

Program Summary:

A 19th-century shotgun house restructured for contemporary living, merging compact spatial strategies with material honesty and contextual sensitivity.

Program Statement:

This project reimagines a blighted 1890s shotgun house in New Orleans' Lower Garden District as a contemporary residence, embracing the typology's constraints of narrow width, linear organization, and limited natural light as opportunities for architectural invention. Within an 1,800-square-foot renovation footprint, every design decision serves dual purposes: maximizing daylight while supporting the evolving needs of a modern family of four.

The architectural strategy balances preservation with transformation. Original pine floors, fireplace mantels, and windows were restored, while new insertions adopt a deliberately minimal language to create a quiet dialogue between past and present. Contemporary elements are expressed as clearly new, distinguishing themselves from their historic counterparts.

In collaboration with the Historic District Landmarks Commission (HDLC), a rear porch was added to conceal building systems and introduce sectional variety that enhances the relationship to the plunge pool and yard.

The rear of the home now serves as a light-filled office with views to a northeast-facing courtyard. Flanked by adjacent buildings, the soft, diffuse light brings calm to the interiors.

This renovation reflects how thoughtful interventions can adapt historic housing for modern life while honoring its architectural legacy.

R-135.01

Building Area: (sf)
3,133 sq ft

Cost per Square Foot:
Undisclosed

Construction Cost
Undisclosed

Date of Completion:
WINTER 2024

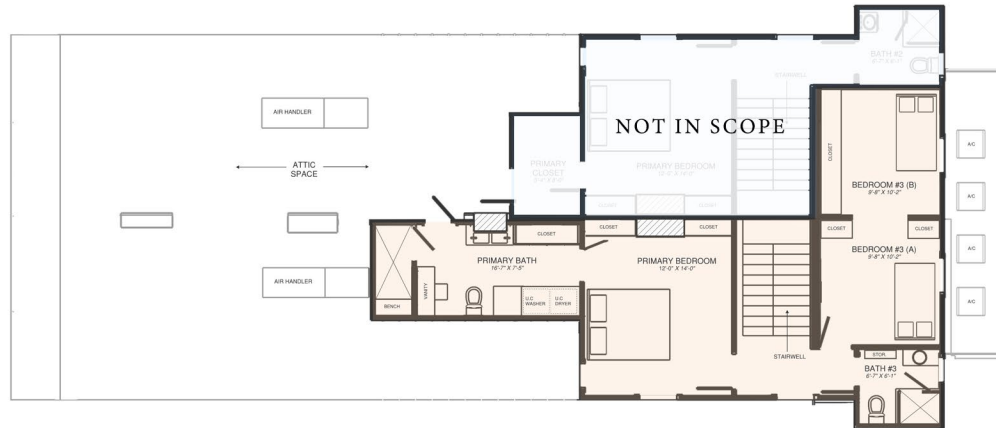


R-135.02

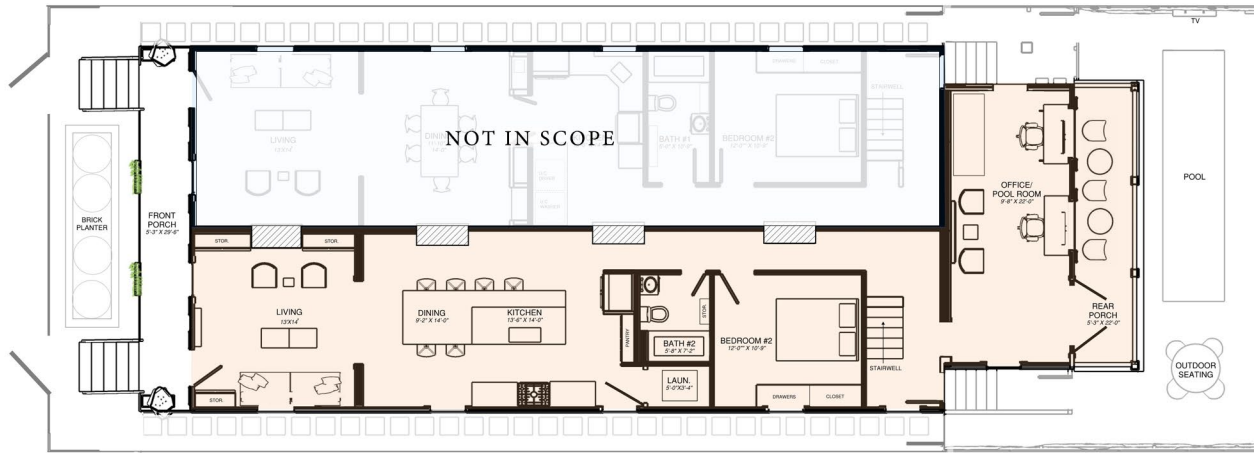
Front entry of the home with all new restored façade.

