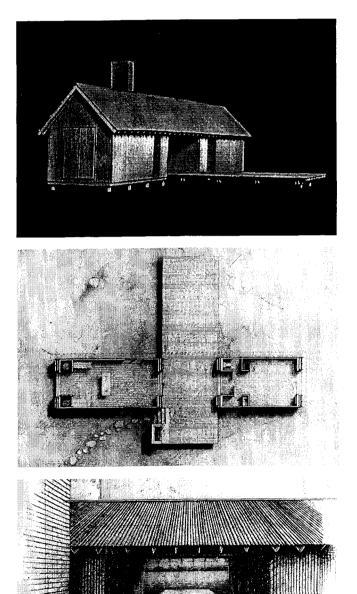
The Zachary House

STEPHEN ATKINSON Boston Architectural Center



THE HOUSE

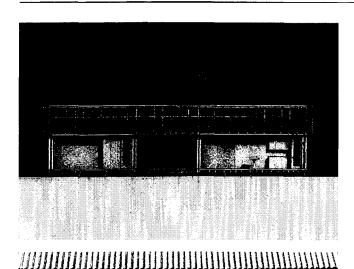
This weekend house located in Zachary, Louisiana utilizes the void as a centralizing element. The hearth, displaced from its former role, serves as entry threshold, and all the other elements of the house also become subservient to the two main axes and avenues of air circulation.

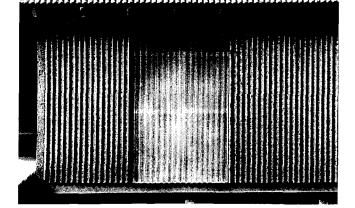
THE PLAN

The plan organization is based on the dog trot—a typological house configuration found in the South. The deck divides the house into public and private realms while serving as an exterior room defined by the tree canopy.

THE DOG TROT

When the house is occupied and the doors open, the breezeway is the heart of the house—a zone for the confluence of many forces. When unoccupied and the doors closed, however, this area becomes acutely vacuous — resisting centrality and occupation.





THE SECTION

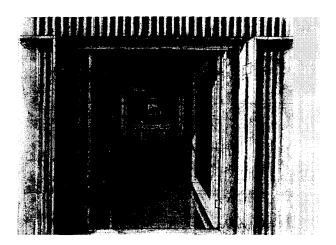
The free movement of air through the attic and beneath the floor helps cooling. Air passing over the tops of the corrugation on its way through the attic creates a negative pressure that draws hot air up through the vertical grooves on the elevations.

THE WINDOWS

There are four windows in the house that allow light into the deeper areas of the house. They are expressed as material changes on the exterior (corrugated metal to fiberglass) and interior (gypsum to translucent glass). When back-lit the windows reveal an internal structure reminiscent of a traditional paned glazing system.

THE DOORS

There are three sets of doors for each opening: a set of glazed French doors that act as the primary weather barrier for the interior spaces; screen doors that allow ventilation without admitting insects and a set of shutters that allow the complete practical and symbolic sealing of the house.



THE TWO ROOMS

Though separated by a swath of exterior space the living area and bedroom are intimately tied together through a visual axis that reinforces the exaggerated ventilation path. The gypsum ceiling treatment is carried through the breezeway reinforcing this connection and blurring the exterior condition there.