

A HOUSE INBETWEEN
THE SKY & THE GROUND

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■ CONCEPT

This prototype house seeks to find new possibilities of dwelling for the bachelor. It is fundamental then to restate the question of how should a prototype house achieve a coherent scheme according to the potential user. In the seek for references we could reconsider the various experimental Patio Houses developed by Mies van der Rohe in the 30' s, specifically the House with Three Patios (1934). In this house we can see an apparently functional arrangement of the spaces. Through its configuration we could infer it was planned for a single and only inhabitant, a bachelor. The periphery of the plot is given by a wall whose main purpose is beyond define or separate the house to its surroundings but to confer privacy to this inhabitant, allowing the person to develop a completely free lifestyle.

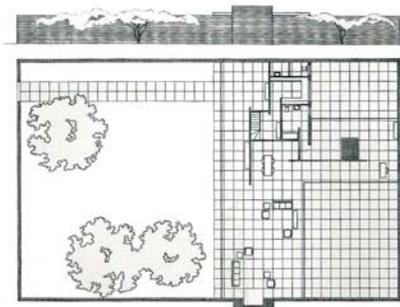
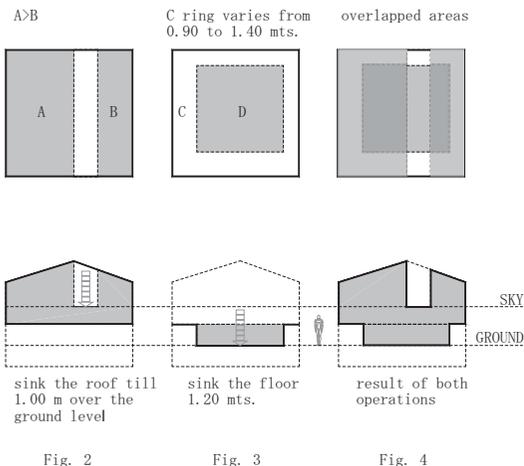


FIG. 1
House with Three Patios. (1934).
by Mies van der Rohe.
PLAN AND ELEVATION

Under this frame, the aim of the presented project is to achieve several scenarios of dwelling in a continuous space. As a prototype, it has to find its uniqueness based in universal conditions. Thus the sky and the ground are two constant variables in any object that lies in the earth. However the way we pass from one to other could be a unique experience in this house, which is in-between the sky and the ground. To be “in-between” means to be aware of two or more variables in the same event, and to be “in” and “between” these experiences.

The house for a non-married aiming to create a continuous space could avoid the partitions in the space and try to create partial divisions through other alternatives. In this prototype the operations in the space are opposite but complementary; uplifting and sinking, both the ground and the sky we could say.



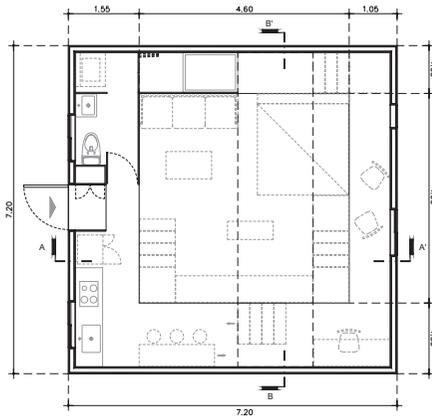
■ THE RULE

Modify one single room by 2 simple operations; sinking the roof and the ground but remaining continuous. The first operation (Fig. 2) in plan is 3/16 of the total length of one of the sides of the square. It’ s position apparently divide the space in 2 areas that should not be the same but always different. The same operation of sinking is done in the ground (Fig. 3); 1.20 meters down. In plan this area is a ring for services and the rest is underground. Finally the overlapping of both operations (Fig.4) is sequence of spaces which sometimes becomes tight and sometime more liberate, both in plan and section.

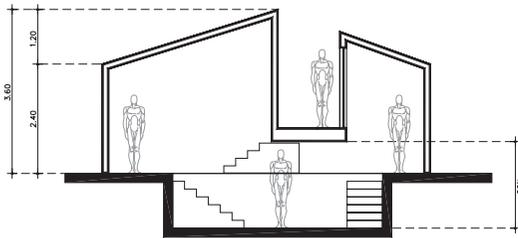
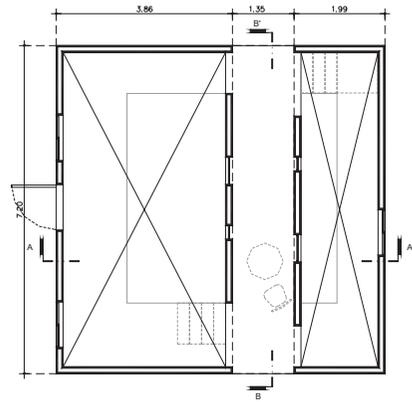
■ CONCRETE PLANS

The house is posed on a square of 7.20 x 7.20 mts (almost 52 m²). Considering that the inhabitant is a single person, it would not be necessary to think this prototype for a bigger area.

