

## OR-1/OR-1R RESIDENCE

MAGRATH, ALBERTA, CANADA

042911 | 1101

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Type:  
Single Family Residence

Client:  
Michael Orr

Budget (CAD\$):  
Withheld

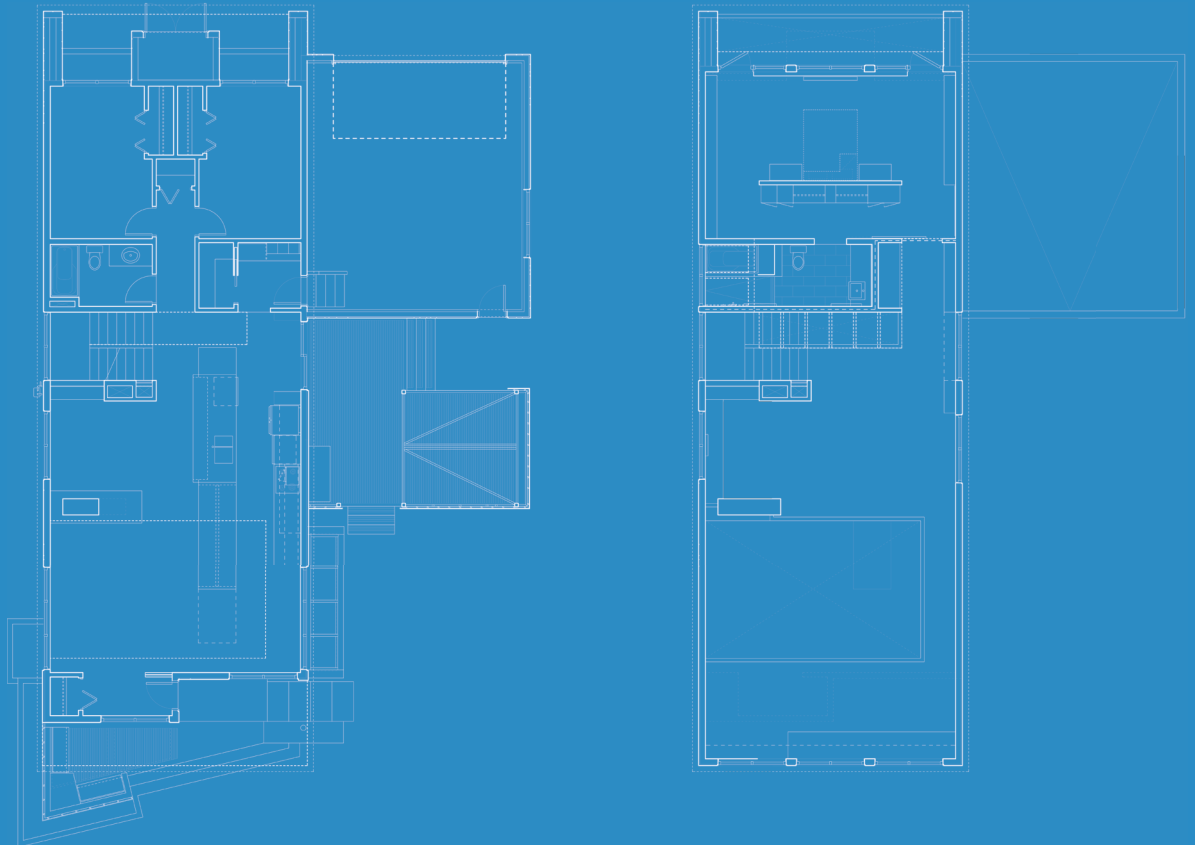
Size:  
3,250 sq. ft. / 302 sq. m.

Building Design:  
010110 | Architecture + Urbanism

Services:  
Programming, Architecture, Interiors, Visualization

General Contractor:  
Withheld

Project Date / Status:  
2012 / Partially Realized



Main & Second Floor Plans

**“People who build their own home tend to be very courageous. They’re thinking about what it means to live in a house, rather than just buying a commodity and making it work.” ~ Tom Kundig (1954 - )**

#### PROJECT SUMMARY

The project was initiated as a somewhat complicated relocation-renovation-addition to a dilapidated 1920's rural homestead in the town of Magrath, Alberta. Prior to engaging 010110, the client had renovated the interior main floor justifying the effort for adaptation through relocation instead of demolition. Once relocated and renovated, the modest residence was to offer temporary accommodation while the phase two family residence was designed and constructed at the original site.

#### OR-1

The existing main floor plan dictated site relationships and new opportunities for the final design program on a much smaller lot three blocks to the east. A renovation to accommodate the needs of a young family of five daughters included the development of full basement living areas, new electrical and mechanical systems for improved safety and efficiency as well as an entire building envelope/roof replacement. Design expectations during this phase were to adapt the home into an appealing contemporary residence to later be sold.

After having been awarded a development permit, dubious administrative obstacles by municipal officials frustrated early construction efforts, slowing the project to a halt. After the foundation was constructed, further municipal delays exhausted the summer house-moving season triggering an abrupt change of plan to fast-track a new design for all new construction. The original plan to relocate the original dwelling was then forcibly abandoned with the dream to develop the principal site.

