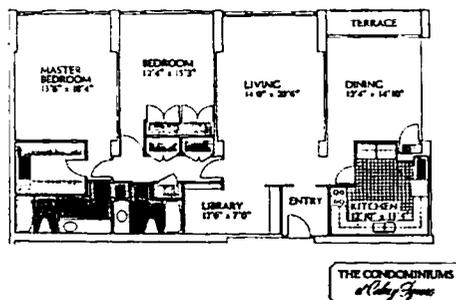


Shelf Life : HH-10-B : Renovations to an Apartment in Hanover House, Midtown, Atlanta

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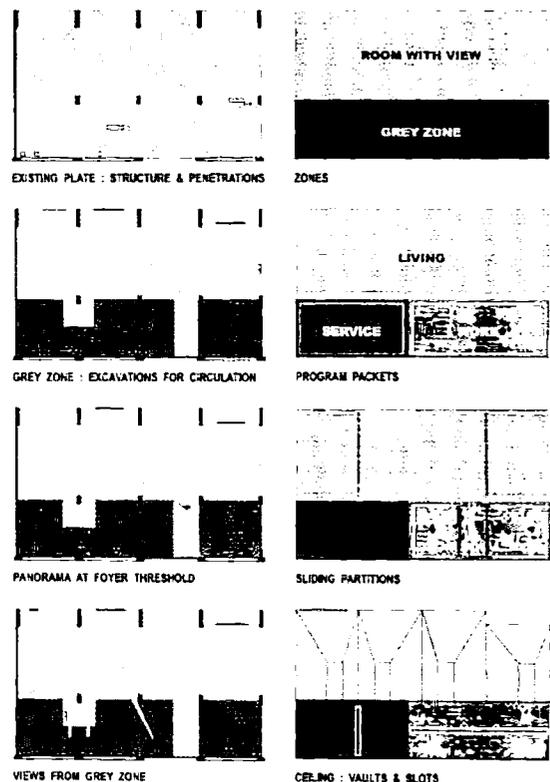
SHELF LIFE -- the design for the complete demolition and renovation of an apartment in Hanover House in Midtown Atlanta -- takes the project title quite literally, both as a source of inspiration and as modes of operation.



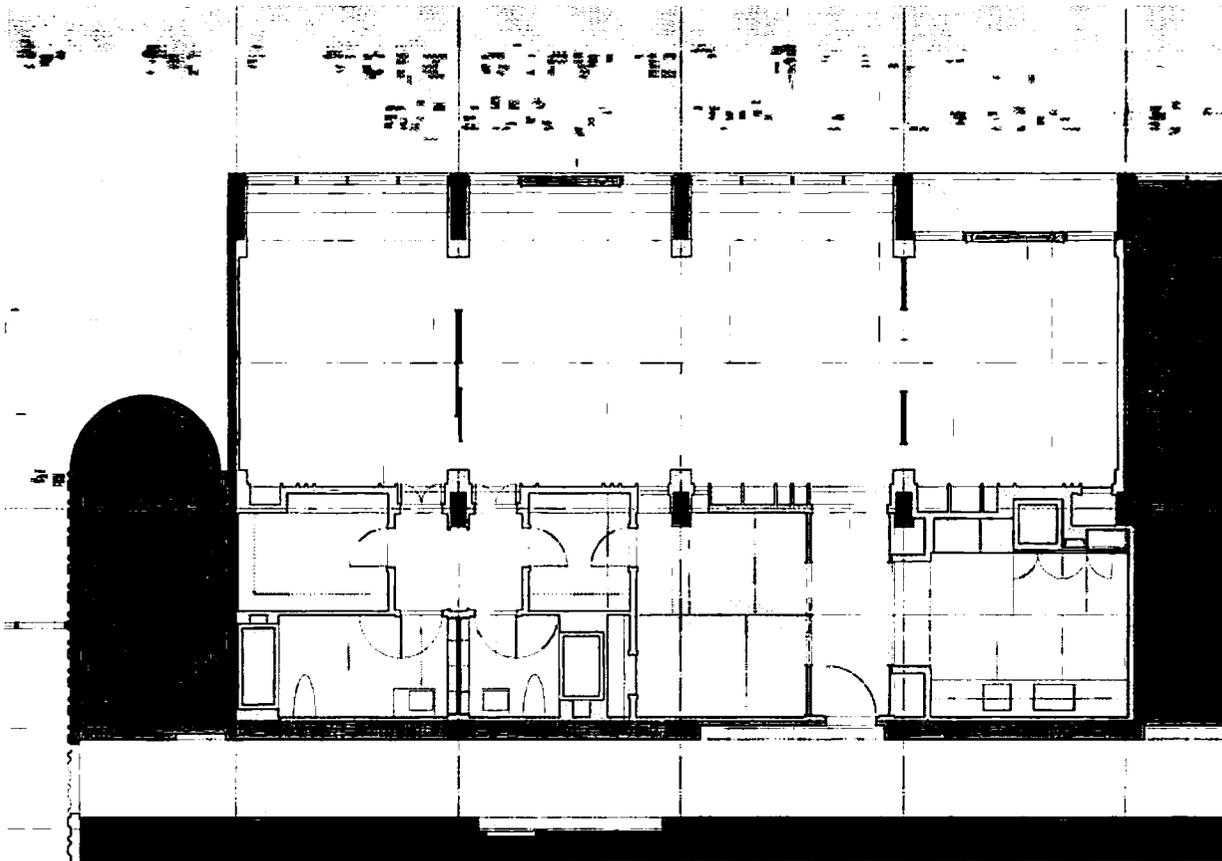
First, *Shelf Life* refers to the time stamps already inscribed in the site. The building itself is part of a 70s mixed-use complex, Colony Square, an explicit update of Corb's Radiant City urbanism -- with the building massing of his Unité housing experiments, expressed tectonically in a highly refined version of brutalist concrete -- yet combined with a unit

plan derived from American suburban ranch houses of the period.

Our initial task was to undo a series of unsympathetic additions from the 80s, which had reinforced the worst aspects of the unit's original "cubicles and corridors" plan. We were also interested in reinvestigating the building's architectural heritage -- and adding to the mix the stamp of this particular moment.



Inspired by the open, flexible plans of Corb's houses at *Weissenhofsiedlung* (1927) and curious about the possibilities of the "new loft",



we cleared away the partitions to create one main space, articulated by vaults into four spatial cells, and divisible, when needed, into three rooms by sliding panels. A *grey zone* against the building corridor accommodates kitchen, office, baths, and storage.

Second, *Shelf Life* describes the spatial condition of the cleared apartment: a 54-foot-long shelf of space, sitting high on a concrete plate (the 10th floor), and facing a sweeping view out to the horizon -- from the skyline of Buckhead to the north to the silhouette of Stone Mountain to the east. Straight out, the spire of a neighborhood church points up out of the tree canopy.

We were careful to preserve and reinforce this breathtaking panorama in the main space, as well as provide framed views from deep within the *grey zone*. A long shelf floating in front of the glass acts as a balustrade, and as furniture, and underlines the horizontal view.

Materials and colors complement the landscape: The floor paved in dark grey-brown concrete, divided into panels by strips

of stainless steel. Concrete structure clad in soft grey stucco. Sliding panels and window shelf painted light blue, recalling porches and skies. Vaults cloud white, millwork pearl grey, with silvery hardware. Glass tile in the bathrooms pale watery green.

On this new version of a verandah the view is both present and distant. One participates in the shifting seasons, hours, and weather, and, at night, the slow red pulse of radio towers.



