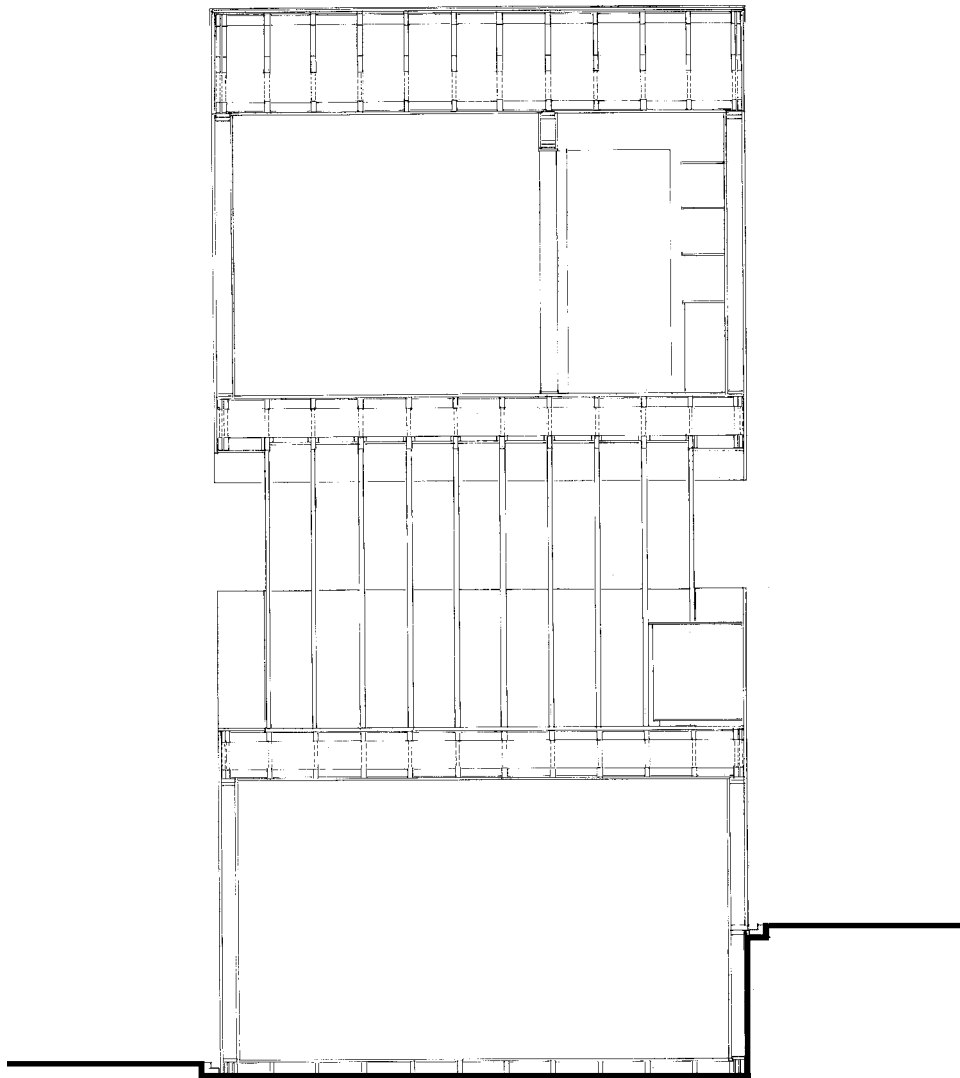
kitchenplan



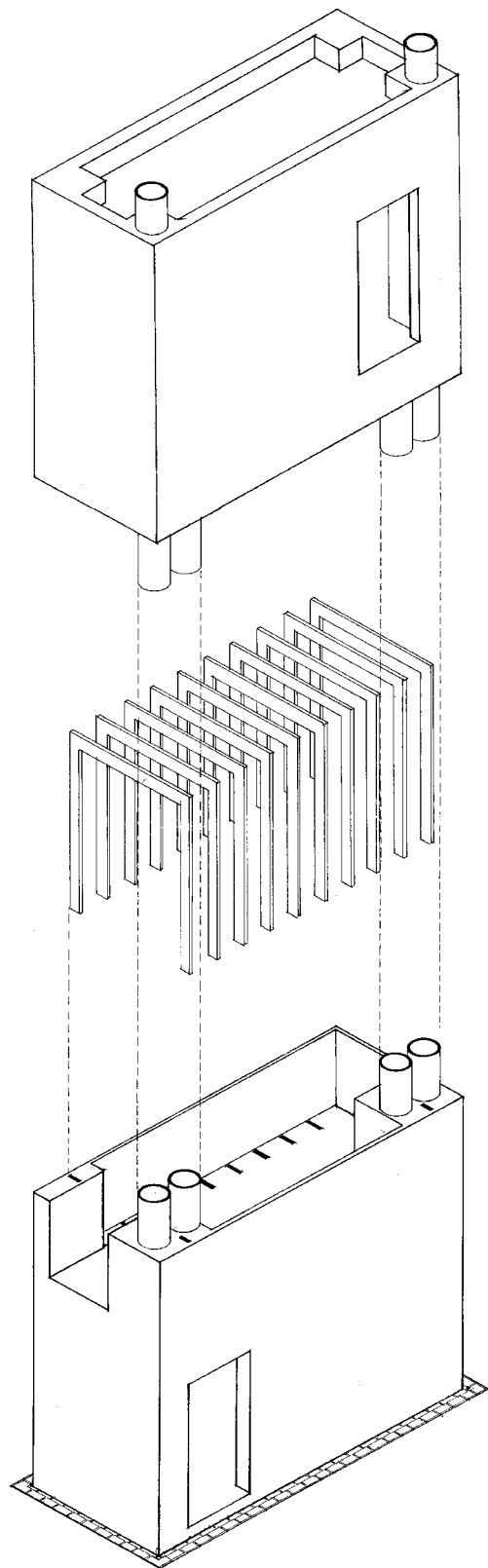
utility plan



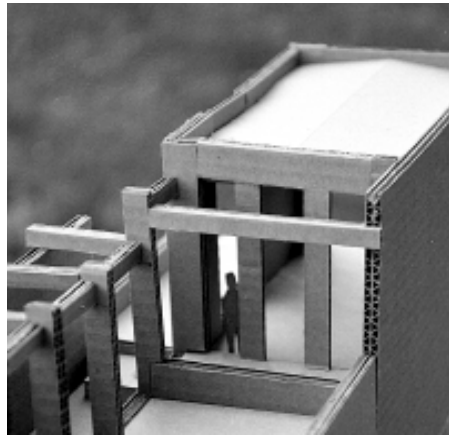
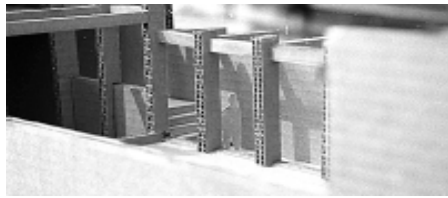
