

The context of architecture is one of development and change. Struggle against decay, acceptance of obsolescence, and adaptation to new conditions are integral elements of the story of inhabited space. Traces of this rich architectural narrative inform our project, making the house a site that anchors the story of two lovers.

We are inspired by pairs of star-crossed lovers: Ovid's Pyramus and Thisbe, and Orihime and Hikoboshi. Pyramus and Thisbe inhabit two urban living spaces separated by a shared masonry wall. Though their families forbid their meeting, Pyramus and Thisbe are able to communicate with each other by whispering through a crack in the wall. Orihime and Hikoboshi, too, are separated by family rules and by a river. The stories of these lovers show us that separation can be a condition for love, that being apart breeds intimacy in surprising ways.

In our project, central walls maintain the separation between lovers only on the first floor. The splintered form creates specific contact points that allow residents to hear, see, and even share with their neighbors although the spaces are not conjoined. On the patio above, however, the central wall can be experienced in the round.

The wall is a locus for a partial draping fabric canopy over the patio. The space expands and contracts, the softness of the drapes contrasting with the hardness of the walls. Like the narratives that have flowed through this building throughout its history, the drapes casually interact with remnants of the old and aspects of the new building.

The house we propose fosters intimacy and allows for the creation of communal living spaces. Incorporating the traces of past lives, it is a reminder that the differences that keep people apart can also create the grounds for loving connection.

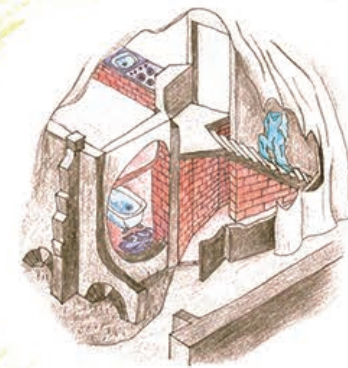
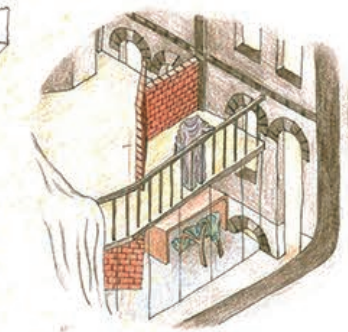
夢の物語
見えてくる

dream

Waking from a dream
alone, like counting the breaths
of unseen elsewheres.

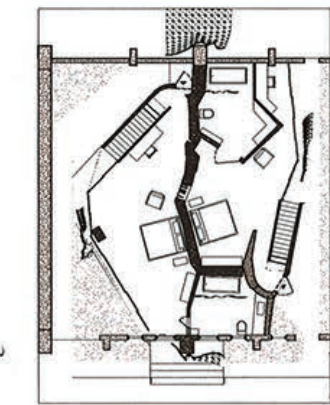
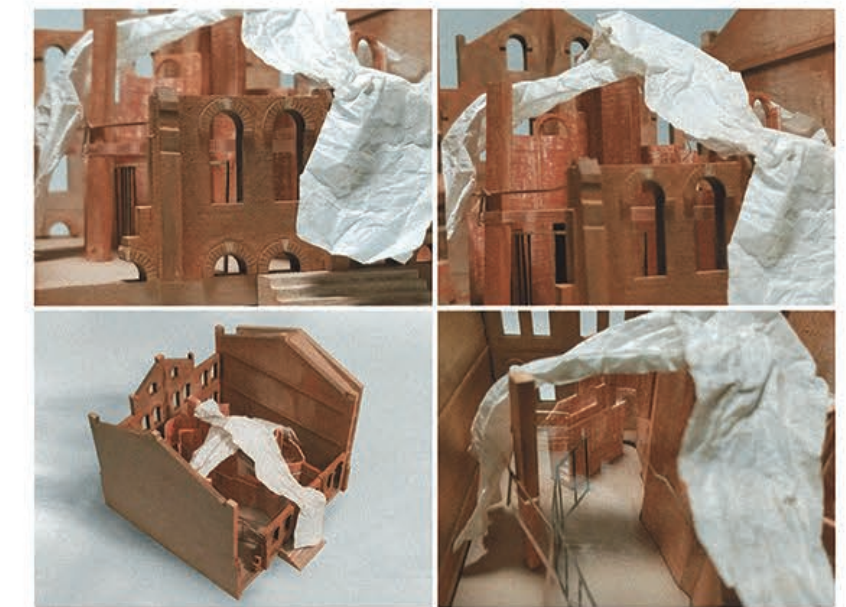
持物の記憶が壁に沿って流れる。
あの風景かと思ひ出す。

Later, remember
warmth, a kiss
that haunts these walls.

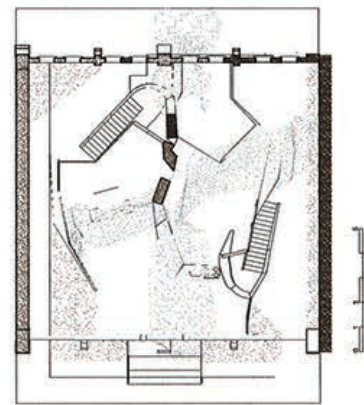


Quiet palms bend their necks;
far off, sea meets air. Listen
for the closing doors.

doors.
静かに手を曲げ
遠くにある海と空の間に
閉ざされた扉越しの音をき



Ground Floor



Roof Plan