

Sequence & Experience

Path & Sequence

*"The quality of architecture does not lie in the sense of reality that it expresses, but quite reverse, in its capacity for awakening our imagination."*¹³

Mass, Weight, Texture, and Spatial compression. These qualities are what I began to think of the path in terms of. The path began to develop as a series of points. At each of these points there should be a certain specific set of qualities that help to shape the experience.

Juhani Palasmaa, in his writings on architecture, defines some specific criteria in evaluating space. These criteria, by their nature, inherently suggest both a primary feeling and sequence of experience.

"the house as a sign of culture in the landscape, the house as a projection of man and a point of reference in the landscape;

-approaching the building, recognizing a human habitation or a given institution in the form of a house;

-stepping into the house, entering through the door, crossing the boundary between exterior and interior;

-coming home or stepping inside the house for a specific purpose, expectation and fulfillment, sense of strangeness and familiarity;

-being in the room, a sense of security, a sense of togetherness or isolation;

-being in the sphere of influence of the foci that brings the building together, such as the table, bed, or fireplace;

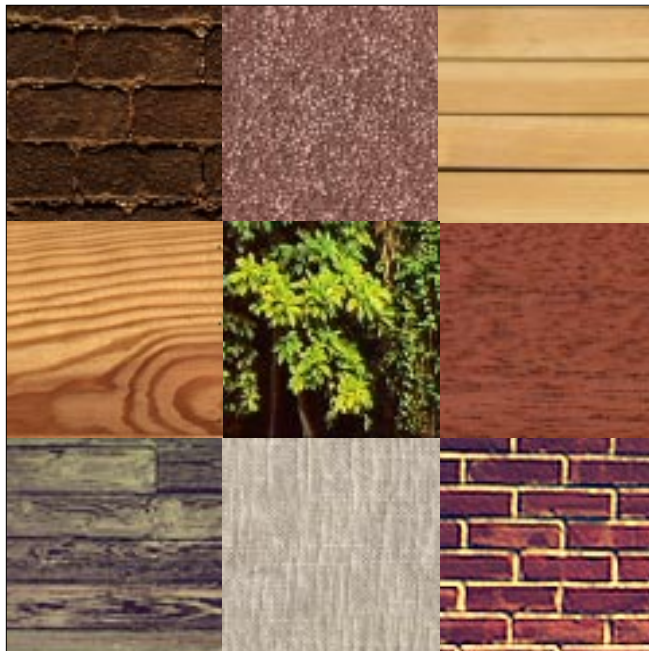
-encountering the light or darkness that dominates the space, the space of light;

*-looking out of the window, the link with the landscape."*¹⁴

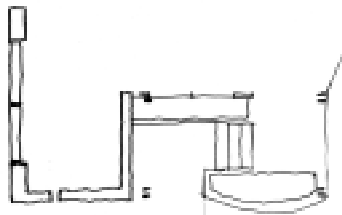
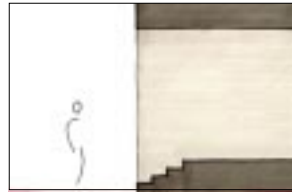
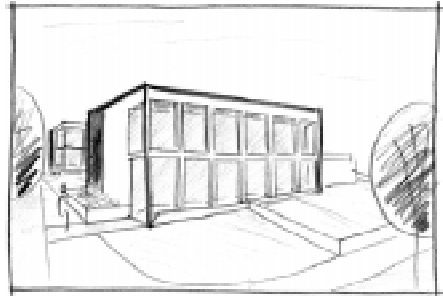
With these criteria in mind I began to explore the house. The sequence of spaces that became present through this exploration are either a point of passage or presentation.

The relationship between the points became important in the expression of each individual point. The eight points discovered begin to reveal the spatial continuity and distinction that exists within the house.

These points contribute to the creation of the elemental phenomenon of dwelling.

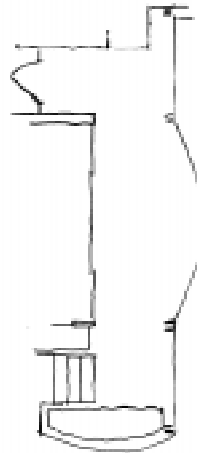
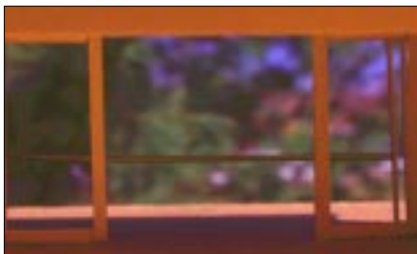
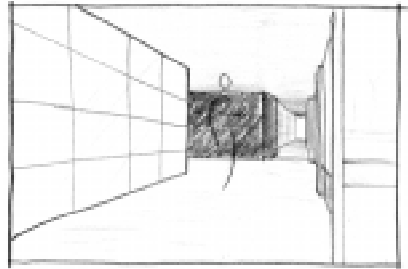


As you walk down the sidewalk you encounter a place that is somehow different than the normal condition. Changes in surface material and pattern create an intersecting path that invites you into the realm of the house. The house is extending itself outward into the public realm creating no crisp boundaries, offering instead, mere clues to the happenings within the home.



