

Project

Home Economy; Designing Multi-Family Dwellings for the Practice and Craft of Living

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Abstract:

This project presentation aims to share the pedagogical methods and student design proposals from a Multi-Family Housing Studio aimed at developing thoughtful, low/middle income, multi-family housing models that include methods of production, both domestic and professional, as integral to the comprehensive concept of home. This is the traditional understanding of a *home*, to be contrasted against the modern idea of a *residence*. The concept of a residence is derived from the word *reside*, meaning to sit-back or relax, and such may be the unexamined goal of the modern, urban domestic shelter. In contrast, the notion of *home* was traditionally understood to include critical domestic and professional activities and this *work* was esteemed as possessing both spiritual and economic benefit. It is thought that the traditional home economy was responsible for contributing around 40% of the total economic activity of the household.

Today, domestic activities are rarely considered economically significant. Instead, the majority of traditional domestic activities have simply been conceived of as a sort of time-sink; a set of activities that one aims to outsource or simply eliminate from daily private life. The idea of taking domestic work seriously; to value working with your hands to care for yourself, has exciting possibilities (economic, spiritual, and architectural) for all urban dwellers. This concept of “home-place” offers a very unique and meaningful relationship between life and the maintenance of it...an optimistic suggestion that life and work are synonymous.



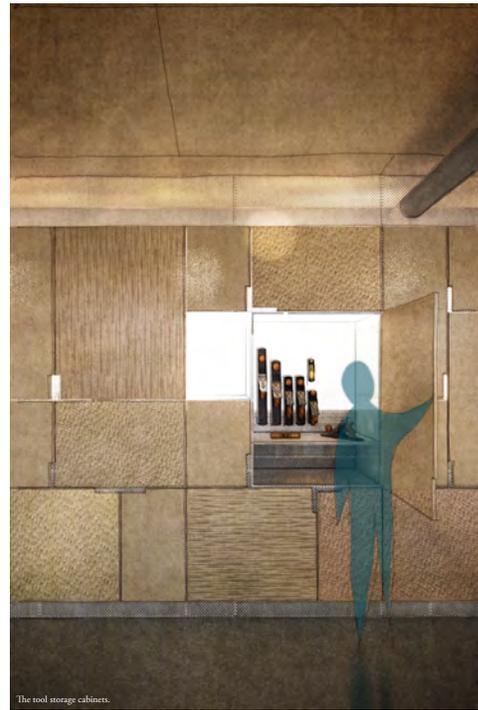
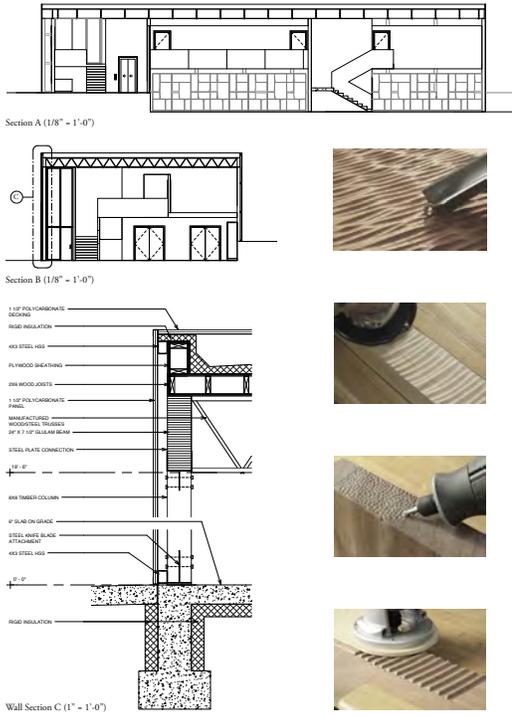
Preliminary Conceptual Artifact – workmanship and design



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Design Development Document – craft remains of central importance.



Design Development Model – craft remains of central importance.