



## ROOM IN A GARDEN

3-Season Room Addition / Mt. Lebanon, PA / 2023

AFTERHOURS Design Collaborative

The owners of a post-war “California Colonial”-style home in Mt. Lebanon, PA asked us to imagine an unconditioned one-room addition to extend their living space for 3 seasons out of the year. Dictated by a modest budget, the proposed design intelligently navigates constrained existing conditions to create a secluded, sacred space for reading, reflection and morning coffee amongst the owners’ lush garden.

The owners’ initial desire was to build a one-story enclosed porch spanning the full width of the rear of the house. After studying this and multiple other options, AFTERHOURS recommended biasing the addition to the east side of the property, a strategic move which serves multiple purposes simultaneously: 1) maintains as much of the existing garden as possible, 2) maintains continuous exterior access to the existing rear entry door, 3) does not block daylight into the existing living room, 4) allows direct access to the new space from the existing kitchen, and 5) allows the new structure itself to act as a privacy barrier to the eastern neighbors while allowing the room to open up to the private garden at the northwest. In addition, by maintaining exterior access to the existing rear entry door, direct entry from the sidewalk into the new structure is denied; instead, visitors must enter the home via the kitchen and descend down into the new room. The security, monumentality, and delayed gratification of this experience are paramount to reinforcing and protecting the sacredness of the garden room.

Where possible, the proposed design attempts to make strides in reducing environmental impact compared to common building methods via low-embodied-energy, high-durability/high-reuse-potential, and/or reclaimed materials. As opposed to common fiber-cement or wood fiber products, the proposed lap siding material is thermally-modified Pennsylvania Poplar. This material is sourced and manufactured in central PA, is extremely durable, and has a high potential for re-use. In the awkwardly-sized spaces around the northwest windows and doors, reclaimed sheet metal siding is proposed, making use of otherwise discarded material and reducing the structure’s overall embodied energy. The material change from wood to metal also helps to reinforce the overall formal gesture of the structure as it relates to the garden. Corrugated metal panel is proposed for the roofing and east wall cladding—another material with high durability and reuse potential as opposed to common petroleum-based and un-recyclable asphalt shingles. Lastly, HempWool—a 100% non-toxic batt insulation product manufactured in the US using industrial hemp fiber—is proposed for wall and roof insulation.

