



Individual  
**IDENTITY**  
and an Identity Lacking Environment

Thesis Exploration<sup>2015</sup> Stephanie Cuniberti

## Dedication

I dedicate this thesis book to my parents, Perry and Patty Cuniberti, who have lovingly and endlessly expressed their support and helped me grow through this process.

“It takes a village” as they would say.

Also, a thank you to all my professors who have helped and guided me along the way throughout my education.



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# Chapter 1

Early Research

## Chapter Content

- .Evolution Inside the House
- .Builder vs. Subdivision
- .Monotony of the Model Home

## .Evolution Inside the House

History allows for documentation of events and culture that inform present decisions that affect living. Ideas of “comfort” and “commodity” have changed just as societal living and residential architecture has, which creates a narrative of events that add up and become the present in which we dwell. The main rooms that have evolved in the home include: the bedroom, bathroom, living room, porch, and garage. I focused less on the specific time line of events and looked at each movement as a piece to the puzzle of what we know today. Through reading *Home: A Short History of an Idea* by Witold Rybczynski I gained an understanding for living throughout the past several centuries. This knowledge will eventually lead to educated decision making on how to move the home forward with its architecture, identity, and soul.

“ Ideas of “comfort” and  
“commodity” have changed ”

My research of the house started in the Middle Ages, where the house “had a fireplace or cook stove only in the main room, and no heating in the rest of the house” (Rybczynski 19). He expands upon this concept of limited heat with describing the attire with “voluminous clothing...was not a requisite of fashion but a thermal necessity” (Rybczynski 19).

Medieval sleeping quarters consisted of typically twenty-five people, multiple to a single bed, and no privacy. The rooms in which people slept were formally known as the chambre. “What our medieval ancestors did lack was the awareness of comfort as an objective idea” (Rybczynski 32). This meaning that people of this time did not have a grasp of comfort so it was not missed or sought after.

Furniture in the Middle Ages consisted of what we would call “uncomfortable” because of its hard and rigid tactile design. Although, it was not designed to be harsh and sore, rather nothing better had been presented. Again, the people using furniture in this period did not mind the hardness because for them it was an instrument to complete a task.

For example, a bench was used to sit at a table at which you ate, and the act of eating with people you cherish and table manners were of importance and not the design of the bench itself.

The house as a whole was a more public entity, as it was a place for business interaction, social meetings, and festive entertainment. Welcoming outsiders into the house was an act of normal condition, and the flow of people through the house was heavy compared to today’s standards. The salle was a room dedicated to meeting the needs of these social interactions.

Communal bathing was also common, where the bathrooms were not attached to the house, instead located in central areas of the town. These were degenerated because of the use of them by brothels. This need for change was answered in the form of housing with bathrooms attached or privatized in some way.

While the bedrooms and bathrooms were mostly shared spaces, the kitchen was mainly for women and servants, functioning as a more private room in the house.

It was not until the 17th Century that rooms became defined, up until then rooms were not assigned a specific function or title. Because the furniture in the rooms had multiple uses, so did the rooms in which those pieces resided. Rybczynski notes that the 17th Century was the beginning of the modern fascination of furniture, it “was no longer simply equipment but was thought of as a valuable possession, and began to be a part of the decoration of the room” (Rybczynski 40).

Moving into the 19th Century it becomes unclear if societal habits have influenced architecture or vice versa, but the changes are apparent. The large cumbersome furniture that was once just a means to an end moves towards a craft that was appreciated for the time it took to make. This time period that exists with and because of the appreciation for craft and workmanship is known as the Victorian Era. As the furniture was becoming a recognition of class, so were the rooms in the house.

The parlor became a place to showcase the “best furniture and possessions” and “used to display knowledge (e.g. books, artifacts, portraits, etc.),” told by Jen Evans in her online article Evolution of the American Home. She explored the house and what changes it encountered from the 1800s until current day living.

Throughout the 1800s the house became more easily attainable for middle class society, also the house became more of a single-family dwelling. Some homes were accompanied by a carriage house, but this usually faced an alley and was detached from the house.

The mid-late 1800s included Art Nouveau, where the arts focused more on elaboration of design, with organic forms in response to furniture being made by the machine. Societal interaction occurs on the front porch, where face to face conversation was easily accessible through this threshold of public and semi-public. The porch was of high value to interpersonal relations, as many people used this space as a point of communication with others that they lived near.

In the start of the 20th Century homes were being built more compactly. The parlor from earlier culture was being used as a living room, as we might relate to one now. Bathrooms became an amenity in most homes, to be used privately rather than publicly. There is a decline in use of the front porch, and that interaction moves from the semi-public realm to the private. The living room became the space for family interaction and guests.

The automobile changed the dynamic of living in a house. "City and industrialized street life became increasingly cramped and noisy" (Evans). This single invention led to the development of suburban dwelling. Because of the car we could now move farther away from, and commute into, the city center. The newly discovered suburban home generally consisted of more square footage, a kitchen located privately in the rear of the house, a more formal living room, and a yard with neighbors. Some homes had space for a garage, a rethought carriage house to hold the ever important family vehicle. This garage could be detached, but more comfortably attached, to the home.

The Bauhaus has an influence on American architecture, pushing design to be cleaner cut, geometric, and considering function over form. Also steel was introduced as a material to be more hygienic and modern in its texture and appearance. The focal point of the living room in the 1920s became the radio, an invention that allowed families access to entertainment and information. Throughout the next few decades the use of the living room moved to the backyard, where one could "escape from life's difficulties" (Evans).

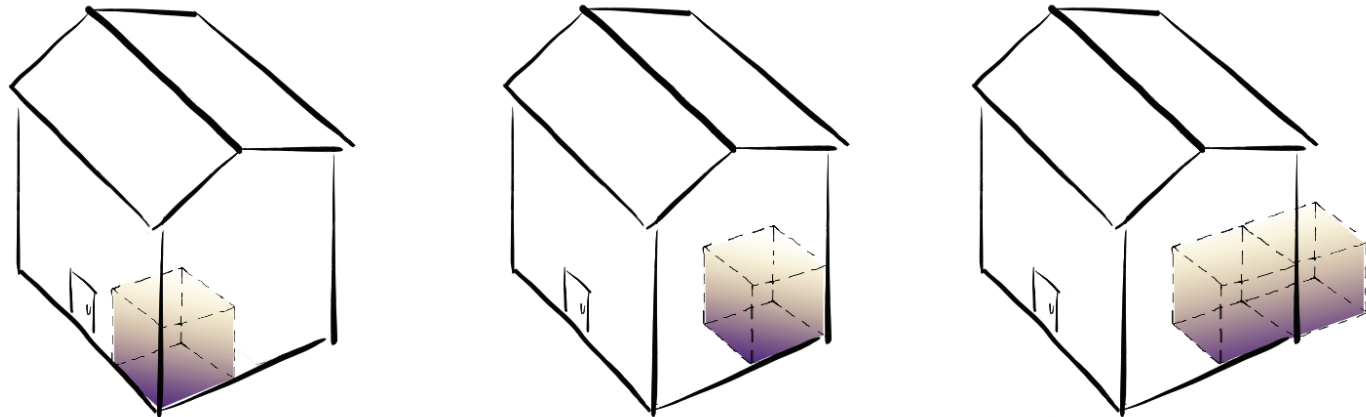
After the building boom of homes following World War II the backyard was considered the outdoor living room. In the 1950s the television was invented, thus furthering the impact of the living room as it became the interior focal point. Within the next decade it moved to sit adjacent to the backyard, allowing easy accessibility in and out of the most common gathering areas of the home.

At the conclusion of one millennium, and start of the next, the open floor concept was developed. This allowed for easier transition for different functions while also creating easier interpersonal interactions. The movement throughout the past century of the living room from a formal front room to an informal room near the back of the house has drastically affected the interaction with the network in which people exist. The privacy fences and large lots create an opportunity to completely conceal a single family home to its owner.

It is interesting to deduct that this is entirely the opposite use of the front porch originally in its design. This questioning started to fold back into the original question of trying to counteract the loss of identity in the city with and within the suburban house.

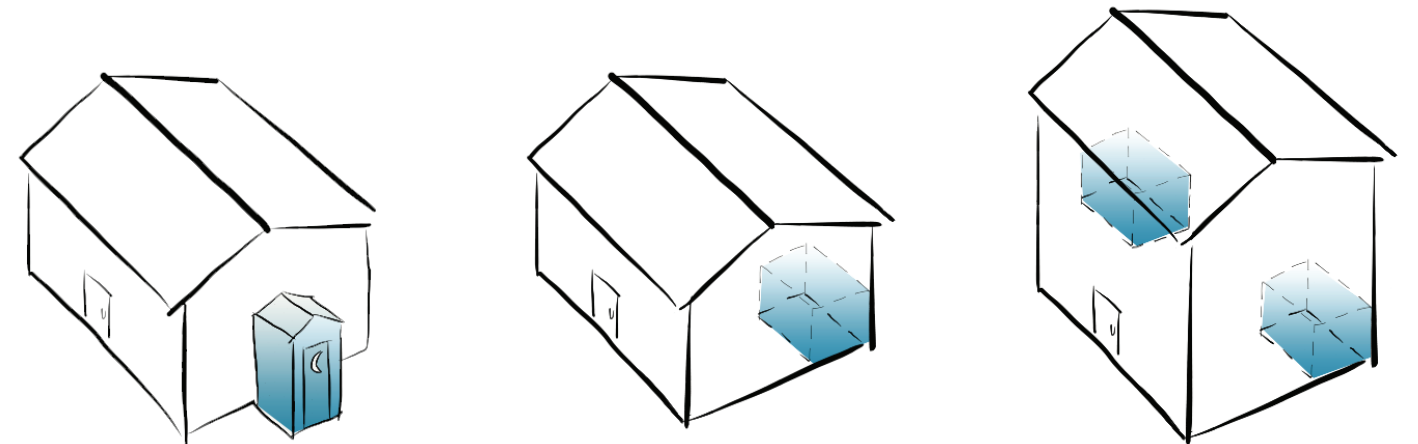
## .Living Room

The living room was once a place of interaction for business or gathering in the front of the house, and has since been moved more towards the back creating privacy and allowing connection to the backyard.



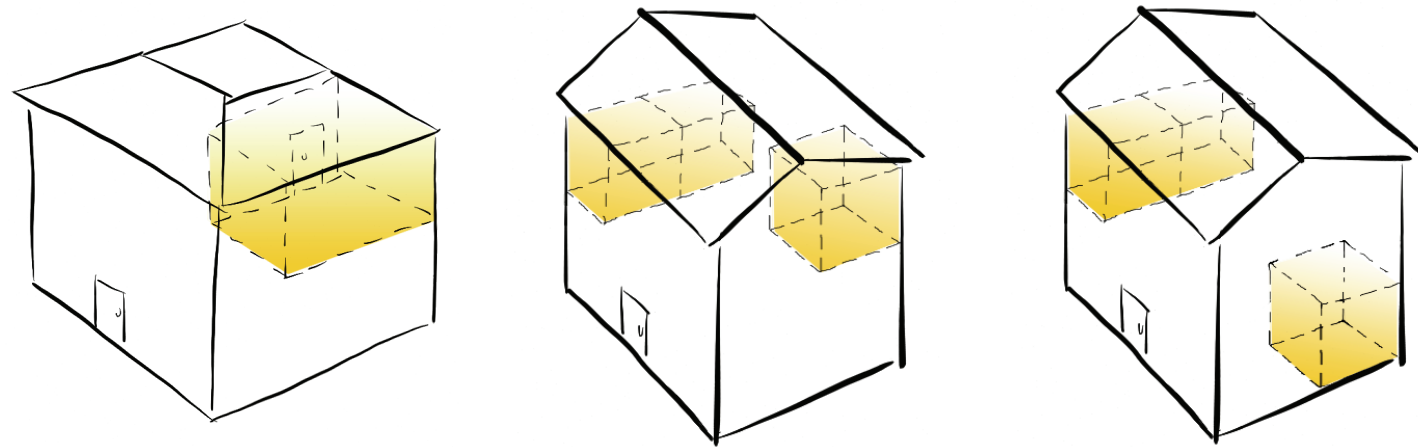
## .Bathroom

Moving from an exterior experience to an indoor luxury because of advances in plumbing. Following the luxury of having a bathroom inside of the house, it became an expected commodity, and now there are multiple bathrooms in larger residences around the country.