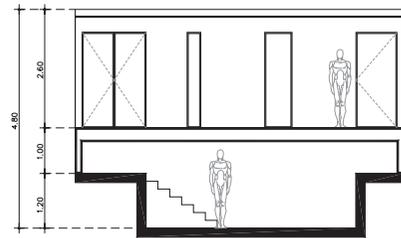
PLAN L. +0.00 / -1.20



PLAN L. +1.00



SECTION A-A'



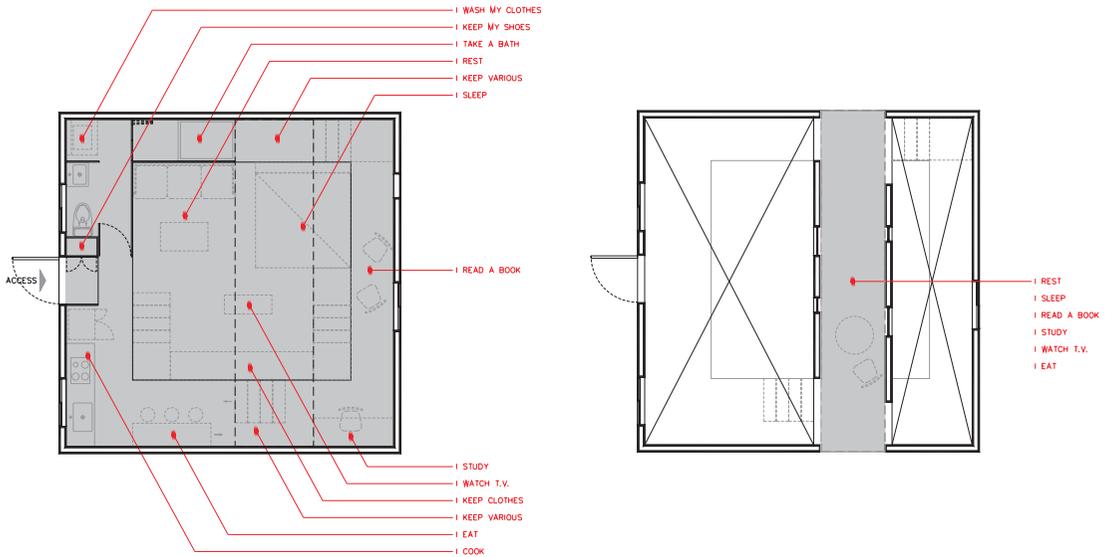
SECTION B-B'



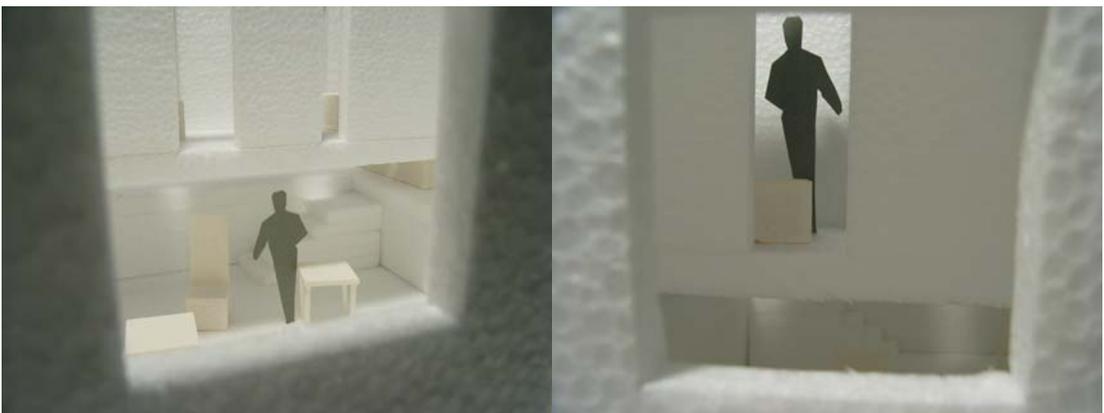
■ SCENE

To imagine how to dwell this house we have to imagine those small things that happens in our daily life but that we don' t often see. Thus more than giving names to each one of the different spaces in the house, it would be described as activities and customs in the bachelor' s normal life. We have to imagine then ourselves as being that person.

The person who lives here is someone who is seeking for more intimacy, and would like to gaze his house as his shelter to be away from the common and repetitive routine on a shift.

