

BUILD

Danita Rooyakkers (B.Arch.89), Michael Carroll (M.Arch.87) and engineer Attila Tolnai formed their design and build company in 1995 and subsequently have produced four urban infills for Montreal's inner city neighbourhood. The projects are developed exclusively by BUILD without a specific client and are tempered by the competitive Montreal real estate market. Projects to date include Thin House (1996), Twin House (1997), Back House (1998) and Box House (2000). All the projects are built on the speculation that they fit an emerging market for innovative design and alternative development in the North American city. The projects are experiments that seek a balance to this dynamic equation.

All the projects attempt to address the historical context of their neighbourhoods within a contemporary sensibility. The outcome is an industrial aesthetic matched with a domestic scale of building in which the pragmatic dictates of urban planning bylaws are interpreted with an innovative eye. The projects are mutations of an industrial loft set within the tight constraints of their inner city sites. The result is a series of urban infiltrations that make an argument for a leaner, more urbane architecture for city life.

Our latest project, the Box House, named in honour of **Kobe Abe's** novel *The Box Man*, is situated at the corner of an alleyway and a narrow lane in the heart of Montreal's Plateau Mont-Royal. The site marks the point where the width of the lane is reduced by half. The house is literally in the middle of the street. The Box House occupies the margin and maximizes on its outsider status.

BUILD continues to expand. Recent projects include the renovation of **Jacques Rousseau's** *Maison Coloniale*, a Media Lab for OBORO Gallery and of course the never ending search for BUILDable land in the steaming urban jungle that is Montreal.

BUILD can be reached at: www.build-inc.com



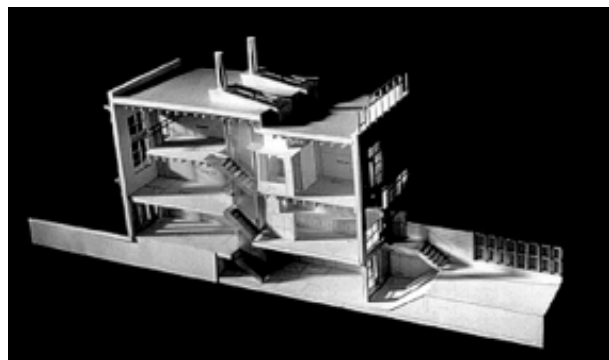
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1. Box House construction. 2. Box House detail. 3. Twin House exterior. 4. Thin House interior. 5. Thin House model.