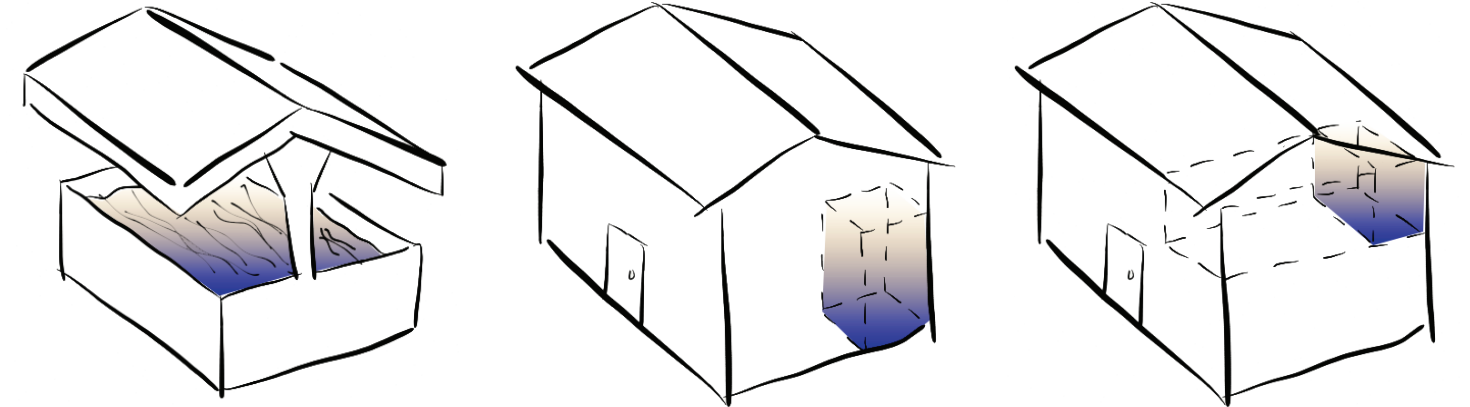
## .Bedroom

The bedroom was a place for several people to sleep at one point in time, and the comfort and commodity of splitting up the space and creating separate rooms for individuals is now a suburban norm.



## .Laundry

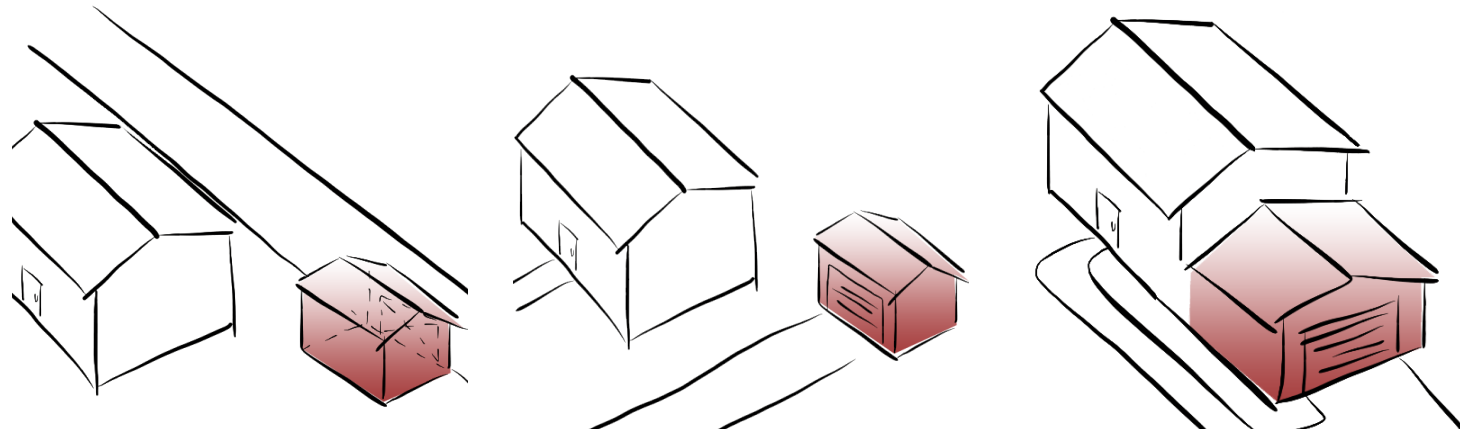
Laundry has been made simpler and more convenient through advances in plumbing, where it was once an event to share with neighbors at a common washing post. Currently laundry rooms are offered in the master suite, to add even more convenience.





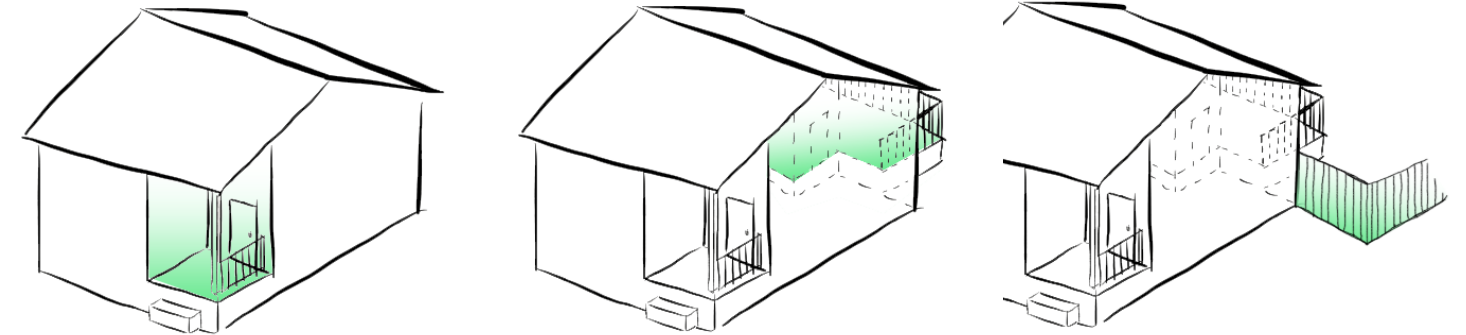
## .Garage

The carriage house was once located off the alley, in order to keep the scent of the animals away from the living quarters, but since advances in the automotive industry have sky rocketed we no longer have a need for this, and garages are located closer to the house, or even incorporated into the design.



## .Porch

The front porch used to be a means for communication and interaction with neighbors as they would walk by. It has since lost its value as such, and the more common area on the house for them to be added is the back, to be used much more privately.



# .Porch

The front porch has evolved from a point of interaction to a facade that reminds us of our nostalgic past. It has no meaning any longer, it is just a skeleton of what used to be warm and full of life.

In order to restore this use and interaction of the community through the front porch there must be a reason to be walking around the neighborhood and communicating first person with neighbors.

Neighborhoodly  
Open  
Public



Front Porch

For Looks  
Unused  
Pseudo



Small Front Porch

Family Oriented  
Internalized  
Private



Family Room

Extension of Home  
Entertaining  
Private



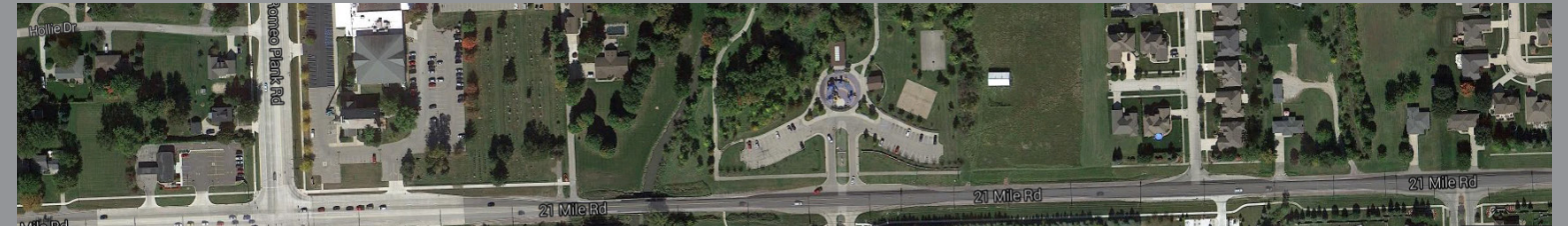
Outdoor Living Room

Not Neighborhoodly  
Separating  
Extremely Private



Private Backyard

Walking Distance  
Near Neighborhood Homes  
Green Space



Communal Park

## .Builder vs. Subdivision

“ exceptionally big,  
exceptionally ugly, or  
exceptionally beautiful ”

Alan Pert continues in his article to analyze architecture and how we perceive it, saying “In fact, we barely see most of the architecture that surrounds us, as it becomes a kind of background hum, only to be noticed when it is exceptionally big, exceptionally ugly, or exceptionally beautiful.” At this moment in his article I realized just how ordinary architecture can become to a typical civilian eye. What constitutes architecture to become unnoticeable? If the street front becomes homogenized, how do we stop our neighborhoods filled with model homes from becoming the same? With looking through the neighborhoods in the Metro Detroit area, it was clear that many of them are built in a common way. They are built quickly, by the same builder, and with a few different model homes as a base. In each of these model homes the peaks might differ, or there could be an added garage bay, but the general aesthetic of the street is very similar. Inside the neighborhood there is no differentiating between streets or houses. The houses have been replicated tenfold so there is no individuality within the subdivisions’ streets.

## .Efficiency - Time & Money

The suburbs were once this ideal country side place to live, to get away from the city. The growth and popularity of the suburbs have solved many problems while creating many unforeseen issues. In a TED Talk called The Ghastly Tragedy of the Suburbs, James Howard Kunstler explains how the suburb is the antidote to city dwelling, it was created to become an escape from the city and has evolved over its eighty years of existence.

Since, we have tried to bring city commodities to living on the countryside it becomes contaminated with the very things we sought to escape. Kunstler argues that "the public realm must inform us not only where we are geographically, but where we are in our culture. It must speak to where we came from, what kind of people we are. This affords us a glimpse at where we are going and allows us to dwell in a hopeful present" (Kunstler). His point of dwelling in a hopeful present is taken away by the repetition and lack of design consideration in the suburbs.

Once realizing that the neighborhood and network affects the home, as well as the actual architecture of the interior. Subdivisions were built so rapidly to accommodate for the demand of families that design was compromised for profit. After the residences were created then arose the issue of supplying food and entertainment to those people who inhabited the new town. This again was only erected to meet the demand of society, and design was compromised for profit and time.

# .Attitude of Selling a Residence

## Checklist of Features:

- # of bathrooms
- # of bedrooms
- # of Garage Spaces
- Large Backyard
- Bonus Room
- Home Office
- Large Kitchen
- Open Plan Concept
- Privacy from Neighbors
- Covered Porch
- ...



Too often we are caught up by the statistics of the house. How many rooms, how big is the backyard, how many cars can we fit in the garage? These are all questions that are asked by buyers and told by real estate agents. This offers a relatively shallow understanding of the house. The interactions within the house are what truly make up the comforting aspect of the term "home". The way the rooms are connected and laid out allow for certain types and frequencies of interactions.

Builders and subdivision developers are not in the business to consider layout and comfort inside of the houses. On the contrary, they are making model homes and duplicating them around the streets to make the most profit and be the most efficient. The house should be a place of family interactions and ease of access for such events. There is room to improve the flow of movement through the house, and create crossing paths of different members of the family. There is a need for re-education for buying and selling a house, it should be looked at in a different light. There must be verbs used in describing the attributes of the house, because it is actions that occur inside the house to give it life after all.

