

**wasted time**

**RED**

**wasted energy**

**UCE**

**wasted space**

**WAST**

**wasted materials**

**ED**



# Hypothesis | Project Description

My project is a design strategy for low-cost housing that produces **no construction waste**.

The project is a prototype for an ultra-affordable and **customizable single-family home** that identifies and tests and **integrated system of materials and construction methods** that **eliminates waste** typically produced during construction.

My project will be developed because the largest single source portion of waste produced in the United States is from building-related construction and demolition (30%, 135.5 million tons)\* and because the average construction project yields 3.9 pounds of waste per square foot of building area.+ With a palette of compatible materials that can be assembled together with **little-to-no waste during the construction period** and a set of design guidelines, these residents of **low-cost housing can each have their own style** while being able to take pride in their home's environmental achievements. This includes the size, style and arrangement of their home, as well as their budget, in order to "assemble" all of their desired programmatic elements to their home that fits their lifestyle. The materials and design guidelines will also take into consideration the **length of life**, so that the maintenance throughout ownership can be to a minimum.

\* [<http://www.buildings.com/Default.aspx?TabId=3321&ArticleID=5758>]

+ [<http://www.buildings.com/Default.aspx?TabId=3321&ArticleID=5758>]

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# Hypothesis | Project Goals

- 1) The construction methods and material choices will result in homes that **require minimal maintenance** and upkeep in order to **retain their appearance, performance and value over 100 years or more.**
- 2) **Customizable components will allow for individuality** in the design and configuration of each home, in spite of its low cost, without adding more time or waste to on-site construction.
- 3) The project will serve to prove that a systematic approach to materials and construction results in **efficient and low-cost**, without adding more time or waste to, on-site construction.



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# Hypothesis | Project Goals

- 4) This idea will **decrease the amount of time spent on site** during construction to customize materials by at least 50%.
- 5) This idea will be successful by **raising awareness** to the amount of waste produced during new construction.
- 6) This idea is important because it will **maintain individuality and expression** within the design process for low-cost housing.



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- 1) A home can be a personal expression of an individual or **family's personality and lifestyle**.
- 2) The design of a home can **reflect individuality** regardless of its construction schedule.
- 3) A systematic approach to the designation of materials and construction methods can result in an **efficient, affordable, and easily constructed home** while also allowing for the expression of individuality.



[Construction site waste removal from a single family home]

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# Hypothesis | Stakeholders

## 1) Direct

- a. Families and individuals who occupy the homes



## 2) Indirect

- a. Consumers who are environmentally conscious
- b. United States Green Building Council



- c. Neighbors surrounding the construction site
  - i. Less noise because there is limited sizing of materials
- d. Manufacturers of eco-friendly products
- e. Managers of landfills
  - i. Requires less work for them to dispose of it
- f. Construction companies
  - i. More planning involved
  - ii. Big changes with the overall construction process
  - iii. Will it be more efficient?

## 3) General

- a. Environmental organizations
- b. Architects
- c. Public

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# Site Parameters | Selection Criteria

The **location** within a city or state is unimportant as each house is catered to its site and the owner's needs specifically.

The site should be located in either a residential or a mixed-use neighborhood.

It should be a location that gets a decent amount of pedestrian traffic so that this modular housing unit can **inform the public** of its limited waste during construction.

The **zoning** should be scheduled for residential or small-scale mixed-use projects.

The **natural landscape** of the site itself does not need to be specific as the modularity of the project should be able to cater to whatever the site has to offer.

The surrounding neighborhood should not have **building heights** higher than 6 stories, unless the modular housing being built on the site is of similar height to the surrounding buildings.

The site should have the possibility, with its orientation and surrounding context, to have **direct sunlight** into the house.

The site chosen does not need to cater to a **specific income** of the families occupying these homes.

The site does not have to specify the **family size** occupying these homes.

The site does not have to specify the **population density** of the neighborhood.

The **temperature variation** of the site does not need to be a factor of consideration when choosing a site, as each individual home will be designed for the site and **owner's needs specifically**.

The **rainfall, snowfall and prevailing winds** do not need to be a factor when selecting a site, as each individual home will be **designed for the site** and owner's needs specifically.

Several cities throughout the United States  
Can compare the items that do not need to be site specific, such as the **different climatic conditions** of wind, rainfall amounts, snowfall amounts, etc.

This list of criteria can help me identify how the construction and design of waste-less modular housing can change throughout the nation and I can follow-up with how this design problem can be solved.

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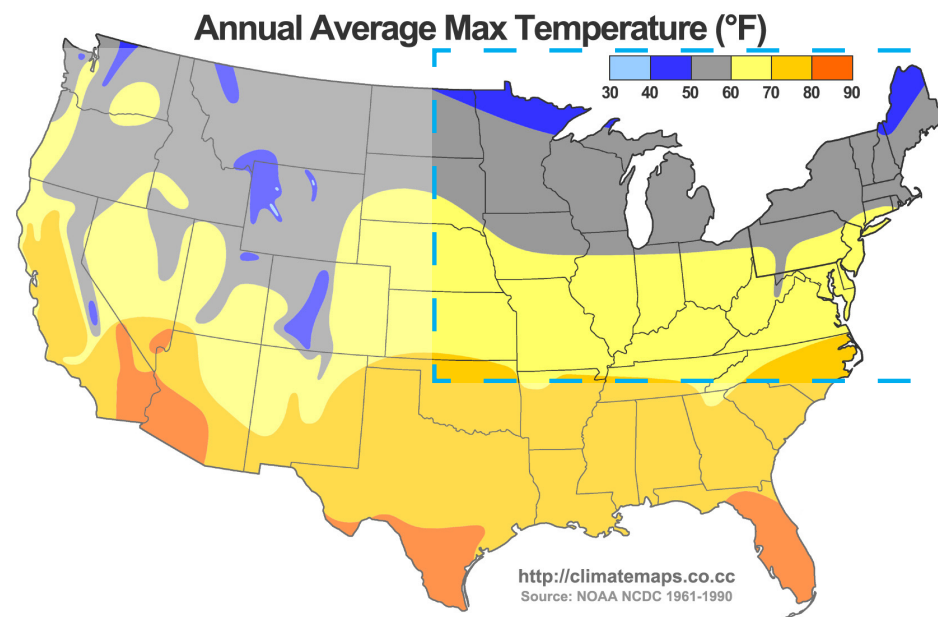
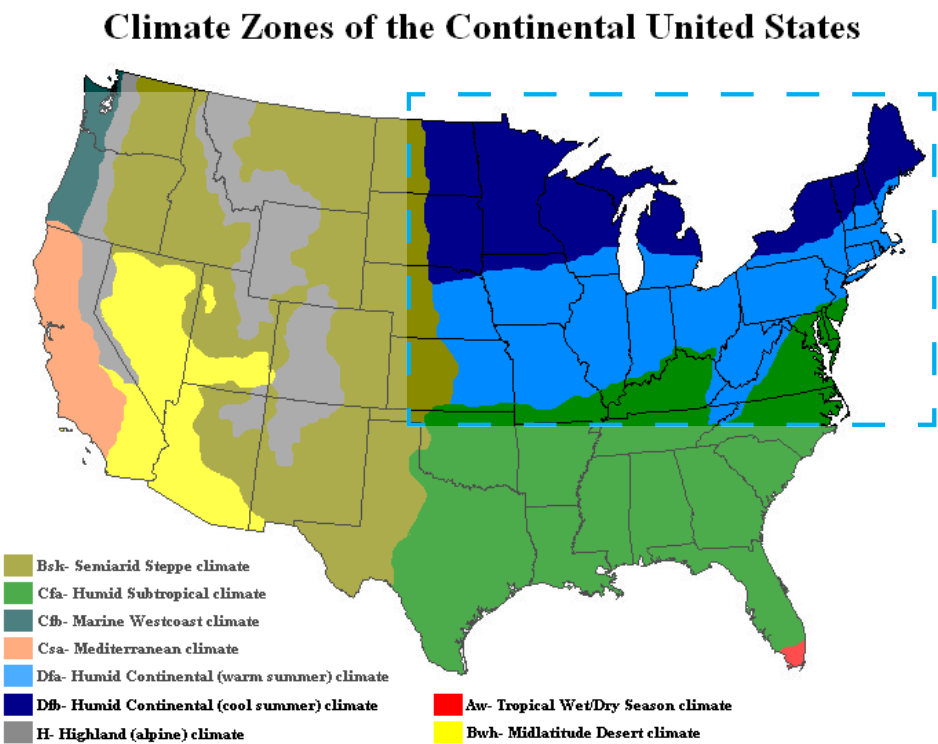
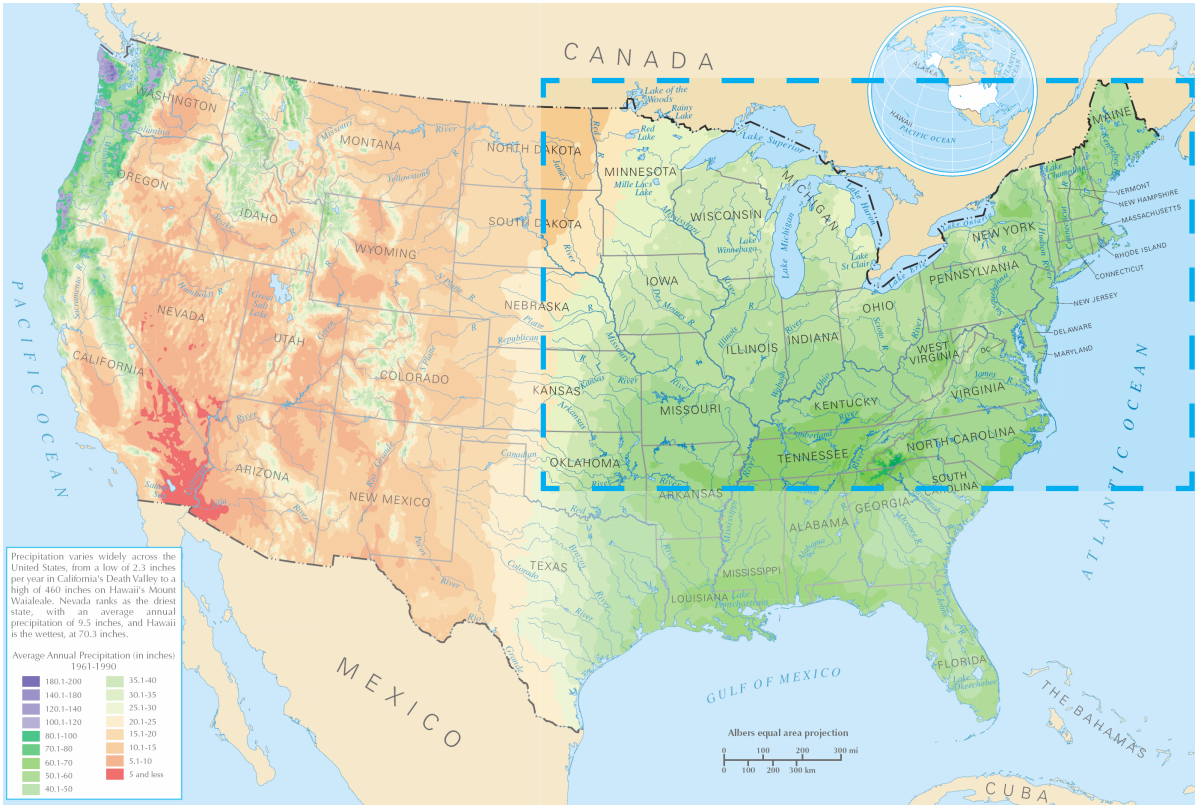


# Site Parameters | Humid Continental Climate

Represented in both the light blue and dark blue, this climate zone encapsulates **nearly a third of the United States**.

This area has the potential for severe winters months, including snow, negative temperatures and wind chills to account for.

Cities such as **Chicago, Minneapolis, Cincinnati, Boston, and Washington DC** are included in this climate zone.



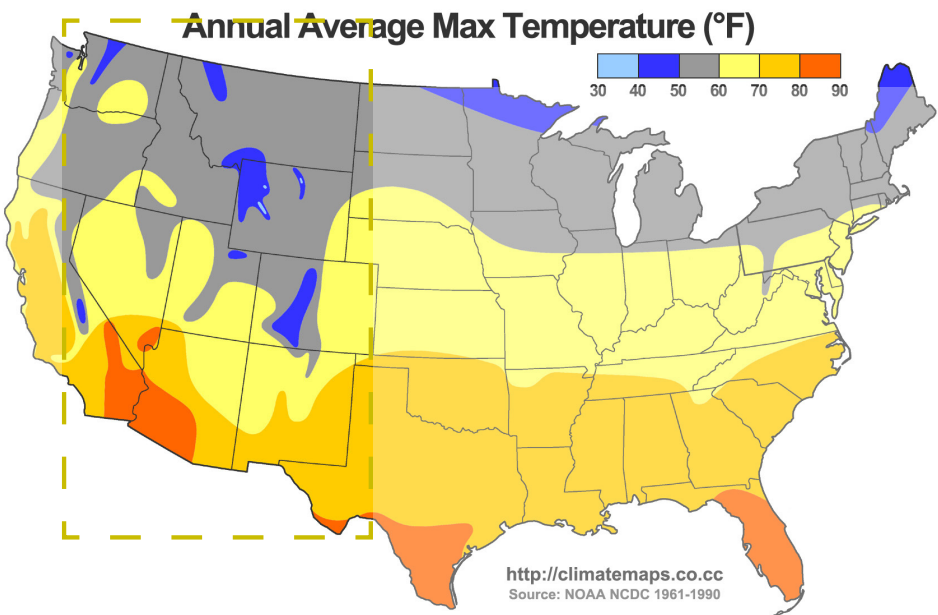
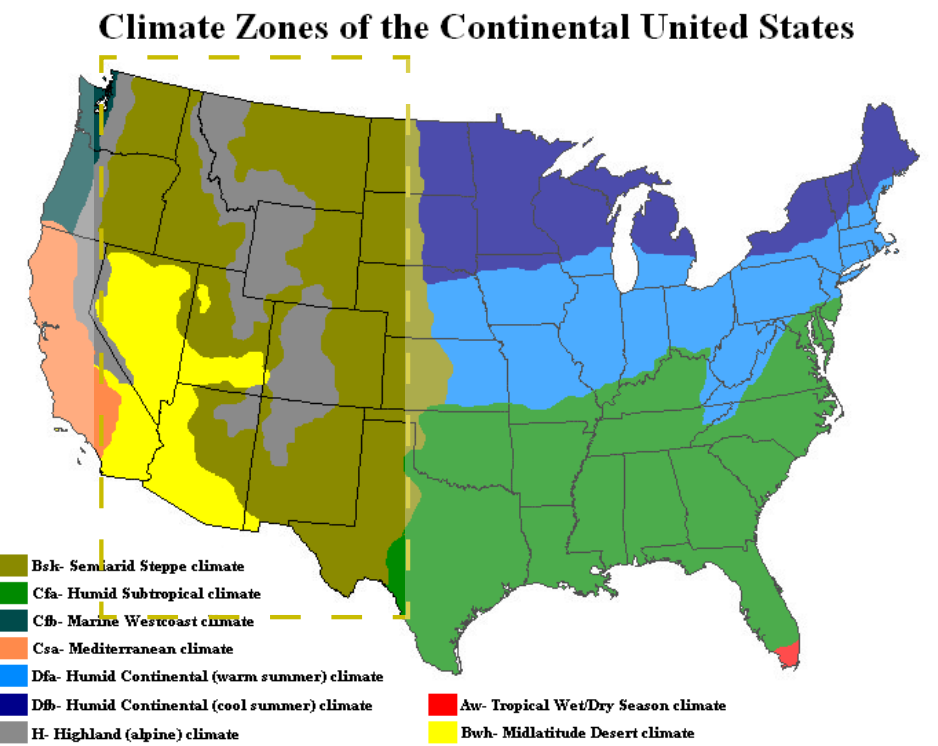
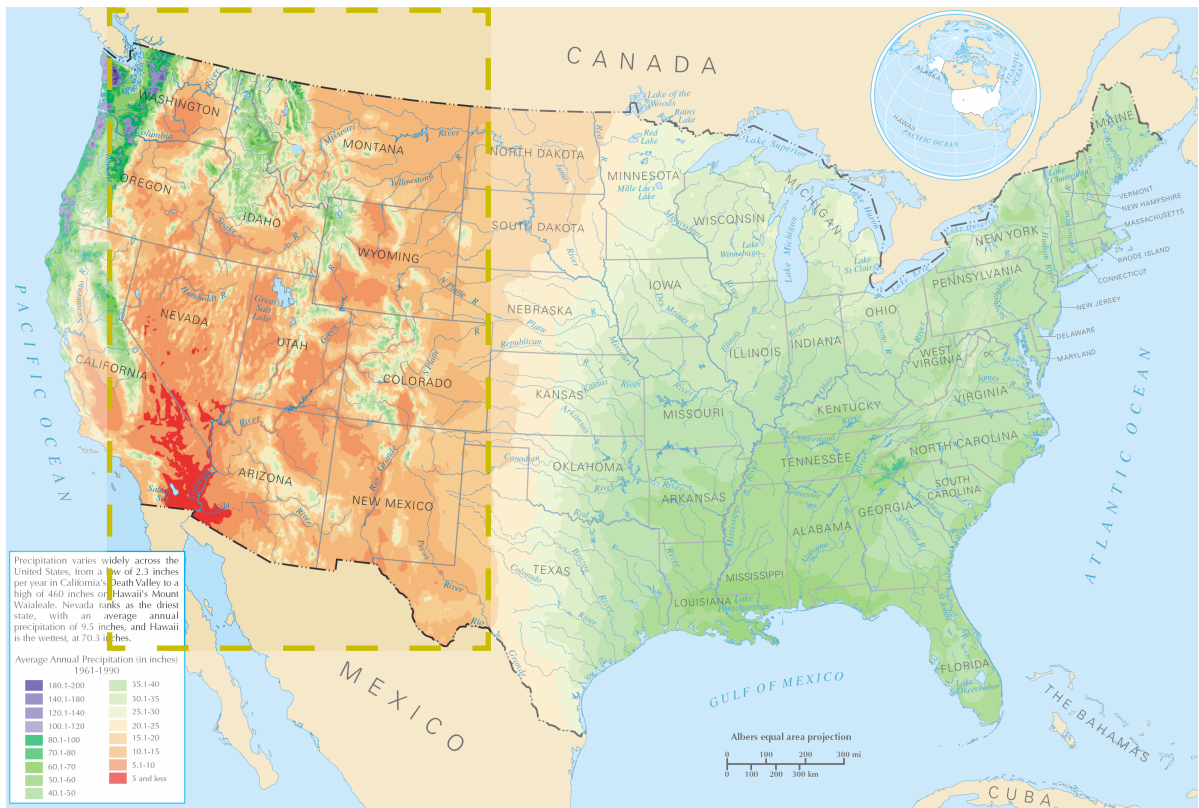


