

# Flip-flop Store/ Studio Conversion

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## SHELF-LIFE

Flip-flop store/studio conversion incorporates found objects with custom hardware and furnishings to create a wall mounted living space that enfolds on a daily basis to conceal or reveal work space. The live-work ensemble is wholly detachable and can be demounted by two people in a matter of hours for storage or re-installation. Disassembled, the parts fit into a 4 ft. x 5 ft. x 10 ft. storage cubicle.

This siting of Flip-flop occurred in a 300sf commercial storefront equipped with electric lines and a water closet. The project was home, studio space and experiment of the authors. The project was accomplished with a minimum of means; the construction was done by the authors with the exception of most metal work which was done in various shops.

Our intention was to keep the space of the studio as open as possible. From the onset the thesis was to build without spatially compartmentalizing the complexities and ambiguities of daily life. The particularities of this first site which was very compressed encouraged the overlapping and multiple boundary confusions which characterize this installation of Flip-flop.

## COMPLEX URBANITY: SCENARIO

The first step was removing the existing water closet partition. This set-up a problem that was simultaneously humorous and horrific. The open bathroomdoor...the bathroom without a wall...the bath that occupied the kitchen...the kitchen that encroached on the sleep area...the sleep area that springs from the wall and back...etc.

## SURFACE/STRUCTURE/HARDWARE: MASKS

The problem of privacy without walls resulted in strategies for masking space and program. An additional site feature was the nature of the existing enclosure. The walls were of stone, brick and plaster which began at street level or five feet above the finished floor. Spatial distinctions occurred primarily in section. The character of each section was defined by a "mask." Masks occurred as light

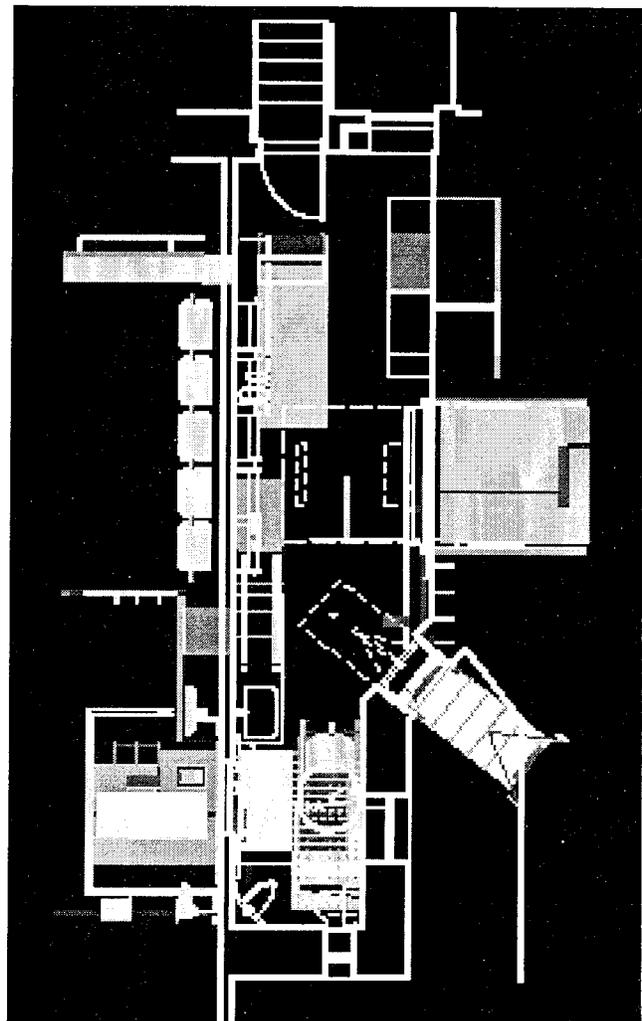


Fig. 1. Plan/sections/elevations



Fig. 2. View in



Fig. 3. View out.



Fig. 4. Day.

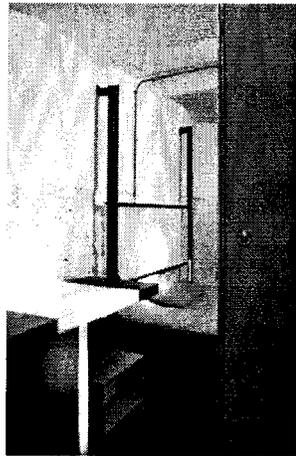


Fig. 5. Night

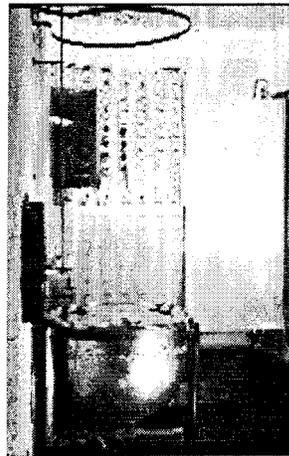


Fig. 6. Bath/screen

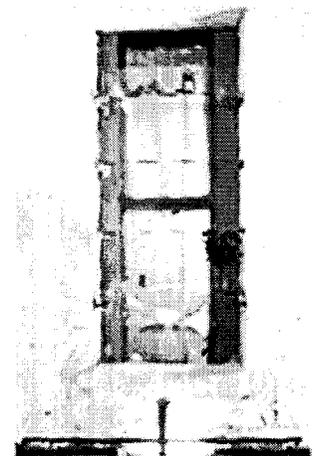


Fig. 7. Table/vitrine

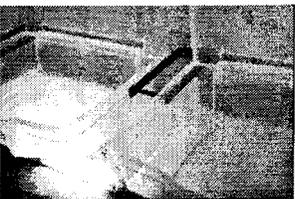


Fig. 8. WaaG Storage

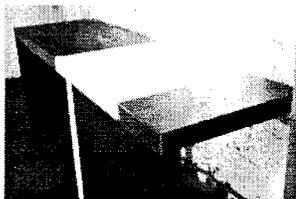


Fig. 9. Tli table.

boxes, as thick opaque panels containing masqueraded objects such as the Sold down bed or medicine cabinet, as opaque entry screen masking a storage unit which supports it, as a wall of lights that conceals the water closet, as a glass table that pivots to seal as vitrine glass shelving in a window niche...

### UPWARD MOBILITY: SPRING

The transitory nature of Flip-flop is a response to contemporary urban habitation dilemmas: high rent, room-mates, small spaces without qualities...one step ahead of gentrification.

### OBJECT STUDIES: PROTOTYPES

The studies in Flip-flop have lead us into further explorations of particular objects as prototypes. Two examples are WaaG and Tli. WaaG ("Week at a Glance"), a storage prototype that combines customized Rubbermaid storage units and custom steel supports, encourages the recycling and airing of nomadic desires. Tli, a cantilevered table, constructed of folded, welded and polyurethaned sheet steel, is supported by a lightbox/column.