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THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE

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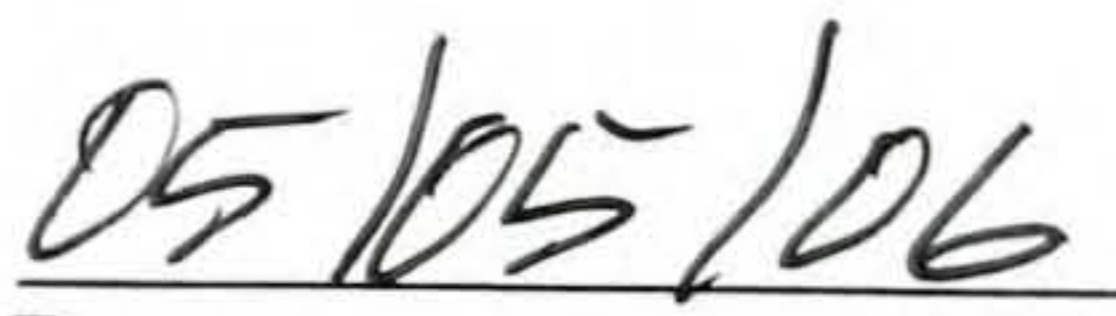


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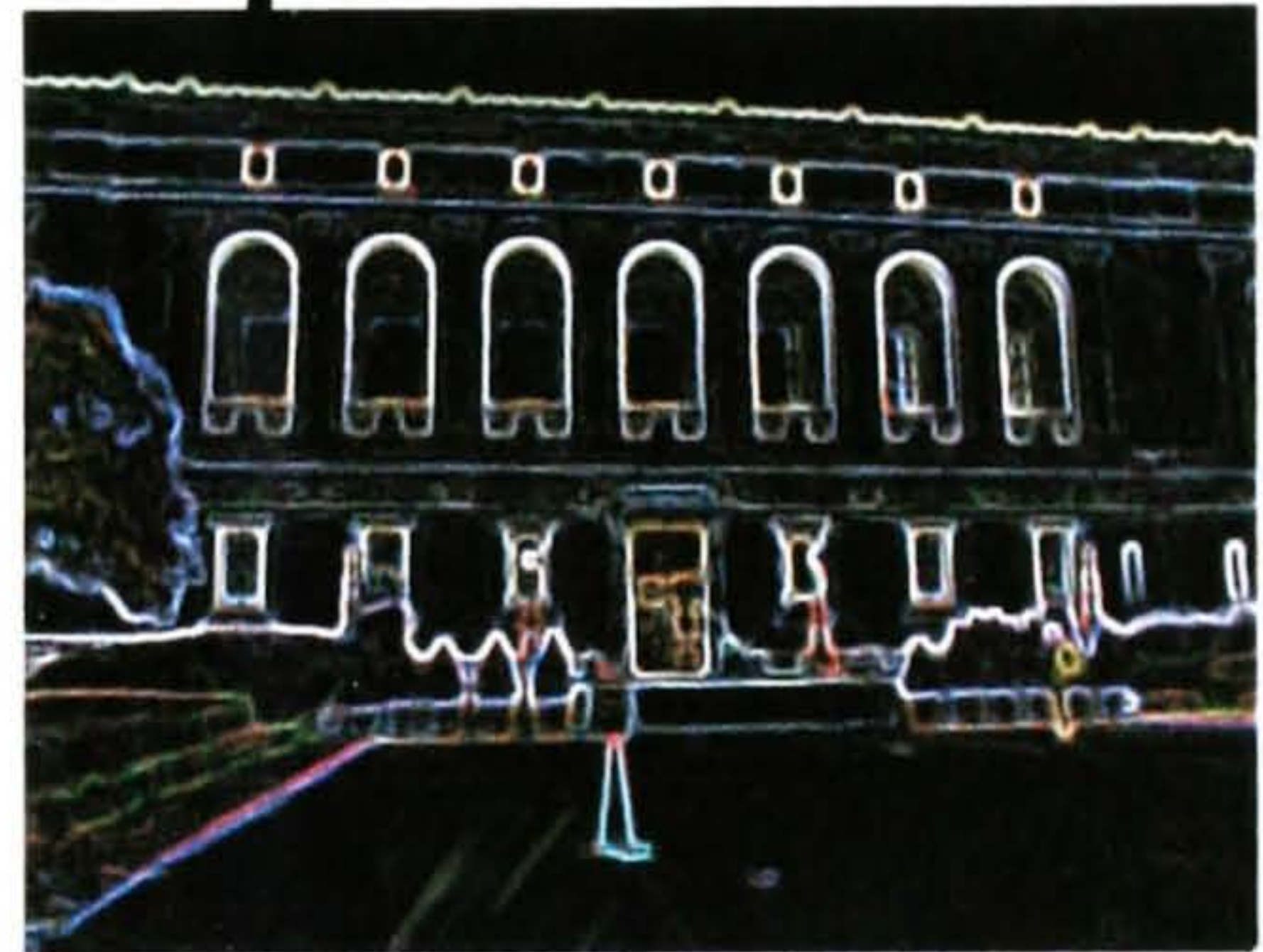
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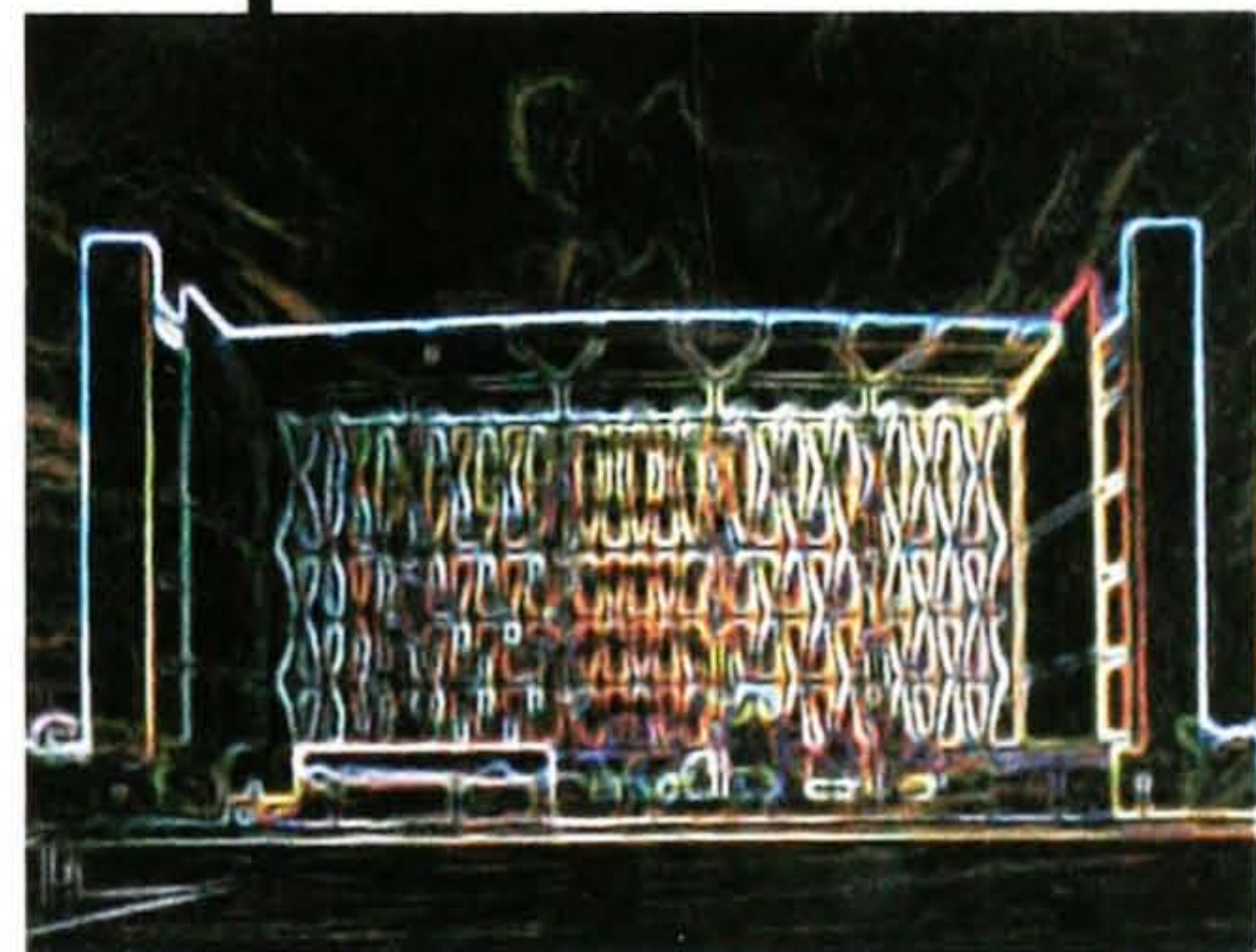
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Nexus of Place and Time:

a sociological interpretation

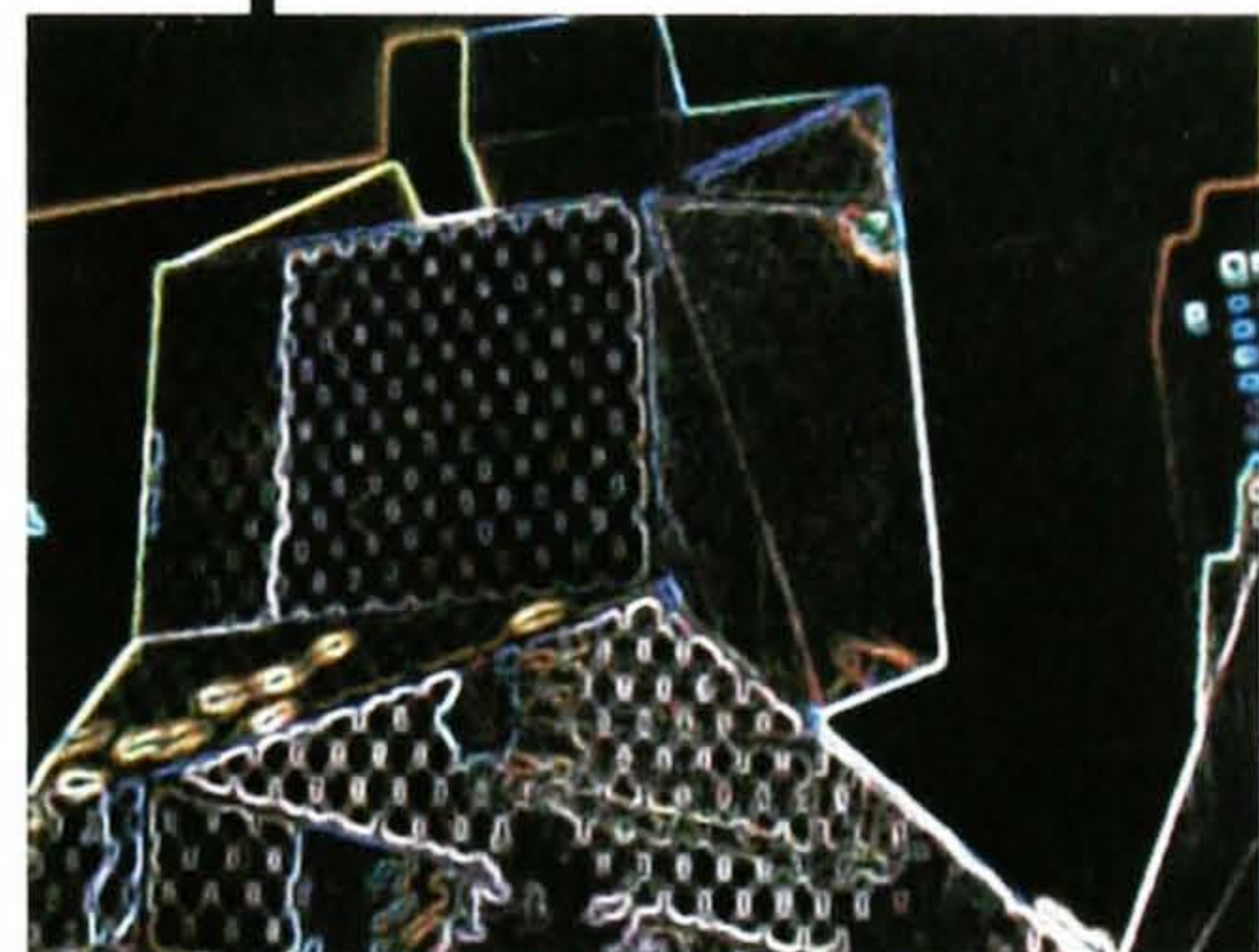


Detroit Public Library



Phoenix Public Library

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Masters of Architecture
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1 May 2006



Seattle Central Library

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Thesis Abstract:

What is place? Place is how one comes to experience or inhabit a particular location or even how a culture begins to associate a place with a particular concept or idea. It can be something as simple as a sandbox that a child plays in or as intricate as a particular culture's interpretation of the function or typology of an institution. 'Place' is very subjective, with many interpretations and implicit intricacies attached to it.

Place and culture are both key elements in the creation of architecture. These factors tell us a great deal about how we as a profession should go about developing our designs. Architects must first understand the cultural background and the place in which they are designing. Therefore, research should be done to understand a culture's beliefs, traditions, and values in association with the typology of the project.

First, to understand culture, we must acknowledge that any given culture is constantly changing and adapting over time because of many different factors. Culture would cease to be culture if it did not evolve or adapt; it would stagnate. It is proven that whatever is not useful to the perpetuation of society slowly becomes extinct. For example, if a public institution fails to adapt and remain relevant to society, it will eventually become unsustainable. Designers must understand cultures' interpretation of the function or typology being designed as well as the physical characteristics of the chosen location.

The physical location or the site selected for the project is also very important; it must portray the meaning and usefulness which warranted its selection.