# Site Parameters | Mid-Lattitude Desert Climate

Represented in yellow, this climate zone encapsulates nearly a **third of the United States**.

This area has the potential for extremely dry conditions, with high temperatures during the day and low temperatures during the night.

Cities such as **Las Vegas, Denver, and Pheonix** are included in this climate zone.





# Other Research | Space Programming

BluHomes have spaces that are strategically designed to overlap space uses which allows for a **reduction of required square footage**, which results in a **reduction of construction costs**.

This particular design strategy gives the amount of **gross to net** square footage to be **90% / 10%**. This is a very effecient use of space.

BluHomes [Balance]

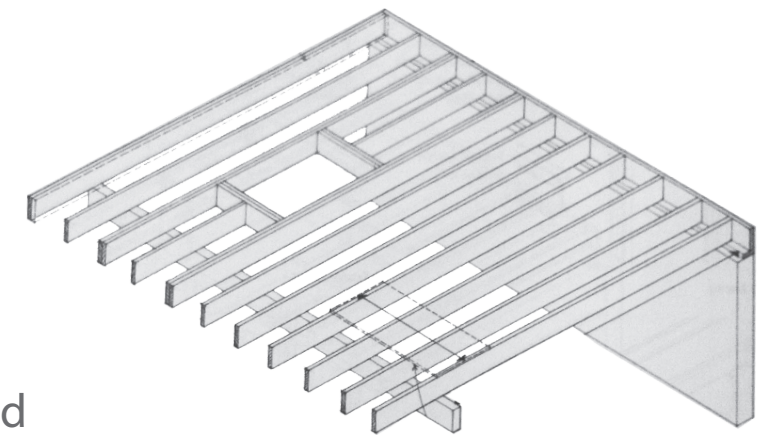
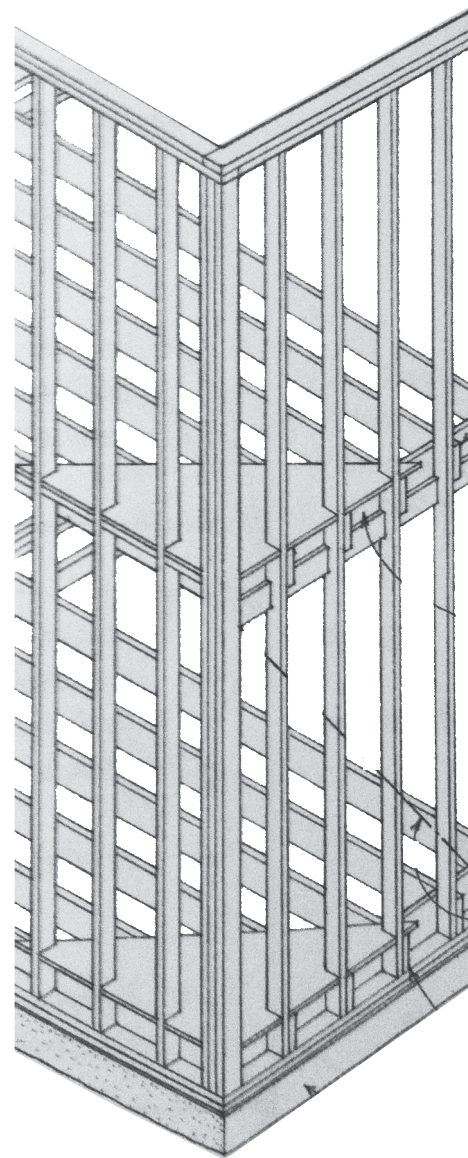
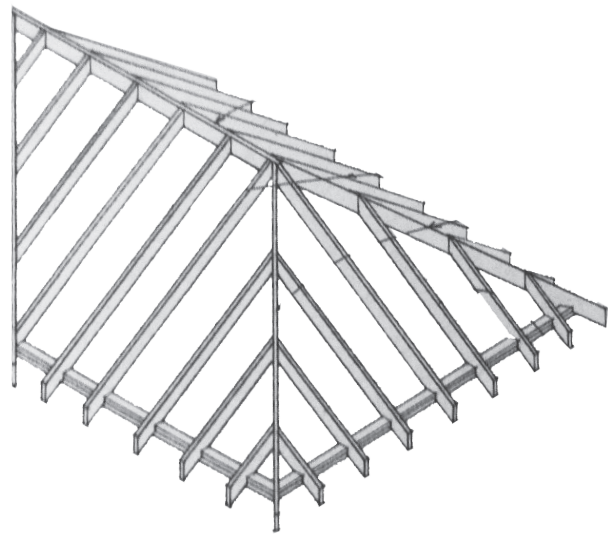
Names of the Space	SF	Net SF	#	Total Net SF	Total Gross SF
Dining/Living Area	21'x25'	556'	1	556	525
Kitchen	21' x 9'6"	200'	1	200	200
Master Bedroom	16' x 17'	272'	1	272	236
Master Bath	12' x 5'	60'	1	60	33
Closet	9' x 9'	81'	1	81	81
Bedroom 2	14' x 11'	154'	1	154	145
Bath	7'5" x 5'	38'	1	38	29
W/D	3' x 6'	18'	1	18	18
Bedroom 3	11'6" x 11'	127'	1	127	118
Mech	6' x 9'	54'	1	54	54
				1560	1439

The space programming for this project will follow a similar strategy. **Overlapping the program of living areas with the necessary circulation spaces** significantly reduces the amount of square footage necessary for **comfortable living conditions**.

Names of the Space	Net SF	#	Total Net SF	Total Gross SF
Dining/Living Area	600'	1	600	550
Kitchen	200'	1	200	175
Master Bedroom	250'	1	250	220
Master Bath	60'	1	60	55
Closet	80'	1	80	75
Bedrooms	150'	2	300	250
Bath	40'	1	40	35
W/D	20'	1	20	18
Mech	50'	1	50	47
			1600	1425

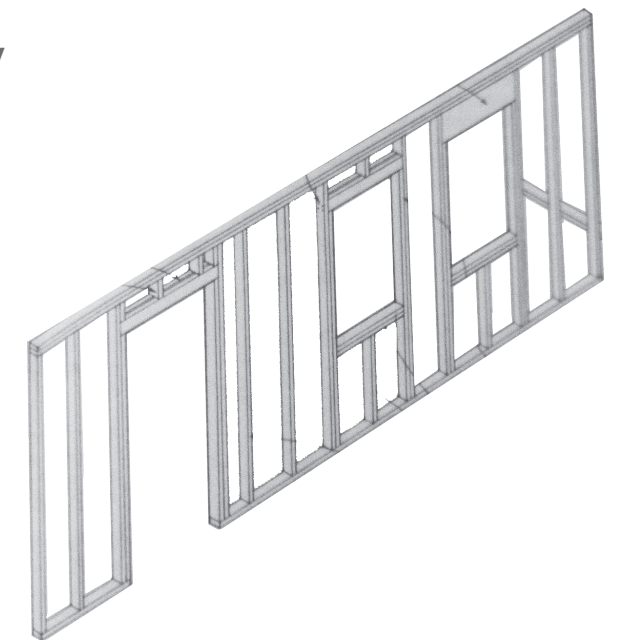
# Other Research | Housing Construction Types

Around 90% of all residential construction in the United States is made with wood. This type of construction is probably the most common because it is relatively quick to construct and is fairly cheap, especially in comparison to the alternatives.



Often times, with wood construction of residential buildings within the United States, the opening for windows and doors are simply cut out after the material is placed onto the framework.

Knowing this, certain architectural moves can be done to reduce this unnecessary waste with how the openings within the framework are addressed.



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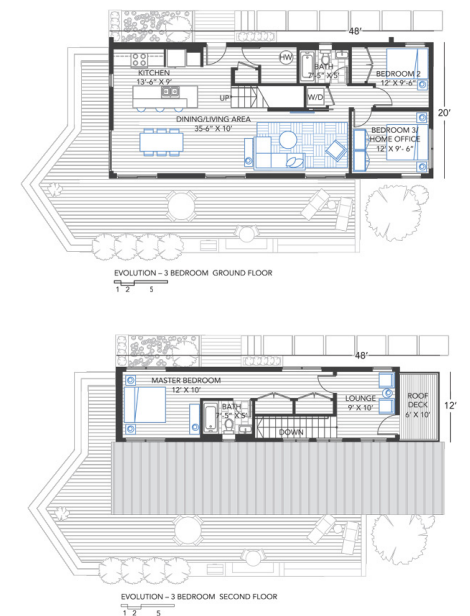
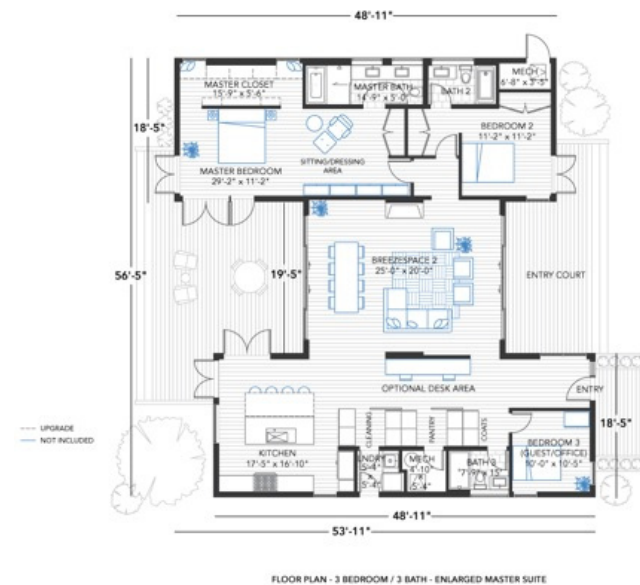
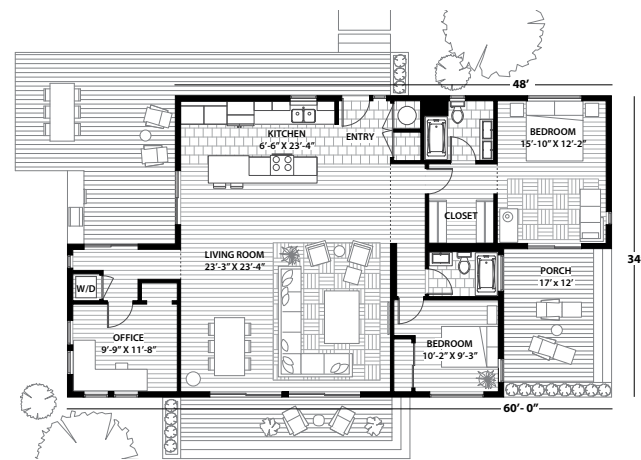


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# Precendents | **BLU Homes** [custom prefab eco-friendly homes]

These pre-manufactured homes have a variety of styles. They also have “**started homes**” that can be **added onto later** if the size of the family increases. Their commitment to **eco-technologies** is also something to take note of.



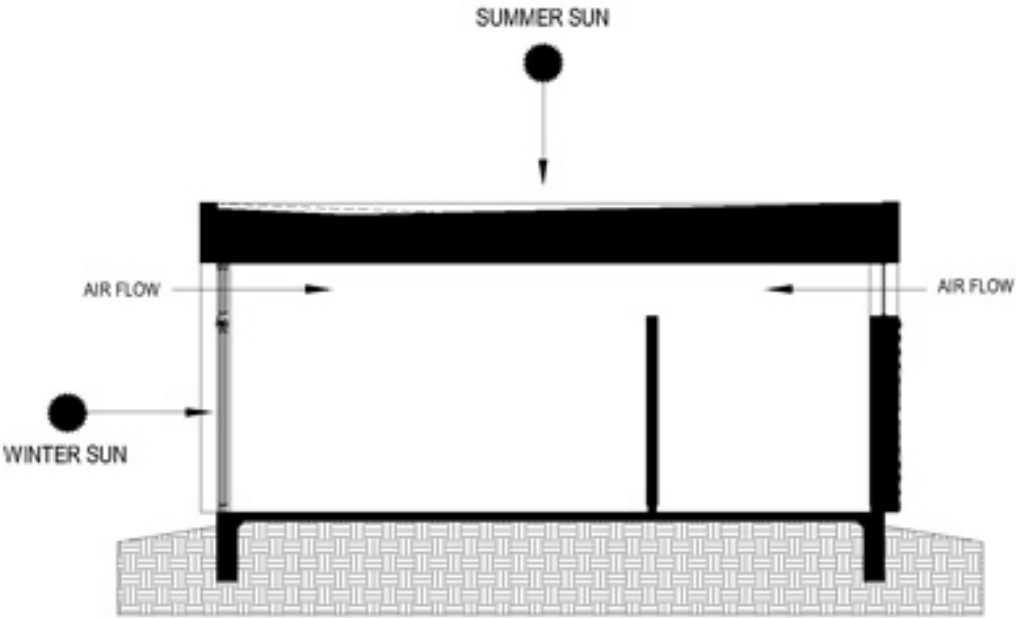
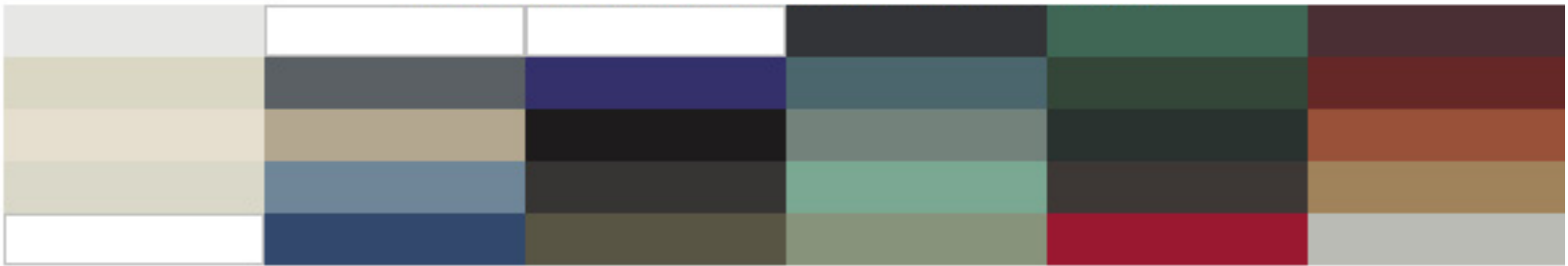
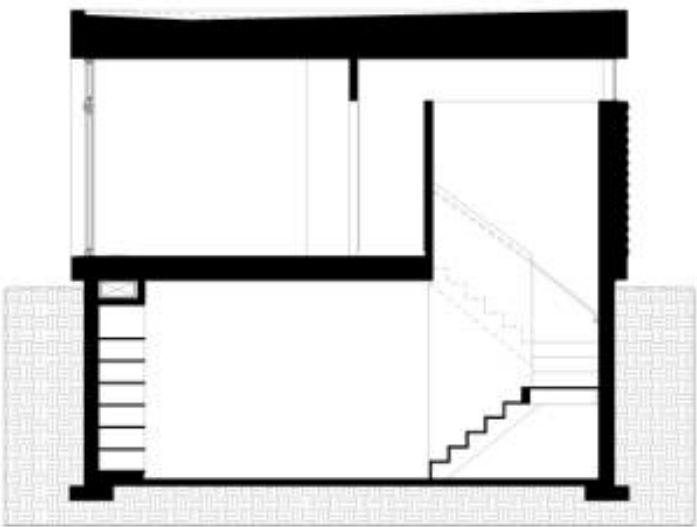
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# Precendents | Rocio Romero [modern design and prefab architecture]

These pre-manufactured homes Offer many ways to individualize homes based on their lifestyle and preferences. Items from the color of the material used on the facade to the type of basement are all parts of the customization this firm gives to their clients.



