



HSPV 638
PHOTO ESSAY
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Rowhouse has been an icon of Philadelphia's typical residential type. However they are always different from each other because of efforts from both neighborhood and residents. In this photo essay assignment, there are four groups of photos shown, naming "Half & Half", "Draw It", "Do It Yourself" and "Woof~Meow~" which in together hope to show the uniqueness of rowhouses and neighborhoods due to collective efforts.

@42nd St. & Wallace St.



Rowhouses are always changing through time. Since two neighbors would change with different pace and taste, the rowhouses that sit next to each other are given interesting composition. This is a very typical shot of two rowhouses with different colors on their porch's pediments.

@10 S 43rd St.



This is a composition of two smaller rowhouses with different building materials and maintaining condition, which the one on the right seems to be newer and better.

@13 S 44th St.



Vacant building is very commonly seen in Philadelphia even within a densely populated neighborhood. The photo shows a vacant commercial&residential mixed-use building at the corner on the right hand side with one dormer's windows missing. On its left is a small rowhouse that is still been using and well maintained today.

@42nd St & Fairmount St.



When the other half was torn down, the rowhouse could sometimes look like this, standing by itself, alone.

@ 4205 Powelton Ave



The PDR Mural Arts Program is a city's and neighborhood efforts of decorating the neighborhood since 1987. The mural arts usually represent the characteristics of the neighborhood as well as cover the side facade of the rowhouse which is usually left after tearing down the building nextdoor.

@Girard Ave. & 31st St.



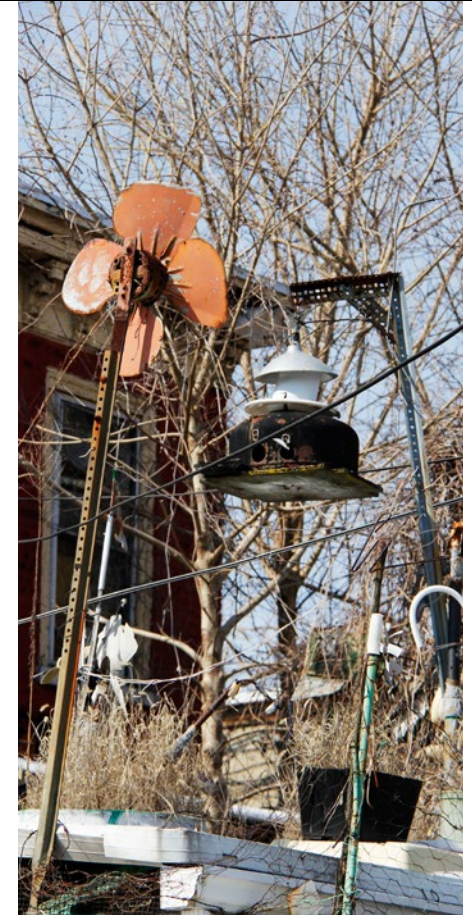
In this photo, it is a mural art on a small rowhouse that lost the other half again. The mural shows the neighborhood is an African American dominated and used to be the Mantua Farm 200 years ago.

@44 St & Market St.



Besides the city's and neighborhoods efforts, individual householders love their houses and would always make some decorations to their yards and porch to make them unique. This set of photos show a little wood pavillion with stone fountain, wood bike, plastic flowers and toy goose in between two row-houses. They occupy the landscape, giving a special identity to the space.

@710 N 42nd St.



This set of photos show two adjacent rowhouses with their DIY yards. The one on the left has a bunch of decorations sticking on the roof with a heater light at the entrance next to the mail box. The yard is covered by a plastic green roof, which make it look like a temporary structure. The one on the left has planted over broomy trees in the yard that the entrance is even very hard to find.

@635 N 42nd St





Poeple love the neighborhood they live in, and treasure the living creatures living around them. They build dog shelter as the corner of a block on a vacant land and feed them with food and covered sleeping place.

@S 36th St. & Reed St.



The residents not only take care of dogs, but also cats. They put shelters for the cats along side walks and feed them regularly, which attract at least 5 cats living here as I observed.

@S 36th St. & Wharton St.



A successful neighborhood is not determined by how fancy the buildings or how rich the residents are. It is, I believe, about how much its people love it and willing to dedicate time and efforts to make it better. One of the reason that so many rowhouses in Philadelphia have always been lively in past hundreds of years is that they are beloved and grow with their people. They are the carriers of culture, history and memories that remain their unique characteristics during the changing process. The unintentional composition of two neighboring houses, the specifically designed mural art, the self-made garden and our little neighbors all become the new blood of rowhouses that keep them being charming, charmer.

THANK YOU!