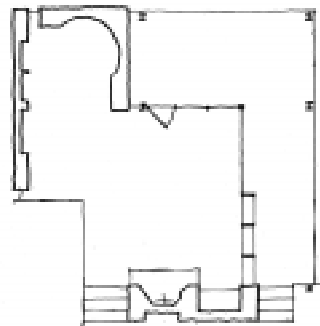
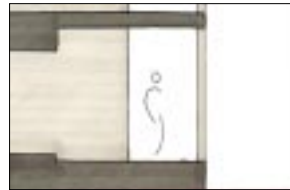
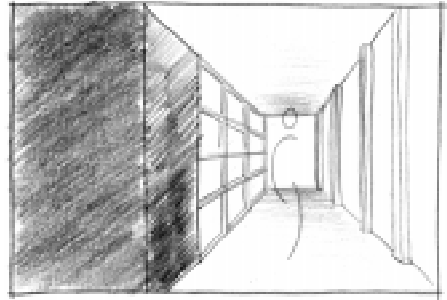


Climbing the steps onto the house you find yourself in a state of in-between. You are not inside the house, but you are not outside either. You are embraced at the edge of the house between enclosure and horizon.



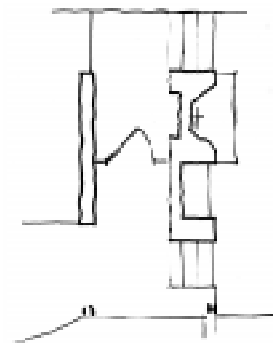
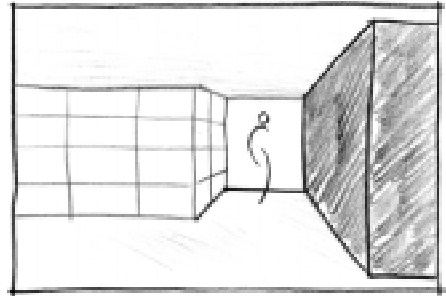


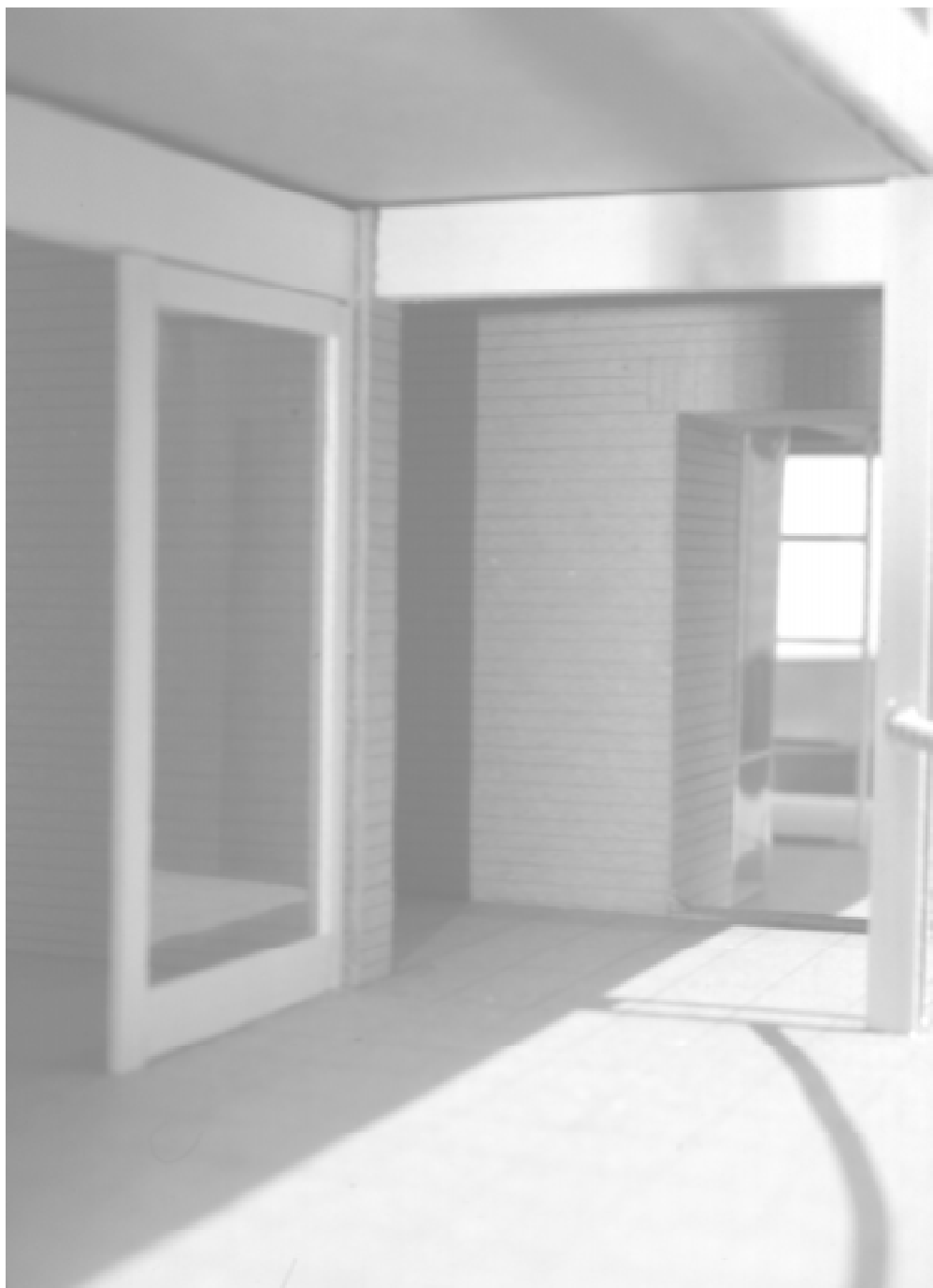
Moving past the heavy fireplace element to your left and down the steps places you in the more private side of the house. On the left is the enclosing wall of the living space and on the right is the outdoor living space. Opening the door to the enclosed space allows the two spaces to merge into a third kind of place.



