

# Stilt Housing in Tai O Village: Spatial and social patterns

General Research Fund (GRF) Grant: #15600621

## Objectives

This project entails a digital survey and ethnographic study of stilt houses in Tai O Village, Hong Kong. Its objectives include:

To digitally document stilt housing conditions as instances of threatened cultural heritage.

To describe stilt house dwellers' housing biographies and occupation patterns through ethnographic interviews.

To describe prevalent spatial use patterns, social patterns, and relationships between the two through thematic analysis of interview content.

To describe relative volumetric complexity and variety of stilt houses across the sample.

Researchers selected stilt houses for data gathering through 'snowball sampling,' facilitated by the Tai O YWCA Community Work Office. Households selected for sampling (n=20) allowed researchers to



## Methodology

document their physical housing conditions using a Leica BLK2GO 3D environment scanner. One or more members of each household participated in two ethnographic interviews lasting up to one hour each. Interviews were semi-structured around topics related to personal and family history, housing conditions and decision-making, and the relationship between the two. Researchers interpreted 3D scans into floor plan drawings for description and analysis. Interview audio was transcribed into traditional Chinese, and translated into English, before researchers completed multiple rounds of thematic coding to describe interview content. Stilt housing cases are referred by randomly-generated case numbers. Case summaries presented are developed from original transcripts available on Mendeley Data Archive.

### Project Credits

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Special Thanks To: The Tai O Village Rural Committee, The Tai O YWCA Community Work Office, the University Grants Council.



# Cross-Case Patterns: Physical Housing and Demographics

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## Project

Data gathering throughout 2021 and 2022 generated the following data:

Ethnographic description of 20 stilt housing conditions at the household level, with a total of 24 informants interviewed.

Physical description of 20 stilt housing conditions through 3D scanning and digital drafting.

Stilt house-dwelling households’ demographic attributes in the sample are presented here across the following variables:

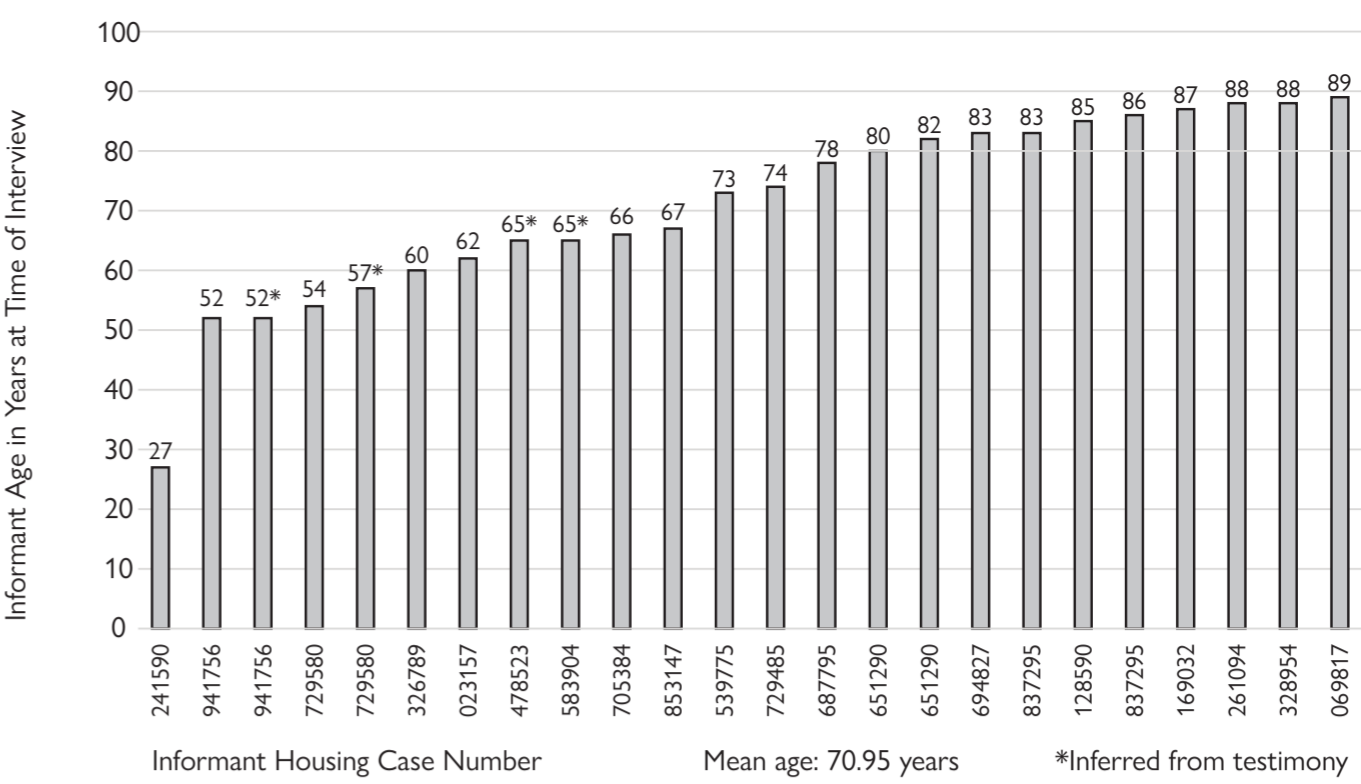
- Informant age in years
- Informant gender
- Informant marital status
- And informant employment/ occupation reports on another panel.

Physical housing conditions across all 20 cases are presented here using isometric section views of 3D scan files, annoated floor plans, and spatial allocation comparisons across the following variables:

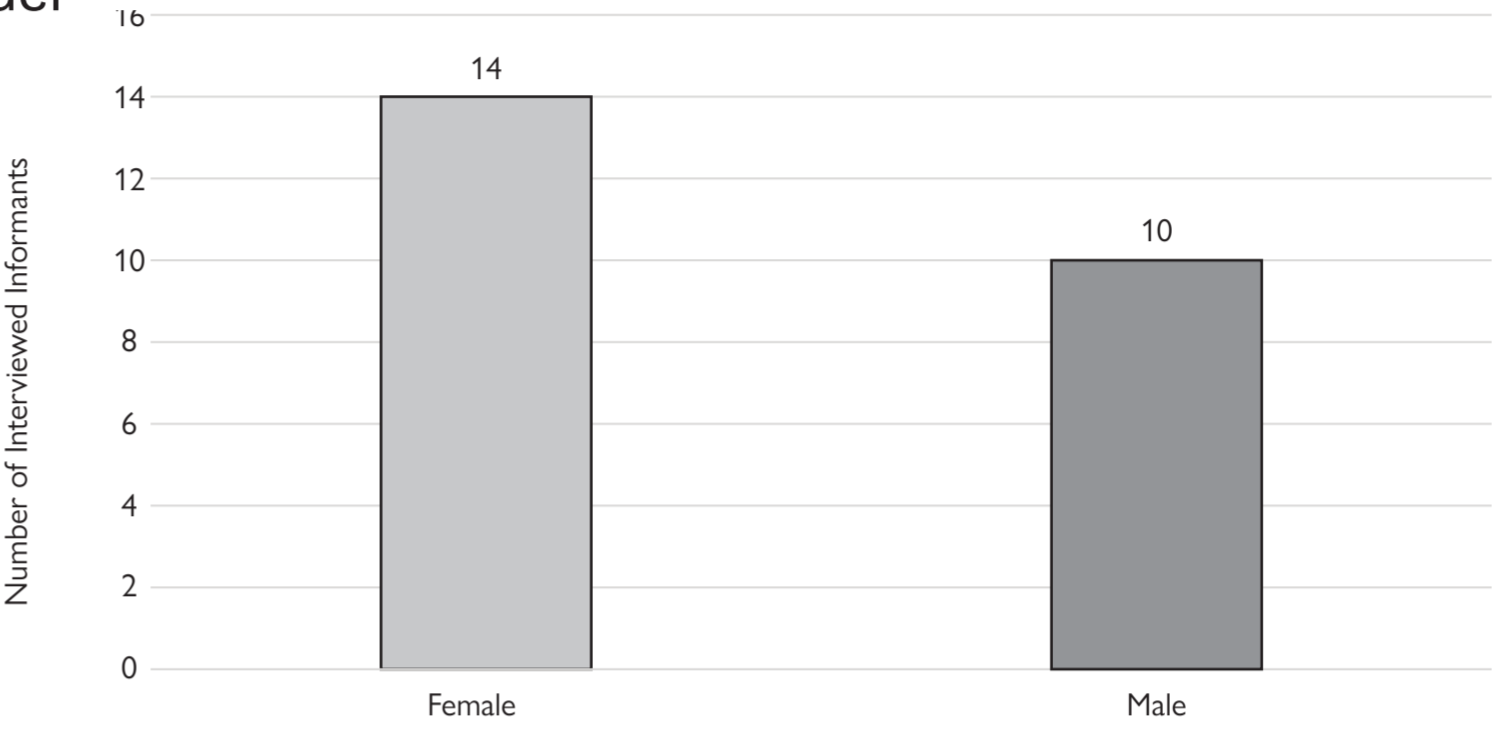
Total house gross floor area (GFA)  
Spatial use allocation area by program divisions, including:

- Kitchens
- Bedrooms
- Living rooms
- Dining rooms
- Bathrooms
- Exterior porches
- and un-designated ‘Other’ spatial allocation areas.

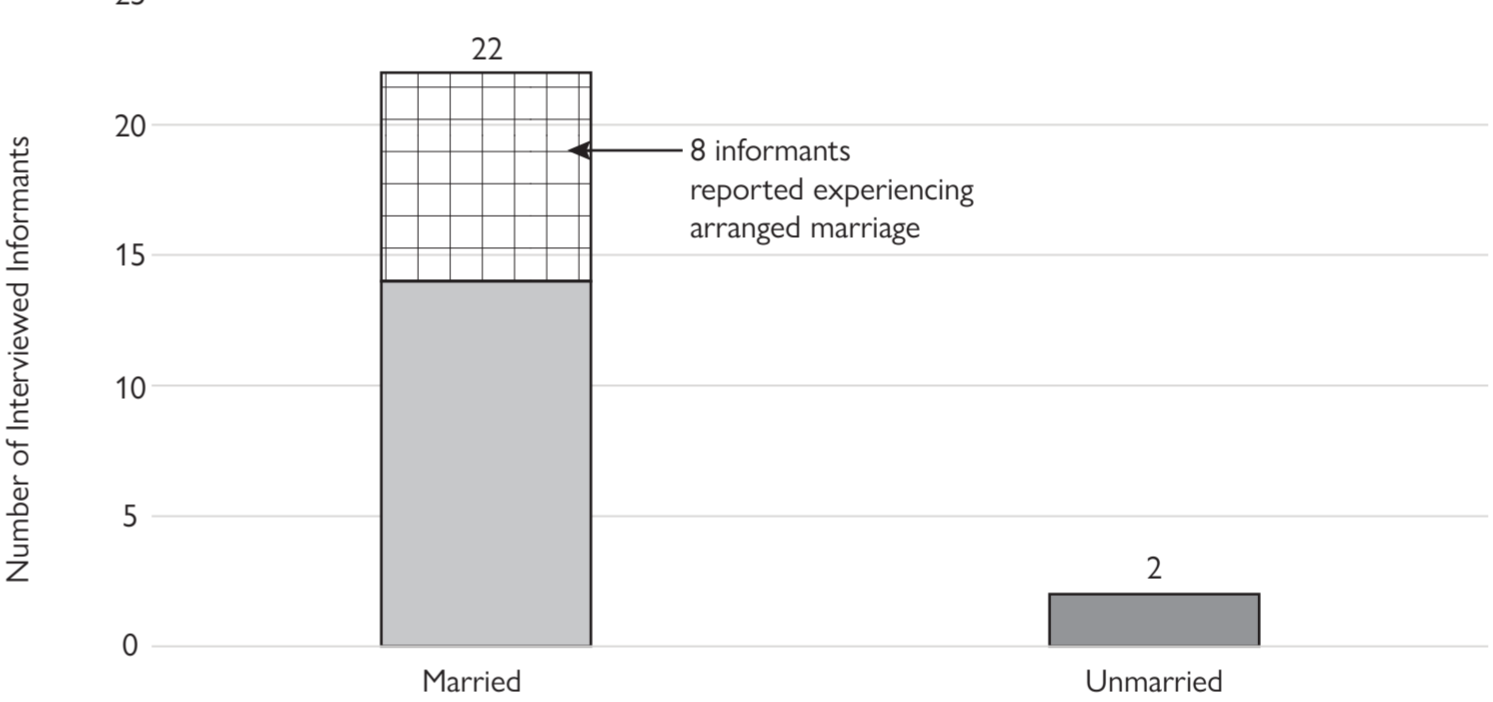
The composition of this sample is not meant to be representative of either physical stilt housing conditions as a population, or demographically of stilt house dwellers as a population.



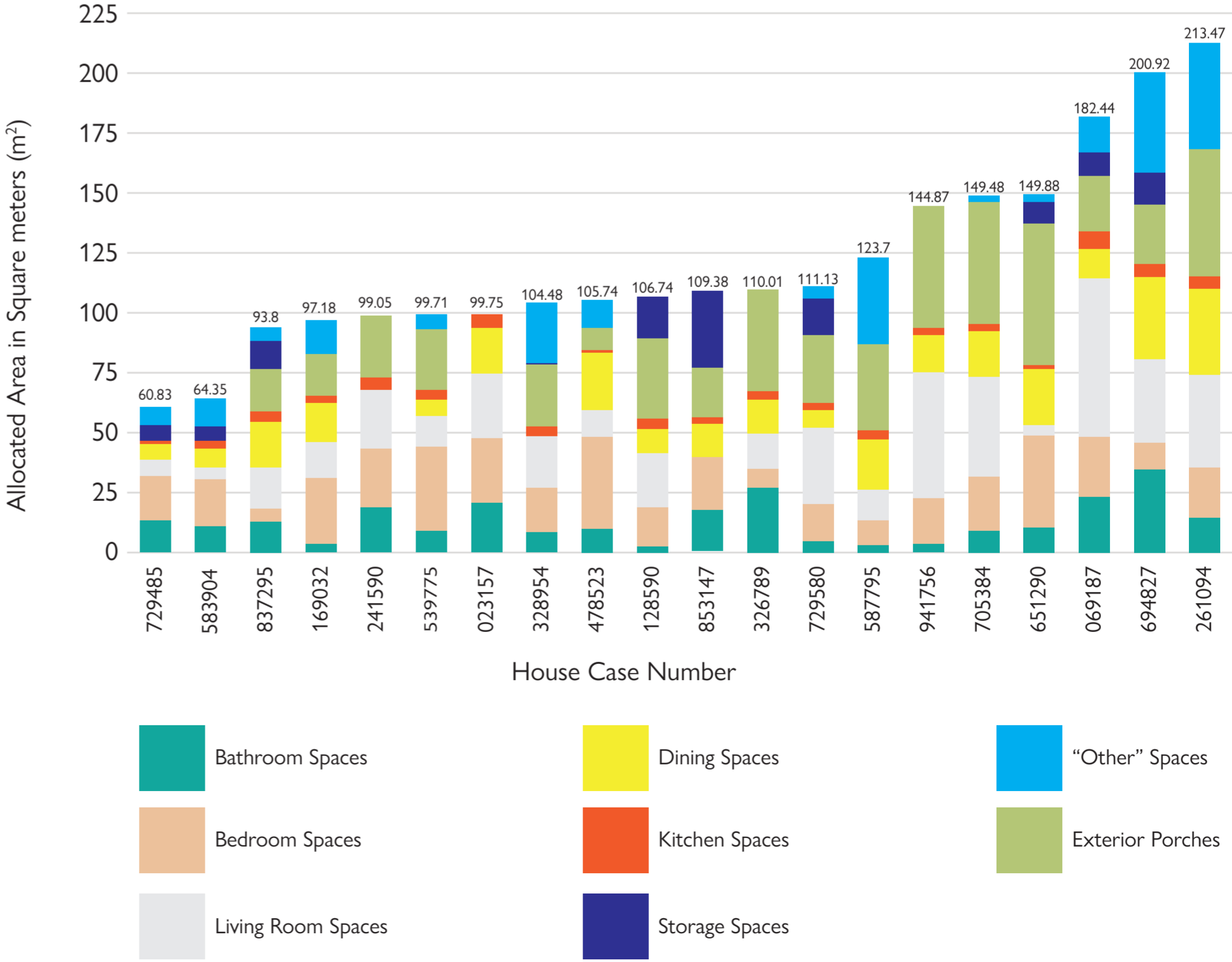
## Informant gender



## Informant marital status



## Space allocation in sampled houses, ordered by total floor area



# Social Solidarity, Modernization, Spatial Sharing

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## A modernizing village with distinct spatial patterns

‘Social Solidarity,’ is a term explored by Emile Durkheim and other sociologists which describes, measures, or indexes the extent to which members of a society share values and cultural standards. Durkheim was particularly interested in how social solidarity was formed, i.e., asking questions about what contributes to members of a society coming to understand and agree on their cultural standards and shared values.

Durkheim theorized that we can socially distinguish ‘traditional,’ and ‘modern,’ societies by the methods through which those societies develop social solidarity amongst members. He theorized that members of traditional societies come to agreement on cultural values and norms, ‘mechanically,’ meaning that social solidarity arises from the similarity, demographically and in terms of life experience, between them.

In sum, traditional societies develop social solidarity because their members are more alike than they are different. ‘Modern,’ societies, conversely, develop social solidarity, ‘organically,’ in Durkheim’s theory:

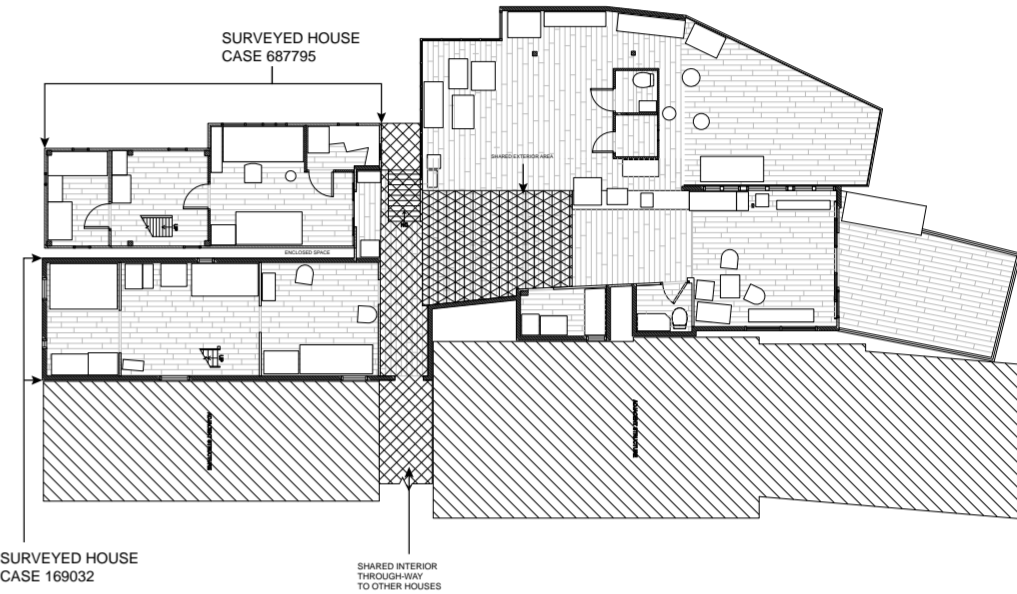
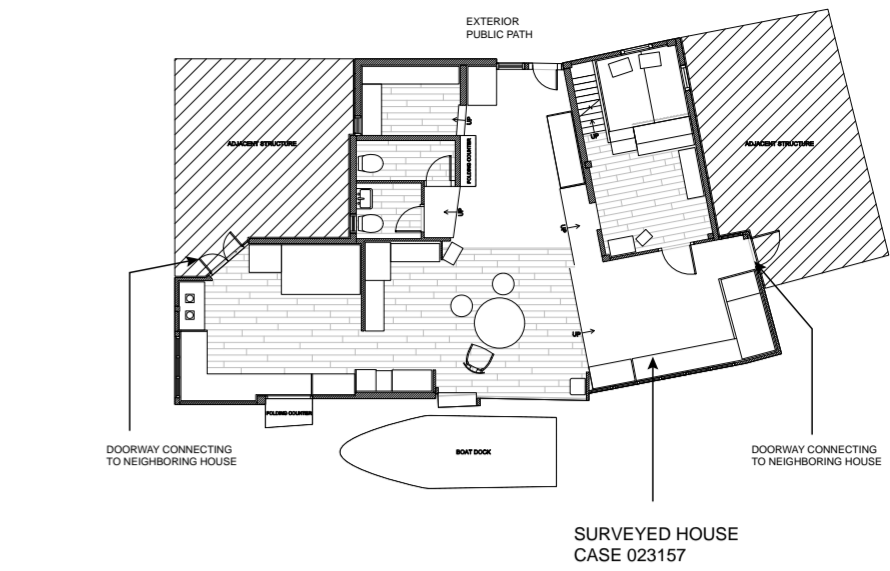
like organs in a body, members of a modernized society come to agreement on cultural values and norms because of and through their assignment to specific roles, with the institutionalization of law and labor division contributing to this transition.

Recording the occupational fields members of a society work in is a useful index to describe how relatively modernized or traditional a society is. Societies where members have more diverse occupations can be considered, by this theory, more modernized, with the reverse indicating more traditional societies. Summary data from interviews with stilt house dwellers show that across generations, from informants’ parents, to informants, to their children, occupations in Tai O Village have become more diverse: in earlier generations, most stilt house resident household members worked in fishing, before slowly diversifying into construction, skilled trades, and other fields over the

course of the 20th Century.

Division of labor is a limited index of modernization, but it is a useful one: looking at the occupational history of stilt house residents in our sample, we can trace a measure of Tai O Village’s modernization over the course of the 20th and early 21st centuries.

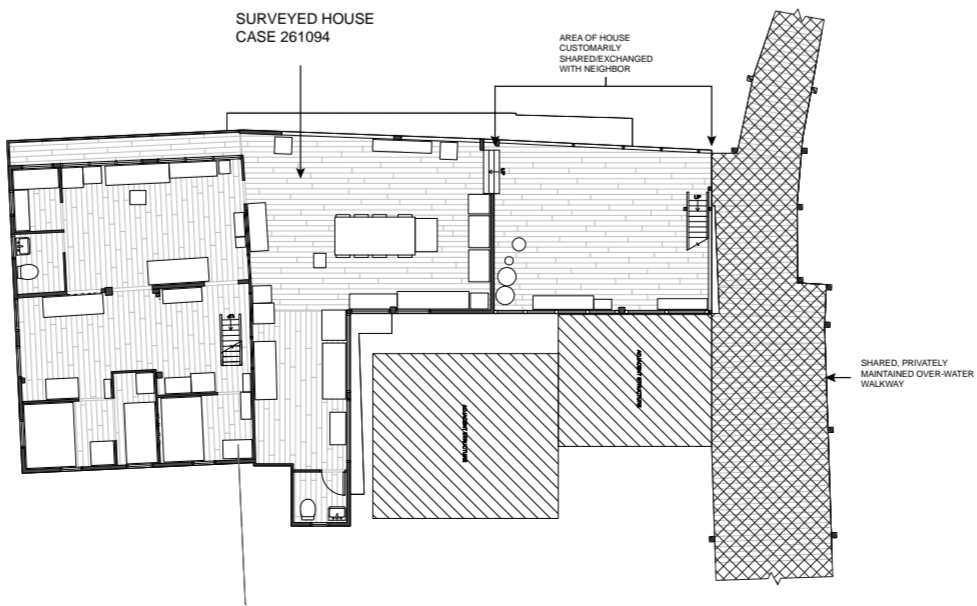
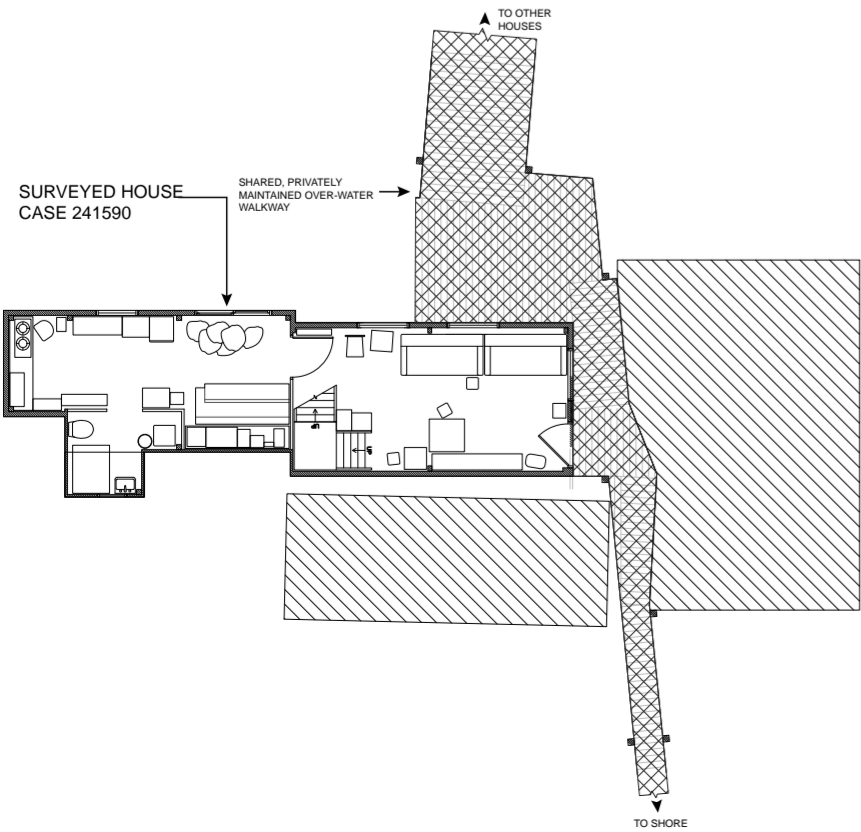
Interestingly, stilt house residents in our sample also reported a somewhat high



## Informant occupation reports sorted by Year of Birth (Y.O.B.)

Case #	Family Position	Y.O.B.	# of Different Occupational Fields	Fishing	Construction	Cargo and Material Portage	Transportation and Logistics	Commerce and Trade	Security Services	Management	Landscaping and Landscape Management	Tour Guidance	Food Handling and Preparation	Manufacturing	Janitorial	Nursing and Elderly Care	Skilled Trades	Government Employment	Media and Journalism
069817	Children	+	1																
069817	Informant	+	2																
729485	Informant	+	2																
694827	Children	+	2																
694827	Informant	+	1																
583904	Informant	+	1																
539775	Informant	+	1																
328554	Informant	+	1																
128590	Children	+	3																
128590	Informant	+	1																
241590	Informant	1995	1																
241590	Parents	1977**	1																
941756	Informant	1970*	4																
941756	Informant	1970*	2																
729580	Informant	1968	1																
729580	Informant	1965*	1																
169032	Children	1962**	1																
326789	Children	1962**	4																
023157	Informant	1960	3																
694827	Children	1957**	2																
478523	Informant	1957*	5																
583904	Informant	1957*	4																
705384	Informant	1956	6																
128590	Children	1955**	3																
853147	Informant	1955	1																
169032	Children	1953**	1																
328554	Children	1952**	1																
941756	Parents	1952**	2																
941756	Parents	1952**	1																
069817	Children	1951**	2																
539775	Informant	1949	2																
729485	Informant	1948	5																
729580	Parents	1947**	2																
697795	Informant	1944	5																
169032	Informant	1944	2																
326789	Parents	1944**	1																
853147	Informant	1943	1																
651290	Informant	1942	3																
023157	Parents	1942**	1																
651290	Informant	1940	4																
827295	Informant	1939	5																
694827	Informant	1939	3																
478523	Parents	1939**	2																
583904	Parents	1939**	1																
705384	Parents	1938**	1																
128590	Informant	1937	1																
853147	Parents	1937**	2																
827295	Informant	1936	5																
169032	Informant	1935	2																
261094	Informant	1934	9																
069817	Informant	1933	3																
697795	Informant	1932	1																
539775	Parents	1931**	1																
729485	Parents	1930**	1																
169032	Parents	1926**	1																
827295	Parents	1921**	1																
694827	Parents	1921**	1																
827295	Parents	1918**	1																
169032	Parents	1917**	1																
069817	Parents	1915**	1																

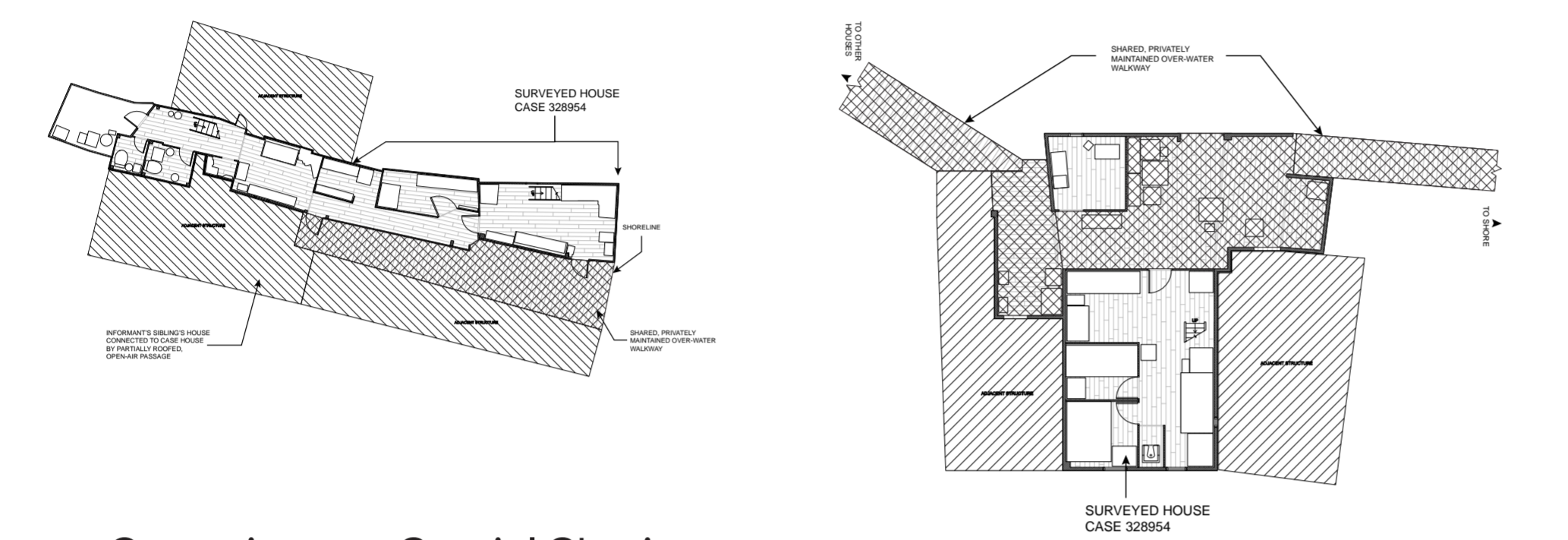
Notes:  
Informant cases are removed from this table if the informant provided no data on their employment.  
All informants from cases 023157, 261094, 326789, 478523, 941756 are removed by this criterion.  
Some informants interviewed in cases 069817 and 328554 are removed from this table based on this criterion.  
\* Original informant age is inferred from testimony describing an age range. Informants' age is given as the mean of this range, from which the informants' Year of Birth is approximated.  
\*\* Informant parents' or children ages are inferred from informant testimony to an average age, from which the Year of Birth is approximated. For informant parents, the Year of Birth is approximated as 18 years prior to the informant's.  
— For informant children, the Year of Birth is approximated as 18 years after the informant's.  
† No data on age given by the informant.



