



PROJECT INFORMATION:

- Name: Nascent House
Location: Annapolis, Maryland
Category: Residential Architecture

Synopsis:
This project is about using high design to frame how we live and experiencing the landscape through a new perspective at each turn. This home is located on approximately half an acre of waterfront property on the east bank of the South River in Annapolis, Maryland.

Photography © 2016 Curtis Martin Photo Inc.

NASCENT HOUSE *“There is no truth. There is only perception.”* **Gustave Flaubert**



THE STORY

Within this home is a story about its owner, Craig Vander Kolk.



Craig, Age 2, Lake Michigan

Craig grew up playing and living on the shores of Lake Michigan where he feels fortunate to have forged life long memories with friends and family. As Craig grew older, he pursued a passion he had for helping others, attended medical school, became a physician and traveled the

world through a fellowship and nonprofits on a mission to repair cleft palates. After many years of traveling and living around the world Craig returned home to the states. Now practicing and sharing his experience in the Baltimore-Washington Corridor, Craig looked for a new place to call home. A long search for the right property helped him realize that home for him was on the water. Craig wanted to make this connection once again, returning to the place he once loved to create new memories with his own children and grandchildren.

Craig and his wife found this when they visited a small parcel of waterfront property nestled within the eastern shore of the South River, Annapolis, Maryland. A tiny home stood on the property that would need to be demolished as it was uninhabitable. So not long after purchasing the land, Craig enrolled in an architectural design course at the local college. As a lover of modern architecture he wanted to learn as much as possible about creating a home that would balance his love for design as well as compliment and engage the surrounding landscape. Craig was an active participant, discussing architecture and design with the Professor long after class was over. Through their passion for architecture they formed an instant bond and friendship. The Professor, a practicing Architect, partnered with Craig to help him create his dream home.

