

CREATING IDENTITIES

Text : *Team Design Detail* | Photos: *Bernard Khoury Architects*

A major challenge of architecture is to create structures that adapt to the topography of the location. Located on a 535-square-meter parcel with a steep topography in Kferdebian, Mount Lebanon, Plot 4328 is a residence that creates its identity with a unique façade which has a ten meter drop between its road frontage and the lowest point on the site.



1) The slanting façade with a seven meter depth forms the identity of the building



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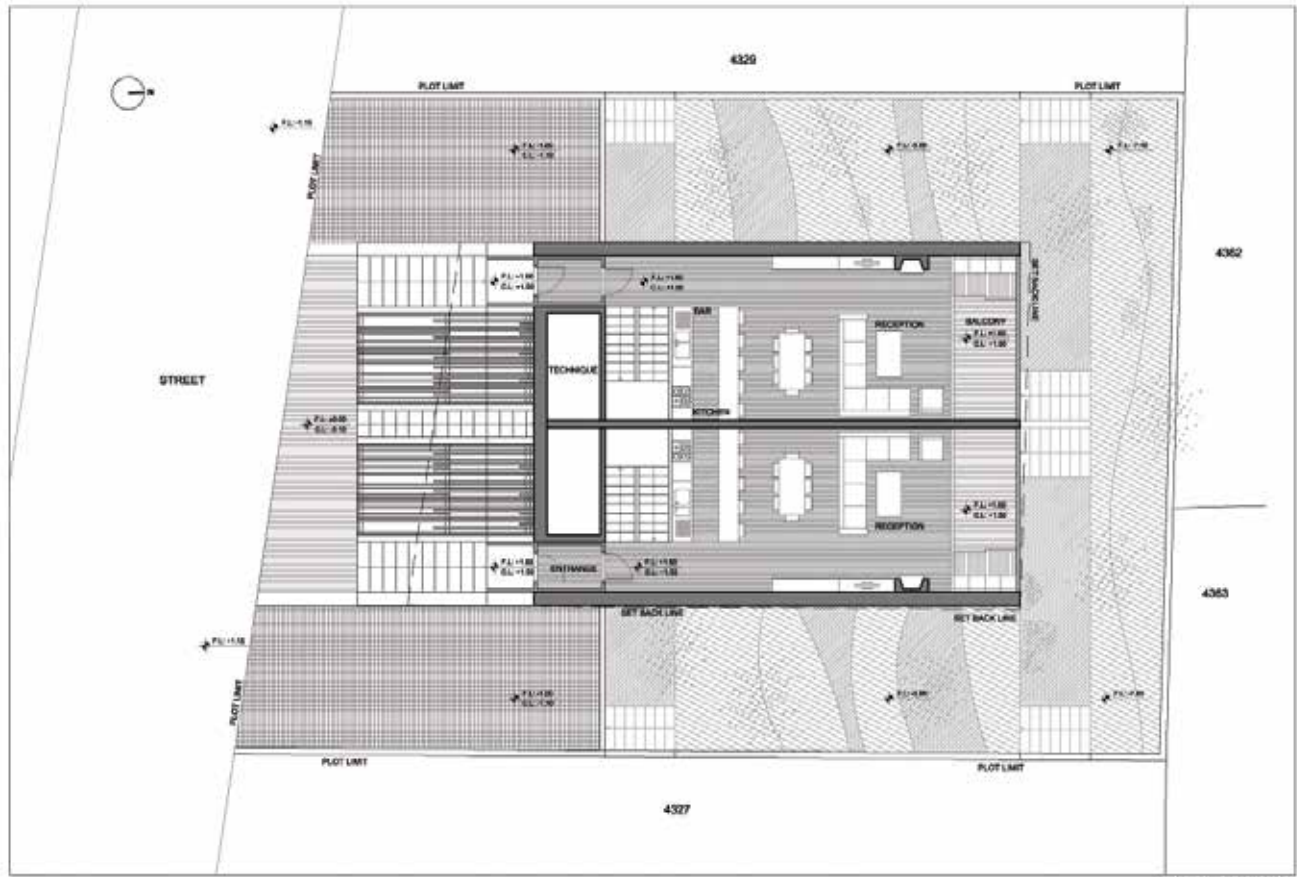


The south façade connecting the project to the access road has an inclination that starts at ground level and slopes upward in the northern direction. This inclined plateau acts as the roof as well as a street façade. Deployed on an oblique angle, it steps up to an elevated pool at the northern tip of the slope. The sloping plane also leads the visitors up to the main entrance, located at mid-level on the eastern and western edges of the roof.

