

Philadelphia Public Housing: Reknitting the Urban Fabric is a beginning. It addresses what many have and will continue to struggle with. It poses questions that have been asked before, perhaps even touches upon answers that have already been offered. Through the course of this exploration I have found that I desire what most desire, simply to create an environment that embraces our living. Architecture cannot be an island unto itself, for the sake of itself. It must stand up to scrutiny, it must have a conscience, it must give back to its surroundings.

This project, as previously stated, is a response to a problem. Even more frightening than the problem at hand, is the trend it represents. Historically, Architecture has symbolized power, wealth, leadership and prestige. Over the last century it has lost sight of its most basic duty to provide a place for *living*. While the wealthy and enlightened have provided for its own, the humble and lay have fed on the scraps. These scraps, as we have seen here, are nothing more than vessels of containment. As practitioners and educators we have a responsibility to make decent architecture for the masses a reality rather than a cerebral digression.

As an architect, I present this architectural solution but am wholly aware that any success it may aspire to have rests in the decisions and actions of many. In using materials well, respecting a budget, serving a function, choreographing a space, providing delight, I may have fulfilled a design obligation, but that moment will wither unless integrated into a larger urban system. With this, I begin.

