

**MAKE IT RIGHT! LOWER 9TH WARD RESIDENCE - ELEMENTAL
PRIDE IS THE COMMUNITY'S GREATEST ASSET**

Our proposal is based on 2 points:

1. What doesn't kill you only makes you stronger!

It is very common that when a disaster devastates a city, a neighborhood or a community, agencies come and try to rebuild as fast as possible what was there before. This is noble and praiseworthy, but not entirely right.

We have witnessed over and over, that the survivors of tough situations, achieve a higher consciousness of their potential as human beings; people subdued to limited situations, see life afterwards from a different perspective and come out with a strengthened character. No wonder pride is what defines such communities and what becomes their biggest asset.

Translated into architectural operations, this means that people deserve a house capable of matching this new status, one that can capitalize this potential. In this case, we thought that the first step of the long journey in which this new life is going to flourish is to Make it Right!; but at the end of the road, we should make it better. So, we thought it was necessary to design a house capable of being a departing point with a broader horizon within which a family can develop and express themselves.

2. Who are we to tell people how to live?

If it is self-evident that these communities are proud of their cultural and living traditions and have the leading role in the definition of their own lives. We at Elemental might have some technical knowledge and some design skills, but we are not going to tell people how to live their lives.

Architecturally speaking, this means that we have to create an open system rather than a closed design, a structural framework and technical support that is responsible for difficult, complex duties and operations, but that allows for personal interventions and customization. If we take care of those aspects of construction that are more difficult to be done individually, it is then up to the families to adapt, complete and develop their homes to their own needs, aspirations and preferences.

We were required to DESIGN AND 1.800 SQF HOUSE. Our proposal is to DESIGN A HOUSE THAT CAN EXPAND UP TO 2,700 SQF, within a safe structure, efficient and sustainable infrastructures (bathrooms, kitchens and mechanical equipments) and under a tested roof. From this point, the "do it yourself culture" so embedded in the US culture should take place. The design and form of the house should be prepared for change over time, just as the evolving family needs and aspirations do. What the new rooms are for, how do they look, how many of them are going to be needed, are things we don't choose; people do!

To achieve this, we must define a layout which considers expansions as part of the project: CHANGES ARE WELCOME. We just need to design the most difficult part of a future 2,700 sqf house, so that the distance that separates the initial phase (done by us) and the final phase (achieved by the families over time) can be covered in an EASY, ECONOMICAL, QUICK and SAFE way.

INCREASING THE FAMILIES' ASSETS

We started by occupying the maximum available footprint for the 30 foot wide lot. We then build the maximum possible volume for that footprint, which in 2 stories allows us to achieve, potentially, 2,700 sqf. Out of that, we enclose half of the volume as interior space in order to accommodate the required program. The second half is initially a big porch that already contains the structure and the roof to host customized expansions. This is the space for the expression of the families' own cultural and living traditions.

The big porch, or the expansion space, is the means for the family to increase its capital: a larger house is capable of increasing its value, it is also capable of accommodating other family members, a young couple or an elder and is ultimately capable of producing extra income from the rent of an almost full second house.

THE LAYOUT

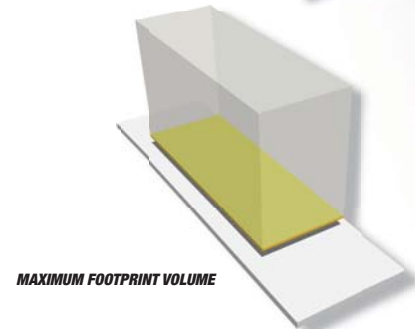
For the 3-bedroom unit + 2nd unit, we propose alternative schemes. The first scheme accommodates bedroom + bathroom + 2nd unit + common areas on the first floor. Another bathroom + an open plan able to accommodate 2 bedrooms are located in the second floor. The first floor bedroom can be used by someone with special accessibility needs.

The second scheme accommodates the 2nd unit + common areas on the first floor. All the 3 bedrooms are accommodated in the second floor. This layout allow all bedrooms, a more private part of the house, to have more independence from the common areas of the house, plus a bigger living and dining room, suitable for a big family with no special accessibility requirements.