R-135.03

While the renovation encompassed the entire residence, the primary design focus was on the owner's side of the shotgun, as indicated in the highlighted portion.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

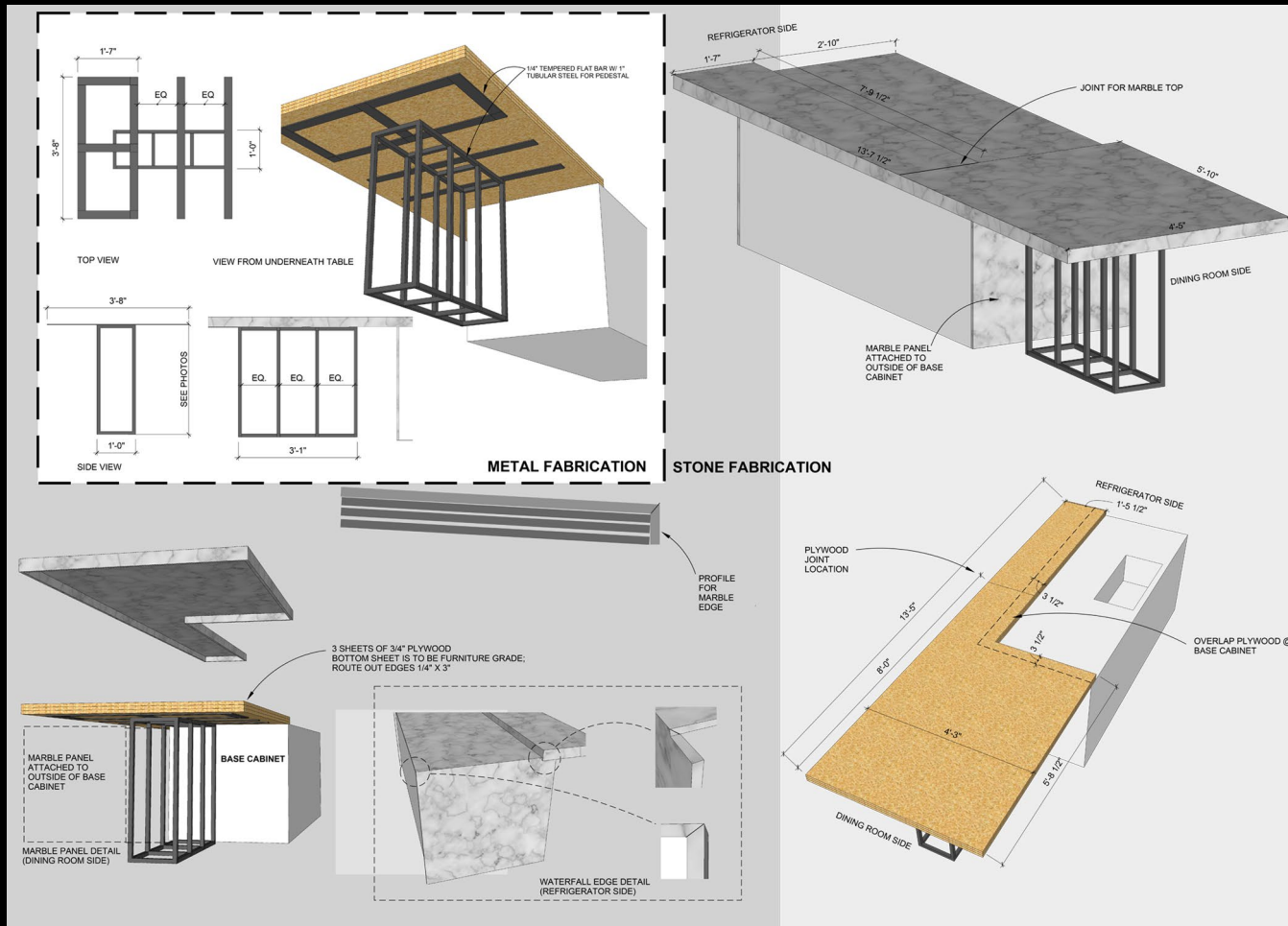
R-135.04

The home combined historic elements with modern amenities, guided by a design ethos of honesty and new additions were intentionally distinct, ensuring guests could easily identify them



R-135.05

The kitchen island became a standout feature of the home, evolving only after the original island had been built. Designed with the concept of eliminating extra chairs, it incorporates a distinctive, integrated dining and bar area.



R-135.06

The kitchen features a long, linear layout shaped by circulation on both sides of a sculptural island. To preserve the existing windows, cabinetry was carefully placed between to maintain natural light while discreetly integrating access to the adjacent laundry closet.





R-135.07

After uncovering the original stairs, a metal railing was added to the stairwell, reflecting the home's commitment to honest design interventions

R-135.08

The previous workspace was a windowless and undersized area used for nearly five years. The new design prioritized natural light, featuring functional windows that open to the outdoor pool area, creating a bright and connected environment. Collaborating closely with the HDLC, every detail of the window design, from the frames to the mullion sizes, was carefully reviewed and approved, ensuring compliance with historic guidelines.



R-135.09

The deteriorated fireplace was removed, but the former hearth line is subtly marked through custom millwork and flooring details. This gesture honors the original element while reinforcing the spatial threshold between rooms.



R-135.10

Dual functionality allows the primary bedroom to also serve as a portrait studio. The doorway to the right, formerly attic access, now leads to a new primary bathroom built within the home's existing roofline.



R-135.11

The newly added primary bathroom serves multiple functions of laundry, wardrobe, dual vanity, makeup area, and a large shower. Its layout is organized into two zones: seating and standing, each guided by the slope of the existing roofline.





R-135.12

The primary bathroom and closet addition incorporated the storytelling elements seen throughout the home. A notable feature is a fireplace damaged in a fire, repurposed to hang the vanity mirror, left exposed to honor its history.

R-135.13

Positioned within the setback of the home's rear yard, the new pool was thoughtfully designed to optimize circulation. Its compact size enhances heating and cooling efficiency while providing a picturesque backdrop for the office. Limestone, chosen for its reflectivity in this low-light condition, was meticulously detailed on the office porch, creating a seamless transition from office to porch and porch to pool.

