



# ***PASSIVE HOUSE RETROFITS***

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASSOCIATION FOR ENERGY  
AFFORDABILITY, INC.

BAUKRAFT ENGINEERING  
BLDG TYP

BRENNAN & BRENNAN  
KLEEN CONSTRUCTION

M2 CONTRACTING

PASSIVE HOUSE ACADEMY

PASSIVE HOUSE INSTITUTE VV

PJOE CONSTRUCTION

RJD ENGINEERING

SG BUILD

TAFFERA FINE BUILDING & FINISHES

+ ALL CONTRIBUTING SUBCONTRACTORS



**LESSONS LEARNED:  
HOW TO SELL THE  
CONCEPT OF PASSIVE  
EXPLAINING AMENITIES TO CLIENTS**

# Do people care about climate change?

U.N. REPORT FROM THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC)

THE PLANET COULD REACH THE TEMPERATURE THRESHOLD THAT WILL SEE THE WORST EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AS EARLY AS **2030**. (TIME)



*"I just keep asking myself, 'Why don't I care about this?' Don't get me wrong, I 100% believe in climate change. yet, I'm willing to do absolutely nothing about it."*

MICHAEL CHE, WEEKEND UPDATE, SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE.  
NBC 10/13/2018



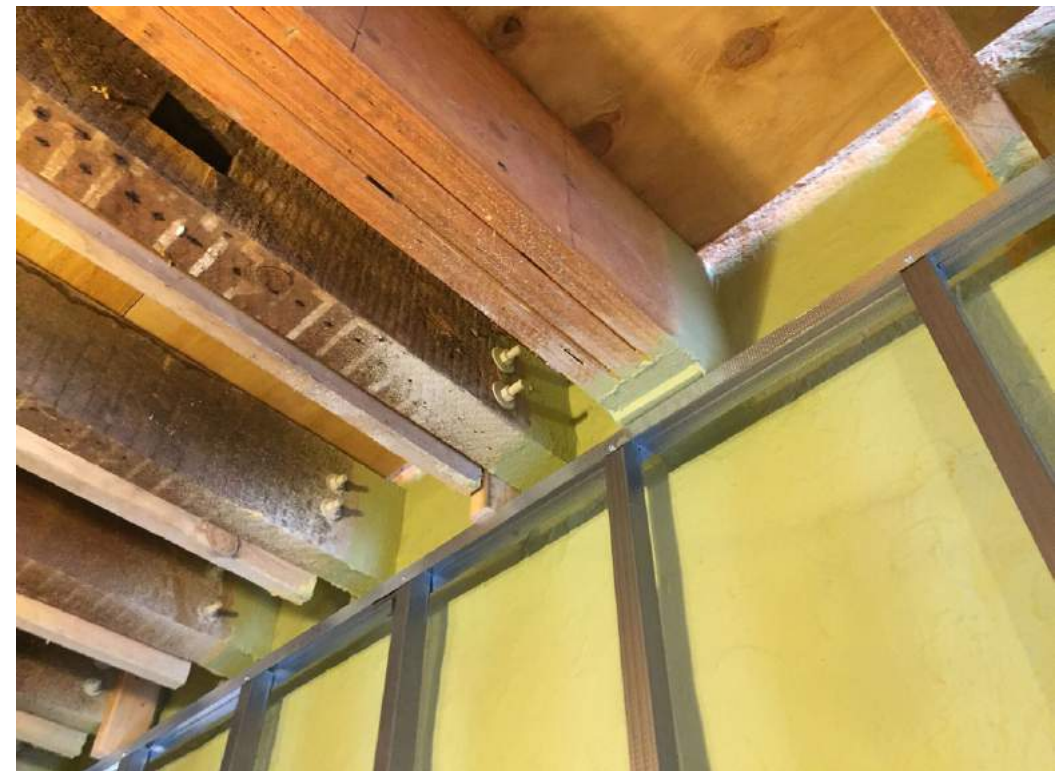
**Climate Change's Effect on Beer Production**  
Scientists report that climate change may impact the world's beer supply, and the U.S. faces a potential \$1 trillion deficit by 2019.

THE DAILY SHOW WITH TREVOR NOAH,  
COMEDY CENTRAL. 10/16/2018

# WHY CLIENTS CHOOSE PASSIVE: SEALED WALLS

Passive buildings have sealed walls that **prevent dust, bugs, mice, and unwanted air** infiltration.

Unknowingly, many of our existing homes get their “fresh air” through hidden crevasses and holes, where bugs and vermin can roam freely.



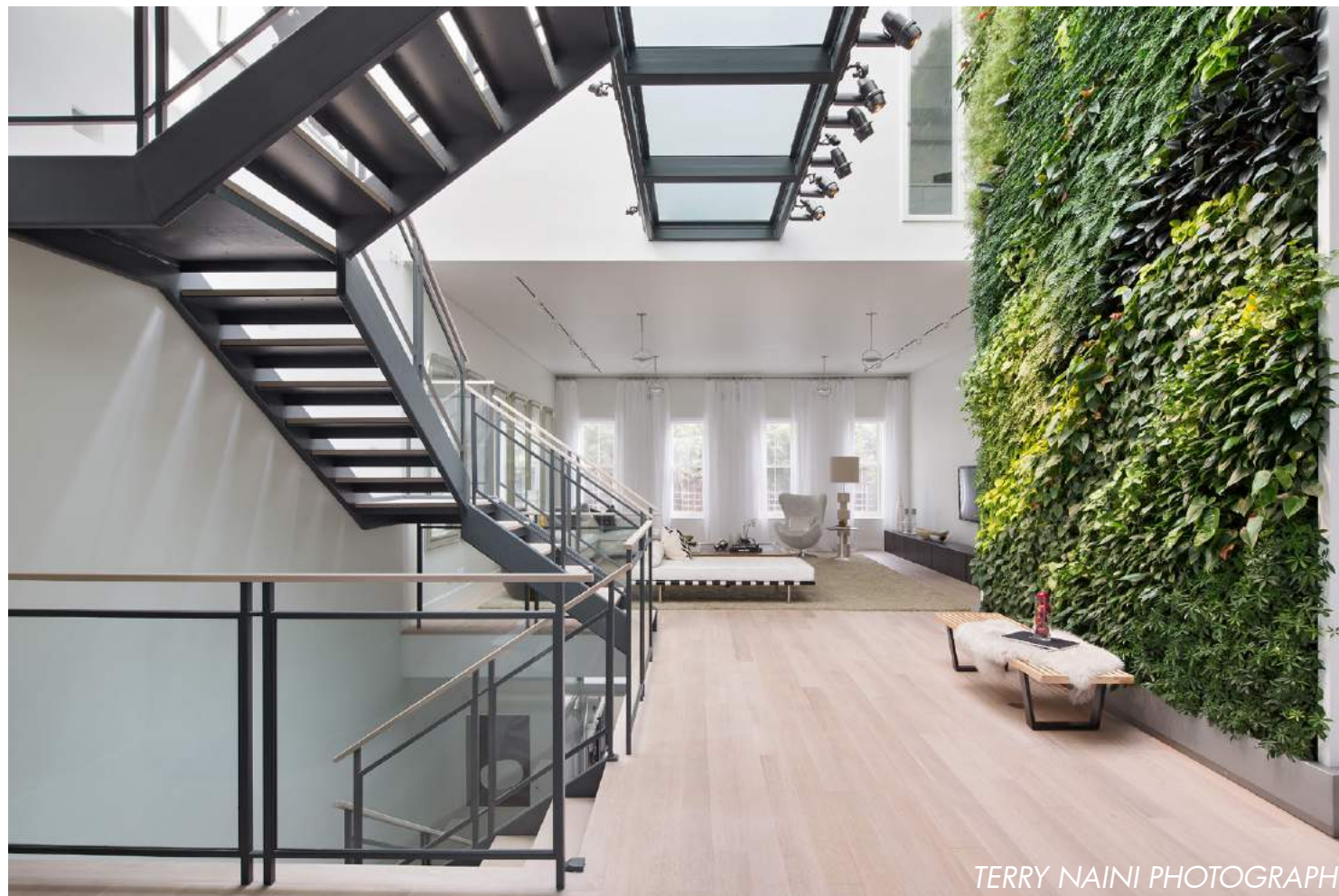
LEFT: TYPICAL TOWNHOUSE FLOOR JOISTS POCKETED INTO THE PARTY WALL.

ABOVE: PASSIVE FLOOR JOISTS ARE WRAPPED BEFORE POCKETED INTO THE SEALED PARTY WALL.

# WHY CLIENTS CHOOSE PASSIVE: FRESH AIR

What if you could have filtered *fresh air 24/7?*

Passive house owners can tell the difference in fresh air quality, one of their most appreciated passive elements.



TERRY NAINI PHOTOGRAPHY

- No need to open windows for fresh air, (but you still can!) as energy recovery ventilators (ERV) regulate moisture.
- ERVs filter air from contaminants and pollution, noticeably alleviating health issues like allergies.
- ERVs stabilize humidity levels, especially during the summer.
- ERVs are constantly running at a low speed without user interaction, but at a low electricity draw.

# WHY CLIENTS CHOOSE PASSIVE: QUIET HOMES

What if you could **eliminate** almost all **street noise**?

The combination of sealed walls, better insulation, and Passive windows drastically reduce street noise. Quiet spaces no longer need to be at the back of the home.



MIKE TAUBER PHOTOGRAPHY

# WHY CLIENTS CHOOSE PASSIVE: WARM HOMES

What if you almost  
*never needed heat?*

New York City Passive House occupants barely use their heat.

These Brooklyn homeowners had *not turned on the heat all season*, and this interior temperature was recorded.



Bedroom North





# WHY CLIENTS CHOOSE PASSIVE: DESIGN FREEDOM

Passive House allows for more *design freedom*.



Without radiators, soffits, or drafts, we *no longer have the spatial constraints* as when designing within a typical townhouse.

# WHY CLIENTS CHOOSE PASSIVE: NET ZERO

Passive house is the path to **net-zero**.

By building a better envelope, a passive house reduces the energy demand and makes net-zero possible with renewable energy sources, like solar panels.



JOHN MUGGENBORG PHOTOGRAPHY

# ***LESSONS LEARNED: A SUCCESSFUL PROCESS***

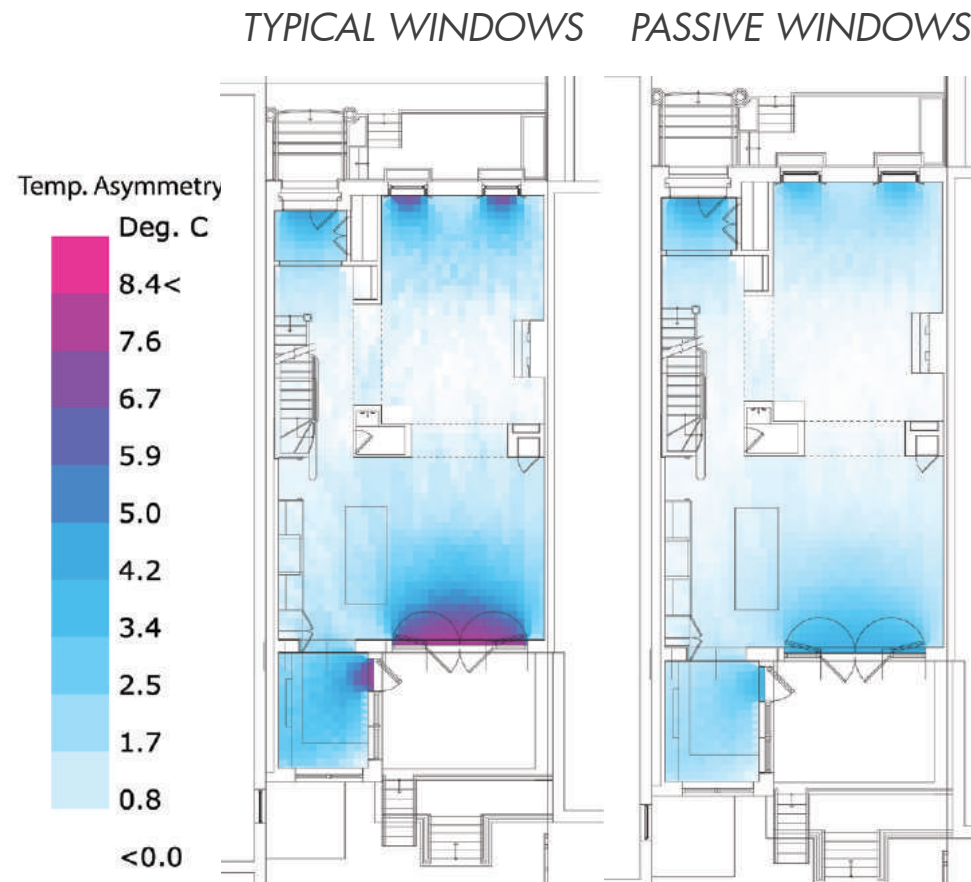
***WORKING WITH CONSULTANTS  
AND CONTRACTORS***

# WORKING WITH CONSULTANTS

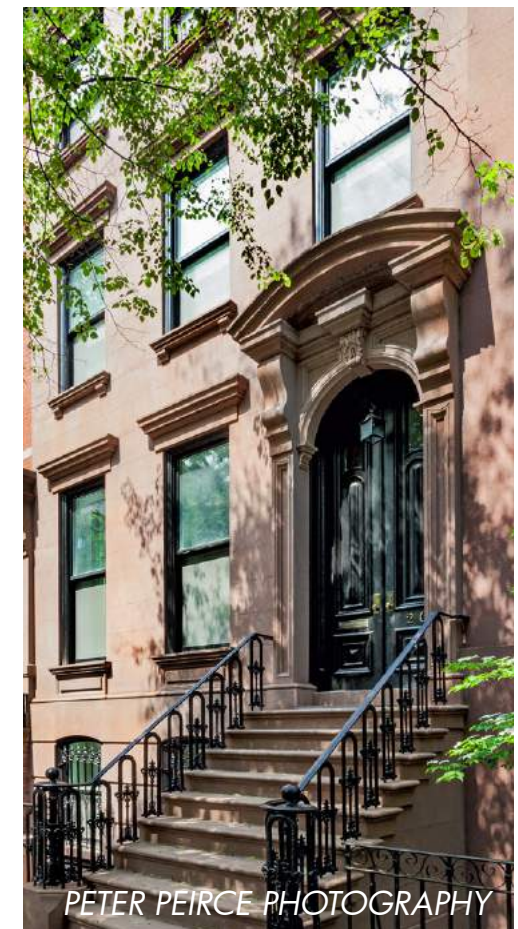
1. Start with your passive consultant before Schematic Design.

- Reduce heating load
- Reduce cooling load
- Reduce primary energy load

2. Help your clients understand passive house concepts and to provide clear options with implications of their decisions.