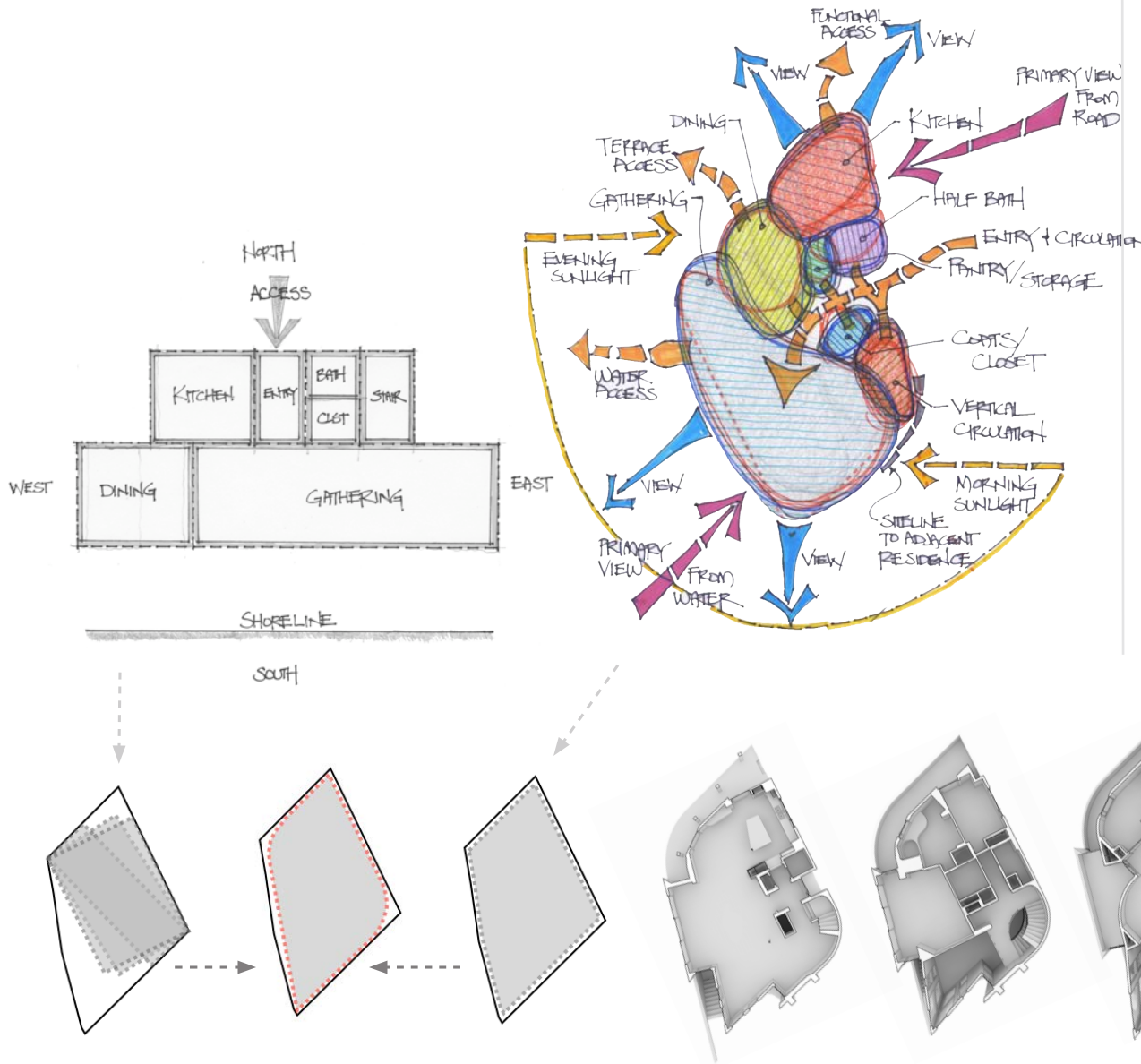


Existing Property, Harness Creek 2010

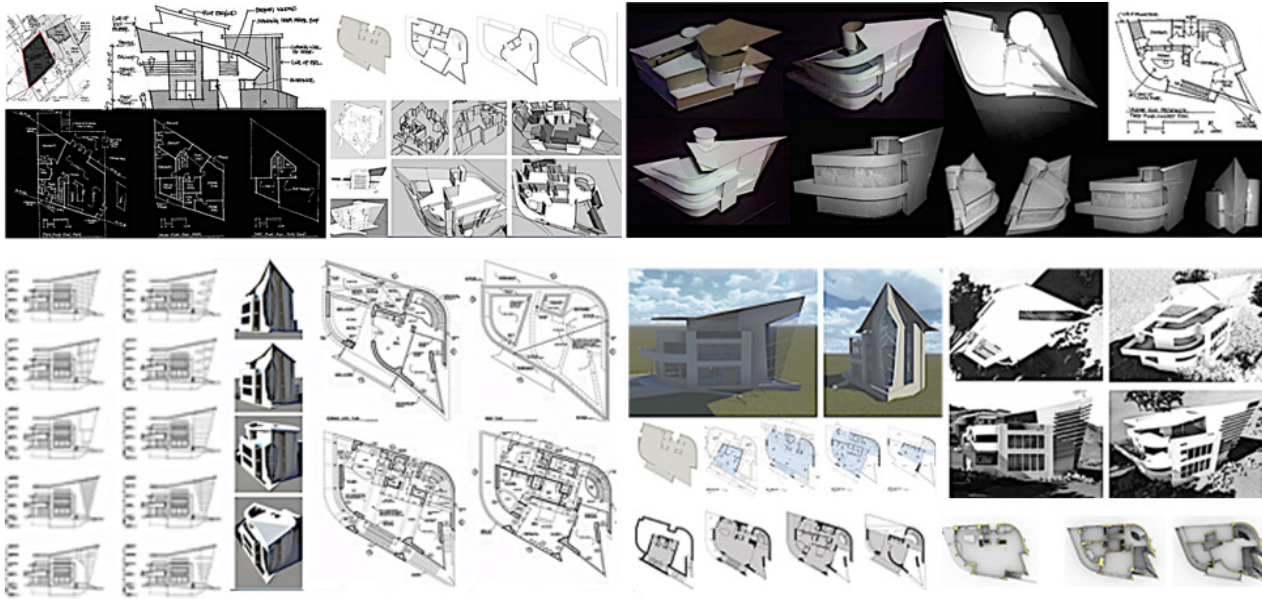
THE PROCESS

This project is the culmination of a five-year relationship between client and architect in a collaborative environment of shared ideas and tested concepts. This design process evolved continuously around potentials of site, program, and architecture within the context of their individual inherent qualities and their interconnected relationship to one another. It was within the synthesis of this operational framework that a generative range of solutions was considered at each stage in the design process.

In this work, architecture is situated between the analysis of site and the program. Quantitative and qualitative design criteria converge to allow the emergence of architectural strategies related to space, form, and language while not diminishing the original constituent ideas about site and program.



NASCENT HOUSE *"Ideas aren't self-contained things; they're more like ecologies and networks. They form clusters."* **Kevin Kelly**



GENERATIVE ITERATION

Generative iterations depend on an open system of processing design information so that not one notion is favored, but rather all design content is constantly considered within an approach that seeks to represent site, program, and architecture equally. Within each step in this design process, visualized outcomes provide feedback loops for the critique of an idea at hand as well as impetus for further study. Multiple forms of media and representation provide additional filters with which to consider the output both from a rational and empirical point of view. Ultimately, the cyclical method of research and discovery outlined here created a provocative environment for the design process to yield potential solutions within the context of the project.

