The row house elevations express tectonic ideas about the building type rather than offering a style or look to the project. The planar concrete structural system is revealed by allowing party walls and concrete floor slabs to peak through in specific places. The front wall is another plane propped up for privacy. An interior vertical transition and light zone remains open on the facades. This is done by placing the front plane directly in front of living spaces only. Windows and doors are located either between the planes or in the large openings provided in the plane. These openings are filled with glass, glass block, and variegated steel panels as required by interior conditions. Front porches are carved into the extra long units with back additions. Frosted glass planes act as guard rails, and are connected to the fronts of the porches.
The end units of the row houses are seen in their entirety when approaching the site on the public sidewalk. These sides are treated as more front facades. They receive planes of concrete in front of the main living spaces, and the space between become porches or additional windows for these living spaces. The alley house facades express the architectural language of the addition. Because this tends to be lighter and more open, a low concrete privacy wall runs along the edge of the house and the alleys. The solid wall separates the public alley from the private dining rooms and porches of the houses. Gaps in the concrete wall make the back entrances to the alley houses via a steps up. Corrugated galvanized steel panel guardrails and shutters provide visual protection for the second floor porches.
Additions encompass the courtyard. The vertical and horizontal steel post and beam additions are surfaced with corrugated steel sheets in areas that require most privacy. The steel and glass construction is left exposed, and therefore more open, at the more public rooms at the first level. Concrete block is used as separating walls between back row house patios. This material is used in contrast to the concrete party walls, which because of their mass and inflexibility, are the most permanent things on the site. The masonry garden walls are additions to the essential house. Similar to the alley sides, the courtyard and the row houses are separated by a concrete wall. This wall controls privacy by stopping, starting, rising, and falling to create guardrails, hold fomed glass panels, and make entrances.
In contrast to the stalwart public image of the front facade, the texture of the interior courtyard is constantly changing, revealing the life of the inhabitants. This is accomplished by several elements. Most striking is the corrugated and perforated steel shutters, which are part of the steel sheets that cover portions of the additions. The shutters are used to control views, block direct sunlight, and close rooms for privacy. From within, the visual complexity of the courtyard beyond is augmented by the dots of light coming through the shutters. Adding to this expression of occupation, are the moveable window screens in alley house living rooms. Because this room is at courtyard level, the vertical steel grid is shifted in relation to the floor. The locations of 5'-0" X 5'-0" squares fall into a standing/sitting sight level and a clerestory level. Three vertical sliding window screens are provided to cover these six squares. When all down, the living room is visually blocked from the courtyard, and vice versa, and the "clerestory" level is open. The opposite occurs when screens are pushed up. With each screen moving independently of the others, there are at least 8 variations to the pattern.

Patios and roof terraces add to the life of the interior courtyard simply by bringing the inhabitants and their belongings outside, closer to the semipublic space.