

# THIN FLATS

145-57 Laurel St.  
Northern Liberties, Philadelphia  
2008

Developer: Onion Flats  
Architect: Plumbob LLC  
Builder: JIG Inc.



First LEED-H Platinum Duplexes in the Country.

This project explores the latent potential hidden within the vertical rhythm and regularity of the Philadelphia row home. Thin faces fronting both Laurel and Pollard Streets mask and blur conventional lines of demarcation between neighboring dwellings. In the process a degree of density yet expansiveness uncommon to the thin space of the single-family row home emerges. 9 dwellings



Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design  
**THIN FLATS**  
2011 Good Green Design Award

Good Green Design's goal is to bestow international recognition on those outstanding projects that have forwarded exceptional thinking and creativity for a healthier universe.



Urban Land Institute  
**THIN FLATS**

2010 Awards for Excellence: GLOBAL

The Global Awards for Excellence identify the five projects worldwide each year that represent workable, livable, and sustainable models for future development.



2009 AIA Honor Award

Philadelphia Chapter of the AIA  
**THIN FLATS**



2009 Philadelphia Sustainability Award

Thin Flats chosen by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council as a leader in the sustainable future of Philadelphia.



**THIN FLATS**

2009 NAHB GREEN BUILDING PROJECT OF THE YEAR:  
MULTI-FAMILY CONDOMINIUM



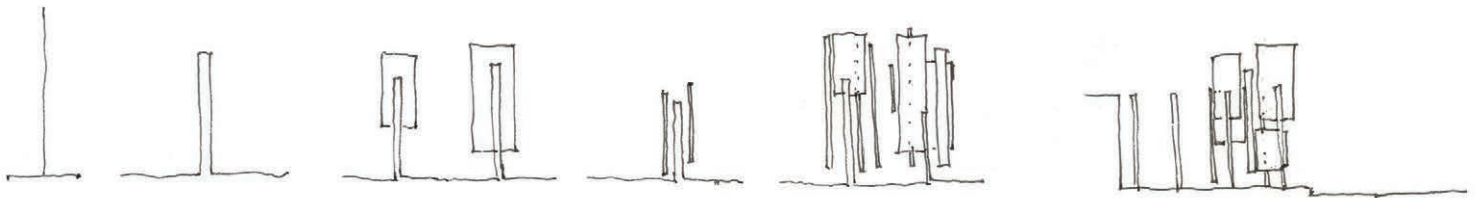
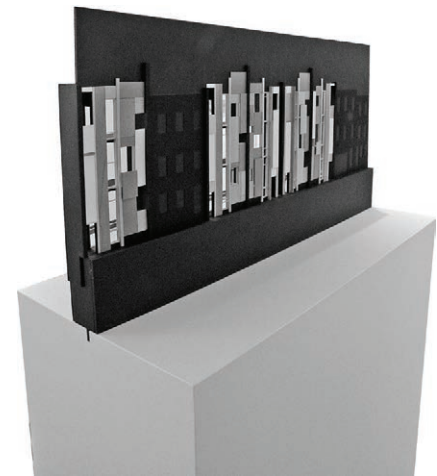
Residential Architect Design Awards 2009