**Years**  
2023

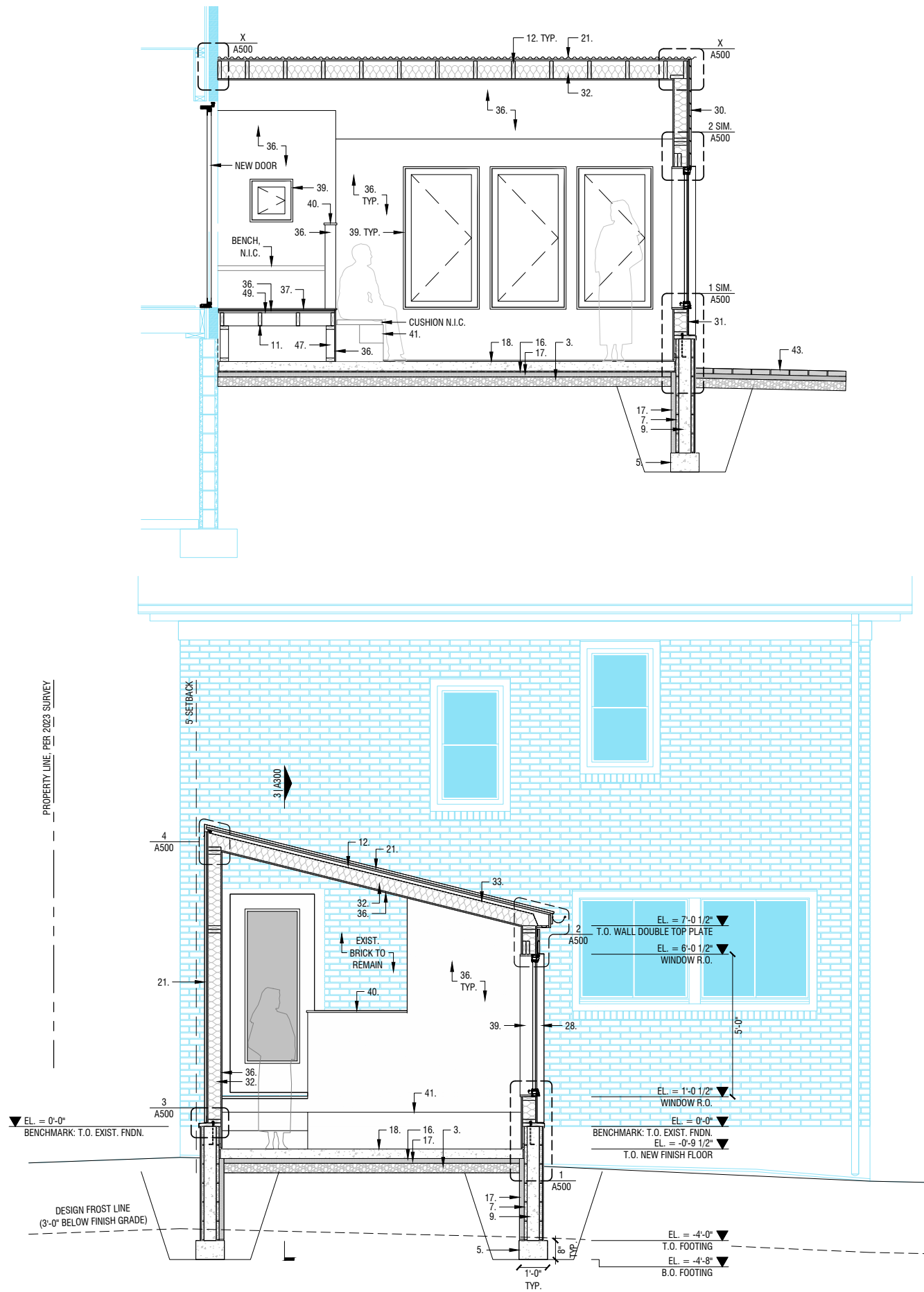
**Design**  
AFTERHOURS: Garrett Rauck



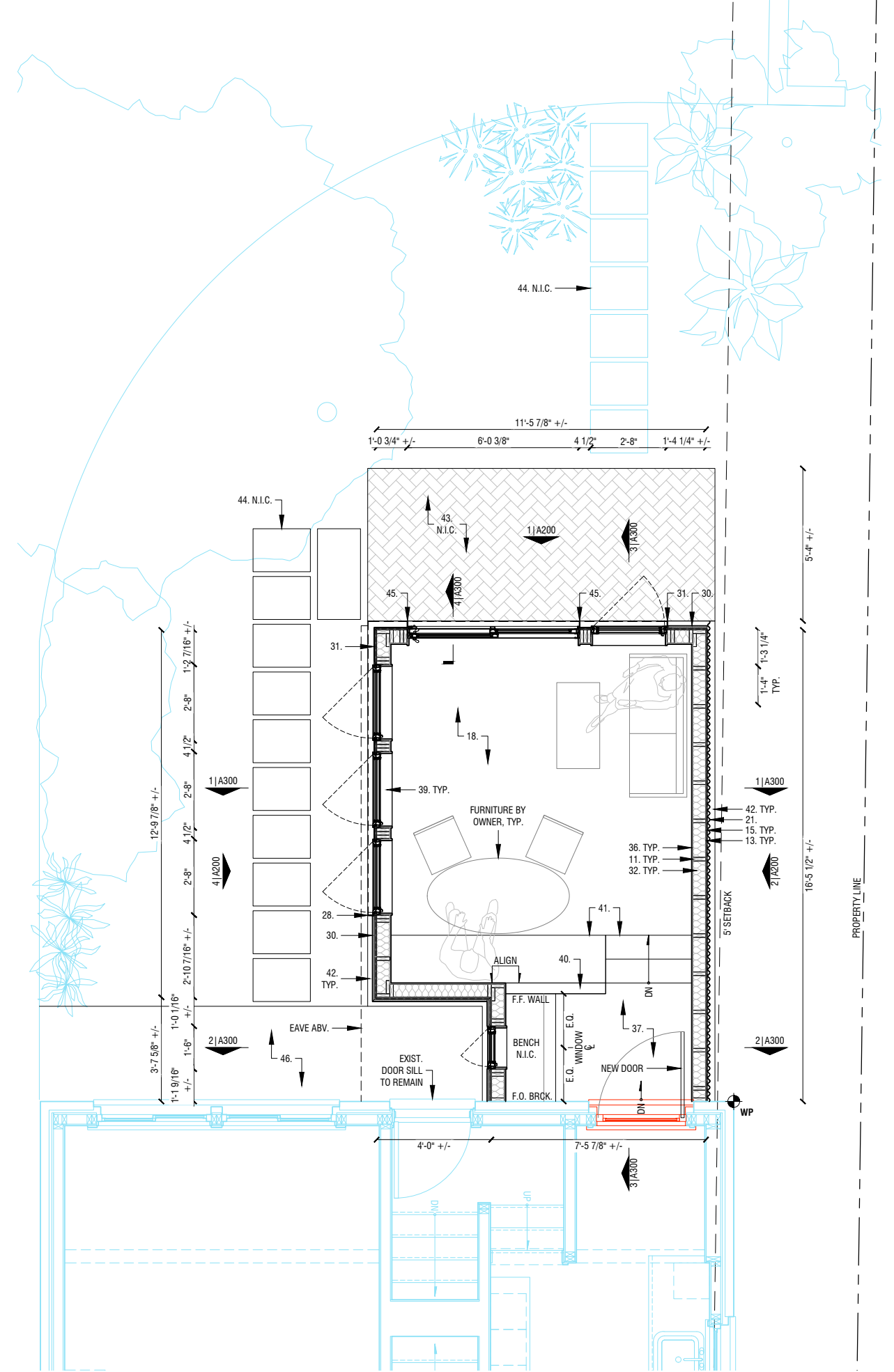


Interior rendering from proposed landing looking northwest. A small square window provides a peek to the rear entry walkway, giving the owners visual access to approaching visitors. In the lower sitting area, casement windows and a sliding door open the space up to the garden to the northwest while the solid wall to the east provides privacy and a sense of security.