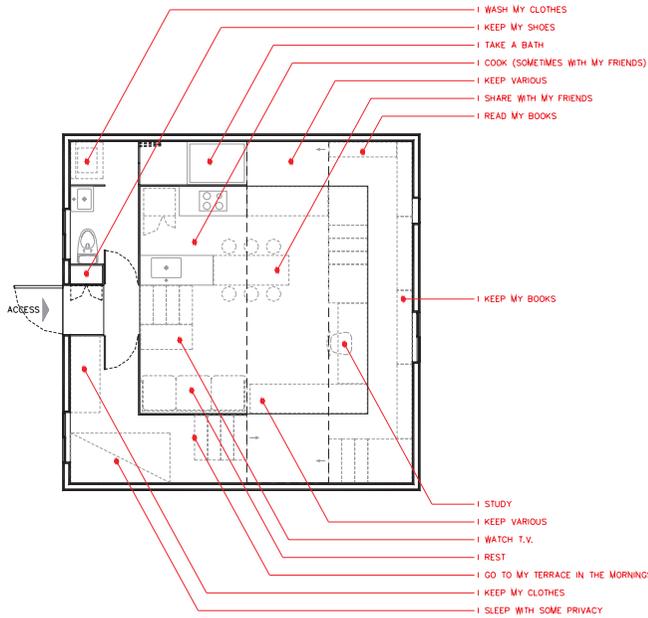


In this scene we can see a person who decided to have a small kitchen, and preferred to use the whole sunken area as an extension of himself; of his preferences or hobbies. In this house the presence of the long element cutting the house determine the lifestyle of the person who inhabit it. It is a place that works as an extension of many activities. It is the place where many things could happen but that we couldn' t certainly tell what would be for. Only the owner would give meaning to this area according to his own desires. Could well be described as the place for the "I" .

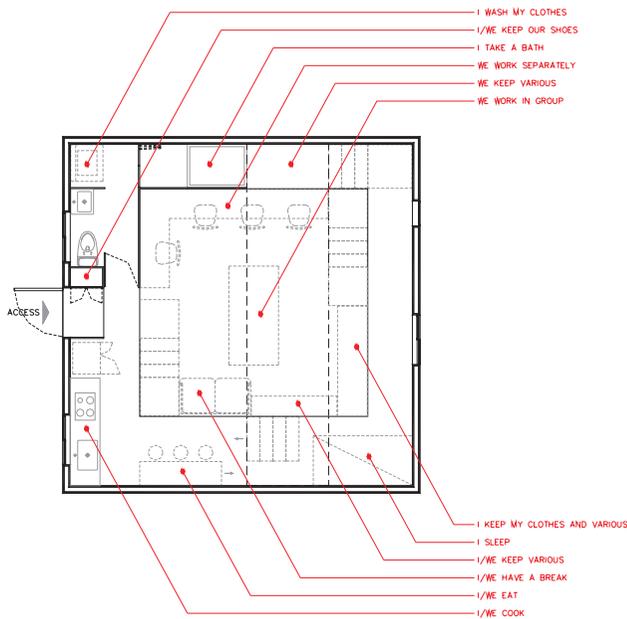


■ OTHER POSSIBILITIES

This house can also accept other variations on the use of it; for instance, in the example of the top we can see a more private room and a bigger area for the kitchen. Probably the potential client enjoy to spend time with some friends and gathering spaces are preferable.



Other scene could be the person who has a small company and would prefer to have a working space shared with the common life activities.



■ CONCLUSIONS

It is important to reconsider the role of the prototype for the bachelor's house in order to answer the increasing demand of this kind of dwelling. Try to keep the whole unit connected is one of the premises of this prototype, but creating several experiences when living on it.

This house could be built as a very flexible-use house. All the spaces can change by just shifting the furniture, in which even the stairs could be consider as part of it. Maybe one of the uniqueness of this prototype could be that almost nothing is given but the boundaries and the different operations that modified the space, but it allows a single person to reconsider how to live better. Probably this house is not completely constructed only with the physical boundaries, and starts to be constructed as it is dwelled.

単身者用住宅のプロトタイプ役割を再考することは、独身世帯が増えていることに応えるために重要である。そして、全体の空間がつながっているということがこのプロトタイプ住宅の大前提の一つであるが、そこに住んでみると実に様々な体験が生み出されるようにできている。

この家は、生活の変化に合わせてとてもフレキシブルに使うことができる。家具を置き換えただけで、この家の全ての空間がまったく違ったものとなり、階段さえも家具の一部としてとらえることが可能なのだ。また、このプロトタイプの特異点のひとつとして言えることは、境界と空間を操作すること以外に、何も与えられているものはないということかもしれない。しかしそれはよりよい生活をするということはどういうことか、再考させることができる。おそらくこの家は物理的な境界のみによって完全に構築されるのではなく、そこで生活することによって初めて形成されるのだろう。