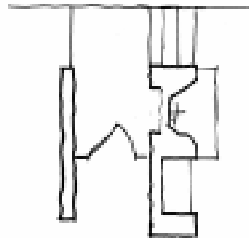
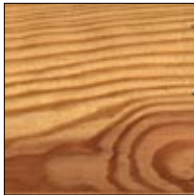
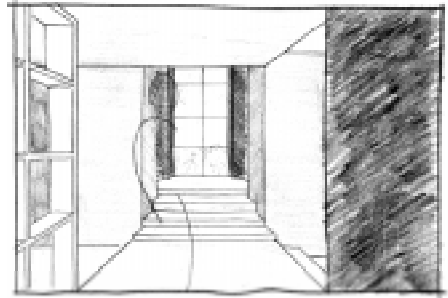


At the entry door to the house, you are held between light and heavy elements which help to direct your physical and visual movement. The volume of the space also reduces to a more human dimension. This physical compression combined with the visual expansion creates the dramatic experience of entry and presentation.



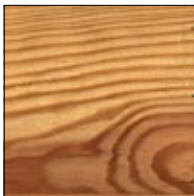
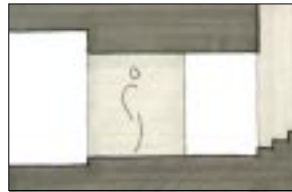
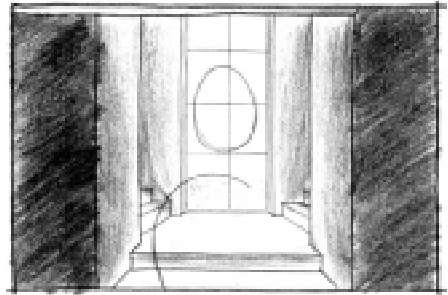


At this point you are in the centroid of the house. From this center you are able to move directly into any room downstairs or move onto the stair element. The threshold between public and private space within the house exists here. Moving onto the stairs begins the introspective journey into the realm of the private space upstairs.