# Social Solidarity, Modernization, Spatial Sharing

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## Informal Spatial Sharing Patterns by House Case



## Quotations on Spatial Sharing

### Case 729580

[Interviewer]: We outsiders really don't know that this [verandah] is not a living room.

[Informant 1]: We didn't have a bridge in the village back then. The verandahs of the houses were connected to each other, so people could walk out onto the street from there.

[Interviewer]: How about the boats?

...  
[Informant 2]: Each house has a pier.

[Informant 1]: We go down the stairs from the verandah to board the boat.

[Interviewer]: There was no bridge before.

[Informant 1]: Yes.

[Interviewer]: Boats dock at the verandah, and you walk up the stairs to get home.

[Informant 1]: There was no bridge in the early years.

### Case 261094

[Informant]: Two stilt [houses] are linked together.

[Interviewer]: I see.

[Informant]: Two stilts are linked there.

[Interviewer]: You spent 300,000-

some dollars to build them.

[Informant]: Yes.

[Interviewer]: And then you repaired it slowly.

[Informant]: And then I also built this area slowly. This area belongs to that person. We're really familiar with each other. That person said, "We seldom come back here. I don't build on it anymore. You can build on it."

### Case 241590

[Interviewer]: Many houses were rebuilt after the fire.

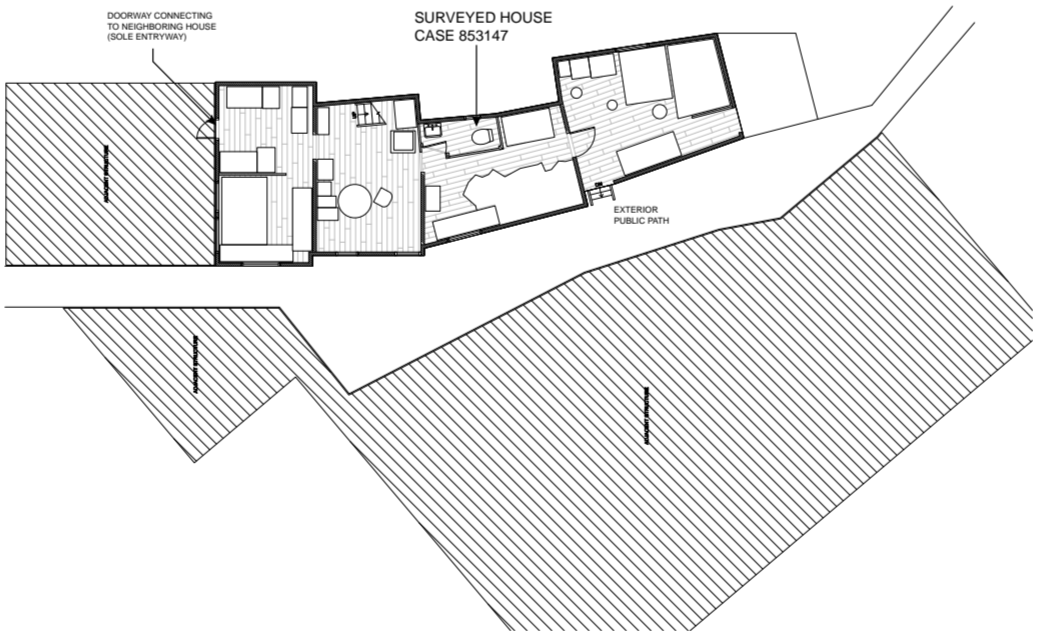
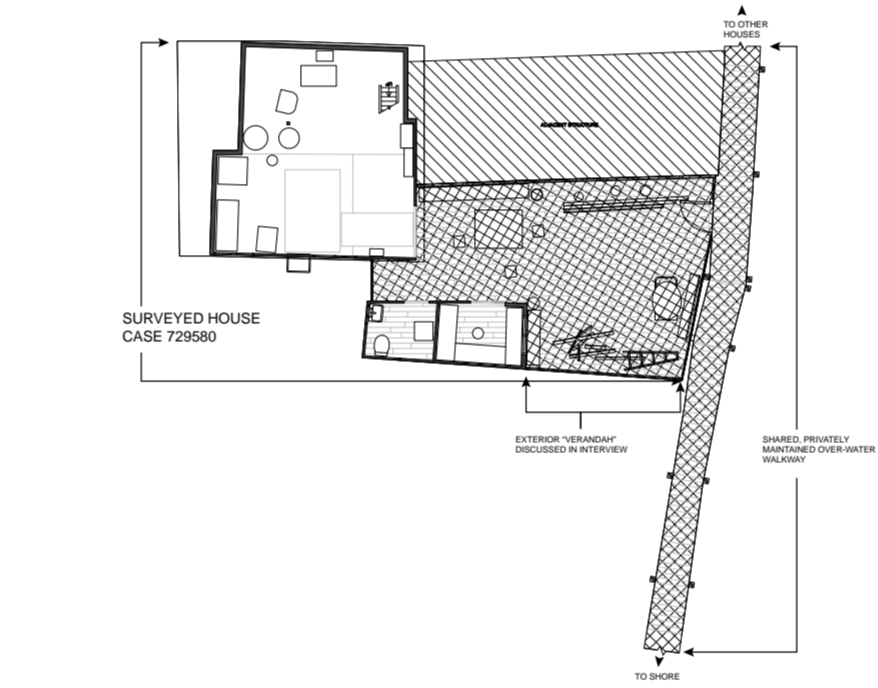
[Informant]: The house at the end of the lane, and the house of Uncle [Surname] next door...

[Interviewer]: Most of the houses in this area are refurbished.

[Informant]: Uncle [Surname] and the family at the end of the lane have just moved in recently... Other people in this village are all relatives. There was a route that we can pass through at the end of the lane, but that new family blocked the road after they moved in.

[Interviewer 2]: Got to visit your neighbour. So, you all know each other in this neighbourhood, right?

[Informant]: We are all relatives in this neighbourhood.

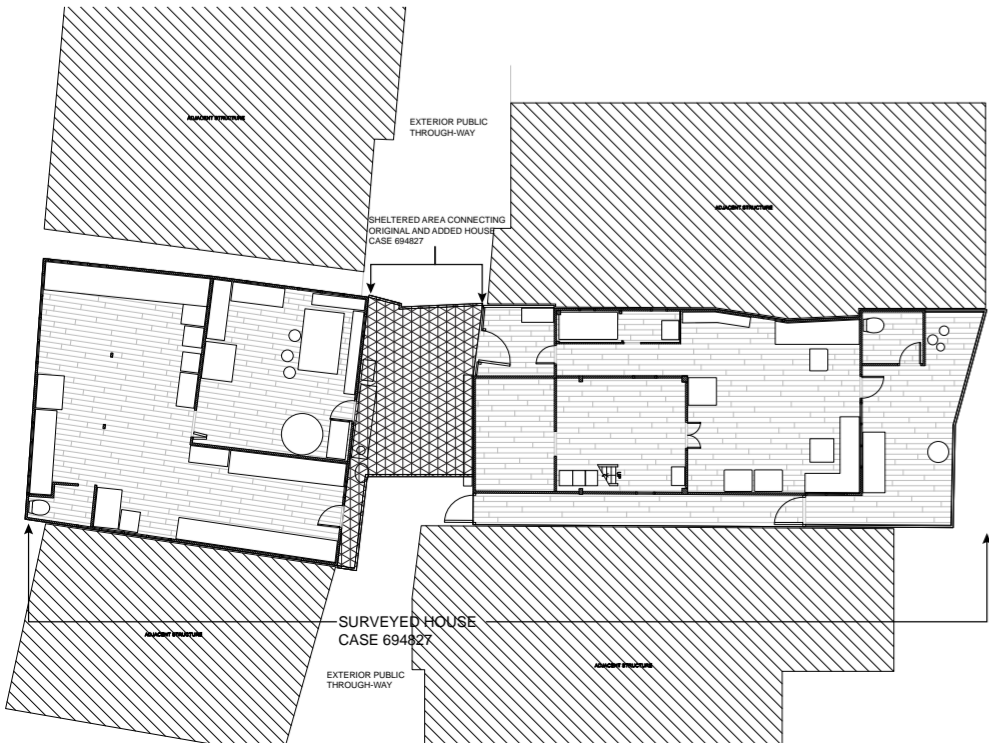


rate of spatial sharing arrangements in their stilt housing: in 12 of the 20 households we sampled (60%), informants mentioned some form of spatial sharing arrangement with neighbors and/or between families. Six of the 20 (30%) houses we surveyed connected directly to adjacent structures through doorways or openings. Informants characterized these arrangements as casual sharing. In each case, informants discussed sharing space inside their housing with neighbors without physical separation or legal agreements.

Informant testimony also suggests a relationship between social structure in stilt house districts and the informal spatial sharing pattern. For example, informants described seeing neighbors frequently, being related to neighbors by family, and/or having housing physically connected to neighbors' housing by bridges or corridors. More study is warranted, but informant testimony suggests a connection between spatial sharing practices and the past 'traditional,' character of stilt house district dwellers as a society: in these spaces, our study documents housing patterns where both informal spatial sharing is very common, and social solidarity was likely developed 'mechanically,' between stilt house dwellers who shared similar occupations and life experiences.

Are traditional societies more likely to develop informal spatial sharing arrangements and patterns? We can't be sure. However, given stilt houses are threatened, spatial sharing and its relationship to social conditions are an important aspect of stilt housing as an aspect of cultural heritage.

Floor plan drawings of ten housing cases where informants reported spatial sharing are shown. Drawings are not to scale and orientation information is not given to reduce the likelihood that house locations can be deduced. Selective exemplary quotations where informants made reports about informal spatial sharing are also provided.



# Case Summary

## Housing Case 023157

General Research Fund (GRF) Grant: #15600621

Housing Construction Type:  
Light wooden frame with metal cladding  
Stories: 2  
GFA: 99.75 square meters

Housing Age: 50+ years old. The informant stated he'd lived in the house, 'for at least 50 years,' and related that the house was built during his childhood in the original location of the family's boat.

Physical Housing Development and Informant Participation History: According to the informant, originally the house was a boat parked in the location. The informant stated, 'Later, we got our neighbours to help with the application to build this stilt houses. This was decades ago.' The case house at least from the time the informant was, '7 or 8 years old,' in the 1960's. The informant related few physical changes to the house, stating that when it was built, 'It was built like this,' and, '[the house]'s in the same position and style.' The informant mostly related participating in minor repairs and maintenance of the house.

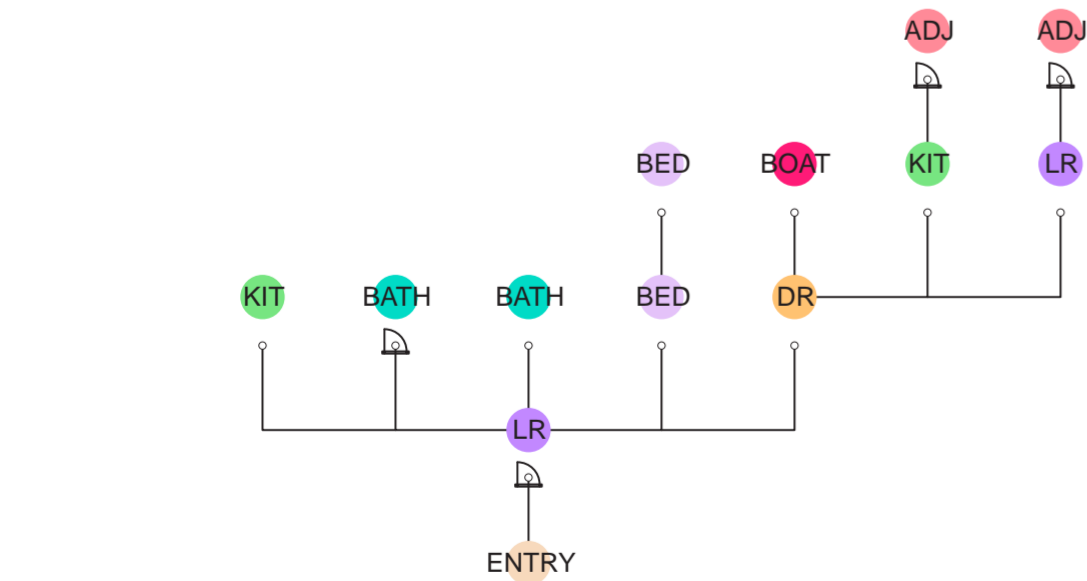
Housing Occupation History and Pattern: The informant's family applied to the government to build the house in location where their boat was parked in the informant's early childhood. The informant was one of eleven children who lived together in the boat and then in the house. The informant mentioned many of his siblings died before he was born, and that two of his siblings died later in his childhood. He indicated that some of his siblings married early and emigrated to Kowloon. He related that family members returned to the case house often: 'They always come back for dinner. This place is full of people.'

Informant Housing Biography: The informant reported living in Tai O since his birth, living with his family in a boat parked in the location of the case house. He has apparently lived there since, living in the case house that was built in the boat's location, and stated, 'I lived here the whole time.'

Housing License Status: According to the informant's testimony the house had no known Surveyed Squatter Structure License.

### 023157 SPATIAL PROGRAM NODE TREE

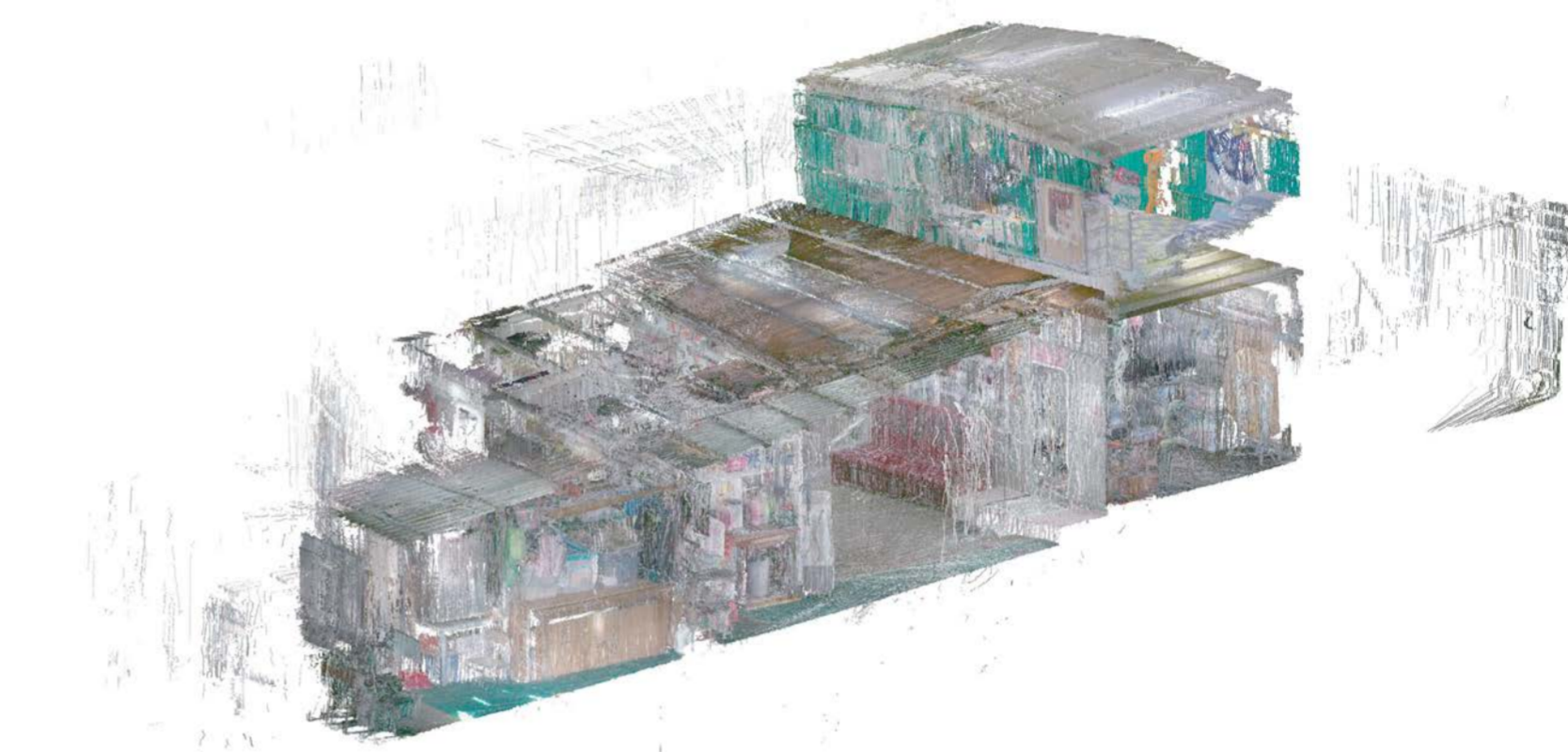
NODE COUNT: 13  
BRANCH COUNT: 12  
BRANCH LEVELS: 3  
CLOSED LOOPS: 0  
ACCESS TO ADJACENT: YES  
WIDTH: 7 UNITS



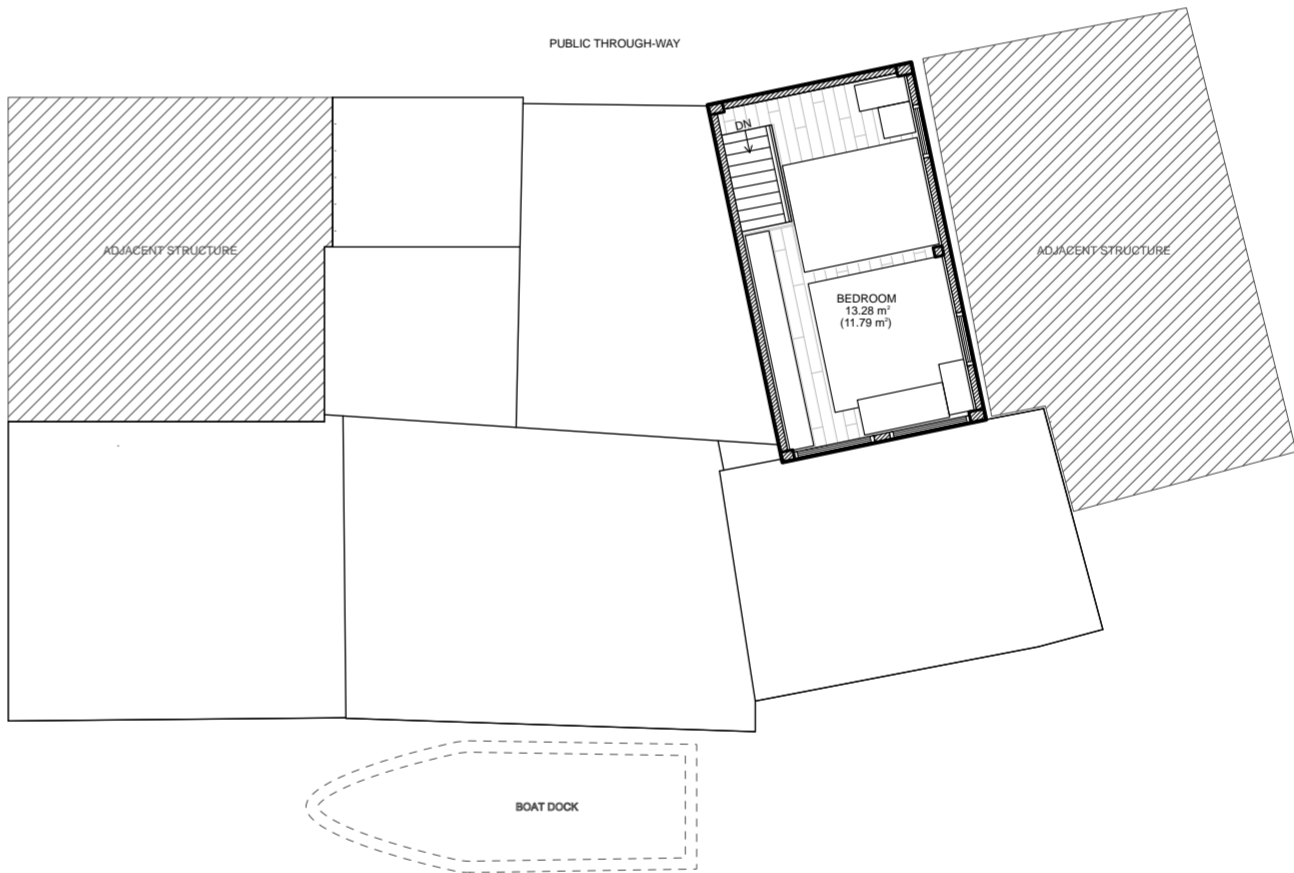
### LEGEND

- |      |                                     |       |                                   |     |                        |
|------|-------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|-----|------------------------|
| ADJ  | Access to adjacent structure        | DR    | Access to dining room             | KIT | Access to kitchen      |
| BATH | Access to bathroom or water closet  | ENTRY | Access to house from exterior     | LAU | Access to laundry room |
| BED  | Access to bedroom                   | EXT   | Access to exterior porch or space | LR  | Access to living room  |
| BOAT | Access to boat dock or boat parking | HALL  | Access to hallway or corridor     | STO | Access to storage room |
|      | Doored or curtained access          |       | Access via step or stairway       |     |                        |

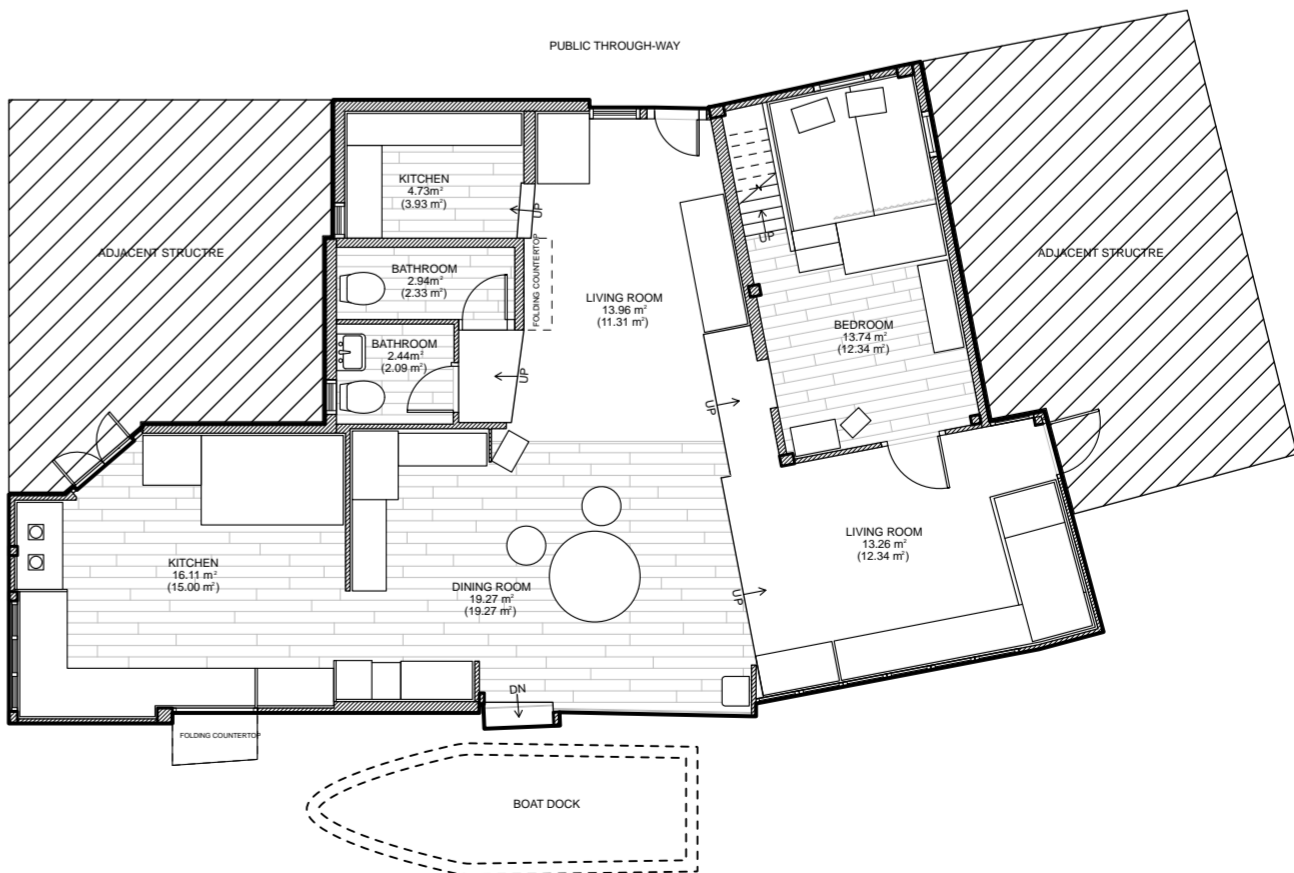
### 3D Scan File in Isometric Section View



### First Floor Plan, 1:100 Scale



### Ground Floor Plan, 1:100 Scale



# Case Summary

## Housing Case 069817

General Research Fund (GRF) Grant: #15600621

Housing Construction Type:  
Light wooden frame with metal cladding  
Stories: 2  
GFA: 182.44 square meters

Housing Age: Approximately 40 years old based on statements made by the informant. The informant stated, ‘The house is 40 years old, so the paint might crack and require repainting. Even if it has been painted before, it might need to be repainted again.’

Physical Housing Development and Informant Participation History: The informant stated she and her husband built the case house sometime after they married. They originally lived with siblings in a house her husband owned, and moved out to build their own stilt house. This second house was on land later claimed by a landowner, so they moved again to build the case house with a combination of self- and hired labor. She stated that her husband built parts of the house: ‘Yes, he did it. He was a smart man. He hired a worker to help him.’ The house was initially smaller, and the informant and her husband expanded it over time into unoccupied land next to the house, and changing the location of the kitchen and bathroom.

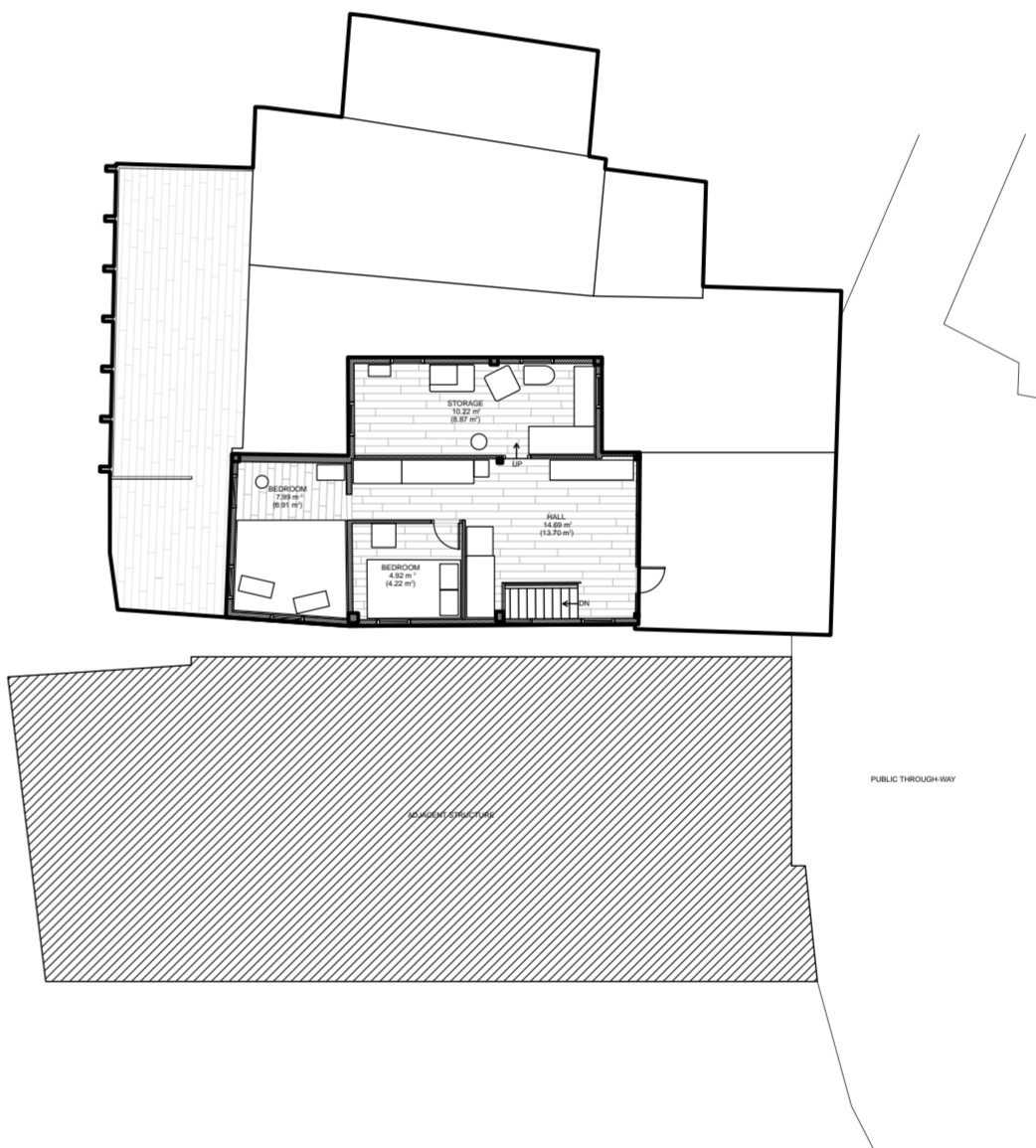
Housing Occupation History and Pattern: The informant stated that she and her husband built the house after they were married, moving from a house shared with her husband’s siblings. At the time of the interview, the informant’s husband was deceased, and the informant related living in the case house with her son, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren.

Informant Housing Biography: The informant reported living in and around Tai O on a boat with her family as a child. After marriage, she lived in multiple locations in Tai O before moving into the case house. She reported living with her daughter in another part of Hong Kong at one point but stayed with her daughter for less than a day before returning to Tai O.

Housing License Status: The informant stated that the house had a Surveyed Squatter Structure License attributed to her deceased husband.

