The shops along the edge are designed so that they open onto two sides, one along the main street and the other into the inner arcades, creating an inner edge for the residential.

The two site cut-through are covered walkways which connect across the site and also allow glimpses into the whole block.

The site breaks into an interwoven pattern of lines, alternating between buildings and streets, and plazas, some open to sky, some covered.
The transition of the house to the space around it. Every house has a threshold although all thresholds are not created equal. The space around the house may or may not be made their own by the house dweller, hence this space could be intensely private or a place we can peep into and yet not be a part of.

Another condition is the space between two houses, where there is a constant merging of private and public spaces. This space is elastic in terms of its outlines. It has multiple dimensions. The borderline between public and private is shifted and sometimes even erased in such a case.

The space between the houses and the commercial establishments is assumed to be open to all people and is a threshold of another scale. This space is public, yet when it comes in contact with the houses, there is an overlapping condition of a window which peeps into a courtyard, or a house. The walls along such a space have a dual responsibility, sometimes turning spaces inside-out.

The link of a street with the houses and commercial establishments on a given block or neighborhood, constitutes a bleeding point into the fabric of the town or city which again is a threshold, but of a different scale.
The street

The sunken plazas

The covered pathways

Draper street

site section through the central sunken plaza spaces
THE DWELLING - THE HOUSE

The houses are like two L’s which connect into each other, spanning different heights.
A solid block, with voids subtracted, forming a third space. Void spaces are extensions of the units, into the public spaces and also as light wells. The houses do not have direct windows into the space in between, but open into a court or light well which is a semi private space for each house. This light well creates a threshold condition. The inside and the outside is spanned by this courtyard.

The houses connect into each other, each house as a narrow strip. The houses have a view onto both sides, having plazas between them. The houses have 2 floors with a definite public private gradient, with the public part closer to the ground, with increasing privatization as we go up.
The structure is made of metal boxes which act as frames holding the reinforced concrete walls. The structure of the house supports the walls rather than inscribe them within.

I was thinking of a kind of structure which would create a condition of permeability rather than of a solid built form. The structure also creates conditions for spanning over open spaces, like over the plaza creating thresholds. The slats sit over this frame creating the roof which opens to create sky lights for the houses.
THE DWELLING - THE HOUSE

The roof of the houses climbs over the spaces behind and in front creating transitional and even sometimes ambiguous spaces.

Some of the spaces are open to interpretation over time and can mutate in the way they are used.