foundation plan

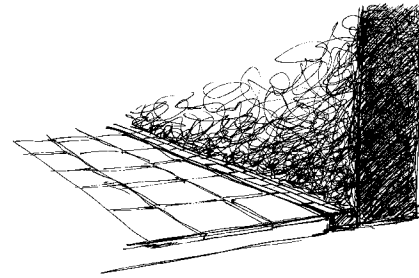
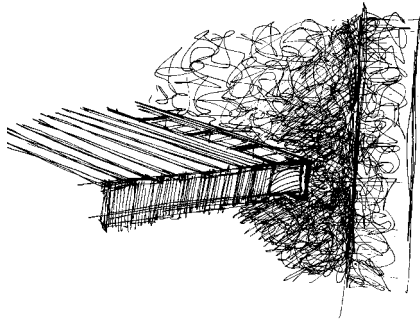
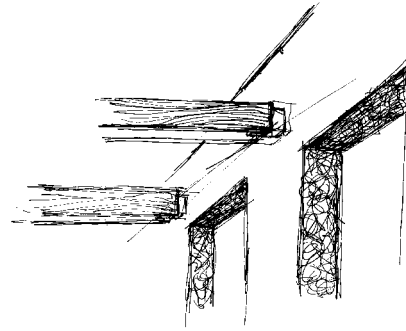
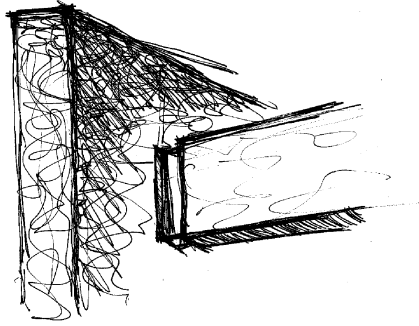