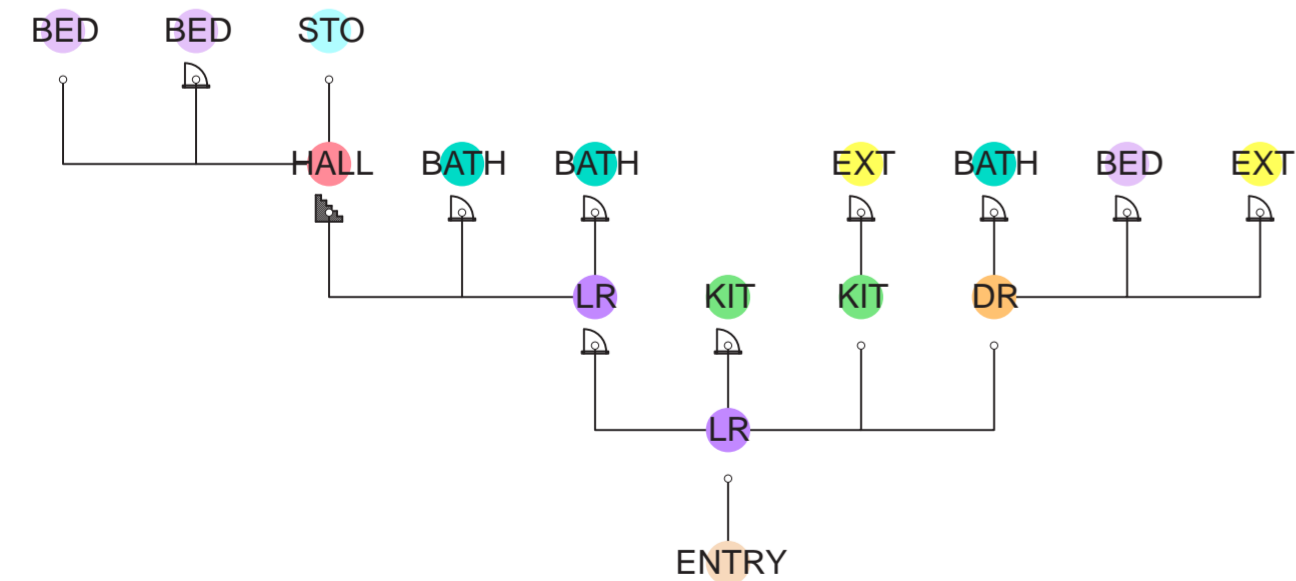


First Floor Plan, 1:150 Scale



## 069817 SPATIAL PROGRAM NODE TREE

NODE COUNT: 16  
BRANCH COUNT: 15  
BRANCH LEVELS: 4  
CLOSED LOOPS: 0  
ACCESS TO ADJACENT: NO  
WIDTH: 10 UNITS



Ground Floor Plan, 1:150 Scale



## LEGEND

ADJ	Access to adjacent structure	DR	Access to dining room	KIT	Access to kitchen
BATH	Access to bathroom or water closet	ENTRY	Access to house from exterior	LAU	Access to laundry room
BED	Access to bedroom	EXT	Access to exterior porch or space	LR	Access to living room
BOAT	Access to boat dock or boat parking	HALL	Access to hallway or corridor	STO	Access to storage room
	Doored or curtained access		Access via step or stairway		

# Case Summary

## Housing Case 128590

General Research Fund (GRF) Grant: #15600621

Housing Construction Type:  
Light wooden frame with metal cladding  
Stories: 2  
GFA: 106.74 square meters

Housing Age: At least 60 years old. The original stilt house in the location predated the informant's marriage 66 years before the time of the interview. She lived in the case house since she was married, making the house at least 60 years old.

Physical Housing Development and Informant Participation History: The informant stated that there was an original house in the case house location and that, 'it was dilapidated,' later stating, 'I rebuilt this house.' 'I earned the money and hired workers to build it.' She stated that the original house, in the location of the case house when she moved into it at marriage, was, 'no bigger than a chicken coop,' with only one level and a low ceiling. She and her husband paid to rebuild the original stilt house into the case house. The informant offered few additional reports on the physical condition or changes made to the case house.

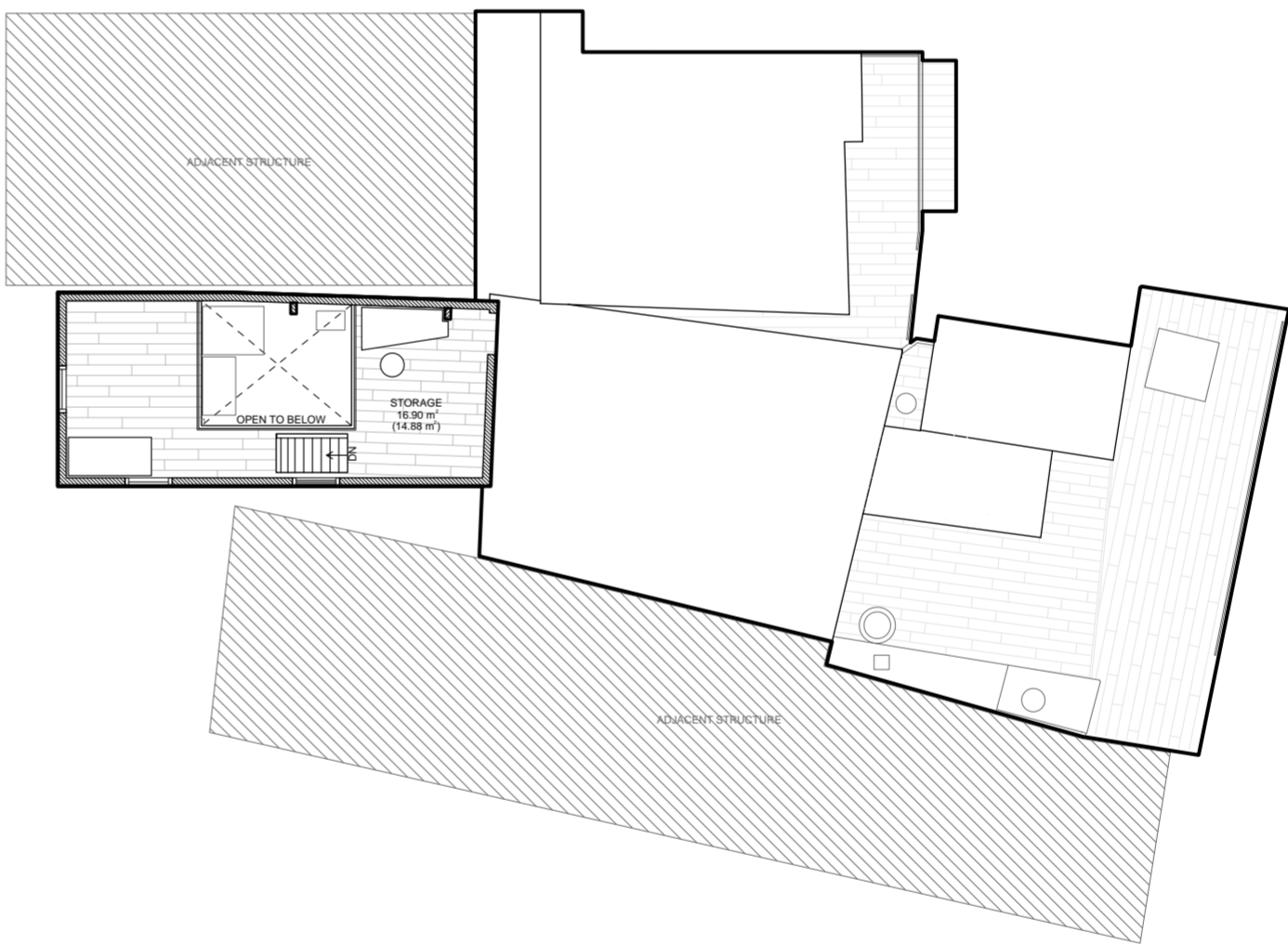
Housing Occupation History and Pattern: The informant stated that she moved into the case house after marrying her husband, and renovated a dilapidated, small stilt house into the case house over time. They have paid, 'ground rent,' for many years at an annual rate that was once two dollars and is now, 'many thousands of dollars.' The ground rent rate also increased after the landlord was issued a surveyed squatter license in the past.

Informant Housing Biography: The informant was adopted into a family in Tai O Village when she was nine years old, living with them until she married at 19. At 19, she moved with her husband into the case house, which she related was, in its original condition, much smaller and had a lower ceiling height. The informant did not report living anywhere else, and seemingly lived in the case house her entire life up until the time of the interview.

Housing License Status: The informant stated that the house had a Surveyed Squatter Structure License in the landowner's name.

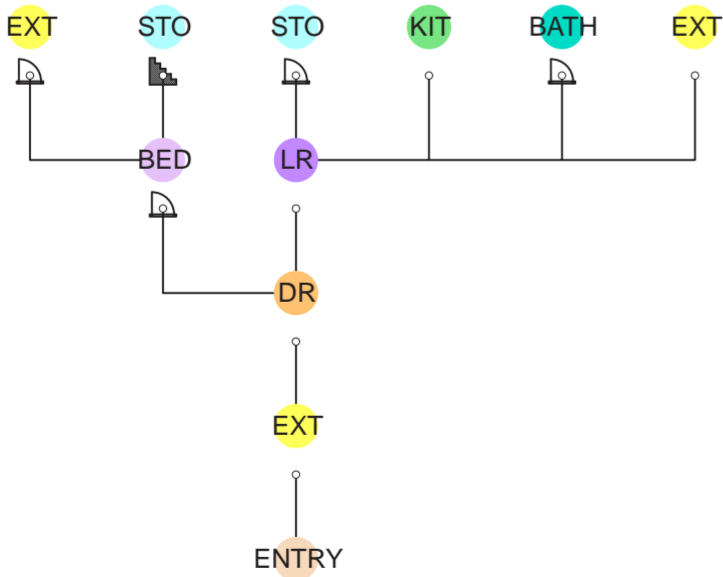


First Floor Plan, 1:100 Scale

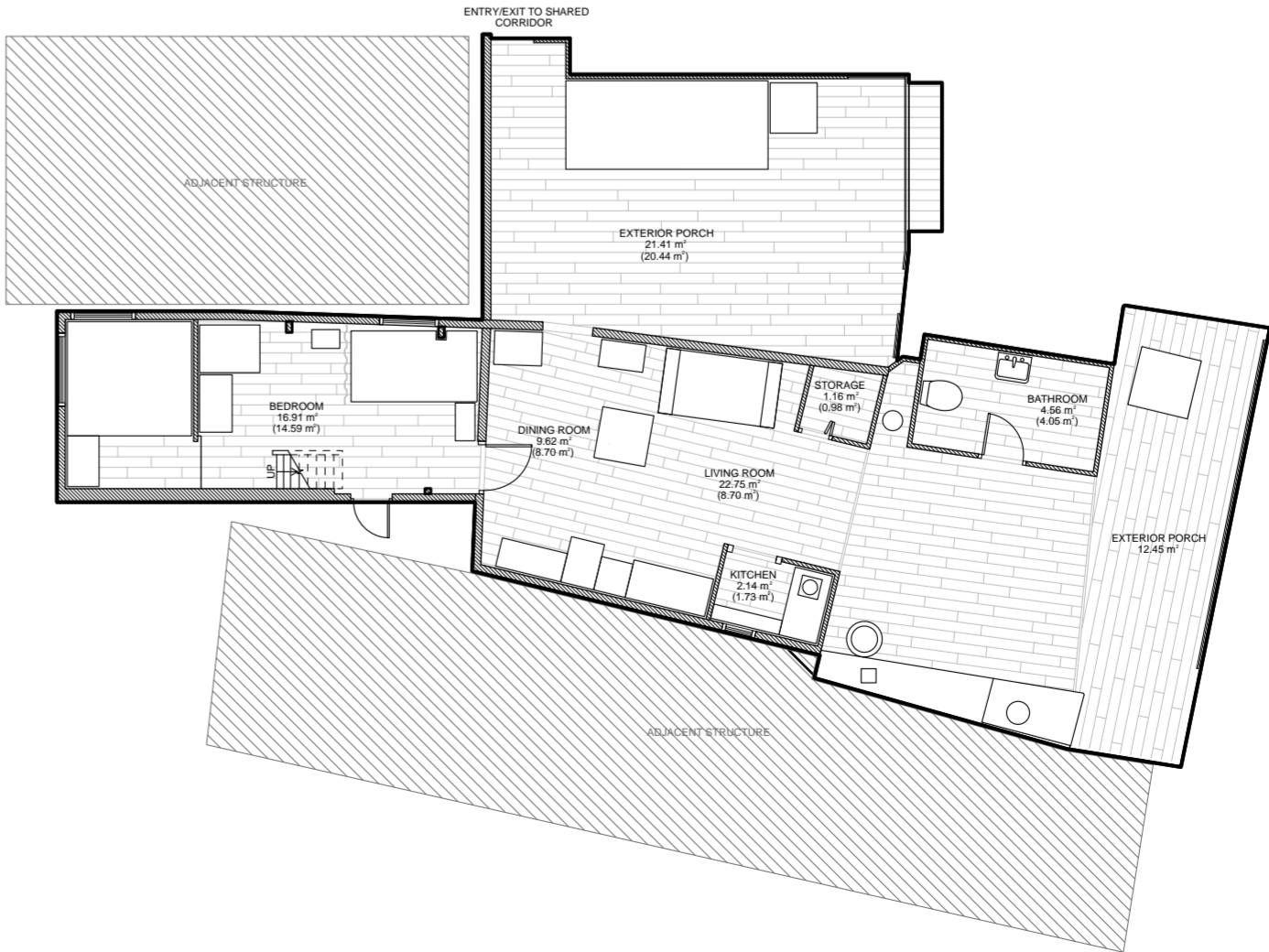


## 128590 SPATIAL PROGRAM NODE TREE

NODE COUNT: 11  
BRANCH COUNT: 10  
BRANCH LEVELS: 4  
CLOSED LOOPS: 0  
ACCESS TO ADJACENT: NO  
WIDTH: 6 UNITS



Ground Floor Plan, 1:100 Scale



## LEGEND

ADJ	Access to adjacent structure	DR	Access to dining room	KIT	Access to kitchen
BATH	Access to bathroom or water closet	ENTRY	Access to house from exterior	LAU	Access to laundry room
BED	Access to bedroom	EXT	Access to exterior porch or space	LR	Access to living room
BOAT	Access to boat dock or boat parking	HALL	Access to hallway or corridor	STO	Access to storage room
	Doored or curtained access		Access via step or stairway		

# Case Summary

## Housing Case 169032

General Research Fund (GRF) Grant: #15600621

Housing Construction Type:  
Light wooden frame with metal cladding  
Stories: 2  
GFA: 97.18 square meters

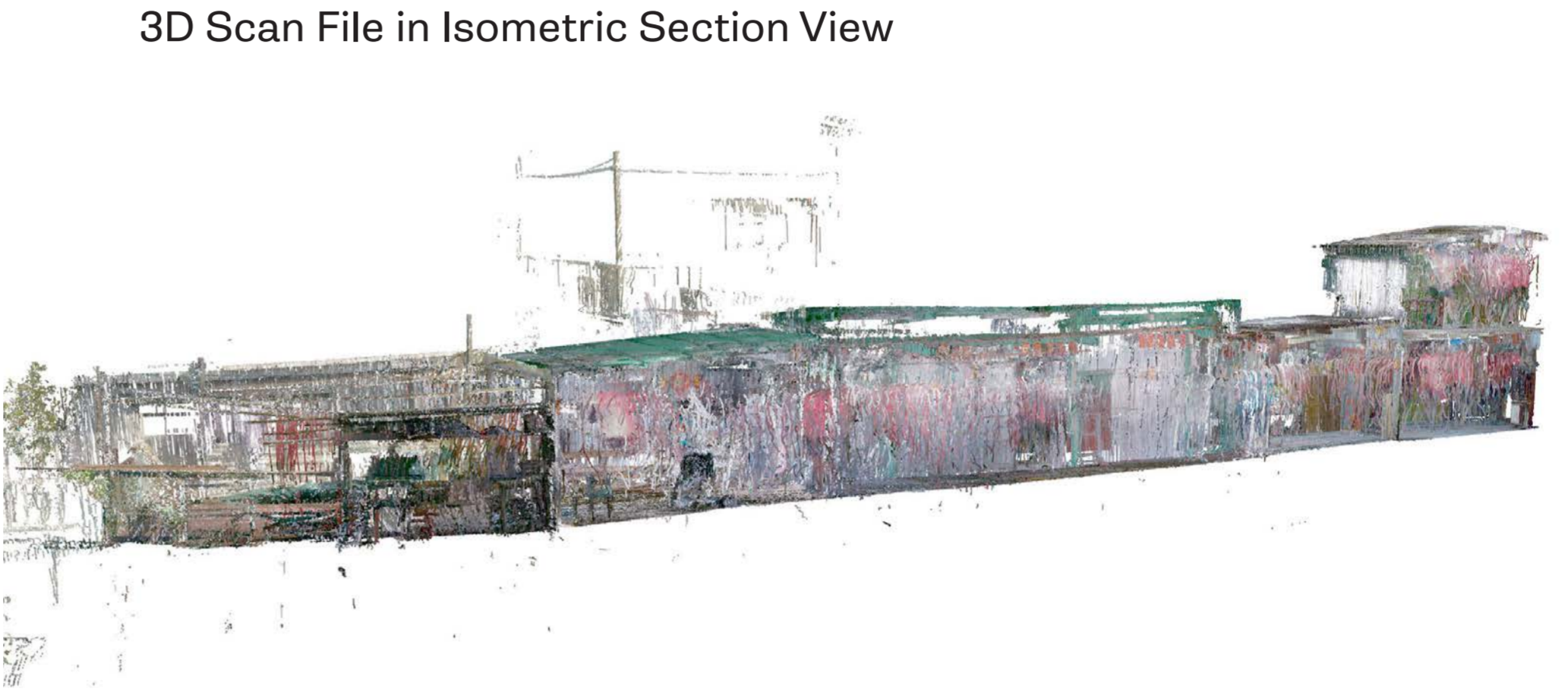
Housing Age: Approximately 71 years old. The informant described the case as being, ‘twenty-some,’ years old, but this may have referred to a specific part of the house. The informant confirmed the interviewer’s statement, ‘After getting married, you came to [the case house] here,’ which may mean the case house existed at least before the informant’s marriage in 1951, from which this age of the house is inferred.

Physical Housing Development and Informant Participation History: The case house, ‘was a boat,’ when the informant moved in at marriage. She stated the house location was originally a boat-launching location rented to her family. Her mother-in-law supervised construction of the case house by the contractor living next door.

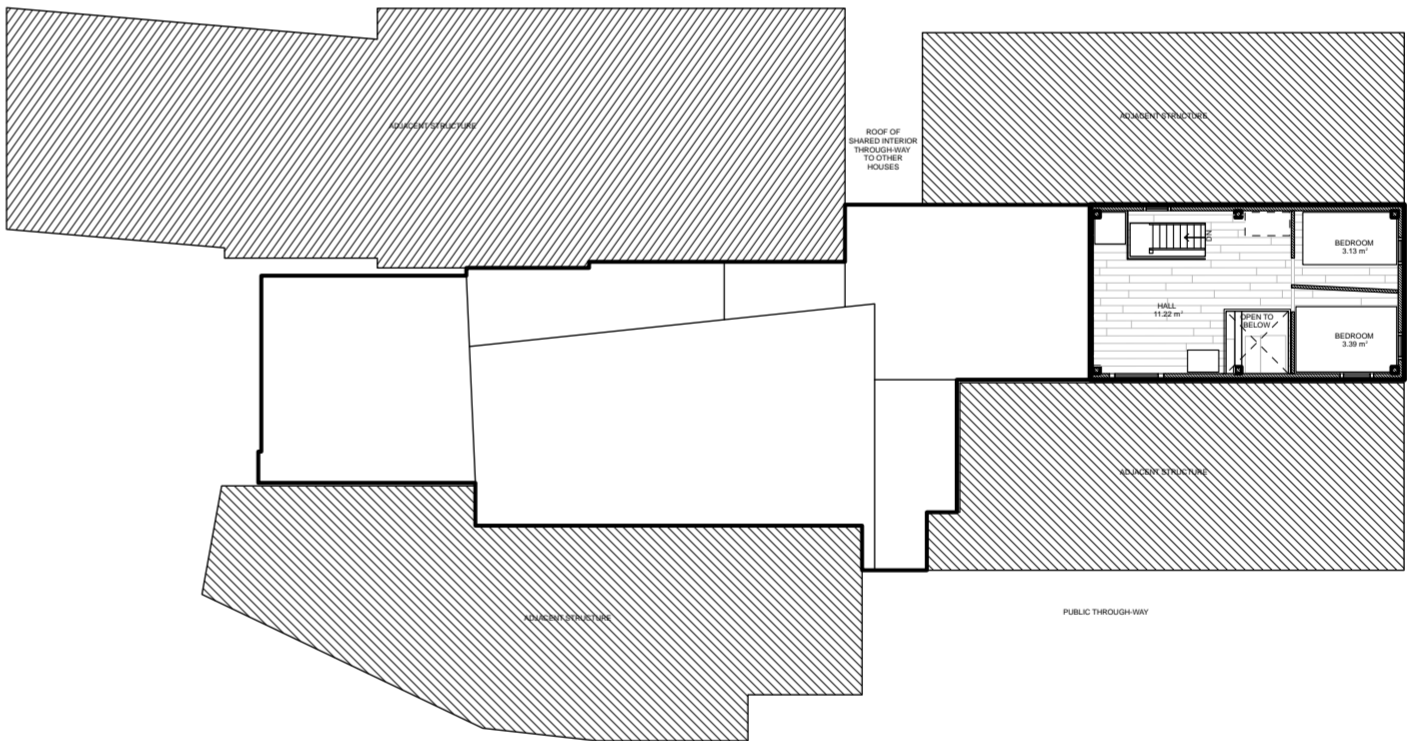
Housing Occupation History and Pattern: The informant stated that, ‘[a] landowner allowed us to build [the case house] here.’ She stated that her father-in-law paid ground rent to a landlord for them to build on the location, parts of which she described as belonging, ‘to the public,’ presumably meaning Government land. She related that she and her husband raised six children in the case house, all of whom left for employment or marriage. At the time of the interview the informant lived alone in the house, and her children paid for the rent and utilities.

Informant Housing Biography: The informant was born elsewhere in Tai O and moved to the case house with her family when their original house burnt down. The informant described living in the case house her entire life, and not report moving anywhere else, except for a brief time living elsewhere with her daughter.

Housing License Status: The informant stated that the house had a Surveyed Squatter Structure License in the landowner’s name.

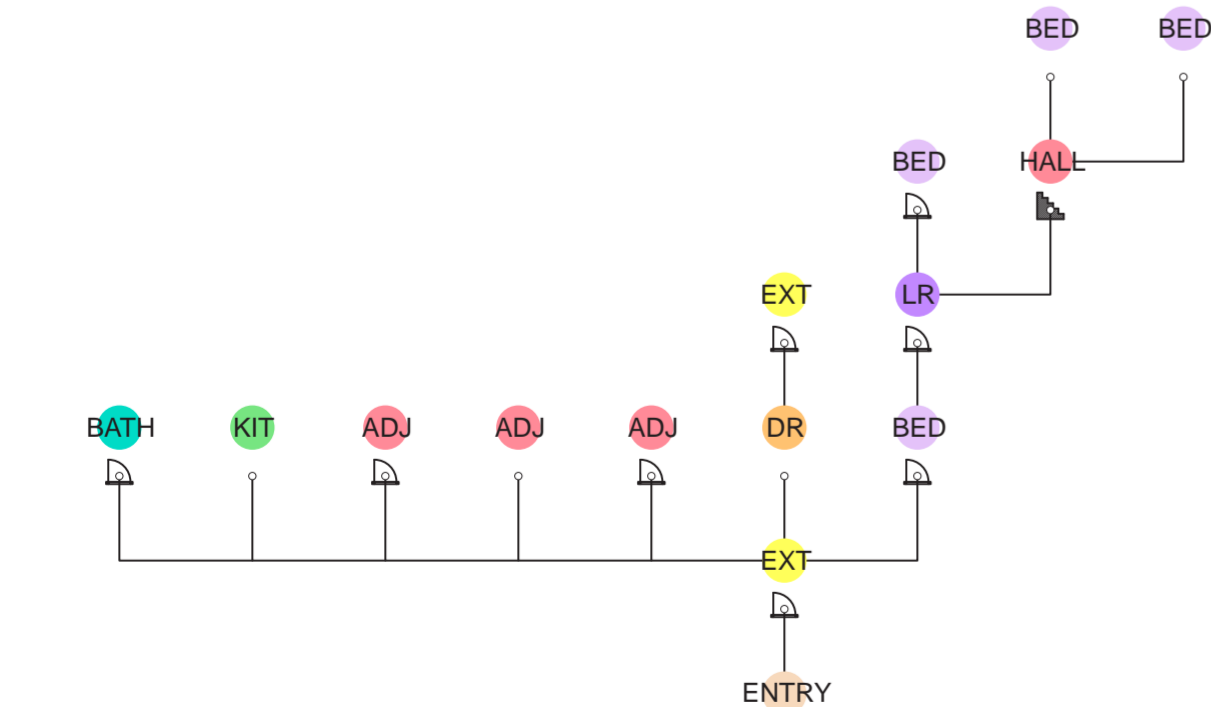


First Floor Plan, 1:150 Scale

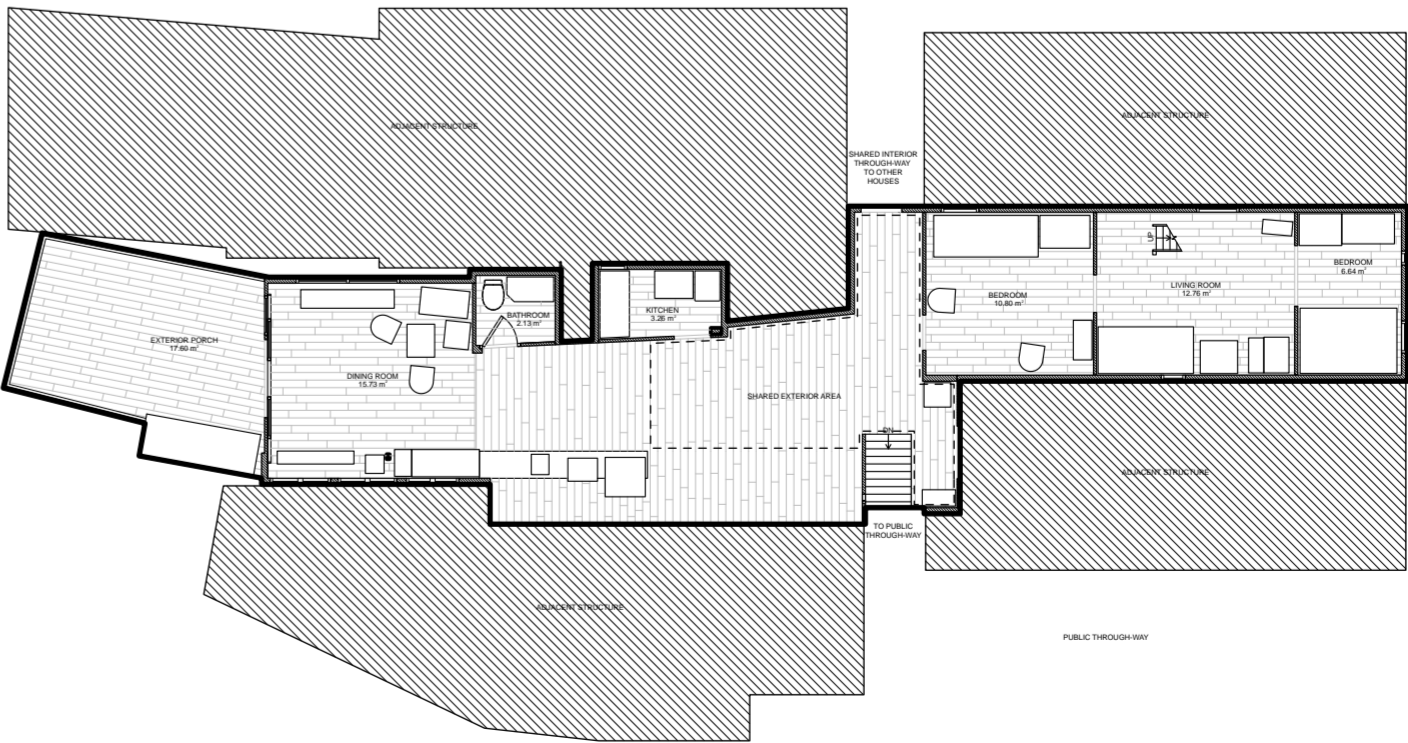


## 169032 SPATIAL PROGRAM NODE TREE

NODE COUNT: 15  
BRANCH COUNT: 14  
BRANCH LEVELS: 5  
CLOSED LOOPS: 0  
ACCESS TO ADJACENT: YES  
WIDTH: 9 UNITS



Ground Floor Plan, 1:150 Scale



## LEGEND

ADJ	Access to adjacent structure	DR	Access to dining room	KIT	Access to kitchen
BATH	Access to bathroom or water closet	ENTRY	Access to house from exterior	LAU	Access to laundry room
BED	Access to bedroom	EXT	Access to exterior porch or space	LR	Access to living room
BOAT	Access to boat dock or boat parking	HALL	Access to hallway or corridor	STO	Access to storage room
	Doored or curtained access		Access via step or stairway		

# Case Summary

## Housing Case 241590

General Research Fund (GRF) Grant: #15600621

Housing Construction Type:  
Light steel tube section frame with  
panelized aluminium cladding laminated  
on polystyrene insulation  
Stories: 2  
GFA: 99.05 square meters

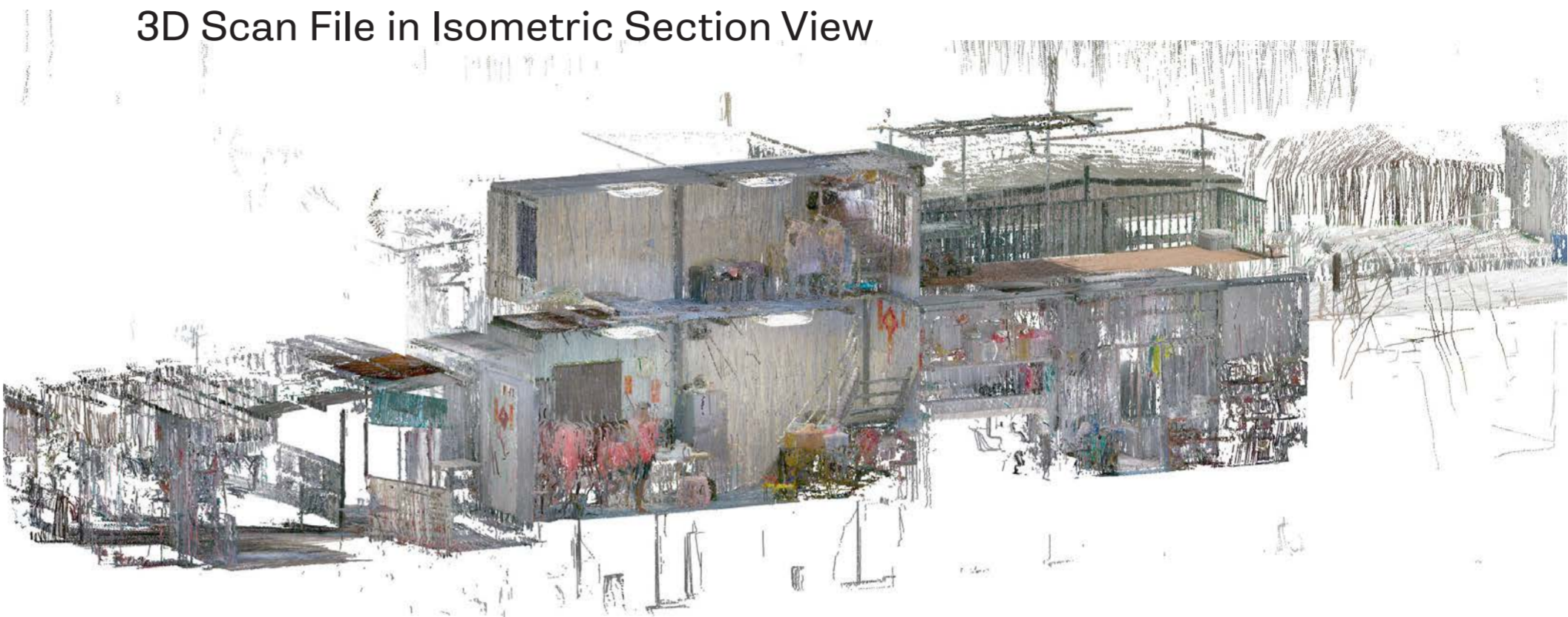
Housing Age: Approximately 20 years. The informant stated that the house was renovated around the 2000's to its condition at the time of the interview, but that it was also the house where the informant's great-grandmother, grandparents, and parents lived.

