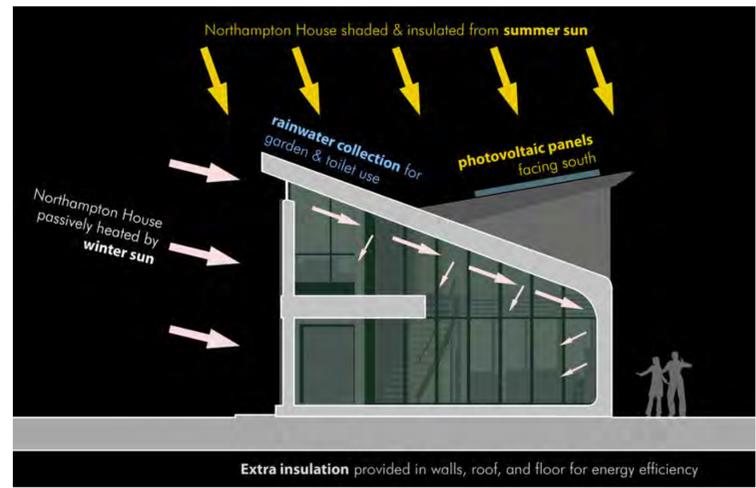
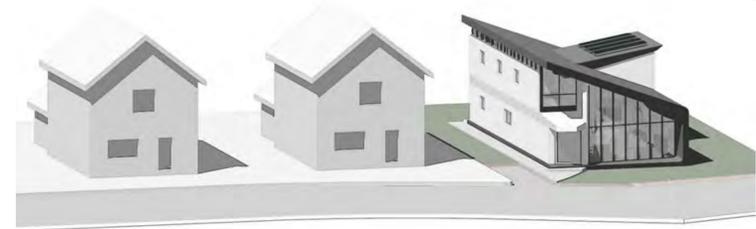


Northampton House prototype:

==== narrow lots  W I D E O P E N M I N D S =====



Flexibility:

Northampton is currently inhabited by a range of demographic groups, including families, students, professionals, artists, senior citizens, and alternative communities. This house is designed to accommodate these various social living arrangements through adaptation of its spaces. The prototype house (shown in the plans, upper right) consists of a 1640 square foot ground floor and an 880 square foot second floor, for a total of 2520 square feet of usable space. Design variations include an optional basement, carport, vestibule, overhangs, and aesthetic themes.

At the rear is a 340 square foot suite, complete with plumbing, that allows function as a separate apartment, an office, artist studio, or spare bedroom. This suite can expand by 205 square feet if the dining area opens to it rather than to the main house. A compact version of the house (2300 square feet total) omits this area.



Environmental Sustainability:

The Northampton House prototype allows for variation in siting, glazing, and roof overhangs, in order to provide the best possible solar energy configuration for a particular site.

This particular site presents an inherent challenge due to the adjacent house to the south. In order to catch southern winter light while maintaining privacy, a continuous ribbon window at the upper level allows for solar gain. The overhang of the roof prevents solar gain in the summer months. Photovoltaic (PV) cell panels are mounted on the south-facing dormer roof.

The walls, roof, and ground floor are heavily insulated and are wider than usual to accommodate this insulation. The aesthetics of the house are informed by the thickness and the decision to open the ends of the house more than the sides. Large areas of glazing at both ends of the house provide views to the nearby conservation area and the street. The window systems are high quality insulated glazing.



Recognition of cultural diversity: Aliasing and anti-aliasing aesthetic as a cultural metaphor

We live in an age of sampling: digital video, audio, images, memes, and text are now accessed in abundance. In the 21st century, much of our existence is lived virtually and through digitally-enabled means. The Northampton House acknowledges this condition through its aesthetics and responds to this context in a playful way.

This design appropriates concepts of aliasing and anti-aliasing metaphorically. In digital technology, aliasing occurs if various information becomes indistinguishable when sampled. An anti-aliasing filter can be used to reduce the effects of this distortion. In a town, the citizens and buildings can be understood as samples, each with its own discrete identity, that combine within the context to establish a deeper fabric, which itself has an identity. In the case of Northampton, the residents are known to be welcoming and open-minded.

Design interventions should fit within their context as a coherent piece. Simultaneously establishing some form of identity for each building relevant to its context, relating historical, environmental, political, cultural, economic, and other aspects, is a challenge. This is akin to the technological problem of establishing clarity through anti-aliasing, which ironically may involve blurring or interchanging/exchanging parts of the original samples. The Northampton House appropriates this metaphor through the use of visual aliased and anti-aliased ornamentation, extending the notions of individual identity and cultural diversity through the architecture of the town.

2 FLOOR



.Master Bedroom
.Bedroom
.Bedroom/Office
.Full Bathroom

The Northampton House prototype design embodies three ideals important to residents of the town:

flexibility, environmental sustainability, and recognition of cultural diversity.

1 FLOOR



.Living
.Kitchen
.Dining/Lounge
.Full Bathroom
.Laundry Space
.Utility Room
.Coat Closet
.Rear Deck
.Half Bathroom
.Office/Studio/Apartment/Bedroom