ENVIRONMENTAL ATTRIBUTES

- Path of Sun
- Topography
- Natural Vegetation

REGULATORY CRITERIA

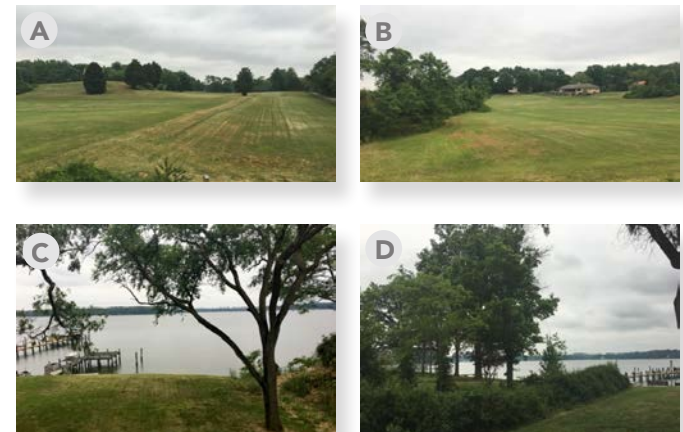
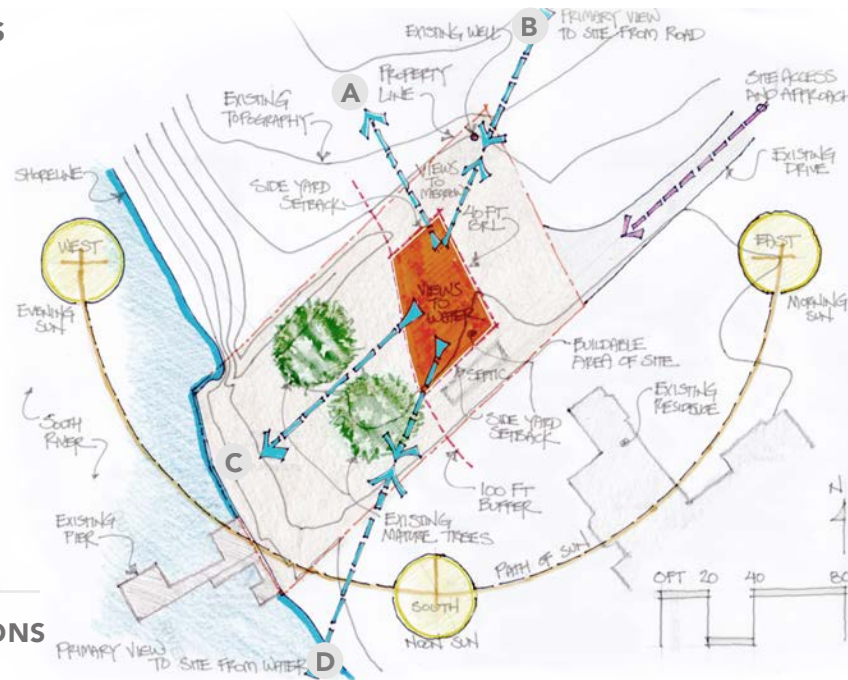
- Primary Building Setbacks
- Utilities
- Site Access

FORMAL ANALYSIS

- Size & Scale
- Circulation
- Shield from Neighbor

PHENOMENAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Approach & Promenade
- Views to & from Site
- Orientation to Water



NASCENT HOUSE *"We believe ideas become great when they are challenged and tested."* Ed Catmull

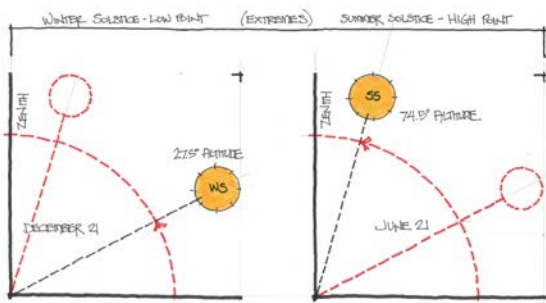


ALLOWING SUNLIGHT

The specific location on the east bank of the South River coupled with a site orientation towards the south presented a functional concern regarding potential solar heat gain and the size and location of fenestration on portions of the building addressing the water. Programmatically the interior spaces seek to open up to the shoreline to provide natural daylight, views, and connection to the water. This conflicts the site condition of direct afternoon southern exposure to this part of the exterior of the building. In order to maintain large expanse of openings two mature trees native to the site were kept intact to use as practical shading devices against the afternoon summer sun. Although architectural shading devices on the exterior were considered, ultimately it was felt that these elements interrupted the form and overall volume of the building.