Physical Housing Development and  
Informant Participation History: The informant stated the case house was original a, 'one-story house with a flat roof,' before it was registered with a license in the 1980's. It was then demolished and renovated, 'around 2000,' to correct termite damage. She characterized the renovation as a family project, with her grandfather doing wiring work, and her father, uncles, neighbors, and family friends contributing their construction work experience to the renovation, and solving the problem of termite damage by rebuilding the house with a steel structure.

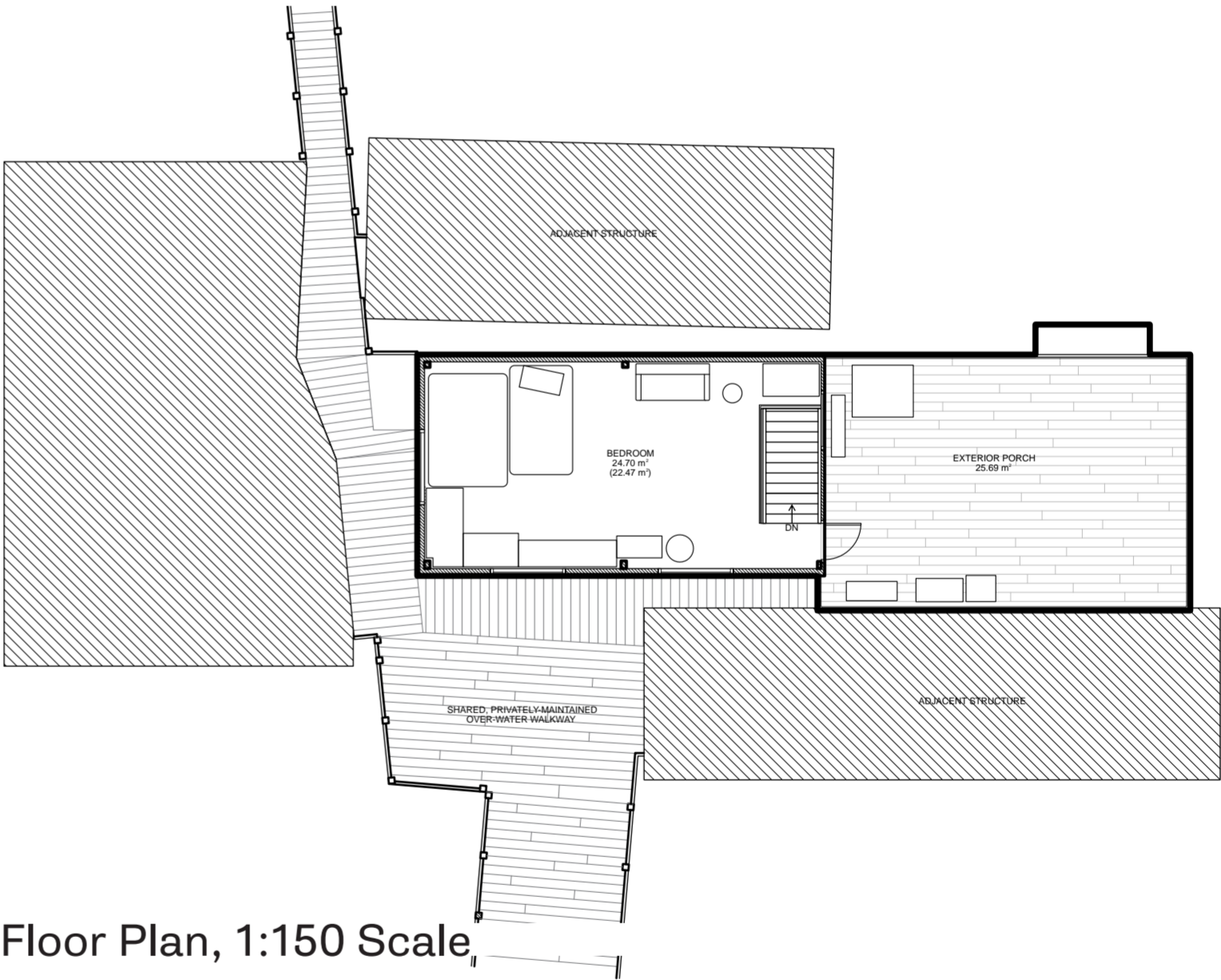
Housing Occupation History and Pattern: The earliest referenced owner-occupant of the house is the informant's great grandmother, who passed, 'more than 20 years ago,' at the time of the interview. After her death, the house was renovated in the 2000's. From that time, the informant's grandparents have lived in the house. The informant stated that her parents visited the case house biweekly and that she visited the house weekly.

Informant Housing Biography: The informant lived in the case house since she was born, but moved from Tai O to Hong Kong for schooling. She lived in a shared flat with her parents, aunts, and uncles in before moving alone elsewhere in Hong Kong. At the time of the interview she related returning to the case house weekly to care for her brother's children.

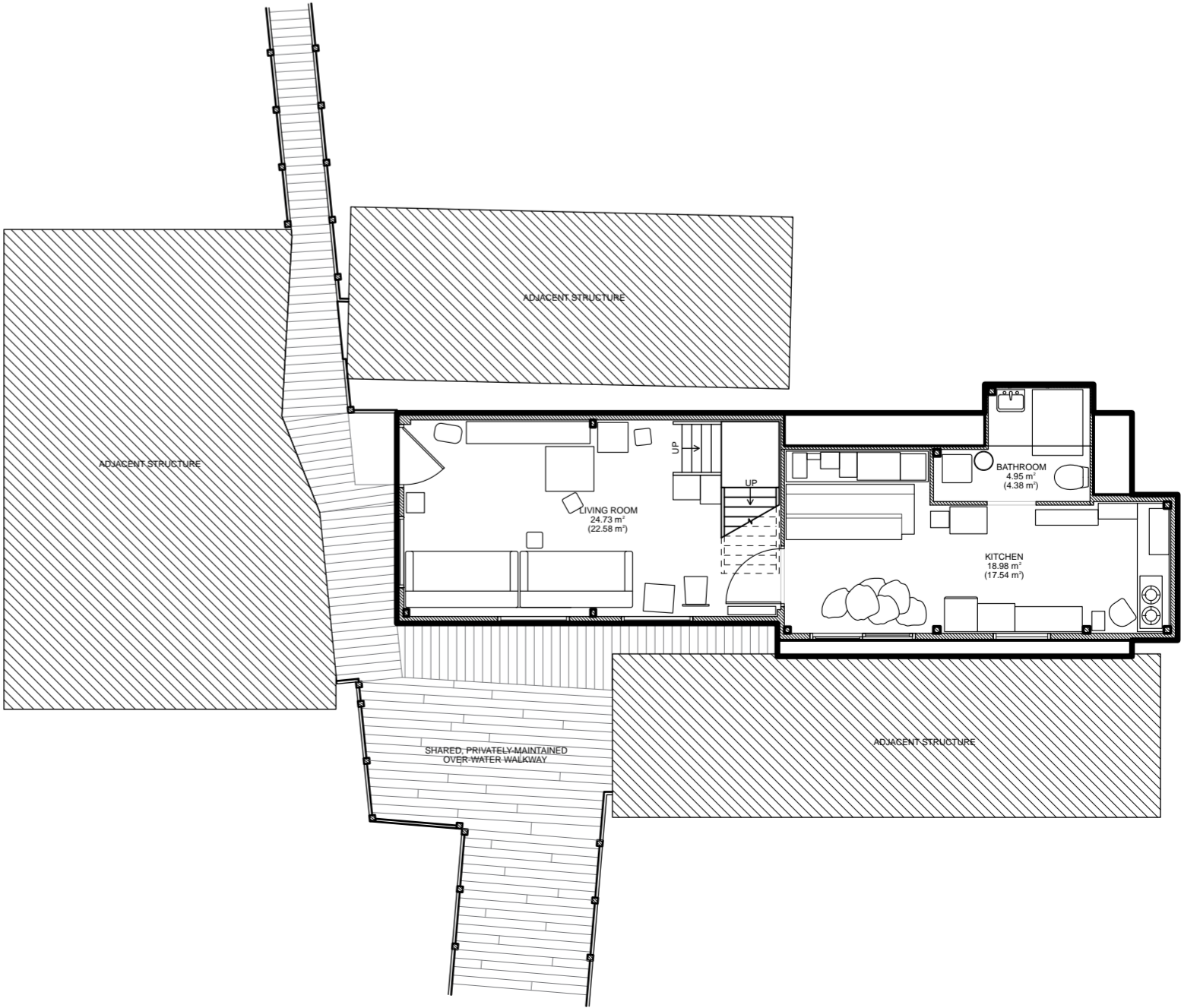
Housing License Status: The informant stated that house was licensed to the informant's great-grandmother, deceased at the time of the interview.



First Floor Plan, 1:150 Scale

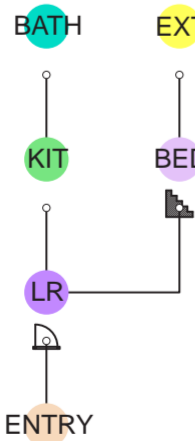


Ground Floor Plan, 1:150 Scale



## 241590 SPATIAL PROGRAM NODE TREE

NODE COUNT: 6  
BRANCH COUNT: 5  
BRANCH LEVELS: 3  
CLOSED LOOPS: 0  
ACCESS TO ADJACENT: NO  
WIDTH: 2 UNITS



## LEGEND

ADJ	Access to adjacent structure	DR	Access to dining room	KIT	Access to kitchen
BATH	Access to bathroom or water closet	ENTRY	Access to house from exterior	LAU	Access to laundry room
BED	Access to bedroom	EXT	Access to exterior porch or space	LR	Access to living room
BOAT	Access to boat dock or boat parking	HALL	Access to hallway or corridor	STO	Access to storage room
	Doored or curtained access		Access via step or stairway		

# Case Summary

## Housing Case 261094

General Research Fund (GRF) Grant: #15600621

Housing Construction Type:  
Light wooden frame with metal cladding  
Stories: 2  
GFA: 213.47 square meters

Housing Age: Approximately 22 years as recorded at the time of the interview, estimated from the informant’s testimony about reconstruction around 2000.

Physical Housing Development and Informant Participation History: The informant stated he originally lived on a boat parked in the house’s location, which he stated, ‘was domed before,’ suggesting the house originally had a curved-profile roof. He implied the house was rebuilt multiple times before being reconstructed in 2000 after widespread fires in Tai O. He later referred to a recent addition to the house made to improve its ventilation. He did not mention participating directly in the construction of his housing.

Housing Occupation History and Pattern: The informant stated that the case house stood in the recorded location, ‘since [his] grandfather’s generation.’ He gave little information on the house’s status from the time he moved out, in about 1964, to when he returned in the 1970’s, remaining in the house from that time to the time of the interview. At the time of record, the informant lived in the case house with his son, daughter-in-law, and one or more grandchildren.

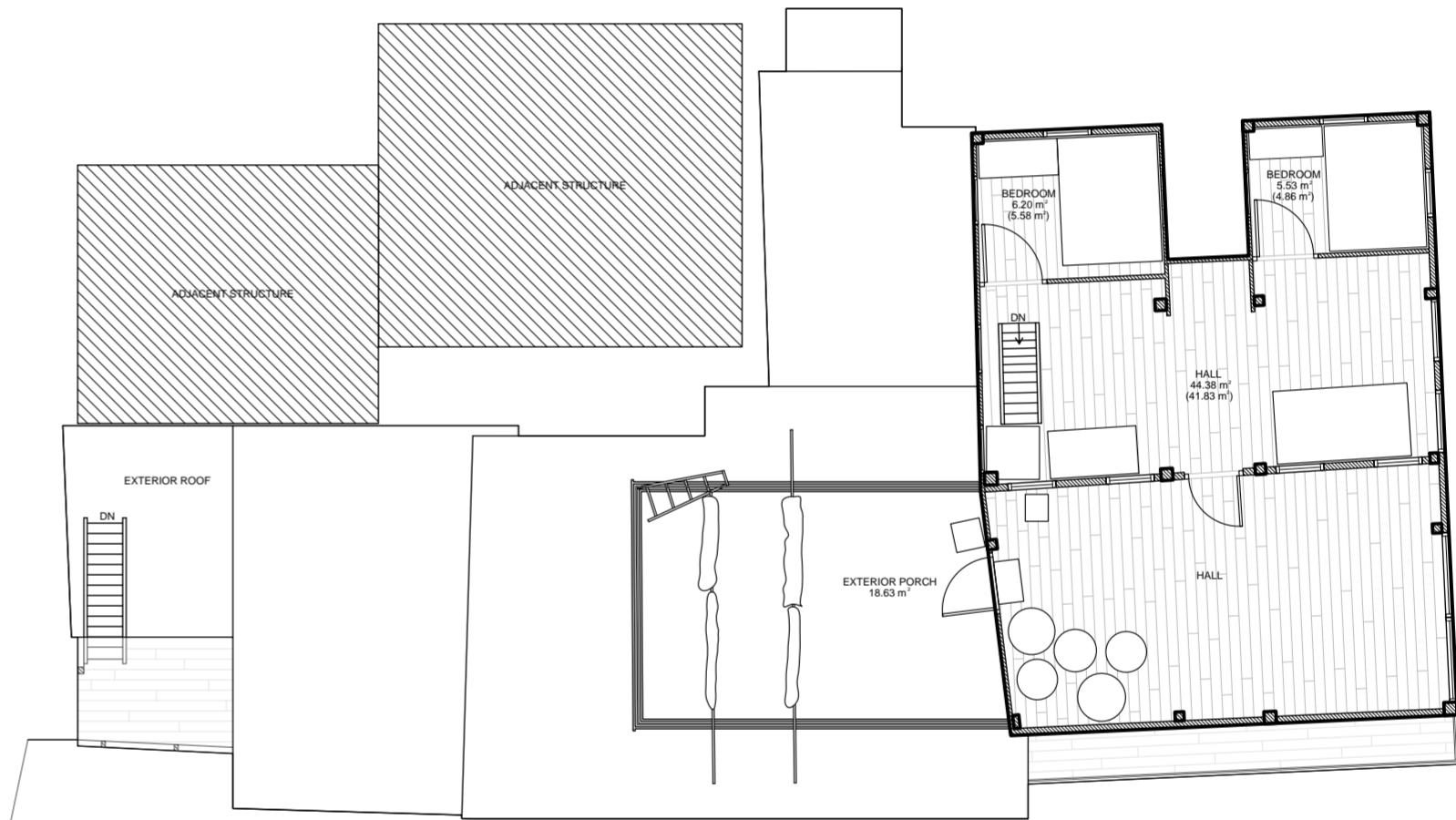
Informant Housing Biography: The informant was seemingly born in the case house and lived there as a child before moving away from Tai O around 30 years of age and working on a barge elsewhere in Hong Kong. He returned to Tai O when he was, ‘forty-ish,’to work at a ferry company, commuting between Macau and Tai O until he retired and continued living in the case house.

Housing License Status: The informant stated that the house did not have a Surveyed Squatter Structure License.

3D Scan File in Isometric Section View

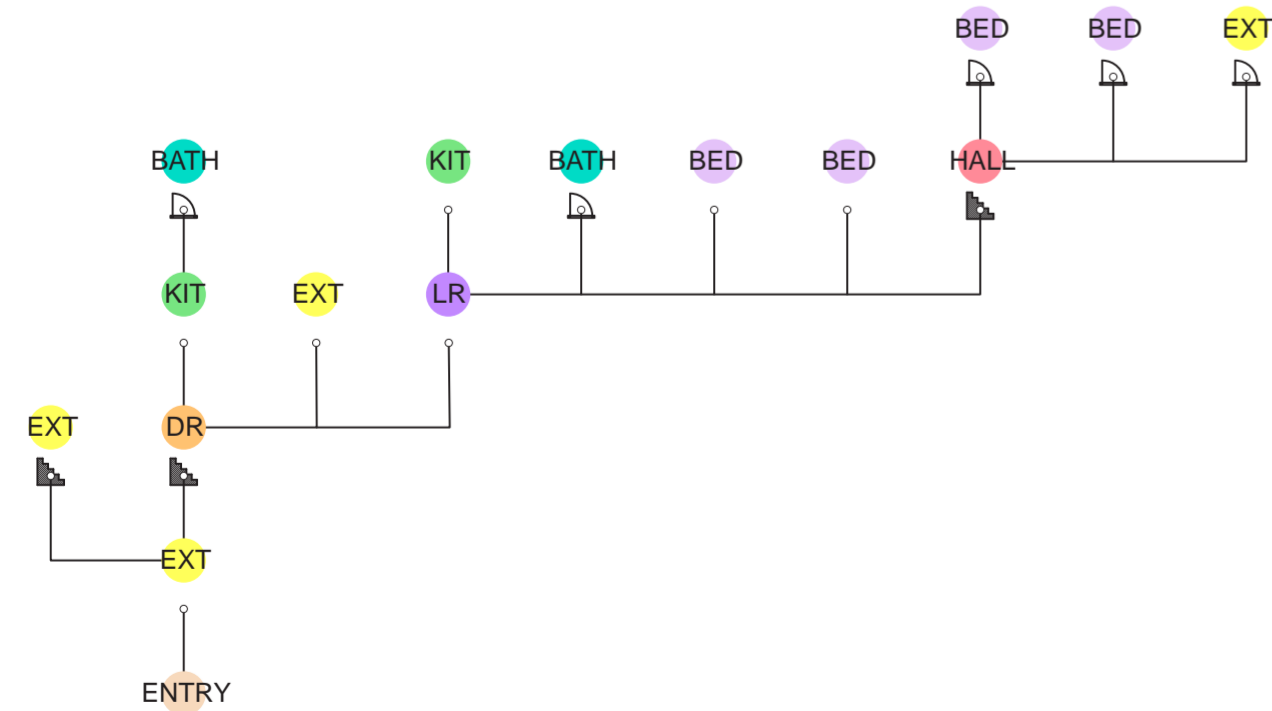


First Floor Plan, 1:100 Scale

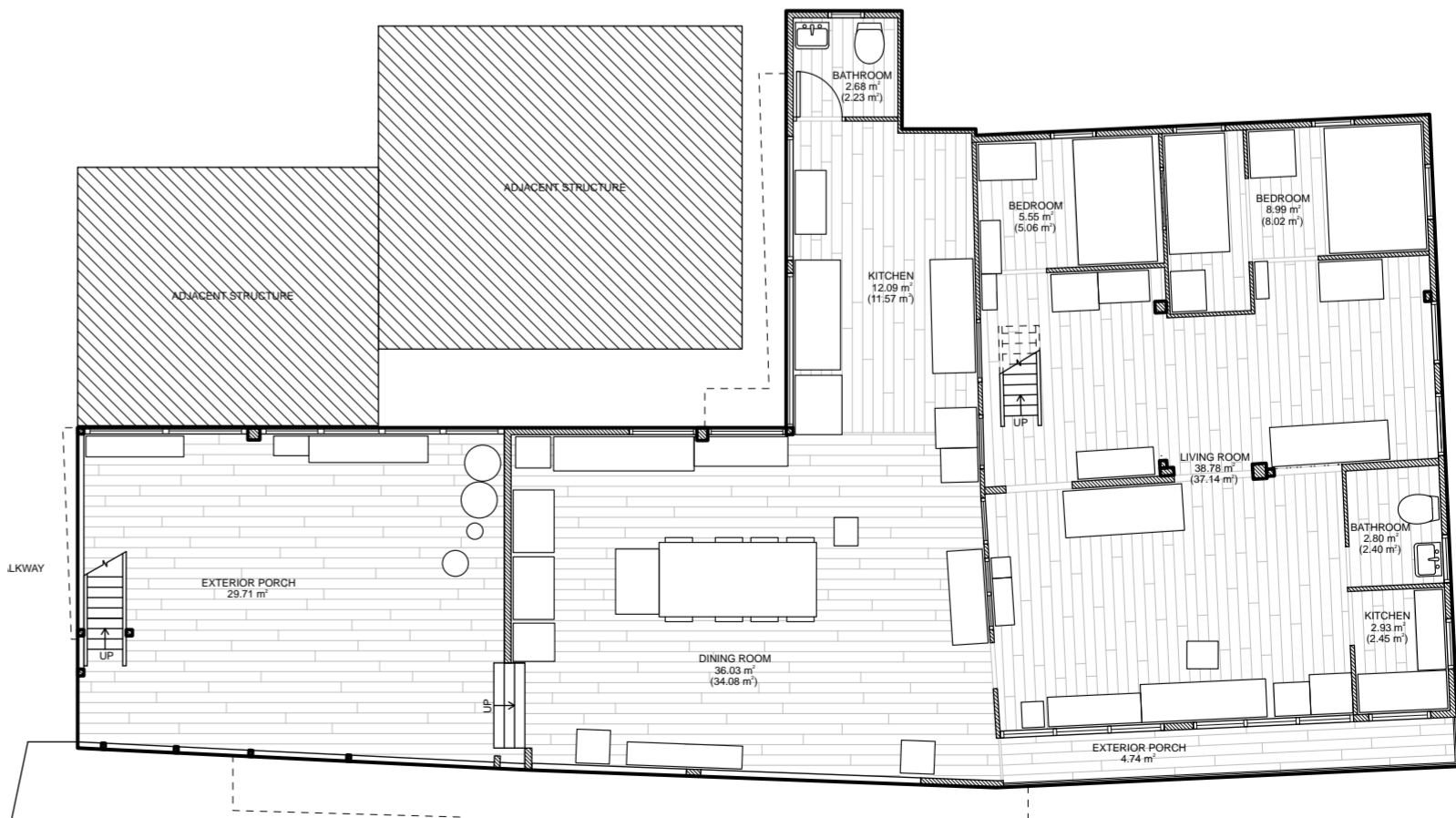


## 261094 SPATIAL PROGRAM NODE TREE

NODE COUNT: 16  
BRANCH COUNT: 15  
BRANCH LEVELS: 5  
CLOSED LOOPS: 0  
ACCESS TO ADJACENT: NO  
WIDTH: 10 UNITS



Ground Floor Plan, 1:100 Scale



## LEGEND

ADJ	Access to adjacent structure	DR	Access to dining room	KIT	Access to kitchen
BATH	Access to bathroom or water closet	ENTRY	Access to house from exterior	LAU	Access to laundry room
BED	Access to bedroom	EXT	Access to exterior porch or space	LR	Access to living room
BOAT	Access to boat dock or boat parking	HALL	Access to hallway or corridor	STO	Access to storage room
	Doored or curtained access		Access via step or stairway		

# Case Summary

## Housing Case 326789

General Research Fund (GRF) Grant: #15600621

Housing Construction Type:  
Light wooden frame with metal cladding  
Stories: 2  
GFA: 110.01 square meters

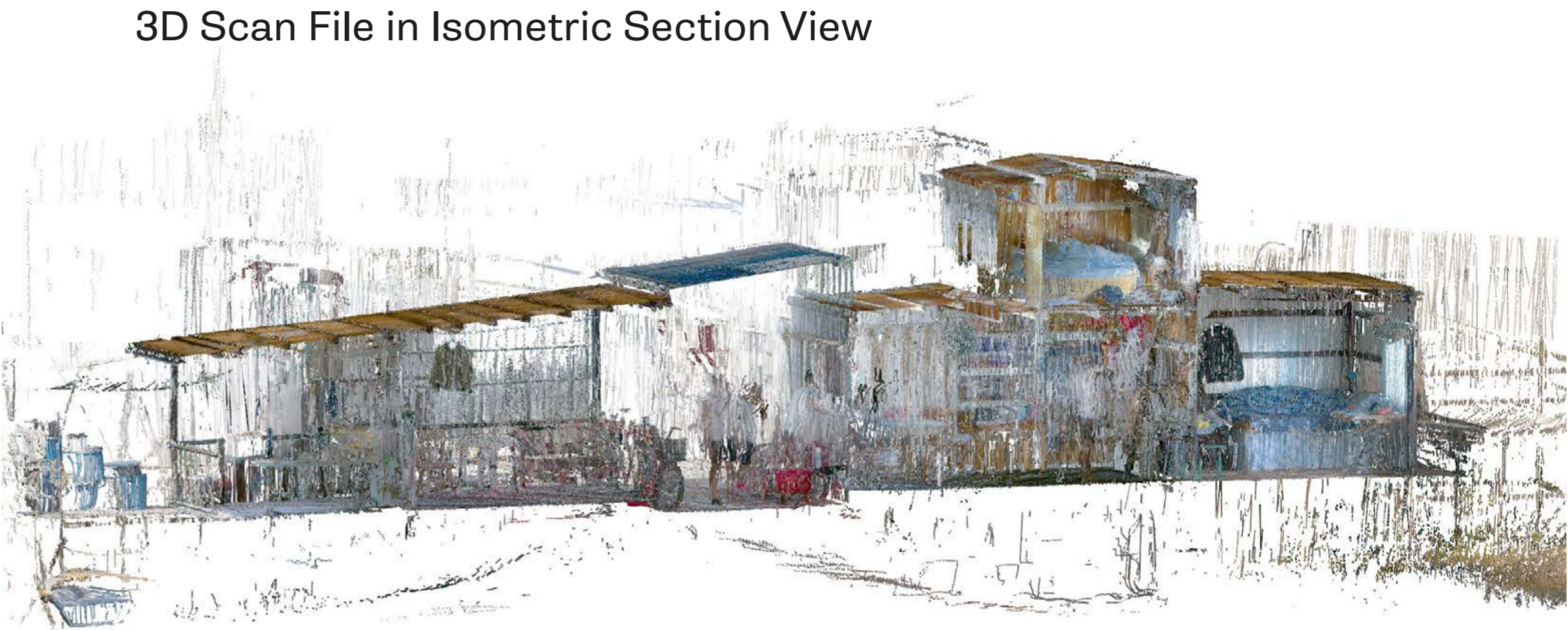
Housing Age: 60 years, based on informant statements. The informant stated that the house, ‘had been [there] for sixty years.’

Physical Housing Development and Informant Participation History: The informant stated that the case house was originally a boat, and that he had been, ‘doing repairs [on the house] for ten years,’ which he later re-stated to be ten to twenty years. Near the end of the interview the informant stated, ‘Before the stilt was like this. This is the stilt. You see it was so simple before,’ while showing the interviewer an old photograph of the case house. This suggests that the case house may have seen at least one, major physical change. However, the informant did not offer many details on the house’s physical condition and changes.

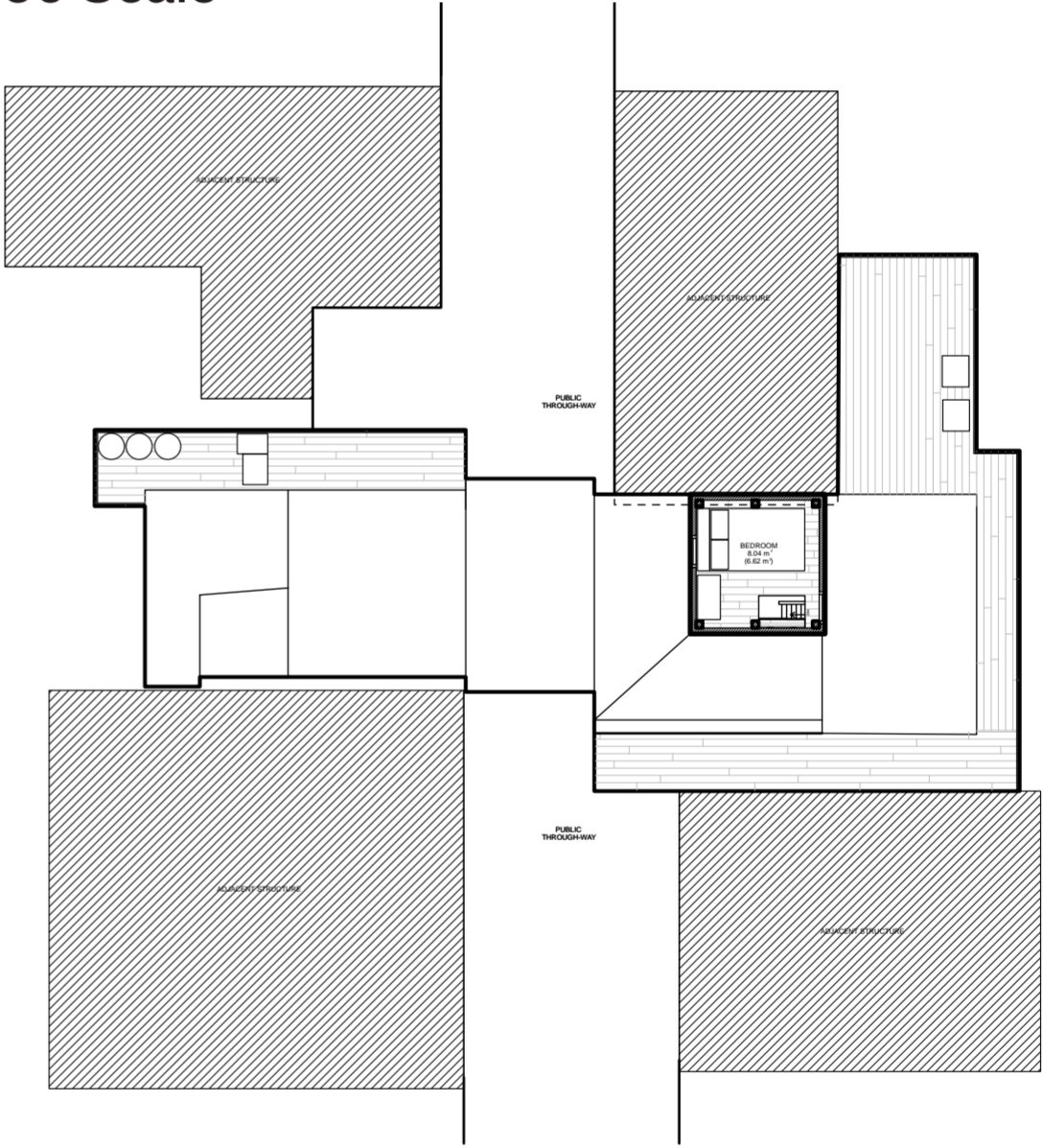
Housing Occupation History and Pattern: The house originally belonged to the informant’s godmother, who he inherited it from. It is possible he inherited the house about 30 years ago, but this is unverified. The informant gave no other reports of changes to tenure and/or occupancy of the case house.

Informant Housing Biography: The case house originally belonged to the informant’s godmother, from whom he inherited it. He stated, ‘I’ve lived here for decades.’ There is relatively little information on his housing biography other than these statements. The informant referred to emigrating from Tai O to work as an apprentice making furniture. He did not make any statements on where he lived at that time. The informant later stated that at the time of the interview, he was responsible for repair and maintenance costs for the case house.