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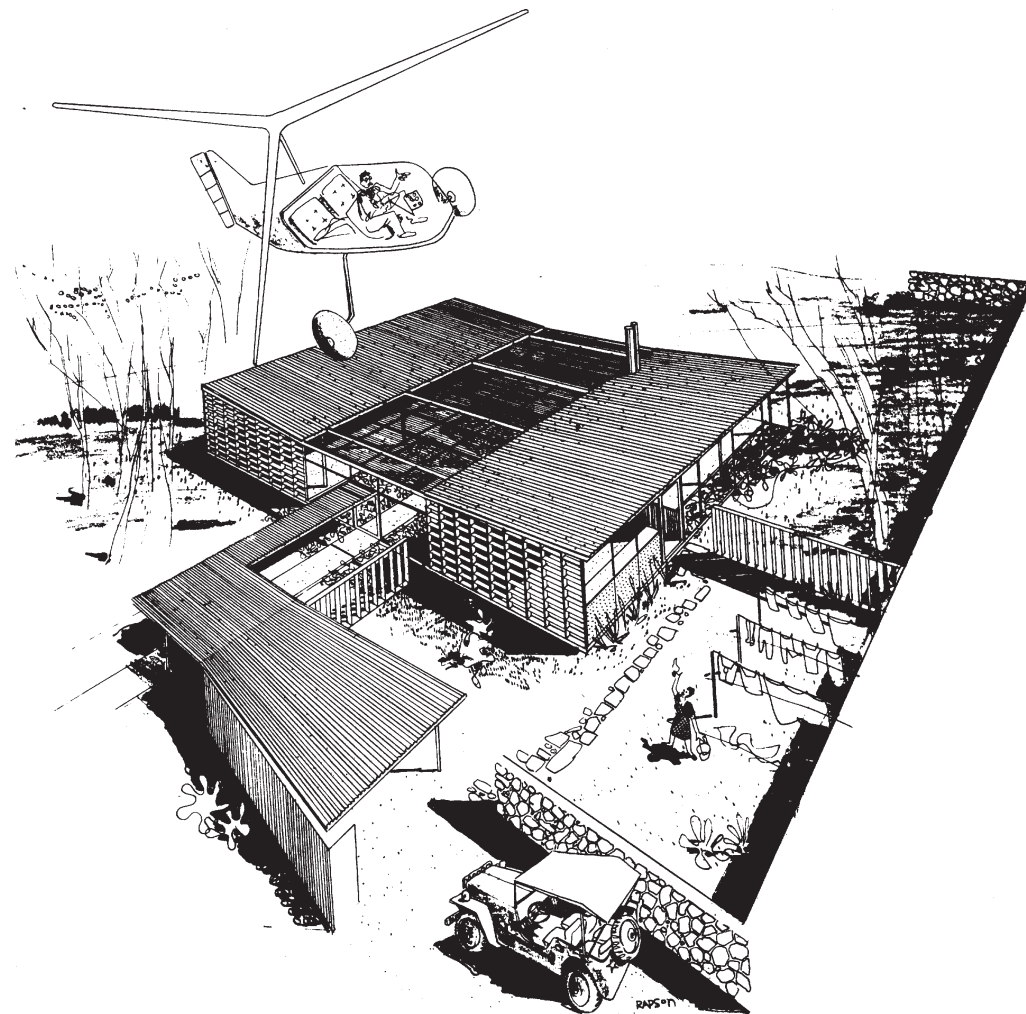
# Precendents | Rapson Greenbelt [case study house #4]

## SHORT DESCRIPTION

Part of a larger movement in the between the 1940's and 1960's that was trying to develop affordable, easy to construct housing for the general public because many architects were frustrated with the lack of designed homes of this time period.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- McCoy, Esther. Case Study Houses, 1945-1962. 2nd ed. Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, 1977. Print.
- Smith, Elizabeth A. T., and Esther McCoy. Blueprints for Modern Living: History and Legacy of The Case Study Houses. Cambridge Mass.: MIT, 1989. Print.



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This is a classic case study house that focused on developing a program that the **average american** citizen would like an architect to be able to design at an affordable price. This particular one had a center core that **doubled as living space and circulation space.**

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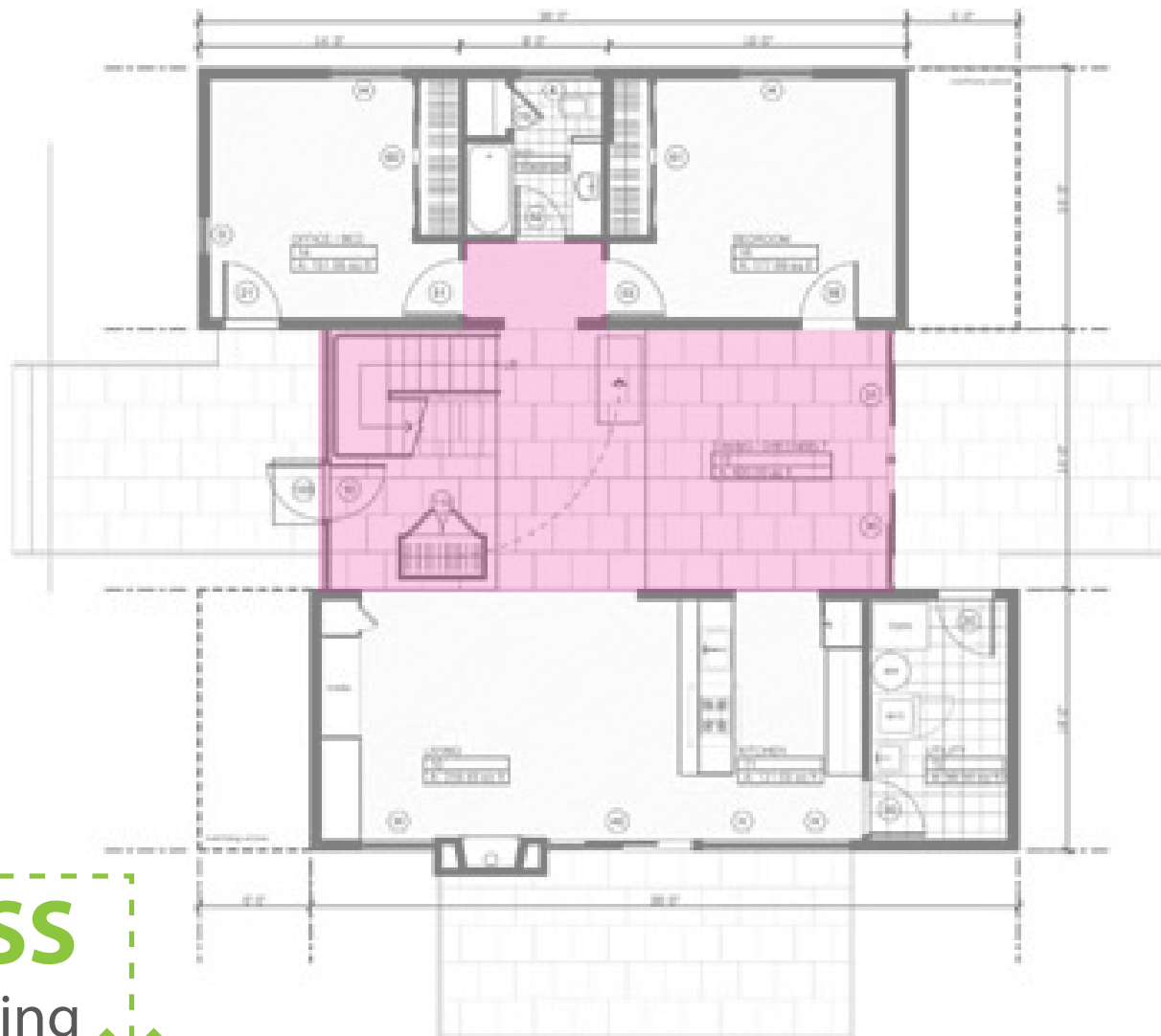
# Precendents | Modern Rapson Greenbelt [circulation]

## SHORT DESCRIPTION

The Rapson Greenbelt designs (modernized from the original case study) are the perfect balance of design, value, and expandability. Greenbelt configurations range from 576 to 2,660 square feet, and are available with a wide variety of interior and exterior finishes.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Rapson, Ralph. "WIELER / Homes / Rapson Greenbelt / Designs / Greenbelt Designs." WIELER / Live In A Work Of Art. WIELER. Web. 18 Sept. 2011. <<http://wieler.com/homes/rapson-greenbelt/designs/all/>>.



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This is a modern take on the Rapson Greenbelt Case Study house. The **large open floor plan** allows for less necessary square footage without sacrifice. It also **allows every american to have a designed house catered to their specific lifestyle.**



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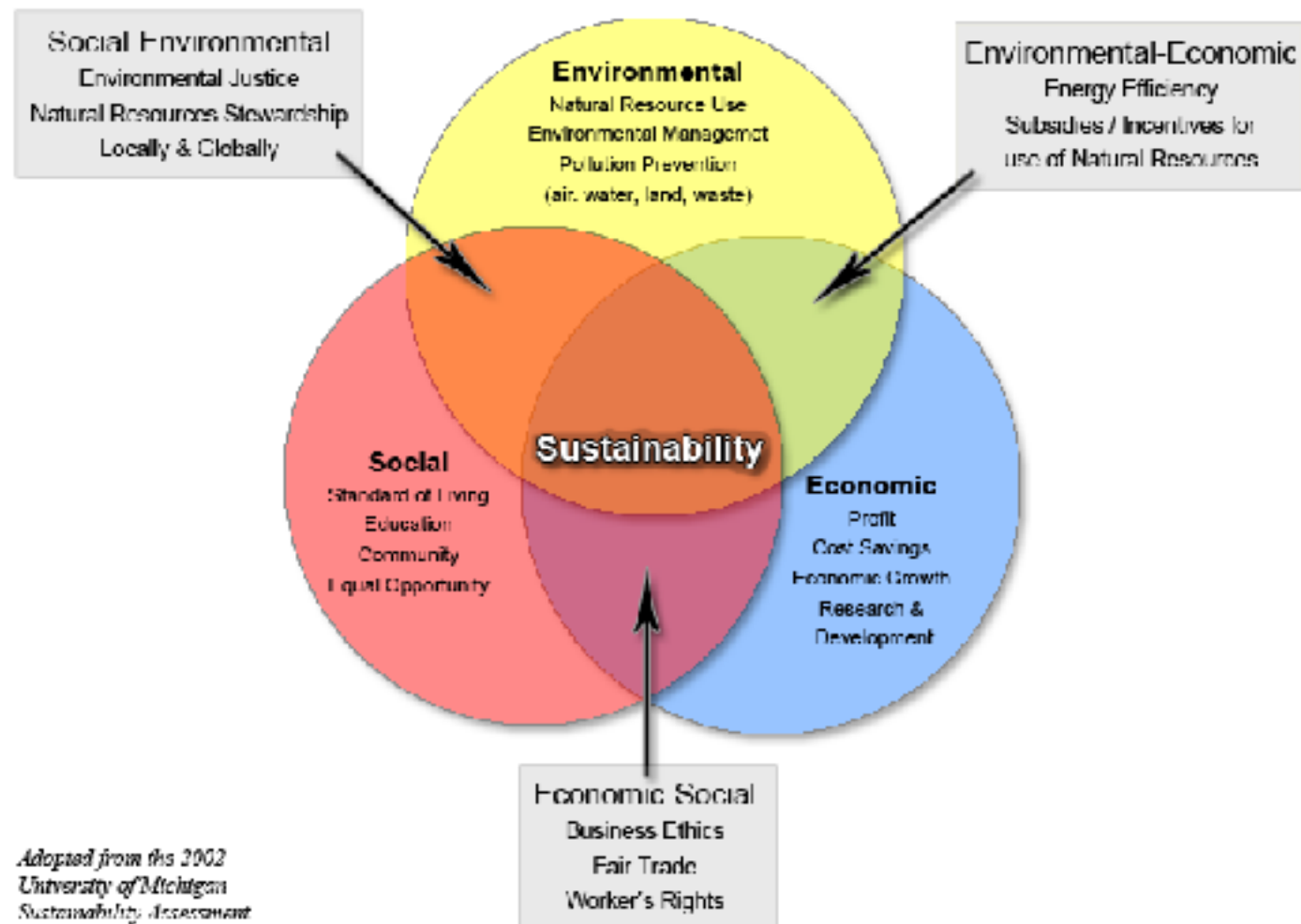


# Precendents | Modern Rapson Greenbelt [program separation]



Create **sustainable** residential options for Americans  
with the ability to **personalize** for each individual's lifestyle.

### *The Three Spheres of Sustainability*



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# Why pre-fabrication?

- faster assembly
- better quality control
- climate controlled environment
- waste control
- cheaper labor costs

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# Why wood construction?

- nearly 90% of all residential construction in the USA is made with wood
  - cheaper material
- sustainable forest management
- 1 yard<sup>3</sup> = ↓ CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by ≈ 1.1 tons  
+ CO<sup>2</sup> stored in wood ≈ 0.9 tons

---

saves a total of **2 tons** of CO<sup>2</sup> emissions

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# Why modular?

- can move into home faster
- customization does not considerably delay move-in time and is typically still faster than custom designed homes
- may not be able to afford a designed home otherwise

A photograph of a two-story modular home under construction. The building features a red brick exterior on the ground floor and white siding on the upper floor. Large windows are visible on both levels. The entire structure is surrounded by a complex network of yellow metal scaffolding, indicating ongoing construction or finishing work. The building is situated on a dirt lot with some trees in the background under a clear blue sky.

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# Connection points

The biggest issues for modular design are the module connection points and the foundation.