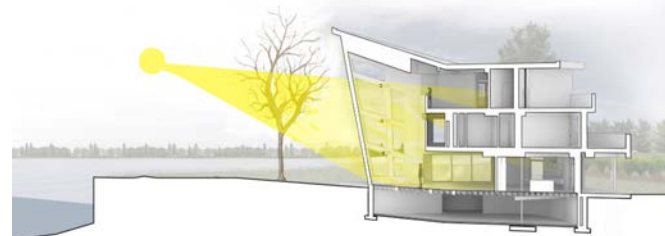
In addition, this solution presented an outcome to the overall aesthetics and experience of the interiors. When the after summer sun is being protected by the shade of the two trees, different natural lighting affects occur both on the exterior facade and interior spaces adjacent to the water. Light trickles through the filter of the tree canopies providing nuanced spatial conditions on the interior as well as an ever-changing imprint on the facade that captures the mask of light, shade, and shadow as it moves across the exterior with the passing of each day.

Solar Angle Design Data: Altitude calculations based on Annapolis, MD at 39° Latitude about the Earth.



WINTER

SUMMER



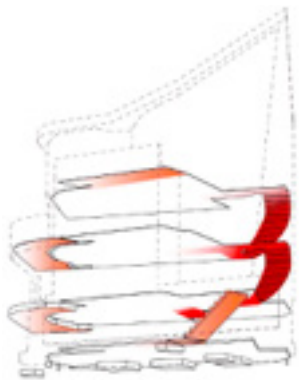
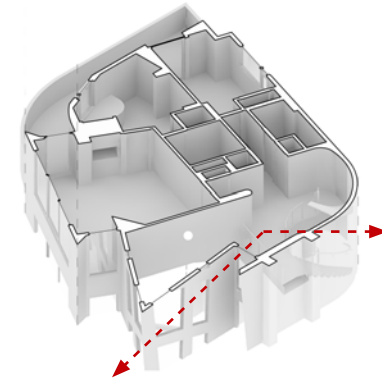
WINTER SUN: More direct exposure to sunlight is desired to heat the home.

SUMMER SUN: Less direct exposure to sunlight is desired to keep the home cooler.



CELEBRATING MOVEMENT

Movement through the house is celebrated as a formal device that provides opportunities to re-present unique facets of the site to inhabitants by varying the spatial relationship, framed view, and phenomenal connectivity to the exterior within the scale, openness, and directionality of interior promenade and passage. This is most evident in the vertical circulation where the stairway assembly provides potential for a dynamic experience as one ascends and descends from floor to floor.



The stair is situated so that at first one separates from the primary gathering space on the first floor to move vertically upward. Orientation in space is contrived so that the vertical movement is focused inward to the plan without connection to the exterior. At the second floor, the stair culminates to a balcony condition that suspends the individual between the atrium space and the vertical circulation core. This point in space provides visual association between where one has come from and where one may further ascend. The observer is reconnected to the first floor gathering space in concert with the atrium and simultaneously presented with a new perspective towards the water. This view captures the foreground conditions which are not apparent when observing the shoreline from the first floor and frames the sightline directly looking down South River.





THE CONNECTION

Visio-spatial narratives that seek to create scaled spatial conditions for activity within larger contiguous open enclosures offering both the opportunity for intimate interactions at the scale of an activity while maintaining connections with the immediate natural environment, landscape, water, and vegetation. This connection between interior and exterior is further expanded by controlled circulation pathways that strategically place fenestration in a position of ever changing framed views and threshold conditions of passing through both visual and physical. These instances manipulate the occupants vantage point and relationship to the exterior condition allowing varied visual access of foreground, middle ground, and background. In this way, land, water, and sky are continuously re-presented to inhabitants as they move through the interior both in plan and section.





EXPERIENCE & ENGAGE

Architectural planning resolves the negotiation between the site and the program, not through making decisions of one over the other but rather an analysis of each in which success is measured by a carefully balanced ambiguity that satisfies competing design criteria by yielding a complex synthesis of site and program. This level of emergent complexity offers a unique framework for considering design opportunities and it informs the potential formal techniques for implementation. In this way, quantitative functional realities of the built environment do not limit nor dictate language, space, and form but allow architecture to meet its basic utilitarian requirements without limiting the qualitative phenomena that elevate architecture's potential to affect experience.





nas•cent *Just coming into existence and beginning to display signs of future potential.*