Housing License Status: The informant stated that the house did not have a Surveyed Squatter Structure License.

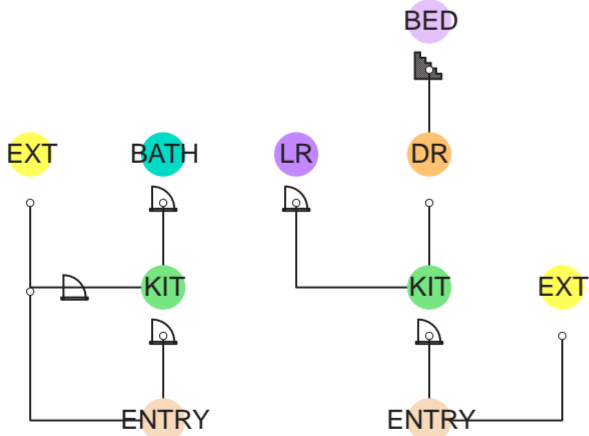


First Floor Plan, 1:150 Scale

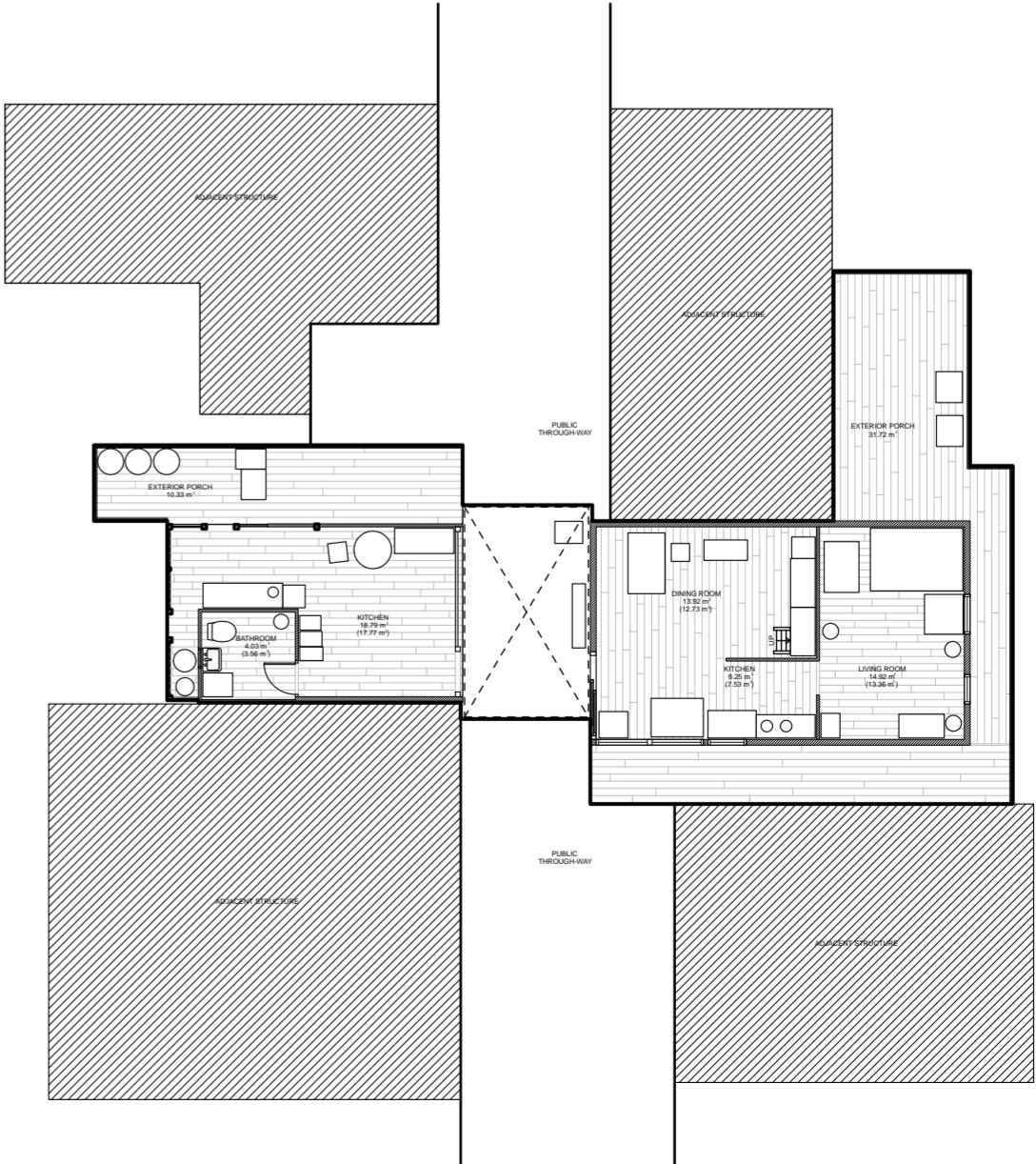


## 326789 SPATIAL PROGRAM NODE TREE

NODE COUNT: 10  
BRANCH COUNT: 9  
BRANCH LEVELS: 3  
CLOSED LOOPS: 0  
ACCESS TO ADJACENT: NO  
WIDTH: 5 UNITS



Ground Floor Plan, 1:150 Scale



## LEGEND

- |             |                                     |              |                                   |            |                        |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| <b>ADJ</b>  | Access to adjacent structure        | <b>DR</b>    | Access to dining room             | <b>KIT</b> | Access to kitchen      |
| <b>BATH</b> | Access to bathroom or water closet  | <b>ENTRY</b> | Access to house from exterior     | <b>LAU</b> | Access to laundry room |
| <b>BED</b>  | Access to bedroom                   | <b>EXT</b>   | Access to exterior porch or space | <b>LR</b>  | Access to living room  |
| <b>BOAT</b> | Access to boat dock or boat parking | <b>HALL</b>  | Access to hallway or corridor     | <b>STO</b> | Access to storage room |
|             | Doored or curtained access          |              | Access via step or stairway       |            |                        |

# Case Summary

## Housing Case 328954

General Research Fund (GRF) Grant: #15600621

Housing Construction Type:  
Light wooden frame with metal cladding  
Stories: 2  
GFA: 104.48 square meters

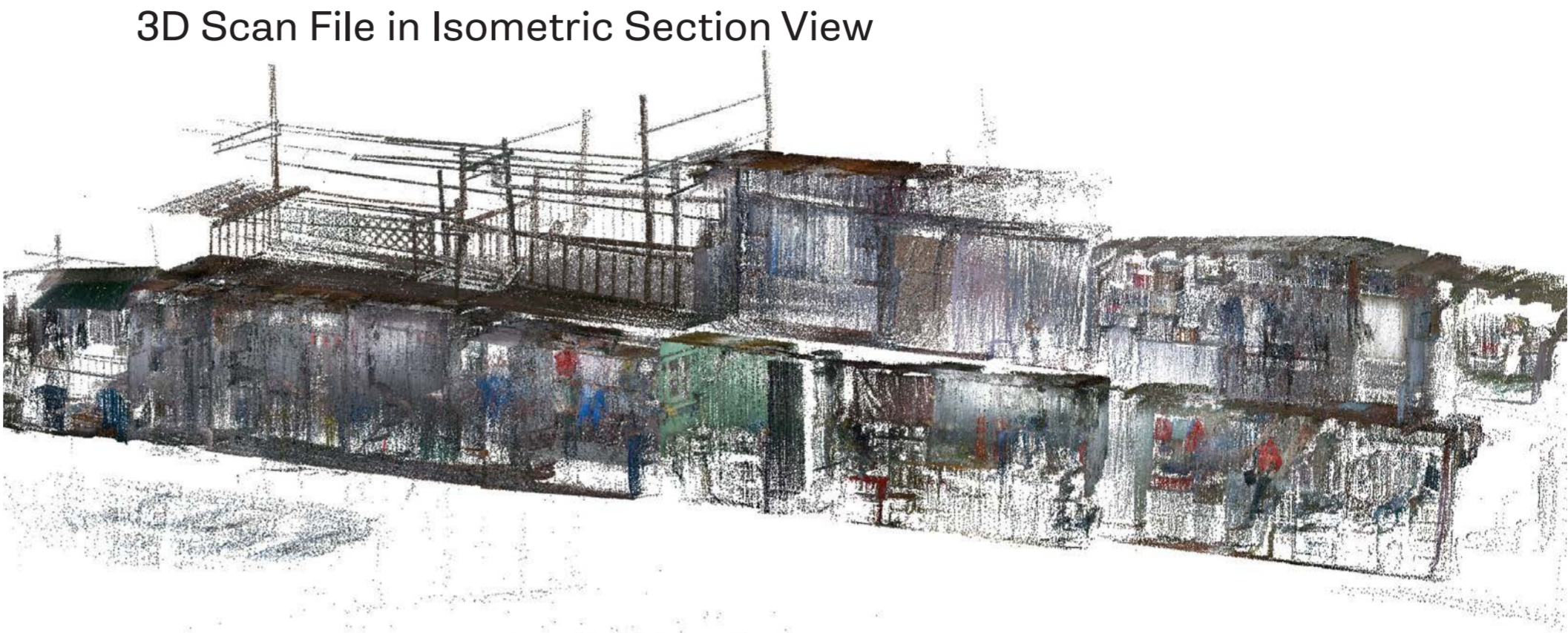
Housing Age: Approximately 88 years or more, inferred from the age of the informant and his statements implying that he lived in the house for most of his life and that the house had existed before he was born.

Physical Housing Development and Informant Participation History: The informant offered few details on the physical condition and changes to the case house, but implied that it was added to from its original state over time. He stated, ‘All of our stilts are over the boundary. With all the beds, ours is hovering over this area too, just because we have all the members. We made it roomier,’ and later discussed the addition of a storeroom from the house relatively recent to the time of the interview. The informant also described how multiple, connected stilt houses around the case house belonged to him and his brothers, and related that two separate stilt houses owned by the family were registered under the same license.

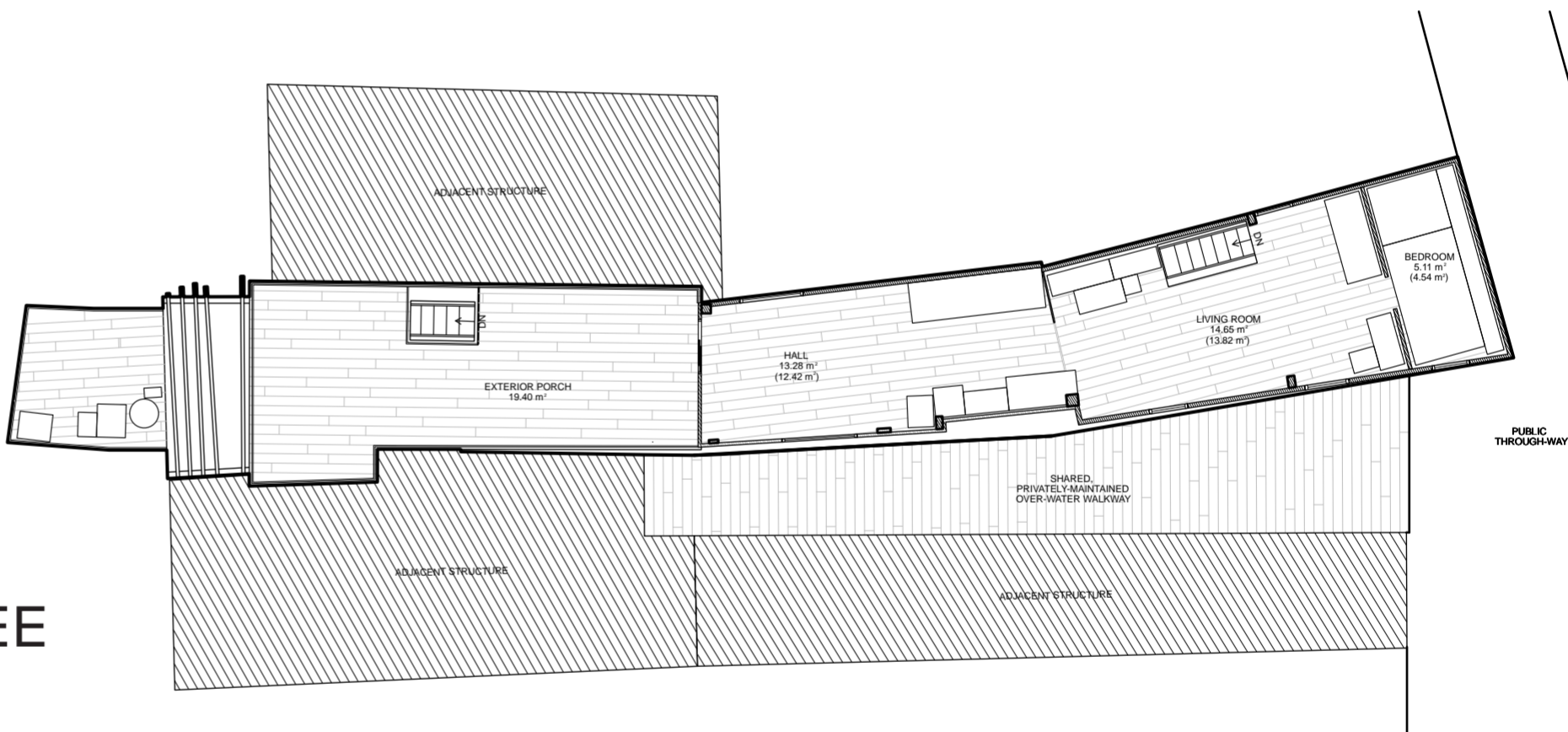
Housing Occupation History and Pattern: The case house and the surrounding stilt houses have been owned by members of the informant’s family since his childhood, with multiple stilt houses being occupied by the informant’s brothers who live nearby, either continuously or intermittently. The case house is the house with the original license. However, a second house belonging to the informant’s brother was built and/or registered under the same license. The informant stated that he lived in the case house with his wife, and that his children and grandchildren visit the case house at times.

Informant Housing Biography: There is minimal record of this informant’s housing biography. At the time of the interview, he was living in the case house, which he described as having been occupied by 20-30 people about forty years before the time of the interview.

Housing License Status: The informant stated that the house had a Surveyed Squatter Structure License.

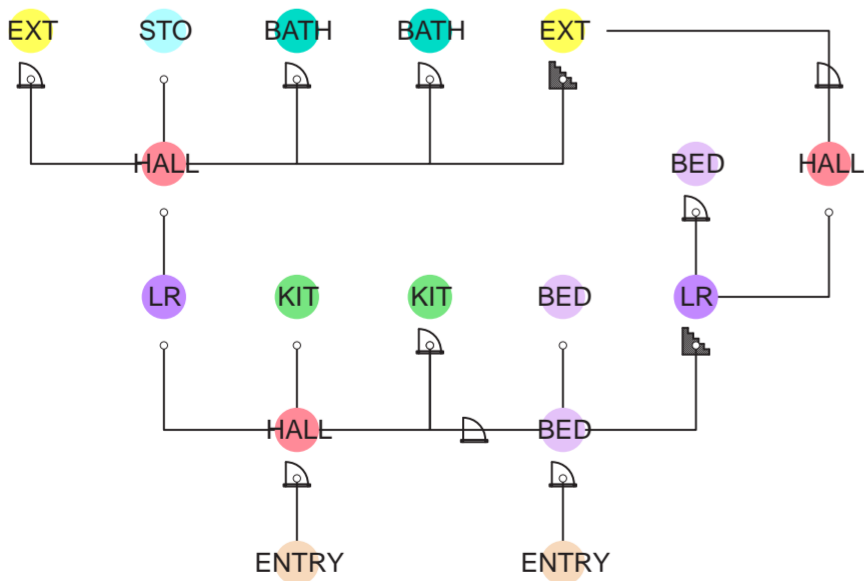


First Floor Plan, 1:100 Scale

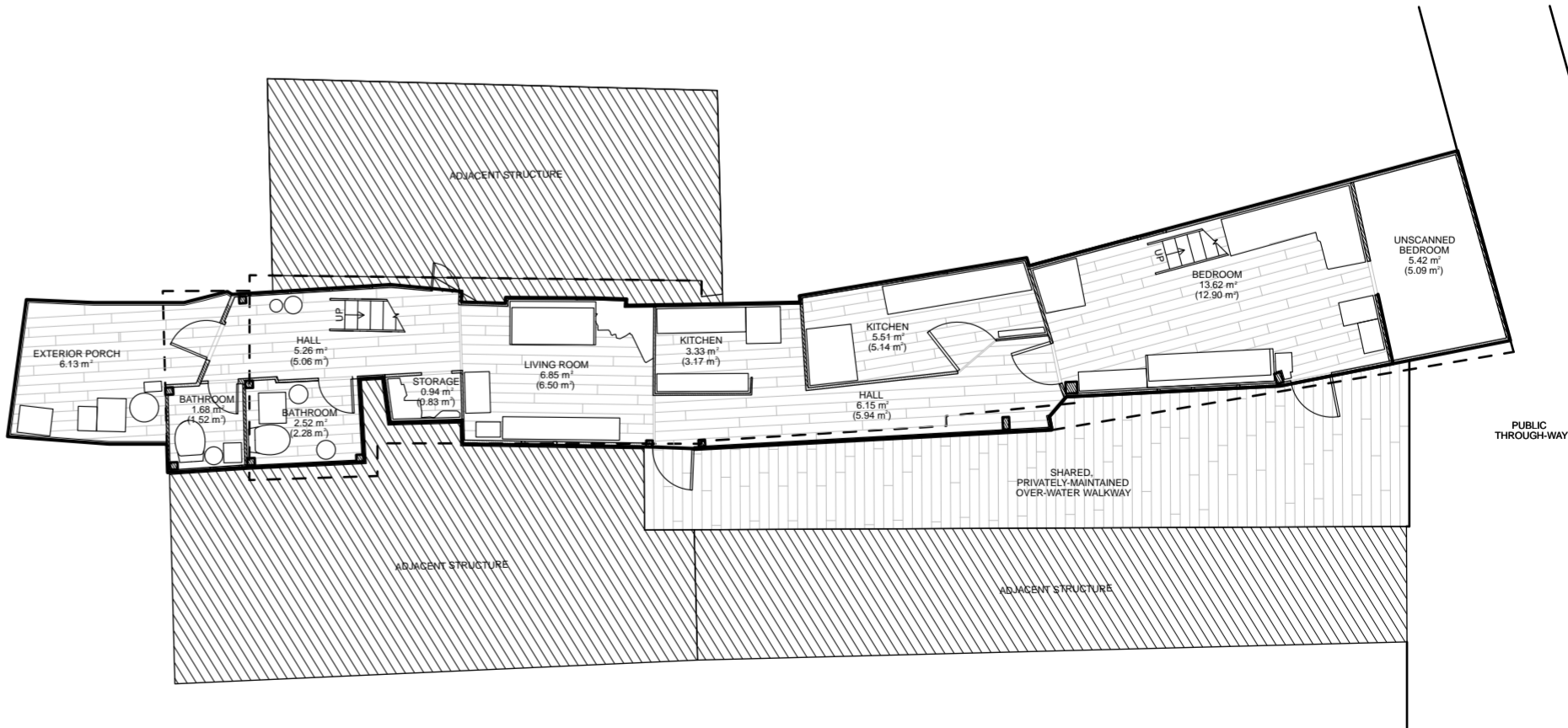


## 328954 SPATIAL PROGRAM NODE TREE

NODE COUNT: 17  
BRANCH COUNT: 17  
BRANCH LEVELS: 4  
CLOSED LOOPS: 1  
ACCESS TO ADJACENT: NO  
WIDTH: 7 UNITS



Ground Floor Plan, 1:100 Scale



## LEGEND

- |      |                                     |       |                                   |     |                        |
|------|-------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|-----|------------------------|
| ADJ  | Access to adjacent structure        | DR    | Access to dining room             | KIT | Access to kitchen      |
| BATH | Access to bathroom or water closet  | ENTRY | Access to house from exterior     | LAU | Access to laundry room |
| BED  | Access to bedroom                   | EXT   | Access to exterior porch or space | LR  | Access to living room  |
| BOAT | Access to boat dock or boat parking | HALL  | Access to hallway or corridor     | STO | Access to storage room |
|      | Doored or curtained access          |       | Access via step or stairway       |     |                        |

# Case Summary

## Housing Case 478523

General Research Fund (GRF) Grant: #15600621

Housing Construction Type:  
Light wooden frame with metal cladding  
Stories: 2  
GFA: 105.74 square meters

Housing Age: Approximately 50 years based on the informant’s estimate.

Physical Housing Development and Informant Participation History: When asked if he lived on a boat when he was young, the informant stated, ‘we used to have another house next door,’ to the case house when he was a child. He stated that the family later purchased land from the descendants of a deceased pig farmer and built the case house. This house has apparently been added onto and altered throughout its history. At one point the informant stated, ‘I demolished the house to move to Lung Tin Estate... I kept one and demolished another.’ The informant offered few other details about physical changes to or the physical state of the case house during the interview.

Housing Occupation History and Pattern: The informant gave little information on others living in the case house, but implied that he had lived in the house from when he returned from living in Lung Tin Estate.

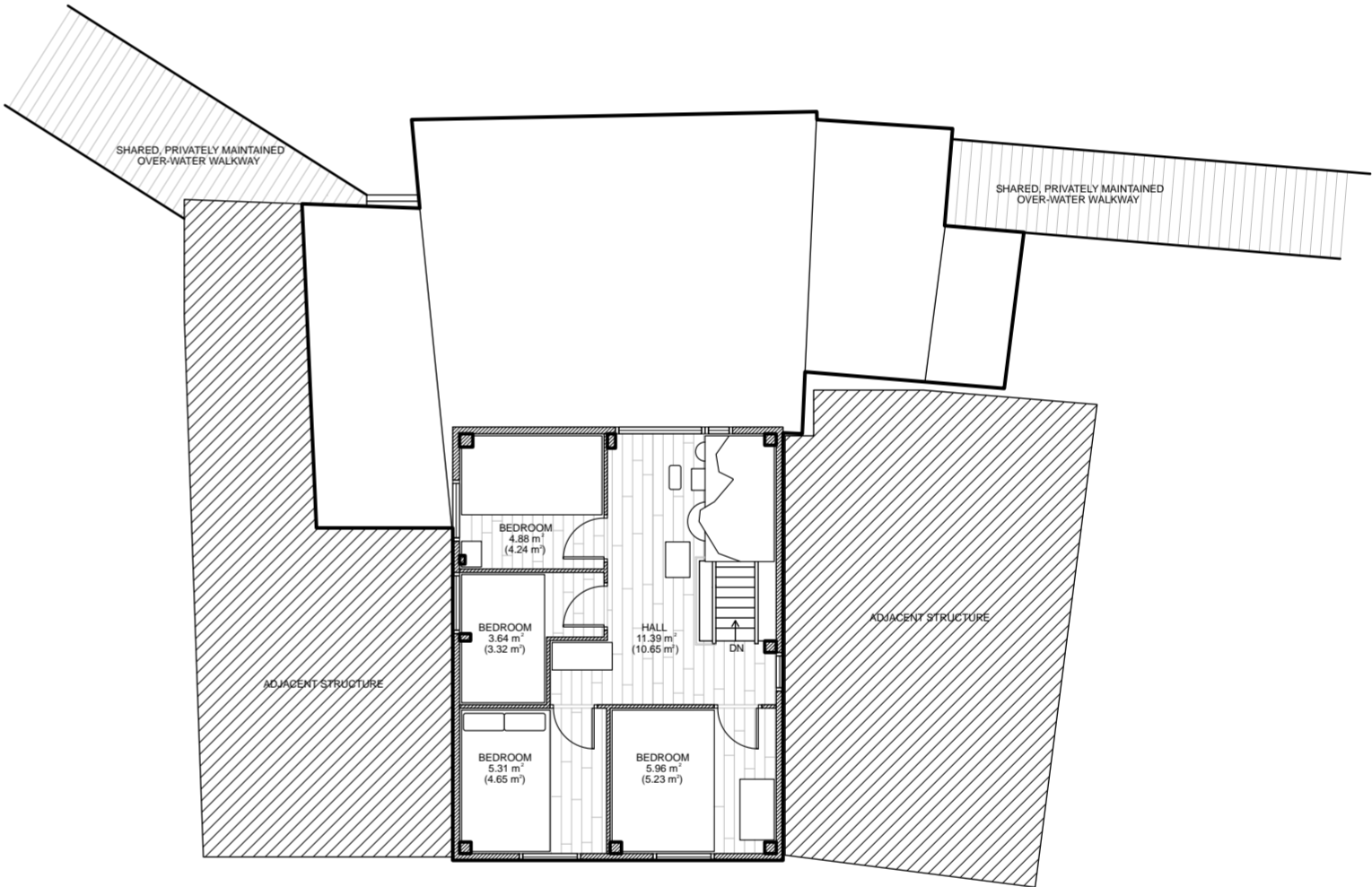
Informant Housing Biography: The informant related that when he was a child his family owned a house, ‘next door,’ to the case house in Tai O Village where he lived. The case house was built later in his childhood, sometime in the 1970’s, but the specific date was not stated during the interview. He related renting a flat in the city with a friend, bringing his younger siblings to live with him there so they could attend secondary school in Hong Kong and find work. He also related that at one point he moved from the case house to live in Lung Tin Estate. There is no other information about his housing biography, and he presumably lived in the case house from his return to Tai O later in life up to the time of the interview.

Housing License Status: The informant stated that the house had a Surveyed Squatter Structure License in his name.

3D Scan File in Isometric Section View

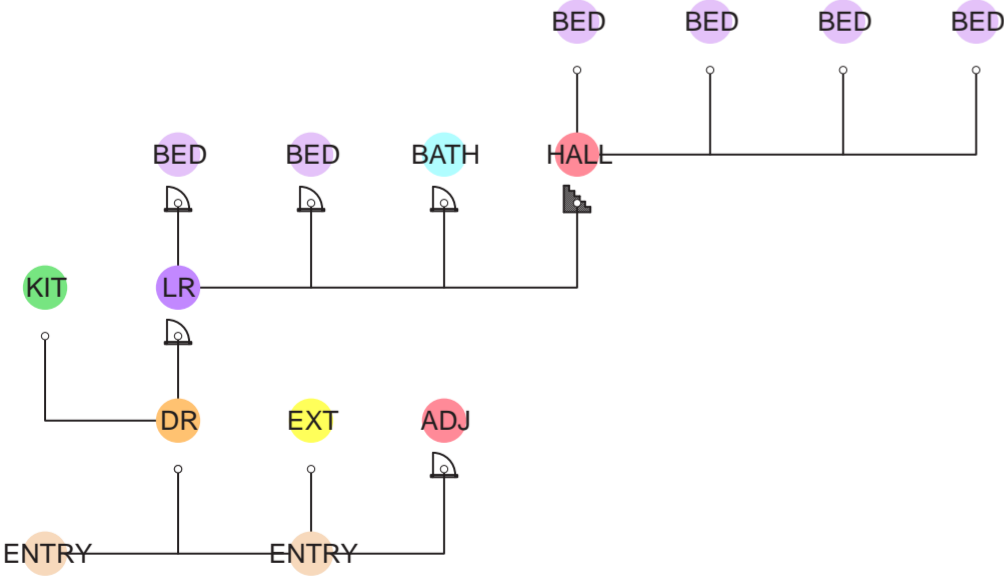


First Floor Plan, 1:100 Scale



## 478523 SPATIAL PROGRAM NODE TREE

NODE COUNT: 15  
BRANCH COUNT: 14  
BRANCH LEVELS: 4  
CLOSED LOOPS: 0  
ACCESS TO ADJACENT: YES  
WIDTH: 8 UNITS



Ground Floor Plan, 1:100 Scale



## LEGEND

<b>ADJ</b>	Access to adjacent structure	<b>DR</b>	Access to dining room	<b>KIT</b>	Access to kitchen
<b>BATH</b>	Access to bathroom or water closet	<b>ENTRY</b>	Access to house from exterior	<b>LAU</b>	Access to laundry room
<b>BED</b>	Access to bedroom	<b>EXT</b>	Access to exterior porch or space	<b>LR</b>	Access to living room
<b>BOAT</b>	Access to boat dock or boat parking	<b>HALL</b>	Access to hallway or corridor	<b>STO</b>	Access to storage room
	Doored or curtained access		Access via step or stairway		

# Case Summary

## Housing Case 539775

General Research Fund (GRF) Grant: #15600621

Housing Construction Type:  
Light wooden frame with metal cladding  
Stories: 2  
GFA: 99.71 square meters

Housing Age: At least 40 years. The informant stated that she had lived there for more than 40 years, but also that, ‘People lived [there] before.’

Physical Housing Development and Informant Participation History: Originally the case house belonged to the informant’s sister-in-law. Her husband and son worked on building the house themselves to save money. She stated, ‘At that time [her son’s] father helped to build it together.’ She related that the stilt house’s roof was damaged during a typhoon at one point, and her husband and son repaired it. No other physical changes to the house were reported during the interview.

Housing Occupation History and Pattern: The informant’s immediate family received the house from her husband’s elder sister, who gave the house to them after they moved to Tai O from other parts of Hong Kong. When asked to estimate the age of the original house, the informant stated, ‘I don’t remember. It’s been decades surely. My husband’s elder sister gave it to us to live,’ indicating that the case house’s original state is possibly much older than her approximate 40 years of tenure in it.

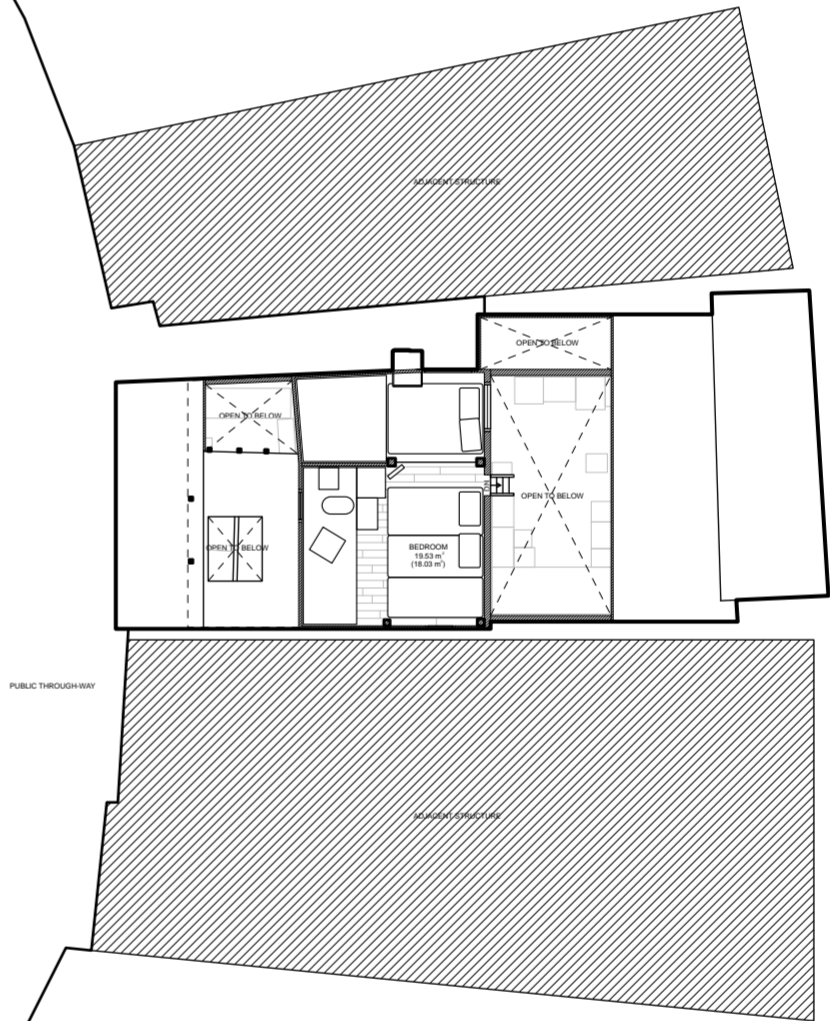
Informant Housing Biography: The informant stated her family migrated to Hong Kong when she was 16, and she lived on a boat with her uncle until she was married at 20. After marriage, she and her husband lived on a boat elsewhere until their eldest daughter, ‘was several years old.’ After that point, they moved their boat to Tai O Village. Later, she related that her husband’s elder sister, ‘introduced,’ a location for them to live in Tai O, where they parked their boat and remained, living in the case house. There are no additional reports of her living elsewhere.

