

# CONTENTS

---

Chapter One: Foundations	1
• An engineer in suspenders, a builder in suspense 2	
• Piers and grade beams 7 • Concrete maestro 10	
• Massive beauty 15	
Chapter Two: Hopes for the 19th Street House	21
• Building scientists, Babel of voices, builder’s pyramid 24 • Environment considerate 26	
• Reuse—recycle—reduce 29 • Single column accounting to life cycle cost assessment 35	
• Healthy 40 • Form Givers and pattern languages 42 • Architonic 46 • Dollarwise, too 48	
Chapter Three: Houses Not Built and Why	51
• Lessons from the Lake Street House 51 • Real money 54 • Architekton 57 • Two cubes 61	
• Lessons from two bad ideas 64	
Chapter Four: Crafting the Drawings	69
• Why draw 70 • Placing the house on the lot 73	
• Bubble clusters 74 • Honoring the intimacy gradient 77 • Four bedrooms and an inspiration 79	
• Making it work 80 • Sunlight and a little specialness 84 • The third dimension, restraint, and X-ray vision 89 • Keeping the house up 92	
• Softened craftsman 96 • Durability and a dollop of ambiguity 101	

Chapter Five: Crafting the Shell	105
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New kinds of sticks 107 • Forestry stewardship 109</li> <li>• Contenders 111 • Factory constructors and counterpunchers 113 • Frugal framing 118</li> <li>• The hardest working guy and the prodigy 122</li> <li>• Building skin 128 • Choices 134</li> </ul>	
Chapter Six: Infrastructure	139
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ever more 139 • Indoor air quality and the healthy house movement 141 • Build tight! Ventilate right! 143</li> <li>• A house is a system 145 • Water energy 150</li> <li>• Power and light 155 • Thermal boundary 160</li> </ul>	
Chapter Seven: Completion	165
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level five 166 • Continuity and whimsy 169</li> <li>• Flat-pak cabinetry 172 • Flooring matters 175</li> <li>• Contraption connection and the combi-system 181</li> <li>• Contraptions not constructed and why 184</li> <li>• Photovoltaic fantasy? 188</li> </ul>	
Chapter Eight: Living in the Considerate House	193
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioning 193 • At home with Chris and Dean 197 • Energy 204 • What did the house cost? 207 • Building \$ense 214</li> </ul>	
Epilogue: Better Yet?	219
Glossary	227
Resources	232
Index	239