Sixth Street Residence

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Sixth Street Residence

Morphosis
Tom Mayne
Michael Rotondi

Program:
The reconstruction of an existing duplex to the specifications required of the new owner.

Site:
60' x 60' parcel at the corner of a typical residential street and an alley in Santa Monica, Calif.

Solution:
The invention and importation of 10 pieces bring to the site, and have the capacity to embody in built form, an imagined prehistory of a place, an archaeological past and its subsequent transmission across time.

The work aspires to widen one's picture of reality — to evoke disquieting states of mind that prompt one to doubt the impersonal and detached existence of things.

The house explores the ground between found objects (a contemporary archaeology) and building. The 10 pieces (parts of a discarded machinery or dead tech) present ideas of decay, tension, risk, balance and possibilities leading towards a distopian architecture. Discrete pieces — manipulated independently, simultaneously separated and associated through a geometric order — describe a vision of a world which is neither fragment nor whole.

Beauty and ugliness blur.

Sixth Street house model, photo Tom Bonner.