To develop these concepts in an architectural context, one should select a medium which is vital to culture and society. A civic institution will be a good selection because, programmatically, it is a relative constant in its cultural interpretation. Then one must consider what is most important to a culture; what allows it to continue to grow and evolve over time. Knowledge is the answer; only through learning and understanding can we continue to thrive. With the criteria of a civic institution, specifically one which contributes to the growth of culture and society, the logical choice of typology is a library.

The typology of the library has remained comparatively the same throughout history. Its purpose and function throughout all cultures and societies has remained a constant. However, with the development of technology, the way we as a society access information has changed drastically. Many simply access information and resources through the internet and computers; what once took a trip to the local library now takes mere seconds. The typology of the library has just now recently begun to incorporate some of this technology along with other societal and cultural changes in lifestyle and interaction. However, it is the intention of this thesis to examine the role of the library in today's society and culture.

Thesis Paper:

Place and time are two concepts that we as a society constantly create for ourselves. How we experience place is through a specific moment in time. These two concepts are eternally interwoven, each equally affecting the iteration of the other. How we interpret each of these concepts is relative to the understanding that our society or culture has. We, as a society, must begin to fully understand the importance of the relationship of time to place. Architecturally, this translates to how we design for a culture or society relative to their grasp of the concept of place in relation to time.

