

During my session with the community residents most of them selected as their preference pictures of New Orleans traditional houses, although they also said that they did not dislike any of the homes that have been built so far. The General Requirements provided to us refer to New Orleans typologies and encouraged pitched roofs. Although my work has primarily been flat roof structures, I have accepted the request for pitched roofs.

The new community will never appear the same as the previous one. Even though there is nostalgia for the old, raising the structures eight feet off the ground and having a variety of architects design houses will automatically provide the neighborhood with a different context and probably a new social interaction. Walking eight feet up to a deck or balcony is much different from a porch that is a few feet off the ground, and even though they might function similarly by encouraging the user to move outdoors, the social interaction will most likely take on a new pattern.

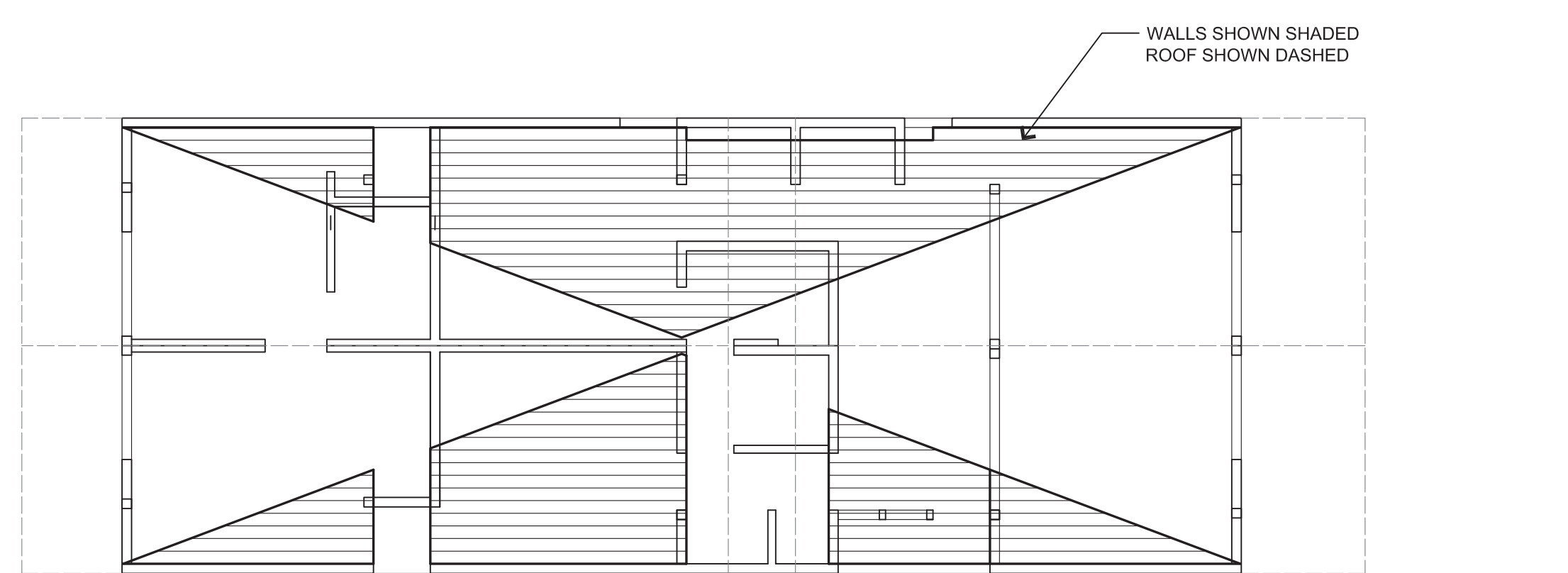
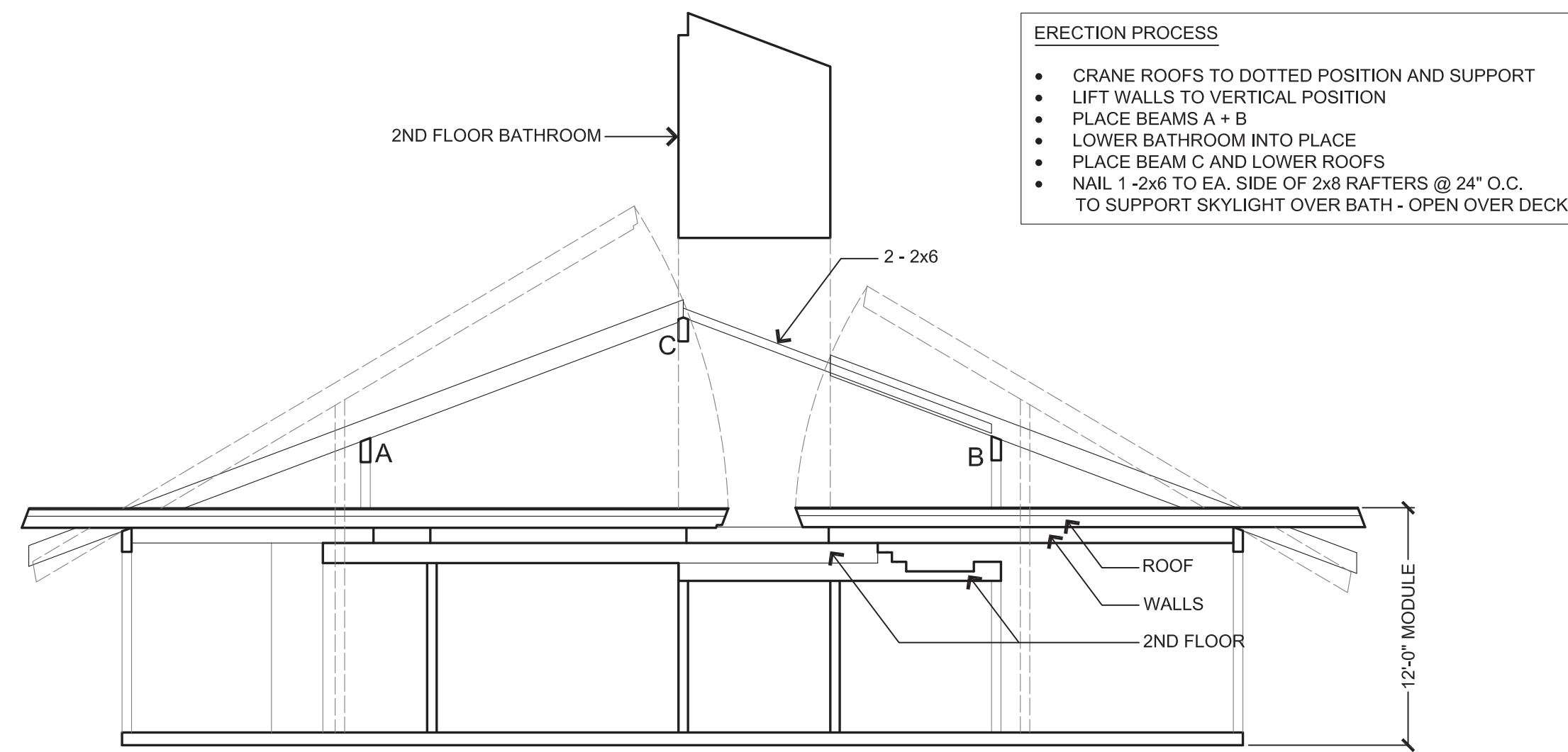
In our session a discussion took place about what might be the future use of the front and side yards for neighborly interaction. Since I had decided to use prefabricated modulars for my project, the two-modular wide scheme leaves sixteen feet on the south side yard, and when this is combined with the twenty foot front yard and stairway, there is a possibility for a fairly large social space. The upper decks can also interact with this ground level space. If the owner prefers a larger garden instead of a larger social space another type of interaction may occur, and this space in either case can be a relief from the smaller side yards along the street.

