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100 houses
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Zoka Zola architecture + urban design

PFANNER HOUSE

Chicago, Illinois, USA

This house suggests ways of urbanizing residential planning in Chicago. It is placed on its undersized (180-square-meter) corner lot in a way that articulates the yard spaces around it. The side yard is wide enough to form a defined space between the two buildings and to plant four cottonwood trees, which provide shade and privacy to the southern windows. The back yard is the site for a future office extension. Other means of urbanizing this lot include opening the interior of the house to the street through its balconies, terraces, and windows. The 300-square-meter house explores the architectural concept of 'opening.' Not an opening that merely extends the space, or a continuously transitioning space; instead, an opening of one space to another space. These openings are smooth, unhindered, non-fretful, openings of one space to the other—openings that are formed like breathing channels in healthy lungs where movements are long and smooth. The views that one sees through the windows of

the house are not purely visual and not framed selectively according to ideas of a good view. Instead, they are reminders of what exists outside. The ability to see the sky is an important feature. The house is clad in red brick, the same color as most of the buildings surrounding it. The common material, though, emphasizes the main difference—its degree of openness—between it and the other buildings. **The house embodies the pleasure of being alive.** The terrace is the main source of pleasure—allowing bodily pleasure, social pleasure, pleasures with the passage of time, pleasure with air, sun, and trees. The kitchen counter, the balcony, and the bathrooms are the places where daily activity is enjoyed. All the exits from the house, the entrances, balcony extension, terrace, and the bedroom extension are the places where the daily pleasures of being with the house are experienced.

- 1 Kitchen
- 2 Living room and terrace from kitchen
- 3 North elevation in late afternoon light
- 4 Stairs from mezzanine to living room
- 5 Architect's studio
- 6 Second floor plan
- 7 First floor plan

Photography: Doug R. Fogelson (1,3–5); Roland Halbe (2)



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