The concept of place is a vague notion in the sense that it can refer to a number of different concepts. In general, when used in its noun form, the word "place" is used to denote a specific location. However, in addition to geographic location, a person's feelings, interpretations and comprehension of an environment make a particular space a place that is set apart not only in location but also identity. One must understand, however, the importance of the sociological implication that goes along with place. How an individual thinks, acts and interprets is greatly influenced, almost even dictated, by his socialization, "Culture is usually understood to be what defines place and its meaning to people, but place equally defines culture." ¹

In the broadest sense, the definition of place has three main points: the physicality of the location, the society's sociological state and the period in time. The study of sociology is very important in the interpretation of place because of the vagueness of the concept. What the thought processes are and how the mind is functioning will clearly affect how one understands his surroundings, thus influencing his interpretation of his environment. Place may very well not mean a physical location at all but possibly refer to one's position in society or status. Elements that turn space into a place are memories, feelings, social connections and the presence of others, cultural rules and conventions

It is important to understand the role of cultural perception because this affects a large part of how an individual might respond to place. The process of how one dwells can then be said to have been influenced by his society. It is through the act of dwelling and inhabiting a space that shapes it into becoming the particular "place" that we think of in our minds. To give an example of how different cultures and societies have influenced the way space is inhabited we can look at how the Native Americans were influenced by the animals that were present at a specific place and their somewhat nomadic lifestyle of going where the food is. Other societies have completely different styles of dwelling and each perpetuates itself through the socialization of the youth and the need to fit in with the basic rules of the society.

We must understand what a culture or society is; what are the specific traits and characteristics of a certain culture or what makes that culture unique from other cultures in the given time period, or from cultures of other eras. Socialization plays a large role in the determination of how a society or culture acts or behaves. A nineteenth century French sociologist, Emile Durkheim, developed a theory in which he used to describe how a culture functions or perpetuates itself. One of the main points of Durkheim's research was the concept of the "social fact." He used social facts as a means to explain how a culture behaves; how an individual exhibits behaviors attributed to the group will rather than his own.

Social facts have to do with a group such as a particular culture and are not relative to any one individual; a social fact is external to the individual yet molds how the individual thinks and acts. A social fact is something that limits or defines what an individual may do or how an individual may think or act in response to various stimuli.

“A category of facts which present very special characteristics: They consist of manners of acting, thinking and feeling external to the individual, which are invested with a coercive power by virtue of which they exercise control over him.”²

Social Facts are almost seemingly forced on the individual and impressed upon him or her until it is accepted as a guiding virtue or way of life. This is most notably done or accomplished through the process of education; it is here where the morals and values, all concepts derived from social facts, are instituted and forced on the young of any society or culture. Having established that most of an individual's social facts are instilled in them through the process of education, and understanding that education is most conspicuously a group process involving a massing of young, impressionable individuals, we can determine as Emile Durkheim has, that the individual parts of a society or culture, the people's views and understandings, are derived from the whole as a collective and not from the individual.

Durkheim's main premise in this study of sociology is that the individual will act in accordance with what he has been taught by his society through means of authoritative figures rather than act on his own free will. Understanding this allows for the realization of how important an individual's society or culture is in his actions. We can begin to see how a culture forms an individual's perception and guides his thought process. Even the word culture generally refers to acknowledged patterns of human activity and the symbolic structures that give such activity significance.

Culture refers to a particular way of acting or behaving consistent in a group of individuals. It is expressed through the importance of arts, beliefs, institutions, and all other products of human work and thought. The Dutch anthropologist Geert Hofstede defines culture as consisting of patterns of “thinking, feeling, and potential acting” that all people carry within themselves, and which he terms “mental programs.” The source of these programs lies within the social environments where people grew up and collected their life experiences. Culture affects who we are, how we think, how we behave, and how we respond to our environment. Any culture is constantly changing and adapting in accordance to any environmental changes as well as any change in stimuli. If a culture were not able to adapt, it would eventually cease to exist simply because it would not be able to evolve or keep up with an ever changing environment. This is the case as well in any particular aspect of a society or culture. If something is no longer vital to the perpetuation of society it is then removed from society. An example of cultural adaptation would simply be the development of new and innovative technology. If we look at where we as a society have come from in merely the last fifty years the accomplishments are astounding.