## .Monotony of the Suburbs

“ The craft and graft of architecture have succumbed to cost effective, risk averse, quick and generic solutions ”

Kunstler continues to point out that we should be creating places of character and quality. We need to be able to define space with the environment that is created. Too often there are places created that Kunstler considers to be not worth caring about, that do not consider architectural solutions to improving life in the suburbs. Instead the towns are sprinkled with flat lifeless buildings. Kunstler adds once we have enough of these places not worth caring about we will have a nation not worth defending.

This gets into the extremes of the issue of identity-less places to dwell, and therefore how that can affect the dwellers. Pert feels similarly about the neglect of design in the suburbs by expressing, “The craft and graft of architecture have succumbed to cost effective, risk averse, quick and generic solutions. Experimentation – the freedom to explore and take risks – is a condition for which people will have to fight in modern society” (Pert). This exemplifies the concept of the suburban house, explaining that because cost and time are considered first, risk taking and design are rarely considered.



# .Middle Class Houses

Canton, MI  
Sunflower South - Built in the Late 1980s

Model Home #3



Model Home #2



Model Home #1



Upper Middle Class Neighborhood



# .Upper Middle Class Houses

Canton, MI  
Buckingham Place - Built in the Early 1990s

Model Home #3



Model Home #2



Model Home #1



Upper Middle Class Neighborhood







# Chapter 2

Precedent & Principle

Chapter Content

.Case Studies

.Spacial Elements in Urban Layout

## .Case Studies

“ looking outside the  
suburbs for solutions ”

In realizing the issue with typical suburban living is that they are not designed thoughtfully, rather they are merely built by developers, started the process of *looking outside the suburbs for solutions*. Multiple times throughout the research process European city plans were referenced as more ideal. The walk-ability of spaces, access to main paths, and consideration of the space created were common points that the development that the suburbs missed. The European cities, of course, took centuries to become established, while the suburban neighborhoods have been developed in a small fraction of that time. Drawing from other cities around the world, much is to be learned about the formal gestures made by the architecture and the sense of space within the walls of the streets.

## .Warsaw, Poland

In a residential part of Warsaw, Poland, there were many interesting urban layout details. Zoliborz Oficerski is near the city center but has an identity and quaintness of its own. Developed in the 18th Century, there are larger street grids which allow for tree-lined streets and warmth through green space. An interesting development of space is when the two-way street lined with houses roughly fifteen feet from the curb opens up and for a few houses that front yard becomes twenty-five feet. This small release of tension in the street front creates a place, where one can drive into and not just through. When the houses are pulled off of the street that extra distance there becomes an area of greenery and warmth. This node along the path of that street allows for a memory to be stored as a place with an identity.

Also in this area of town several roundabouts and courts generate circular and connecting paths. These offer a couple different identifiable features: green space inside of the paved path, buildings that respond to the round edge, and places to drive into and not through. This leads to an important point about the architecture responding to the urban layout. The houses are typically designed with an L-shape if located on an intersection, where the lines of the house would connect to create a square, highlighting the corner as a place and landmark.

- Identifiable Corners 1
- Walk-ability 2
- Close Proximity to Neighbors 3
- Small Private Yard 4
- Warmth Through Use of Trees 5



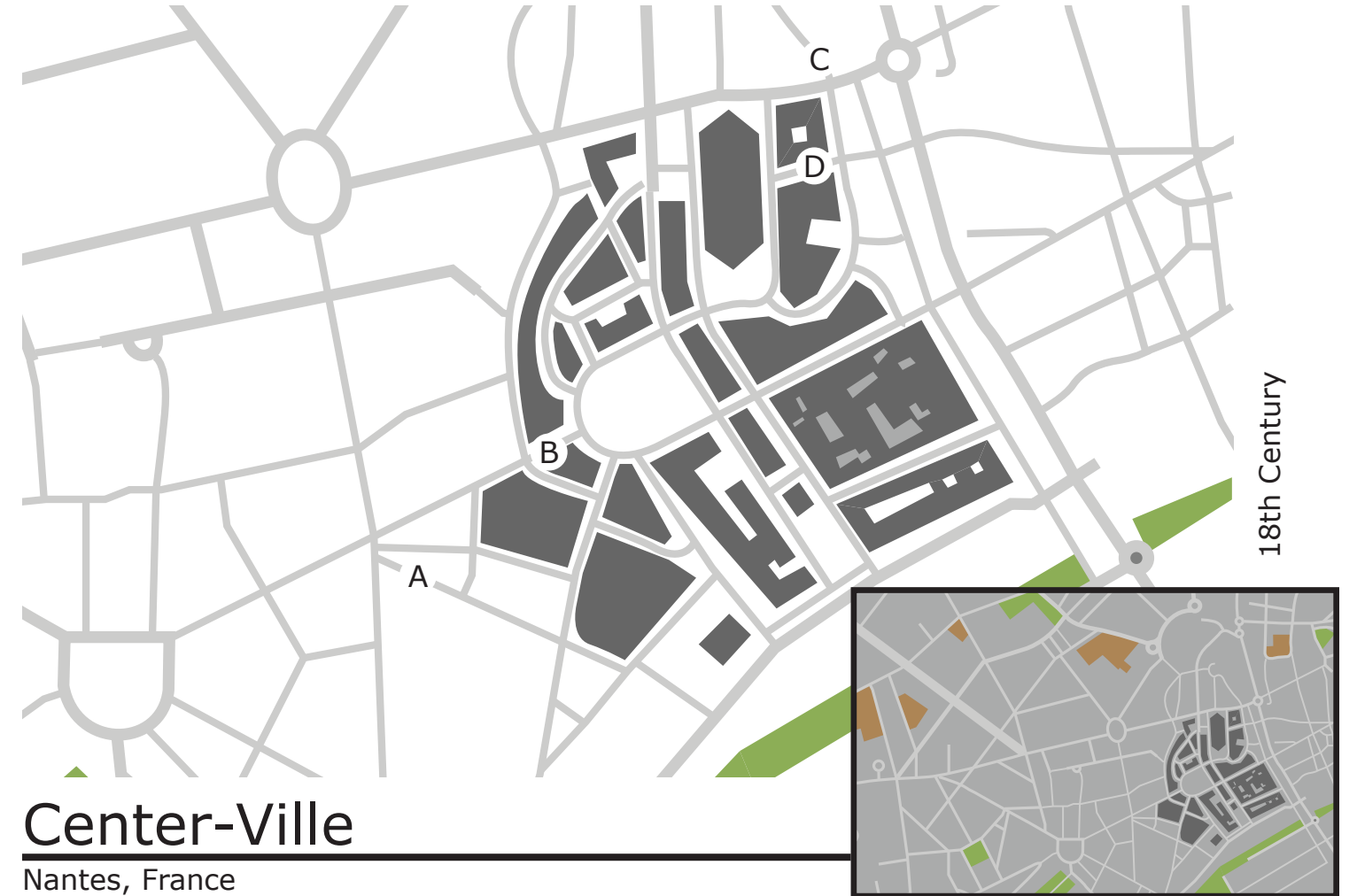


## .Nantes, France

In Nantes, France, there is a bit different of an urban setting. The urban layout that I chose to analyze is the city center, which is informative in different sense than Warsaw. As it was established in the 18th Century the streets are defined by the buildings edge, where the pedestrian and vehicular traffic exist in the same path. A similarity to the residential streets in Warsaw is the nodal impact to the route. This allows places to be identified, by the events and people within them. In Nantes the blocks are much smaller than in Warsaw, but the way streets branch off one another is still dynamic. The intersections of multiple streets lends itself to the creation of numerous squares and plazas. These each have a personality of their own, creating a landmark and identifier in the city.

The compression caused by the narrow tall streets is released into the plazas in a different manner in each location. There is a street that has been covered and glassed in, which creates an entirely different feeling that if it were open air. This alone creates a sense of identity that is not comparable to the surrounding area. Another element that allows for a traveler to locate themselves in the streets is the tall buildings that peek above the rest. The cathedrals' highest point is seen many streets away, acting as a landmark.

- Small Blocks/Walk-ability 1
- Common Walking/Driving Path 2
- New Vs. Old Architecture 3
- Living Above Business 4
- Identifiable Corners 5



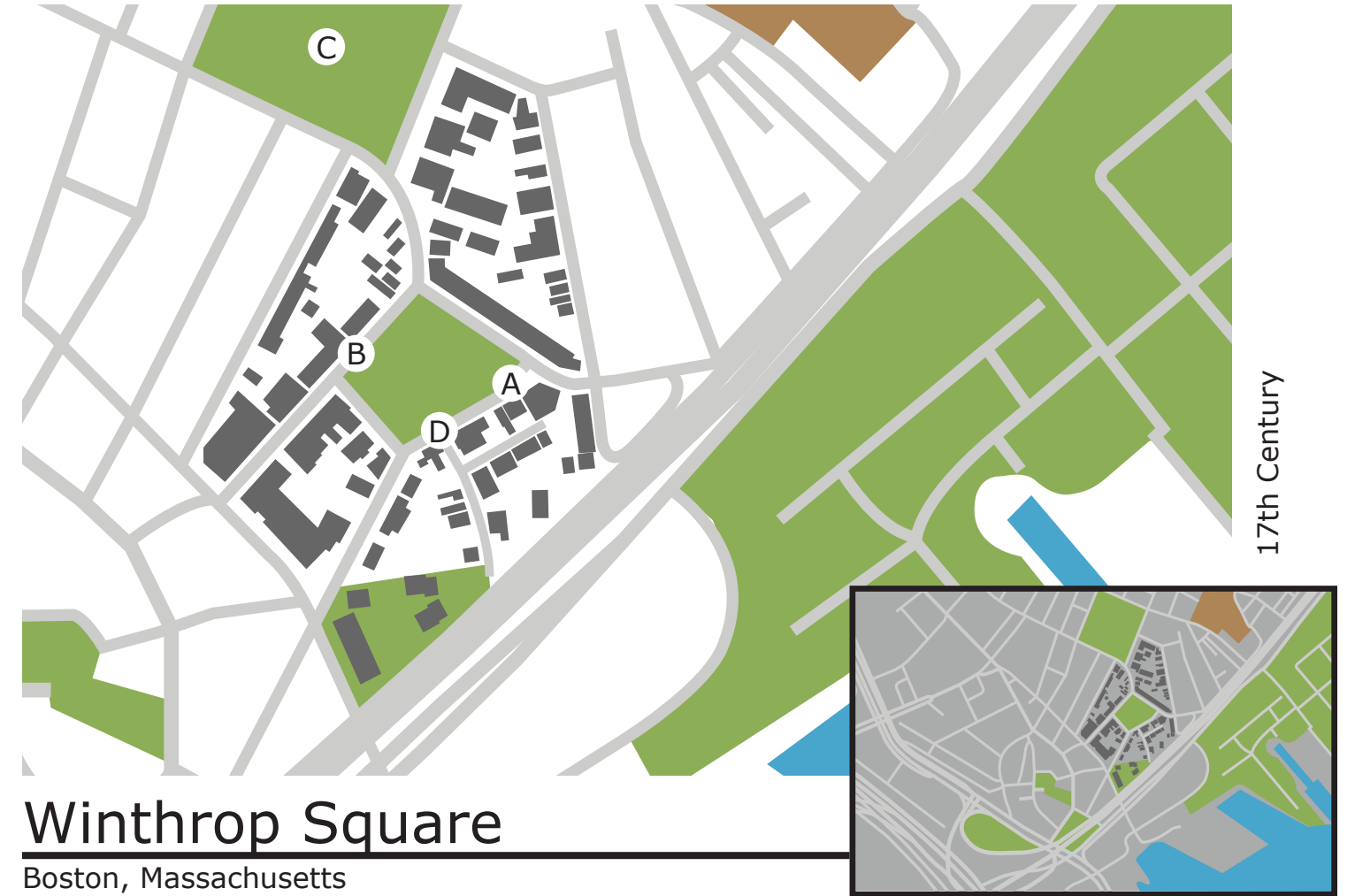
## .Winthrop Square, Boston

Moving back into the States I analyzed Boston, Pennsylvania, where settlement began in the 17th Century. Winthrop Square is a neighborhood of Boston near Bunker Hill, bringing its own identity and landmark into the setting. This area has small blocks and is easily walked, which encourages neighborly conversation while traveling by foot. The houses line the street, and face Winthrop Square. This park has a wrought iron fence surrounding it which implies a high status, while it remains open and accessible to the public.

