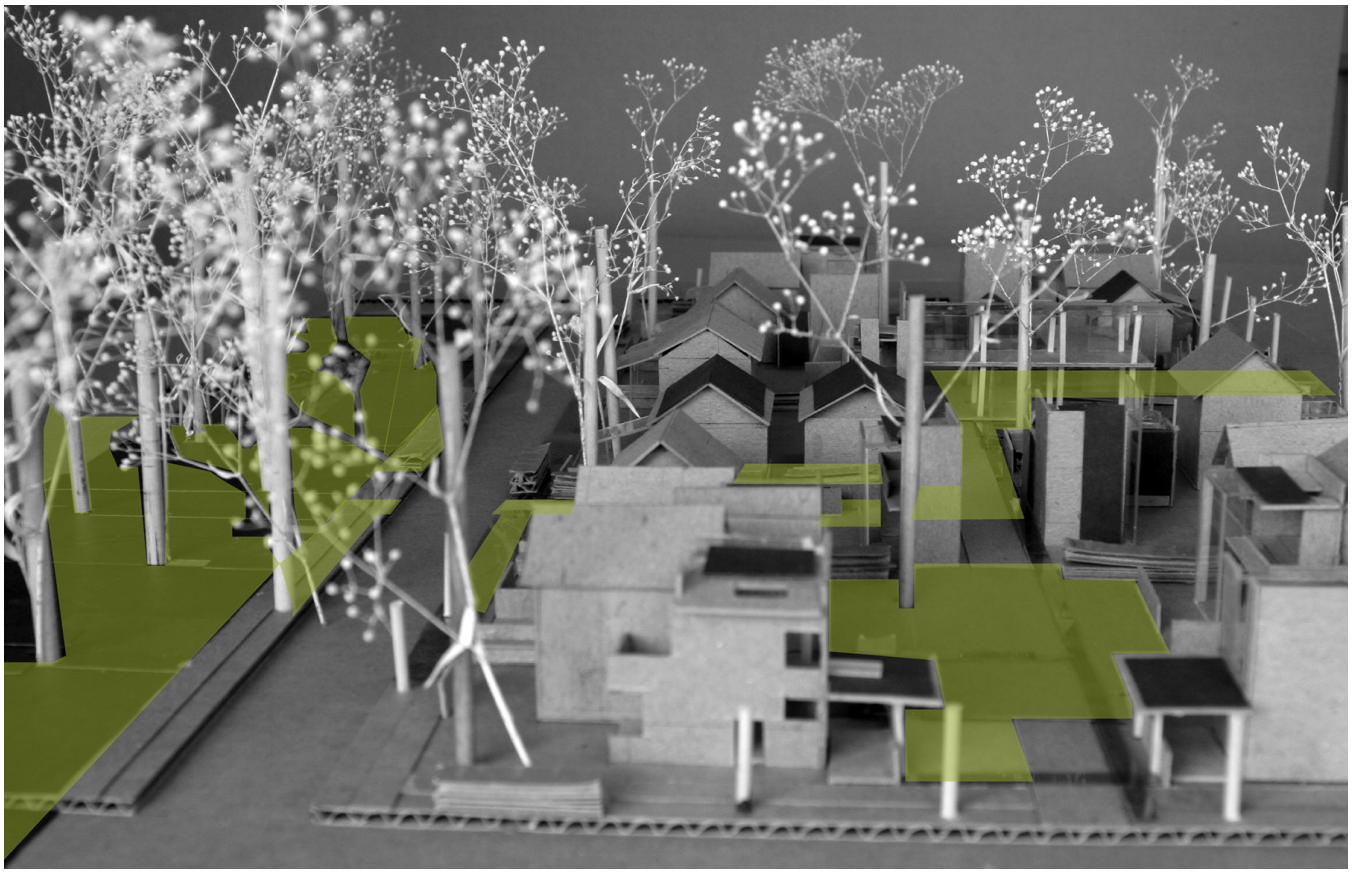
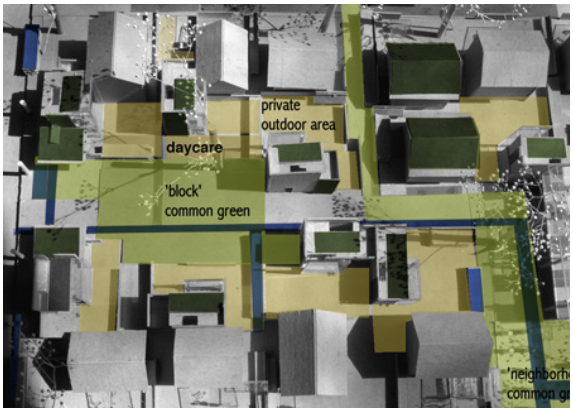
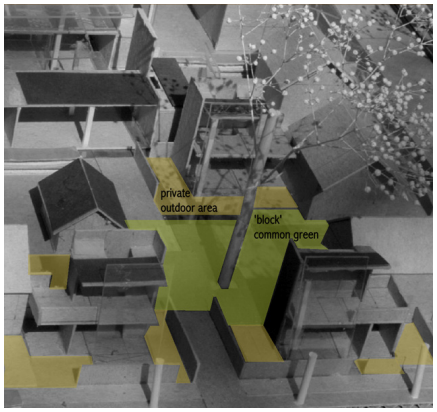
Metro ‘Integrating Habitats’ Design Competition : Category 3: First Place Winner