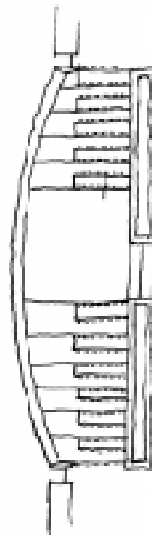
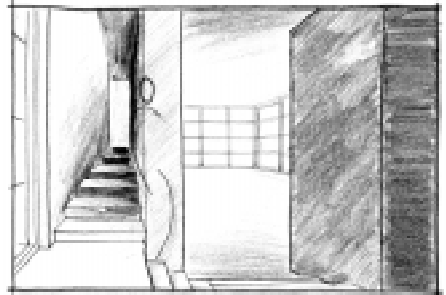


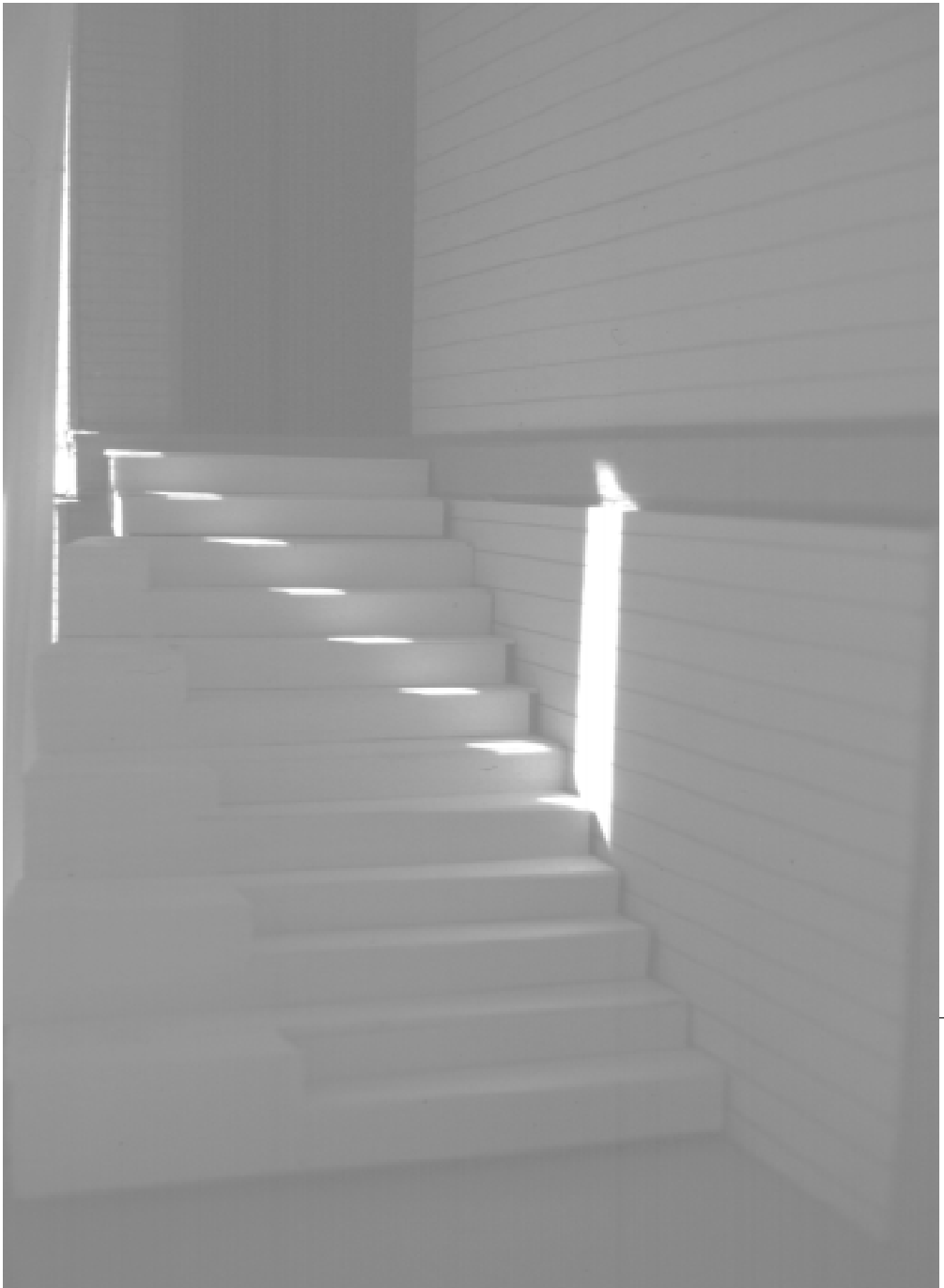
As you climb the first few steps you are then at a point where a choice of direction must be made. On either side of you is a stair, each leading to a different space. This pause and redirection is an extension of the threshold of the rooms above. Each stair leads to a different type of space.





Climbing the stair you are totally enclosed within the heavy stair element of the house. Moving through this element allows you time to adjust before you are reoriented to the outside world through either public or private space.





Reaching the top of the stair, you are presented with the private realm of the house. This presentation occurs while still within the stair element. Moving into the bedrooms you are reoriented with the outside world visually through the windows and physically through the door to the balcony.