At this point in the analysis I realized that not all houses have to be separate and on different lots in order to be sought after. This neighborhood in Boston is highly desirable while having housing that shares walls with their neighbors and has little to no land of its own. The land is found in the square that many of the lots face, producing a "community yard". This aspect to living is important to the cohesion in the network of houses and people.



- Warmth Through Color and Trees 1
- Small Blocks/Walk-ability 2
- Close Proximity to Neighbors 3
- No Private Yard 4
- Landmark/Identity 5





## .Beverly Hills, Michigan

This network of people became the main focus in development of a rethought community. "New urbanism promotes the creation and restoration of diverse, walkable, compact, vibrant, mixed-use communities" as defined by newurbanism.org. In diversifying my research I found a few commonalities between the European cities and the new aged developments. In Beverly Hills, Michigan, there is a small neighborhood, consisting of just houses. These seventeen houses all sit facing a public park/green space for the residents.

This promotes gathering and interaction with neighbors, as the individual private yards are small. Accessing the garage by the alley is another feature to this quiet neighborhood, keeping cars off the street and permitting safe play for children and pedestrians. All of the homes have a similar nostalgic appearance to them which warms the street front and generates consistency. In order to control the traffic through the neighborhood there is only one entrance which emphasizes status and privacy.

- Walk-ability 1
- Access to Communal Park/Lake 2
- Single Family Homes 3
- Identity/Bright Colors 4
- Small Private Yard 5



## .Gainesville, Florida

In Gainesville, Florida, there is a new urbanism development called Haile Village. In this recently built small town there is a more complete approach to new urbanism. The shops, restaurants, community buildings, and houses act as a miniature city and bring goods and services to an accessible scale. There are individual single family homes, as well as living quarters above businesses. There are a multitude of community buildings for recreation and gathering. The blocks are at such a scale that they are easily walked, allowing for neighborly interaction and communication.

Alley parking keeps cars off the street and encourages safe pedestrian movement throughout the village. The sense of community that residents feel is another driving force of new urbanism. The interpersonal relationships that are built from conversation in passing is important to the health of the community. One cannot experience the same interpersonal relation while existing in the car. The vehicle has made it possible to develop suburban living, but it is the very thing that restricts interaction and personality within those neighborhoods.



- Public Amenities 1
- Minimal Private Yard 2
- Small Blocks/Walk-ability 3
- Living Near Business 4
- Identity/Bright Colors 5



**Haile Village**  
Gainesville, Florida

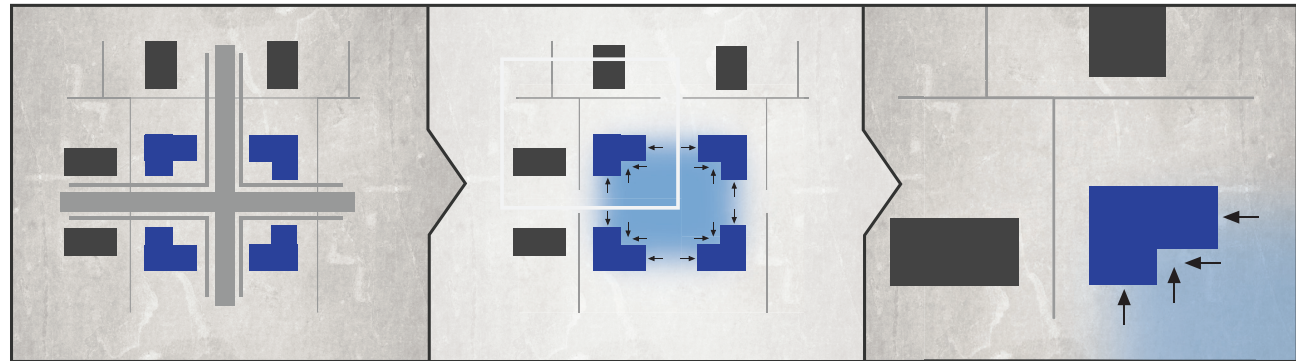
## .Spatial Elements in Urban Layout

“ a passive way-  
finding tool ”

Referring to the research that was conducted through other cities, and starting to understand the elements of urban layout led to the creation of spatial element mapping. This research was conducted to understand how different streets connect and intersect and what spaces the architecture on those street conditions can create. How the architecture notifies the person driving or walking through the space, create an identity of its own, and differ from a similar street layout down the road. This identity causing difference will help one navigate and remember the layout, as a *passive way-finding tool*. This helped to cement the understanding that the facade of the buildings on the street front are what create the space one feels when existing in it. The curb and literal street edge have a small and insignificant impact on understanding the street spatially. This information will eventually be used to develop the site and project more educatedly.

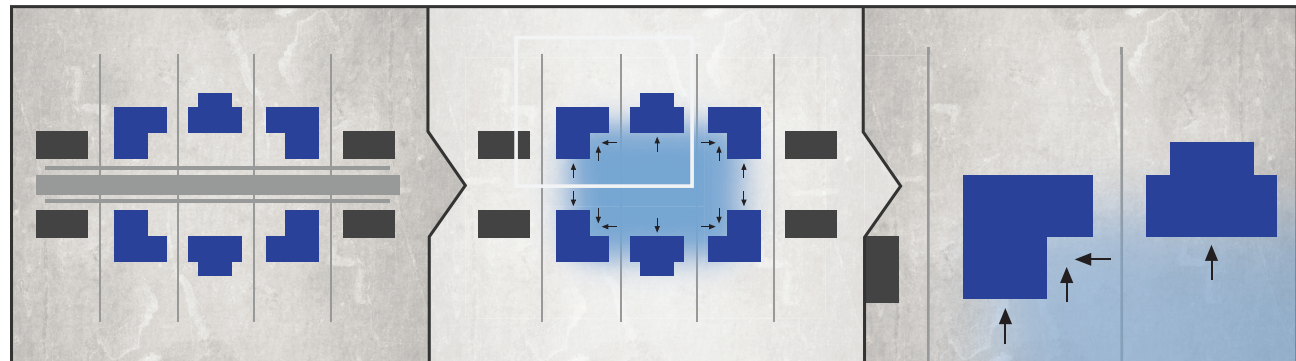


# .Street Condition Examples



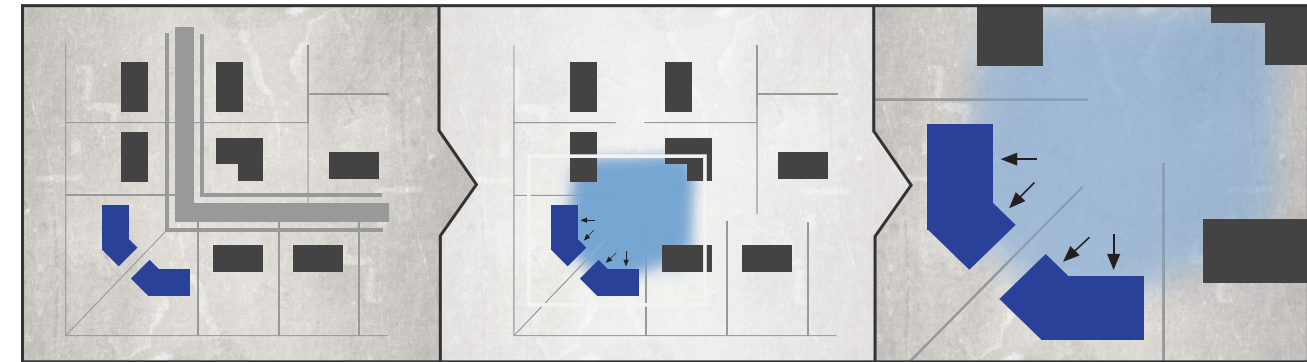
## ■ Intersection Four-Way

Amount of Privacy. Low  
 Typical Home Size. 2,500 sf. - 3,000 sf.  
 Size of Yard. Average  
 Typical Lot Size. 8,000 sf.  
 Street Front Facades. 4



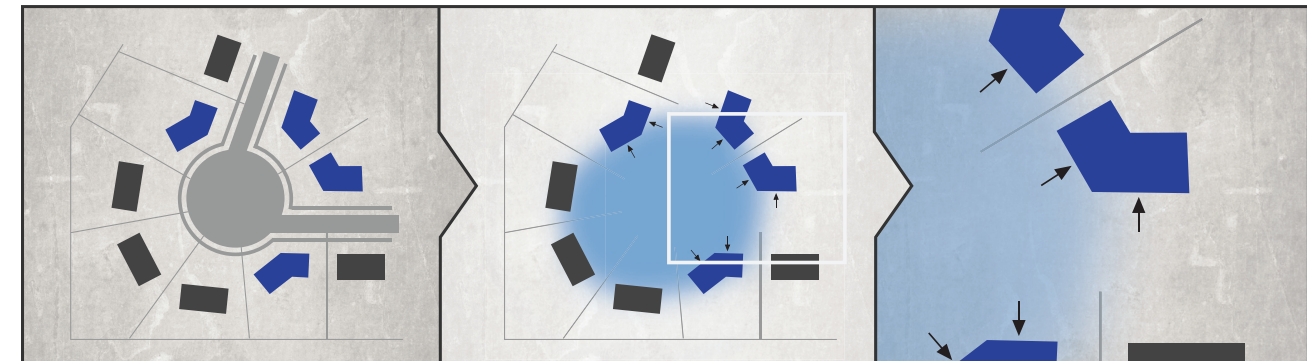
## ■ Traditional Street

Amount of Privacy. High  
 Typical Home Size. 2,500 sf. - 3,000 sf.  
 Size of Yard. Large  
 Typical Lot Size. 9,000 sf.  
 Street Front Facades. 2-3



## ● Redirection Corner

Amount of Privacy. High  
 Typical Home Size. 2,000 sf. - 2,750 sf.  
 Size of Yard. Large  
 Typical Lot Size. 9,000 sf.  
 Street Front Facades. 2



## ● Redirection Cul De Sac

Amount of Privacy. Low  
 Typical Home Size. 2,000 sf. - 2,750 sf.  
 Size of Yard. Average  
 Typical Lot Size. 7,500 sf.  
 Street Front Facades. 2