east-west object section

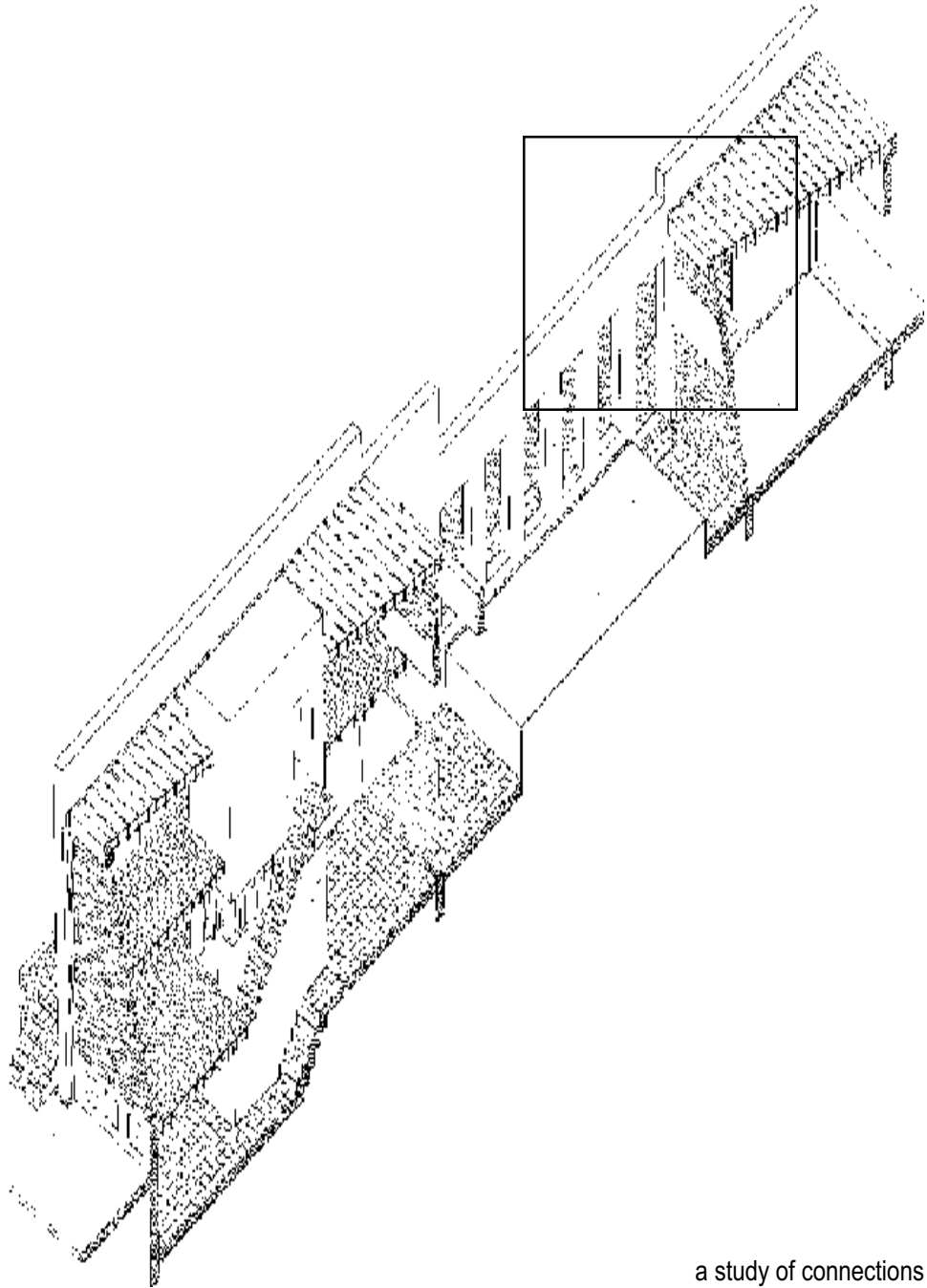


exploded isometric

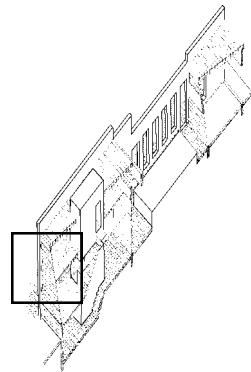
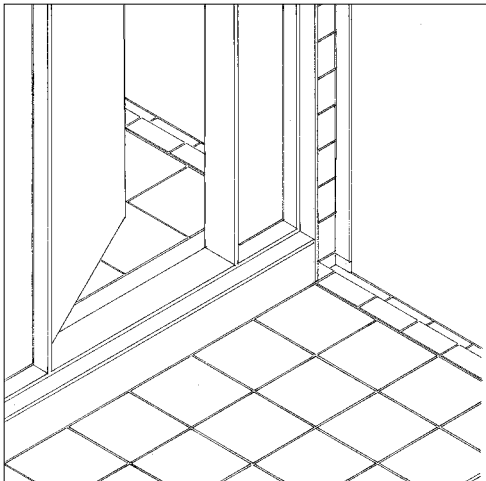
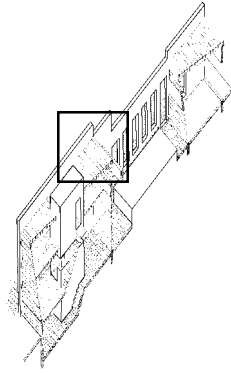
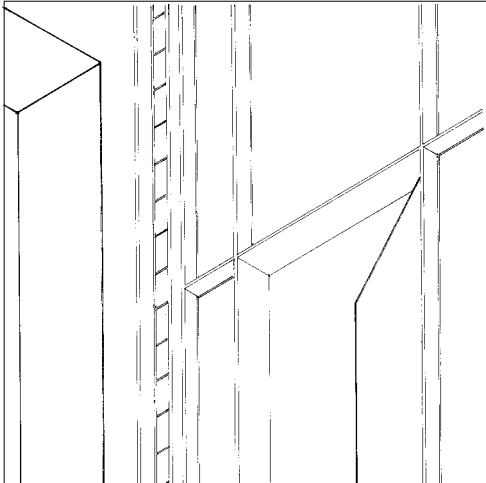
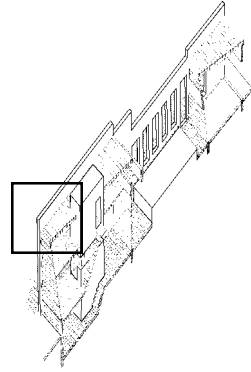
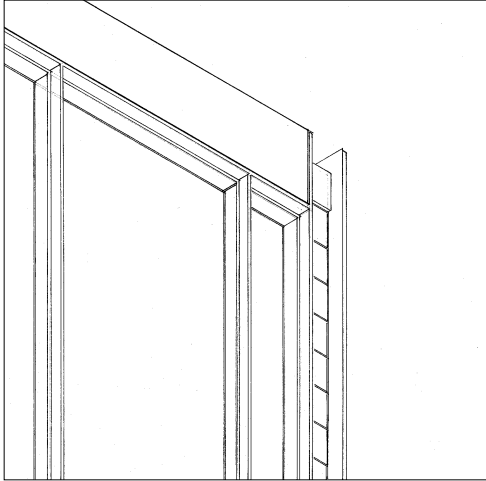