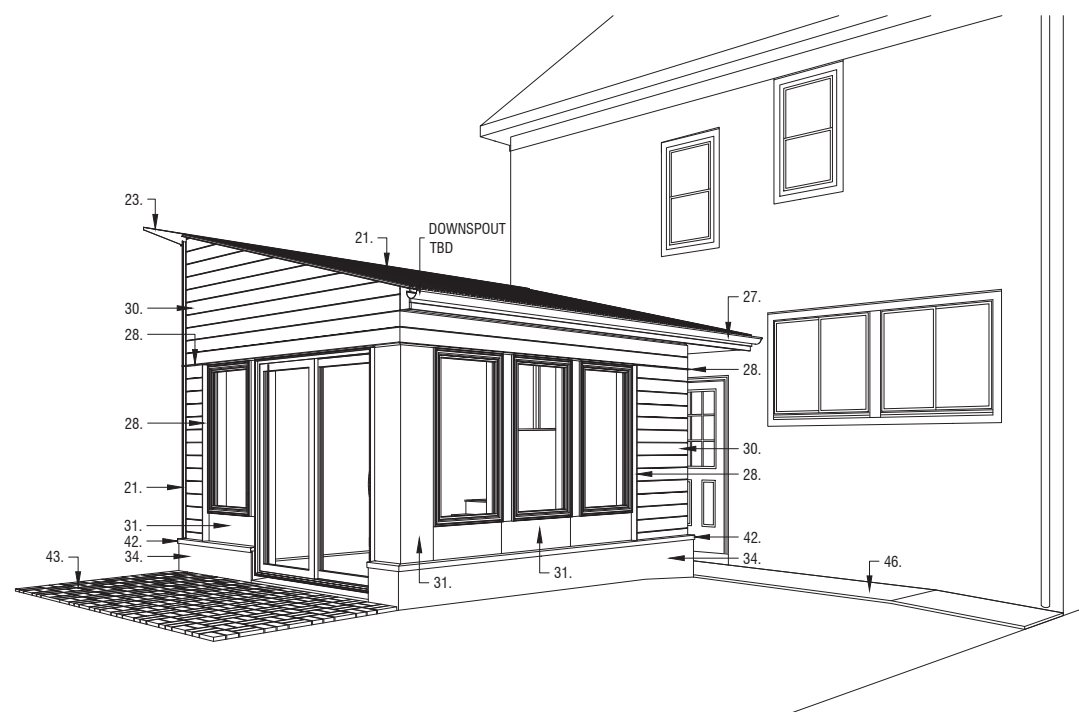
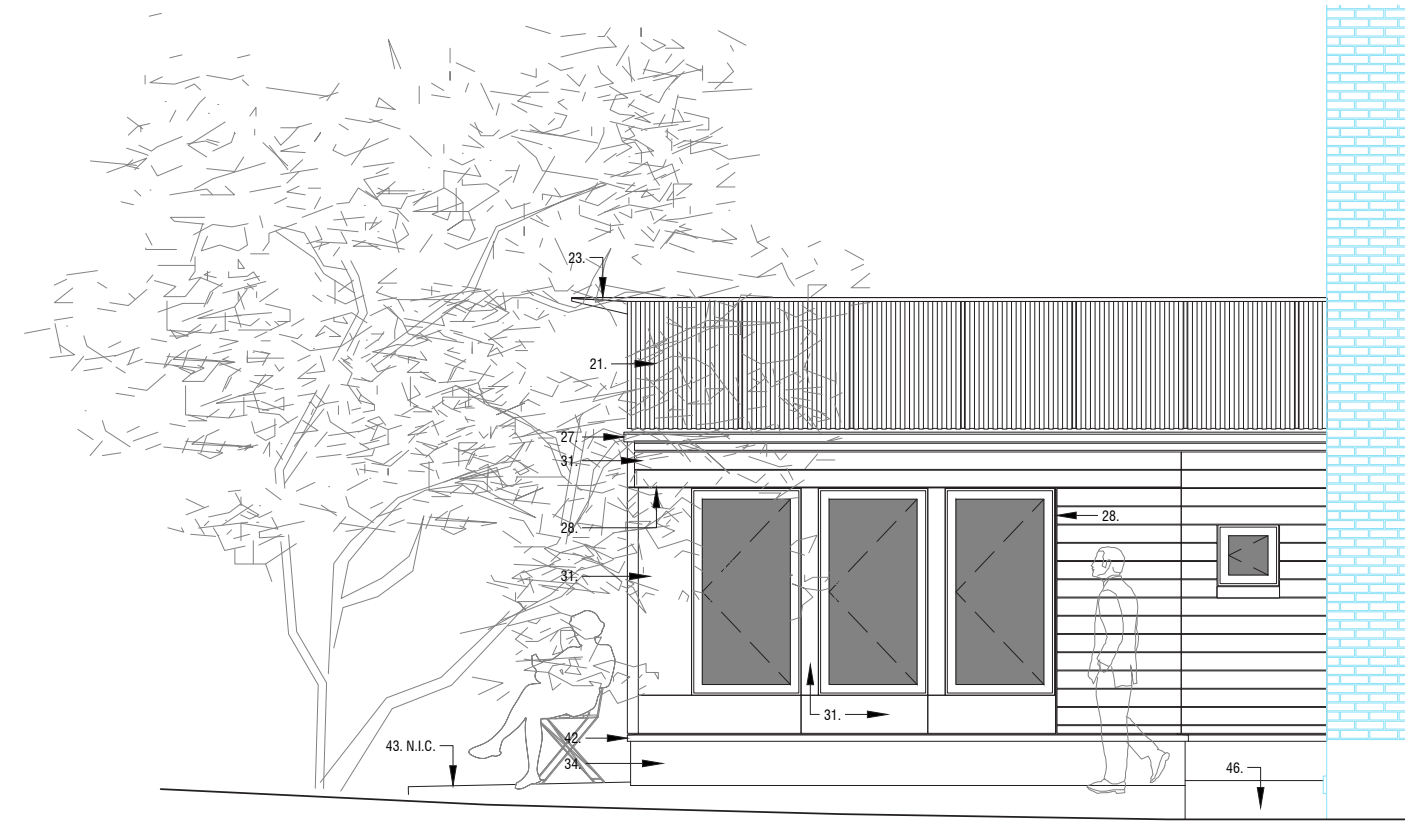