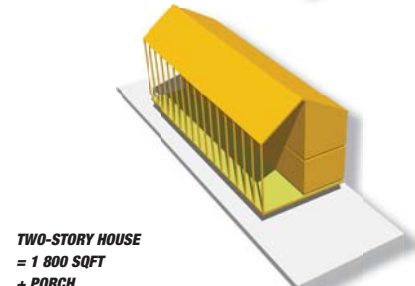
We anticipate that in order to pay for the structure, infrastructure and roof and a final bigger house, some concessions in the initial phase will be required. Our experience with more than 1,000 houses already built and intervened by families—and 2,000 more on the way—is that if a participatory process is conducted to define priorities, we are going to be able to deliver that which is more difficult for a family to achieve individually.



**30' WIDE LOT = 3150 SQF
+ MAXIMUM FOOTPRINT**



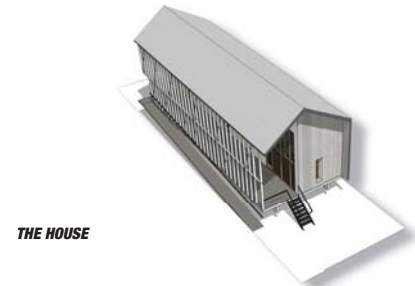
MAXIMUM FOOTPRINT VOLUME