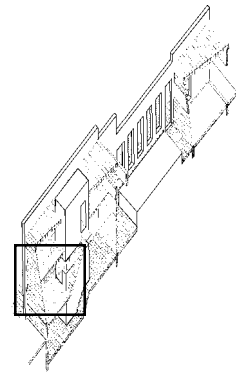
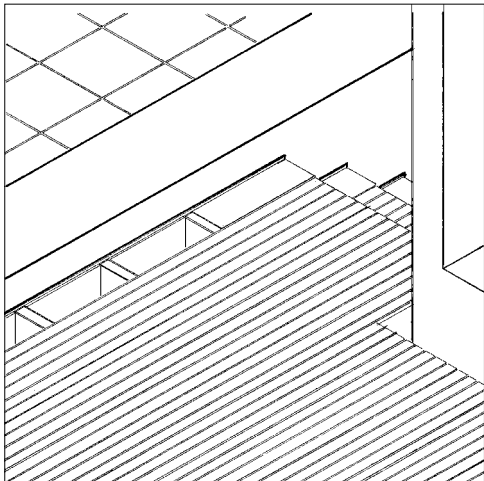
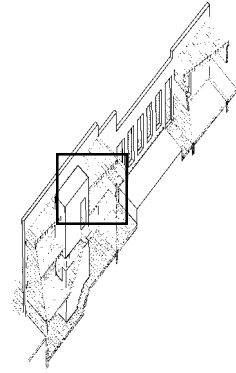
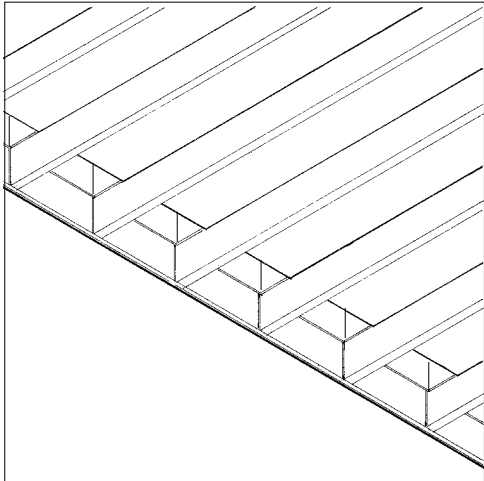
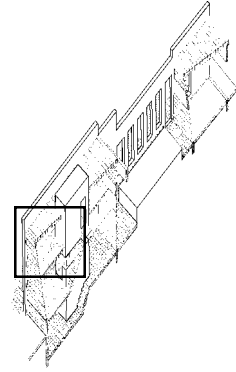
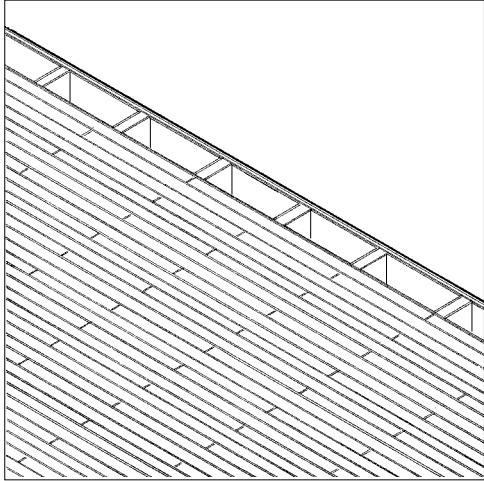