The north façade has a glazing texture from floor to ceiling on all three levels and is open to long and narrow balconies overlooking spectacular views of the valley. The eastern and western façades have limited openings which provide access to intermediate terraces that define the eastern and western edges of the property.

- 2) A side view with an entry to the car parking space
- 3) The façade also forms a roof for the building
- 4) The slope that leads to one of the entrance
- 5) The façade steps up to an elevated pool





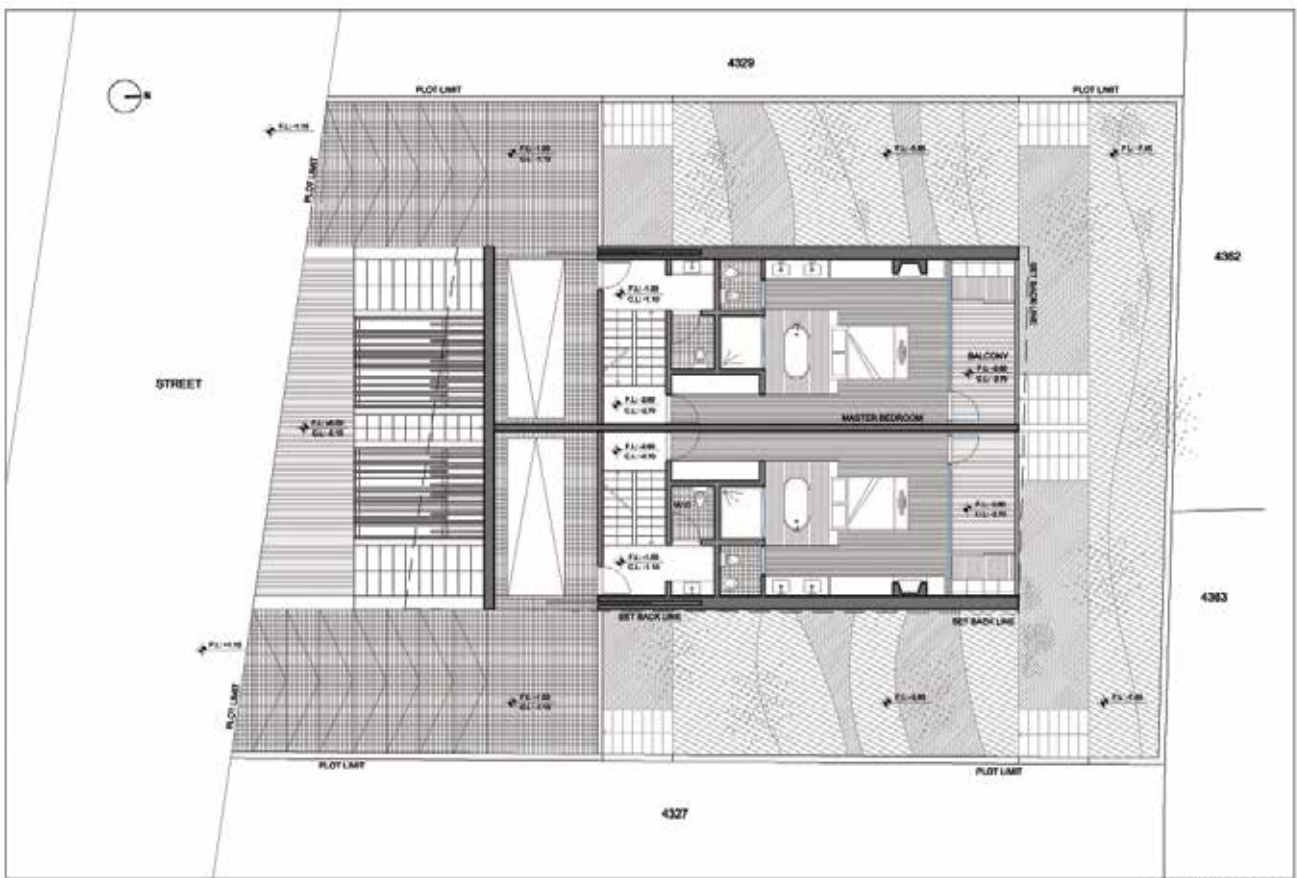
RECEPTION/ENTRANCE FLOOR

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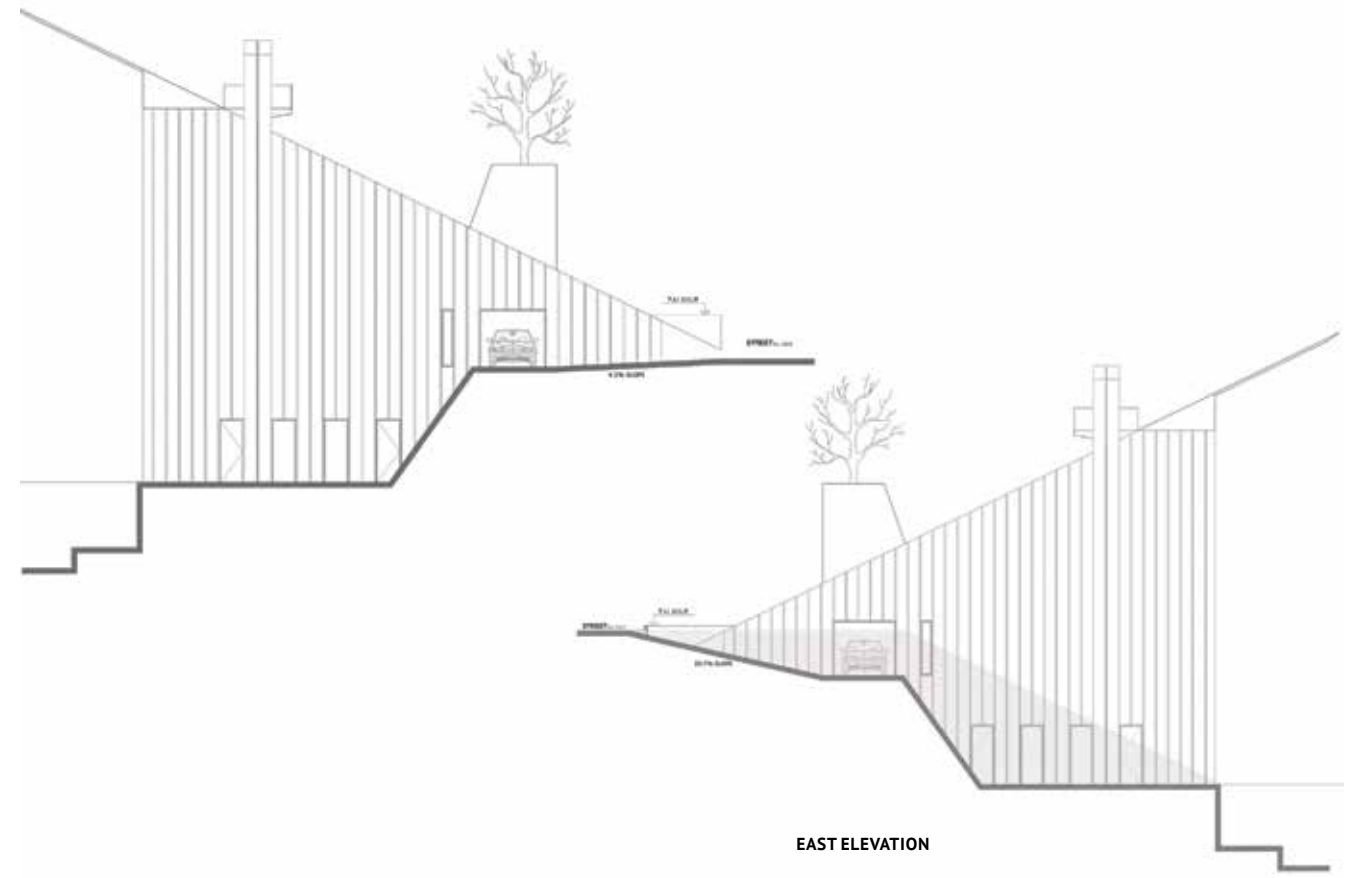
BEDROOM MAID FLOOR