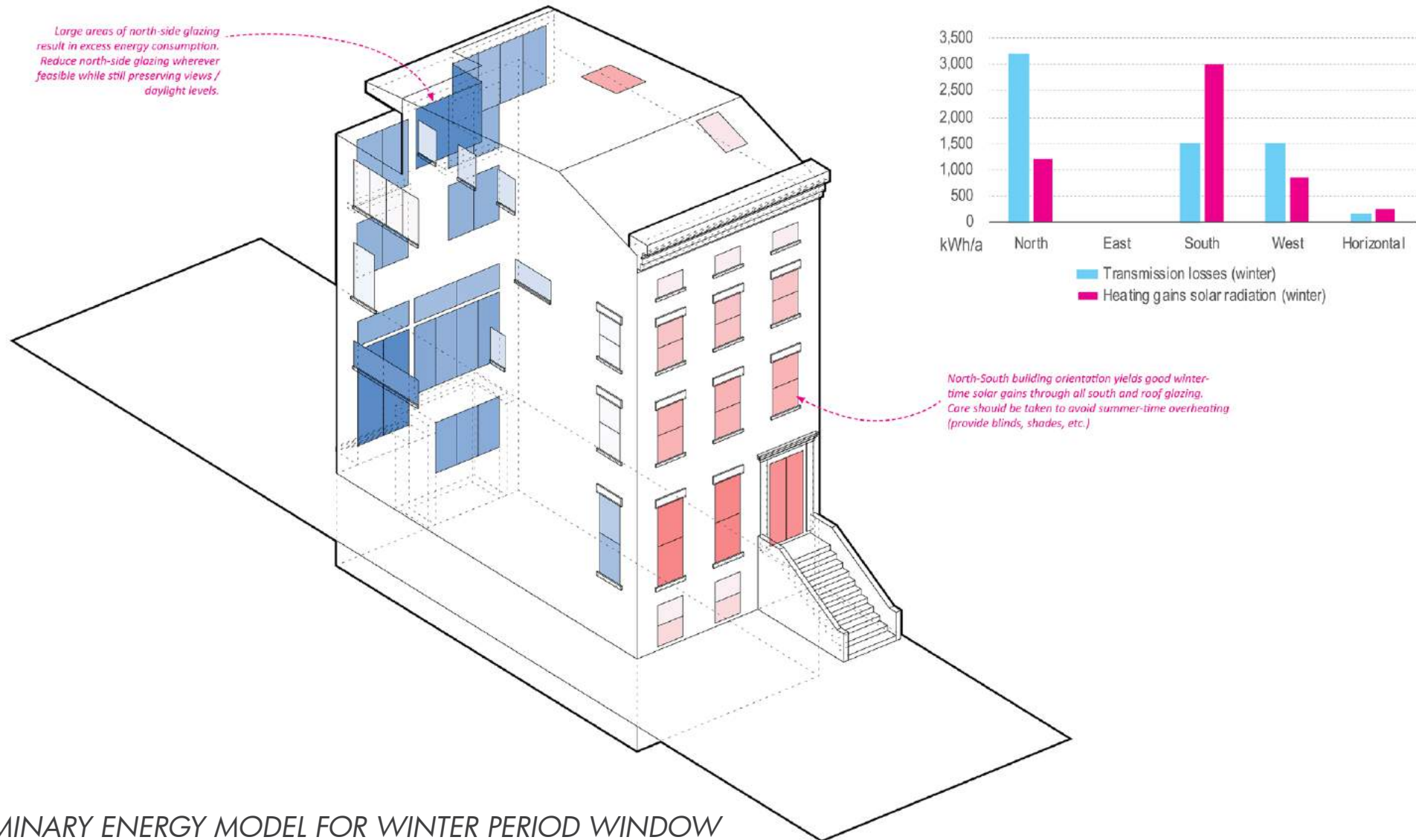
GRAPHICS ARE PART OF A PASSIVE CERTIFICATION PACKAGE, FROM BLDGTYP (PASSIVE CONSULTANTS).



PETER PEIRCE PHOTOGRAPHY

# WORKING WITH CONSULTANTS

## 3. Pay close attention to shading & cooling.



PRELIMINARY ENERGY MODEL FOR WINTER PERIOD WINDOW NET ENERGY BALANCE, FROM BLDGTYP (PASSIVE CONSULTANTS).

# WORKING WITH CONSULTANTS

## **Throughout Construction:**

- Hold frequent walk-throughs to ensure correct implementation of details.
- Do blower door tests often, which test the air-tightness of a building, seeking 0.6 air changes per hour @ 50 pascals pressure (0.6ACH50). In a typical townhouse, around 10.0 ACH50 are common, which means that the mech. systems need to make up for that much heat/cool air.



# WORKING WITH CONTRACTORS

Myth: "You need a passive house contractor to be successful."

- None of the contractors we worked with had worked on a passive house, or even heard of the term.
- We required that the site super and G.C. get certified through the passive house tradesperson training at AEA.

**You do need a contractor that enjoys building.**



AEA HEADQUARTERS & ENERGY MANAGEMENT TRAINING CENTER, BRONX NYC.

# WORKING WITH CONTRACTORS

## ***Three essential meetings:***

1. Pre-design meeting
2. Pre-construction design meeting
3. Passive house primer meeting on site with subcontractors





# IMPORTANCE OF COMMISSIONING & SERVICING

## Identify who will:

- Commission
- Service
- Educate client about how the house works, i.e., change typical habits



HRV/ERV UNIT  
ZEHNDER



ROUTINE SYSTEM BALANCING  
ALEX WILSON, BUILDINGGREEN, INC.



PERFORMANCE MONITORING  
WIRELESS SENSOR TAG BY CAO GAGETS LLC,  
& NETATMO WEATHER-STATION SHOWN.

# GAME-CHANGING REALITIES

MIKE TAUBER PHOTOGRAPHY



# TYPICAL HEATING SYSTEMS



CHOPPED-OUT PLASTER CROWN FOR PIPE INSTALLATION

HOT EXPOSED PIPE

PLENTY OF SPACE, BUT NOT INSULATED

WINDOWS INSTALLED IN A WAY THAT ALLOWS AIR LEAKAGE

RADIATOR IN AN AWKWARD LOCATION WITH A LEAKY VALVE

ROTTING AROUND PIPE THROUGH FINISHED FLOOR

# TYPICAL HEATING SYSTEMS



1. MANY OF OUR HOUSES HAVE DECADES-OLD SYSTEMS THAT WERE OVERSIZED, INEFFICIENT BOILERS WITH NO ZONING.



2. THEN WE RESOLVED THIS BY PROVIDING:

- HIGH-EFFICIENCY BOILERS
- THE ABILITY TO ZONE PER FLOOR/ROOM
- SOME HOMES EVEN HAVE HYDRONIC IN-FLOOR HEATING.

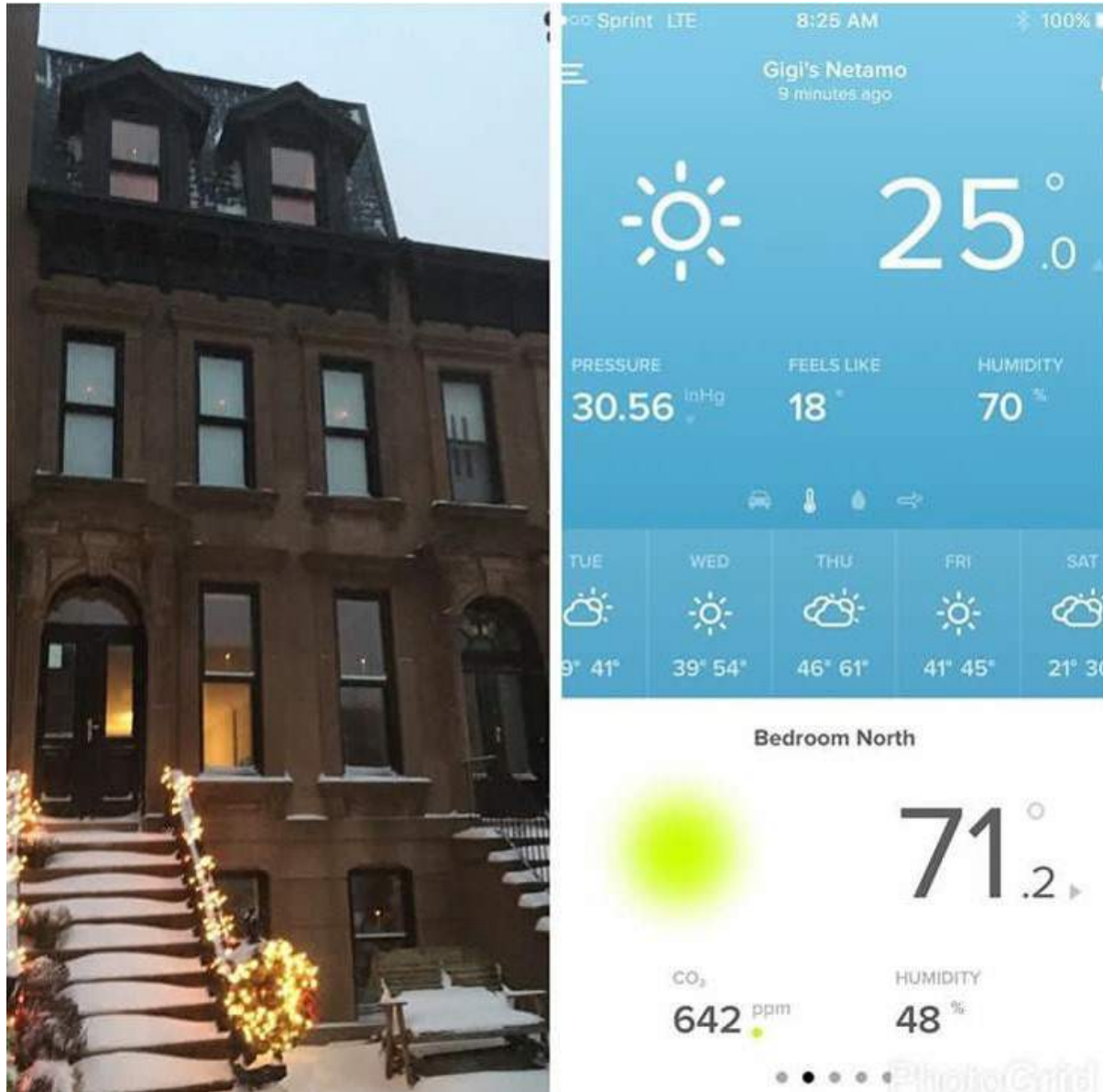


3. THEN WE STARTED TO CONTROL THIS SYSTEM EFFICIENTLY WITH SENSORS & CONTROL SYSTEMS THAT WORKED WITH PHONES & TABLETS.

# ***PASSIVE HEATING SYSTEMS***

IN A PASSIVE HOME, YOU DON'T NEED A SEPARATE HEATING SYSTEM.

# PASSIVE HEATING SYSTEMS



## COST, TIME, & SPACE SAVINGS:

- NO BOILER
- NO MANIFOLDS
- NO FLUE
- SIGNIFICANTLY FEWER THERMOSTATS
- NO ELABORATE CONTROL SYSTEM
- NO RADIATORS
- NO RADIATOR PIPING
- NO NEED FOR IN-FLOOR HEATING

# TYPICAL COOLING SYSTEMS



SEVERAL ROOFTOP CONDENSING UNITS

THROUGH-WALL A/C UNITS



# TYPICAL VS. PASSIVE ROOF

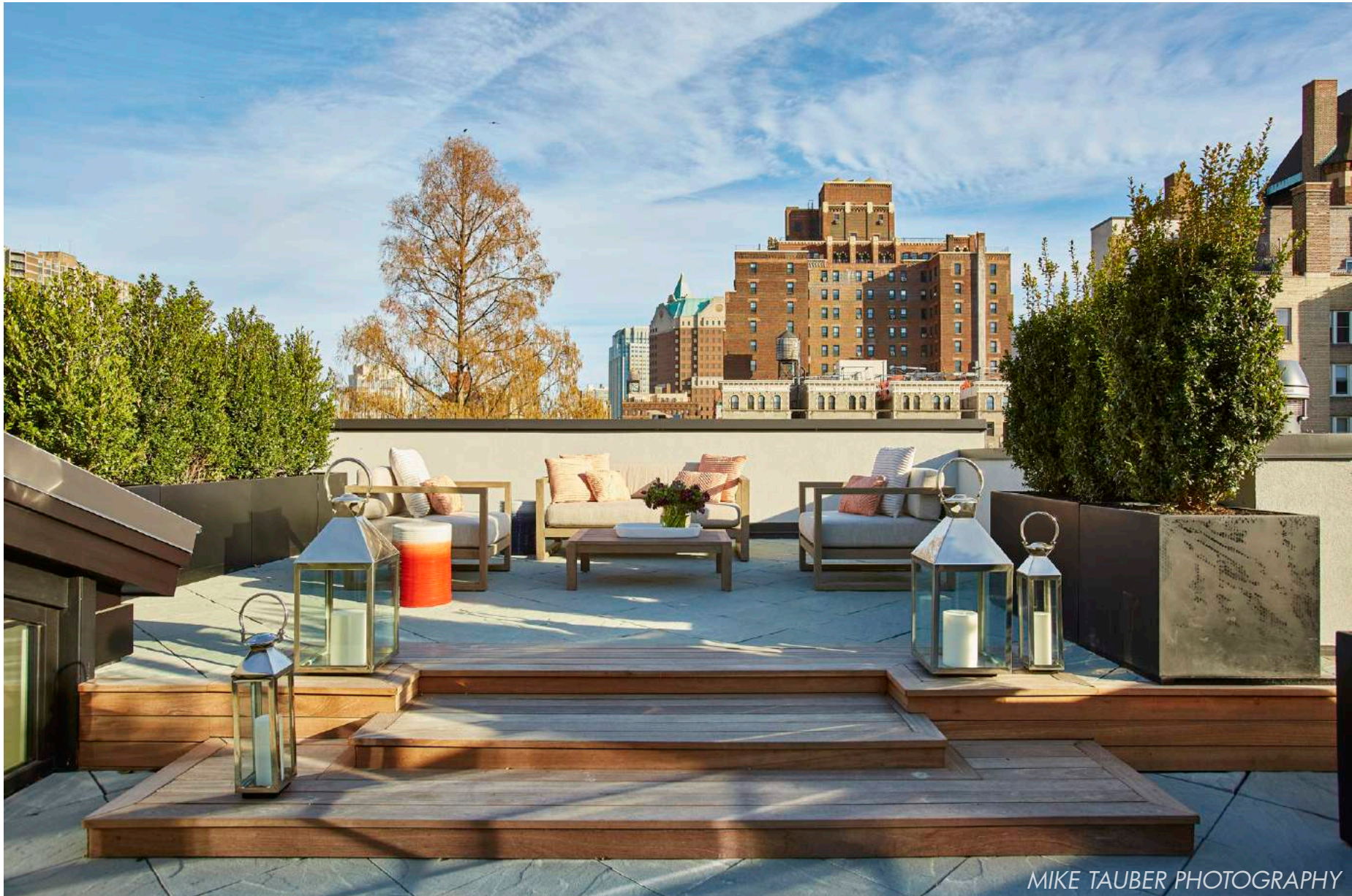
PASSIVE HOUSE  
ROOFTOP  
MECHANICAL  
EQUIPMENT

TYPICAL HOUSE  
ROOFTOP  
MECHANICAL  
EQUIPMENT



# PASSIVE ROOF

WITH 80-90% LESS MECHANICALS, A ROOF CAN LOOK LIKE THIS.



MIKE TAUBER PHOTOGRAPHY

# TYPICAL VS. PASSIVE WINDOWS

## PASSIVE HOUSE WINDOWS:

- CAN BE VISUALLY INDISTINGUISHABLE
- CAN BE LANDMARKS APPROVED
- FAR OUT-PERFORM TYPICAL WINDOWS
- CAN BE COST NEUTRAL



TYPICAL HOUSE



PASSIVE HOUSE

PETER PEIRCE PHOTOGRAPHY

# PASSIVE WINDOWS



PETER PEIRCE PHOTOGRAPHY



PETER PEIRCE PHOTOGRAPHY



ADAM MACCHIA PHOTOGRAPHY

PASSIVE HOUSE WINDOWS INSTALLED IN LANDMARK DISTRICTS.

# TYPICAL VS. PASSIVE CELLAR



TYPICAL TOWNHOUSE CELLAR

# TYPICAL VS. PASSIVE CELLAR



PASSIVE CELLARS CAN LOOK LIKE THIS AND HAVE FRESH, NON-DAMP AIR.

# CLOTHES DRYERS

## Heat pump dryers

Whirlpool has a full-sized electric heat pump dryer that does not need to be vented, but *should include an ERV exhaust point in the room.*



JOHN MUGGENBORG PHOTOGRAPHY

# LARGE WINDOWS

## *Walls of glass*

They are possible if you are mindful of shading and building orientation.





# HISTORIC DETAILS

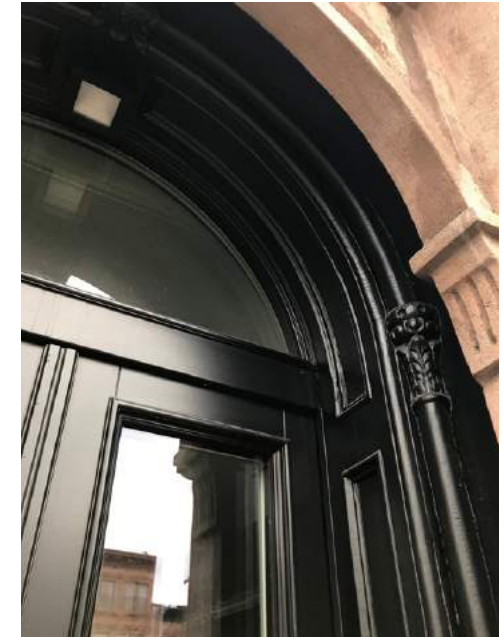
## Passive front door in Landmark/Historic Districts



NEW PASSIVE DOOR, LPC APPROVED



EXISTING HISTORIC DOOR



NEW PASSIVE DOOR



# HISTORIC DETAILS

## Preserving existing details

You can do a passive house without gutting a space.  
Passive windows are a solution to difficult historic openings.