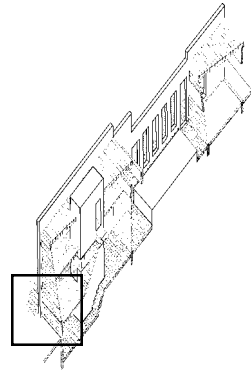
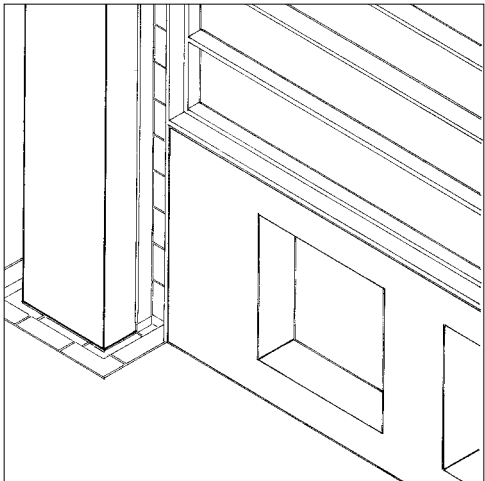
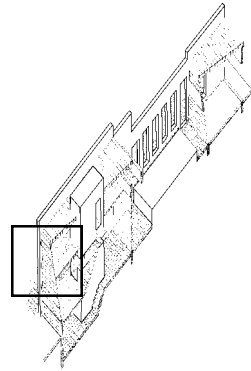
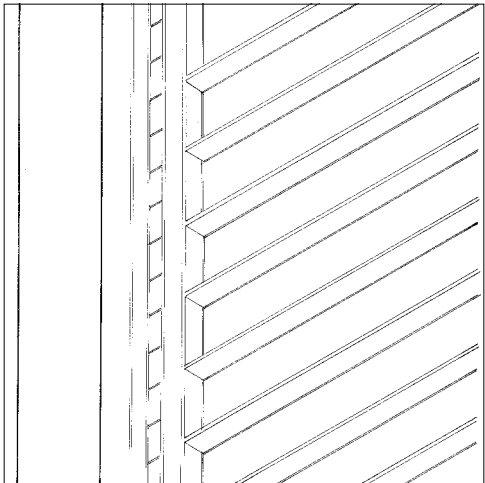
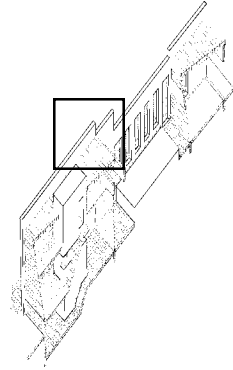
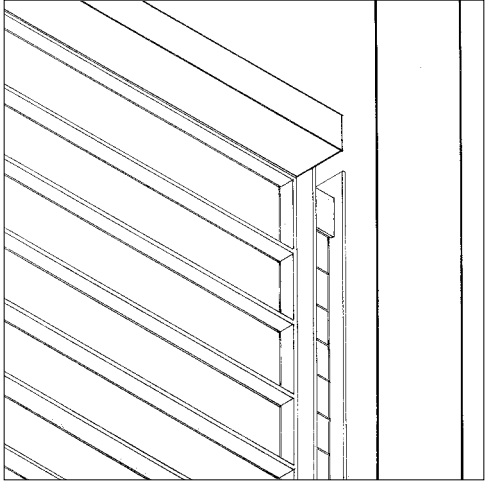
The house receives the new elements introduced to it. The typical construction meets the new element, a connection forms. The connection reveals the architecture of the space. It articulates the presence of the wall and the object through the space. The mediation changes its composition of material with the variety of connections. The changing materials translate into a line through the house.

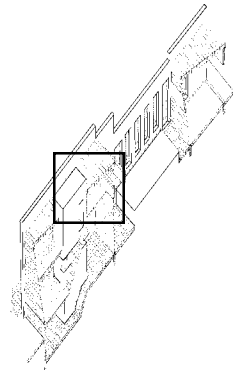
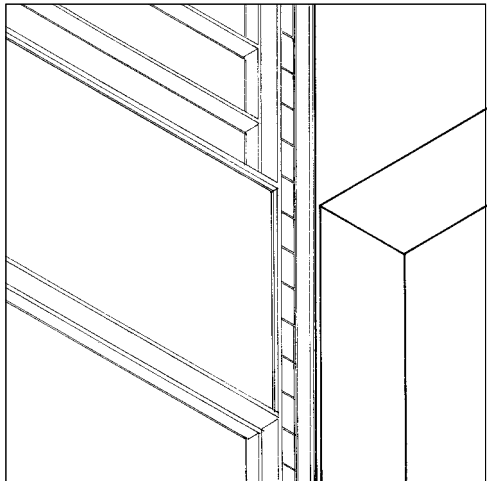
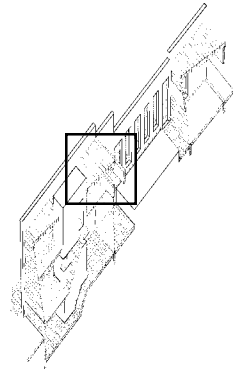
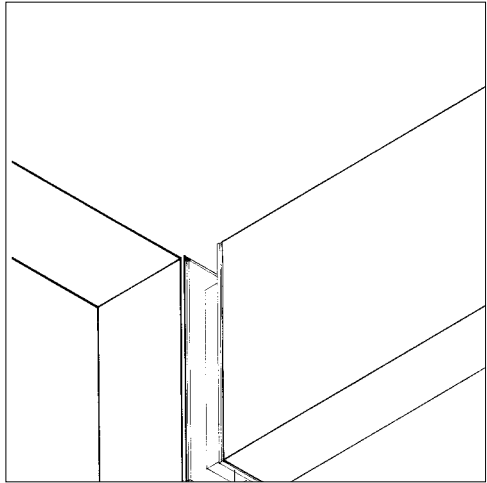
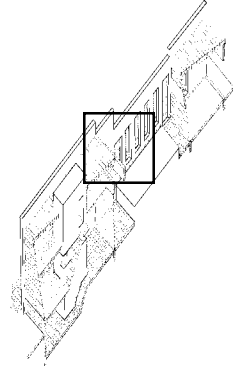
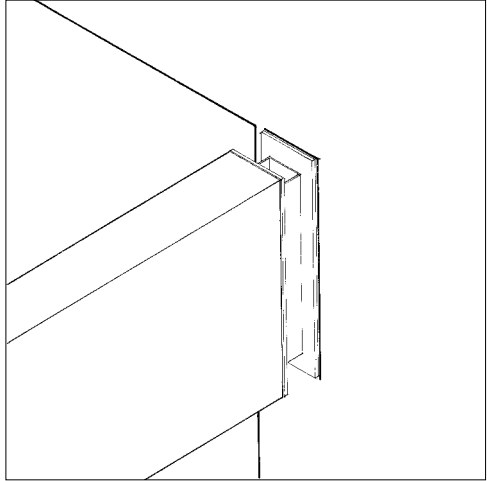