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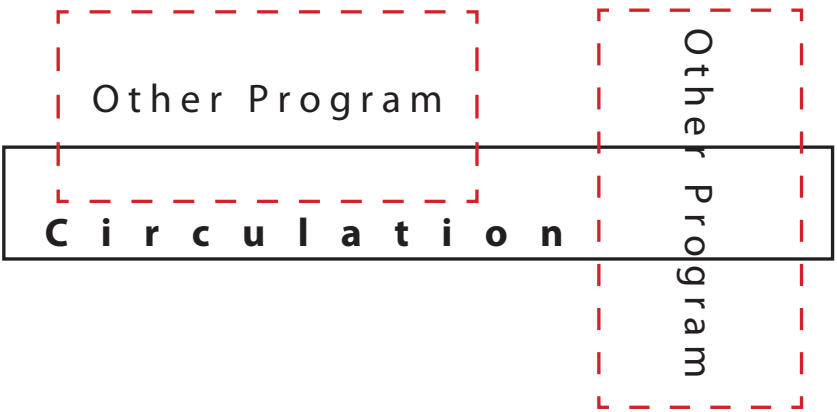


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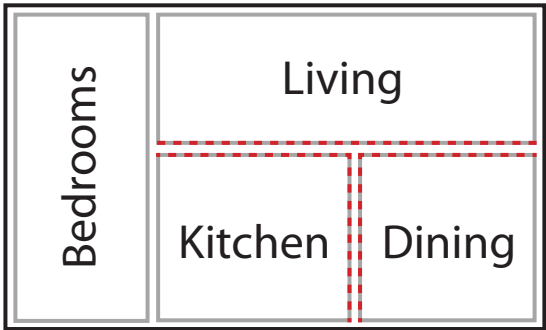


# Design Criteria

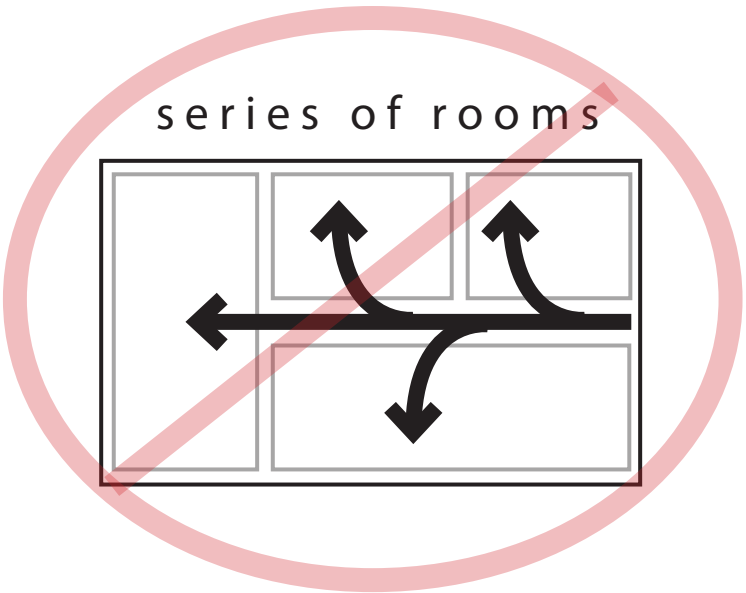
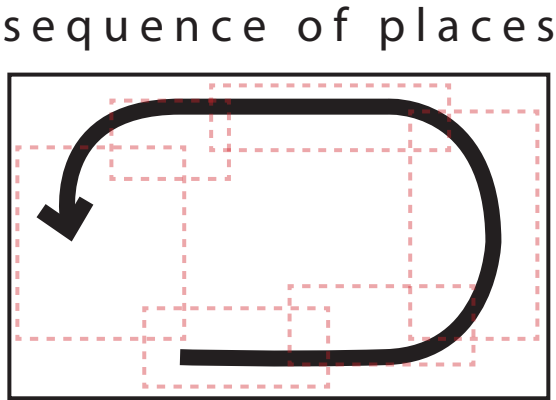
No single-use spaces:



Flexibility of spaces:



Circulation flow:

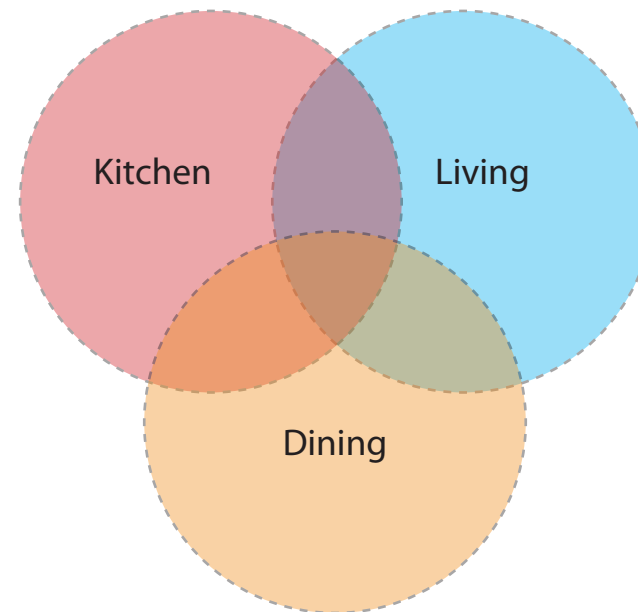


# Design Criteria

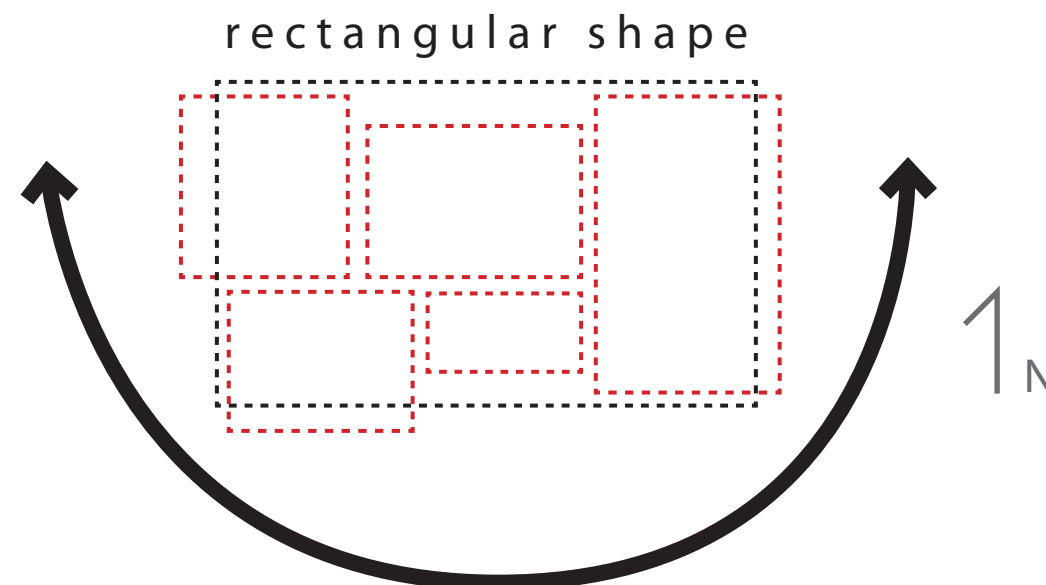
Balance of private + public:



Integrated kitchen, dining  
and living areas:



Solar orientation:



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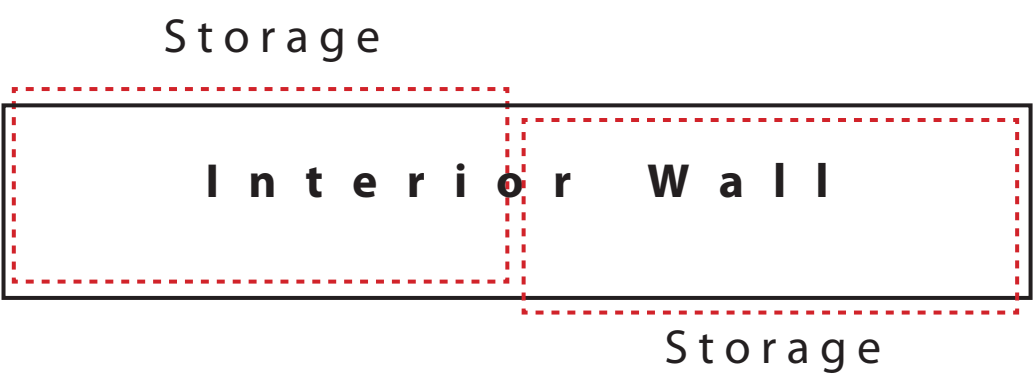


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# Design Criteria

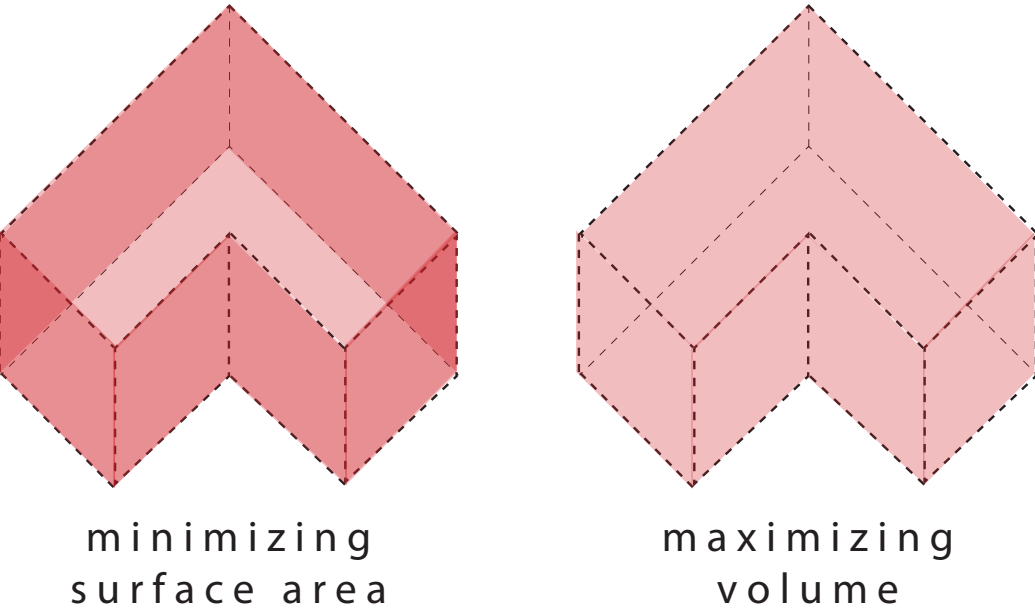
Usable wall space:



MEP Efficiency Integration:



Surface to volume ratio:

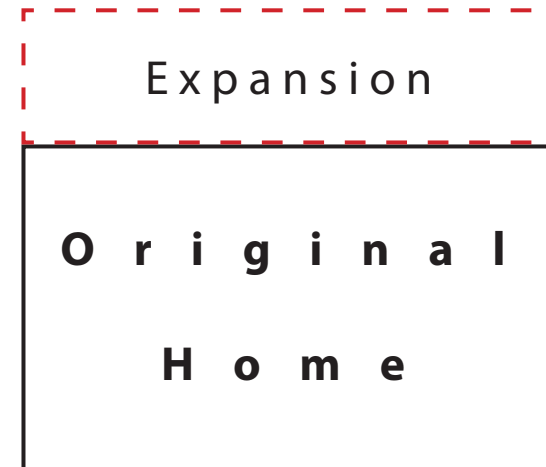


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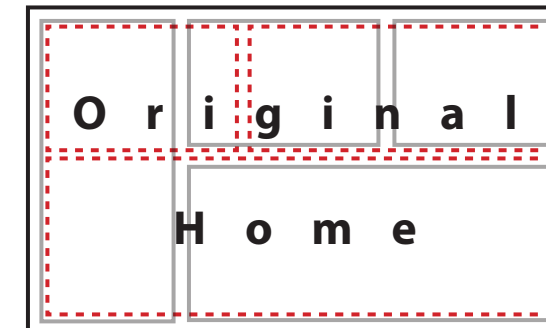
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# Design Criteria

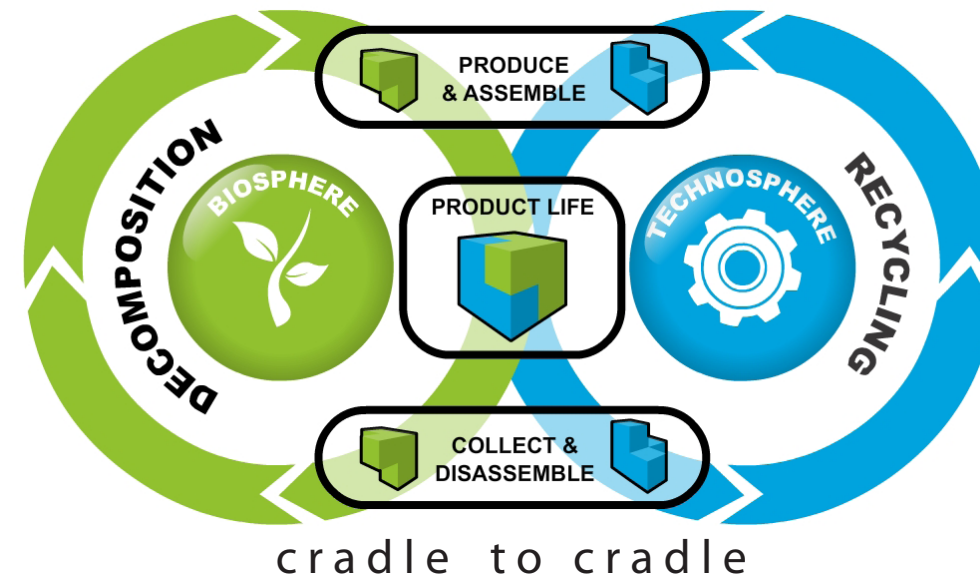
Ability to change over time:



Flexibility in spatial arrangement over time



Materials selection:  
(LCA, recycled or reused?)



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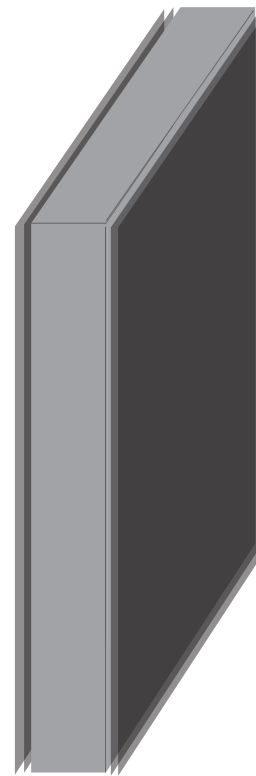


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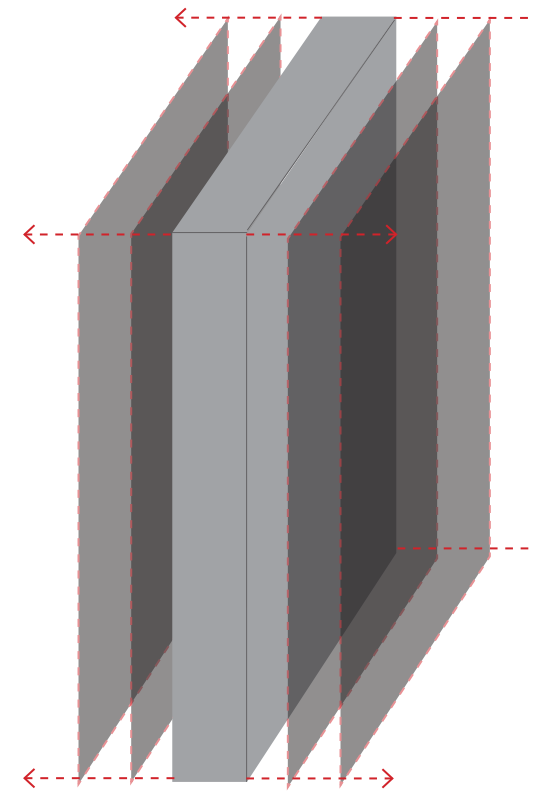


# Design Criteria

Adherence of materials  
within the module:

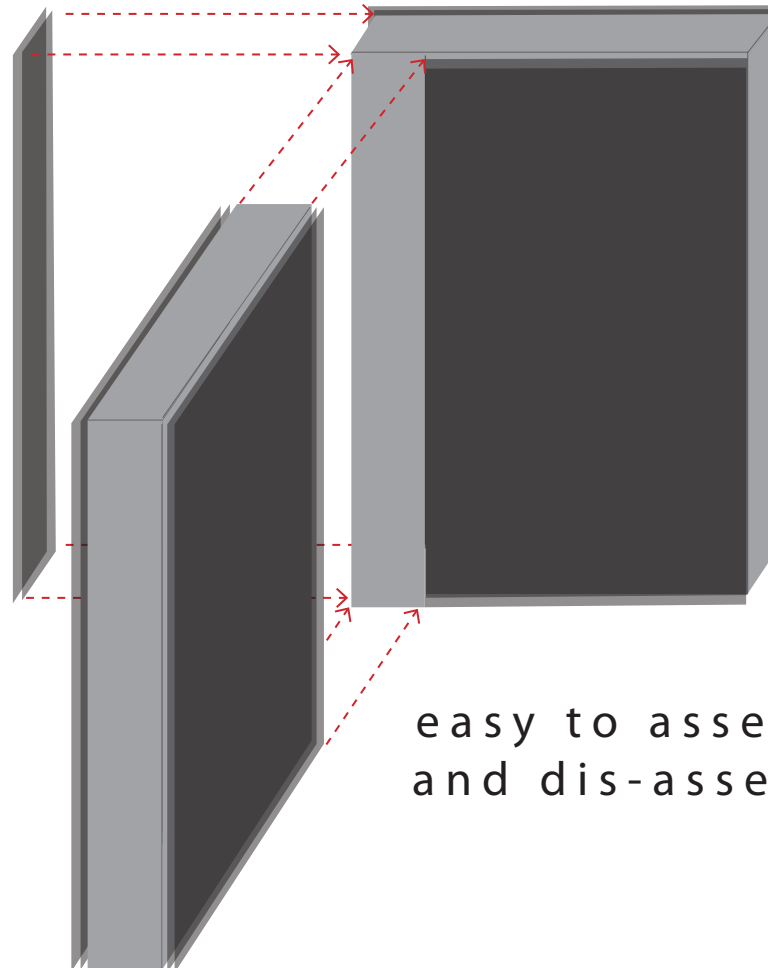


assembled  
materials

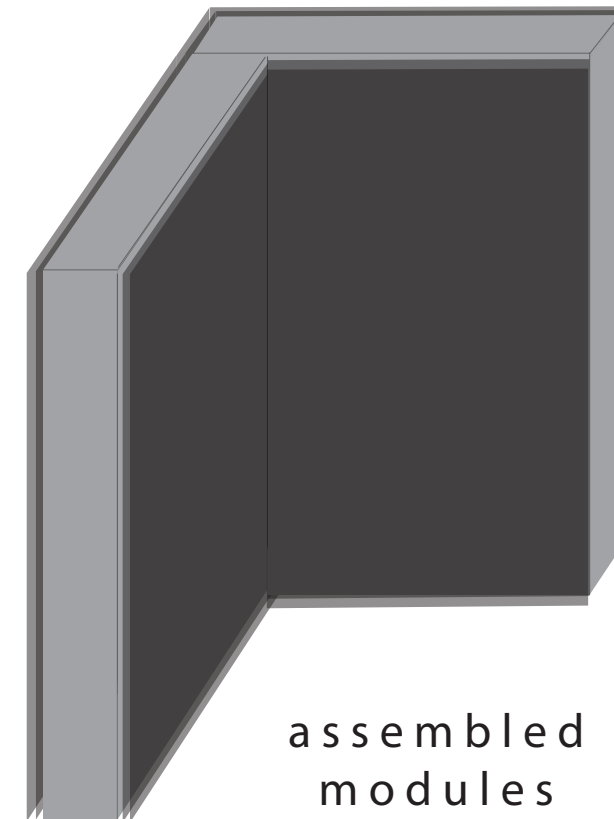


dis-assembled  
materials

Connection points:



easy to assemble  
and dis-assemble



assembled  
modules

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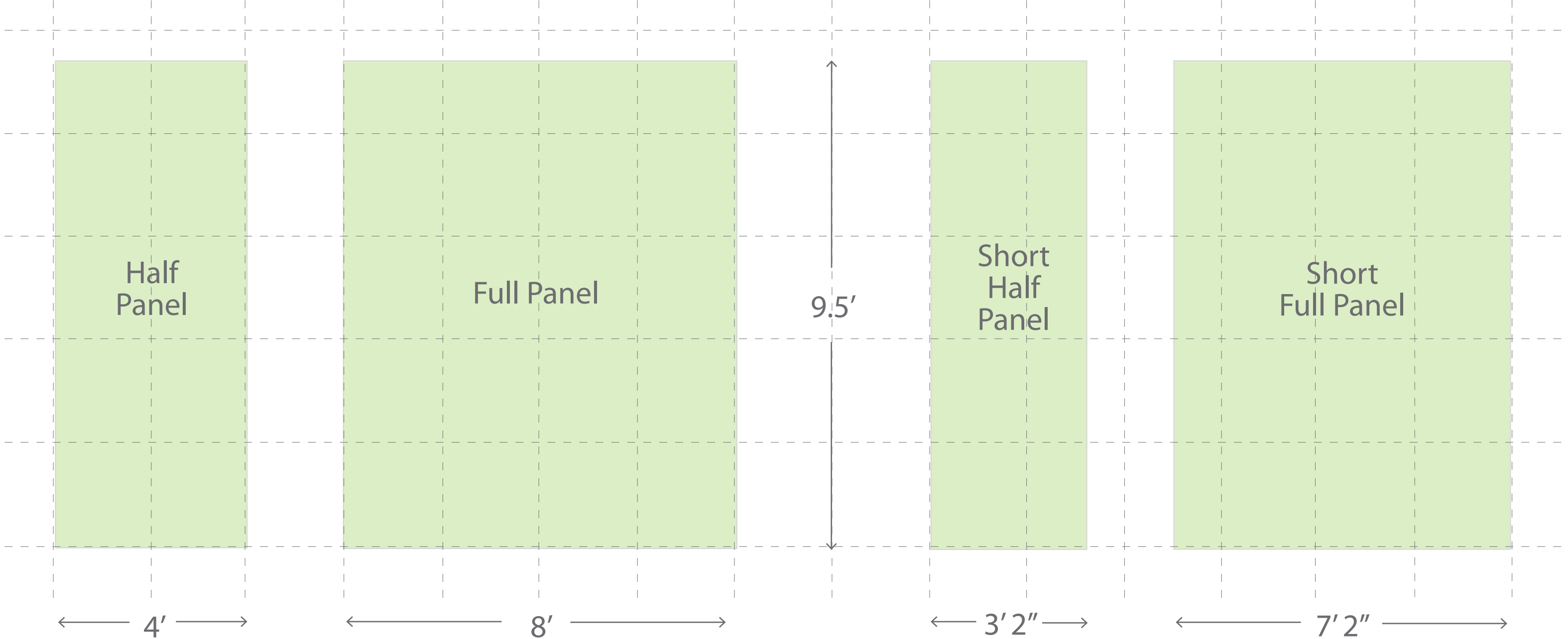


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# Exterior Panel Sizes

STANDARD  
4' 0" and 8' 0" modules








SHORTENED (corner)  
3' 2" and 7' 2" modules



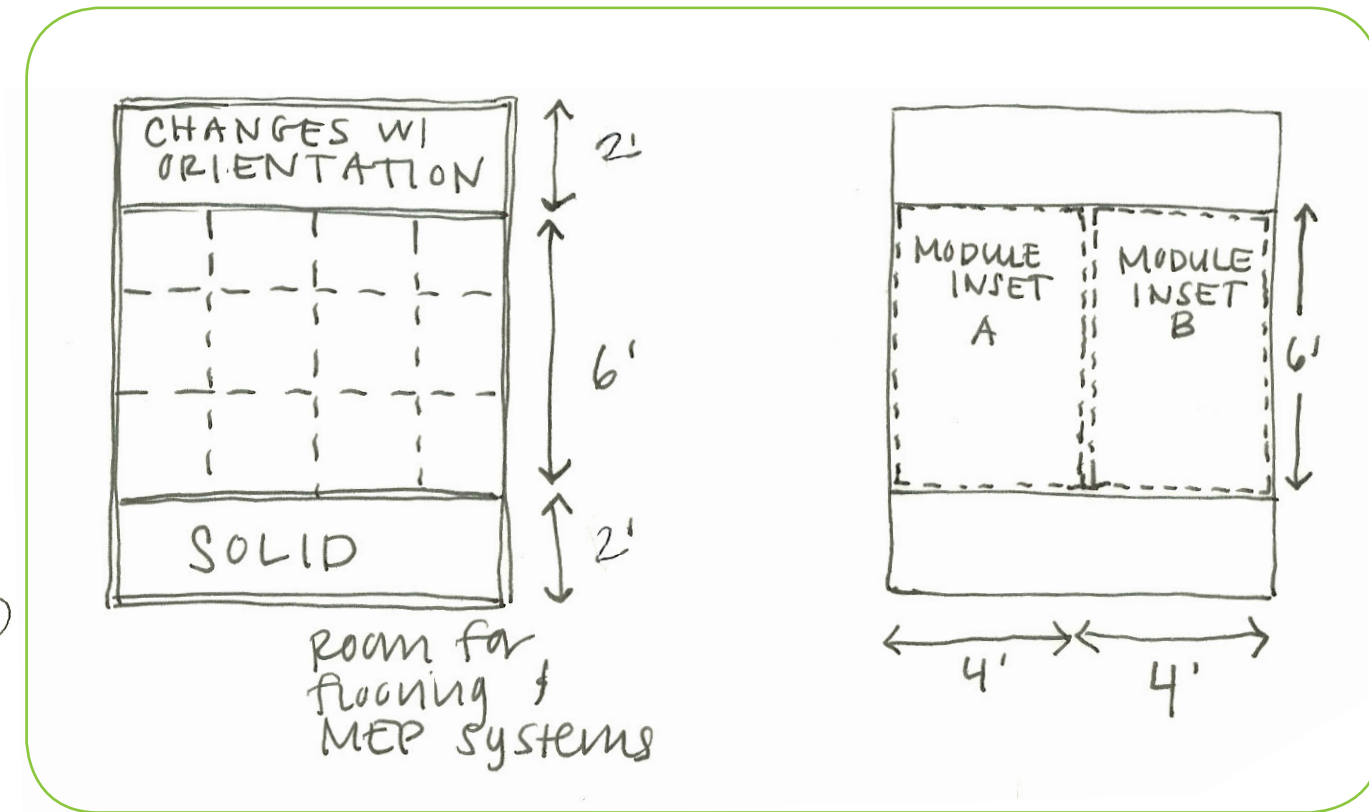
# Process | Panel Customization

SIZES { 2'x4'  
or  
4'x4'  
or  
2'x8'

## Component Types:

-  - PV panels
-  - translucent (option to be operable)
-  - transparent (option to be operable)
-  - living wall
-  - rainscreen?
-  - operable louvers
-  - solid wall

What type



South  
(Most Common)

6 transp.  
10 transl.  
4 solid

East

4 transp.  
6 transl.  
10 solid

look into sizing  
for PV panels  
& battery  
storage, etc.

West

2 transp.  
6 transl.  
12 solid

More heat  
gain

North  
(Least Common)

12 transp.  
4 transl.  
4 solid

keep  
top & bottom  
elements' shape  
the same for  
continuity  
through out the  
entire  
home

nice  
wood  
detailing  
that  
can handle  
exterior  
conditions

Same?

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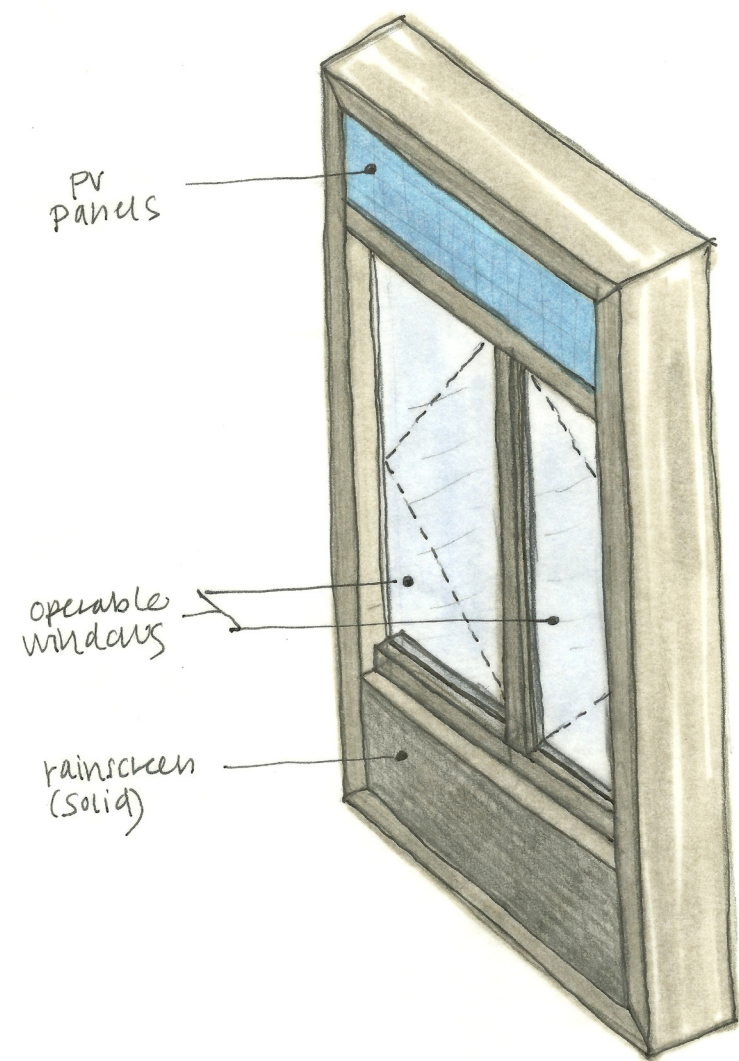
modules 10' height  
can be rearranged  
into a different structure

East & West  
will have exterior  
shading devices as an  
option (recommended)

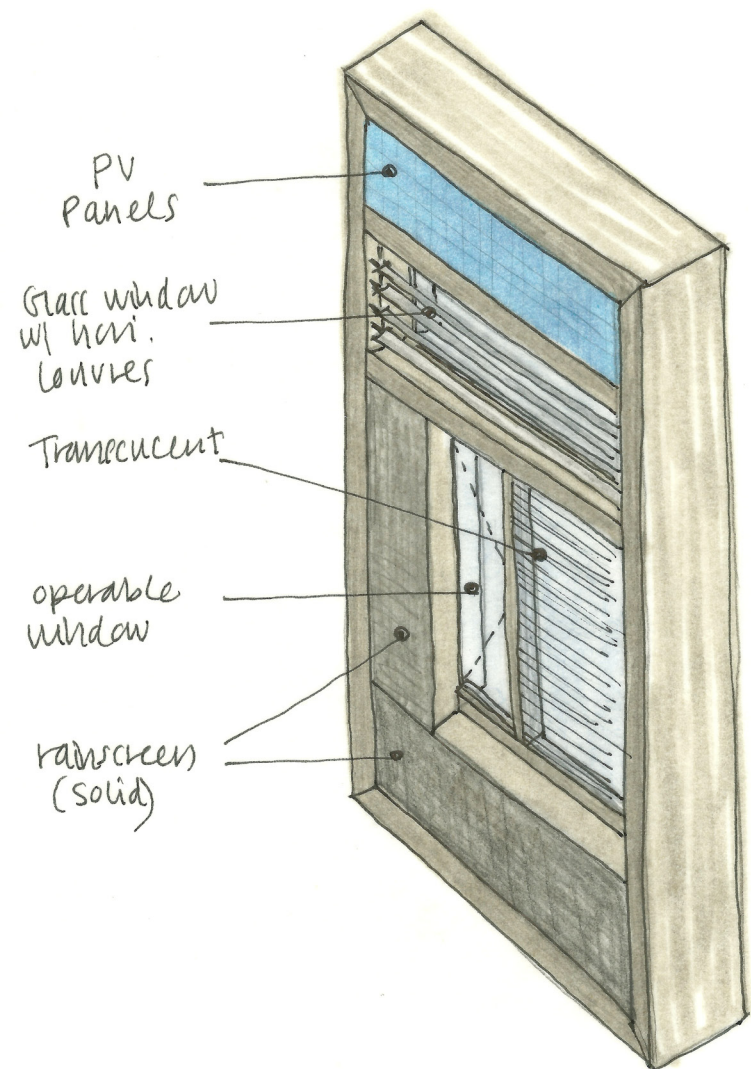
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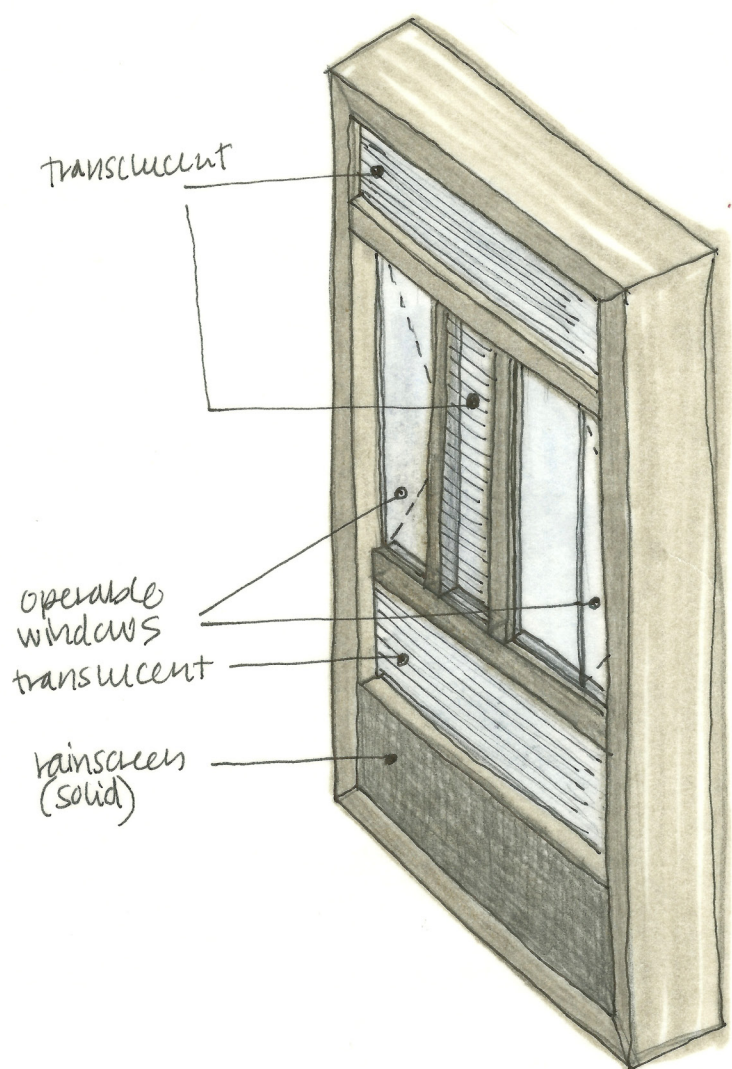
# Process | Panel Customization



LIVING AREA PANEL  
EAST



BATHROOM PANEL  
EAST



BEDROOM PANEL  
NORTH

# Climate Zones of the USA:

## Northwest Pacific

*(Includes states like Oregon and Washington to the crest of the Cascade Mountains)*

This is the perhaps the wettest part of the country. There are scattered rain showers all year round. Temperatures are mild averaging around 40 degree F. (32.2 degree C). The summer months are pleasantly warmer but never too hot. You can see fogs along the coast during the warmer weather but the fog is less dense during mid-day.

