

Tactile Daylight: K. Naess Residence in Houston, Texas

PATRICK PETERS
University of Houston

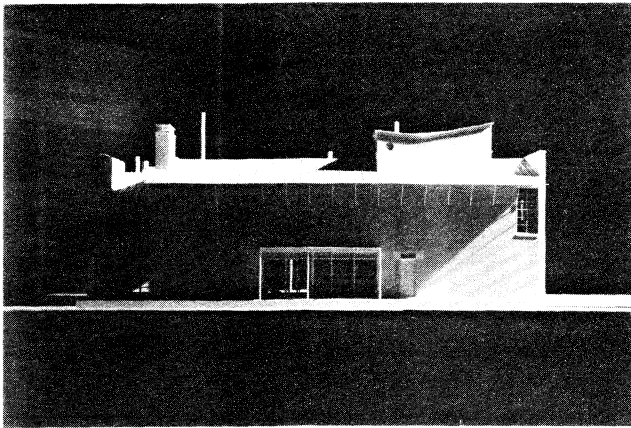


Fig. 1. Model from south showing light monitor.

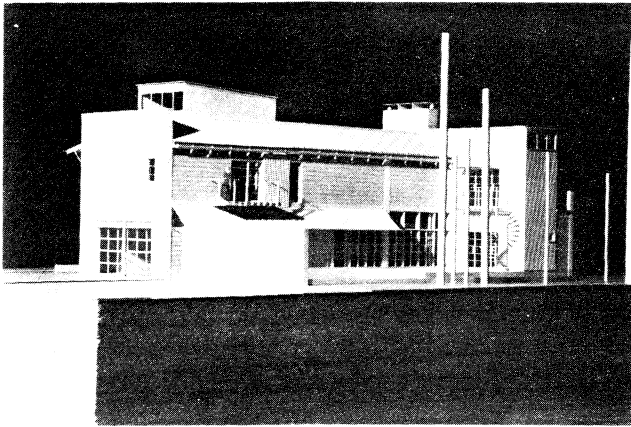


Fig. 2. Model showing north courtyard and entry.

The K. Naess Residence developed from the central concern for the quality of daylight available to each of its spaces. Its two story volume and spatial continuity provide for multiple sources of natural light and internal and external views within a compact footprint. Fig. 4. The building occupies an ad hoc neighborhood in central Houston undergoing a transformation from modest wood cottages and industrial metal sheds to the studio/residences of working artists.

The client, a single professional with a modest collection of three-dimensional art and imported furnishings, sought a dwelling that would integrate art with an experience of the local climate and patterns of landscape. By means of courtyard gardens on the north and southwest, the interior and exterior spaces interlock. Figs. 2 and 3. The palette throughout (concrete block, fir, cedar shiplap, corrugated galvanized steel) is limited to the simple use of unadorned industrial materials combined to exploit their inherent colors and contrasting textures. Fig. 1.

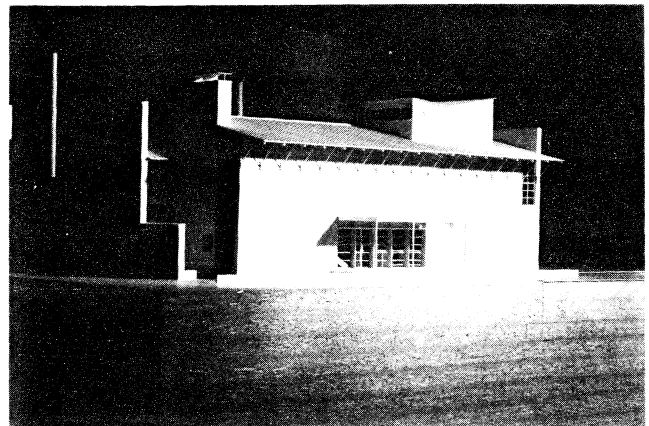


Fig. 3. Model showing southwest courtyard.

