Notes on the Foundations of Architecture

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In an age without culture forces become fragmented and the power of an individual man is used up in overcoming opposing forces and fractional resistances: it does not show in the distance he travels but perhaps only in the heat he generates in overcoming friction. But energy is still energy and even if the spectacle which our age affords us is not the formation of a great cultural work, with the best men contributing to the same great end, so much as the unimpressive spectacle of a crowd whose best members work for purely private ends, still we must not forget that the spectacle is not what matters.

L. Wittgenstein
The project is an attempt to define what is critical to an American house; a house coming into being in 1990.

The site is in southwest Virginia, on the edge of a town which is in the process of being suburbanized - a cancer which any American architect operating today must confront.

Nine houses are placed on twenty-seven acres of rolling hills. Each house is surrounded by three acres. This size was chosen because it forces one to deal with the land in a non-suburban way.

Primary access to each house is by car.

The critical relationships in the overall plan are between the houses and between the houses and the land.

The construction system was designed realizing that in America today, there is little or no craft of construction remaining. The house is a simple concrete frame with infill panels bolted to a steel stud system. The panels would be prefabricated in a shop. Panels include sheet metal, wood, glazed and venting.

The drawings and model photographs are merely indicators of the architecture, not the architecture. The drawings relate to dimensioning and constructing. The photos are an attempt to show the quality of space desired. Obviously there is no way to directly verify the propositions without building.
SECOND FLOOR PLAN

PLAN PERSPECTIVE
AXONOMETRIC: OVERALL

AERIAL PERSPECTIVE
AXONOMETRIC: LIVING ROOM

AERIAL PERSPECTIVE
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