BEFORE



AFTER



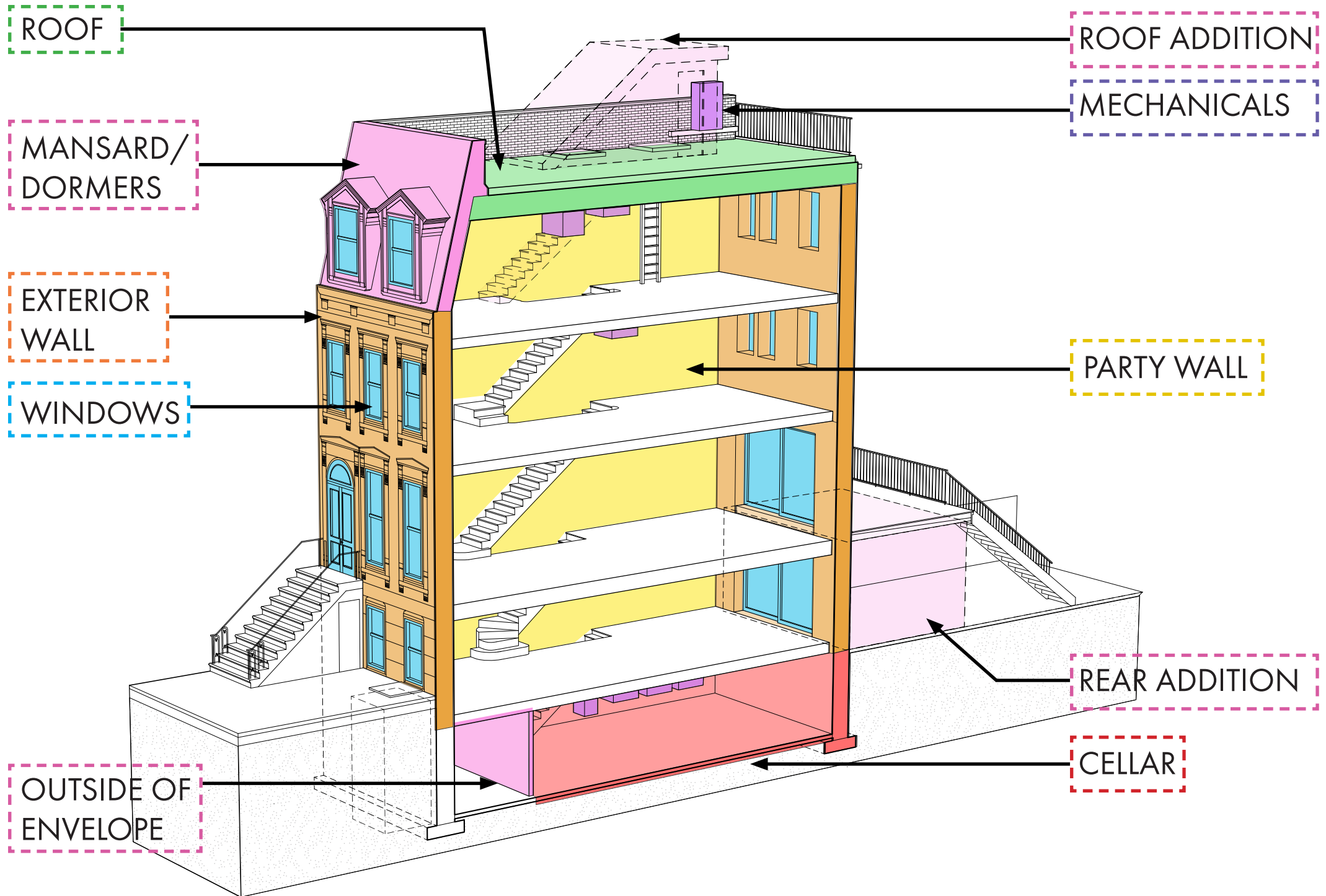
ADAM MACCHIA PHOTOGRAPHY

PASSIVE HOUSE CASEMENT WINDOWS WITH RE-APPLIED AND RESTORED STAINED GLASS AT INTERIOR.

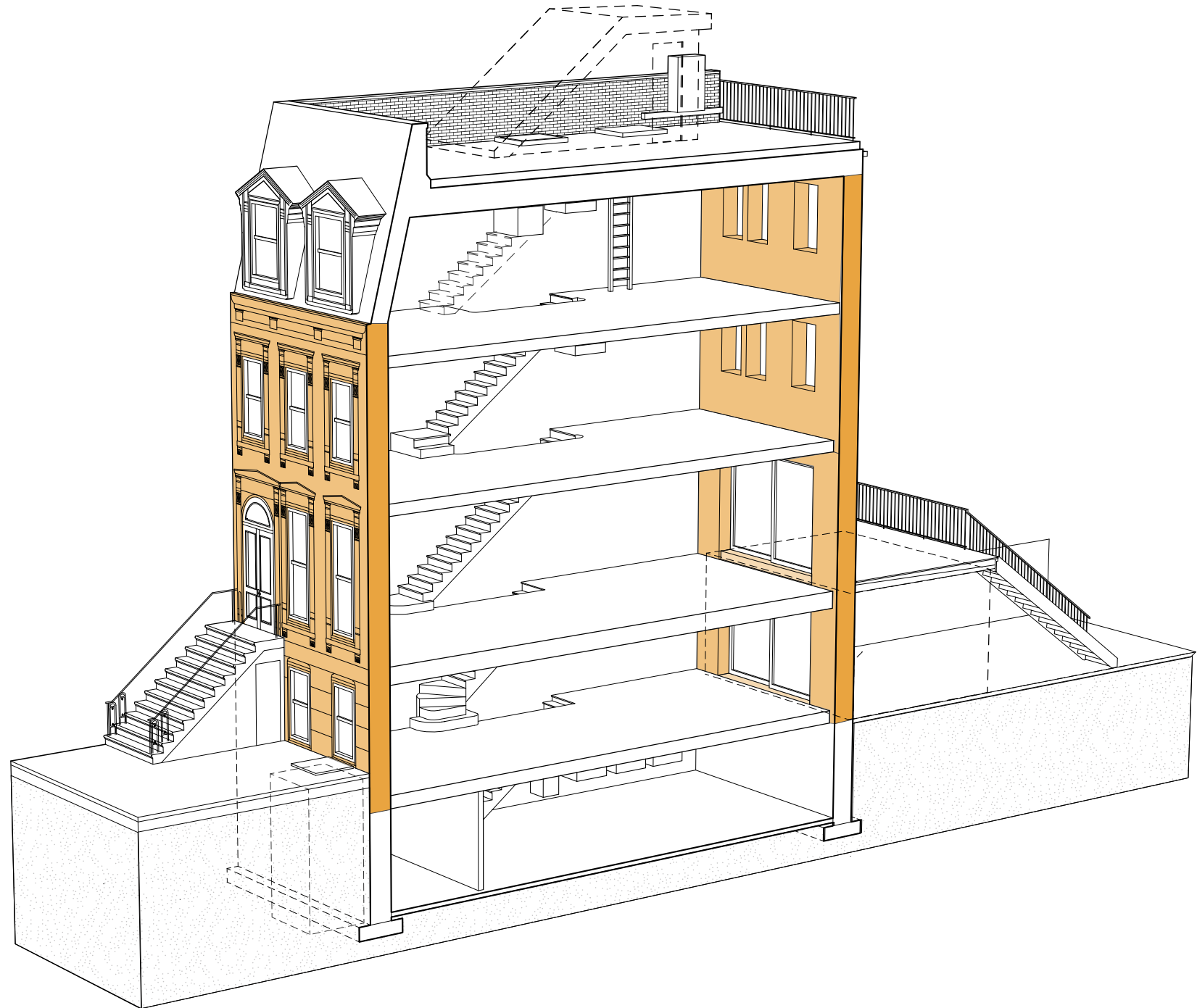
# **PASSIVE CONCEPTS APPLIED**

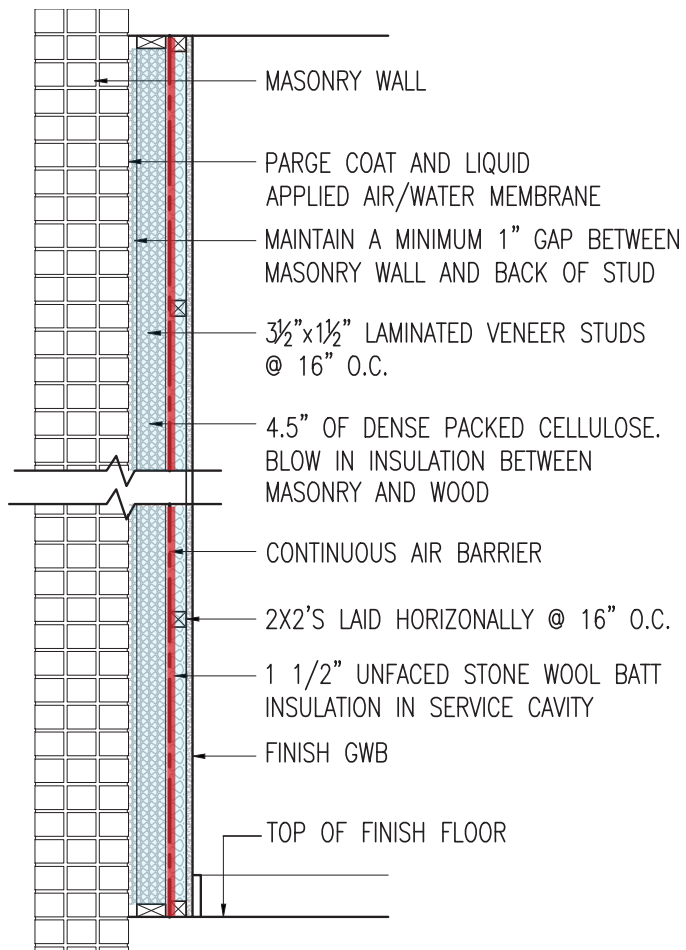


**PASSIVE HOUSE:**  
TOWNHOUSE RETROFIT  
BROOKLYN, NY



# EXTERIOR WALL



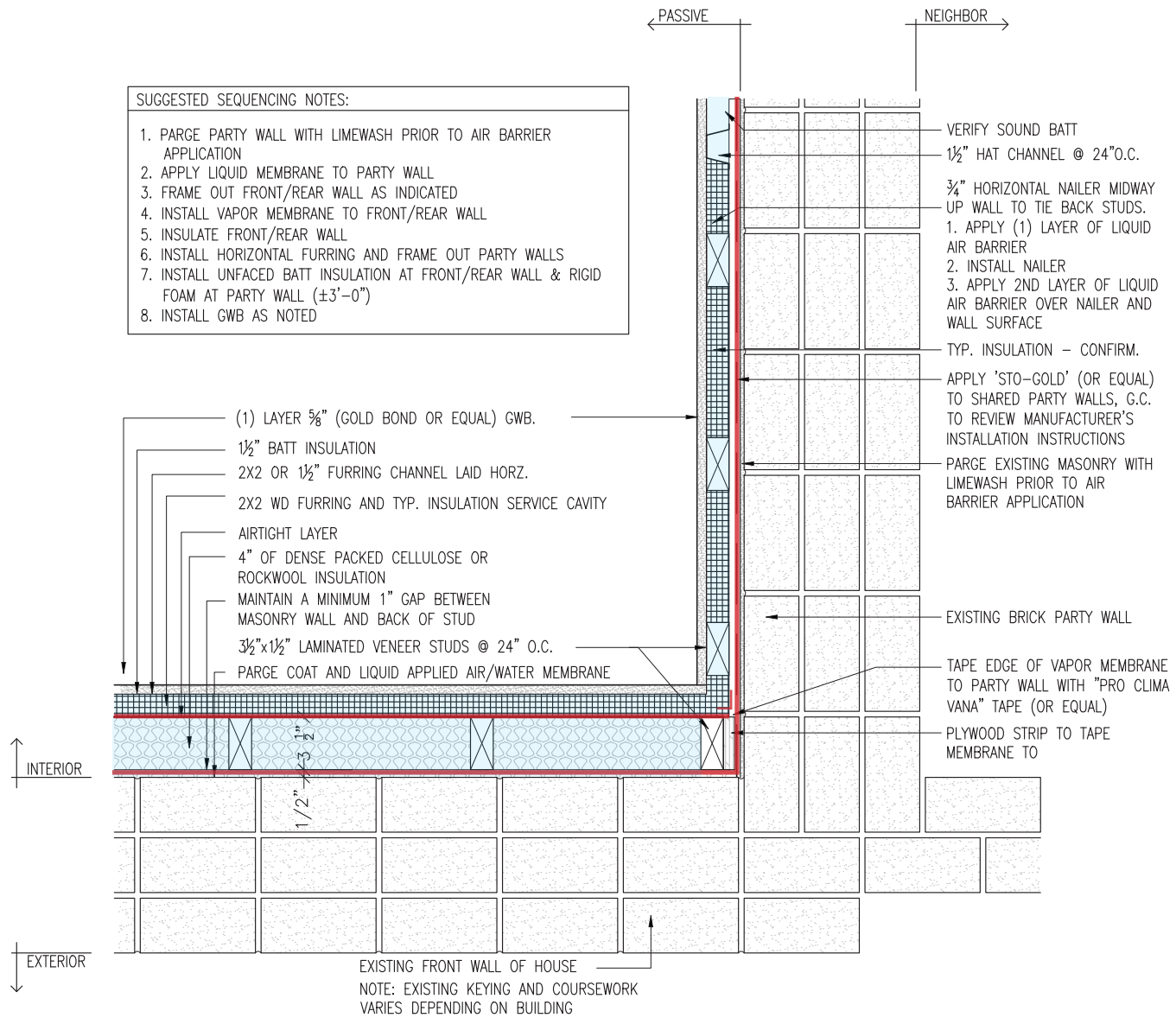


SPRAY-APPLIED ROCKWOOL,  
R-4 PER INCH (AMERICAN  
ROCKWOOL)



