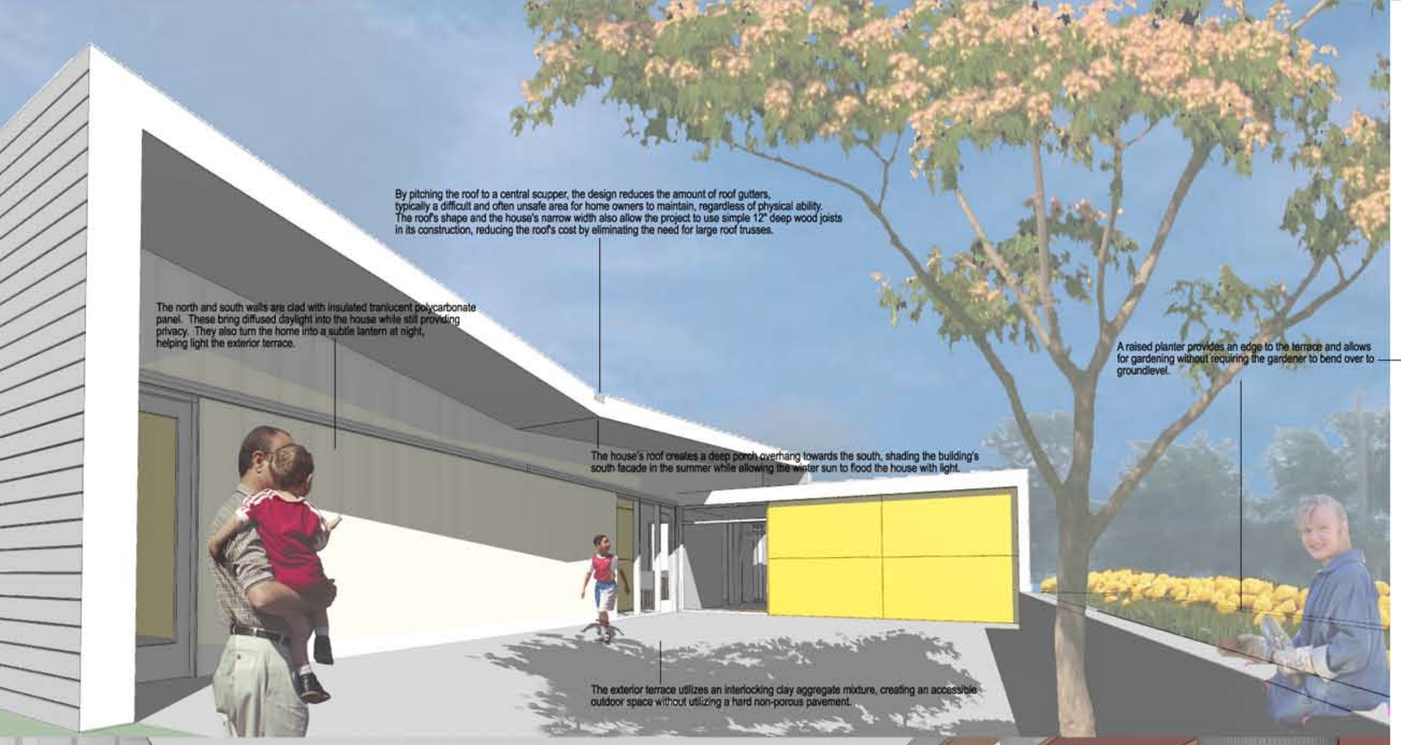
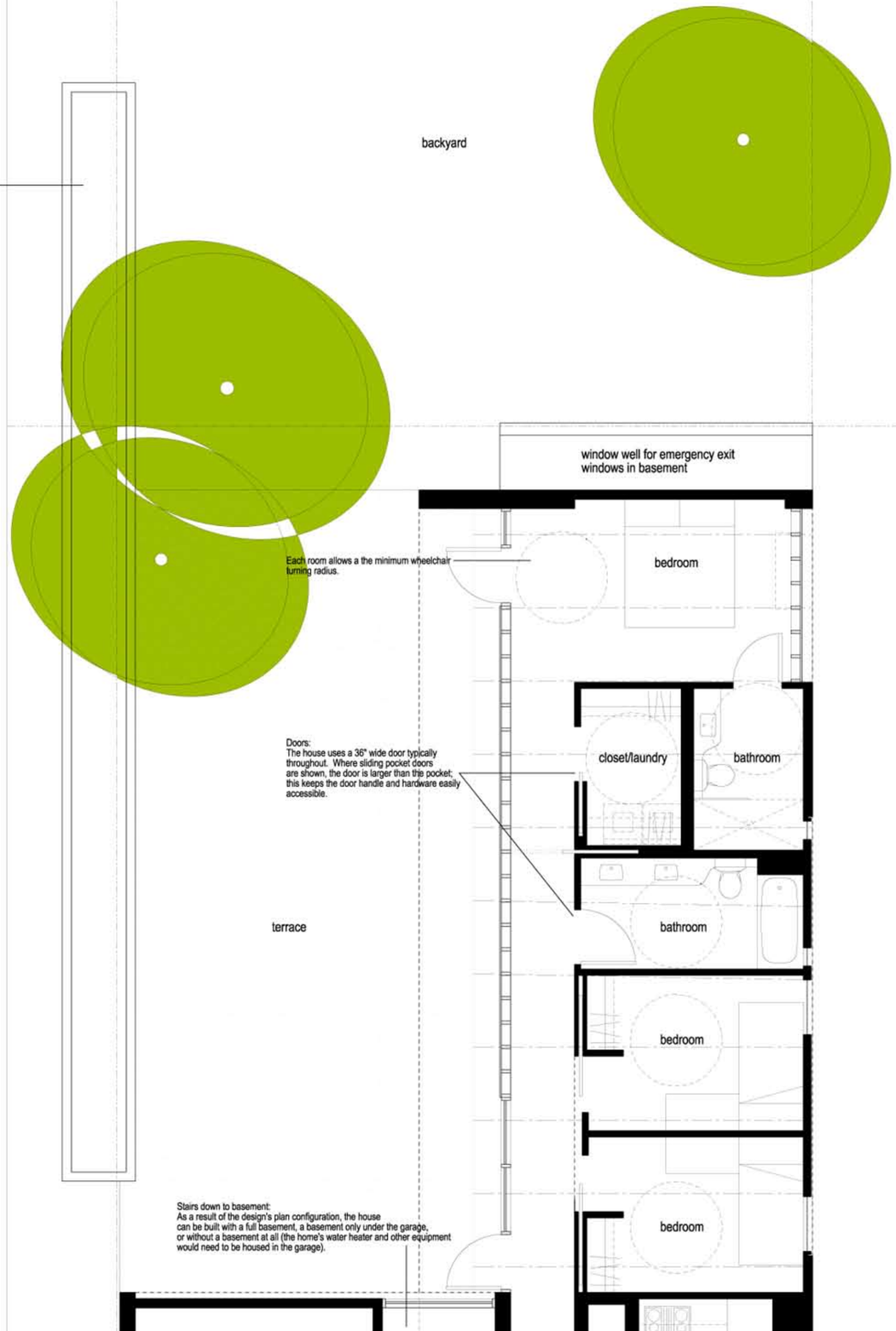
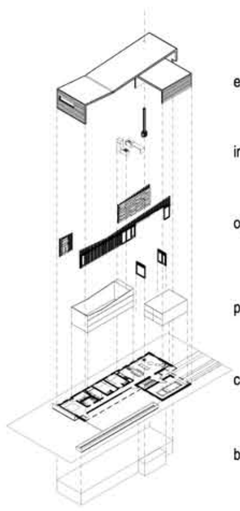