# Chapter 3

Pre-Design

## Chapter Content

- .Choosing a Site
- .Collaborative Site Planning
- .Neighboring Site Attributes

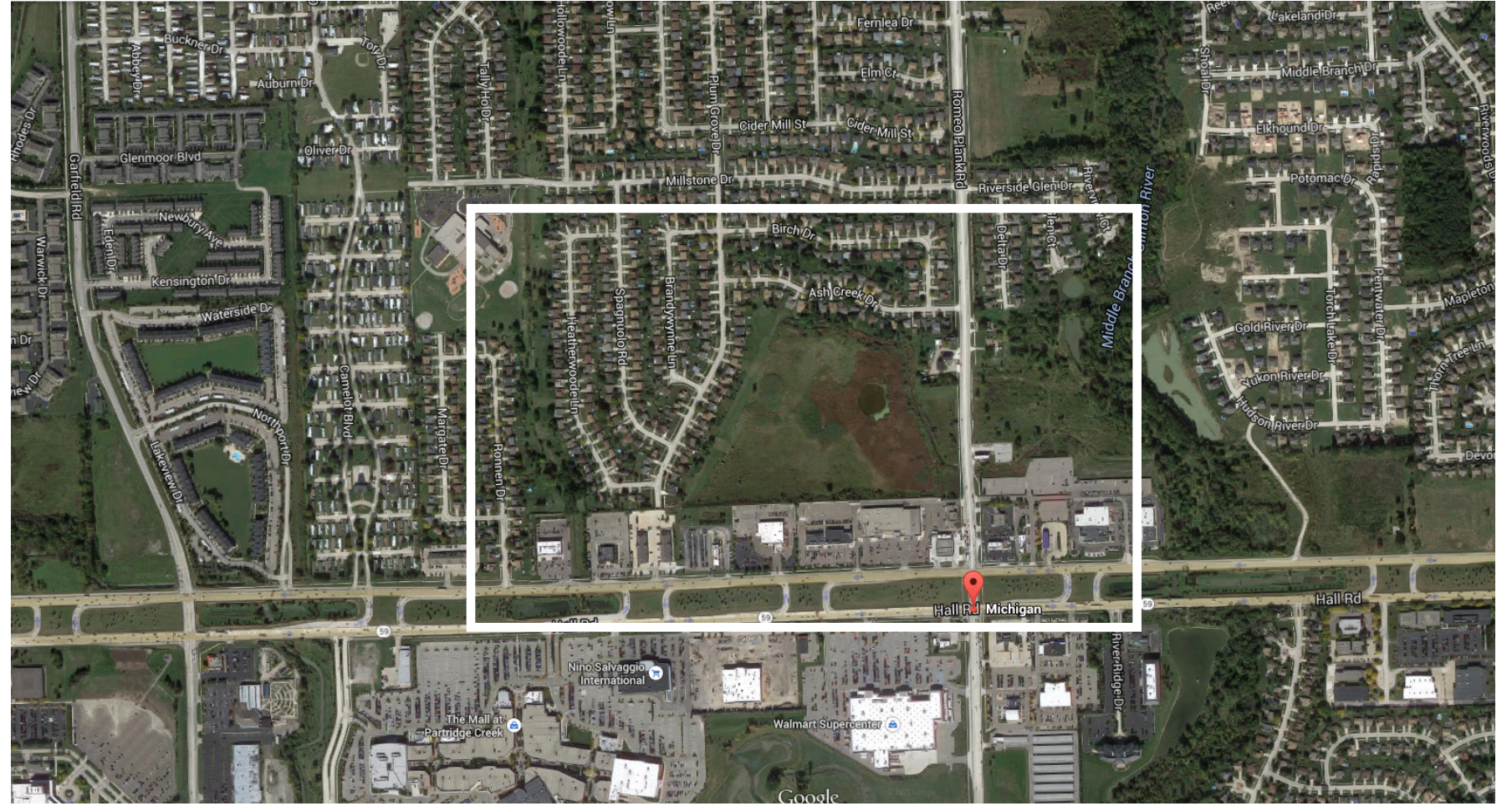
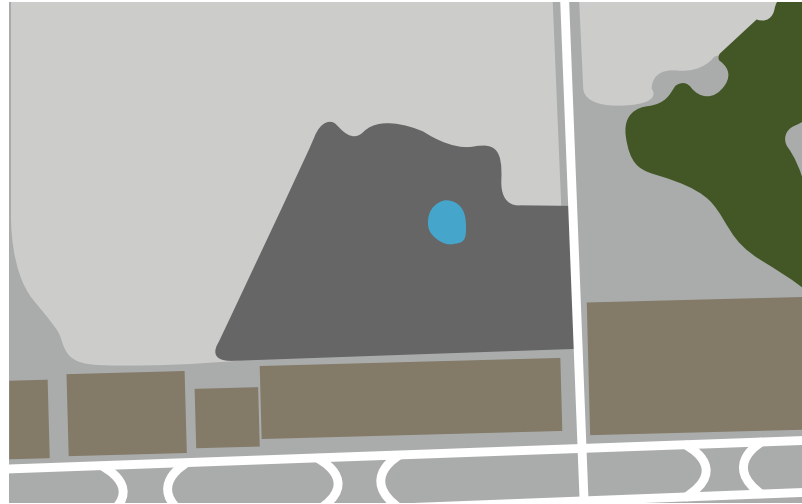
## .Choosing a Site

“ create a hybrid  
approach to living in  
the suburbs ”

In experimenting with neighborhood design, a smaller more quaint site seemed more applicable for the concepts developed. This allowed for a more in-depth look at the urban layout, and focus on the individual aspects of the subdivision. In creating a small neighborhood, roughly 60 houses, the scale was manageable while still allowing for enough experimentation and development. The final choice for a site is located in Macomb, Michigan. This site is surrounded by mass-developed subdivisions that were erected in less than 10 years, and strip malls to accommodate the ever growing population. This offers an anti-thesis to the arguments and designs explored through this thesis, and allows for the bridging of the two environments. The general concept of the thesis inspired neighborhood is to create a hybrid approach to living in the suburbs, and escape the monotony that is present.



# .Macomb, MI 48044



## .Collaborative Site Planning

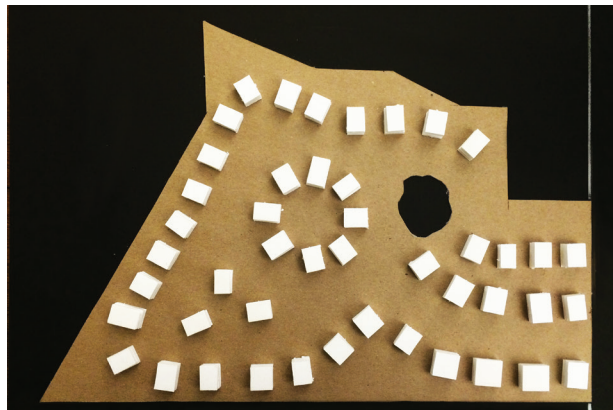
“ organic flowing  
street layout or rigid  
street grid ”

One of the first projects after the benchmark, to start off second semester, the class helped in creating a few different sets of site plans. By using foam-core “houses” and a chipboard “site” several of the other masters students were vaguely asked to create an urban layout of houses within the set edges of the site. This offered a wide range of suggestions, and also led to the realization that with the less direction that was given, typically, the more generic the urban layout. There were two groupings of layouts after the experiment concluded, an organic flowing street layout or rigid street grid. This also offered a glimpse into how others felt the pond should be handled compared to park space, or housing. The deductions through this helped move the process of site planning forward with a more rounded and educated approach.

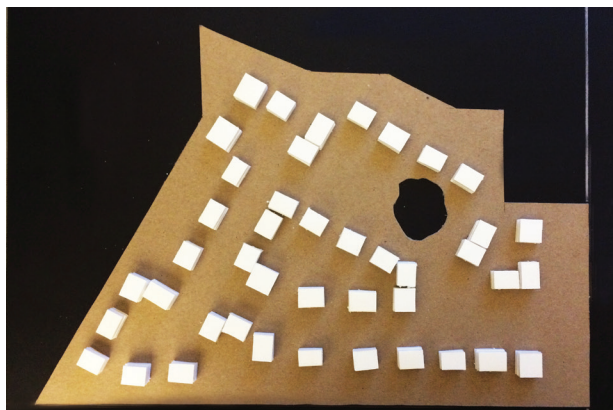
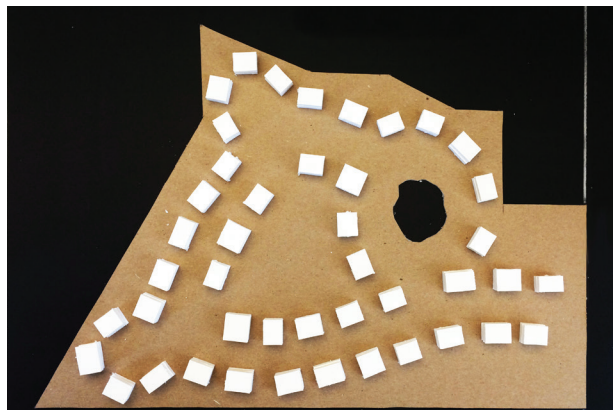
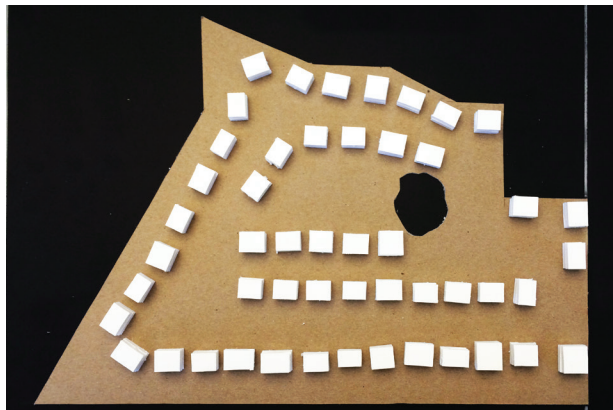


## .Peer Exercise

Organic



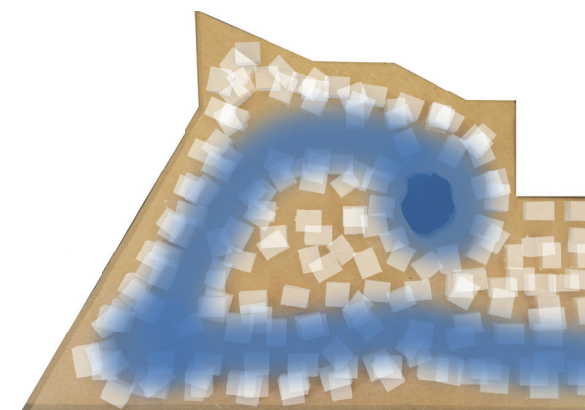
Linear



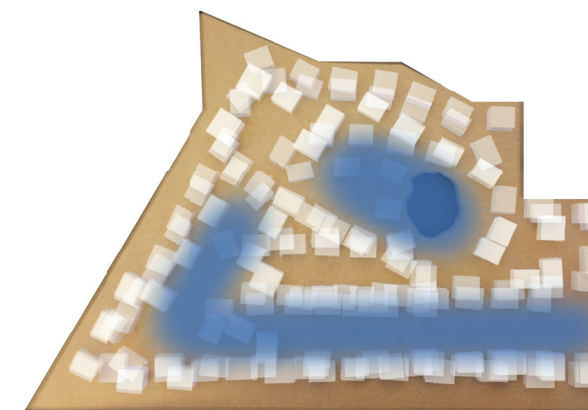
## .Drawing Conclusions

One entrance was common in the design of the urban layout from the class. This consideration of entrance sequence became crucial when designing in further detail. Also, the existing pond on the site offered a place for recreation and gathering in many of the schemes. These small steps added insight and assistance into the planning of the final design.

