



**THE FRAME OF REFERENCE STUDIO:
ANALOGY AS A STRATEGY TOWARD CREATING IDENTITY**

PROJECT 01
(URBAN) HOUSING:
(IDENTITY FOR) THE ANONYMOUS urban dweller

In the field of housing, driven by necessity, it is not uncommon to hear the term ‘product type’ in reference to a set number of types and sizes. Production of houses for people as against a home for an individual or family, make it necessary to “theorize” or generalize about group identities and architecturally respond to this with types or “products”. Yet the notion of a “product” is distinctively different from the idea of a **home** which, in its most intimate personal dimension, is **an extension of the self**. It is entirely beyond our scope to explore how, or whether, a sense of home can be predicted through any exact act of designing. It is however a lot easier to understand how anonymity and ubiquity can be spread when the environment is unvaried or replicated.

In this first architectural design project for the semester you will design a residential unit, particularly for the urban environment keeping in mind the potentials for variations that this design will allow. The preceding sketch problems that you just completed again become the departure for this project. Specifically, you must establish a specific connection to the “tectonic wall” you completed.

This connection can take many directions. As before, be conscious of the formal and material characteristics of the wall you designed and made. The following three are only general, broad possibilities and are not suggestions for isolated usage.

1. The enclosing walls of your design can directly borrow from the tectonic wall (However it should not simply mimic or replicate it, let alone endlessly repeat it).
2. The overall volumetric/formal/ spatial ideas can be informed and influenced by the tectonic wall.
3. Properties that you can interpret from your wall can become conceptual direction

The task is one of interpretation and it relies on you and the nature of the wall you just made.

PROGRAM:

Follow this as programmatic guideline:

Two to three stories /2500 - 3000 sq. feet.

Sheltered parking for at-least one car,

Preserve 20% or more of the site as un-built space

Assume a front set back of 10’; No side setbacks required but consider how access to light and air can be provided for adjacent properties on such deep/narrow lots.

SITE:

The site is located at the intersection of 16th and Summit Streets in Kansas City in a historic neighborhood, which has recently experienced resurgence and re-inhabitation. Proximity to a variety of commercial and cultural amenities, and much of that without having to drive, is spurring additional building in this area which is becoming more vital. Currently there are three adjoining narrow lots, roughly 33’ wide each at this location that are being collectively developed as three urban houses. For our project we will consider the corner site (30’x140’) which is oriented toward the skyline of the city.

SCHEDULE:

09/15: Project introduction

09/17: Site visit

09/ 19: group pin ups

09/ 22, 24 and 26: Desk reviews/ or group reviews

10/01: Desk reviews/ and or group reviews

10/03: Mid-Review:

At mid-review a resolute design proposal is expected on this project. Well constructed models and lucid drawings are needed to communicate the design. The purpose of the mid-review is to present a well articulated idea to guest critique and elicit their response which can influence the design in its final presentation.

The mid review will be a pin-up critique of the work done from the start of the semester. The following products of presentation required for the mid review.

1. For sketch problem 1: Compose a 11x17 “collage” (in color) to include photographs and scanned sketches. You should also write and incorporate a small statement (150 words), that communicates your thoughts and ideas if this stage. Submit this written statement to me via email **by Friday, September 19** for my review, comments and revisions.

2. For sketch problem 2: The finished model

3. For Project 1: Will be announced at a later date.

10/22: Final presentations due/ Final Critique. Requirements for final presentations will be announced in the future.

REFERENCE: The web site below will show you images of proposed urban residences for this project site. It is just a point of reference.

www.fpdesign1.com

Placeless-ness: Expedition into Consumerist Forts by Daniel Rolf

REVIEW Architecture 2003: THE URBAN PLANNED

(This is a locally published magazine. The latest issue focuses on architecture and has several articles that are interesting and informative and they have been contributed by local artists, architects, planners and others including our own faculty. Several articles are relevant and interesting).



photographs by Alex McLean