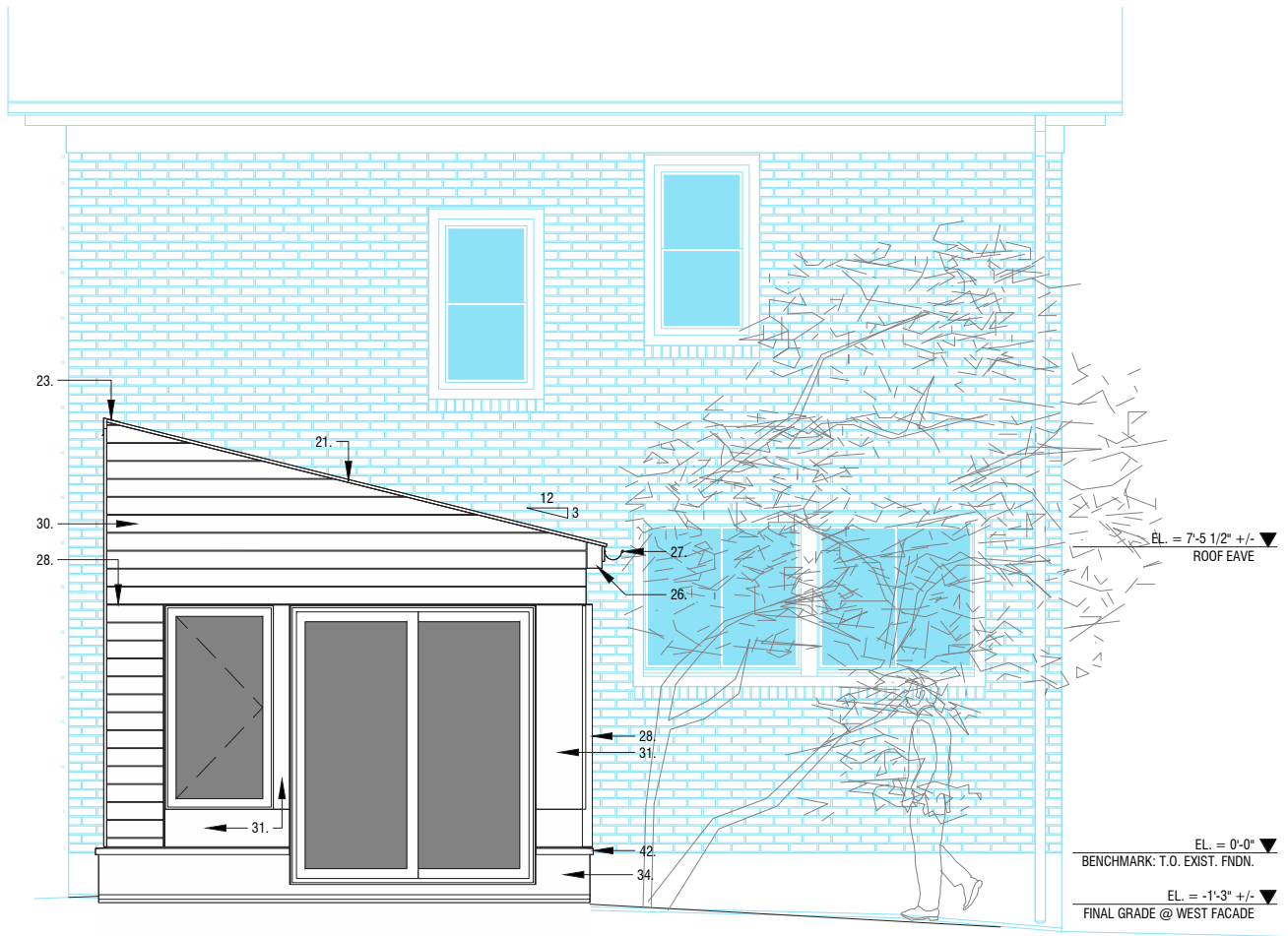