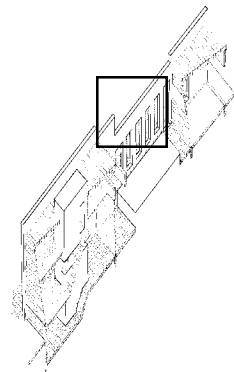
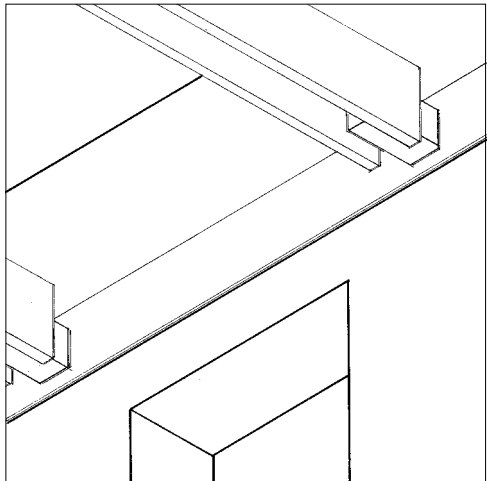
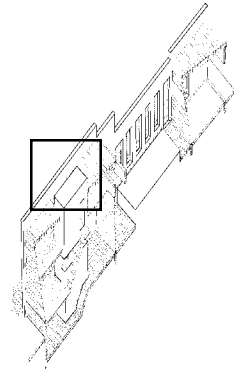
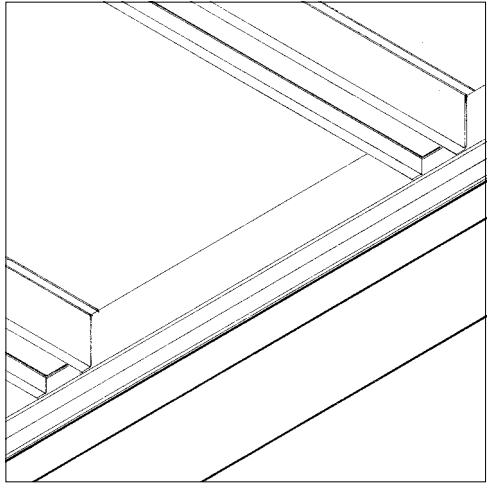
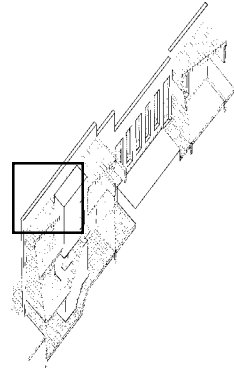
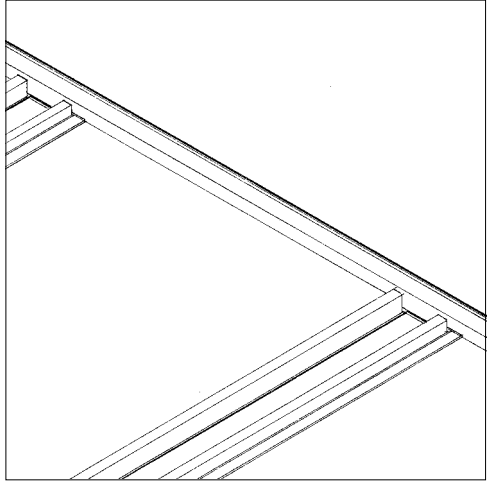
a study of connections