2008 Portland, Oregon Multi Family Housing & Ecological Restoration







PROJECT

Urban Savannah, Alley Midlands, Understory Dwellings

Awarded a first place prize, our design sought responses to the question: Can natural habitats in urban environments, such as remnant Oregon Oak Savannah, be enhanced, restored and cultivated through a careful development that also supports increased density for people?

Building Type: Multi Family Housing and Ecological Restoration
Project Type: Design Competition
Client: Metro
Size: 100’ x 200’ City Block
Schedule: 2008

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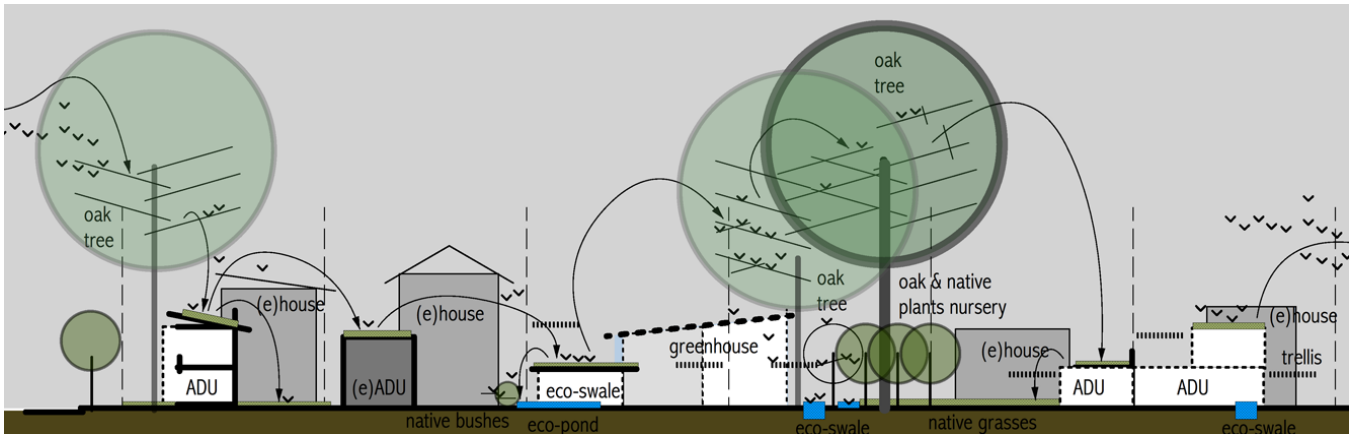
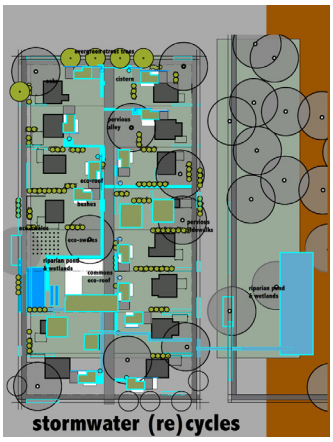
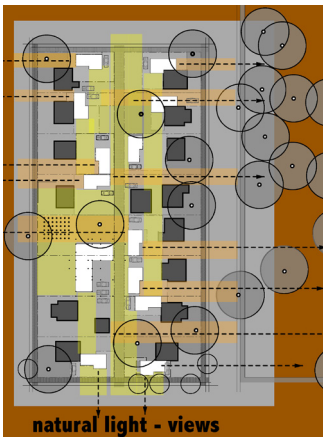
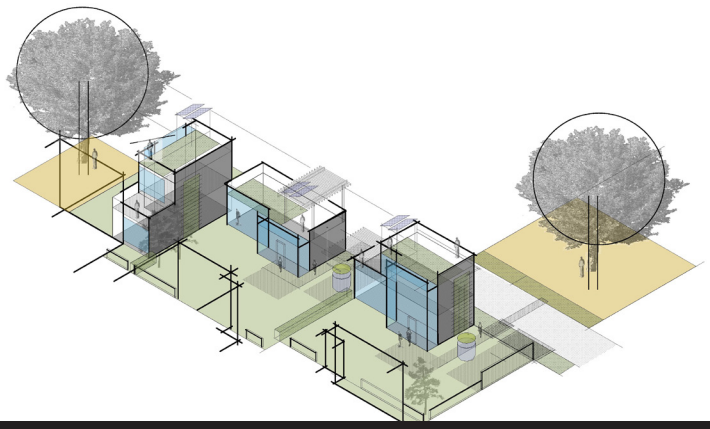






Our team studied the remaining natural oak habitat particular to the Northwest Oregon/ Willamette Valley region and its relationships to the larger fabric of the **neighborhood, the block level, and the home lot scale**. Thisprovided the underlay for the integration of many qualities beneficial to people, animals and plants: sunlight paths, wildlife travel-ways, multi storied urban tree canopies in step with adjacent rainwater systems, pedestrian and bike access, shared outdoor spaces, privacy screening, and ongoing propagation of the oaks.