I have been involved with the idea of modular housing for over forty years, designing several projects that were not built, but since 2003, I have had the opportunity to design many modular projects for a company devoted to prefabrication and sustainability called LivingHomes. We actually built the first platinum LEED home in the United States. When we first heard about the project for the Lower Ninth Ward, we thought that modular prefabs might be a viable solution. So far several have been built, and I thought I would also select this construction type for my project.

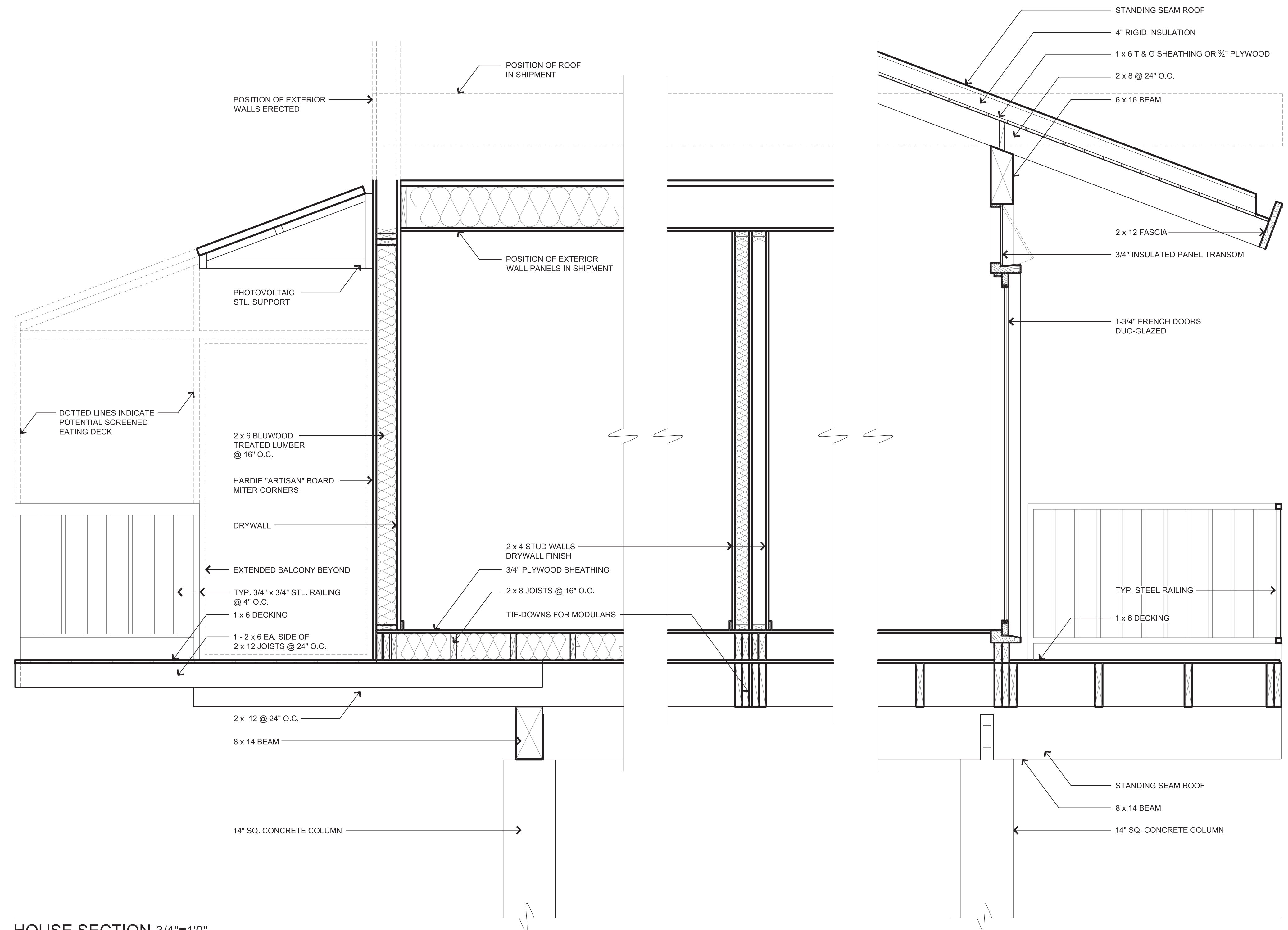
My goal was to develop a two-modular solution for economy in place of the normal four modulars needed for a two-story residence. This is to be accomplished by hinging the roof and exterior north and south walls, craning in the second floor bathroom and three beams, and after the roof is in place, completing the trellis joists over the deck and the bathroom joists and skylight. (See diagrams)

I have shown plan solutions for both the 3-bedroom/1 bedroom and the two 2 bedroom two family houses using the same building form and construction method. The gable running in the long direction that I have used is typical for many of the two family houses in New Orleans, and in this case provides varying height spaces. In both planning schemes I have used one house behind the other or back-to-back rather than side-by-side because of the narrow width of 12' for the modulars. Many in the community also expressed a preference for back-to-back.

Finally, I have shown a foundation and platform system using two rows of columns instead of the three normally required for modulars. I have accomplished this by using beams at the roof level which span to columns placed over the concrete columns below. By providing blocking between the platform joists, I felt that tie-downs could be developed at the meeting point of the modulars. The concrete columns are spaced 16' apart in the short direction to accommodate 4 cars while providing the two 9'x18' required spaces.



ERECTION PROCESS DIAGRAM



HOUSE SECTION 3/4"=1'0"

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