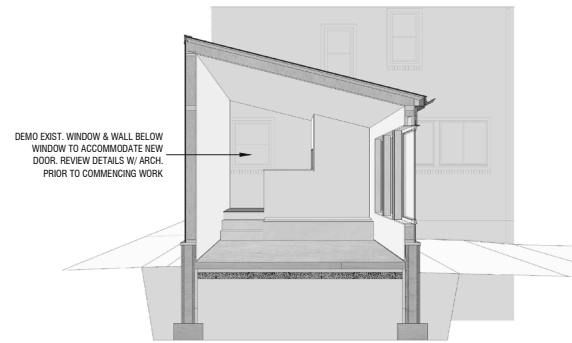
Transverse Section and Longitudinal Section (above).



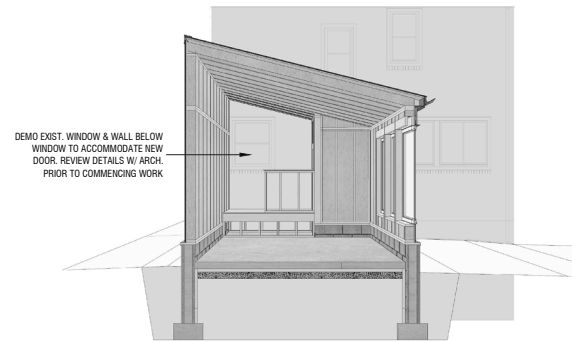
Construction plan.



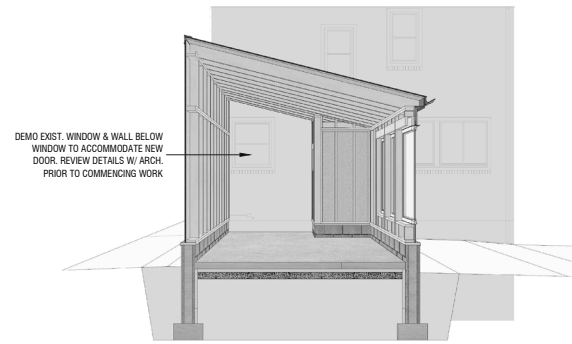
Perspective looking East, North Elevation (above) and East Elevation (opposite).