SECTION DETAIL, EXTERIOR WALL

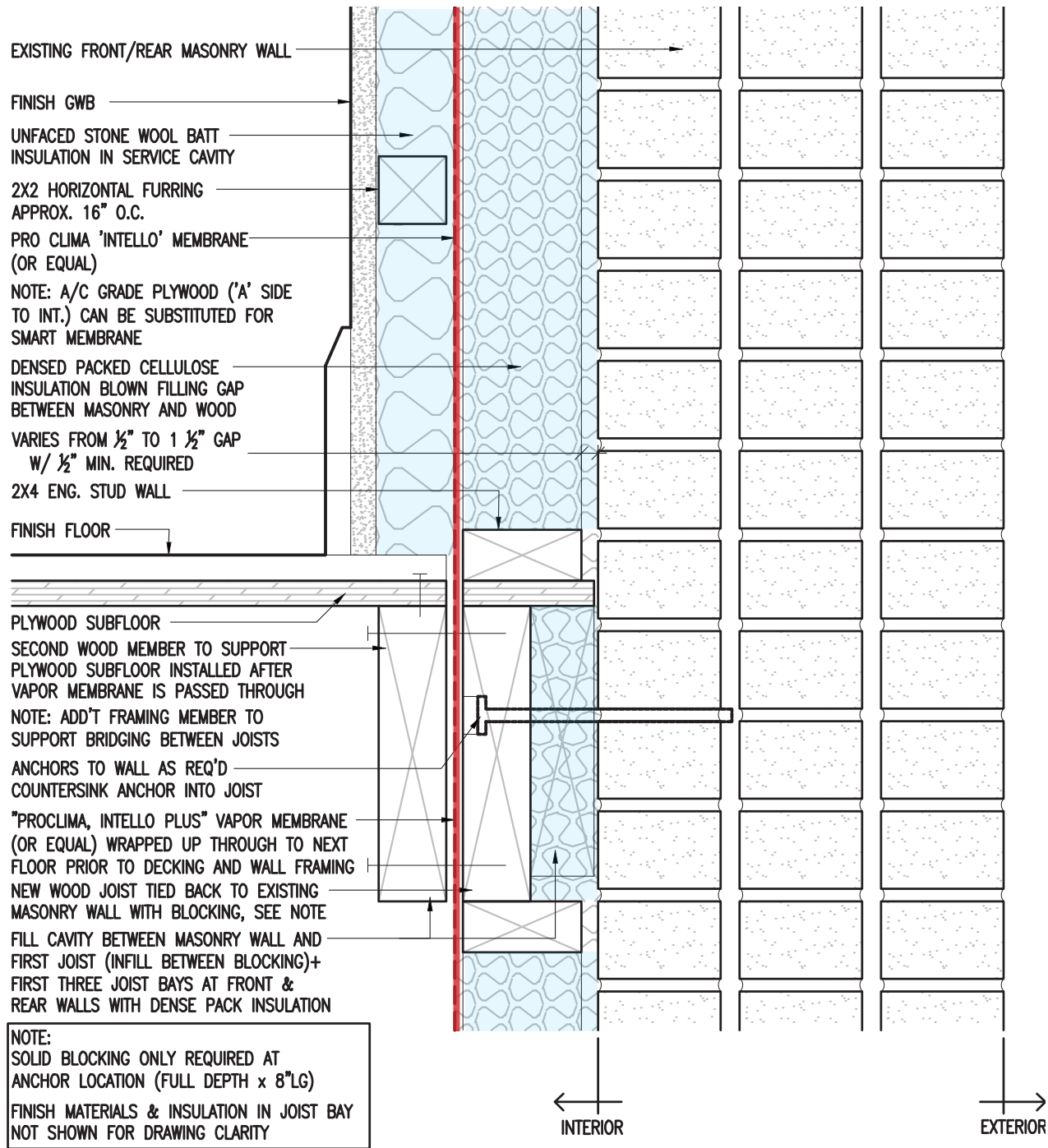
EXTERIOR WALL



PLAN DETAIL, EXTERIOR WALL / PARTY WALL CORNER

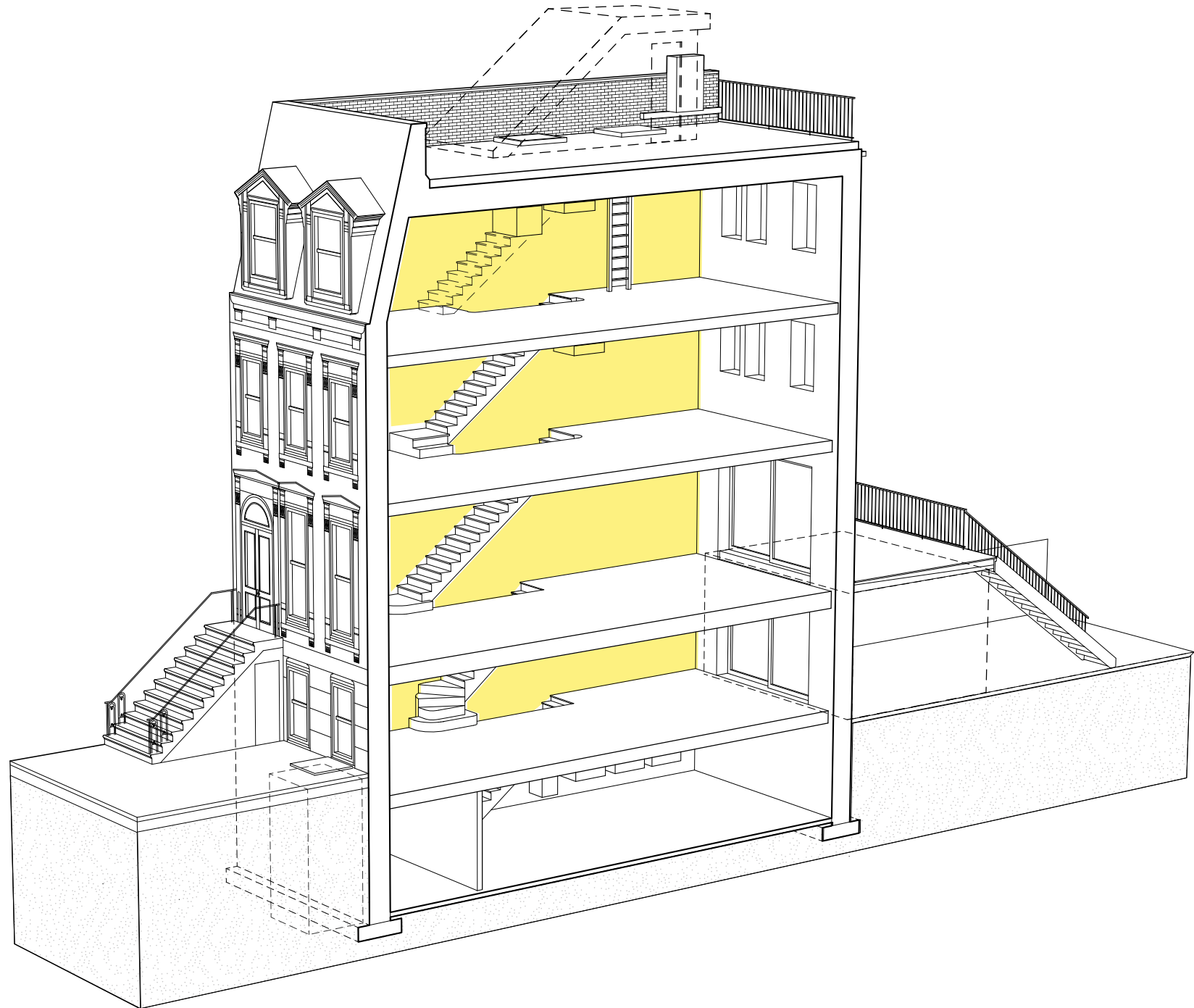


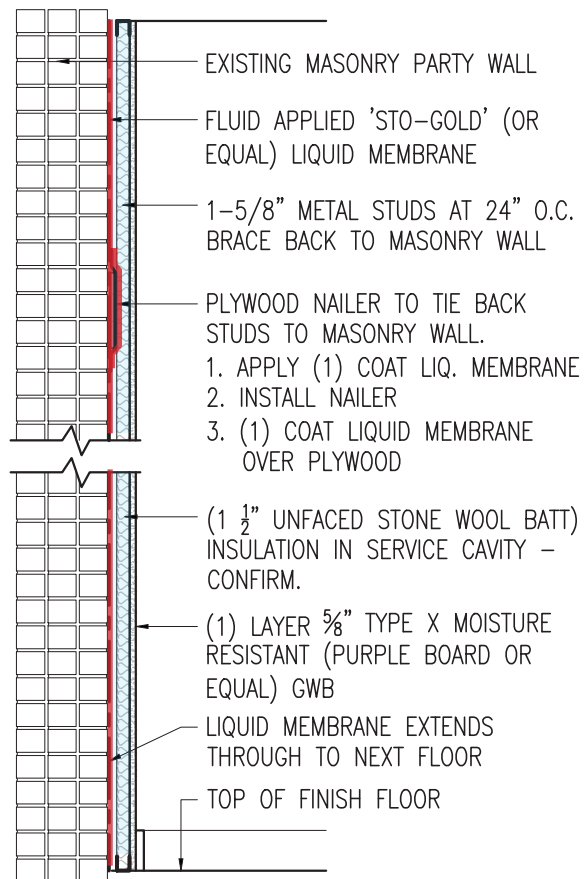
EXTERIOR WALL



SECTION DETAIL, FLOOR JOIST AT EXTERIOR WALL

# PARTY WALL





SECTION DETAIL  
PARTY WALL ABOVE GRADE



*SPRAY STO AND LIME-BASED MORTAR.  
A PAIR OF SPRAYERS CAN COVER A  
FLOOR A DAY.*





PARTEL BLOWERPROOF LIQUID

*"AIRTIGHT COATING IS SPRAY APPLIED WITH AN AIRLESS PAINTSPRAY MACHINE...IT IS A SMART VAPOR CONTROL MEMBRANE WITH VARIABLE PERMEABILITY."* (PARTEL)



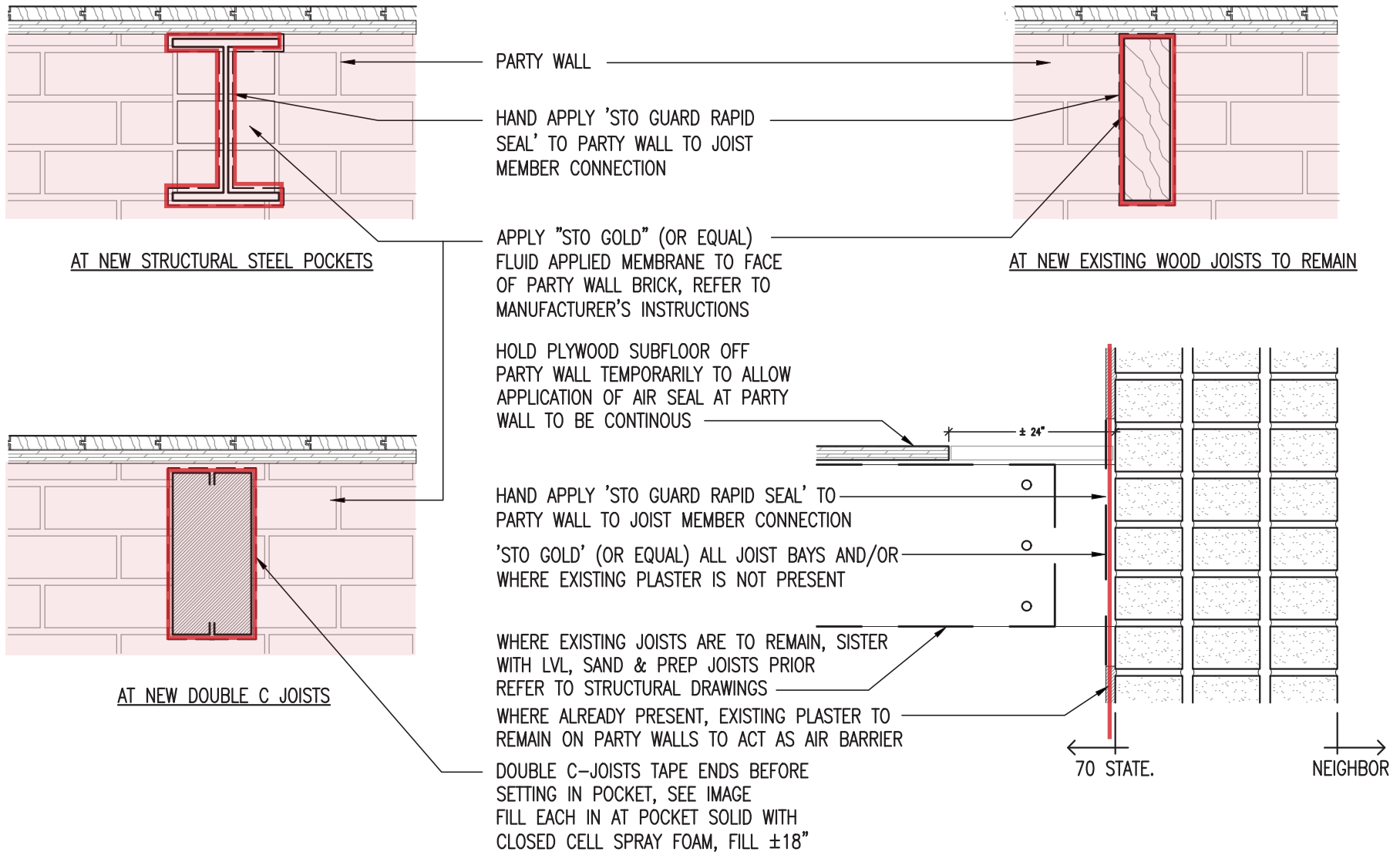
INSULATION AND AIRTIGHTNESS



*SPRAY APPLICATION BY PARTEL & BRENNAN BRENNAN*



PARTY WALL



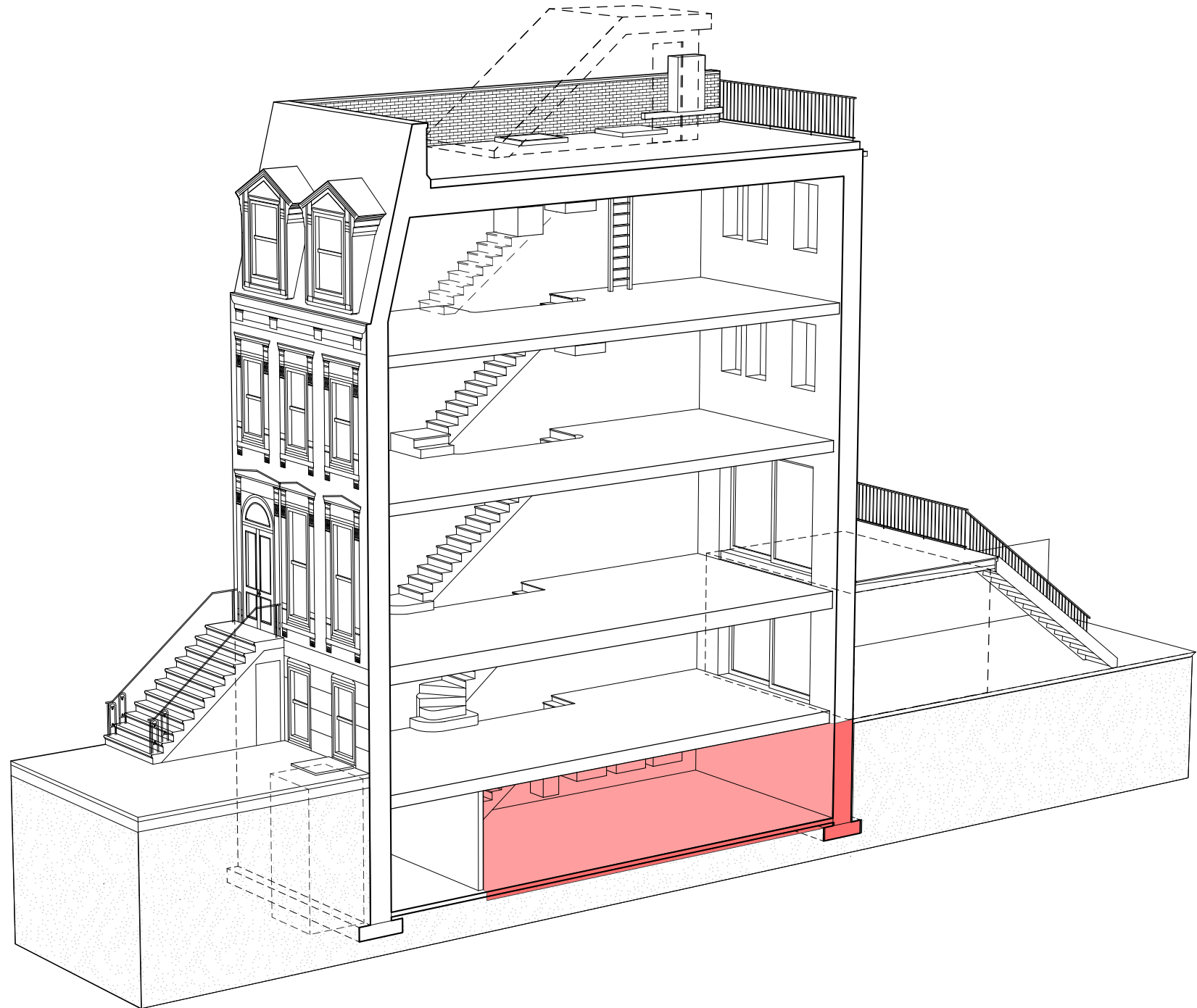
AIR SEALING AT PARTY WALL JOISTS

PRE-WRAPPED FLOOR JOISTS, TO BE PLACED IN JOIST POCKETS.