## Mid/South Pacific

*(Includes states like California, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Nevada)*

These states have generally dry and delightful summers. California has excellent weather all the year round, with the northern part of the state somewhat cooler (quiet chilly in the winter but seldom freezing). There are very few places in California that experience snow, and the state is known for its nice weather. Mostly all the cities have tolerable winters. The winter months in the other states like Montana, Idaho and Wyoming can be very cold, with temperatures dropping well below 0 degree F. Colorado, Utah and Nevada are known for their excellent skiing.

## Midwest

*(Includes states like Dakotas, Kansas, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Indiana)*

This region is moderately dry. Precipitation occurs mainly in late spring and early summer. Summers are pleasant but winter time can be harsh, with lots of snow and heavy chilly winds. Extremes within the Midwest can drop down to -50 degree F.

## Northeast

*(Includes states like Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington DC, Maryland)*

This entire area is moderately rainy. In winter, the region experiences heavy snow and freezing rain. Summers are usually pleasant, sunny and warm. The fall is especially beautiful in wooded areas.

## Southeast

*(Includes states like portions of Arkansas and Louisiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia)*

Like the Northeast, this entire area experiences moderate rains fairly evenly throughout the year. The Spring, Summer and Fall seasons are all very pleasant. Some snow and freezing rain falls in winter but for the most part, the winters are quite mild and short lived. Southern Florida, like California, usually has excellent weather all the year round.

## Southwest

*(Includes states like Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma and western portions of Arkansas and Louisiana)*

This is the hottest and high rainfall region of the US. You must be prepared to face heavy rains accompanied with thunder storms, dangerous lightening and occasional tornadoes. The winters are generally short but some freezing rains do occur. The spring and fall seasons are quite long and temperatures are generally excellent. The summers are very hot with temperatures approaching and exceeding 100 degree F on many days.

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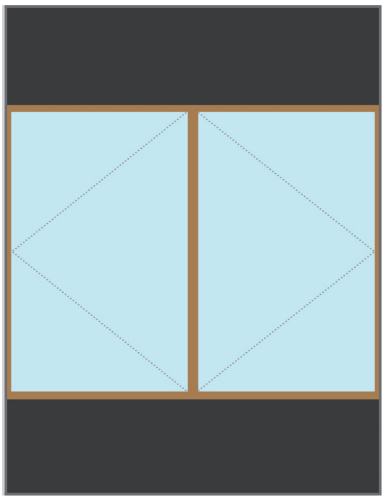
Melissa Brodmarkle-Emerson



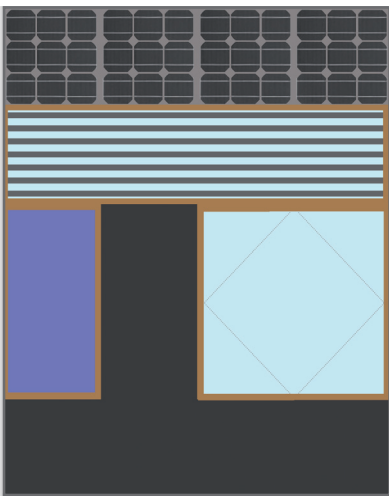
# Midwest Catalog of Exterior Panels

## LIVING AREA PANELS

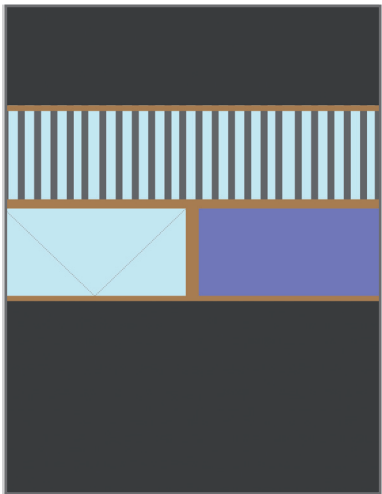
North



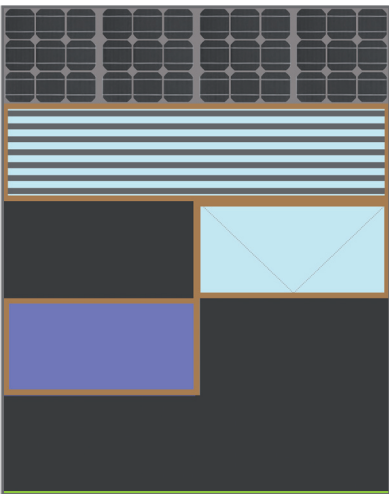
East



South

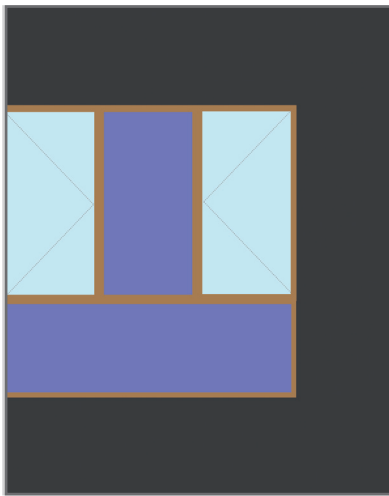


West

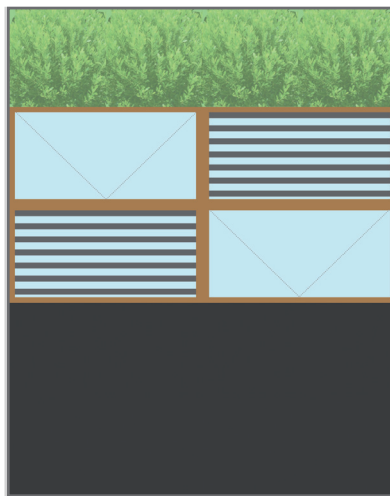


## BEDROOM PANELS

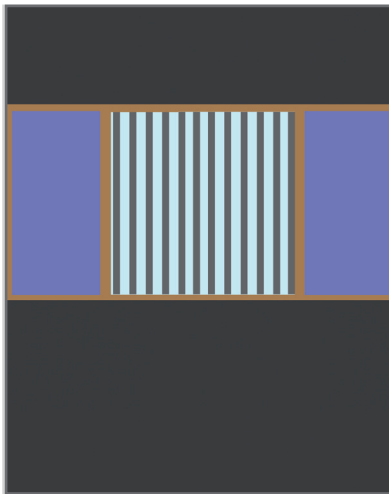
North



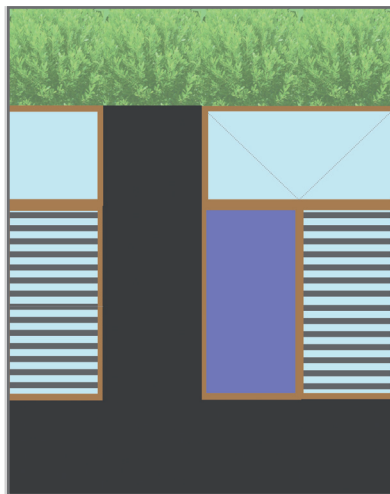
East



South

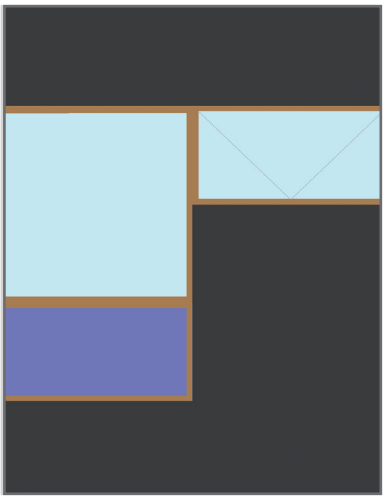


West

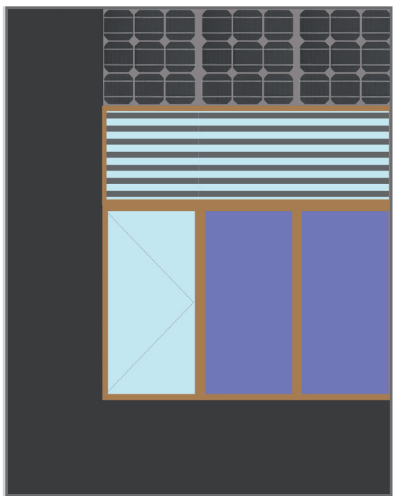


## BATHROOM PANELS

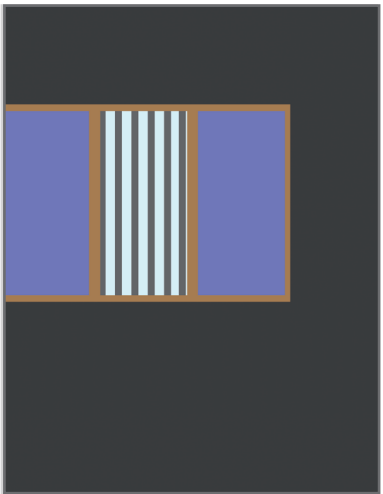
North



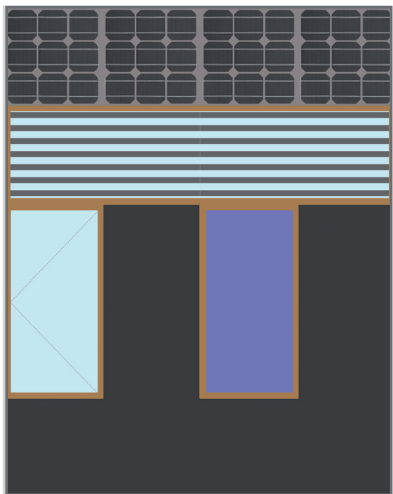
East



South



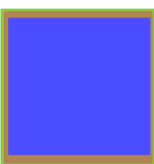
West



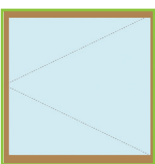
KEY:



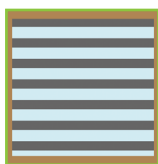
Solid  
Rainscreen



Glass Window  
(many are operable)

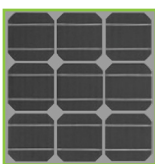


Louvres



Living  
Wall

PV Panels



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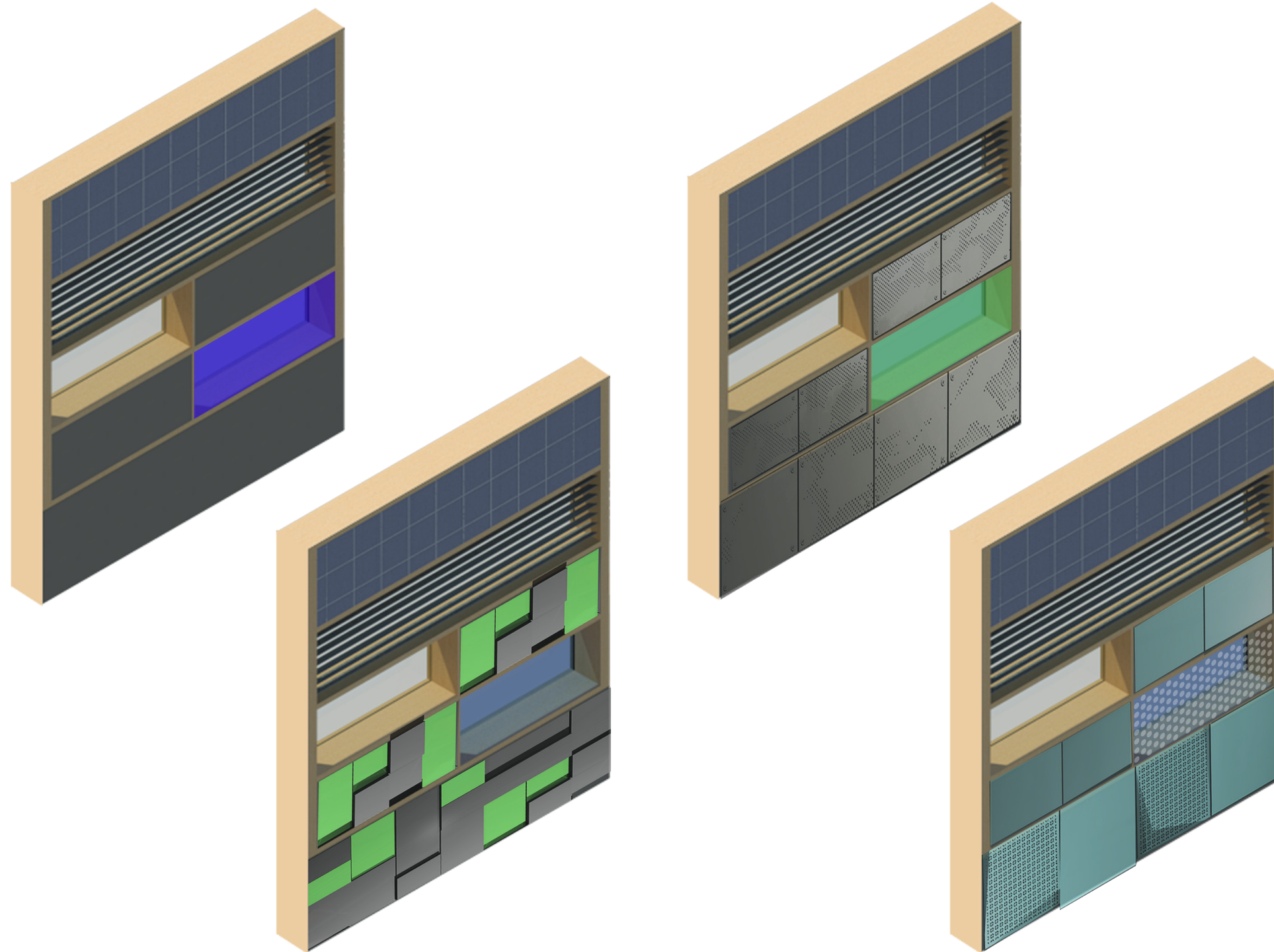
# Homeowner Customization

Each homeowner can  
customize the exterior  
aesthetic that fits their style:

---

The rainscreen panels can  
have texture, reflectivity,  
perforations, or color.

