

Program Summary:

The Lafayette Residence translates the framework of a historic shotgun house into contemporary home, responding to climate, context, and patterns of living through traditional principles.

Program Statement:

Located within a New Urbanist neighborhood shaped by suburban expectations, the single family residence adapts the framework of the historic shotgun house for contemporary living. The design organizes a narrow footprint, a clear public to private sequence, tall ceilings, and a strong connection between interior life and the street. The program moves from public frontage to private sleeping areas. A front porch acts as an outdoor room, extending from the living area toward the neighborhood while providing shade, privacy, and a protected place for gathering. Living, dining, and kitchen spaces support everyday routines and maintain a visual connection along the active corner. Sleeping areas are placed above to provide greater privacy and separation.

Climate and context shape the architectural response. Maintaining the existing tree corridor along the western edge of the site became a primary design strategy, buffering the long western facade from the intense afternoon sun while reinforcing the landscape character of the neighborhood. Operable shutters and a carefully limited window to wall ratio further reduce solar heat gain, while traditional proportions, roof forms, and details continue to serve as practical devices for comfort, scale, and continuity.

The result is a contemporary residence that adapts historic principles to present day needs while strengthening the connection between climate, neighborhood, and everyday life.

R-150.01

Building Area: (sf)
2,536

Cost per Square Foot:
Undisclosed

Construction Cost
Undisclosed

Date of Completion:
WINTER 2025



R-150.02

The front entry uses the second floor overhang to create a protected porch and a gradual transition between the street and the home. Large north facing windows allow natural light to penetrate deep into the floor plan while minimizing direct solar heat gain.

R-150.03

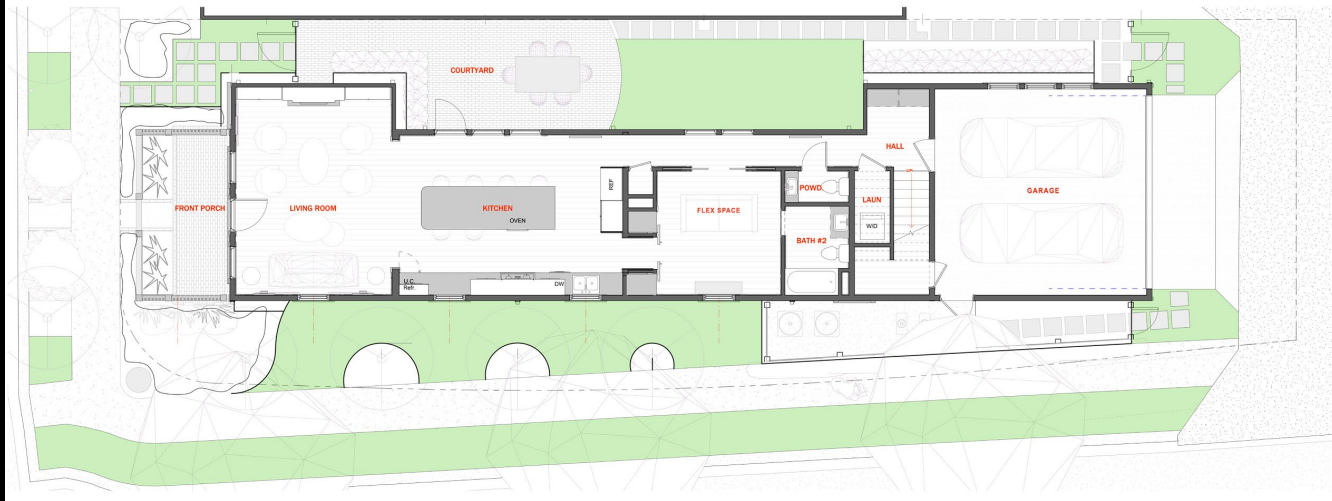
The western façade is protected by Natchez crepe myrtles, a deciduous tree selected to temper the intense afternoon sun during the summer. Their placement follows the rhythm of the façade's window pattern; it's angular placement to the windows allows the canopy to shade the openings while extending the existing tree corridor of the neighborhood. They also serve as a subtle homage to the crepe myrtles surrounding the historic precedent. The front façade will incorporate full shutter coverage through a combination of single and bifold shutters, a detail adapted from the renovation of the historic precedent.