PARTY WALL

# CELLAR

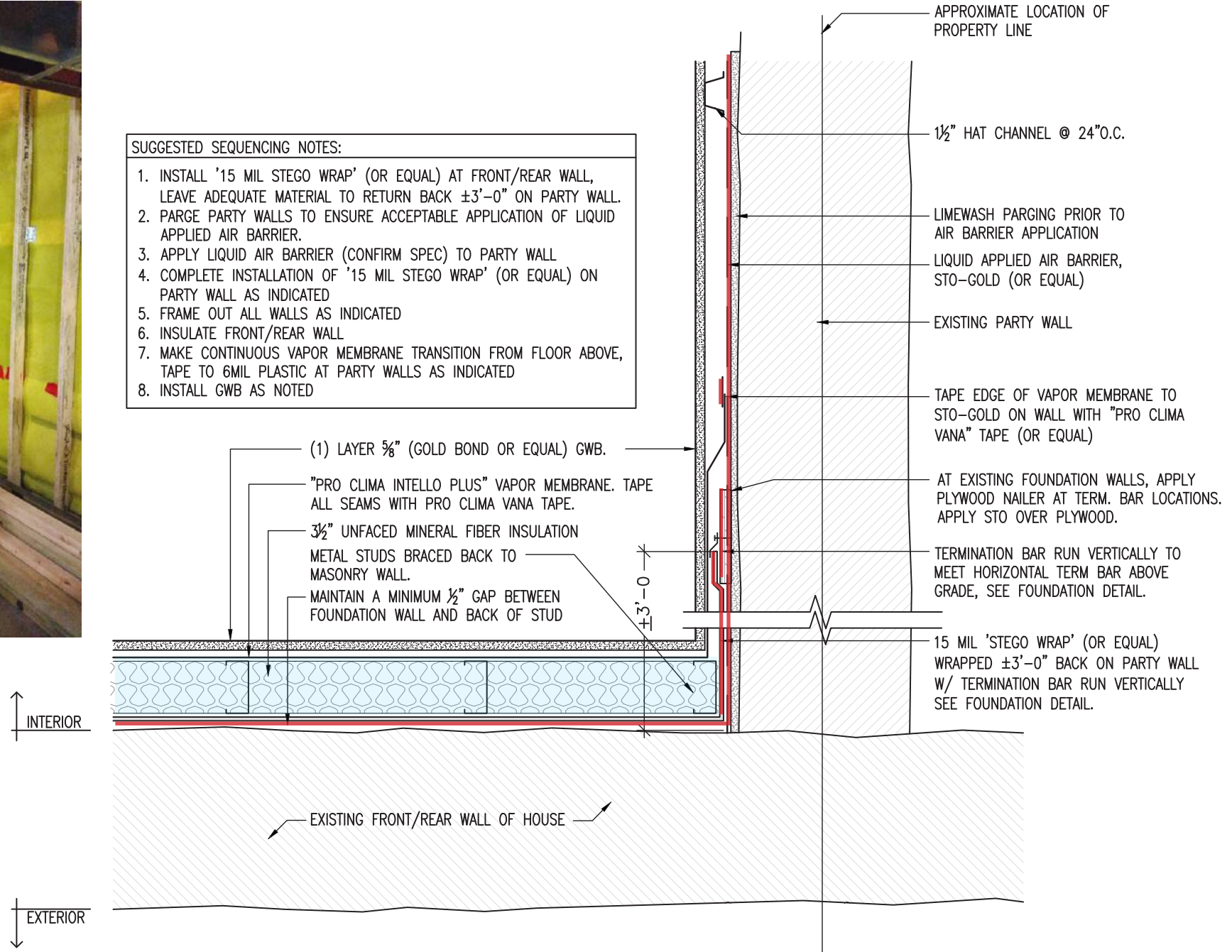




CELLAR PARTY WALL,  
BELOW GRADE

CELLAR

- SUGGESTED SEQUENCING NOTES:
1. INSTALL '15 MIL STEGO WRAP' (OR EQUAL) AT FRONT/REAR WALL, LEAVE ADEQUATE MATERIAL TO RETURN BACK  $\pm 3'-0"$  ON PARTY WALL.
  2. PARGE PARTY WALLS TO ENSURE ACCEPTABLE APPLICATION OF LIQUID APPLIED AIR BARRIER.
  3. APPLY LIQUID AIR BARRIER (CONFIRM SPEC) TO PARTY WALL
  4. COMPLETE INSTALLATION OF '15 MIL STEGO WRAP' (OR EQUAL) ON PARTY WALL AS INDICATED
  5. FRAME OUT ALL WALLS AS INDICATED
  6. INSULATE FRONT/REAR WALL
  7. MAKE CONTINUOUS VAPOR MEMBRANE TRANSITION FROM FLOOR ABOVE, TAPE TO 6MIL PLASTIC AT PARTY WALLS AS INDICATED
  8. INSTALL GWB AS NOTED



PLAN DETAIL  
PARTY WALL / EXTERIOR CORNER, BELOW GRADE





UNDER-SLAB INSULATION



LAYOUT OF REBAR

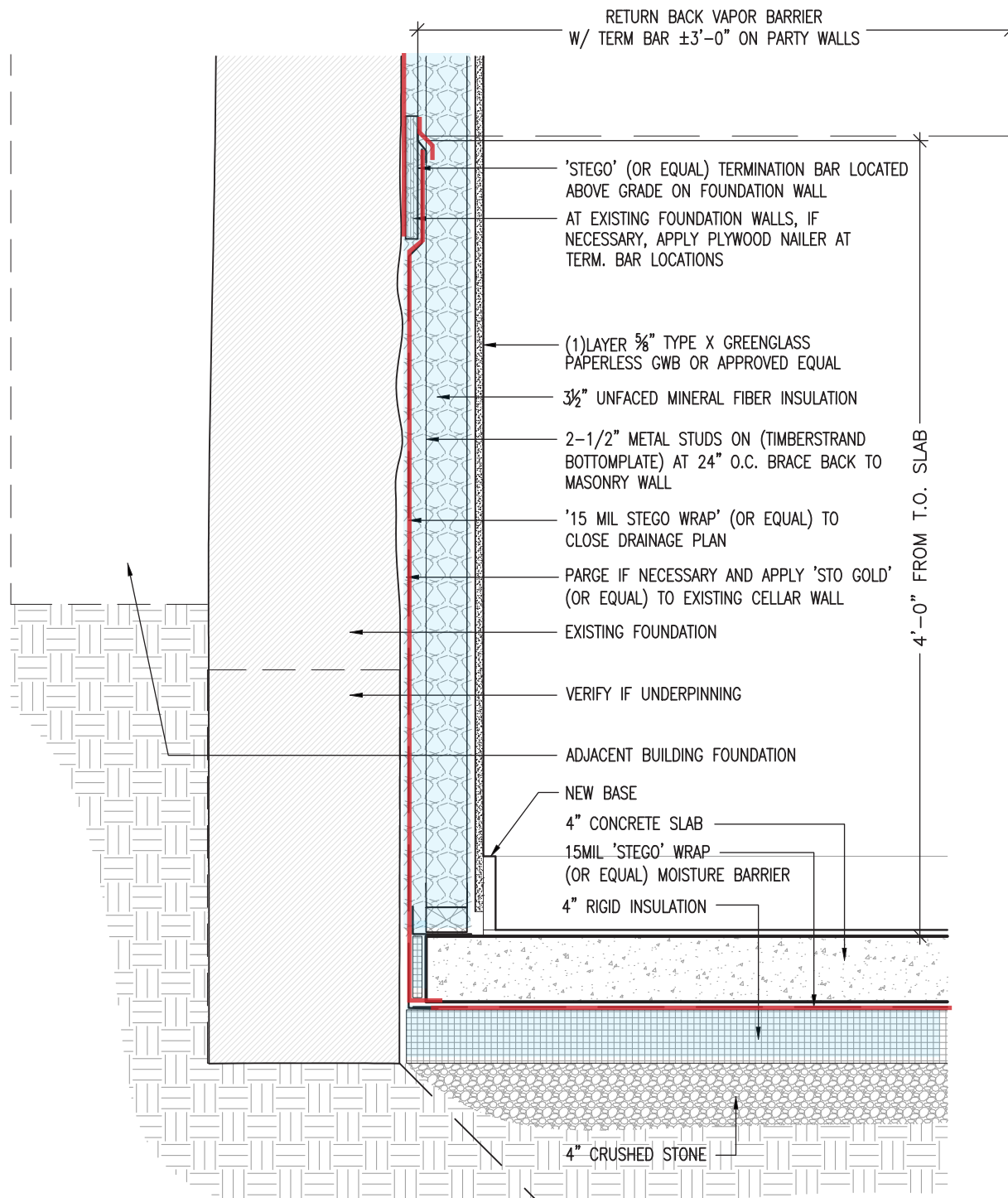


TERMINATION BAR AND STEGO MASTIC  
DETAIL AT PARTY WALL



CONCRETE SLAB FILL

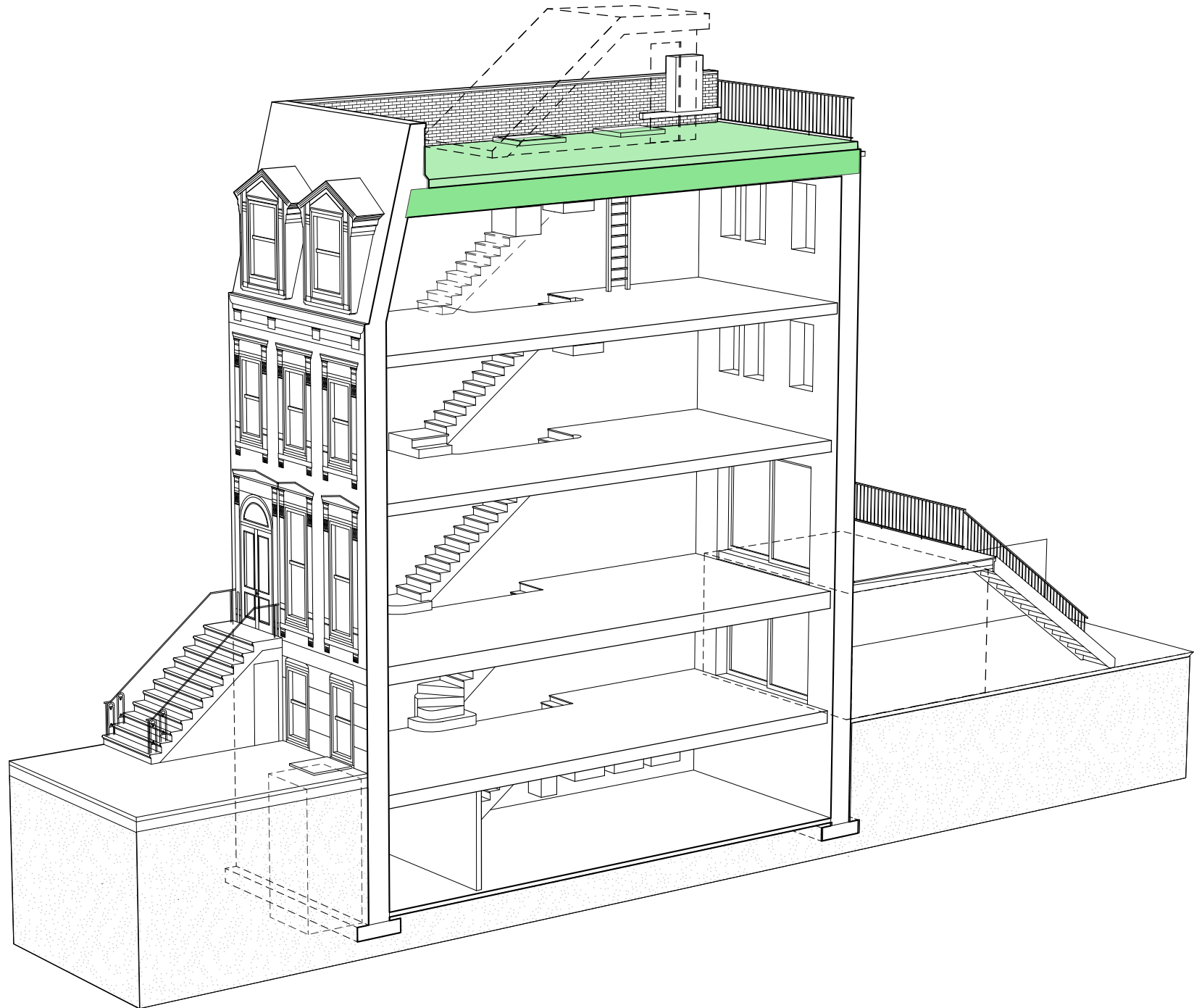
CELLAR

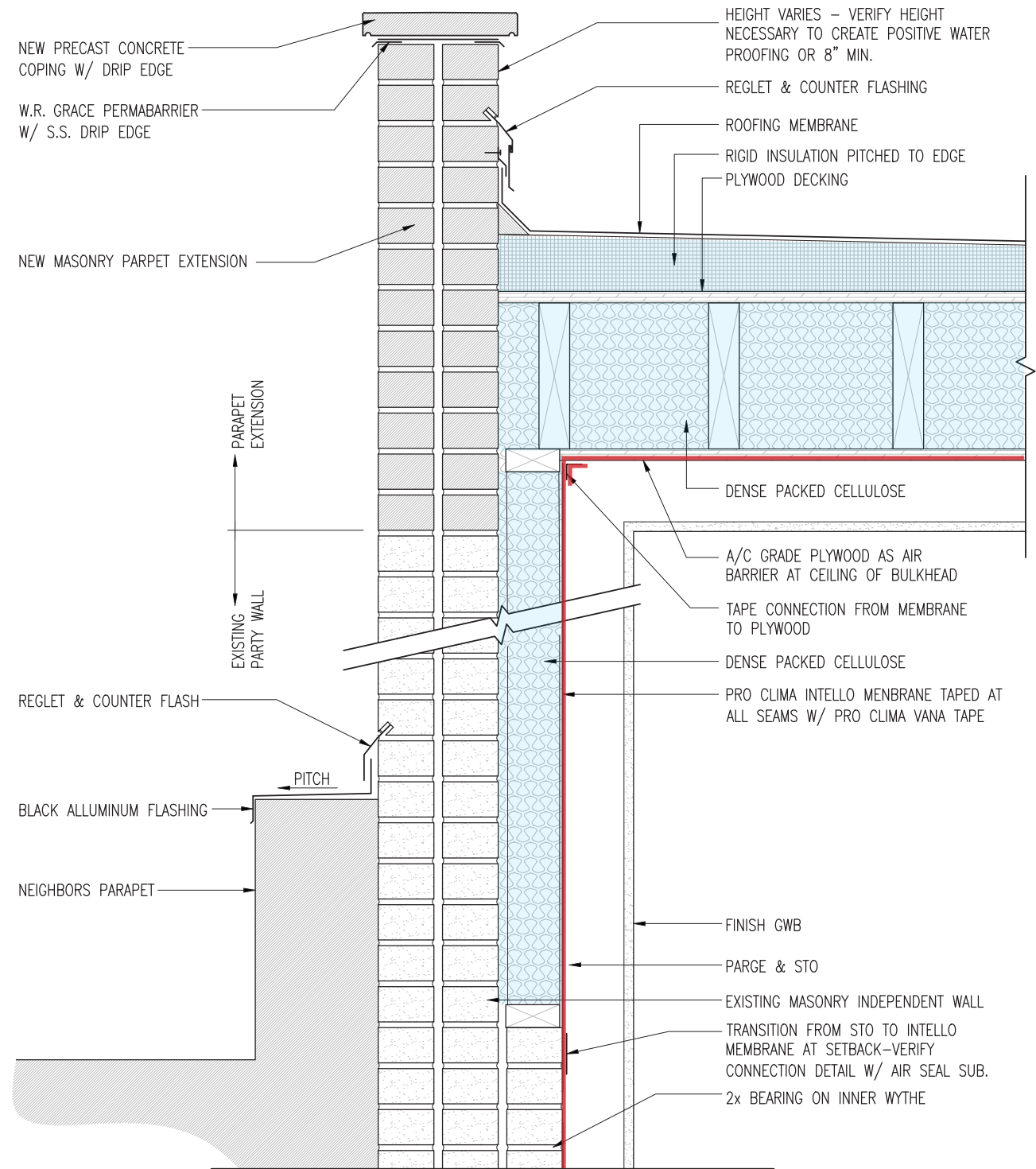


CELLAR

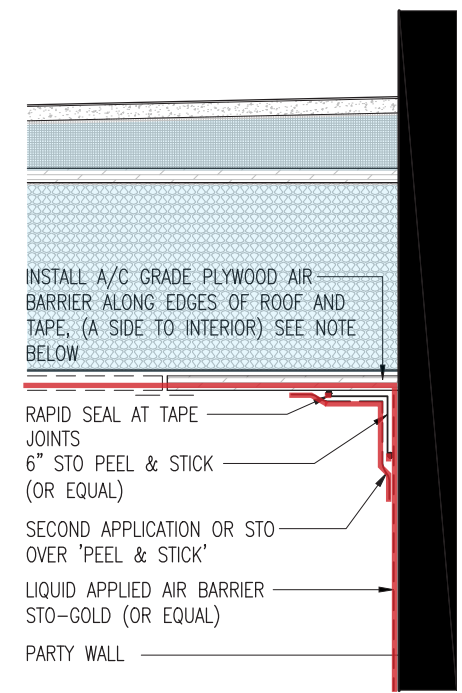
SECTION DETAIL  
EXTERIOR OR PARTY WALL / CELLAR SLAB

# ROOF





**SECTION DETAIL**  
**ROOF W/ EXTERIOR WALL**



NOTE:  
THIS ENSURES INTERIOR PARTITIONS ON PERIMETER CAN BE FRAMED W/O INTERRUPTION FROM INSULATION & PASSIVE ENVELOPE INSTALLATION