Housing License Status: The informant stated that the house had a Surveyed Squatter Structure License in the informant’s sister-in-law’s name.

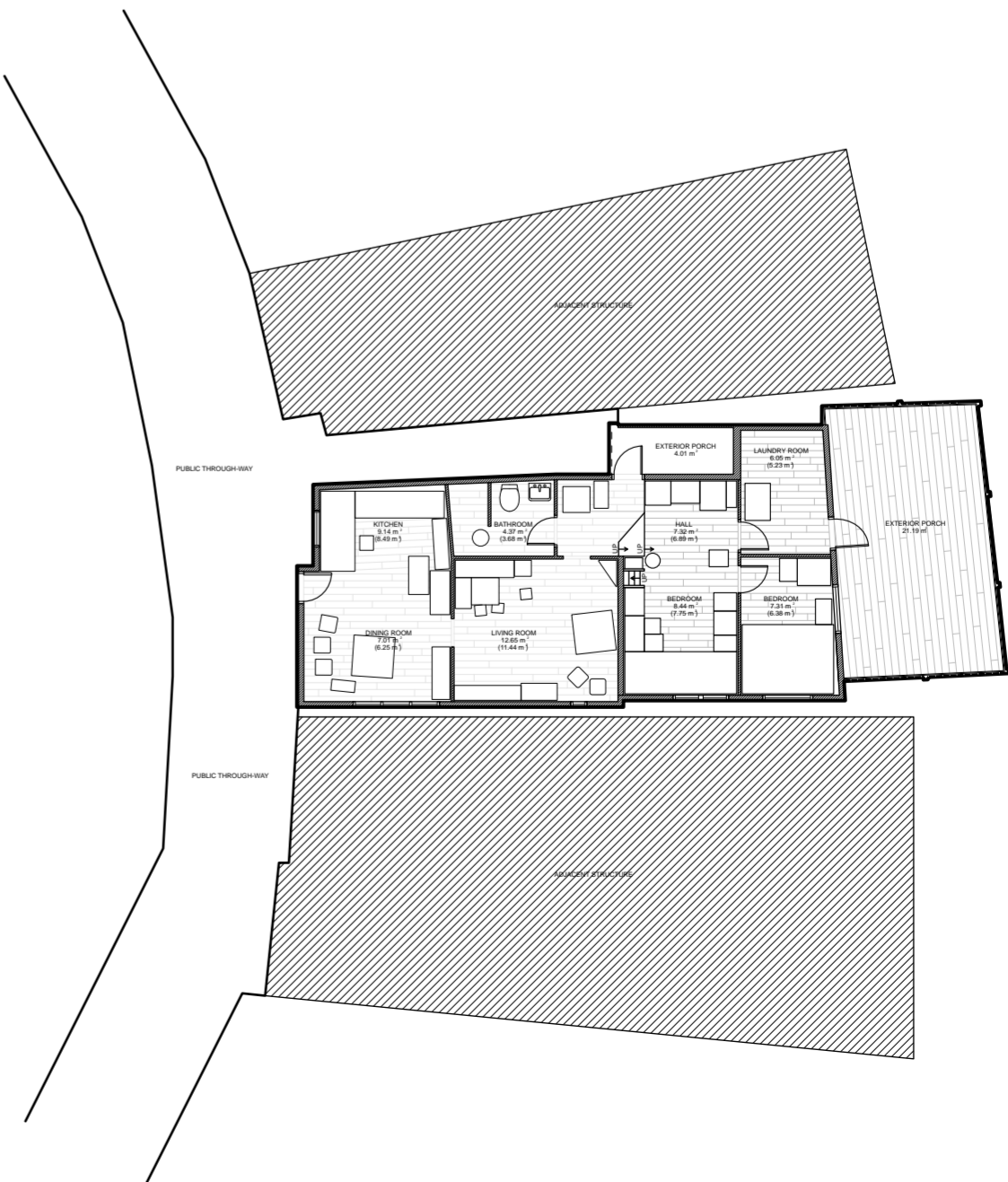
3D Scan File in Isometric Section View



First Floor Plan, 1:150 Scale

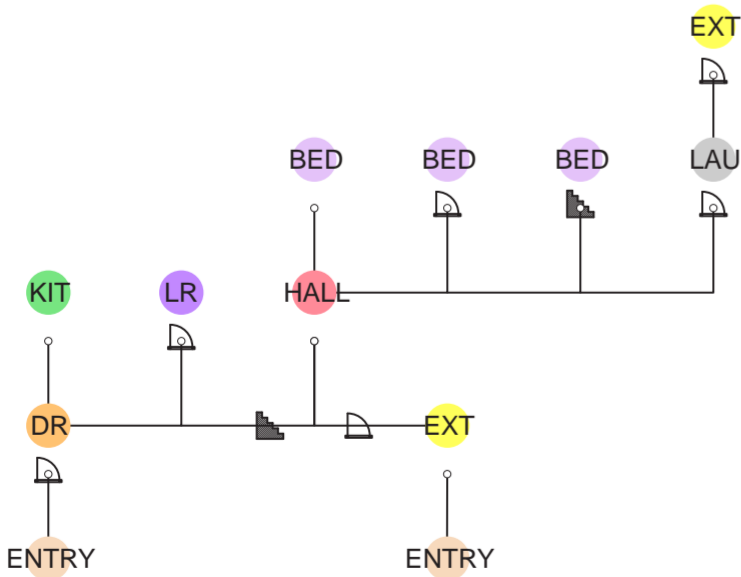


Ground Floor Plan, 1:150 Scale



### 539775 SPATIAL PROGRAM NODE TREE

NODE COUNT: 12  
BRANCH COUNT: 11  
BRANCH LEVELS: 4  
CLOSED LOOPS: 0  
ACCESS TO ADJACENT: NO  
WIDTH: 6 UNITS



### LEGEND

- |             |                                     |              |                                   |            |                        |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| <b>ADJ</b>  | Access to adjacent structure        | <b>DR</b>    | Access to dining room             | <b>KIT</b> | Access to kitchen      |
| <b>BATH</b> | Access to bathroom or water closet  | <b>ENTRY</b> | Access to house from exterior     | <b>LAU</b> | Access to laundry room |
| <b>BED</b>  | Access to bedroom                   | <b>EXT</b>   | Access to exterior porch or space | <b>LR</b>  | Access to living room  |
| <b>BOAT</b> | Access to boat dock or boat parking | <b>HALL</b>  | Access to hallway or corridor     | <b>STO</b> | Access to storage room |
|             | Doored or curtained access          |              | Access via step or stairway       |            |                        |

# Case Summary

## Housing Case 583904

General Research Fund (GRF) Grant: #15600621

Housing Construction Type:

Light wooden frame with metal cladding

## Stories: 2

GFA: 64.35 square meters

Housing Age: 100+ years based on the informant estimate, '[The case house is] over a hundred years old and has been home to several generations.'

Physical Housing Development and Informant Participation History: It is unclear whether or not the case house was built in the original location of another stilt house. The informant referred to the case house as their, 'ancestral home,' that she estimates as being over one-hundred years old. However, she also referred to the case house being built about 40 years ago, roughly 3 years after she and her husband married and moved to the case house location from a house his family owned nearby. It is possible that they applied to license an existing stilt house in this location and rebuilt it into the case house's recorded state. She stated that they, 'hired construction workers to build this house decades ago,' but mentioned herself and her husband contributing significantly to the repair and maintenance of the house.

Housing Occupation History and Pattern: The informant and her husband built the house when they returned to live in Tai O after getting married. Her husband's family owned a stilt house near the case house, where her mother-in-law and husband's siblings lived. They lived in the husband's family's house for, 'about 3 years,' before applying to build the case house. They applied for and secured a license for the house, about 40 years before the time of the interview. The informant explained that her family shared use of the house across their extended family.

**Informant Housing Biography:** The informant was born and grew up in Tai O before moving to Kowloon to find work around age 11. She met and married her husband, another Tai O native, and returned to Tai O to live after they married when she was around age 21. The informant and her husband moved into a nearby house in Tai O that her husband's family owned for, 'about 3 years,' before applying for a license to build the case house, where she had lived in continuously up until the time of the interview. She mentioned direct participation in building and repairing the house, stating, 'Our house used to be very simple, but we gradually improved it by expanding and repairing it ourselves.' Additions to the house over time that she reported included addition of a kitchen and expansion of an exterior veranda.

Housing License Status: The informant stated that the house had a Surveyed Squatter Structure License in her mother-in-law's name.

## 583904 SPATIAL PROGRAM NODE TREE

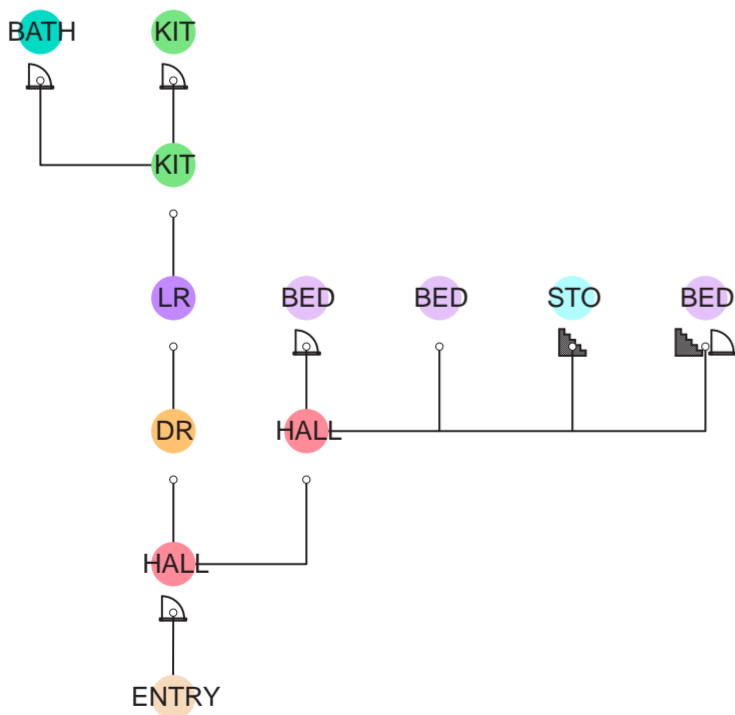
NODE COUNT: 12

BRANCH COUNT: 11















BRANCH LEVELS: 5

CLOSED LOOPS: 0

ACCESS TO ADJ  
WIDTH: 6 UNITS



## LEGEND

 <b>ADJ</b>	Access to adjacent structure	 <b>DR</b>	Access to dining room	 <b>KIT</b>	Access to kitchen
 <b>BATH</b>	Access to bathroom or water closet	 <b>ENTRY</b>	Access to house from exterior	 <b>LAU</b>	Access to laundry room
 <b>BED</b>	Access to bedroom	 <b>EXT</b>	Access to exterior porch or space	 <b>LR</b>	Access to living room
 <b>BOAT</b>	Access to boat dock or boat parking	 <b>HALL</b>	Access to hallway or corridor	 <b>STO</b>	Access to storage room
	Doored or curtained access		Access via step or stairway		

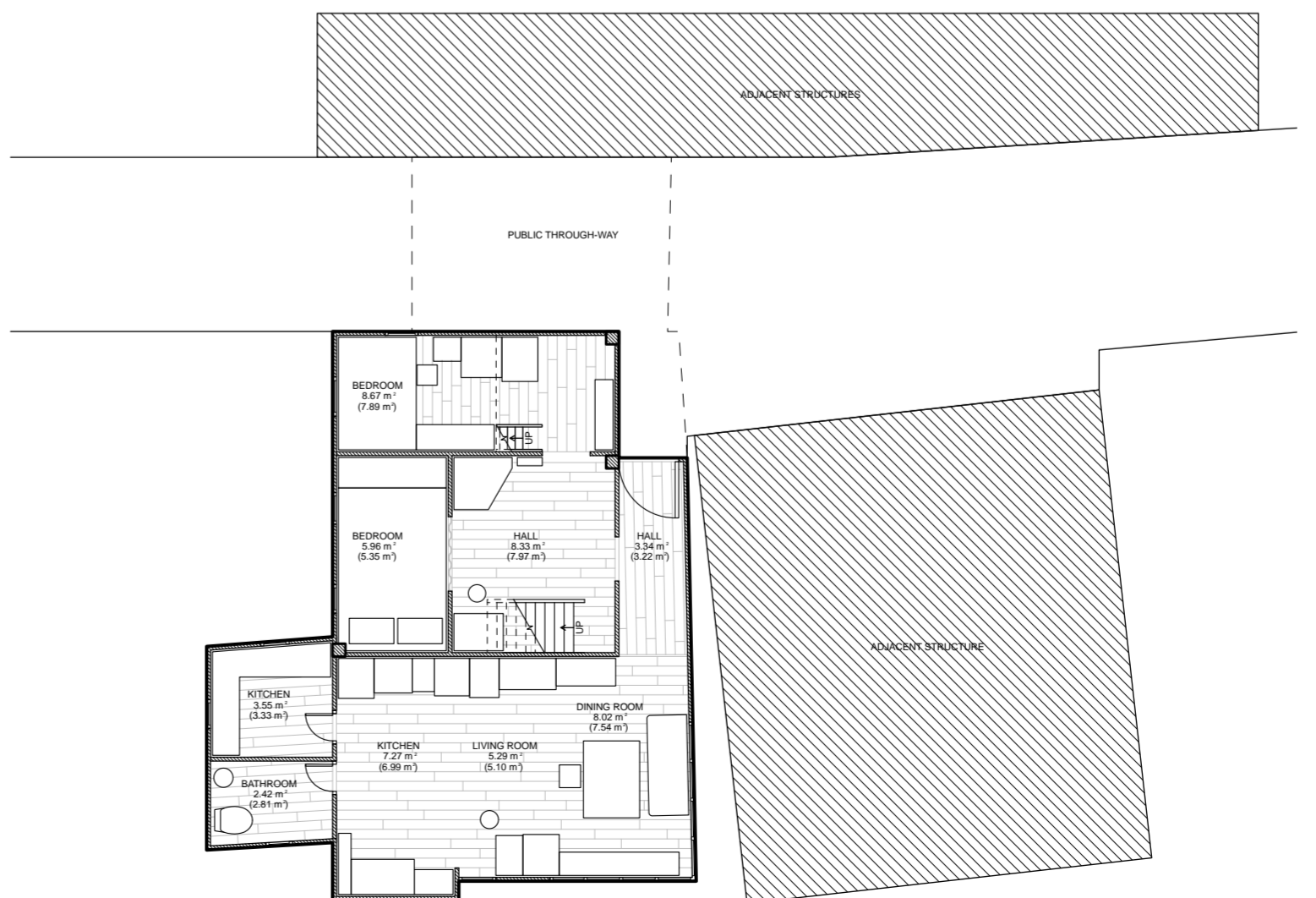
### 3D Scan File in Isometric Section View



## First Floor Plan, 1:100 Scale



## Ground Floor Plan, 1:100 Scale



# Case Summary

## Housing Case 651290

General Research Fund (GRF) Grant: #15600621

Housing Construction Type:  
Light wooden frame with metal cladding  
Stories: 2  
GFA: 149.88 square meters

Housing Age: The age of the house in its recorded condition is around 50 years, inferred from the female informant's statements about the demolition of the original, round-topped house in the 1980's.

Physical Housing Development and Informant Participation History: According to the male informant's description of his family's immigration to Tai O, the case house was in the location where the family's boat parked after traveling from Mainland China. He stated, 'once the boat arrived, we started building the stilt house.' He described the early stages of the case house conditions as an, 'arched type,' house which was lower in height than the recorded condition. The informants related making small modifications to the stilt house on their own, but that major works were done by contractors [*sifus*]. There are no other reports on physical changes beyond that point apart from small, self-designed furniture construction the informants completed to mitigate typhoon damage.

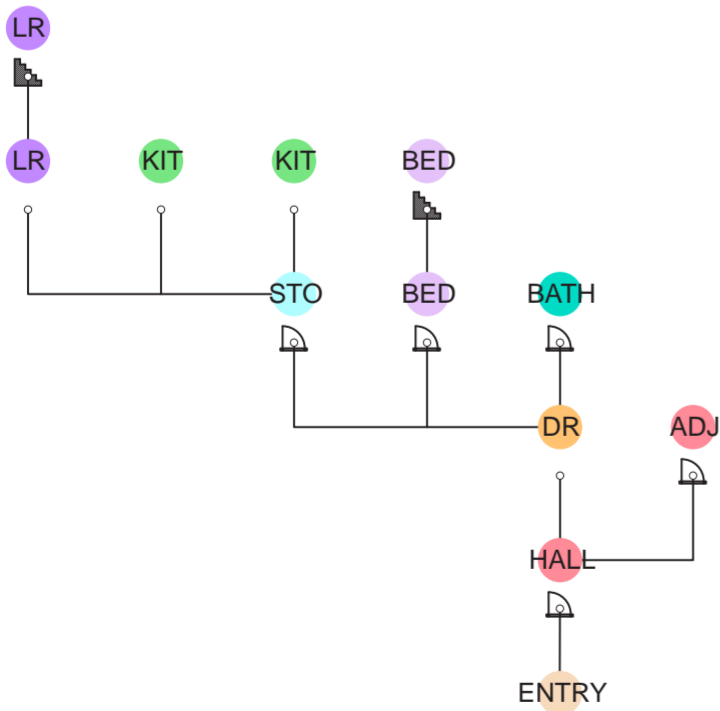
Housing Occupation History and Pattern: The case house is in the original location where the informant's family parked their boat after immigrating from Mainland China. Over time, the case house was built and rebuilt in roughly the same location. The informant related that his siblings had, 'moved out. Some got married, some went abroad and moved to America,' at the time of the interview. The informants made frequent mention of relatives' return to the case house for holidays and weekends, including children, grandchildren, in-laws, and nieces and nephews.

Informant Housing Biography: The male informant related relatively few direct reports about his housing biography. However, based on his reports of commuting from Tai O to various jobs throughout his working life, the informant seemingly lived in the case house from his childhood until the time of the interview. He also reported that he was born in Tai O. The female informant also related very little direct information about her housing biography during the interview. She related that she lived in Tai O as a child. Other than this, there is little information about the informant's housing situation throughout her life in the interview, but she lived in the case house at the time the interview was conducted. Based on her husband's account, she likely lived in the case house at the time of her marriage at age 18.

Housing License Status: The informants made no report on whether the house had a Surveyed Squatter Structure License.

### 651290 SPATIAL PROGRAM NODE TREE

NODE COUNT: 12  
BRANCH COUNT: 11  
BRANCH LEVELS: 5  
CLOSED LOOPS: 0  
ACCESS TO ADJACENT: YES  
WIDTH: 6 UNITS



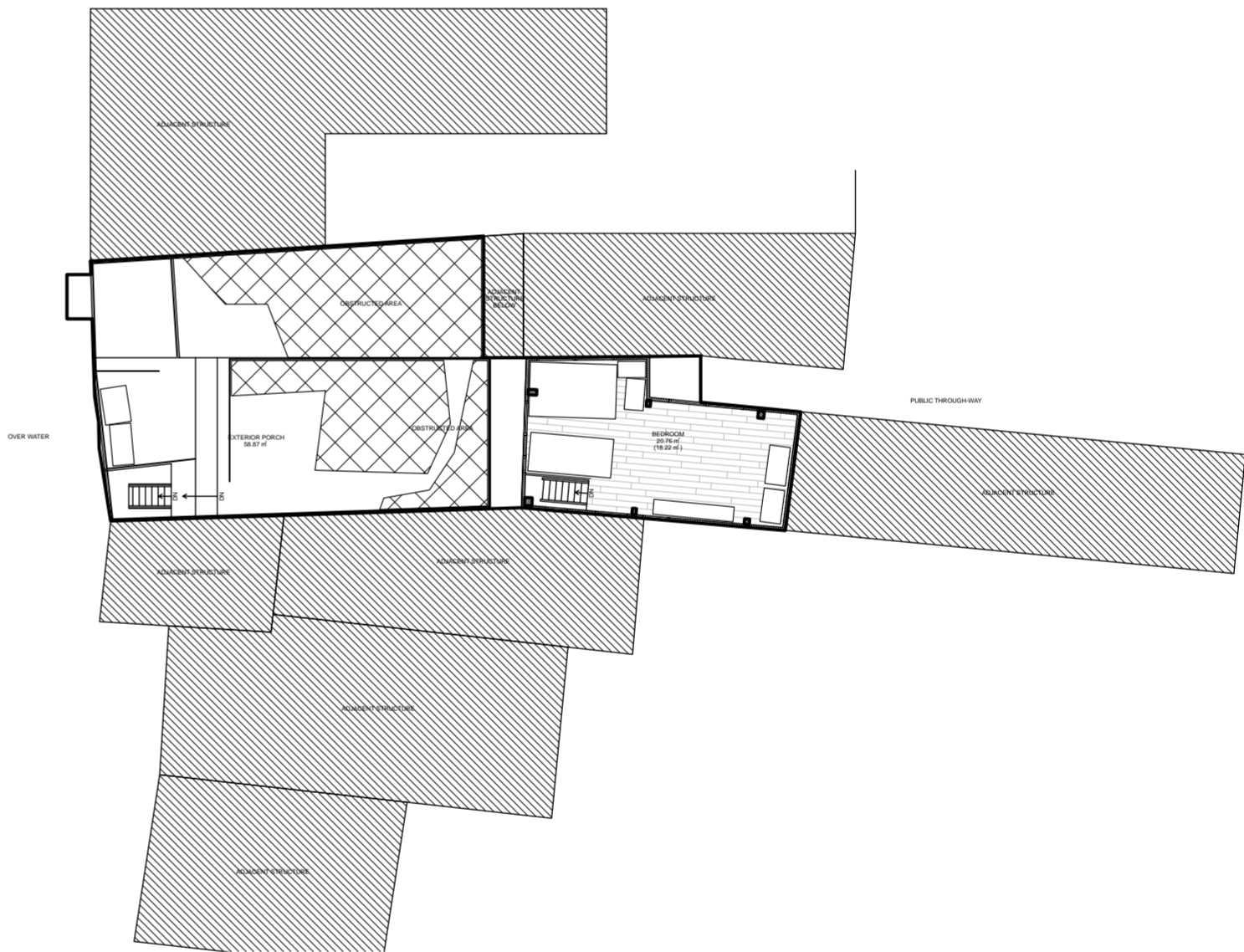
### LEGEND

- |      |                                     |       |                                   |     |                        |
|------|-------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|-----|------------------------|
| ADJ  | Access to adjacent structure        | DR    | Access to dining room             | KIT | Access to kitchen      |
| BATH | Access to bathroom or water closet  | ENTRY | Access to house from exterior     | LAU | Access to laundry room |
| BED  | Access to bedroom                   | EXT   | Access to exterior porch or space | LR  | Access to living room  |
| BOAT | Access to boat dock or boat parking | HALL  | Access to hallway or corridor     | STO | Access to storage room |
|      | Doored or curtained access          |       | Access via step or stairway       |     |                        |

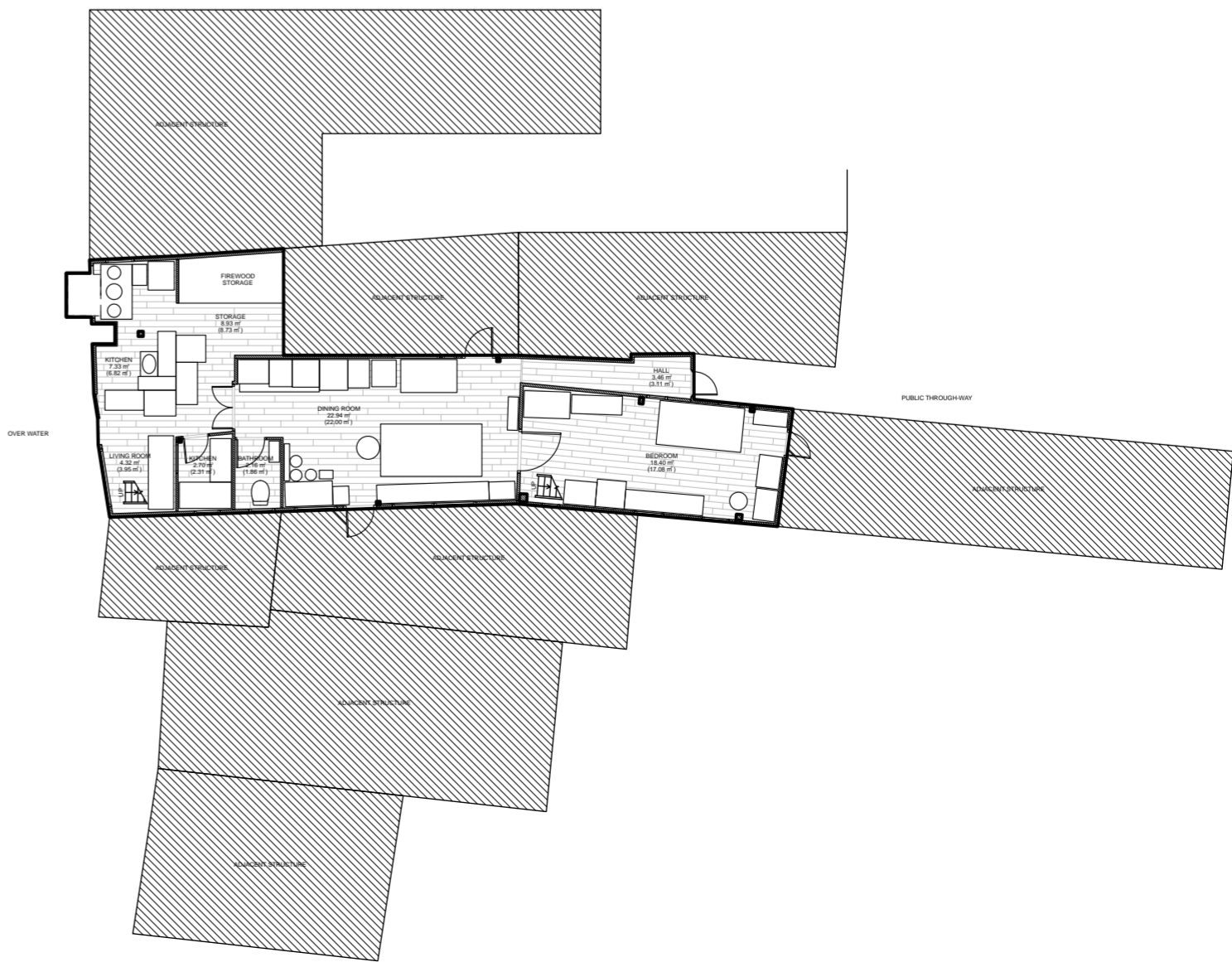
3D Scan File in Isometric Section View



First Floor Plan, 1:150 Scale



Ground Floor Plan, 1:150 Scale



# Case Summary

## Housing Case 687795

General Research Fund (GRF) Grant: #15600621

Housing Construction Type:  
Light wooden frame with metal cladding  
Stories: 2  
GFA: 123.7 square meters

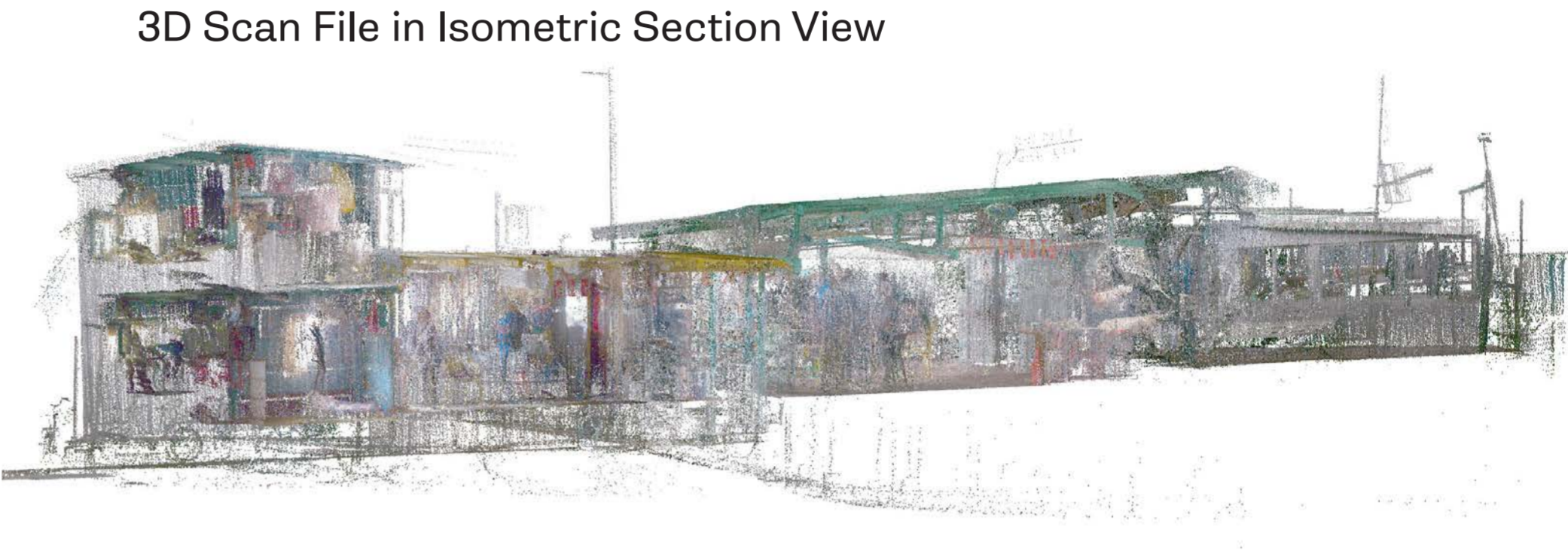
Housing Age: Approximately 40 years. Discussing the ages of the two houses known to belong to the family in Tai O, the informant stated the case house, ‘is around 40-50 years old.’

Physical Housing Development and Informant Participation History: The informant related that the case house, ‘was a boat. We built a stilt house after.’ She also made multiple mentions of her family participating in the construction, stating, ‘Back in the days when we could do it, my husband and my younger brother, they were hands-on if they could be.’ From her other statements we can infer that most of the construction on the case house was likely completed by contractors.

Housing Occupation History and Pattern: The case house originally belonged to and was licensed to the informant’s father, after which her younger brother inherited it. From the informant’s childhood, she related that her siblings moved from the case house, stating, ‘They’re living, but all of them have moved out when they married.’ At the time of the interview, the informant was living alone with her husband in the case house and noted that her two daughters came back to the stilt house occasionally.

