an atypical home.
for an atypical place.
Here at the East End neighborhood, there is a great sense of closeness amongst the neighbors, so it was especially important to maintain that intimacy with the new design. In the new single family house, I am proposing a new entry sequence to the house and also a replicated housing layout that will enhance the social interaction amongst the community even more. The overall form of the building is a shotgun massing with a wooden shell around it. The gesture of the wooden shell begins at the ground level and begins to rise as it proceeds to the end of the façade to create this S-shape. This gesture was appropriate for the design because it played a vital role in forming a strong dialogue with the ground and the elevated habitable spaces. The wooden shells proceed to continue to wrap around the missing, but without coming back down to the ground to really accommodate north of the building from the other side. Functionally, the wooden shell acts as a privacy and shading device and also protection from storms from the flood prone region. The S-shape façade was also determined by the fact that the new entry sequence actually begins on this ‘S’ side of the façade. So when a reproduction of this house is built south of this existing lot, the replicas will actually rotate 180 degrees. This is done because of having the entry sequence internally between these two homes, the neighbors will continue to grow the strong social interaction that the community has as they enter their homes. Another unique aspect to the design is the buoyancy foundation. The reason for this method as opposed to stilts is because stilts become meaningless once the flood level reach its elevated height. And floods over the minimum elevation height has occurred multiple times in the past in this region. The foundation consists of a concrete ‘tub’ that holds the buoy (Styrofoam blocks) attached to a framing system that are connected to 10 telescoping guides. The idea is that when the region floods, the flood water will flow into the tub and simply elevate the building as the telescoping stilts are there to guide it that guarantees the house from being damaged or obliterated.