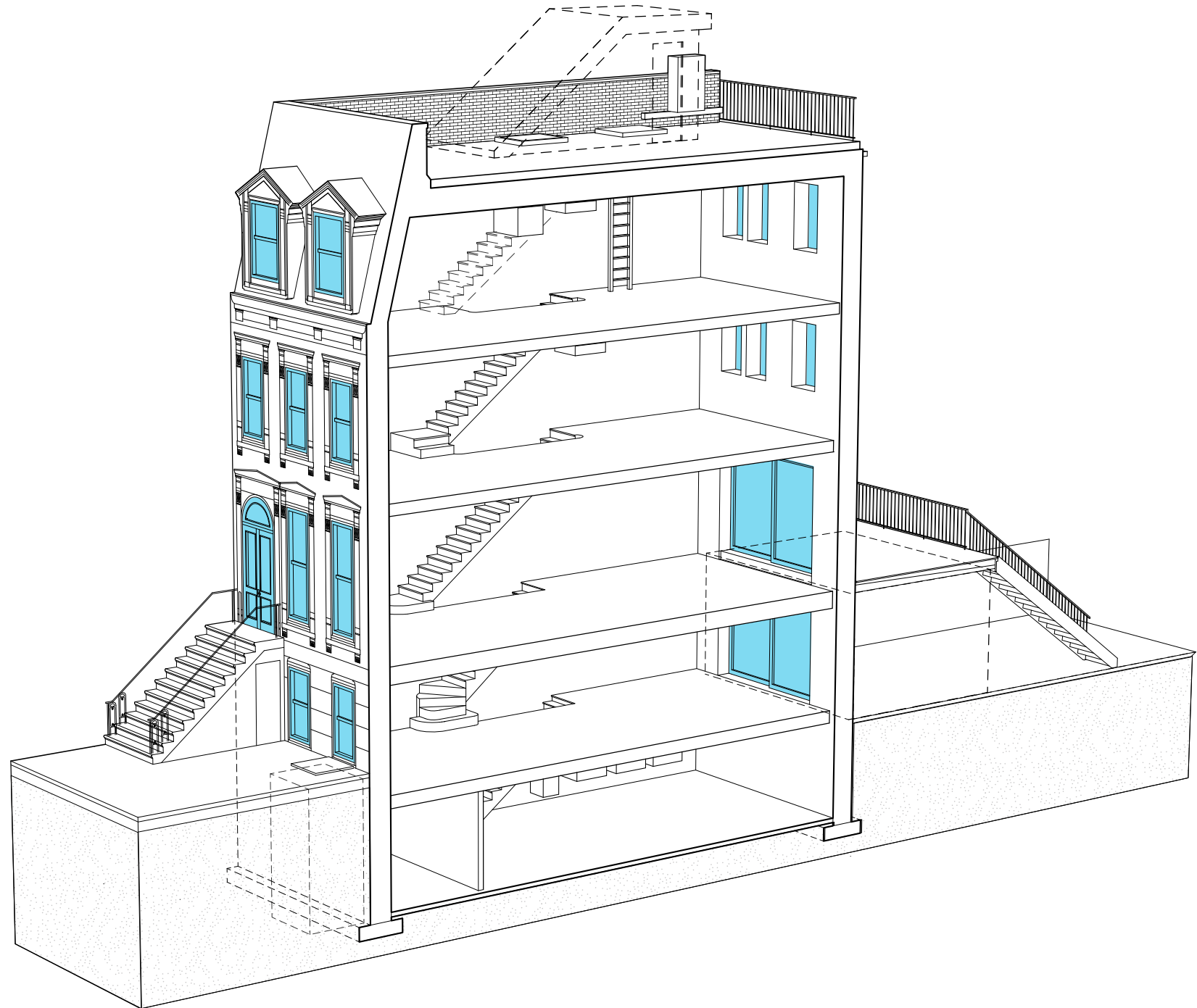
**SECTION DETAIL**  
**ROOF/PARTY WALL,**  
**NEIGHBOR'S ROOF AT**  
**SAME OR HIGHER LEVEL**

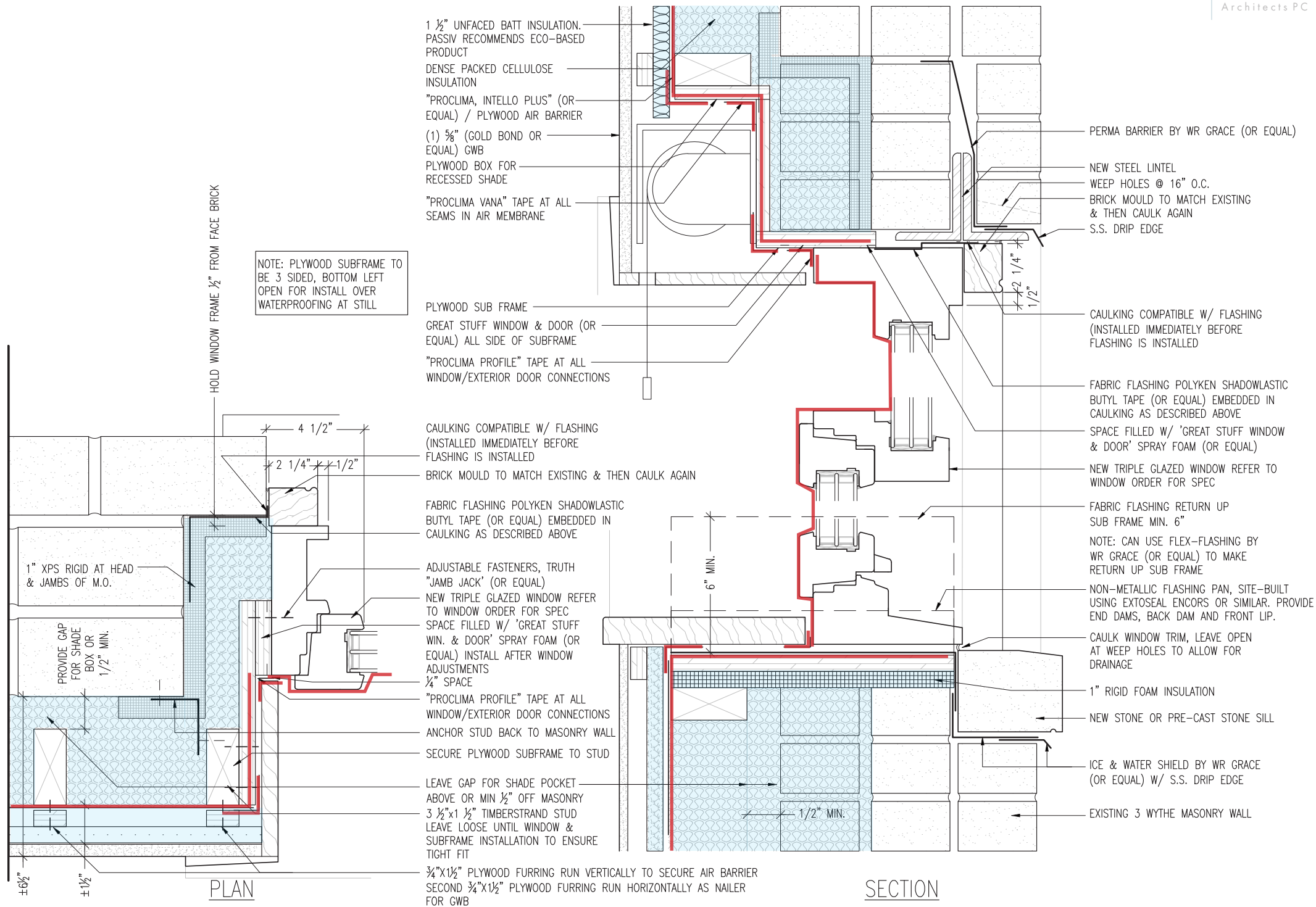


ROOF



# WINDOWS







Prepare Masonry Opening: remove all existing material, clean, re-point inside and out. Exterior masonry layer needs to be water tight to window opening.

**Step 1**

Install framing header higher than masonry opening to accommodate shade pocket rough.

Install framing components adjacent to window opening

Install sill framing to accommodate positive slope to exterior.

**Step 2**

Install side return rigid insulation

Install sill waterproof flashing on base plywood and 6" up each side

Install sill sub-base to accommodate positive slope to exterior.

**Step 3**

Glue-n-screw 3/4" AC-grade plywood strips to top and sides of window frame ensuring a tight fit.

Orient "A-grade" side of plywood facing the window frame and seal/repair all imperfections in A-grade side of plywood for continuous air tightness. (Refer to project plan set for specific section details)

**Step 4**

Install plywood/window assembly into the masonry opening leaving 1/8" + space at bottom of window sill and sill flashing.

Screw plywood to side studs making tight connections at close intervals.

Attach back side of studs to masonry wall using wood blocking or clips in order to secure stud-plywood-window to masonry wall

**Step 5**

Install shade pocket rough box

Waterproof exterior of window to masonry using water tight tape or elastomeric caulk

**Step 6**

Insulate cavity around window

Install brick mould at sides and top. Caulk to window and masonry.

**Step 7**

Install blown in insulation behind air tight layer

Install electrical boxes and wire runs in service cavity

Install batt insulation in 1-1/2" service cavity

Complete shade pocket

Install drywall and finish trim around window

**Finish**

fentrend

Leave joint at bottom of brick mould open to allow potential water leakage to drain to outside.

**Step 8**

Seal all seams of plywood box and all joints between window and box extension with air tight tape.

**Step 9**

Install interior air tight layer across face of studs. Air seal to window plywood extension jambs.

Install 3/4" thick vertical strips on each stud face.

Install 3/4" thick horizontal strips to create a 1-1/2" deep service cavity.

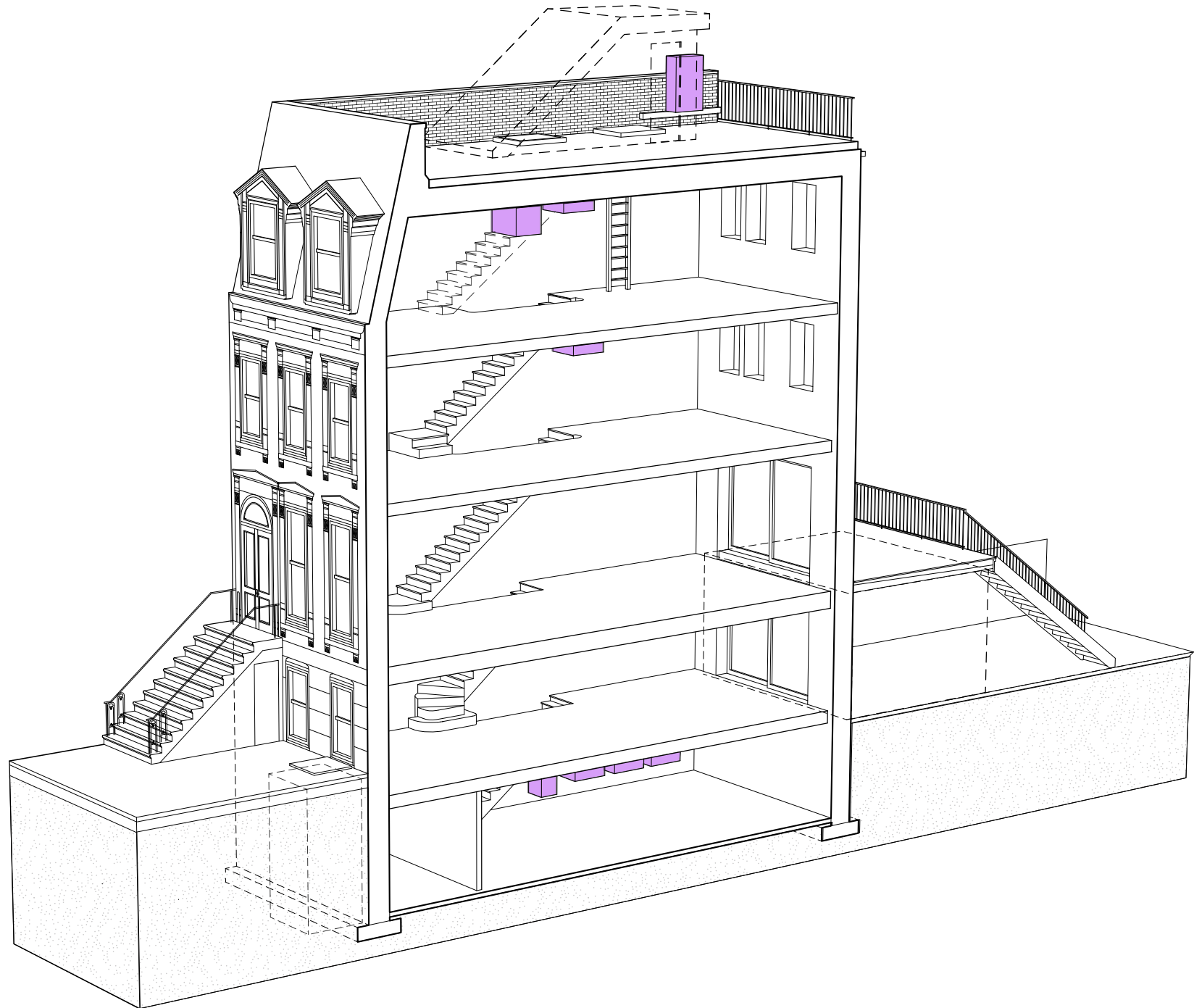
**Step 10**

WINDOWS

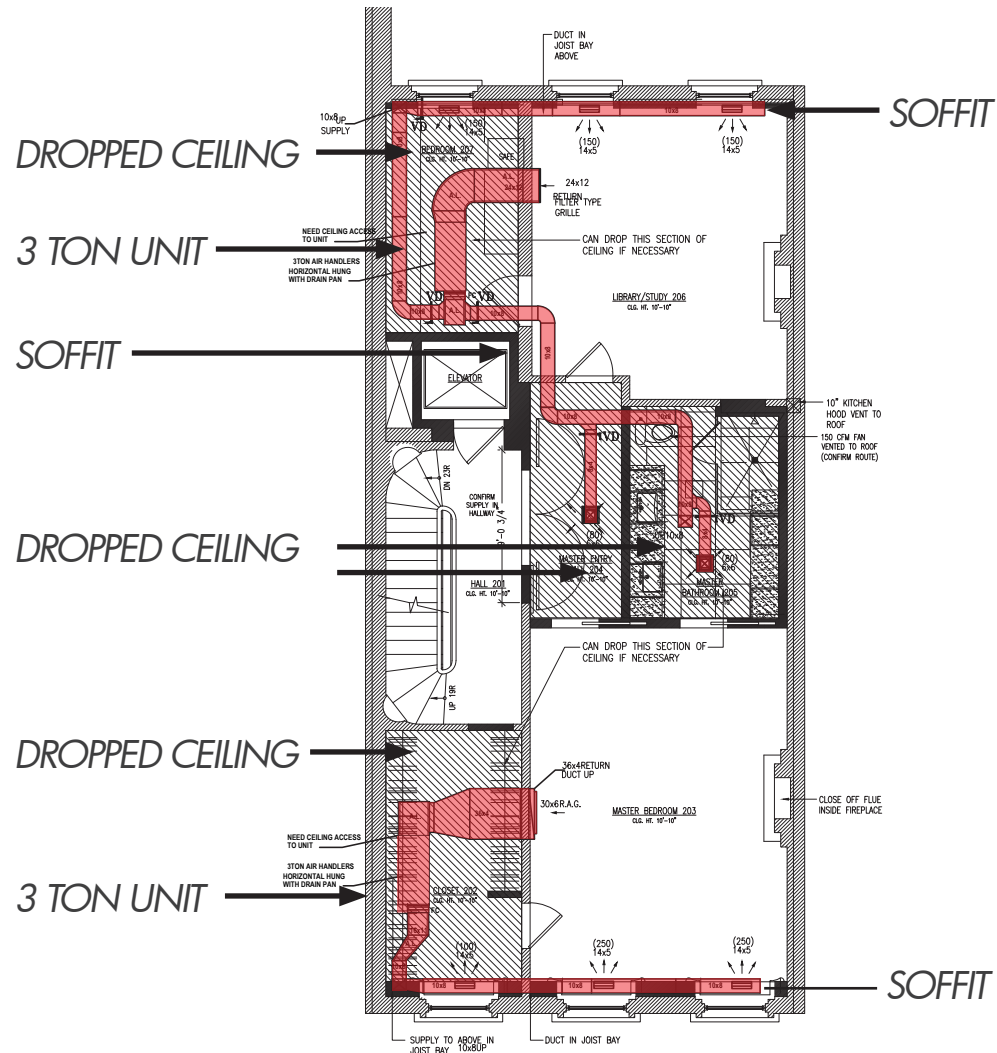


WINDOW INSTALLATION WITH SIGA TAPE & M2 CONTRACTING.