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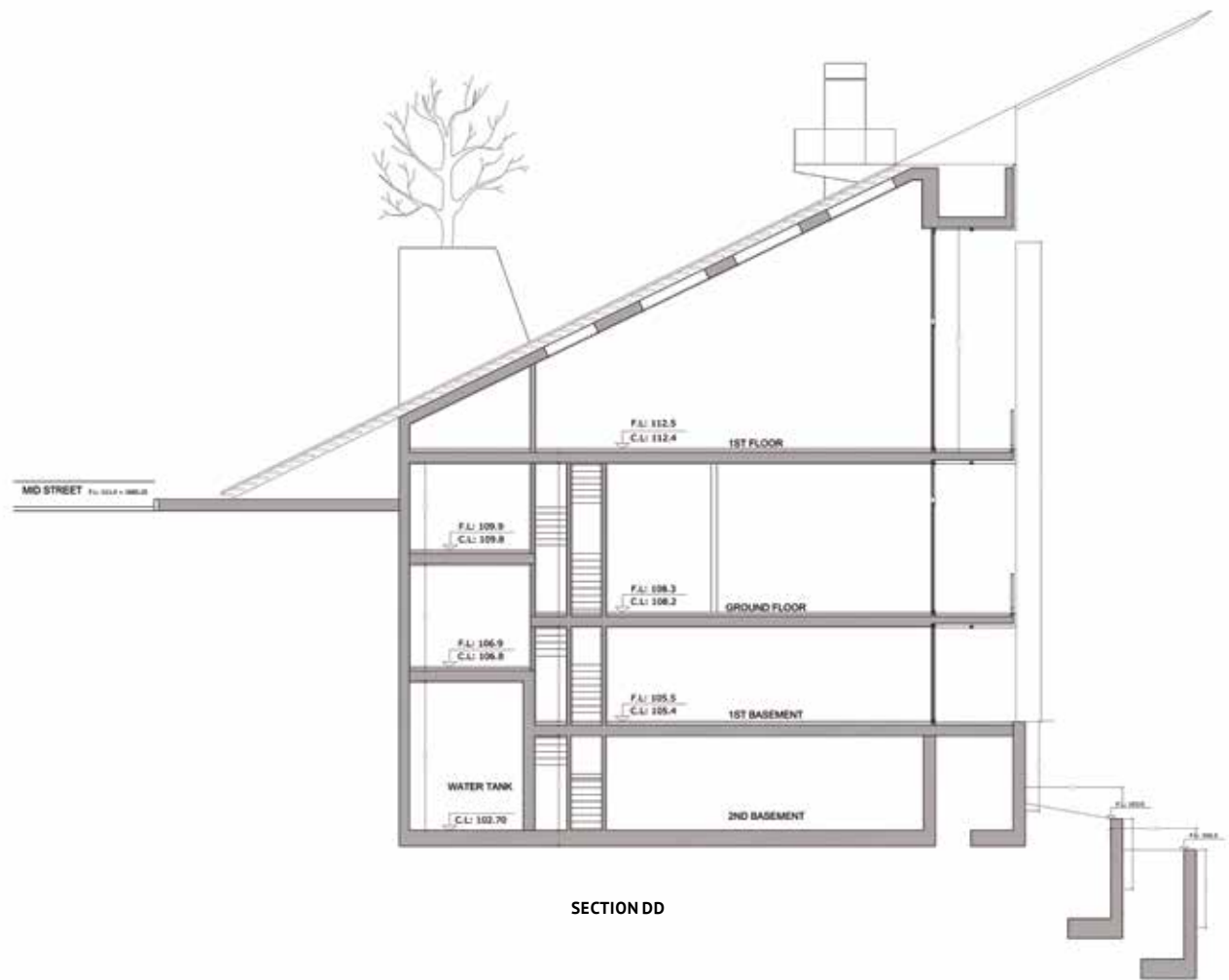