**16 DRYWALL, TILE, TRIM & CASEWORK**  
SCALE: N.T.S.

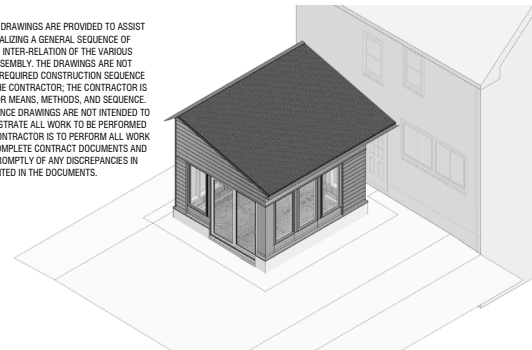


**15 WALL & ROOF INSULATION & LANDING FRAMING**  
SCALE: N.T.S.

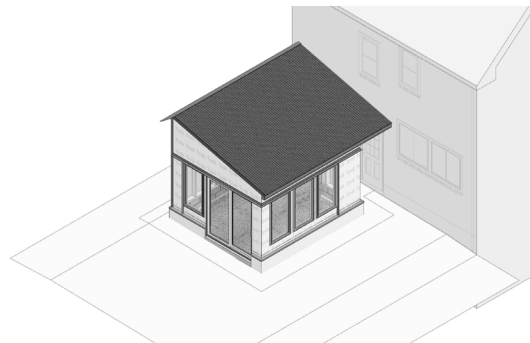


**14 VAPOR BARRIER & SLAB**  
SCALE: N.T.S.

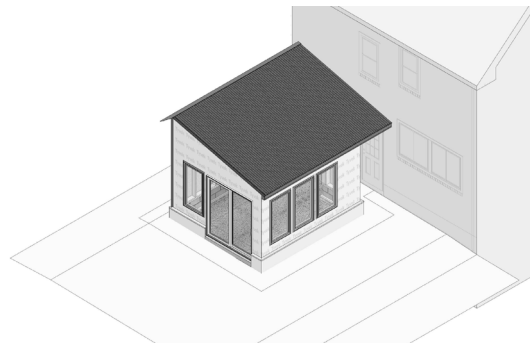
SEQUENCE DRAWINGS ARE PROVIDED TO ASSIST THE CONTRACTOR WITH VISUALIZING A GENERAL SEQUENCE OF WORK AND THE INTER-RELATION OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENTS OF THE ASSEMBLY. THE DRAWINGS ARE NOT INTENDED TO DICTATE A REQUIRED CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE TO BE PERFORMED BY THE CONTRACTOR. THE CONTRACTOR IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR MEANS, METHODS, AND SEQUENCE. ASSEMBLY SEQUENCE DRAWINGS ARE NOT INTENDED TO COMPREHENSIVELY ILLUSTRATE ALL WORK TO BE PERFORMED BY THE CONTRACTOR. CONTRACTOR IS TO PERFORM ALL WORK AS DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLETE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS AND NOTIFY ARCHITECT PROMPTLY OF ANY DISCREPANCIES IN THE WORK AS REPRESENTED IN THE DOCUMENTS.



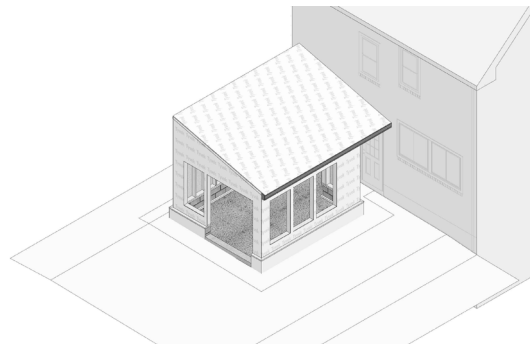
**13 SIDING**  
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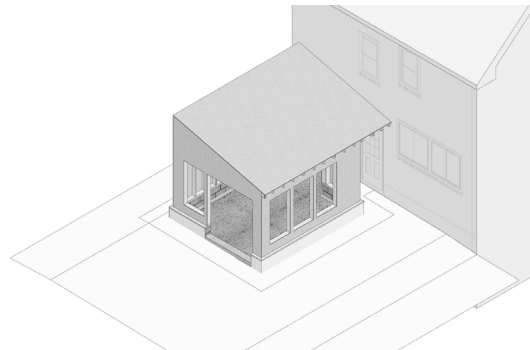
**12 EXTERIOR WINDOW & DOOR TRIM**  
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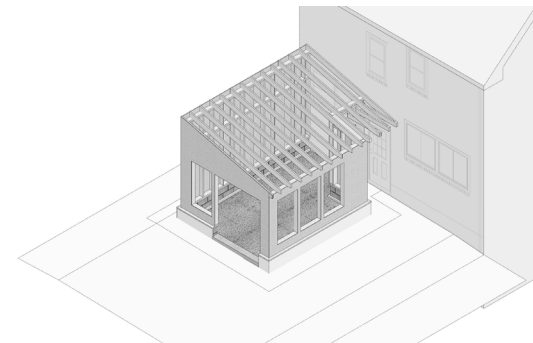
**11 ROOFING, WINDOWS & SOFFITS**  
SCALE: N.T.S.



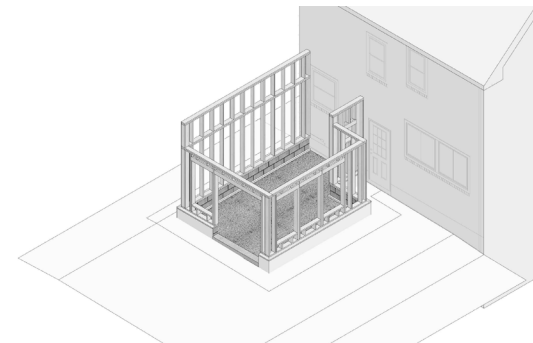
**10 BUILDING WRAP**  
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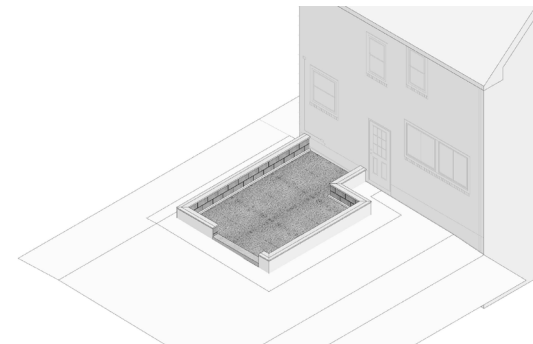
**9 ROOF SHEATHING**  
SCALE: N.T.S.