# MECHANICAL



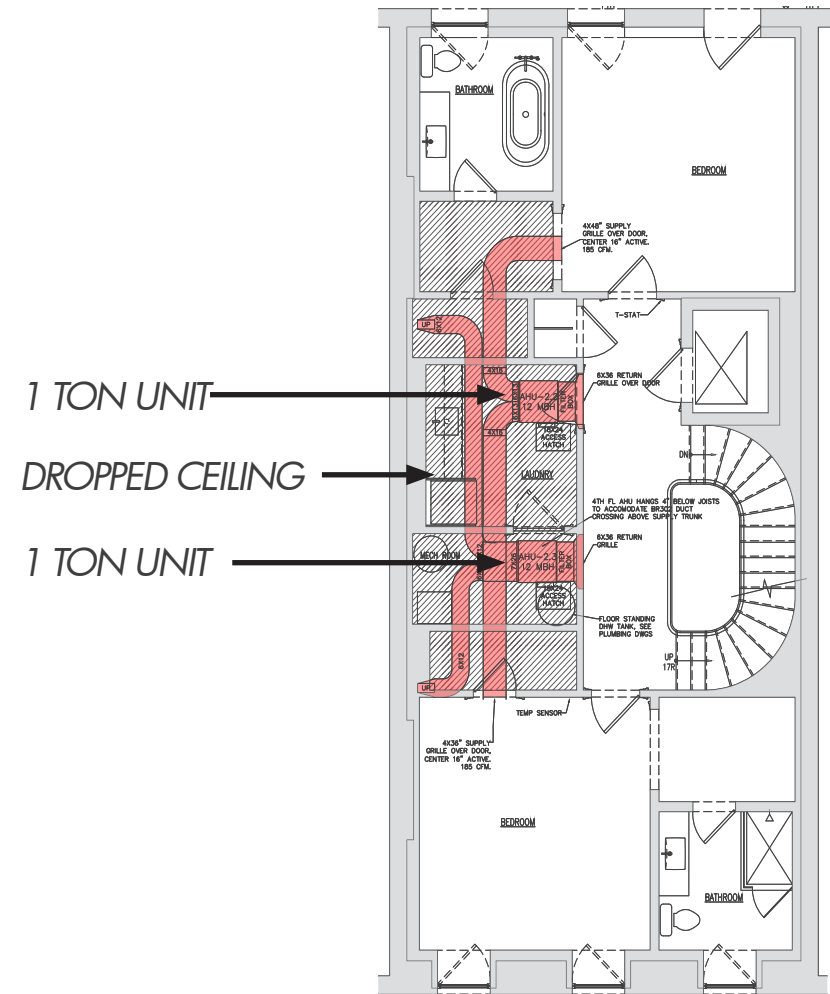
## TYPICAL NON-PASSIVE HOUSE TOWNHOUSE MECHANICALS



TYPICALLY REQUIRES:

- DROPPED CEILINGS, SOFFITS
- HEAT TO FRONT AND REAR ROOMS

## TYPICAL PASSIVE HOUSE TOWNHOUSE MECHANICALS

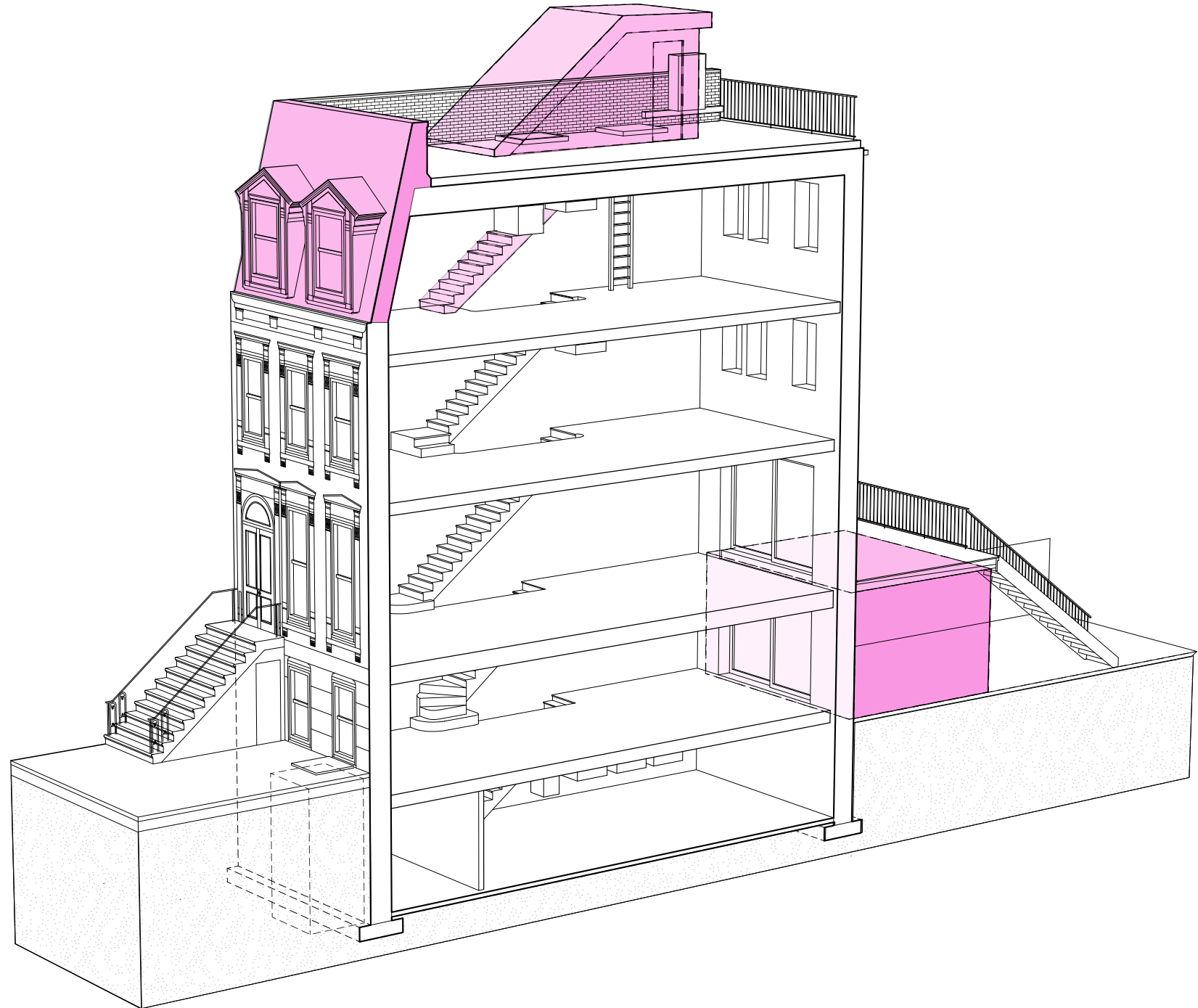


- SIMPLER DUCTWORK
- SMALLER MECHANICALS
- CLEARER FRONT/REAR ROOMS

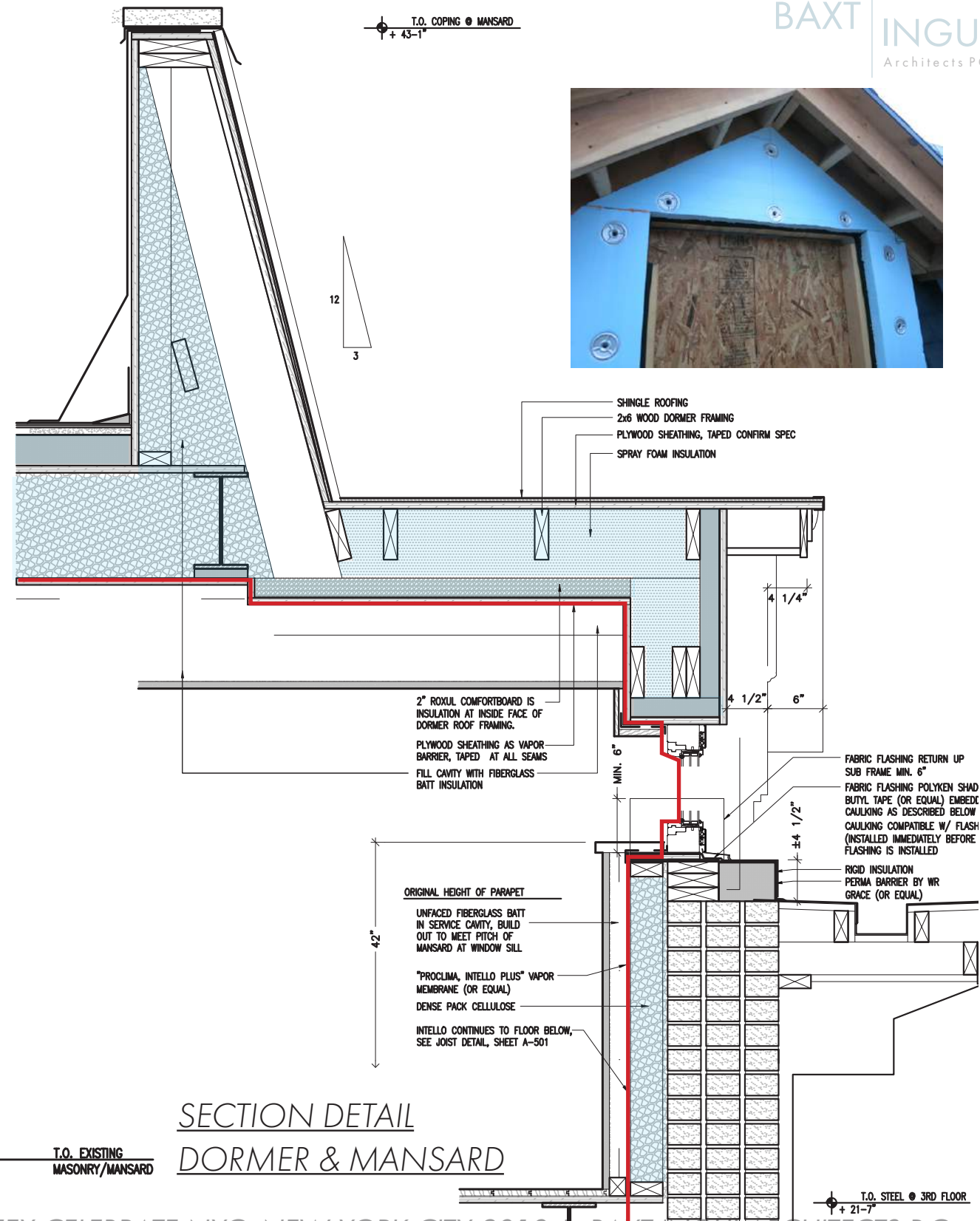
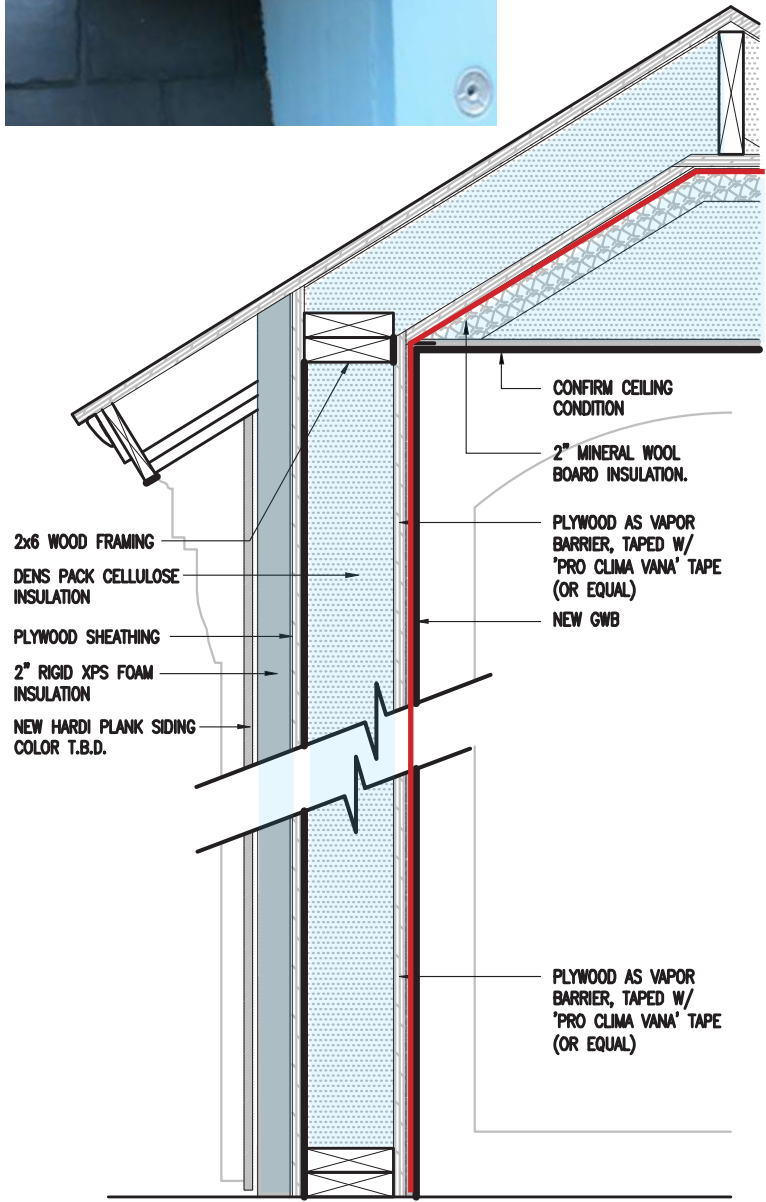