single-family production / attached  
Merit Award : **THIN FLATS**



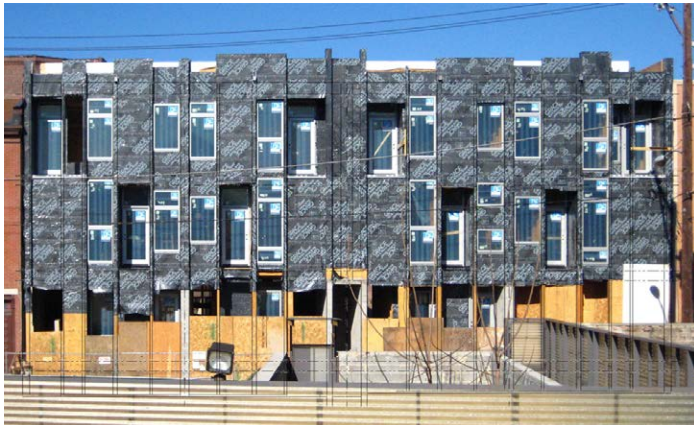
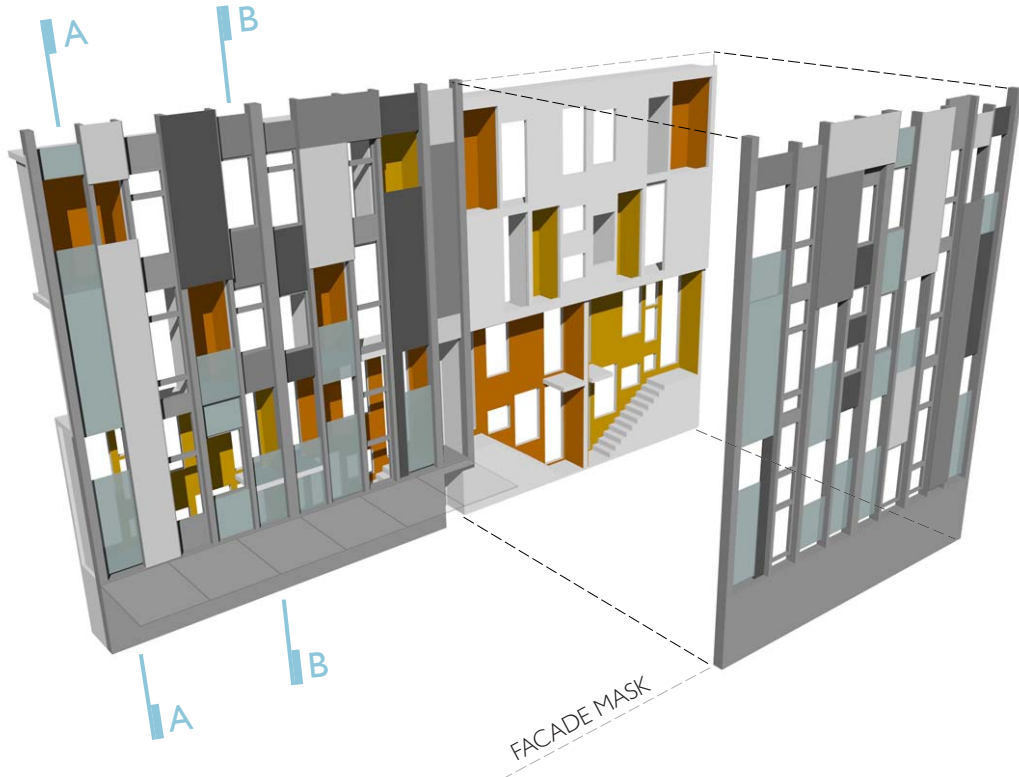


Clockwise from bottom left: thin facade concept sketches. middle: plans of typical thin flats row; above: photo of south facade in context with the surrounding neighborhood. bottom right: elevation 'mask' study model expressing the linearity and layering of the facade. Opposite page Bottom; Photo of south facade. above: Project site plan.



## VOID: SURFACE:VEIL

The façade of Thin Flats is at once a surface and a void, blurring the limits of the units within. The façade of the lower units is pushed back from the sidewalk to accommodate circulation, flood a 'basement' space with light, aid in solar shading and create a veil from public view. Balconies on upper floors recess from behind the surface of the veil to create opportunities for civic engagement within the thin space of the façade.







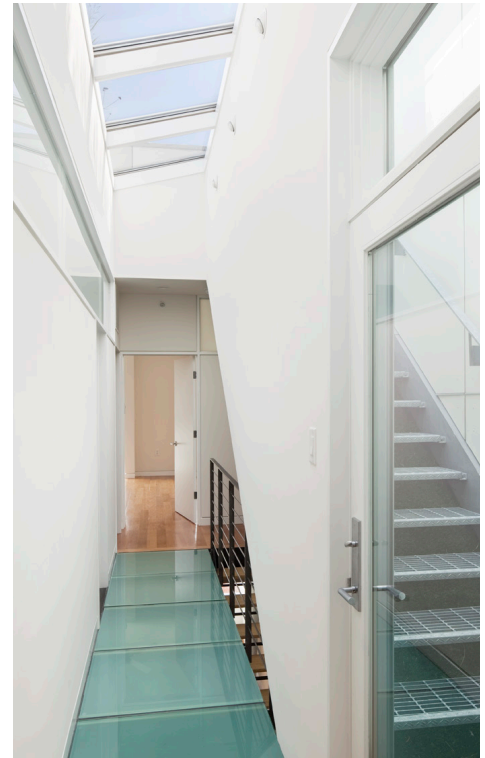
This Page: Left; Detail photo of projected balconies. Right; North Facade. Opposite Page: Upper Left; Exploded axonometric diagram of south facing street facade. Lower Left; Photo of street facade before installation of cladding. Lower Right; Photo collage study of final cladding composition.



This page: Bottom Left; Birds eye view of the living rooftop. Bottom Right; View of skylight & green roof at night. Upper Right; View of green roof. Opposite Page; Clockwise from Bottom Left: Light filters down to the lower level of the unit through the glass floor above. Upper Left: Detail of glass & steel stair and bridge guardrail. Right: Glass, steel, and wood stairs floating in the space.







Opposite page: Bottom: Sectional study of Unit layouts. Top Left: View of Kitchen. Top Middle; View of dining area. Top Right: View of Living Area  
This page Left: View of upper unit Master Bath with clerestory. Right; View of glass bridge, skylight, and stair up to green roof.