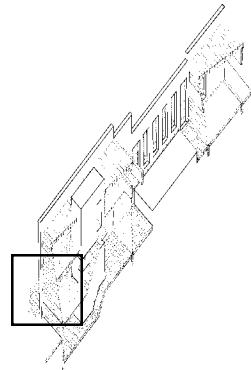
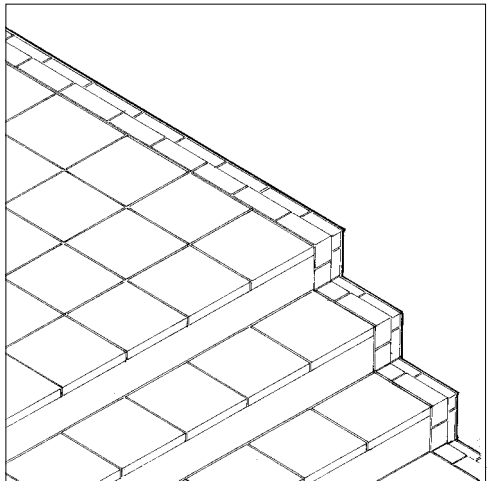
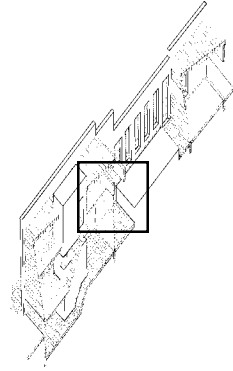
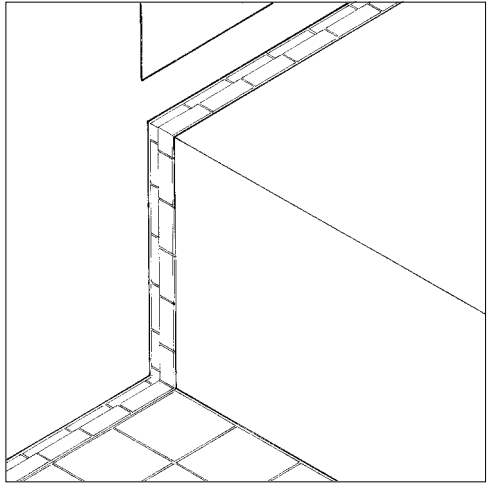
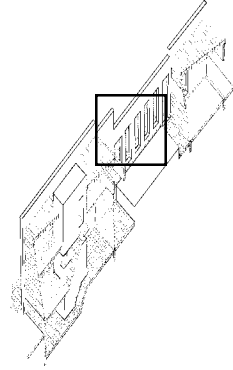
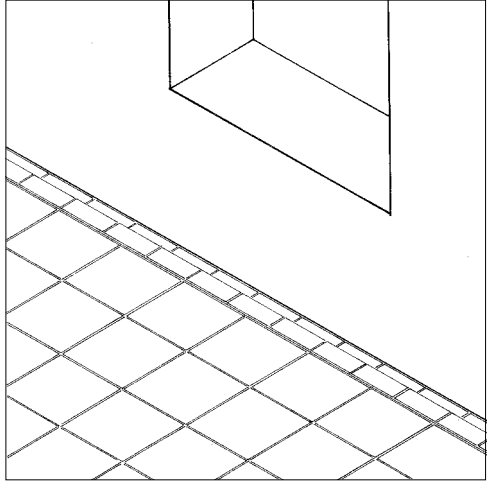


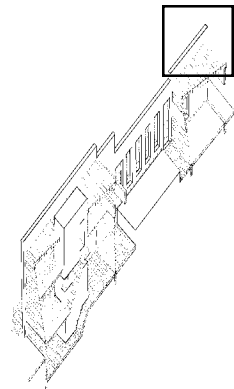
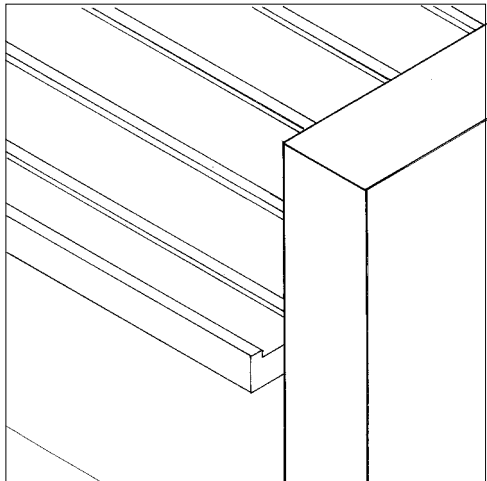
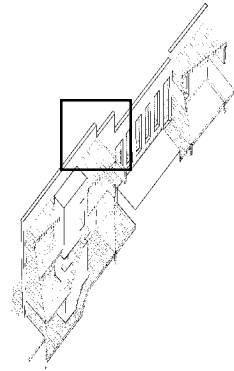
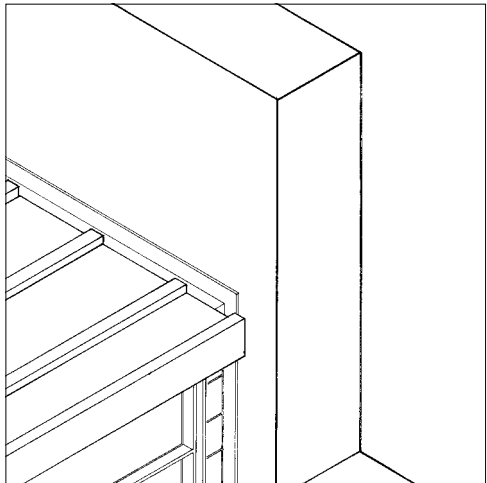
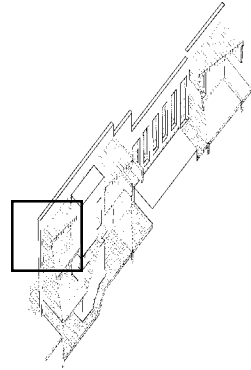
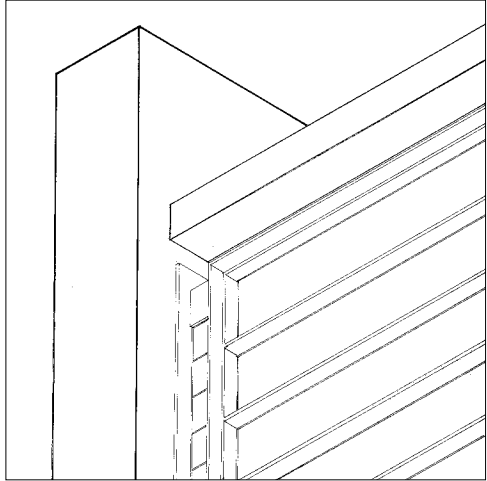