MECHANICAL

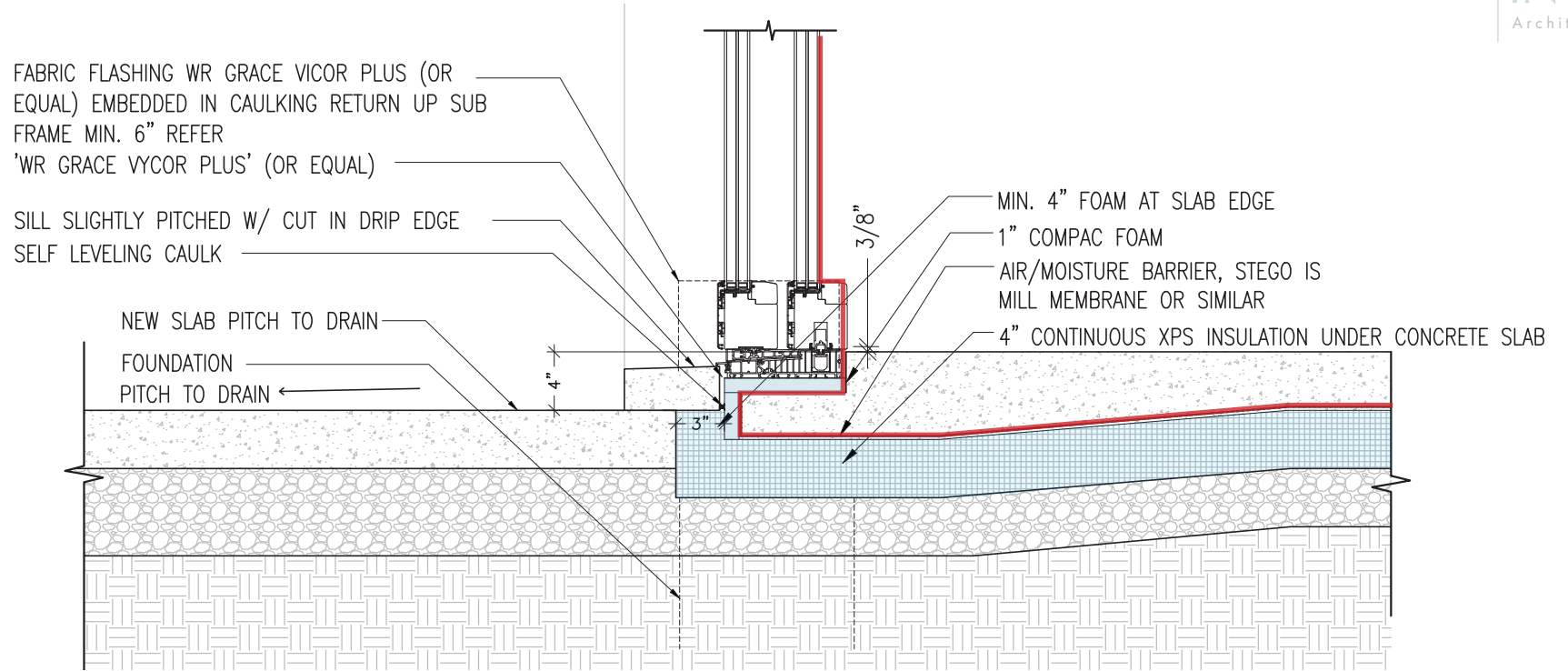
# SPECIAL CONDITIONS



NEW MANSARD / DORMERS



SECTION DETAIL  
DORMER & MANSARD



SECTION DETAIL: REAR ADDITION  
NEW BASEMENT W/ SLAB ON GRADE

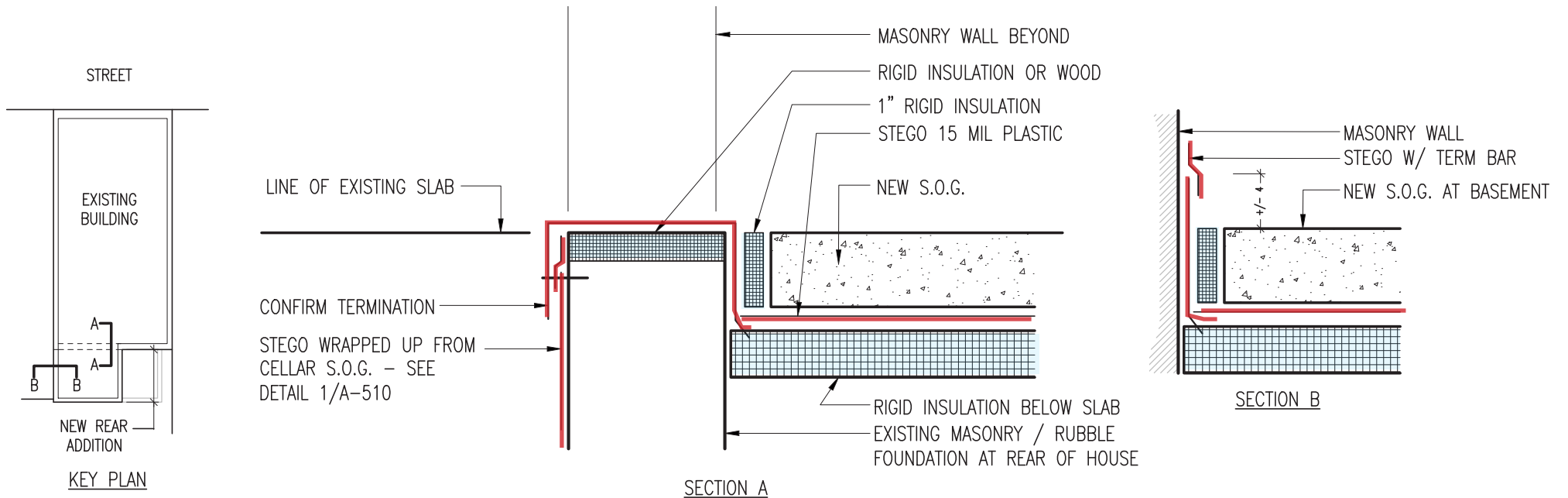
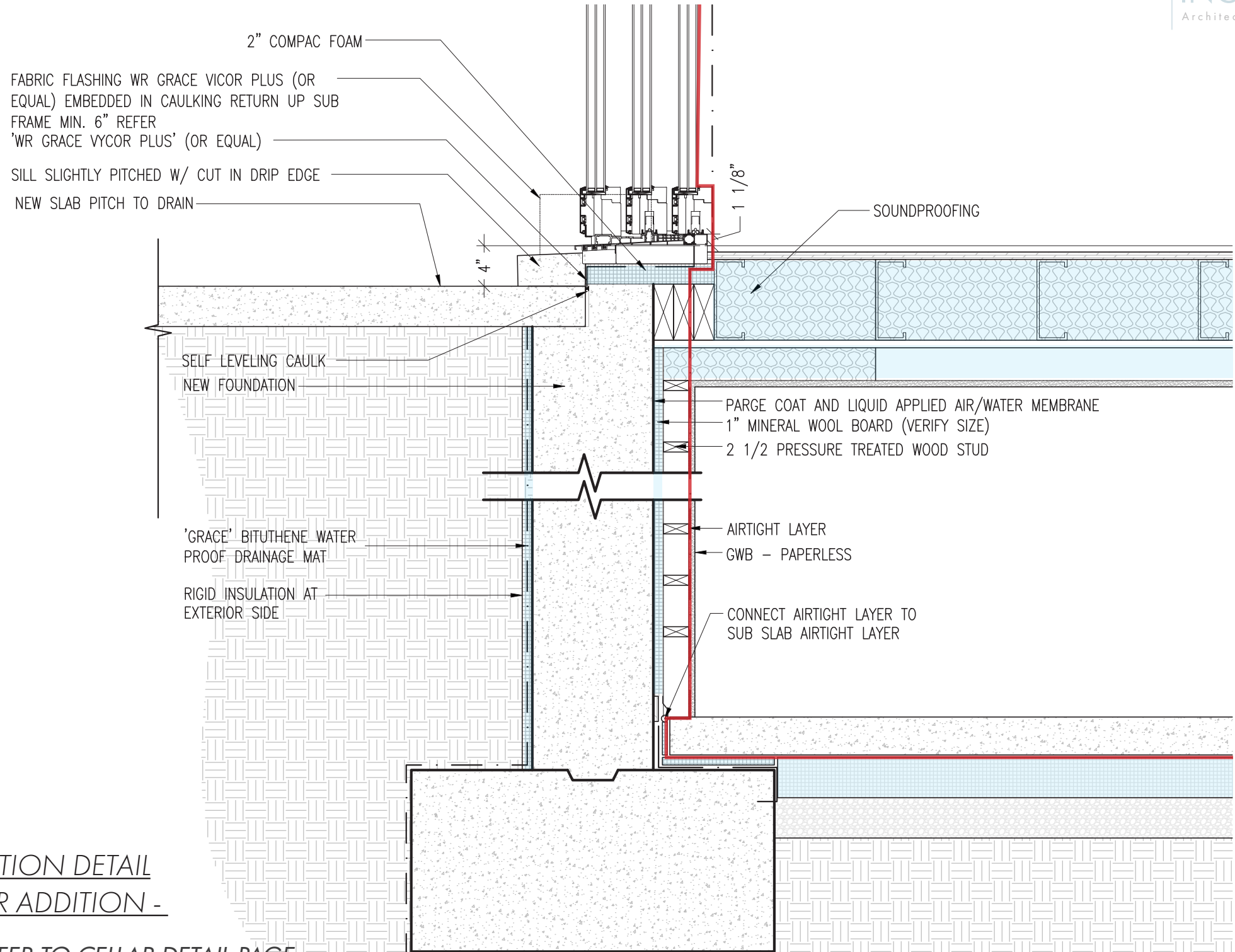


DIAGRAM: NEW SLAB ON GRADE CONNECTION



SPECIAL ADDITIONS - REAR ADDITIONS



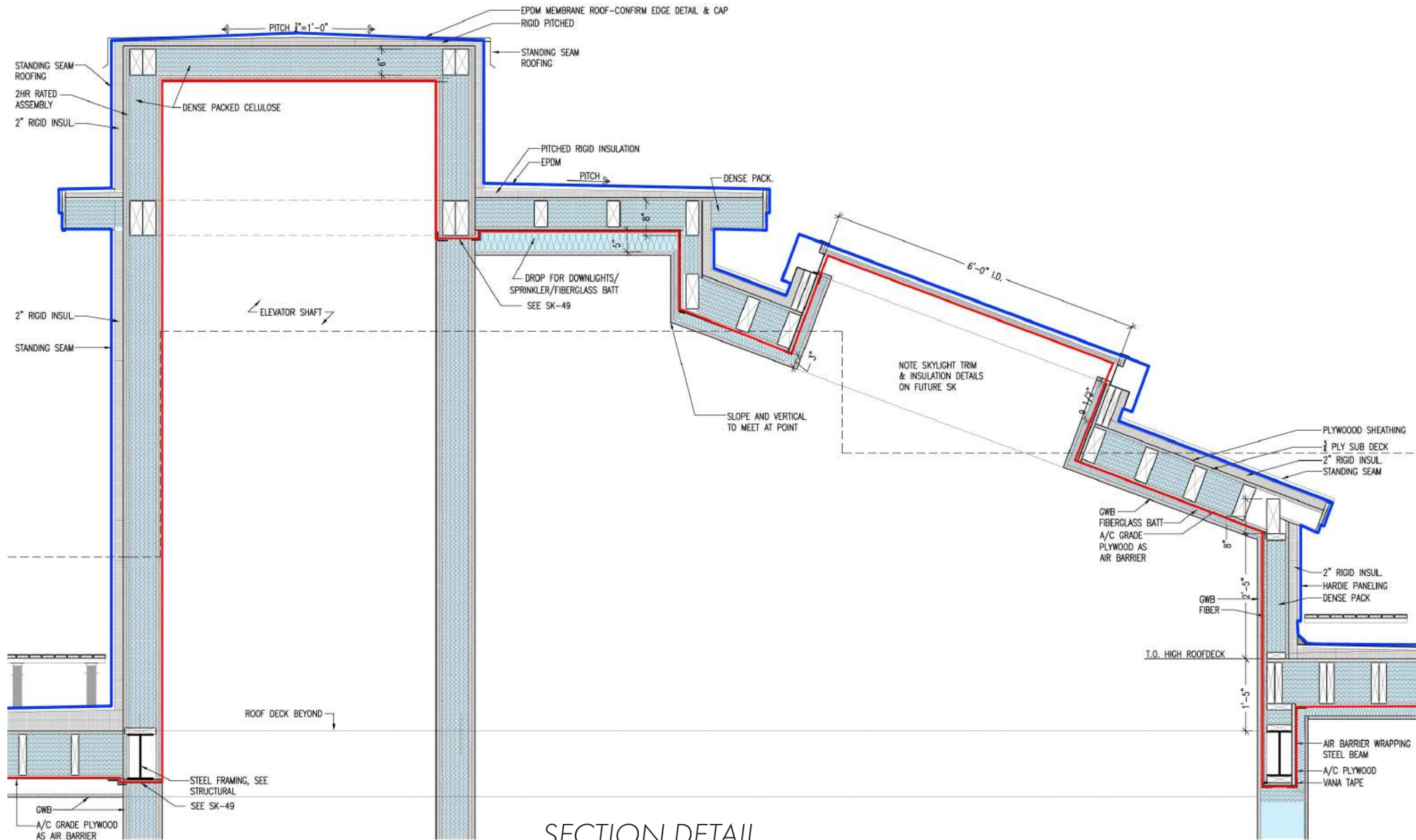
SECTION DETAIL  
REAR ADDITION -

+ REFER TO CELLAR DETAIL PAGE

SPECIAL ADDITIONS - ROOF ADDITIONS



SPECIAL ADDITIONS - ROOF ADDITIONS

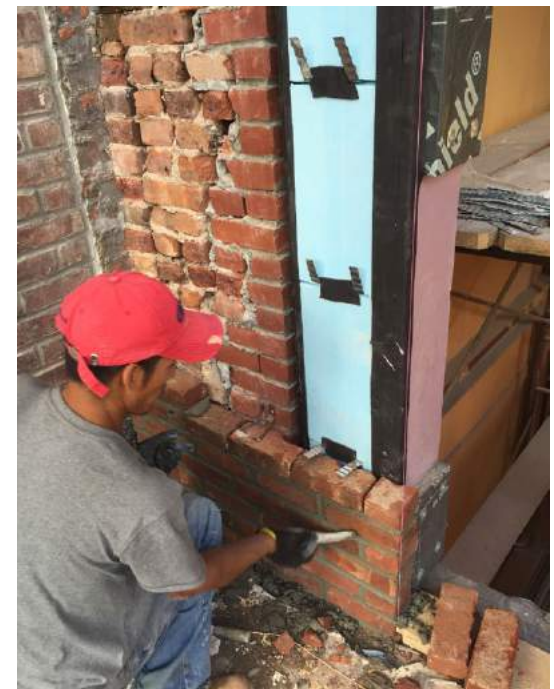


SECTION DETAIL  
ELEVATOR & STAIR BULKHEAD

SPECIAL CONDITIONS -  
LARGE MASONRY OPENING



*PROVIDING INSULATION WHERE STEEL WAS REQUIRED FOR LARGE MASONRY OPENINGS.*



# COMPLETED PROJECTS

# COMPLETED CERTIFIED PASSIVE PROJECTS



MANHATTAN  
UPPER WEST SIDE



BROOKLYN  
CARROLL GARDENS



BROOKLYN  
BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

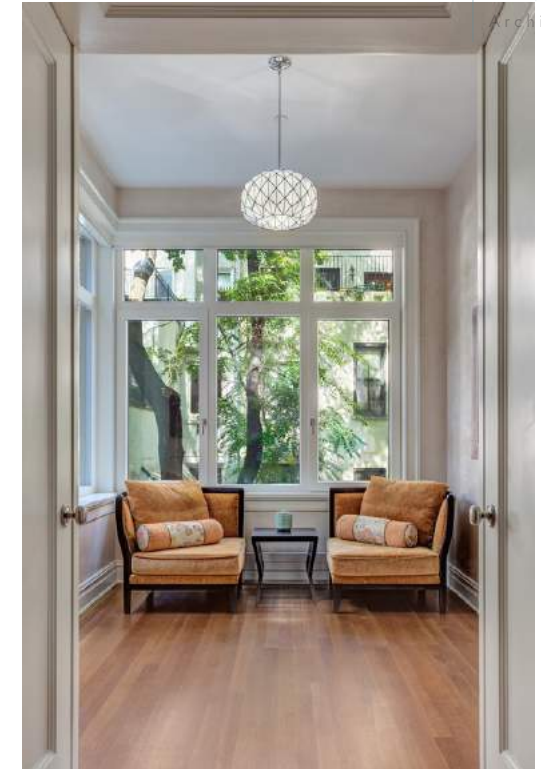


BROOKLYN  
BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

# UPPER WEST SIDE, MANHATTAN



- 1ST PASSIVE HOUSE IN MANHATTAN
- LEED PLATINUM



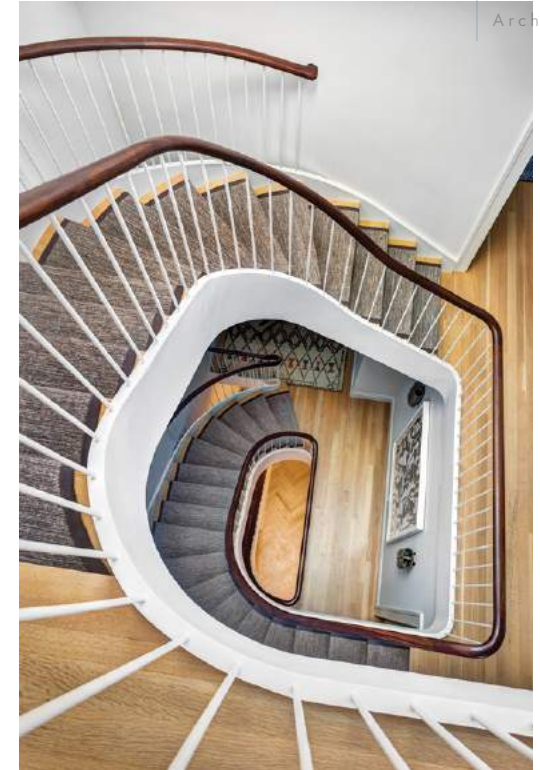
TAFFERA FINE BUILDINGS AND FINISHES INC.

PETER PEIRCE PHOTOGRAPHY

# BROOKLYN HEIGHTS, BROOKLYN



1ST PASSIVE HOUSE IN  
A LANDMARK DISTRICT



KLEEN CONSTRUCTION

PETER PEIRCE PHOTOGRAPHY



# CARROLL GARDENS, BROOKLYN

1ST PASSIVE PLUS IN THE U.S.



PJOE CONSTRUCTION



JOHN MUGGENBORG PHOTOGRAPHY

# BROOKLYN HEIGHTS, BROOKLYN



- ROOF DECK
- LPC APPROVED BAY



TAFFERA FINE BUILDINGS AND FINISHES INC.

JOHN MUGGENBORG PHOTOGRAPHY



***THANK YOU.***

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Architects PC