**TWO-STORY HOUSE
= 1 800 SQFT
+ PORCH**

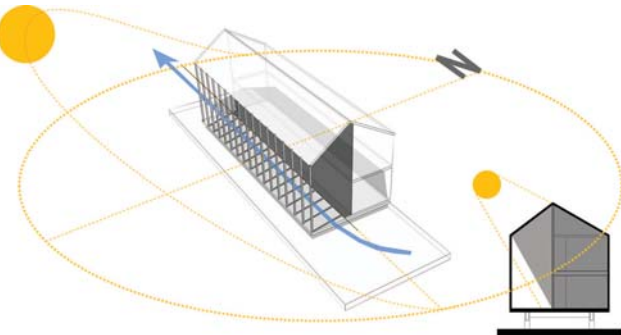


**EXPANSION SCHEME
= 2700 SQF HOUSE**



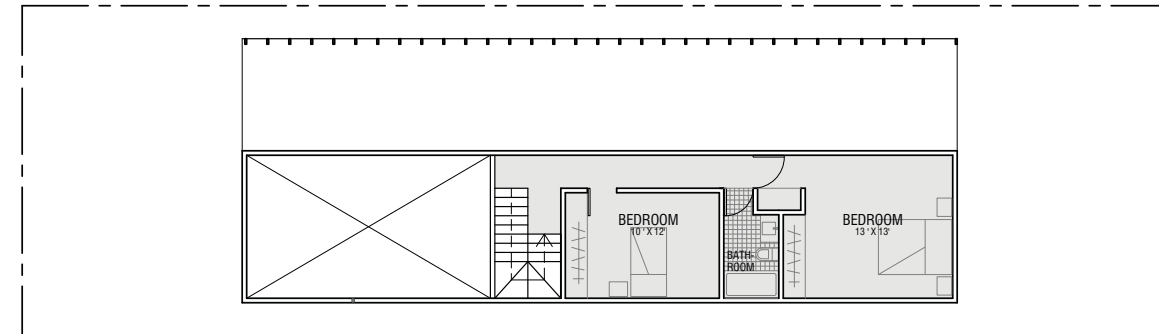
THE HOUSE

**SUSTAINABILITY ::
SOUTH FACADE PROTECTED
+ NATURAL CROSS VENTILATION**

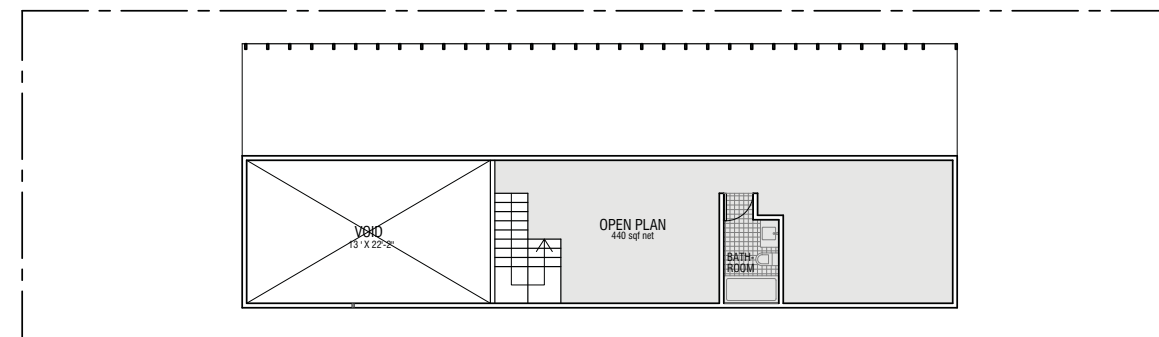


INITIAL HOUSE EXTERIOR VIEW :: STREET VIEW

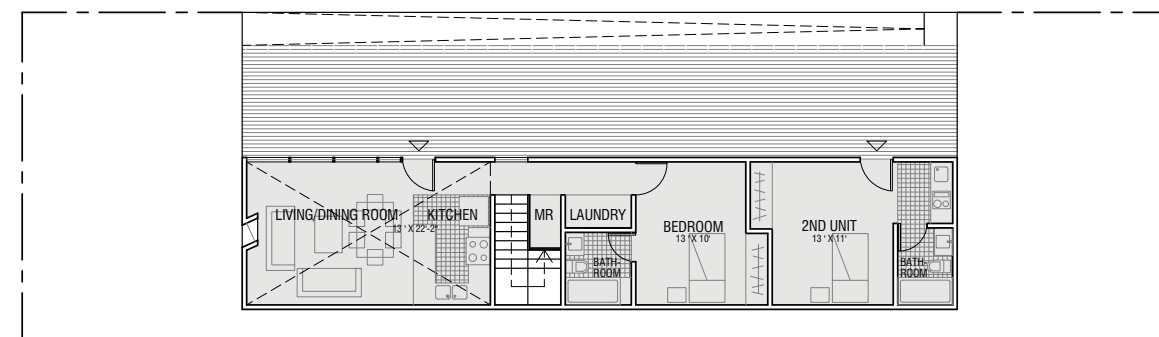
FIRST SCHEME



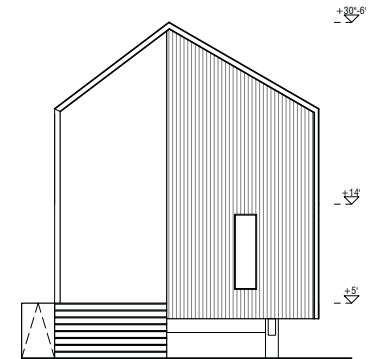
SECOND FLOOR :: OCCUPIED



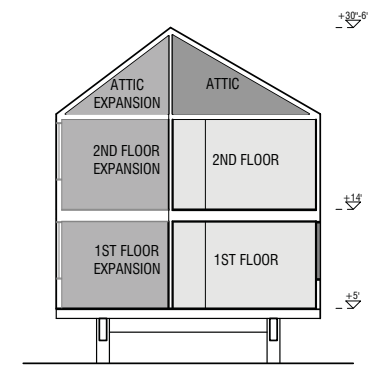
SECOND FLOOR :: OPEN PLAN + 1 BATHROOM



FIRST FLOOR



FRONT FACADE (INITIAL HOUSE)