Informant Housing Biography: The informant’s housing biography, in terms of the specific house she lived in, is complicated by the fact that her family owned both the case house, and a small stilt house nearby in the same part of Tai O Village. She stated multiple times that she, ‘was born here,’ so we can infer that she was born in Tai O Village, though the exact location she lived in during childhood is unclear. The case house belonged to her father, who paid ground rent to a landowner to live and build a stilt house on the location. We can infer that the informant possibly moved from the case house to the small house nearby when she married her husband at age twenty. At some point, her younger brother inherited the case house and became its official owner, which we confirmed based on testimony from a neighbor living nearby. The informant’s younger brother lived elsewhere at the time of the interview, and the informant related that she and her husband moved into the case at some point because her husband could not climb the stairs in the smaller house they lived in. She apparently lived in the case house from this unknown point in the past up to the time of the interview, and did not report living anywhere else.

Housing License Status: The informant stated that the house had a Surveyed Squatter Structure License assigned to her father.

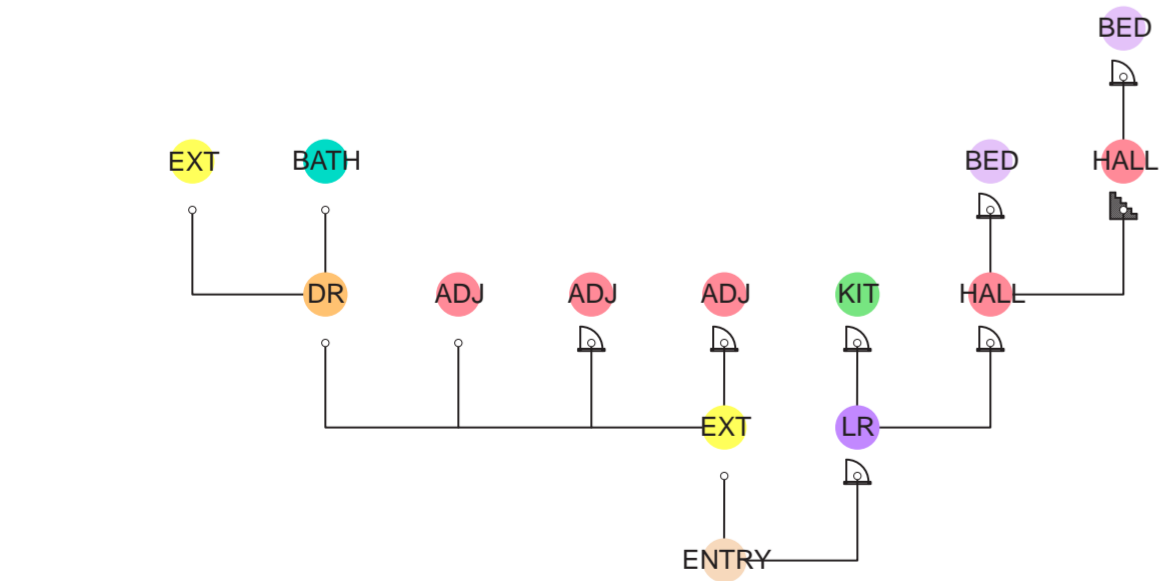


First Floor Plan, 1:150 Scale

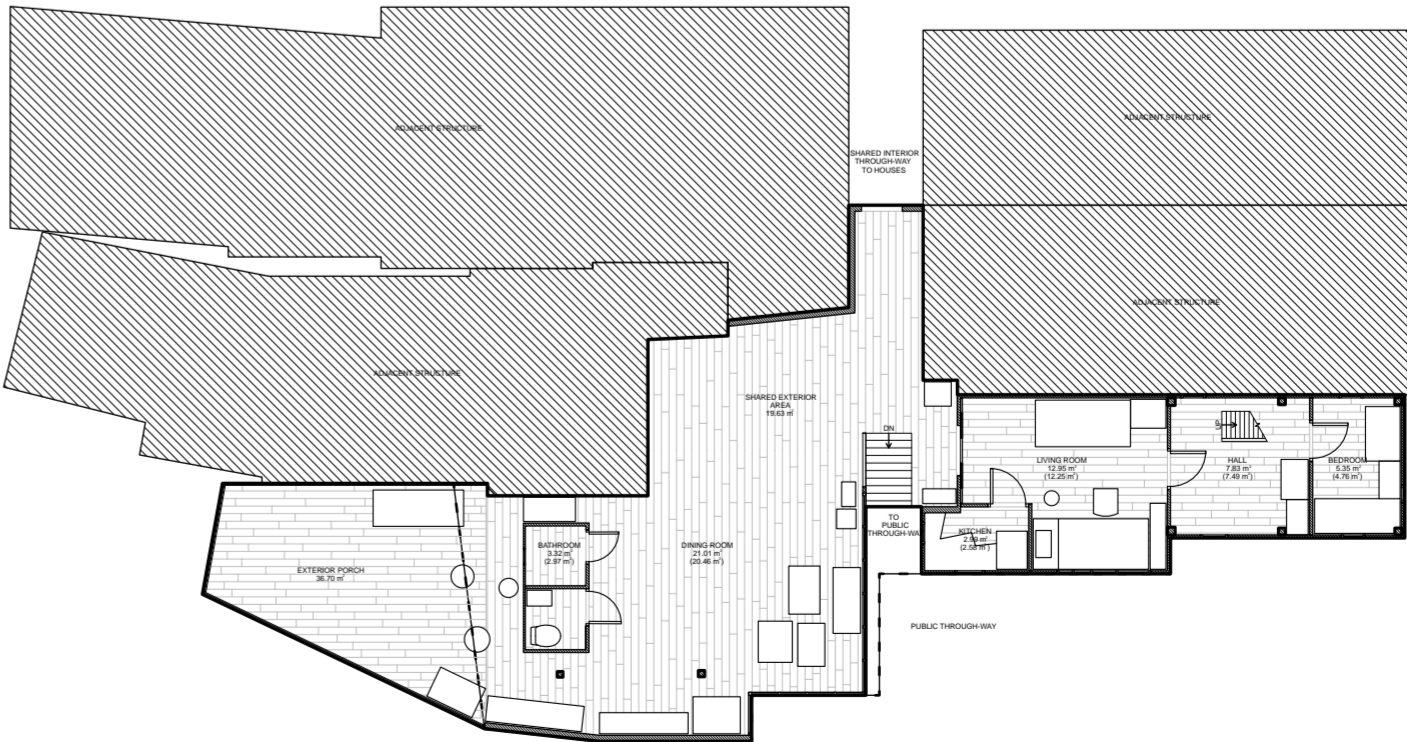


## 687795 SPATIAL PROGRAM NODE TREE

NODE COUNT: 14  
BRANCH COUNT: 13  
BRANCH LEVELS: 4  
CLOSED LOOPS: 0  
ACCESS TO ADJACENT: YES  
WIDTH: 8 UNITS



Ground Floor Plan, 1:150 Scale



## LEGEND

- |      |                                     |       |                                   |     |                        |
|------|-------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|-----|------------------------|
| ADJ  | Access to adjacent structure        | DR    | Access to dining room             | KIT | Access to kitchen      |
| BATH | Access to bathroom or water closet  | ENTRY | Access to house from exterior     | LAU | Access to laundry room |
| BED  | Access to bedroom                   | EXT   | Access to exterior porch or space | LR  | Access to living room  |
| BOAT | Access to boat dock or boat parking | HALL  | Access to hallway or corridor     | STO | Access to storage room |
|      | Doored or curtained access          |       | Access via step or stairway       |     |                        |

# Case Summary

## Housing Case 694827

General Research Fund (GRF) Grant: #15600621

Housing Construction Type:  
Light wooden frame with metal cladding  
Stories: 2  
GFA: 200.92 square meters

Housing Age: Approximately 50 years. The informant estimates her husband's ancestral house as being, '50-ish' years old. She was unsure about the age of the other side of the house.

Physical Housing Development and Informant Participation History: The case house combined the informant's husband's ancestral home and the informant's aunt's house across the street. Originally the informant moved into her husband's ancestral home upon marriage. When her aunt died, they inherited the house across the street and, over time, connected the two into the recorded condition. The informant and her husband personally built additions and changes to their housing. The informant stated they salvaged *giam* wood for building from, 'Mainland Boats.' Recently she stated that she hired contractors to complete repairs, and that her children had given her money to put in new lighting

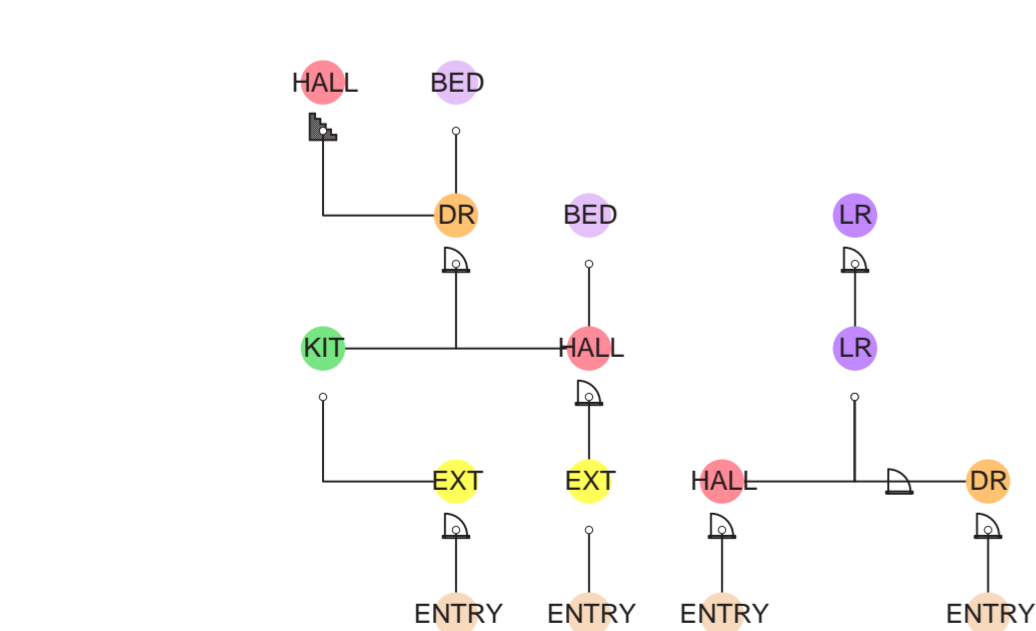
Housing Occupation History and Pattern: The original part of the house on one side of the street belonged to the informant's husband's great-grandfather who, 'left it for [them],' and they moved into the house upon marriage. The other part of the house originally belonged to the informant's aunt (father-in-law's brother's wife) who, 'left it there,' and they inherited it. They raised six children in the case house, who later moved away to other parts of Hong Kong. The informant and her husband lived there together until her husband died. The informant had since lived there alone, but her children hired a live-in domestic helper, 'about a year and a half ago,' at the time of the interview. She and the domestic helper were the only permanent occupants at the time of the interview, though the informant stated her children visited during holidays and on some weekends.

Informant Housing Biography: Born in Tai O, the informant moved into the case house upon marriage in 1957 and had seemingly lived there continuously up until the time of the interview. The informant never moved from the case house and worked on improving it with her husband. She lived in the house with her husband and raised their children until the children emigrated from Tai O to find employment. At one point she temporarily lived with one of her children elsewhere in Hong Kong. Her husband died in 2020, and at the time of the interview she lived in the house with a domestic helper her children hired to help clean and cook for her.

Housing License Status: The informant stated that one half of the house had a Surveyed Squatter Structure License assigned to her great-grandfather-in-law, while the other half did not have a license.

### 694827 SPATIAL PROGRAM NODE TREE

NODE COUNT: 16  
BRANCH COUNT: 14  
BRANCH LEVELS: 4  
CLOSED LOOPS: 0  
ACCESS TO ADJACENT: NO  
WIDTH: 6 UNITS

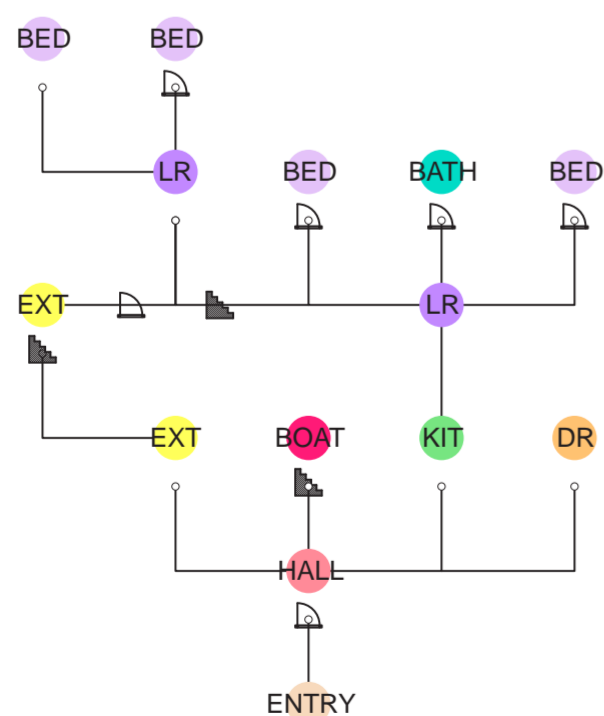


General Research Fund (GRF) Grant: #15600621

GFA: 149.48 square meters

Housing License Status: The informant stated that the house had a Surveyed Squatter Structure License attributed to his mother and uncle.

NODE COUNT: 14  
 BRANCH COUNT: 14  
 BRANCH LEVELS: 5  
 CLOSED LOOPS: 0  
 ACCESS TO ADJACENT: NO  
 WIDTH: 5 UNITS



	Access to adjacent structure		Access to dining room		Access to kitchen
	Access to bathroom or water closet		Access to house from exterior		Access to laundry room
	Access to bedroom		Access to exterior porch or space		Access to living room
	Access to boat dock or boat parking		Access to hallway or corridor		Access to storage room
	Door or curtained access		Access via step or stairway		

The floor plan for the second floor features a large exterior porch (46.22 m²) with a brick pattern and various outdoor furniture. A staircase leads up to a small platform with a railing. The interior includes a living room (14.79 m² / 13.69 m²) with a fireplace, a dining area, and a kitchen. Two bedrooms are shown: one (6.03 m² / 5.33 m²) with a desk and another (5.90 m² / 5.21 m²) with a desk. A shared, privately-maintained over-water walkway is located outside the living room and bedrooms. A boat dock is indicated by a dashed line in the water.

BOAT DOCK

SHARED, PRIVATELY-MAINTAINED OVER-WATER WALKWAY

EXTERIOR PORCH  
46.22 m²

LIVING ROOM  
14.79 m²  
(13.69 m²)

BEDROOM  
6.03 m²  
(5.33 m²)

BEDROOM  
5.90 m²  
(5.21 m²)

Plan, 1:100 Scale

ADJACENT STRUCTURE

BOAT DOCK

EXTERIOR PORCH  
4.82 m<sup>2</sup>

HALL  
2.50 m<sup>2</sup>  
(2.35 m<sup>2</sup>)

DINING ROOM  
18.14 m<sup>2</sup>  
(18.98 m<sup>2</sup>)

KITCHEN  
9.09 m<sup>2</sup>  
(8.73 m<sup>2</sup>)

BATHROOM  
2.99 m<sup>2</sup>  
(2.59 m<sup>2</sup>)

LIVING ROOM  
27.05 m<sup>2</sup>  
(25.69 m<sup>2</sup>)

BEDROOM  
5.52 m<sup>2</sup>  
(4.88 m<sup>2</sup>)

BEDROOM  
9.28 m<sup>2</sup>  
(4.79 m<sup>2</sup>)

SHARED, PRIVATELY-MAINTAINED  
OVER-WATER WALKWAY

ADJACENT STRUCTURE

# Case Summary

## Housing Case 729485

General Research Fund (GRF) Grant: #15600621

Housing Construction Type:  
Light wooden frame with metal cladding  
Stories: 2  
GFA: 60.83 square meters

Housing Age: Approximately 53 years old. This is inferred from the informant's statements about moving into the house when she was married in 1969. She offered little other information about the house's physical history, but the house was likely at least 53 years old.

Physical Housing Development and Informant Participation History: The informant offered little information on the physical history of the case house. It is possible the house saw a significant renovation twenty years before the time of the interview, as the informant stated, 'This house was painted. We hired [a contractor]. It has been painted for twenty years.' The informant offered no other information on the physical history of the house during the interview.

Housing Occupation History and Pattern: When asked if her siblings lived in Tai O, the informant replied, 'Married and moved out,' and stated that one of her sisters had passed away. However, given that the informant moved into the case house in 1969 at marriage, it is likely that the original occupants of the case house were the informant, her husband, and their children. The informant offered little other information about the occupancy patterns of people using the house at the time of the interview. She did state that her eldest son came back to the house to view Cantonese opera. It is most likely that the informant was living alone in the house at the time of the interview, having lived there alone since her husband died in 2012.

Informant Housing Biography: The informant moved into the case house in 1969 when she married her husband. When asked if she lived in Tai O Village since when she was little, the informant stated, 'Yes, yes, I used to live in the place near the Fire Station,' referring to the fire station in Yim Tin, Tai O Village based on the context of the interview. She made no additional reports on her housing biography except for describing a time when she was injured in 2012. At this time, she moved to live with her younger sister outside Tai O for, 'two months in total,' to complete treatment and physiotherapy. The informant made no other reports on moving from the case house and based on her employment biography, we can infer that she lived in the case house from her marriage in 1969 until the time of the interview.

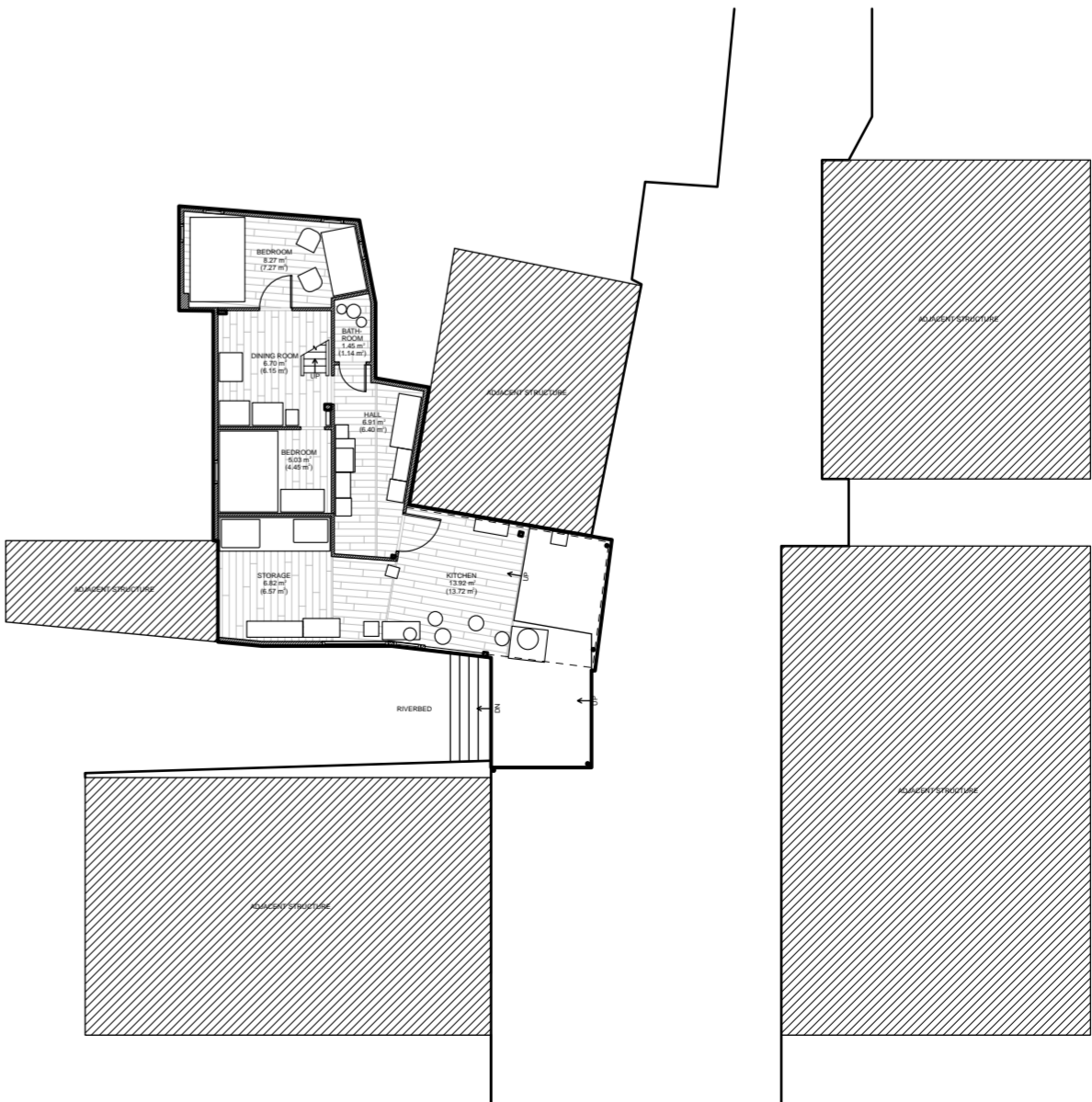
Housing License Status: The informant stated that the house had a Surveyed Squatter Structure License attributed to her husband, who was deceased at the time of the interview.



First Floor Plan, 1:150 Scale

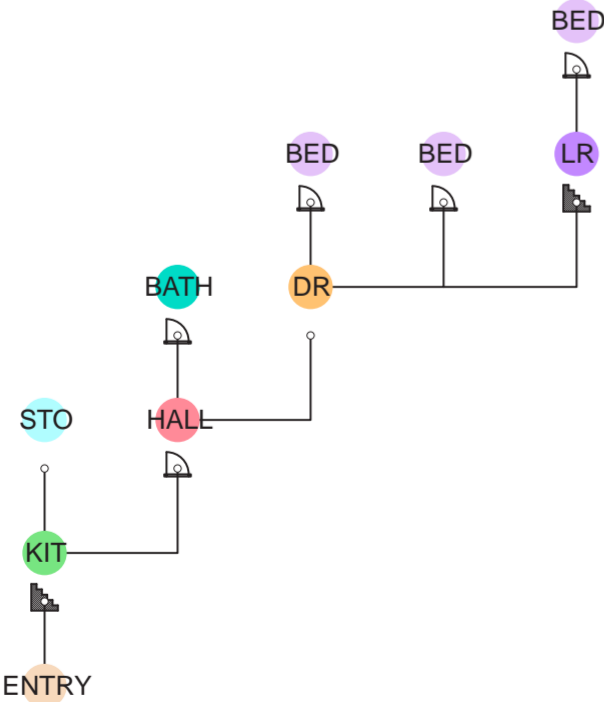


Ground Floor Plan, 1:150 Scale



### 729485 SPATIAL PROGRAM NODE TREE

NODE COUNT: 10  
BRANCH COUNT: 9  
BRANCH LEVELS: 5  
CLOSED LOOPS: 0  
ACCESS TO ADJACENT: NO  
WIDTH: 5 UNITS



### LEGEND

- |             |                                     |              |                                   |            |                        |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| <b>ADJ</b>  | Access to adjacent structure        | <b>DR</b>    | Access to dining room             | <b>KIT</b> | Access to kitchen      |
| <b>BATH</b> | Access to bathroom or water closet  | <b>ENTRY</b> | Access to house from exterior     | <b>LAU</b> | Access to laundry room |
| <b>BED</b>  | Access to bedroom                   | <b>EXT</b>   | Access to exterior porch or space | <b>LR</b>  | Access to living room  |
| <b>BOAT</b> | Access to boat dock or boat parking | <b>HALL</b>  | Access to hallway or corridor     | <b>STO</b> | Access to storage room |
|             | Doored or curtained access          |              | Access via step or stairway       |            |                        |

# Case Summary

## Housing Case 729580

General Research Fund (GRF) Grant: #15600621

Housing Construction Type:  
Light wooden frame with metal cladding  
Stories: 2  
GFA: 111.13 square meters

Housing Age: Approximately 55 years. The male informant estimated that the house he grew up in was built in, ‘the late 1960’s.’

Physical Housing Development and Informant Participation History: The informant stated that his parents built the original house after they were married. The case house was in the same location as his parents’ original house, but the informant was unsure whether there was originally a boat or another house in the location. In, ‘the late 1960’s,’ the informant stated his parents built a larger, two-story house in the case house location. The house was vacated and became dilapidated in the 1970’s, when the family moved out. After the informant’s parents retired, the family completed two renovations to make the house more accessible. The most recent renovation was initiated about 4-5 years before the time of the interview to address complaints made to the Government about the house.

Housing Occupation History and Pattern: The male informant stated the house was originally his parents’ house, which they moved into when they got married. He described it as their, ‘ancestral house.’ He stated that he lived in the house until he moved out to find employment as a teenager, which his siblings did as well. The informant stated that his parents also moved out of the house after his youngest brother finished secondary school after which the house was vacant for a time. His parents wanted to return to the house after he and his wife married and they retired and passed away. The informant and his wife then lived in the house for, ‘about two years,’ living in the house intermittently. For, ‘over a year now,’ at the time of the interview, the informants were unable to live in the house because of conditions after the enforcement-prompted renovation.

Informant Housing Biography: The male informant was born in the case house, where he lived as a child until he moved away from Tai O to find employment as a teenager. During the time he lived away from Tai O in Hong Kong, he returned frequently to visit his parents. He lived outside of Tai O in other parts of Hong Kong for most of his life. Since his parents’ death, he and his wife had lived in the case house intermittently for a few years. Since the most recent, enforcement-prompted renovation, he had not lived in the case house because the upper level is no longer suitable for sleeping and the ceiling height of the house was lowered substantially.

Housing License Status: The male informant stated that the house had a Surveyed Squatter Structure License in his deceased mother’s name.

### 729580 SPATIAL PROGRAM NODE TREE

NODE COUNT: 8  
BRANCH COUNT: 7  
BRANCH LEVELS: 4  
CLOSED LOOPS: 0  
ACCESS TO ADJACENT: NO  
WIDTH: 3 UNITS

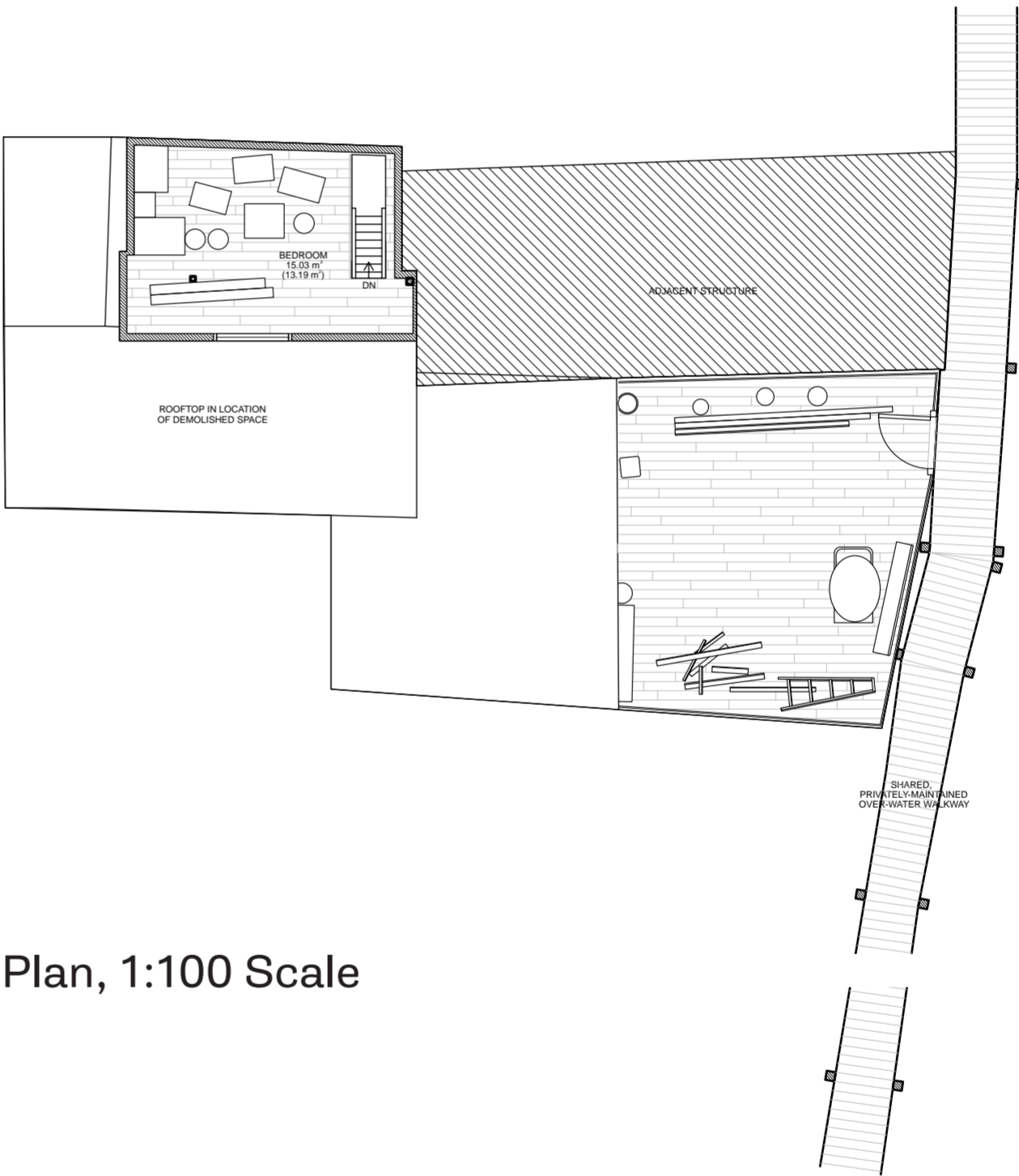
### LEGEND

ADJ	Access to adjacent structure	DR	Access to dining room	KIT	Access to kitchen
BATH	Access to bathroom or water closet	ENTRY	Access to house from exterior	LAU	Access to laundry room
BED	Access to bedroom	EXT	Access to exterior porch or space	LR	Access to living room
BOAT	Access to boat dock or boat parking	HALL	Access to hallway or corridor	STO	Access to storage room
	Doored or curtained access		Access via step or stairway		

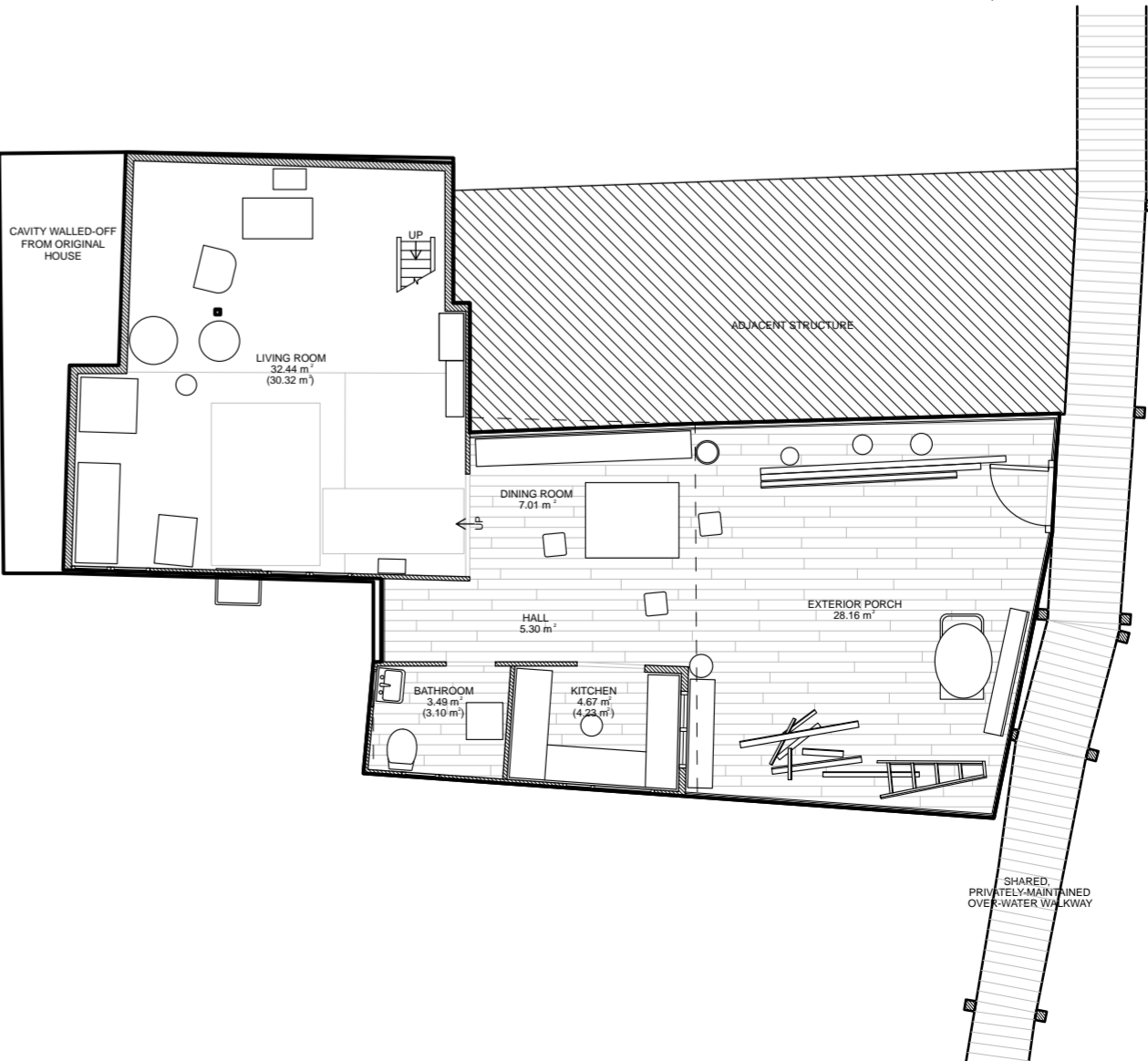
3D Scan File in Isometric Section View



First Floor Plan, 1:100 Scale



Ground Floor Plan, 1:100 Scale



# Case Summary

## Housing Case 837295

General Research Fund (GRF) Grant: #15600621

Housing Construction Type:  
Light wooden frame with metal cladding  
Stories: 2  
GFA: 93.8 square meters

Housing Age: Approximately 50 years, inferred from the informants' testimony about moving into the house around the time of their marriage.