#### OR-1R

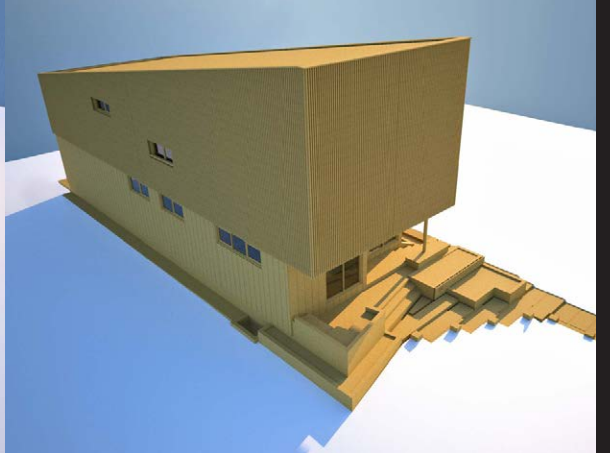
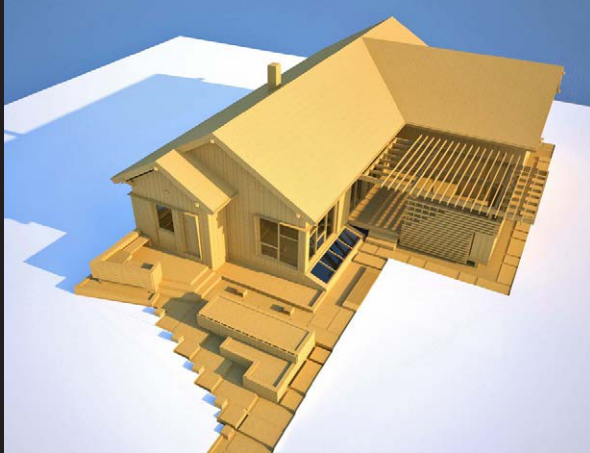
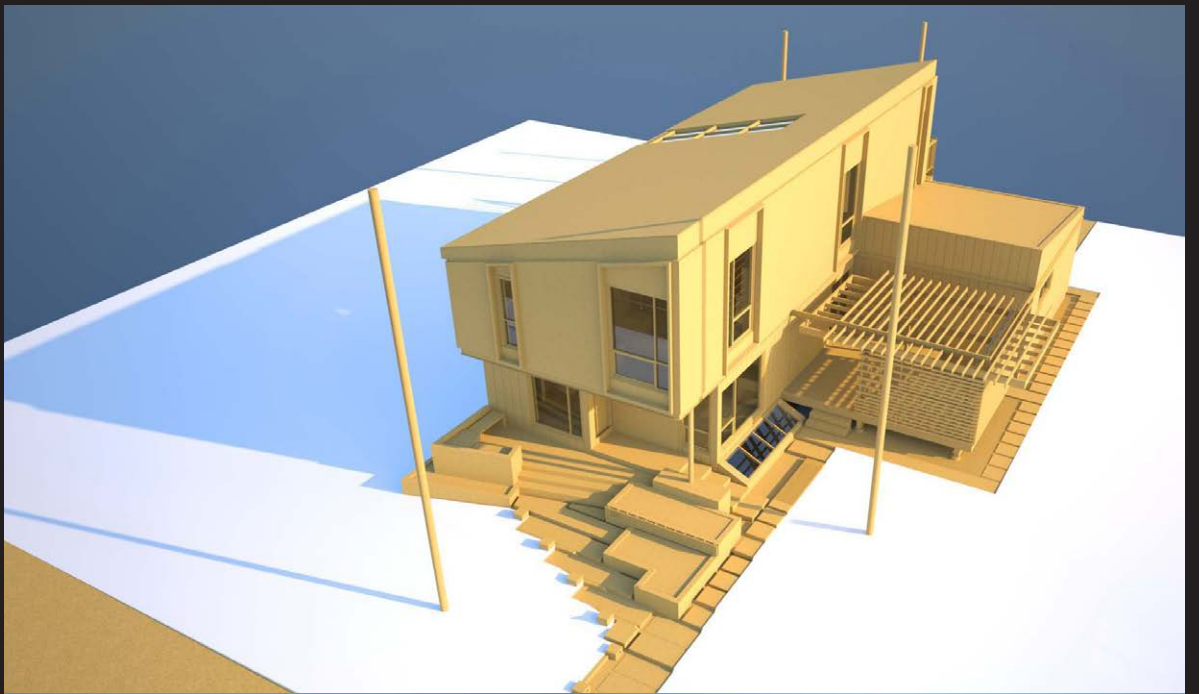
With Canadian winter fast approaching, a revised design was prepared utilizing the foundation intended for the original dwelling. The work was expedited in an extremely short interval through an iterative design process which produced two new concepts for living.

The first design concept was a powerfully simple upper storey devised as a volumetric cantilever to create a protected front entrance. The open-joint wood clad upper volume related to a prior vernacular of the prairie context - weathered barns, wind fences - and monumental grain elevators. At night, glowing windows peek through the cladding transforming the upper storey into a carefully punctuated light box diffusing views into the interior. Upon entering the dwelling, a surprisingly high interior volume creates a strong spatial experience and visual connectivity with various living spaces.

The simple boldness of the ‘warm box on a podium’ along the street prompted a second design concept with a modestly subverted roof form using conventional trusses in a more familiar shed profile. This offered a more subdued street presence that could maintain similar interior volumes in an extremely cost effective solution more sensitive to the conformative neighbouring houses. Window fenestration was wrapped in deep window boxes that stretch high to the roof peak camouflaging the true depth of the trusses and permitting maximum day light and views. A spacious light-well at the stairway provides ample daylight down through common areas on all floors. A screened exterior patio extends the use of the kitchen to the outdoors in a wind protected and screened area. Like the simple mono-sloped shed roof, the garage volume was approached in likewise fashion.



Spencer Court



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Contextual Inspiration and Concept Visualizations of Architectural Options and Interiors