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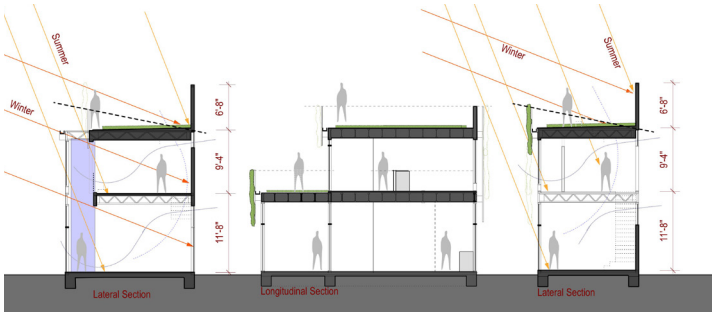
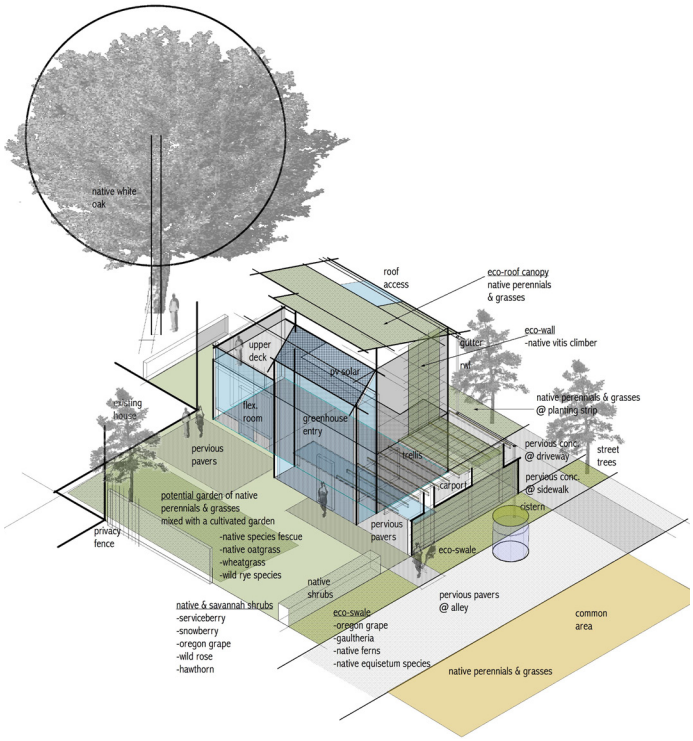
At the **individual site level**, studies for the addition of an accessory dwelling unit and various plan configurations were designed. Some of the ideas explored included:

infill housing/ "open" building: provides shared common spaces for all block residents, and integrates access and privacy separation for each home from the commonly shared spaces. Infill housing is characterized by its outdoor territory, gardens and site relationships. each accessory dwelling (ADU) allows flexibility, maximizes solar access, diffused light and stack/ cross ventilation. potential for a one level studio, a one bedroom/ flex room residence, an enclosed workshop/ carport or a small 800 square foot two bedroom residence. an "open" building system with robust base structures and services as a support for variation and development -the capacity to accommodate diversity over time and to accept changing needs. potential uses of additional rooms could be a home office, a screened porch, a glazed room that can be opened to adjacent garden, artist studio, woodworking shop, additional sleeping rooms, a porch, or kids enclosed play area... etc.

narrative: the ways families and individuals live are varied; including extended families, couples, single parents, etc. - and these groupings continue to change with stage-in-life; births, aging, deaths, new relationships and separations. rather than prescribing a precise fit between current activities or lifestyle and the form of the home, this design approach suggests that a capacity for choice and a variety of uses can be accommodated now (both indoors and out), and that this capacity for cultivation of place can also be extended over time. ADUs could be rented to non-family members, provide for family caregivers, could be an extension/ addition for the existing houses or be used for daycare or home office, etc.

environmental. design aspects include passive ventilation and cooling, passive heating assistance in conjunction with solar collectors, and pervious paving on each parcel and in the shared courtyard to aid in storm water collection. green roofs and swales with associated outdoor rooms/ private greens are used to help with additional stormwater absorption, while providing wildlife habitat.





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