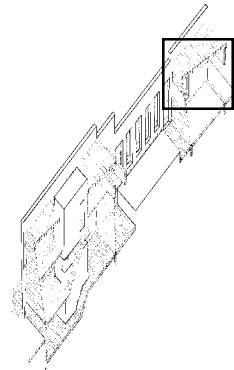
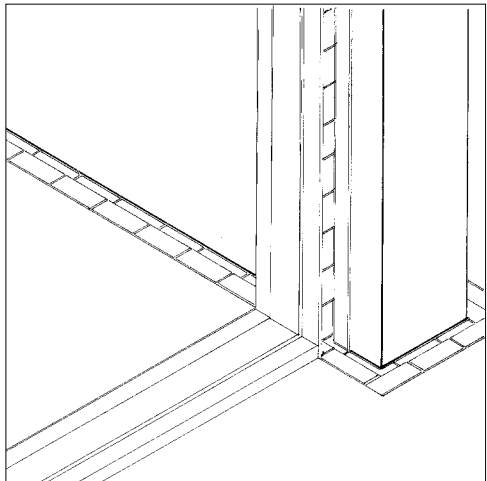
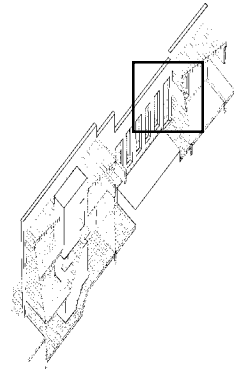
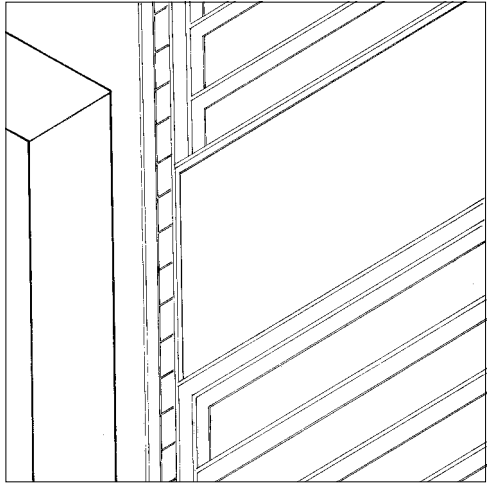
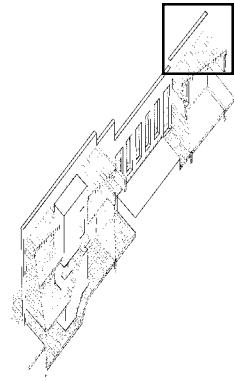
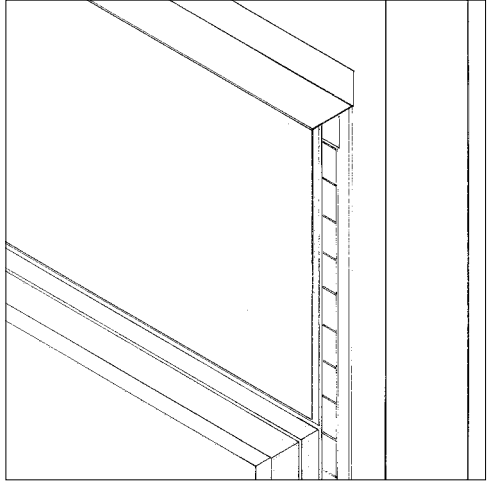


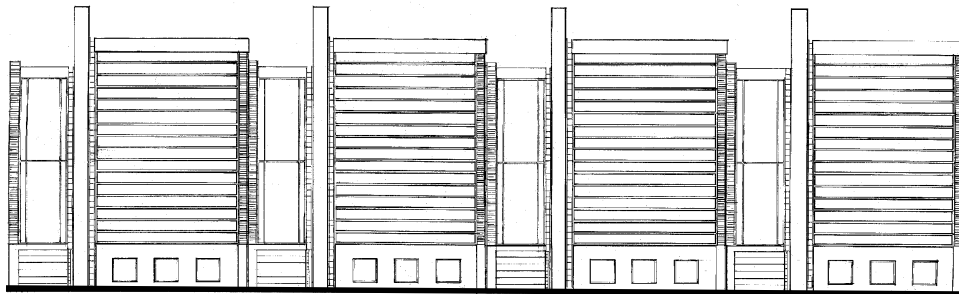












street elevation

The intent of the study questioned an existing condition — the urban house. From the study a complexity resulted in the design of the interior spaces. The complexity that exists in the urban street with defined places — boundary and continuity — could be achieved within the context of the house. Introducing the wall and object to this typical condition allowed them to organize and define the internal and external spaces. They created many places within the context of the row house.

The study of making places along a narrow construct informed of the possibilities in defining spaces. Defining spaces within the context of a row house with a wall and an object set certain conditions for which to understand the exploration. The wall and object are separate elements introduced to an existing condition of the row house. The condition receives these new elements. Therefore, the wall and object must be separate elements — the architectural elements of the space. They exist separately, but they depend on the other to define the places. Their continuity of material and form reinforces their presence in the space as organizers of places.

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