The translucent glass  
windows can be frosted,  
colored, or fritted



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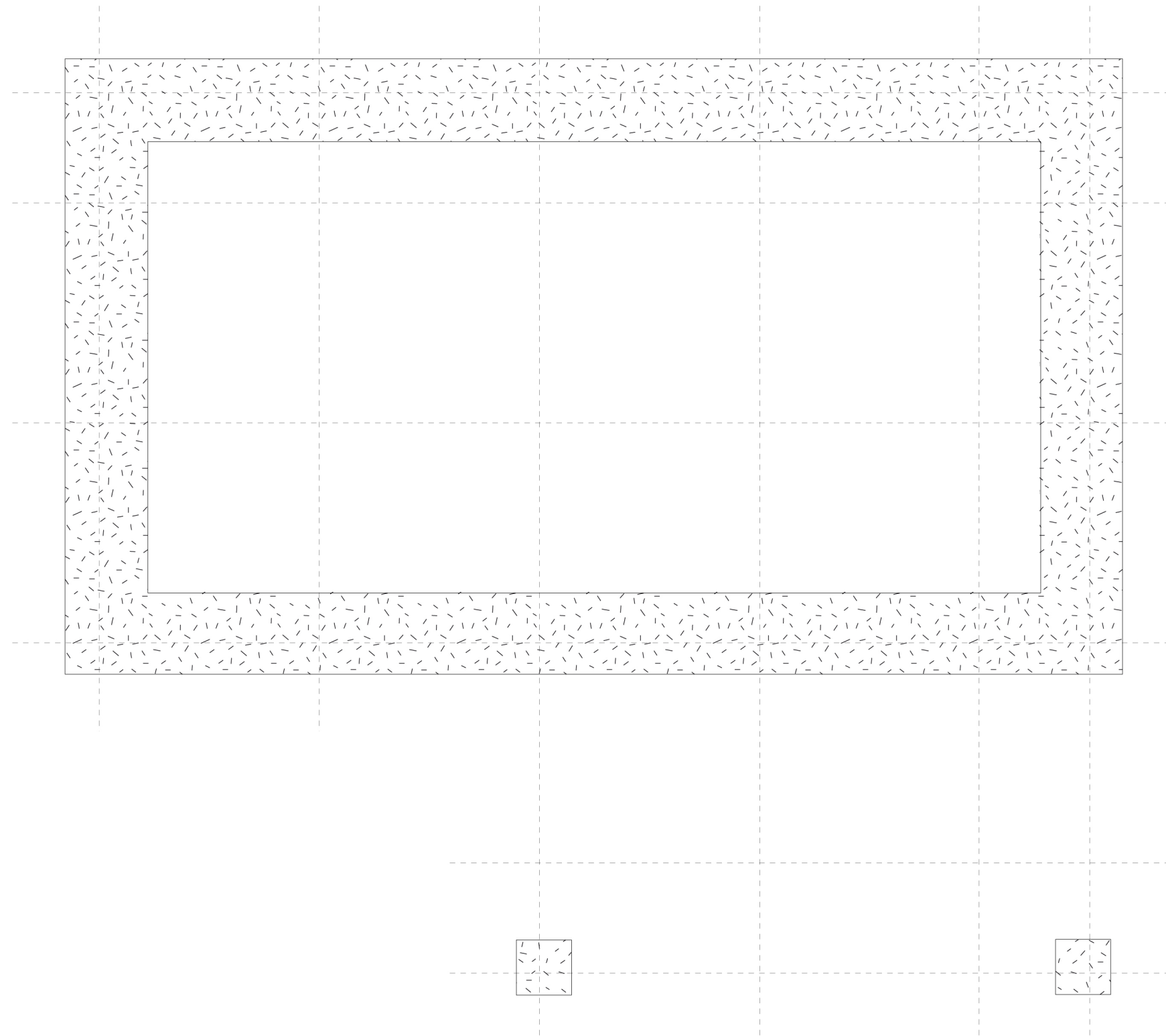
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# Foundation



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# Main Level



# Main Level | Modules





# Upper Level



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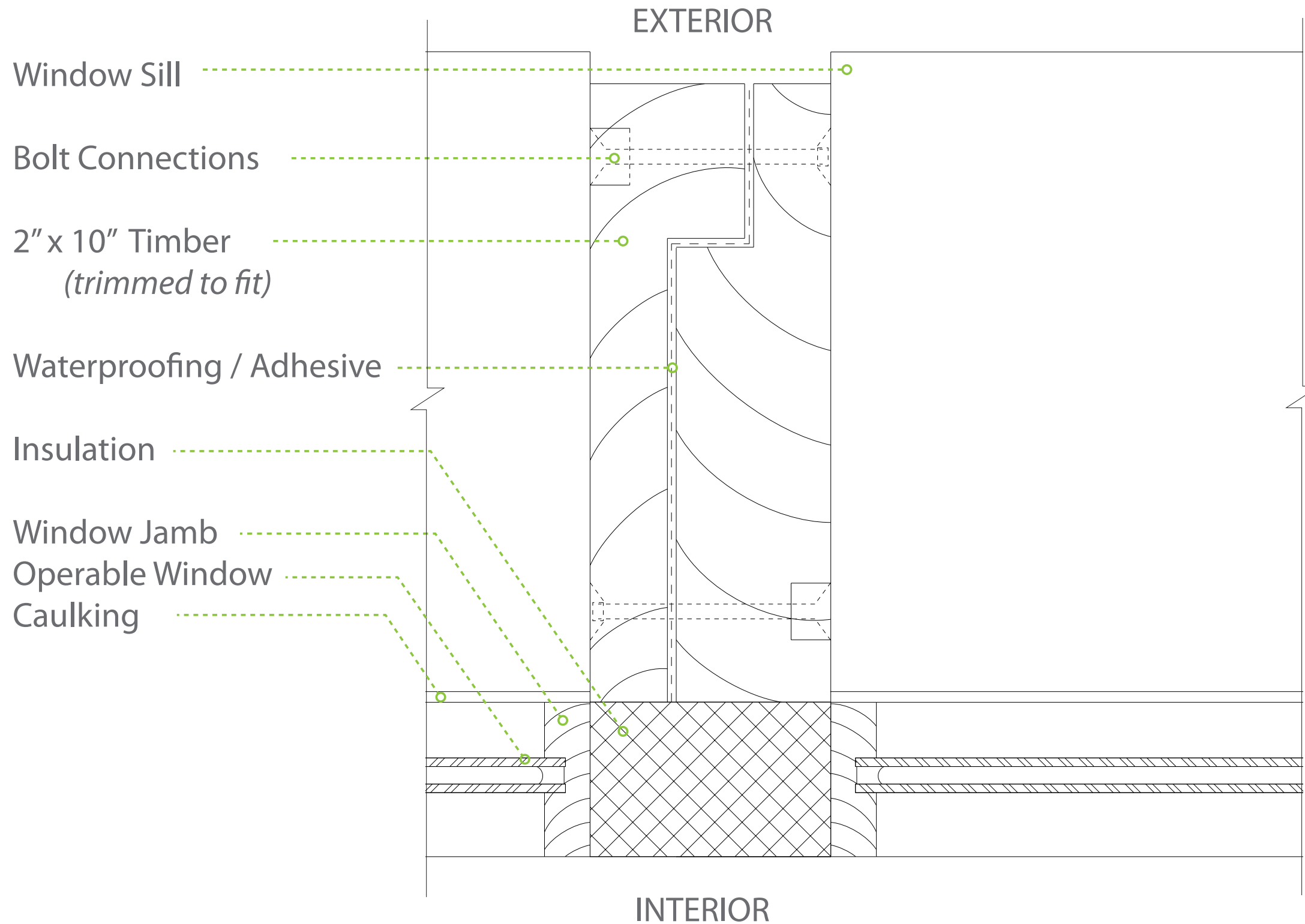
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# Upper Level | Modules





# Panel-to-Panel

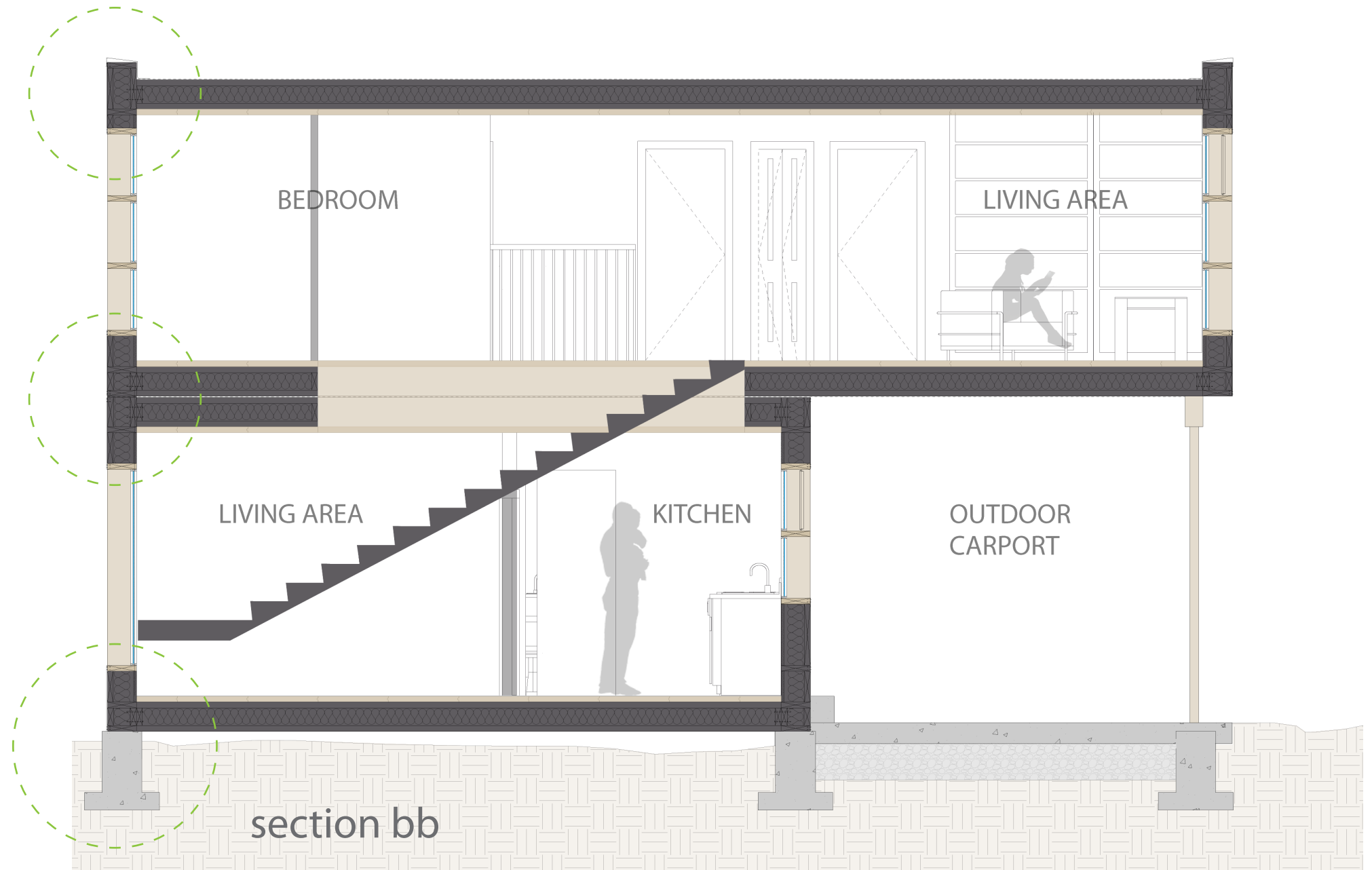


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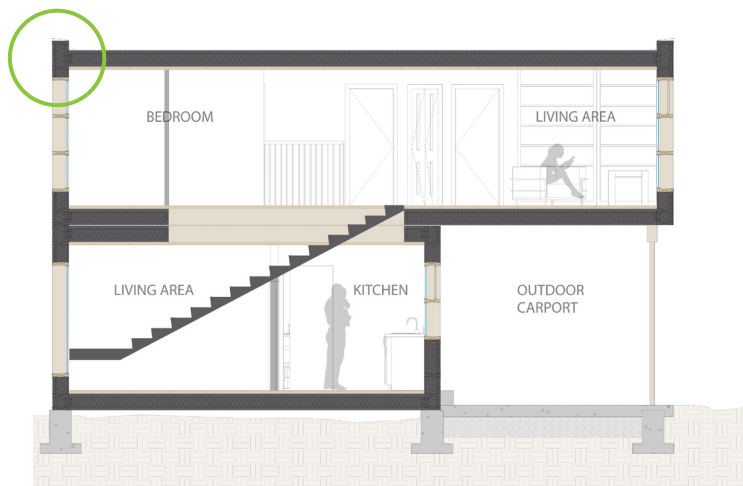


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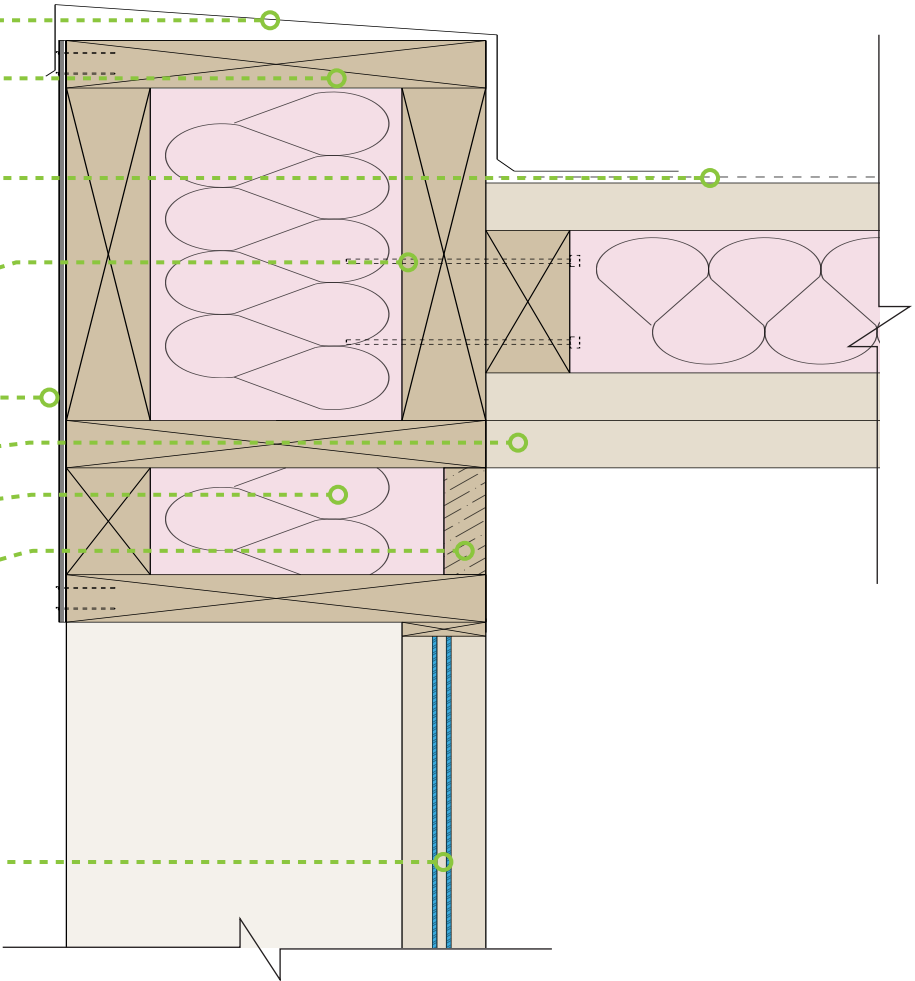
# Roof-to-Panel



Flashing  
Blocking  
Roofing Membrane

Roof Bolted to Wall  
Exterior Paneling  
Ceiling Panels  
Insulation  
Interior Paneling