Organic



Linear



“ analysis and  
consideration to all types ”

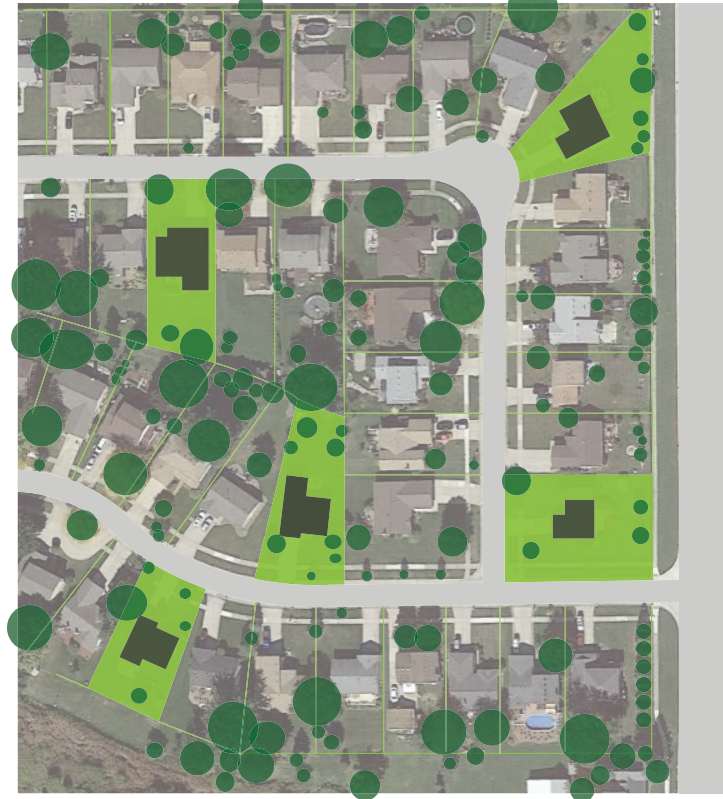
## .Neighboring Site Attributes

The surrounding neighborhoods offer many different street conditions. An average lot size was deducted through research on the sizes of adjacent neighborhood lots. Giving analysis and consideration to all types of yards was important in getting well rounded data. Inside and outside corner lots, straight street lots, and court size lots were considered when calculating the average. Privacy within the individual yard was important to note as well, seeing as this is how the owners utilize the space that is considered to be their own. This understanding will help educate design decisions in creation of the actual houses inside of the proposed neighborhood.

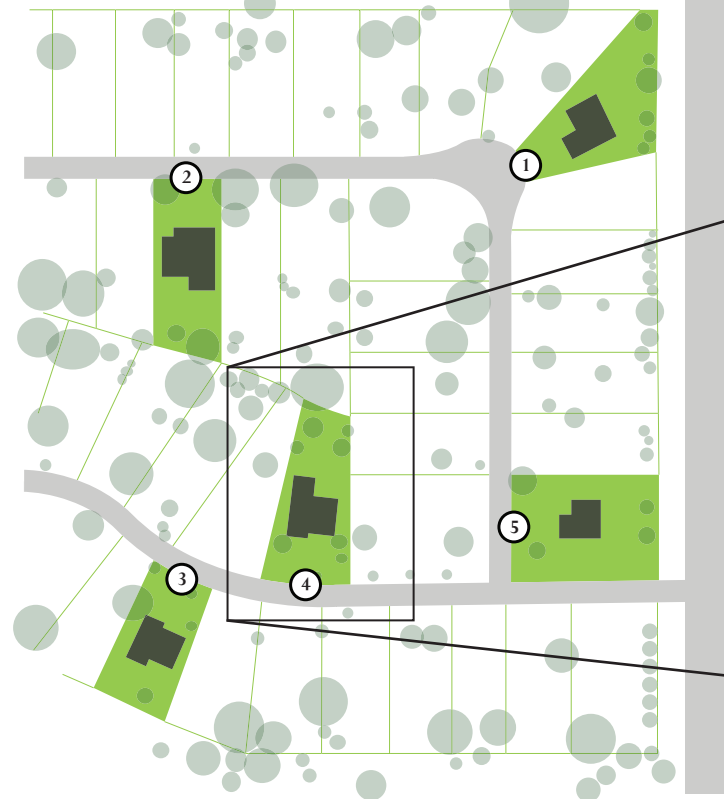


# .Typical Lot Sizes

Adjacent Neighborhood Lot Sizes

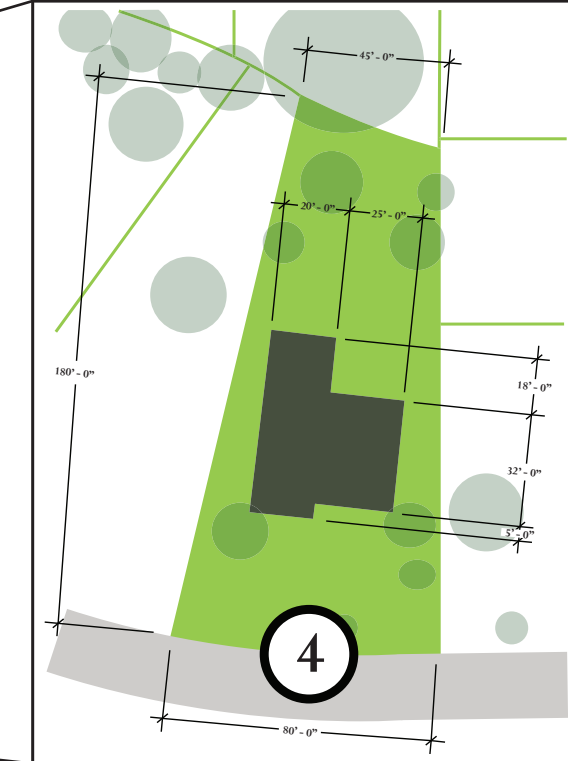


Typical Lot Sizes - Per Site Condition

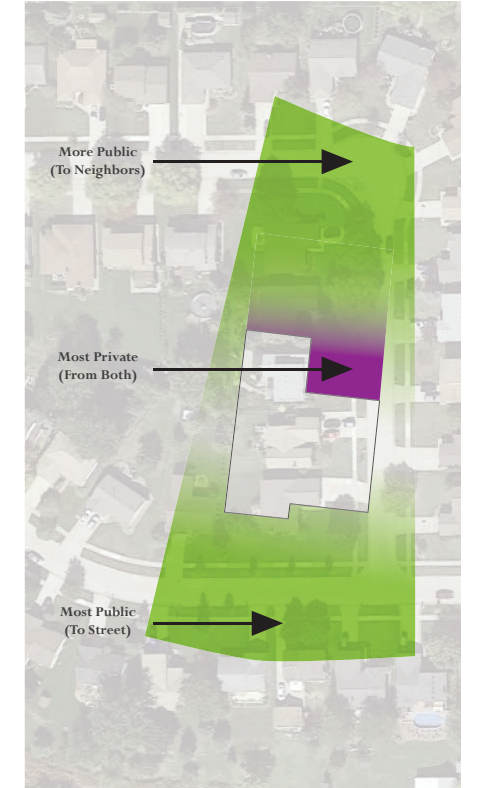


# .Private vs. Public Spaces of the Yard

Typical Lot & Home Dimensions



Public Vs. Private Space



An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood, showing a grid of streets and numerous houses with brown roofs. A central green space is visible. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color.

# Chapter 4

Design Development

## Chapter Content

- .Development of Urban Layout
- .Urban Layout of the Neighborhood
- .Individual Building Development

## .Development of Urban Layout

The urban layout became one of the most important and focused on aspects of the thesis exploration. The impact of space creation of the buildings, and aura of the communal spaces, are what differentiate this subdivision from its neighbors. The community is bridging the gap between the thoughtless subdivisions surrounding this specific site and the new urbanism movement. It is a way to look at the community as a whole, and not as many individual lots and houses. The communal green space and clubhouse became a large consideration for the nuanced ideals of the neighborhood.

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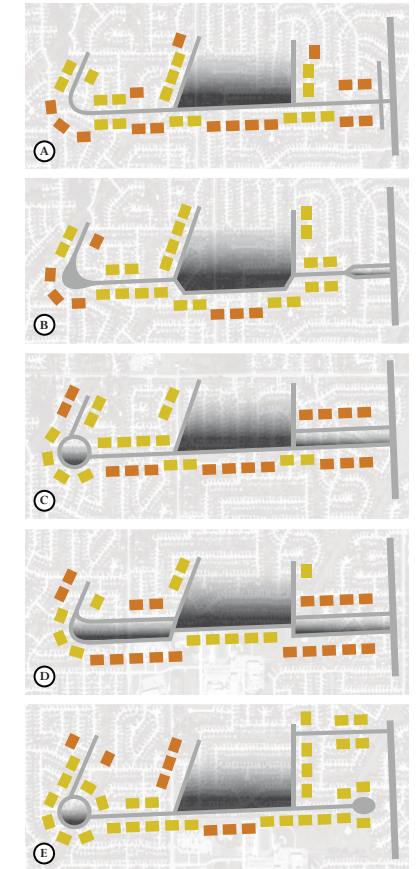
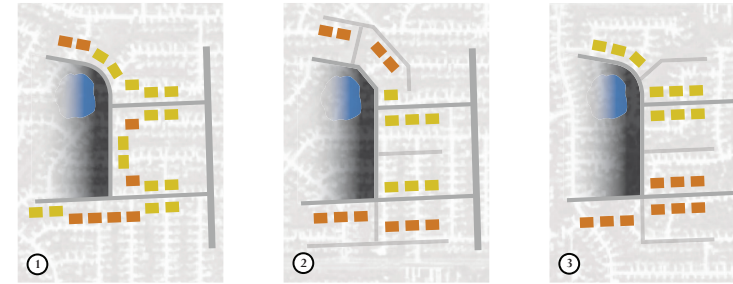
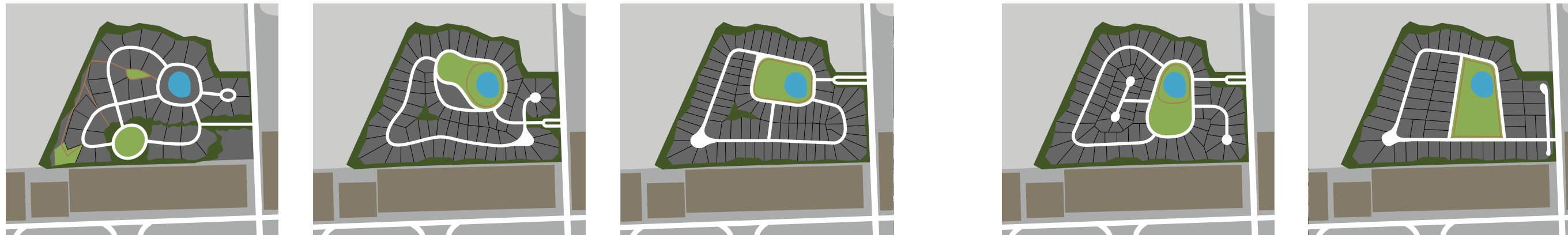
look at the community  
as a whole

”

# .Exploration Through Trials

Exploring different design options allowed for many orientations of the streets and spaces created within. There are layouts with the park and pond element connected, while others keep them separate. The right most overall design will eventually be chosen to be developed into the final product.

The entrance offers a way in and out of the neighborhood, and that experience needs to be considered and designed. In exploring dual or single entrances, the houses off that entrance strip were important to locate as well.





## .Constructing Ideals

In creating the literal plan of the site, there was a deeper pull for understanding what type of people will live here, what will bring them together even through their busy schedules and lives, how can proximity within the subdivision effect the movement and connection to their neighbors? These questions led to the definition of many ideals that are described through the urban layout of the design.

Having a space that every one of the residents can use and invite their family and friends to use as well brings this small community together. The point of interaction on a public and shared space is less formal and more friendly than that on an individual house's lawn or porch. The chance of getting to meet and interact with everyone residing in the subdivision was referenced from the new urbanism movement studied earlier in the year.

The pushing and pulling of individual lots also create a sense of space for pedestrian existence. The park space gives a reason for walking, and the manipulation of space on the street front allows it to be a identifiable space. The changed and interesting street facade created by the architecture allows the residents to enter into these spaces, instead of passively moving through them.

The individual lots sizes are a bit smaller than the average of the surrounding areas, giving meaning to the communal park. The houses are also located relatively close together, and in some areas there are different living arrangements available because of this. There are several duplex and connected townhouses, accompanied by the typical single family home.

The placement of the entrance was also highly considered. Through multiple explorations of sequential space creation, it seemed as though one entrance offered more of a hierarchal set up to the neighborhood. This allowed for a high status feeling when entering and also created a simple but inevitable sequence.

The community clubhouse was seen as a point of interior interaction, while the park offers this same sense of community in open air. The clubhouse could offer something as simple as a pool and gym area, while also allowing a more warm sense of gathering space, such as a great room, in the colder months of Michigan's impossible to predict weather.