MASTER BEDROOM PARKING FLOOR

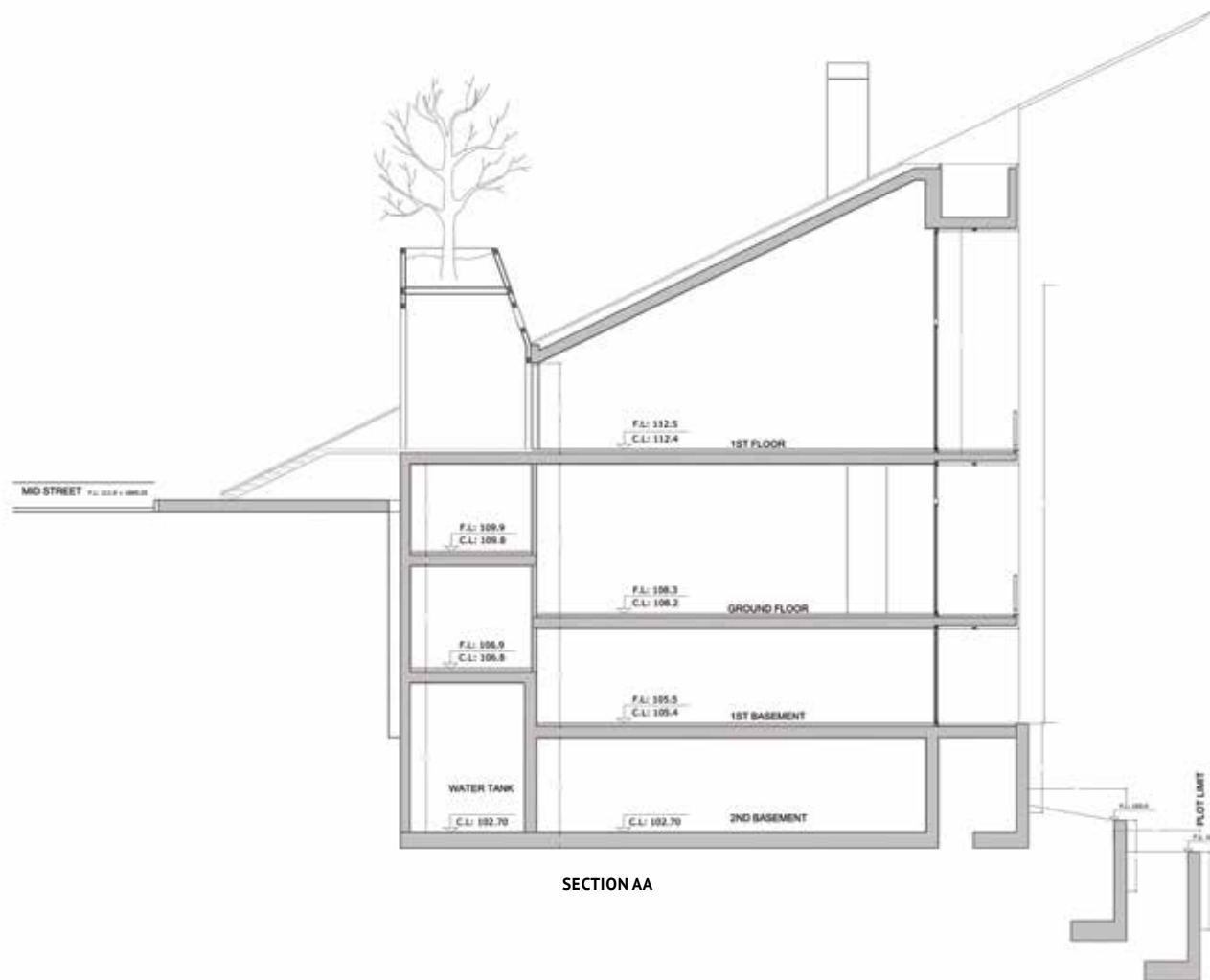
MASTER BEDROOM/PARKING FLOOR



EAST ELEVATION



SECTION DD



SECTION AA



BERNARD KHOURY

Bernard Khoury is a Lebanese architect who lived in and out of Lebanon during the Civil war. He received his Bachelor in Fine Arts in 1990 and Bachelor of Architecture in 1991 from Rhode Island School of Design and his Masters in Architectural Studies from Harvard University in 1993. Khoury began his professional career in post-war Beirut. His first built project was the B018 which was completed in 1998. He has built a reputation for being able to produce critical interventions in problematic zones. Some of his recent works include the Seashore (Lebanon), Bank of Beirut (Biyada, Lebanon) and N.B.K residence (Beirut, Lebanon).

Khoury has taught at the American University of Beirut, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne and l'École Spéciale d'Architecture in Paris. He is co-founder of the Arab Center for Architecture.

6) Interior reflects the slant of the exterior façade



7



8

FACT FILE

PROJECT	: PLOT # 4328
LOCATION	: KFERDEBIAN, LEBANON
DESIGN PRACTICE	: BERNARD KHOURY ARCHITECTS
ARCHITECT	: BERNARD KHOURY
CLIENT	: LOFT INVESTMENT
YEAR	: 2010

7) *The entry point adds to the identity of the façade*

8) *Glass windows merge the interiors with the exterior*

The project includes two residential units that are organized along three floors and includes high-ceiling reception areas located on the upper level. The northern terraces of the project located at the lowest edge of the site are also accessible from the reception area by making use of a mobile balcony that travels vertically on the façade. Thus, with a site responsive design and a dynamic facade, Plot 4328 projects a unique character of its own. 