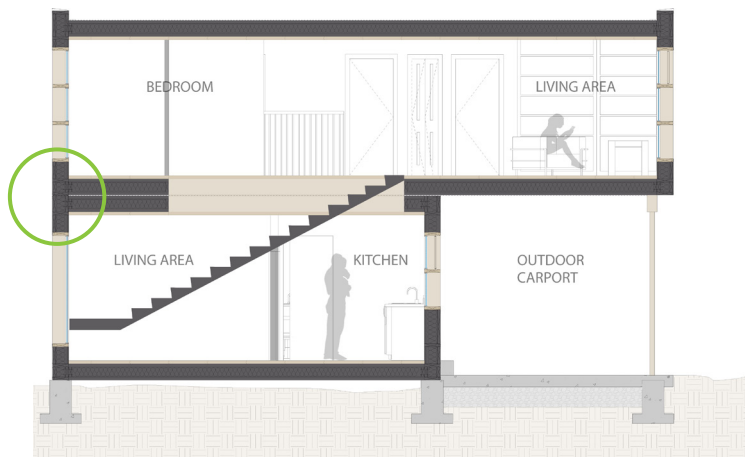
Operable Window



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# Floor-to-Panel



Translucent Glass  
Blocking

Insulation

Flooring

Floor Bolted to Wall

Roofing Membrane

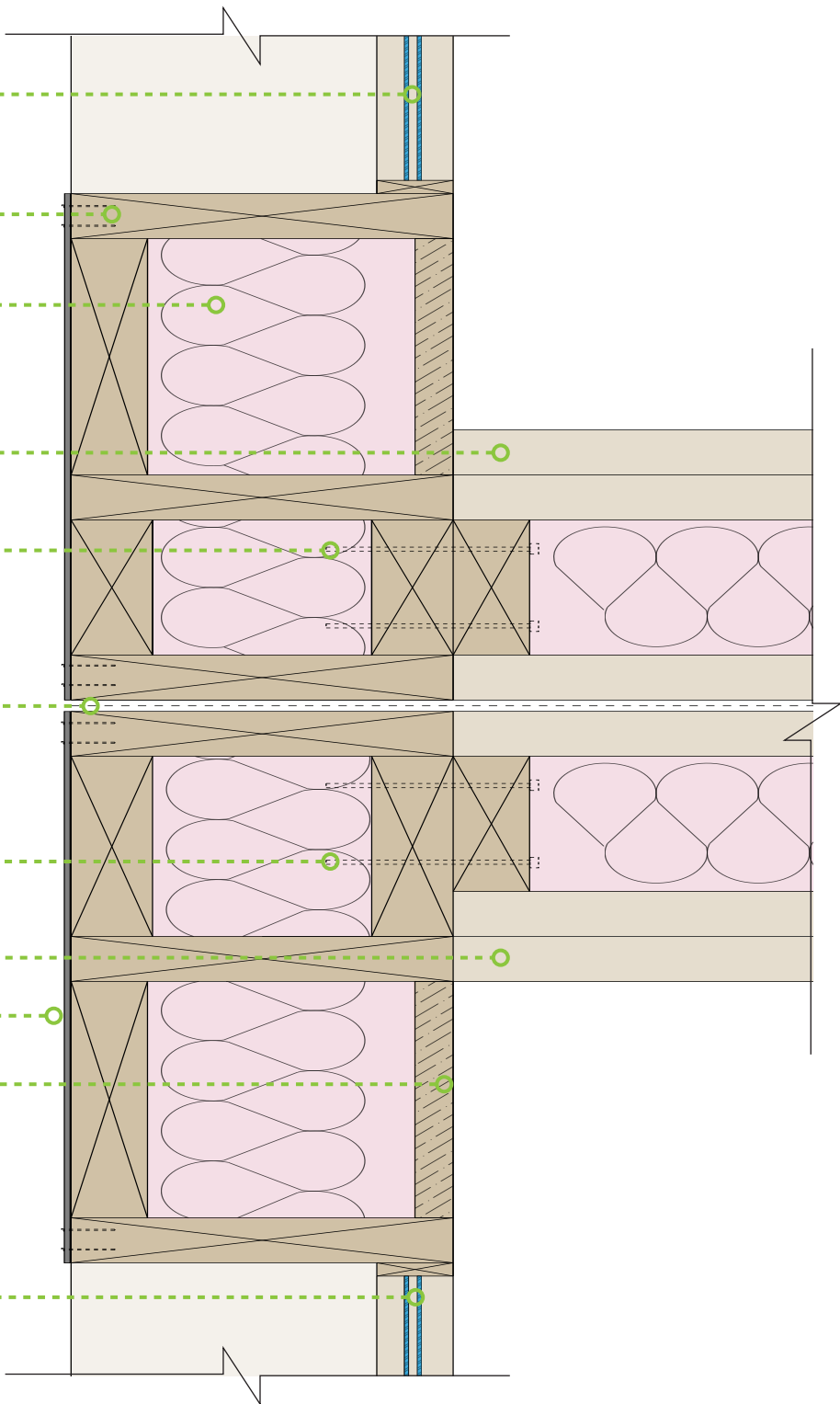
Ceiling Bolted to Wall

Ceiling Panels

Exterior Paneling

Interior Paneling

Operable Window



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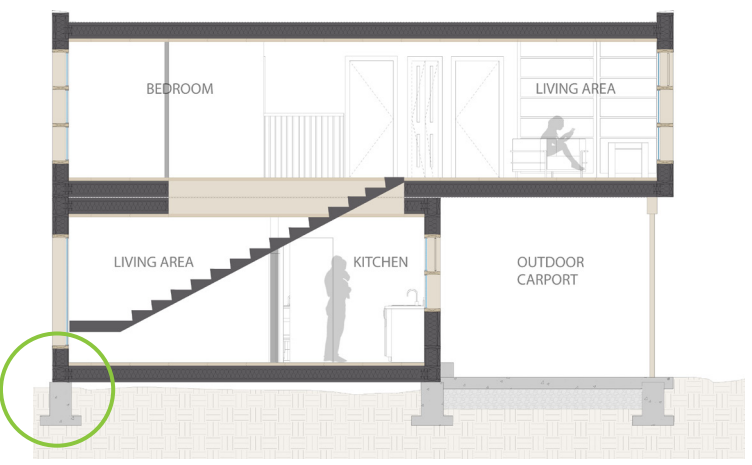
modular housing



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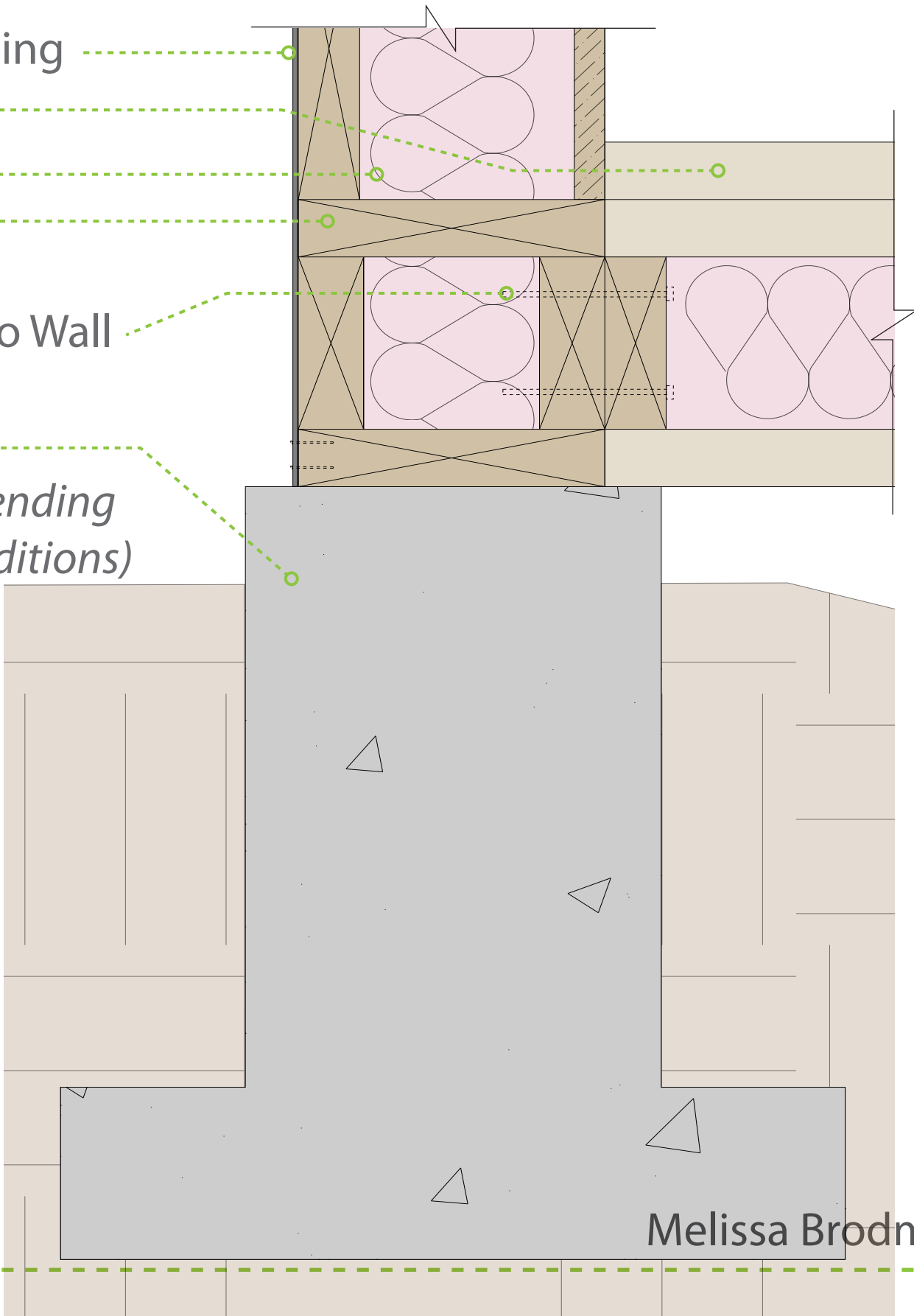
# Foundation-to-Floor-Panel



Exterior Paneling  
Floor Panels  
Insulation  
Blocking

Floor Bolted to Wall

Foundation  
*(varies depending on soil conditions)*



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# North<sub>West</sub> Façade



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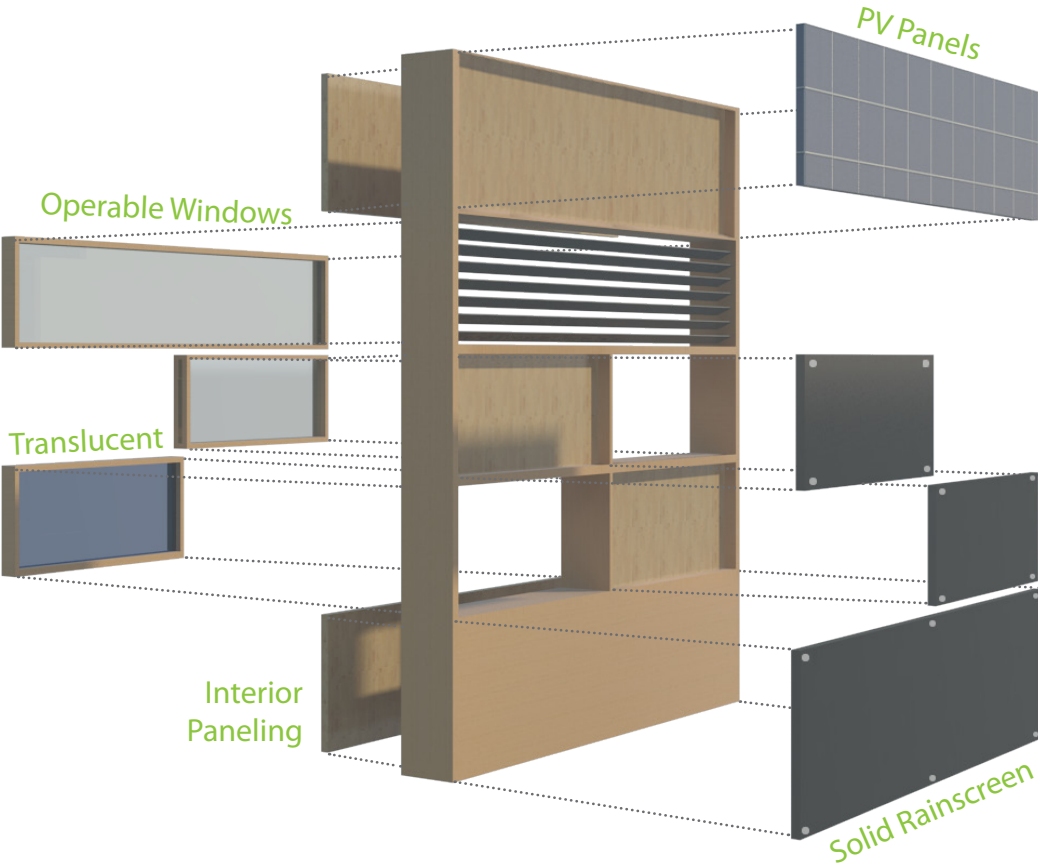
modular housing



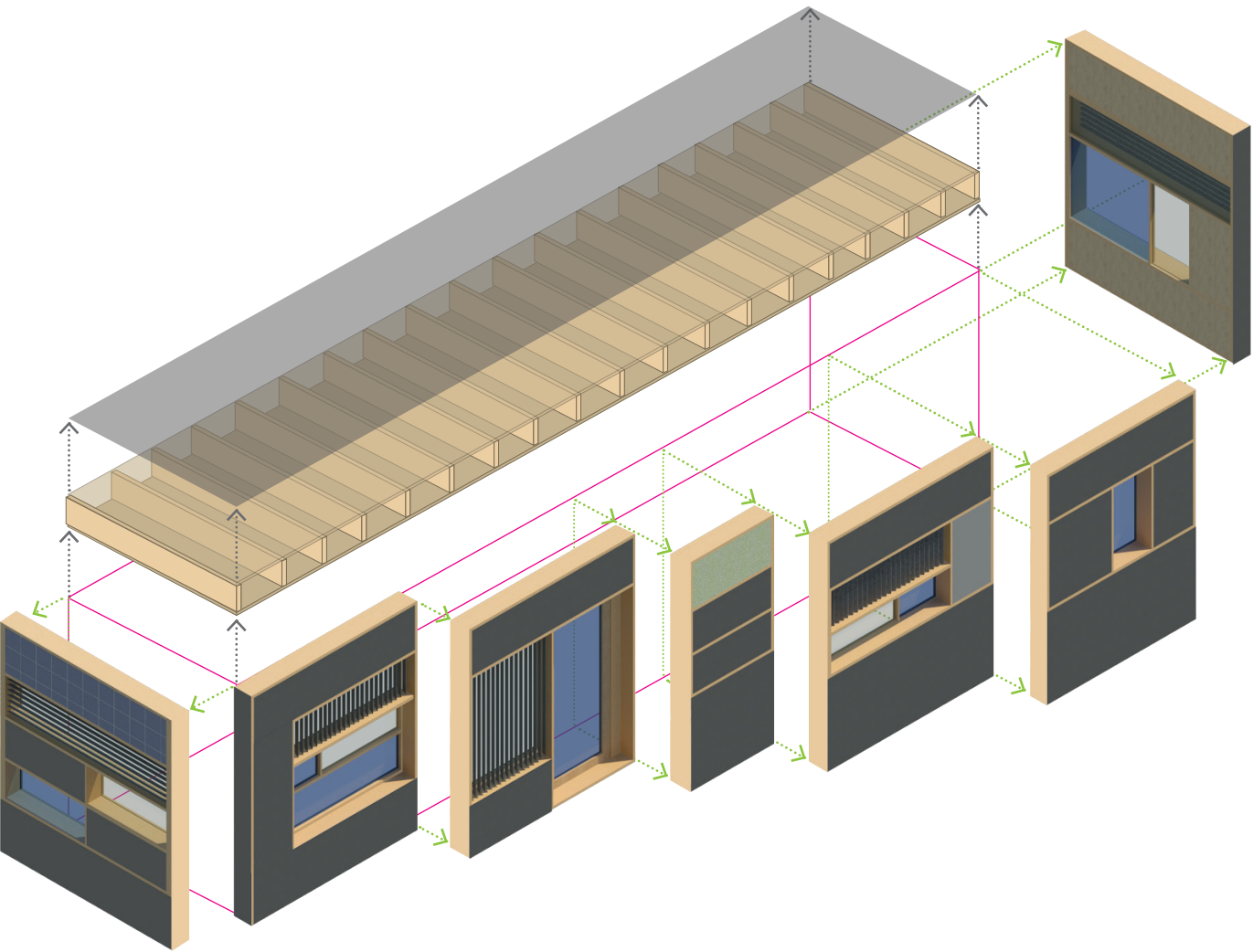
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# Prototype Home



ONE PANEL



ONE MODULE  
consisting of 8 panels



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## ONE CUSTOMIZED HOME

Consisting of 4 Modules and 32 Panels

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