PLAN (SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0")

A "Universal Design" is an open, flexible framework, a system or object or space that creates, for a diversity of individuals, the broadest spectrum of possibilities of use and adaptation. As such, a home utilizing the principles of universal design must present its inhabitants with a broad range of options by which to tackle the challenges and tasks of daily life. Whether the task is reading a book, cooking a meal, storing a box, or playing outdoors, the universally designed home must allow for the greatest diversity of individuals to not only complete a task, but possibly even enjoy it.



enclosed edges/infill facades

individual design elements

open edges

private volumes

continuous/accessible groundplane

basement

More than an accessible home
A universally designed home should be more than accessible. It should not only allow for a diversity of uses and abilities; it should even allow for a diversity of and changes to one's individual style. In the case of this home, the design treats the home's two enclosing end walls as panelized insets. This allows a homeowner to choose practically any material for these infill panels during both the initial construction and possible later renovations.

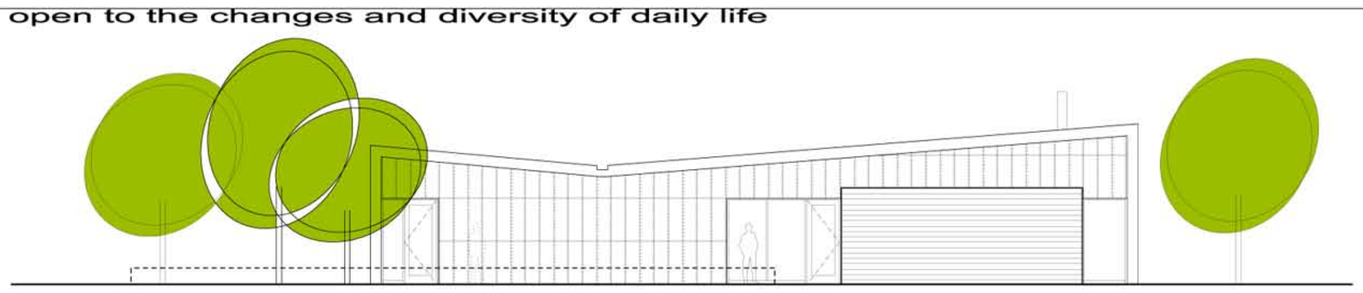
Allowing for a diversity of users: Accessible Design Elements
In order for this home to be truly useful and enjoyable to its inhabitants regardless of their physical abilities, each of its interior elements must be made accessible. In addition to providing a minimum wheelchair turning radius in every space, the project includes a number of specific design elements which further its accessibility. Examples include dual counter heights and height-sensitive appliances (i.e. wall-mounted oven and side-by-side refrigerator) in the kitchen and a fireplace which is suspended above the floor, allowing for wheelchair access and keeping a person from stooping over to build a fire.

Connection between inside and outside: Open Edges
In order to open the house to as much daylight and exterior views as possible, this design treats both the north and south elevations as "open." Along these parallel walls, simple wood studs are wrapped in insulated, translucent polycarbonate panels. These panels, originally developed for cladding factory spaces, offer a more cost-efficient alternative to a glass wall while still maximizing the amount of diffused light in the home, allowing for dappled views of the surrounding landscape and obscuring views of the home's interior from outside. Along the south wall, a few glass expanses have been added to further connect the living spaces to the outside terrace. Along the north wall, a system of flexible shelving and modular boxes provides ample storage options while still allowing diffuse light into the entire house.

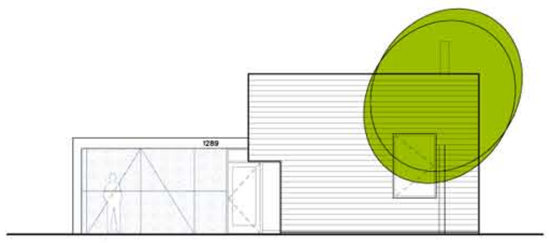
Connection between inside and outside: Continuous Groundplane
It is not enough to simply make a home accessible at its front door. The ability to effortlessly transition between an inside space and an adjacent exterior space is fundamental to an inhabitant's full use of his or her home. This design creates a continuous groundplane connecting interior and exterior spaces. Given the project's flat site, the garage, entry, and living spaces are all seamlessly connected on a single floorplate with flush saddles at each doorsill. A rear terrace space is accessible from the home's primary corridor and living space. It utilizes a mixture of crushed clay interlocking aggregate which both provides a smooth surface for wheelchair accessibility and a porous surface to allow rainwater to directly infiltrate the ground. This space potentially doubles the living area of the home during good weather and provides a safe play area for children within sight of the home's kitchen.

open-house

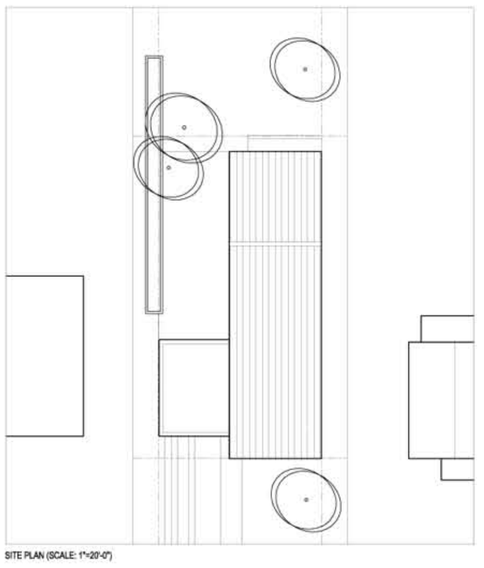
open to the changes and diversity of daily life



SOUTH ELEVATION (SCALE: 1/8"=1'0")

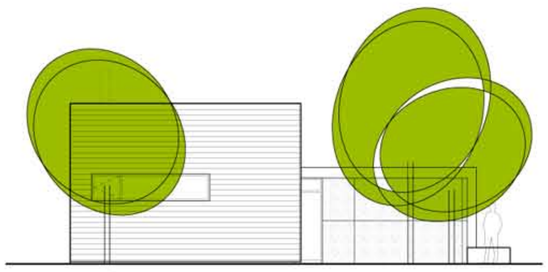


EAST ELEVATION (SCALE: 1/8"=1'0")



SITE PLAN (SCALE: 1"=20'-0")

NORTH ELEVATION (SCALE: 1/8"=1'0")



WEST ELEVATION (SCALE: 1/8"=1'0")