CROSS SECTION + CUSTOMIZED EXPANSIONS

ELEMENTAL®

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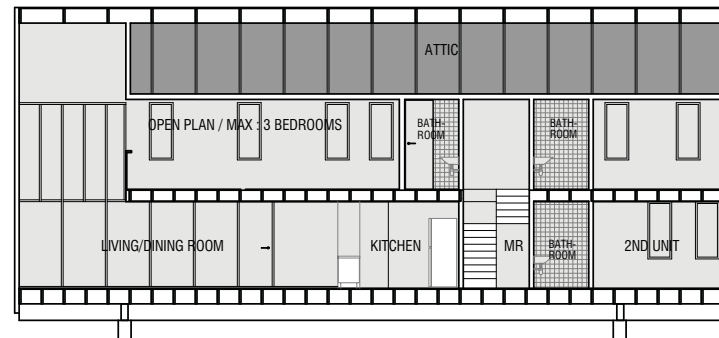
STREET VIEW + CUSTOMIZED EXPANSIONS



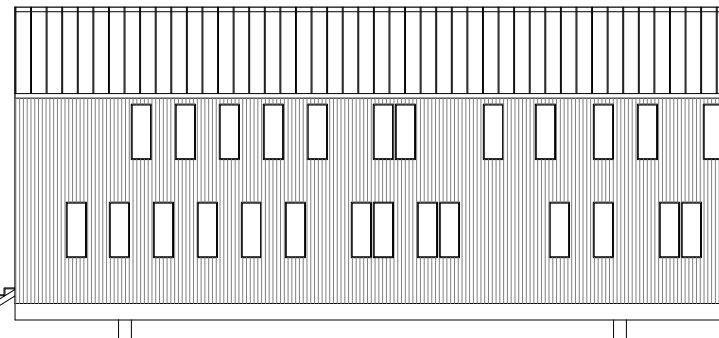
LONG SECTION SHELLD OUT



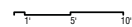
INTERIOR VIEW



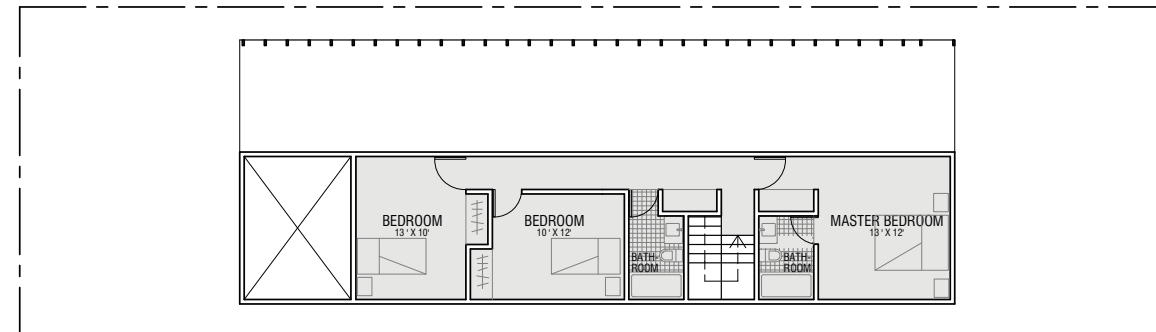