Physical Housing Development and Informant Participation History: The case house was built by the informant couple on the location of an older stilt house. Their testimony indicated the house saw multiple renovations to add space using money lent to them by other people living in Tai O Village. The informants estimated the house was half self-built and, 'half was built by *sifus*.' They related affecting repairs to the house on their own, and salvaging wood from boats and other stilt houses to build the case house.

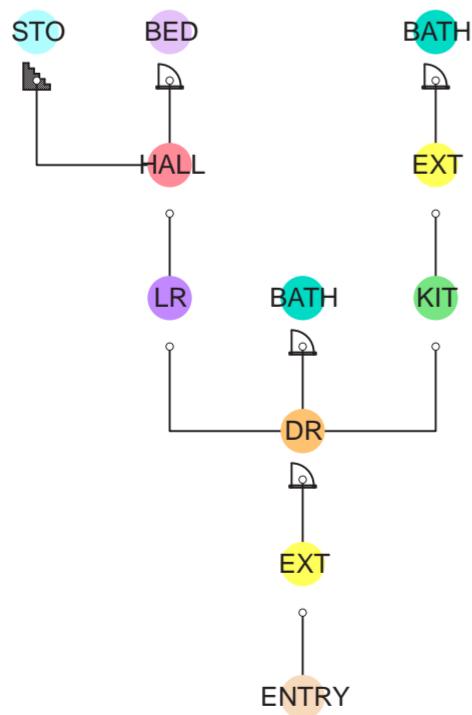
Housing Occupation History and Pattern: The case house was built on the location of a stilt house the male informant stated that he inherited from his aunt after her death. The informants testified to raising seven children in the house, along with in-laws and grandchildren. The male informant stated, 'There were fewer people for one or two years. Seven or eight grandsons and granddaughters. At most, nine grandsons and granddaughters were living here,' all of whom moved out. At the time of the interview, the two informants were the only occupants of the house, which their children and grandchildren visited intermittently.

Informant Housing Biography: We interviewed two informants living in this house. The informants stated that they lived in Tai O as children and lived with the male informant's father in a stilt house near the case house that they referred to as the, 'Tai Gong stilt.' When asked if they moved from her father-in-law's house into the case house at some point, the female informant stated, 'Yes. They didn't have enough space. We left.' The male informant expanded on this statement saying that, 'Around seven to eight years,' after they were married they moved into the case house and expanded it over time. They described raising their children there and living with grandchildren in the case house at one point. Neither informant made statements that they moved from the house at any time.

Housing License Status: The informants stated that the house had a Surveyed Squatter Structure name attributed to them, but stated that they lost it, possibly in a fire.

### 837295 SPATIAL PROGRAM NODE TREE

NODE COUNT: 11  
BRANCH COUNT: 10  
BRANCH LEVELS: 5  
CLOSED LOOPS: 0  
ACCESS TO ADJACENT: NO  
WIDTH: 4 UNITS



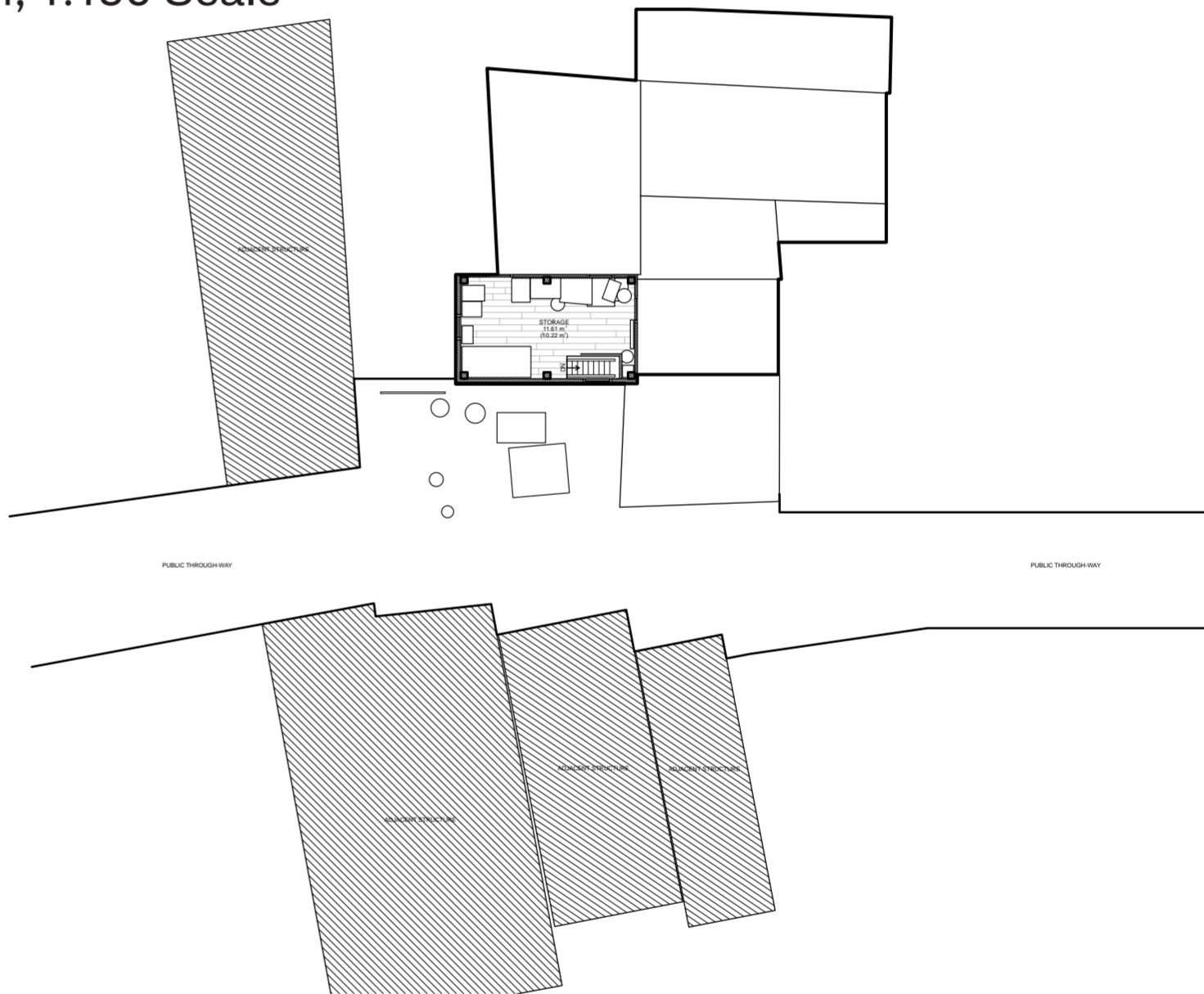
### LEGEND

ADJ	Access to adjacent structure	DR	Access to dining room	KIT	Access to kitchen
BATH	Access to bathroom or water closet	ENTRY	Access to house from exterior	LAU	Access to laundry room
BED	Access to bedroom	EXT	Access to exterior porch or space	LR	Access to living room
BOAT	Access to boat dock or boat parking	HALL	Access to hallway or corridor	STO	Access to storage room
D	Doored or curtained access	S	Access via step or stairway		

3D Scan File in Isometric Section View



First Floor Plan, 1:150 Scale



Ground Floor Plan, 1:150 Scale



# Case Summary

## Housing Case 853147

General Research Fund (GRF) Grant: #15600621

Housing Construction Type:  
Light wooden frame with metal cladding  
Stories: 2  
GFA: 109.38 square meters

Housing Age: Approximately 42 years, inferred from the informant's statements about moving into the house when she was married in 1979, and then building the first parts of the case house one year later.

Physical Housing Development and Informant Participation History: The informant stated that the case house, 'was a shed for storage by my parents. When I got married, I had no place to live, so I built this stilt house here. Then I gave birth to my children, and there was not enough room, and we built another room then.' She mentioned several additions to the house, but that she and her husband were not significantly involved in building.

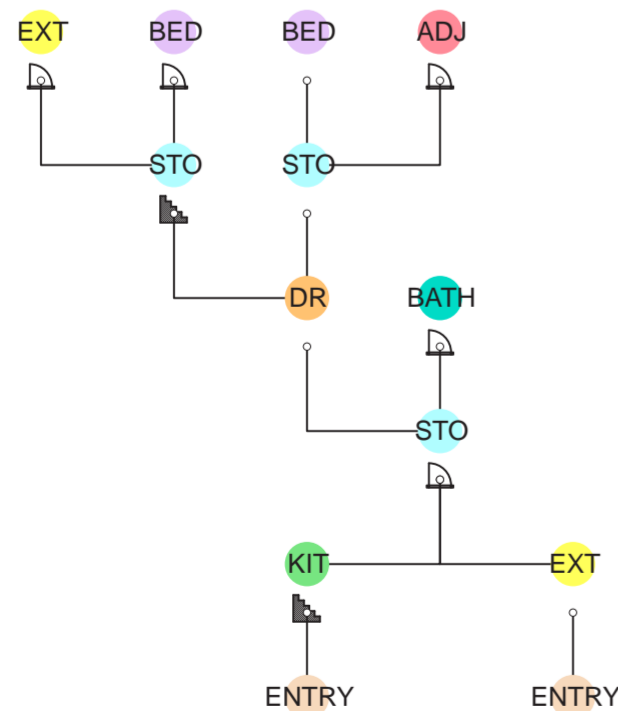
Housing Occupation History and Pattern: From its original condition, the case house was occupied by the informant and her family around 1979. The informant offered no information about when the house was issued a license. The informant and her family occupied the house continuously until her children left after their secondary-level education in Tai O Village. From the informant's statements, she may have lived occasionally in Tuen Mun with her husband, but not for extended periods of time.

Informant Housing Biography: As a child, the informant lived in Tai O with her family, 'since [she] was born,' and she continued living in Tai O as a child. At some point, she moved from Tai O to work in a clothing factory elsewhere in Hong Kong. During this period, the informant acquired a public housing unit in Tuen Mun. This would be around 1982, as inferred from the informant's statements. She related that she, 'couldn't get used to city life,' and returned to Tai O to live in the case house, working as a construction laborer and in the Tai O light bulb factory while awaiting a permanent job offer from the FEHD. This came around 1992, and she continued to live in the case house while working as a cleaner. She lived in the case house up until the time of the interview, in between which she retired, and then took up work in Tai O as a dishwasher, maid, and security guard.

Housing License Status: The informant stated that the house had a Surveyed Squatter Structure License attributed to her.

### 853147 SPATIAL PROGRAM NODE TREE

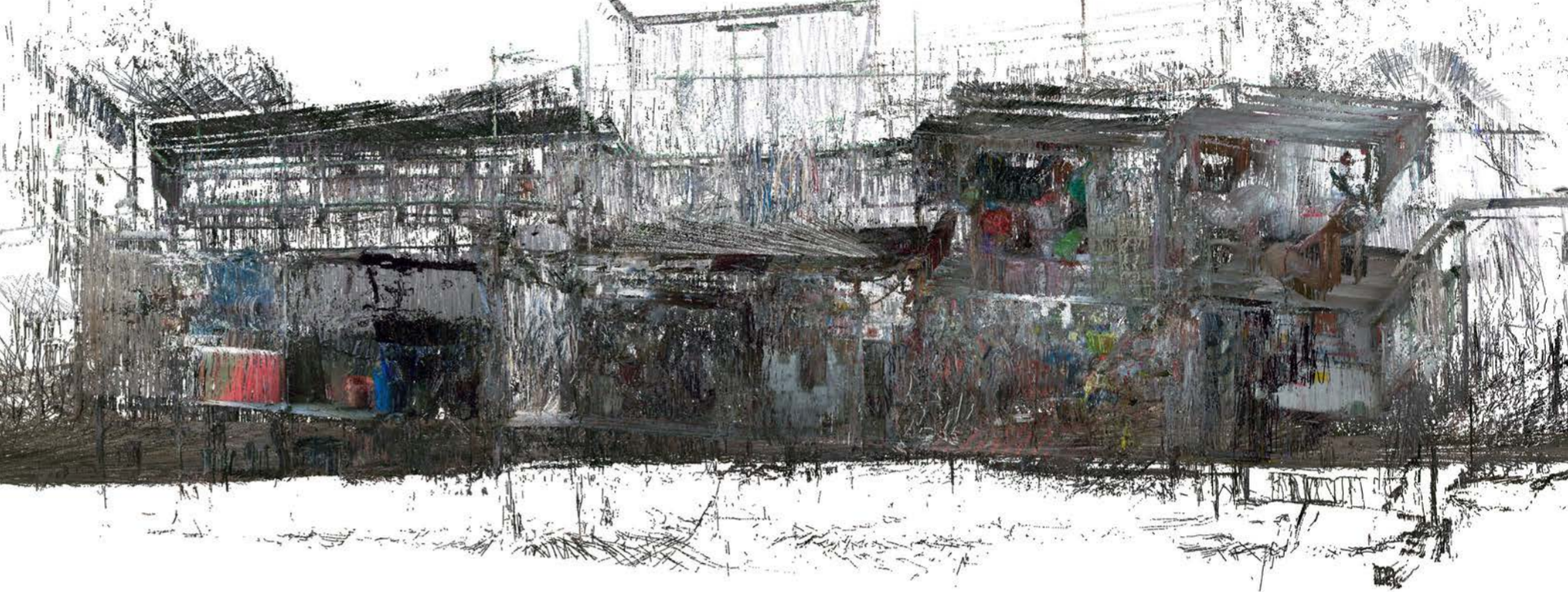
NODE COUNT: 13  
BRANCH COUNT: 12  
BRANCH LEVELS: 5  
CLOSED LOOPS: 0  
ACCESS TO ADJACENT: YES  
WIDTH: 5 UNITS



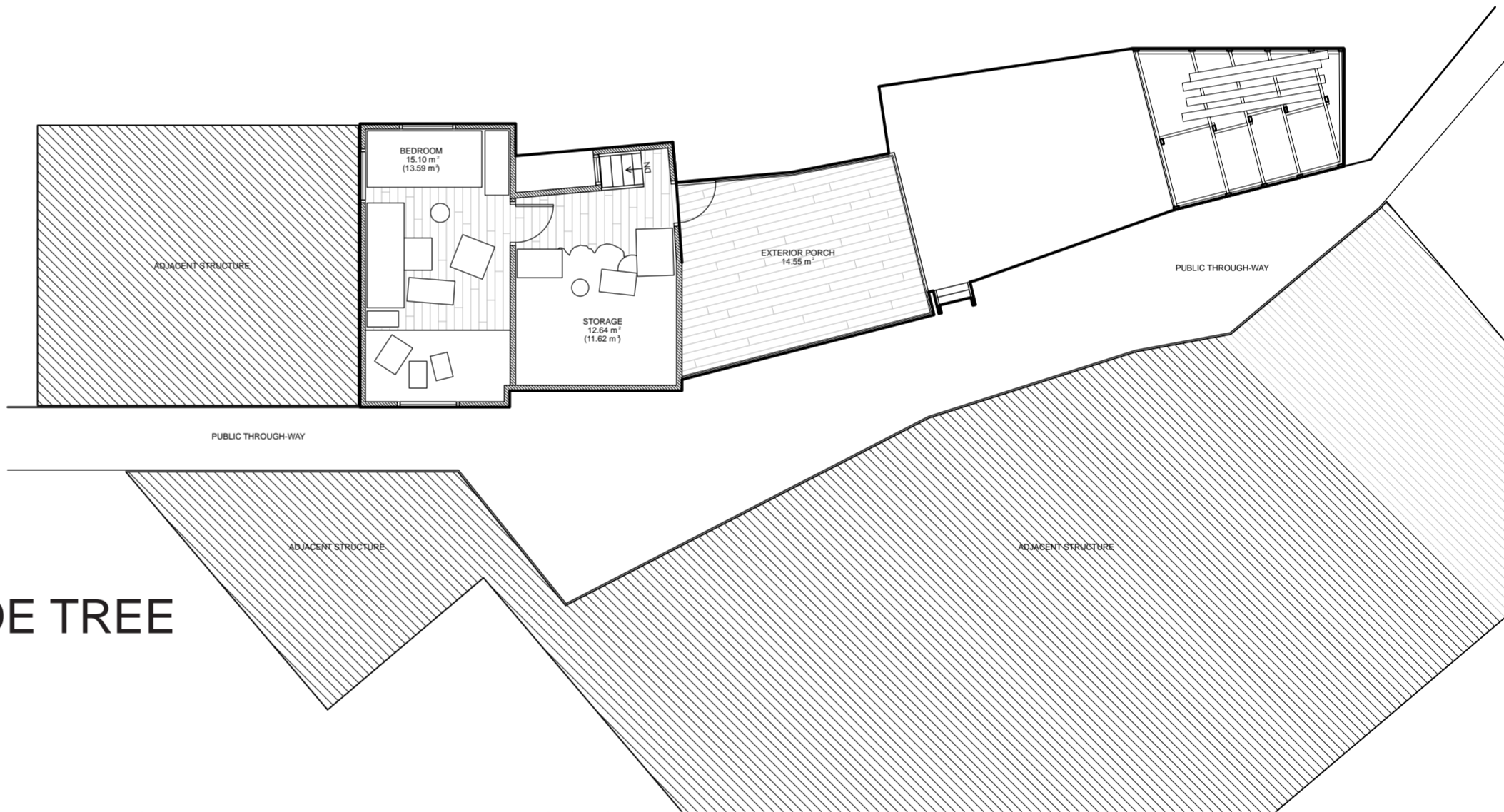
### LEGEND

- |      |                                     |       |                                   |     |                        |
|------|-------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|-----|------------------------|
| ADJ  | Access to adjacent structure        | DR    | Access to dining room             | KIT | Access to kitchen      |
| BATH | Access to bathroom or water closet  | ENTRY | Access to house from exterior     | LAU | Access to laundry room |
| BED  | Access to bedroom                   | EXT   | Access to exterior porch or space | LR  | Access to living room  |
| BOAT | Access to boat dock or boat parking | HALL  | Access to hallway or corridor     | STO | Access to storage room |
|      | Doored or curtained access          |       | Access via step or stairway       |     |                        |

3D Scan File in Isometric Section View



First Floor Plan, 1:100 Scale



Ground Floor Plan, 1:100 Scale



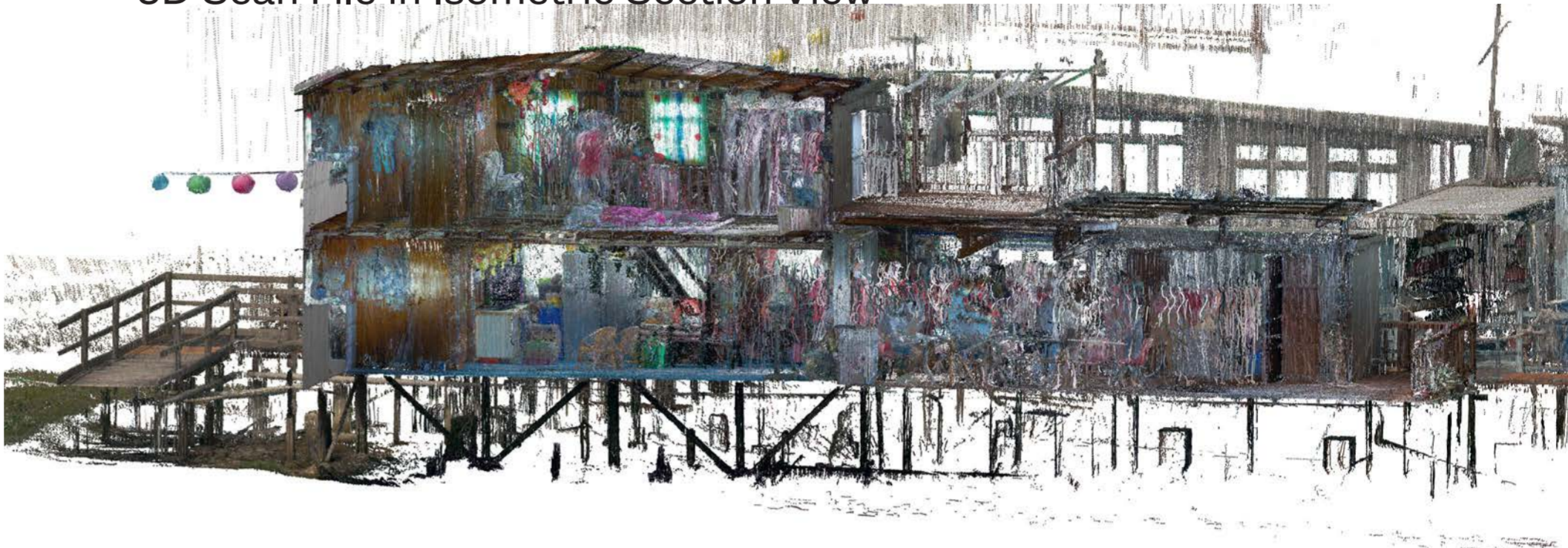
General Research Fund (GRF) Grant: #15600621

Light wooden frame with metal cladding  
Stories: 2  
GFA: 144.87 square meters

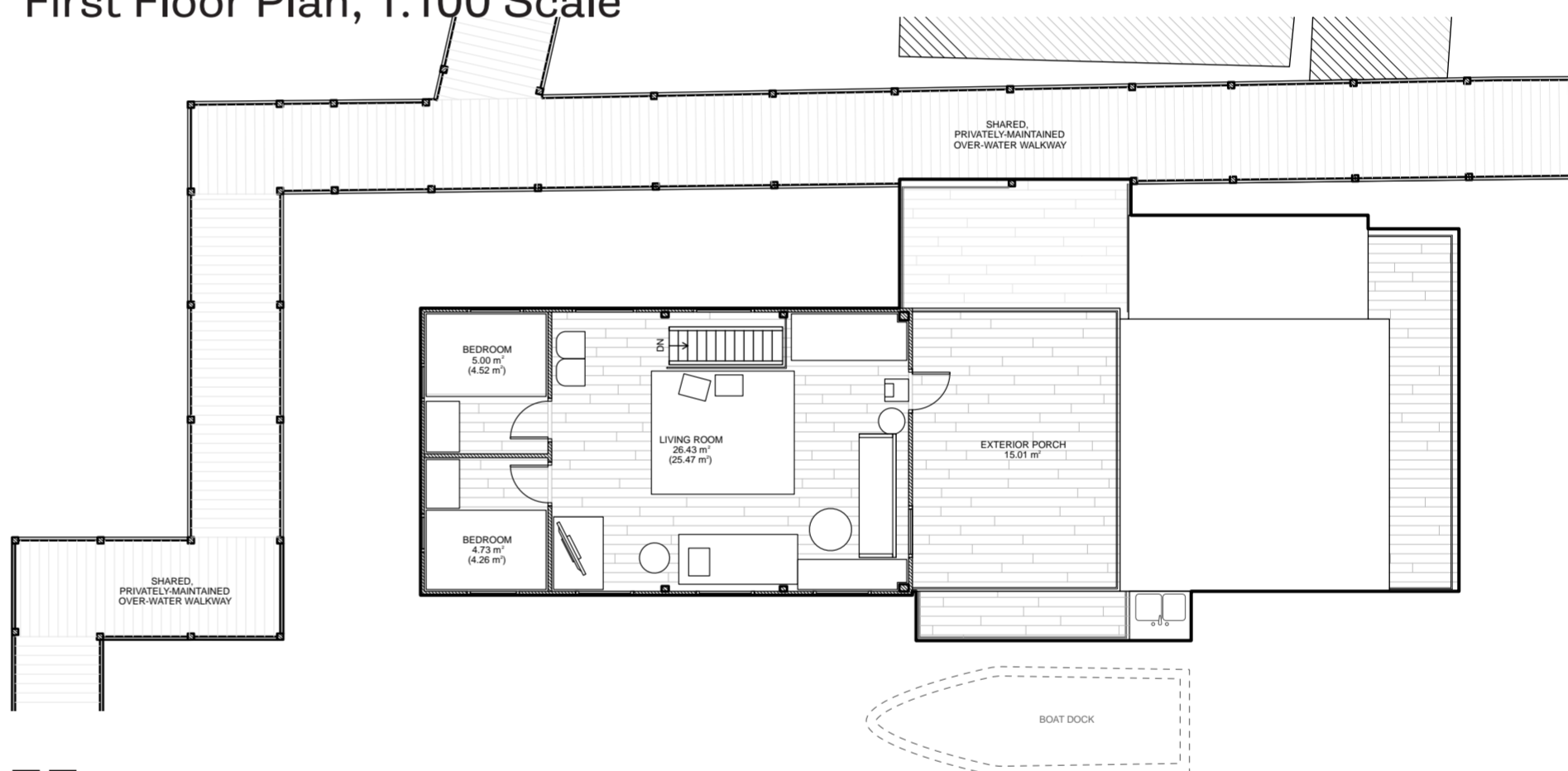
**Physical Housing Development and Informant Participation History:** The informants stated the case house was originally a round-topped stilt house in the same location. The original house was burnt in the fires in Tai O Village around 2000 and after, ‘four or five years,’ the house was rebuilt. They described interacting with the Government when applying to rebuild, including facing new, ‘[regulations on] how wide [the houses] should be.’ The informant described hiring contractors to build the case house to its recorded condition.

**Informant Housing Biography:** Both informants mentioned living in the, ‘Salt Field Estate,’ in Tai O as children. Both informants left Tai O to find work in their teens before returning to Tai O at least after 2005–2007. The informant’s lived intermittently between the house and housing elsewhere in Hong Kong, as they still worked outside of Tai O at the time of the interview.

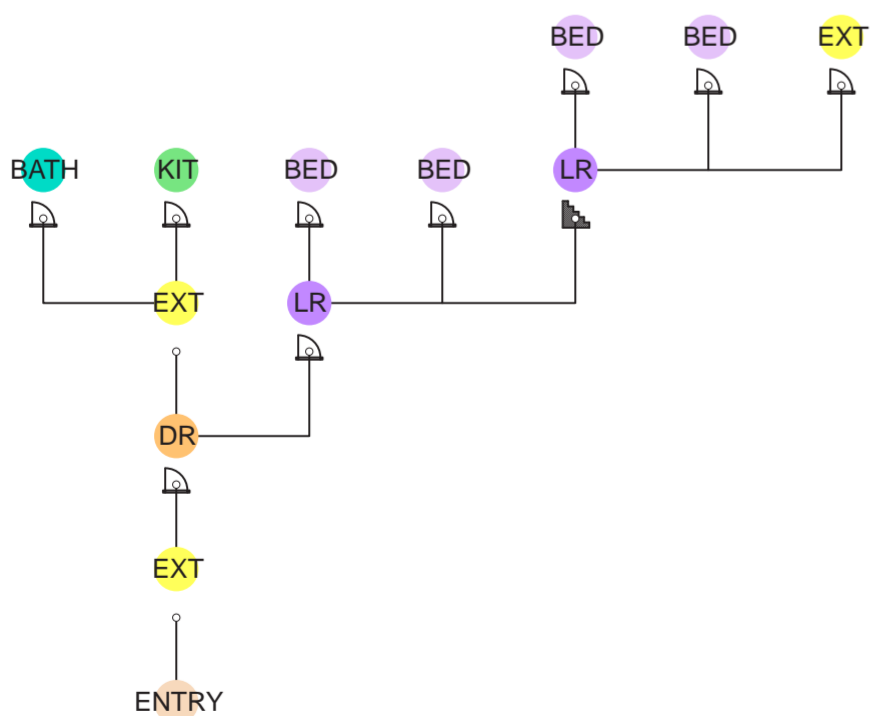
### 3D Scan File in Isometric Section View



## First Floor Plan, 1:100 Scale



NODE COUNT: 13  
BRANCH COUNT: 12  
BRANCH LEVELS: 5  
CLOSED LOOPS: 0  
ACCESS TO ADJACENT: NO  
WIDTH: 7 UNITS



	Access to adjacent structure		Access to dining room		Access to kitchen
	Access to bathroom or water closet		Access to house from exterior		Access to laundry room
	Access to bedroom		Access to exterior porch or space		Access to living room
	Access to boat dock or boat parking		Access to hallway or corridor		Access to storage room
	Doored or curtained access		Access via step or stairway		

## Ground Floor Plan, 1:100 Scale