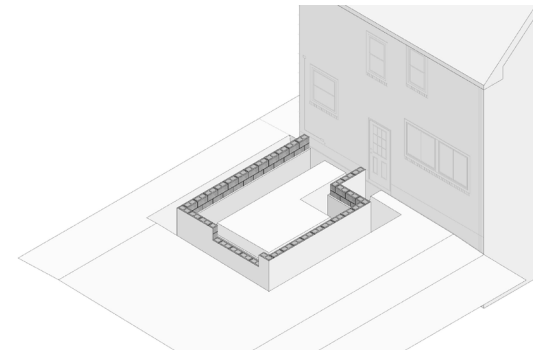
**8 WALL SHEATHING & RAFTERS**  
SCALE: N.T.S.



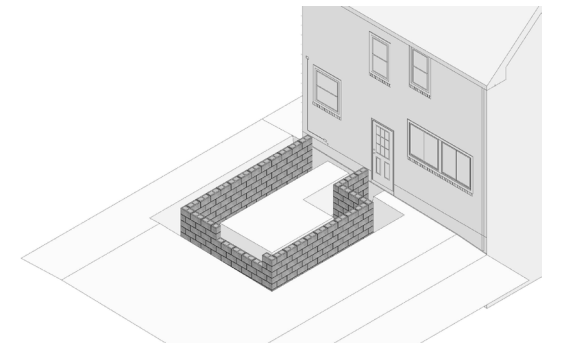
**7 WALL FRAMING**  
SCALE: N.T.S.



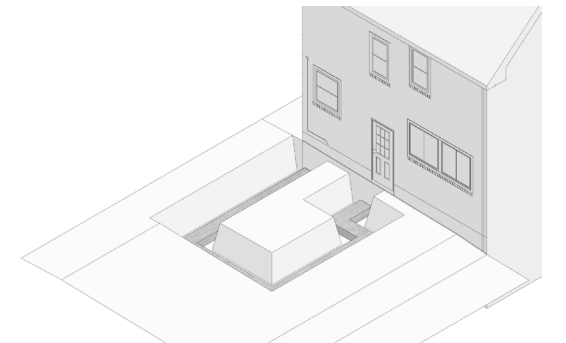
**6 BACK FILL, SLAB SUB-BASE & SILL PLATES**  
SCALE: N.T.S.



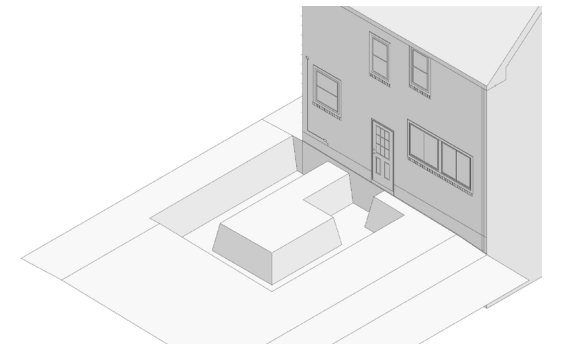
**5 PERIMETER INSULATION & PARGING**  
SCALE: N.T.S.



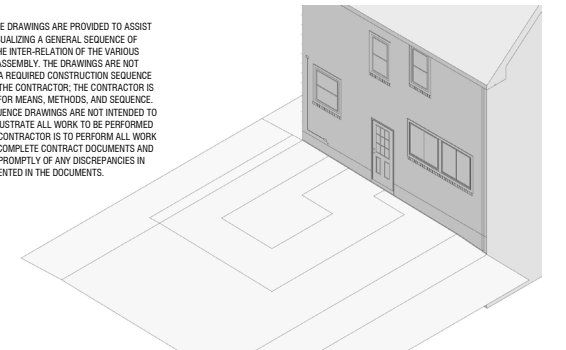
**4 BLOCK STEM WALL & CORE-FILL**  
SCALE: N.T.S.



**3 CONCRETE FOOTING**  
SCALE: N.T.S.



**2 EXCAVATION**  
SCALE: N.T.S.



**1 EXCAVATION LAYOUT**  
SCALE: N.T.S.

NOTES:  
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