



## MARY ELLEN CARROLL

*prototype 180*, 2010  
Houston, TX

*prototype 180* is a conceptual work of art and urban alteration that entails a radical form of renovation through the physical rotation and reoccupation of a single family house in the aging, first-ring subdivision of Sharpstown in Houston, TX. In conception and planning for over 10 years, the project is temporally, physically and structurally organized around its catalytic rotational transformation, which took place on November 11, 2010. While the rotation and relocation of the house on its lot interrupt the relation of the house to its context and to existing street typologies, they also signal the altered life of the house as a space devoted to a program that will address the issue of aging neighborhoods and their potential futures. *prototype 180* strategically intersects conceptual art projects, social activism, urban legislation and economic processes. Its 180 degree reorientation registers aesthetically against a history of critical house alterations, and administratively in relation to Houston's unregulated land use policies and its absence of zoning.

**Mary Ellen Carroll** was born in 1961 in Danville, IL. She currently lives and works in New York, NY and Houston, TX. Carroll is the recipient of many grants and honors, including, most recently, a 2010 Graham Foundation Fellowship for *prototype 180* and innovation territory and the American Institute of Architects' Artist of the Year Award. She has also received a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Pollack/Krasner Award, a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship and a MacDowell Colony Fellowship. Carroll's work has been exhibited in numerous institutions including the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, PA; Renaissance Society, Chicago, IL; Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; Museum für Völkerkunde, Munich; and Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna. Her work is included in numerous public and private collections. The monograph of her work published by SteidlMACK (London and Göttingen, Germany) received the AIGA's 2010 Book of the Year Award. Carroll teaches in the architecture school at Rice University, Houston, TX. She is represented by Galerie HubertWinter, Vienna.