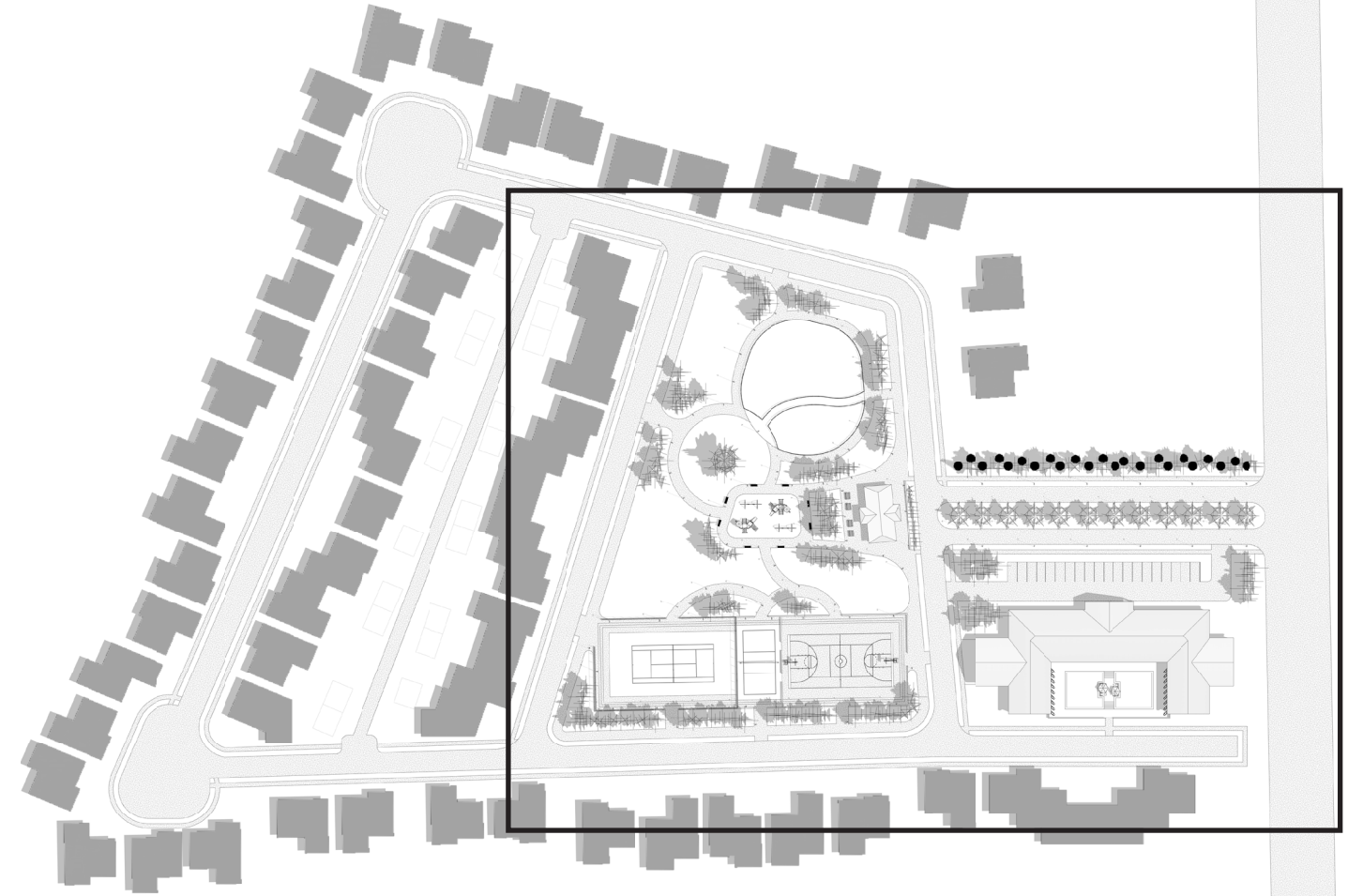
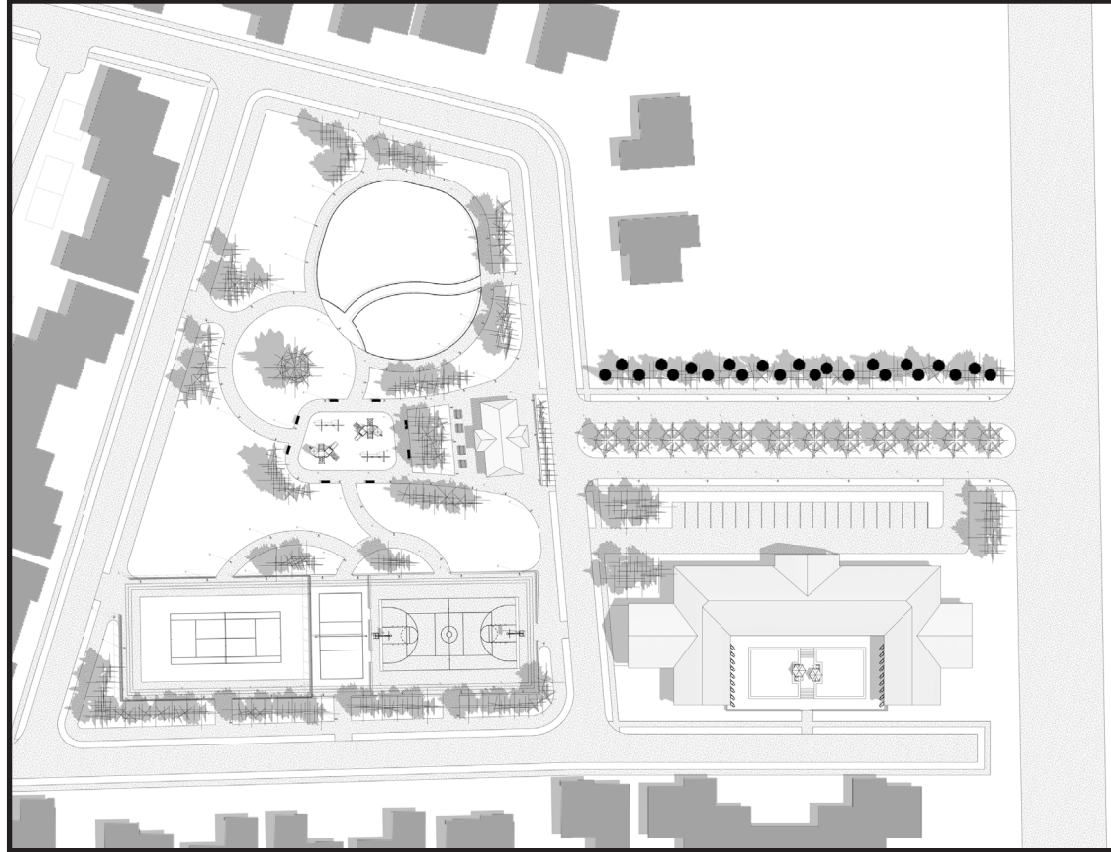
The site as a whole is a moving thing, ebb and flow make this new concept of a subdivision possible. The people truly activate the spaces within the borders of this small community.

“ all speak to one another ”

## .Site Planning of the Neighborhood

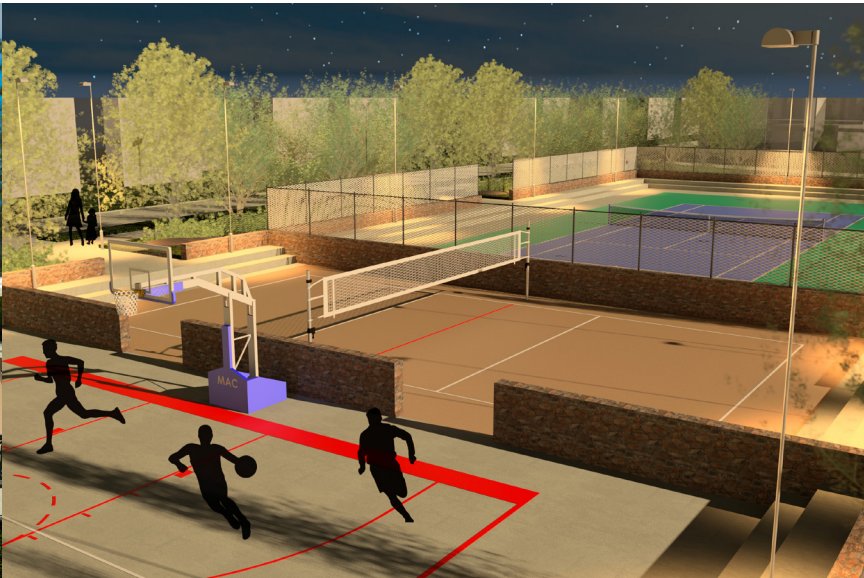
The site plan could only be developed once the streets had been created within the borders of the community. The landscaping and orientation of courts and location of the clubhouse work well together and all speak to one another. There is constant connection of spatial elements throughout the site which creates a wholesome experience for the residents. Ease of access into and through the site creates dynamic movement of people and cars. The neighborhood is still based off of the automotive impact on the suburbs, while rejuvenating that idea with the concept of walk-ability. This alone aids in bringing residents outside into the community from inside the four walls of their own dwelling.

# .Site Plan





# .Landscape and Park Development

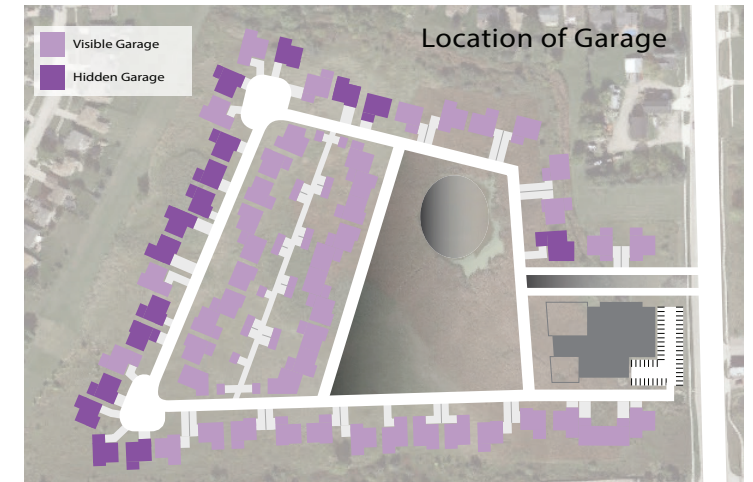
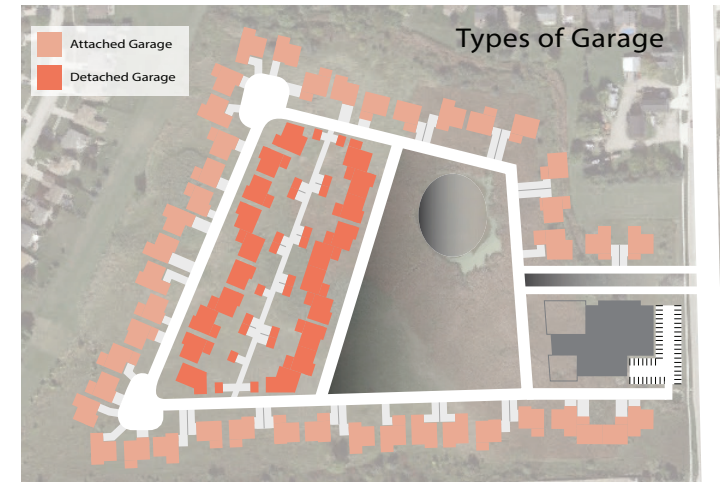
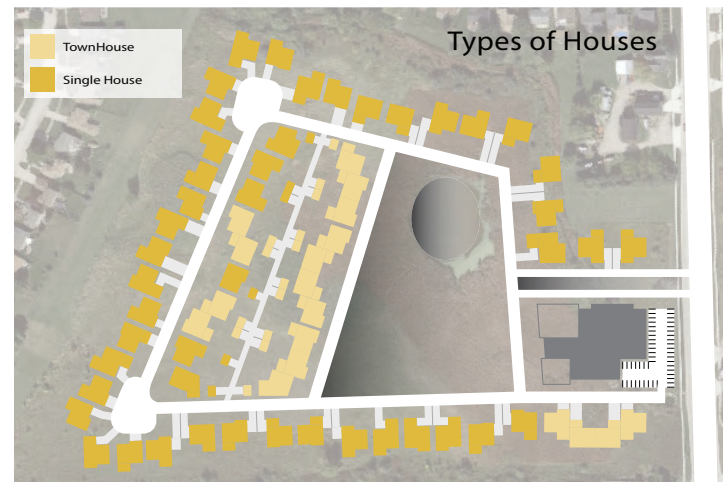








