residential building

process

All images and photos created by the author
The Journey:
Exploring the relationship between spaces and the circulation routes connecting them.
Scheme C displays the ideas of a suspended independent stair. This option seems to increase the circulation paths throughout the building as well as divide the floor plans into three sections. There is no longer a visual connection between the living and dining rooms.

A sketch of a section through this floor plan is located on the next page.

Scheme D is close to the final floor plan of the residential building. There are two sets of stairs, the stair that connect the ground and lower floor are located within the pair of masonry walls. The other stair which connects the ground and second floor runner parallel to the river.

A sketch of a section through this floor plan is also located on the next page.
Scheme C introduces a suspended independent stair into the circulation route. This option seems to increase the length of the circulation paths and divide the floor plans into three sections. There is no longer a visual connection between the living and dining rooms.

(A sketch of a section through this floor plan is located on the next page.)

Scheme D is close to the final floor plan of the residential building. There are two sets of stairs, the stairs that connect the ground and lower floor are located within the pair of masonry walls and the other stairs which connect the ground and second floors run parallel to the river.

A sketch of a section through this floor plan is also located on the next page.
These three elevations represent some of the early ideas for the West elevation. The challenge of this elevation is to organize window and door proportions that respect the style of Old Town. The application of that idea is difficult because the building construction methods and materials are different.

The image collage below represents the existing site and sketch of the West elevation of the residential building. This exercise reinforced the importance of aligning the window and door heights of the new construction with the existing adjacent building.
existing Doors

Gates

Photographs of existing windows found in Old Town Alexandria, VA. A study of material, lintels and masonry openings.
existing

Windows
residential

The drawing above is a section through the skylight. This detail is a study of where rain water is collected and how the system can be integrated into the masonry wall.

A collage of the second floor closet area and adjacent bedroom. This image helps depict the desire to allow natural light into closet. The image also shows the exposed joists throughout bedroom.

The brick wall on in the center of the image above is overlapped by the image of man and structure. This wall is not solid, front to back, therefore it allow man the pass through it. At one moment the man will align with the structure. If a man lingers long enough within the walls he might feel their strength around him.
Both physical and virtual models aided the design process. The 3D models were most helpful with visualizing the interior experience within the building. The physical models helped express the exterior façade.
This detail is an exploration of how to connect two materials. Sometimes a third element is necessary to make a union complete. In this case, the wood tread needs the additional support and anchoring capability of steel angle.
The method in which the joists are integrated into the masonry wall involves another material. A concrete pocket has been created in order to support the masonry above and accept the wood joist.

The cobbled brick is located on the exterior of the building just above the upper entrance corridor. This method of supporting the joist was chosen out of respect for the way legdes are traditionally formed out of masonry.
A bird's eye view of Southeast corner of the residence.

A view onto the master bedroom and private terrace.
East elevation of the residence.
Views captured while walking towards the lower entry.
View from upper living room down to lower living area. Private seating area to the left.