R-150.04



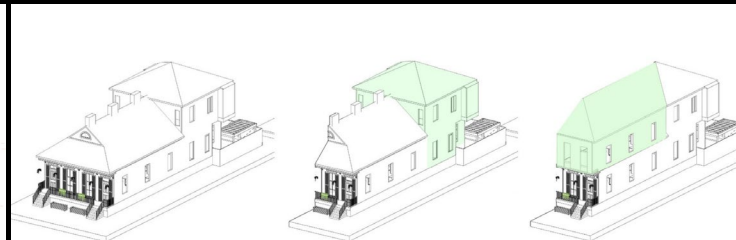
SECOND FLOOR PLAN



SITE PLAN/ FIRST FLOOR PLAN



PUBLIC VS. PRIVATE



BUILDING FORM

The design began with the plan of an 1890 bracket style shotgun camelback. The 30 by 100 foot site closely matched the dimensions of its historic precedent, providing the framework for the contemporary residence. The attached garage and bonus room were introduced in response to neighborhood requirements. The narrow lot organizes public living spaces on the first floor, with sleeping areas above. A flexible room with an en suite bathroom is adjacent to the kitchen and can become a first floor bedroom, supporting aging in place. The building form evolved from the double shotgun camelback, where the owners inhabited one side. The camelback footprint was extended into a true second floor to accommodate the family's program while preserving the proportions and character of the historic precedent.

R-150.05

The living room area maintains the historic fireplace centered on the room with the window placed directly across. Two seating areas for conversation and hosting provide seating for six, matching the dining table. The door was moved on the front entry to center preventing crowding at the entry way. An intentional deviation from the existing shotgun.



R-150.06

The window sill and header establish a continuous datum throughout the first floor, matching the proportions of the historic precedent. A furred down cabinet soffit and continuous picture rail reinforce this horizontal line while serving a practical function for hanging art.



R-150.07



Occupying the two bay footprint of the historic precedent, the kitchen combines food preparation and dining around a central island. Seating for three on either side allows the island to function as both an everyday gathering space and a more formal dining table. The adjacent home blocks much of the eastern morning sun, while the courtyard's eastern location creates a shaded setting for outdoor dining and evening use. Operable double hung windows throughout the home promote natural ventilation.

R-150.08

The wainscoting detail ties back to the formal living room at the entry as sightlines extend from the front entry. The closets and bathroom are concealed to maintain the visual continuity of the space. Designed to serve many functions over its lifetime, the room ultimately provides a live in place space, extending the longevity of the home.





R-150.09

Utilizing the stucco wall along the zero-lot line as a circulation anchor gates align on both sides of the courtyard, and the arch motif from the interior extends into the brick paving. St. Louis brick pavers pay homage to the historic precedent, while green space is preserved for young children to play. A pollinator garden provides year-round habitat and opportunities for gardening.



R-150.10

A floating vanity was used to avoid overwhelming the narrow powder room. Wall hung plumbing fixtures allowed for a shallower cabinet, maximizing the visible floor space.

R-150.11

The bonus room receives abundant natural daylight, creating a comfortable workspace throughout the day. The sloped ceiling results from intentionally lowering the roofline so the addition does not compete with the principal house. Exposed collar ties introduce additional shadow lines and architectural detail while expressing the structure above.



R-150.12

The primary bathroom follows the same rule set as the rest of the home, aligning the doorway with the window beyond to bring natural light. Double pocket doors create a wider entry and improve circulation through the space. A curbless shower and tub combine to reduce the overall footprint while maintaining the functions of a contemporary bathroom. The curbless transition was carefully detailed within the floor framing to create a seamless floor plane.



R-150.13

Three bays of double hung windows allow the room to become part of the tree canopy as the newly planted trees mature, providing expansive views of the walkable neighborhood below. Soft north facing light allows for large windows with minimal solar heat gain. The vaulted ceiling gives the room a distinct character that distinguishes it from the other bedrooms, and celebrates the final room in the sequence of the home.