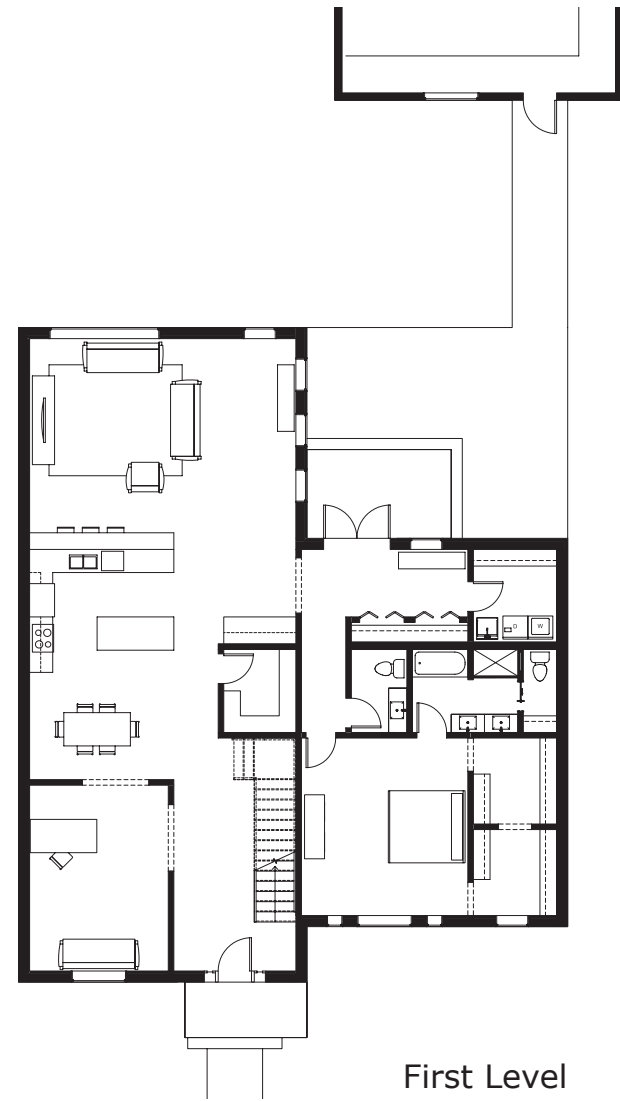
# .Different Lots/Houses



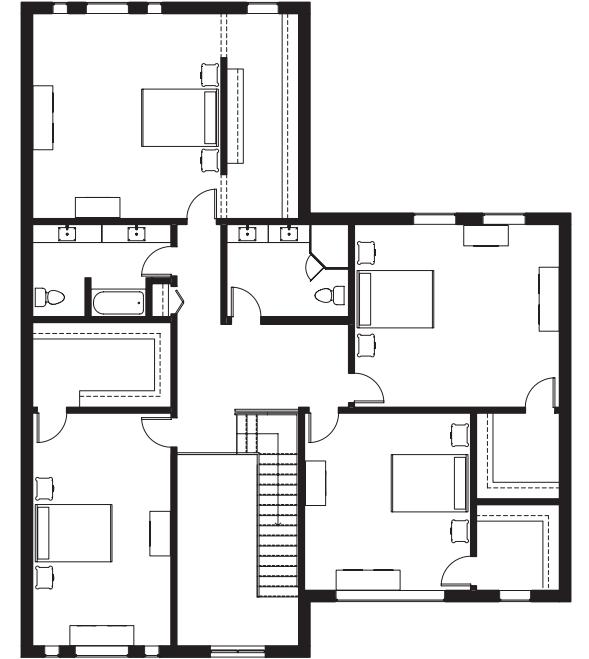
“ large impact on  
interaction and crossing  
of paths ”

## .Individual Building Development

Once the overall urban layout had been designed and finalized, the buildings that make up that layout needed development. Residential design was created in a similar manner as the entire site. Interaction, flow, and sense of identity were all elements used to design the park space. These are also important on a smaller scale, used inside of the house. Room layout has a large impact on interaction and crossing of paths within the family. The open concept layouts designed offer room adjacency that allows for privacy if needed, as well as bustling warmth. Both plans involve a first level master suite, allowing for a seclusion element for the owners. The plans also offer bonus rooms and open family/living rooms as well. This allows the interaction to continue throughout different activities being managed (i.e. preparing a meal, watching TV or doing homework at the kitchen table).



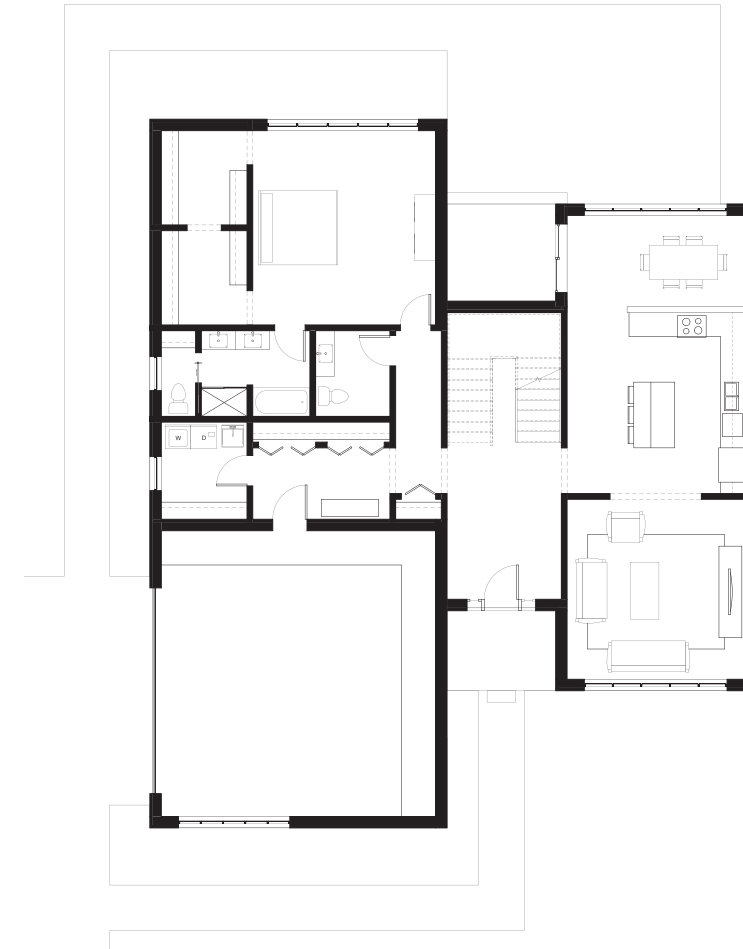
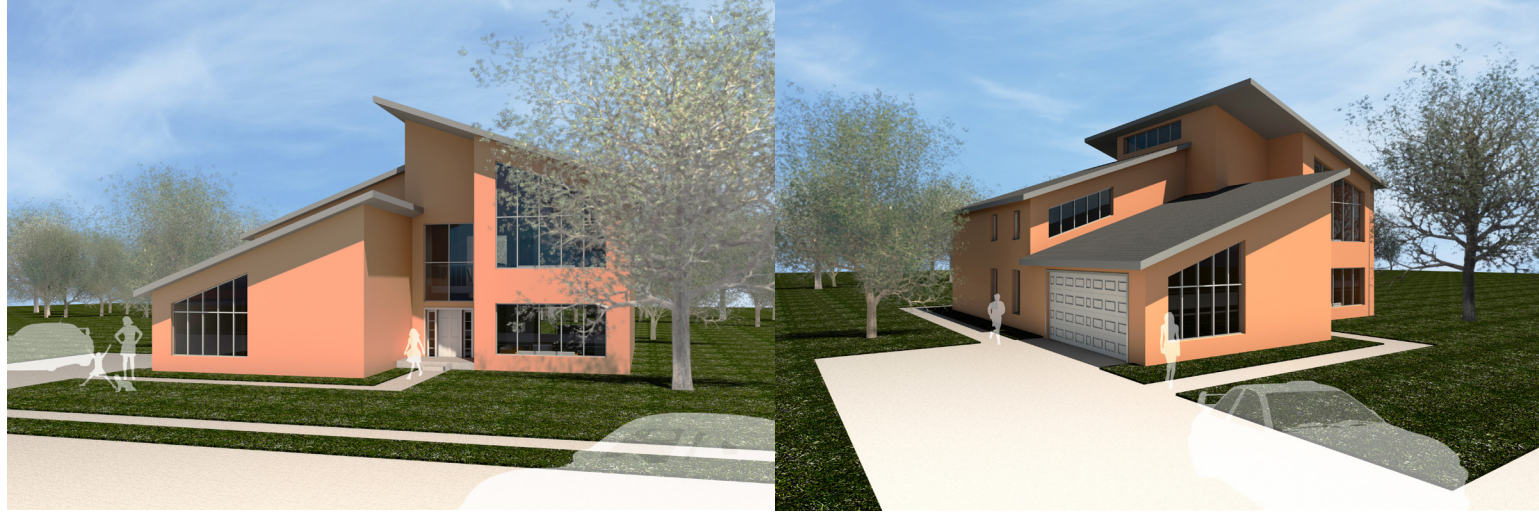
First Level



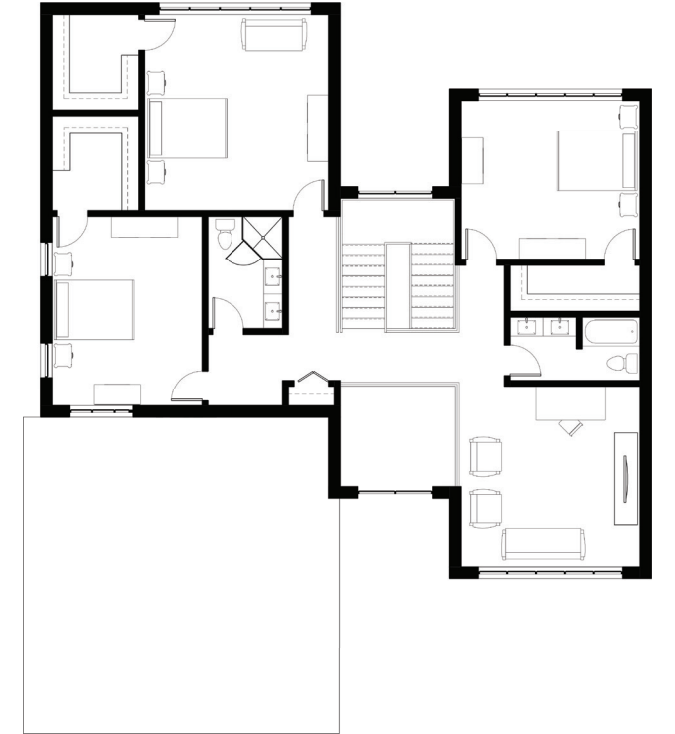
Second Level



# .Residential Designs



First Level



Second Level



# .Neighborhood Clubhouse Designs





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