

**OZ**

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## Prologue



It is arguable that the house is the primary archetypal form in architecture, if not because of its ubiquity or societal role, then, at a minimum, because of its ready availability as a commission and its consequent usefulness as a medium for the development of theory. By its formal and typological malleability, the house remains the single most important vehicle for the display of design talent and expression of ideas in built form—by young designers and established architects alike.

On the occasion of our twenty-fifth issue, we look not nostalgically backward, but sanguinely forward via the examination of this singular building type: *the house*. Among the clearly identifiable theoretical underpinnings are a continuing adherence to the Modernist pronouncement for a strong relationship between built form and landscape or urban condition; the enlistment of the house in creating a phenomenology of place; the making of the house to fulfill our dreams or build the fantastic; a preoccupation with the house as a formal, constructed expression of a culture or a program; and the use of the house as a medium for investigating new forms, materials, technologies, or social norms. But new ideas find their way into the mix as well in a concern for environmental fit, design for transient or heretofore overlooked clientele, and the integration of digital technologies.

No doubt other equally valid threads exist from which to construct ever-differing interpretations. We invite the reader to peruse the houses collected here, delighting with us in their virtuosity, while mining them for their inspiration and the aptness of the ideas they frame.

—M.B., A.N., M.S.