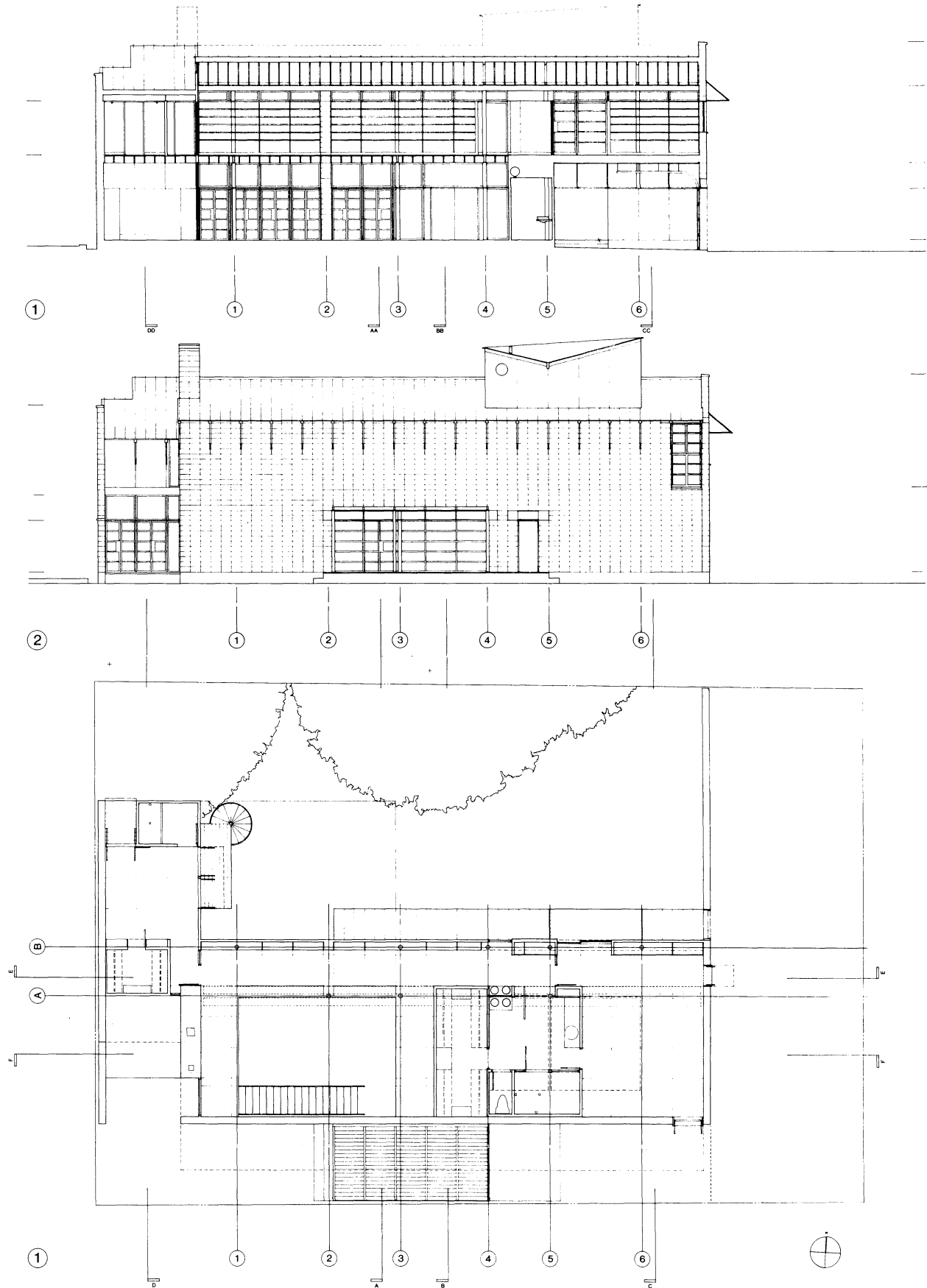


Fig. 4. Section / South elevation / Second level plan