LONG SECTION



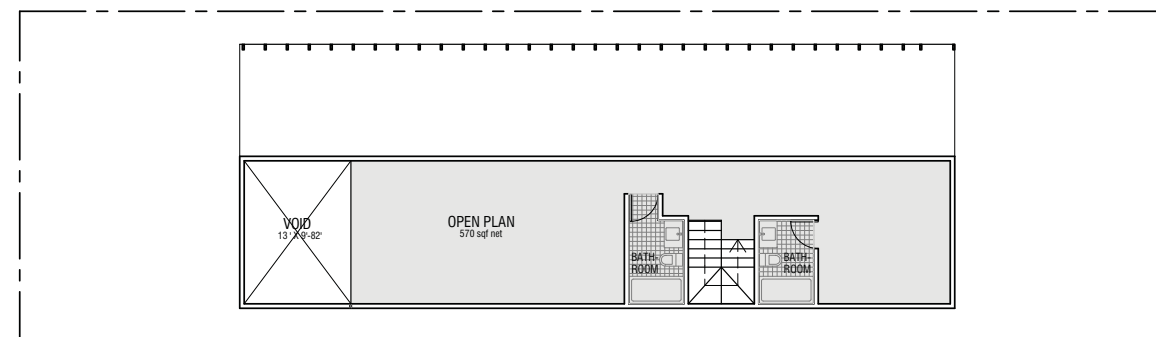
LATERAL FACADE



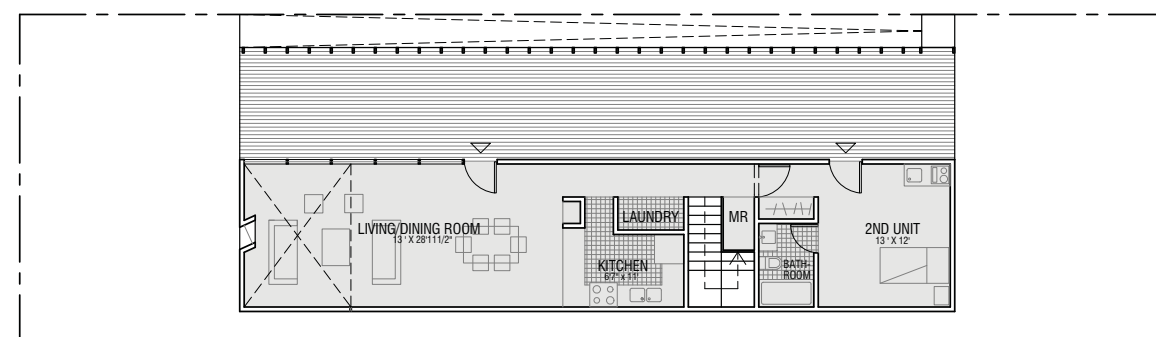
SECOND SCHEME



SECOND FLOOR :: OCCUPIED

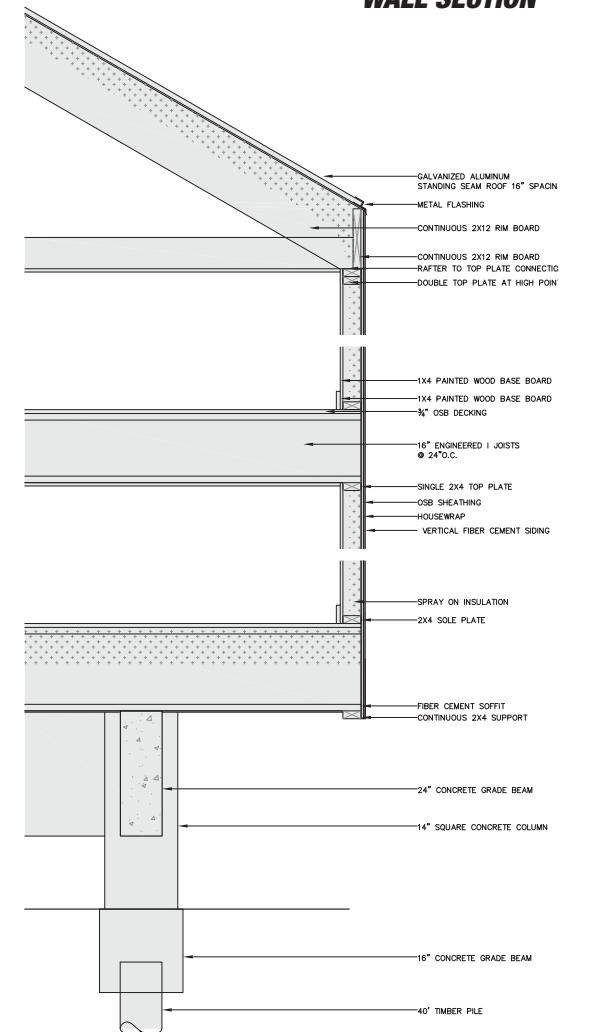


SECOND FLOOR / OPEN PLAN + BATHROOMS



FIRST FLOOR / COMMON AREAS + SECOND UNIT

WALL SECTION



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