Because of culture’s importance to the behavioral and analytical thought processes of an individual, we can begin to gain a better understanding of how influential culture and society are. This translates to all areas; how we interact with our environment, how we perceive, interpret and understand concepts. The concept of place is created not only through a geographic location, but it is also tied to a moment in time. Place and time are only relevant as to how one interprets their meaning. You cannot have the concept of place without the concept time. From one’s socialization through society and culture one gains an understanding of what these concepts mean. Due to the ever adapting manner of culture and society over time, cultural shifts are constantly taking place. This is referring to how a culture might change its interpretation or understanding of a concept or idea. As time passes, these shifts occur in accordance to the adaptation and perpetuation of a society and way of life.

It is now quite apparent how much society and culture are influential to the individual. A person's perception of place is clearly vastly influenced by their cultural background. To an individual, spaces and places become the settings within which social activities of various kinds occur. It then is important to understand the behaviors and mannerisms of a culture or society before designing a structure or space. You must understand how that culture functions most optimally and create specifications, limitations and set guidelines to direct and influence that for which you are designing. The architect must understand that culture's interpretation of the institution which he is designing as well as what allows that culture to achieve maximal performance in a space, location or place.

Civic Institutions are used by cultures to express or represent some of their particular qualities or traits. For example, an art museum showcases particular arts and crafts that are held as important to that culture's past, present or future. The town hall is another example of a civic institution where that culture's characteristics and beliefs are put into practice. Laws are formulated and passed in accordance with the thoughts and opinions of the group. The civic institution is a place where the entire community has a similar preconception as to what it should be and how it should perform. Civic institutions are therefore influential to the society or culture. The library is an example of a cultural institution but if we look at its' role throughout society, we can see that it clearly has not adapted along with other such civic institutions.

Many civic institutions have evolved over time to remain relevant to the current social need. The act of shopping and the concurring elements provide an example of how evolution takes place over time to parallel adaptation in culture and society. In American culture, shopping used to take place at the town center or square where dozens of shops were located around the main block. Each of these shops was located in individual buildings along the street and people could be seen walking about window shopping. As time progressed

the shopping “mall” became more prevalent. This was now a large scale building which housed all these individual shops; a place located away from the center of town which one could drive to with a sense of convenience. Currently, the “strip” mall is becoming predominant in our society. These places allow for maximum convenience in which one giant building houses one store which sells all necessary merchandise. From small individual shops located at the center of town to one large store located on the outskirts of residential development, it is quite apparent how just this one aspect of our society has changed dramatically over time to suit our ever changing needs.

The use of the library, however, has remained relatively the same over time with only small changes being made to the building’s typology, function and appearance. Having not adapted with the rest of society or other civic institutions, the significance of the library may be diminishing. The standard Neo-Classical design of a library with the typical layout of stacks and reading rooms has remained the same. The form is no longer relevant today other than being reminiscent of some nostalgic aspirations. Challenging this typical design and layout has become a necessity with the current changes taking place in our culture dealing with technology and also how society flows with the current need of a fast-tracked, high-paced way of life.

People are now to able access information readily and easily on their personal computers. A trip to the library for the sole purpose of accessing information is becoming unnecessary due to the wealth of other viable options of information accessibility. Having access to a wealth of books is becoming less and less important. It is much easier now to use the substitute of a virtual database to appease our need for information. The phrase has been coined, ‘information at your fingertips’ when describing the internet and other such virtual catalogs. This fits the current need of society for quickness and agility. However, a library is not just a building designed for the sole purpose of

housing books, it is so much more. The library is a civic institution, a place where the community can gather and interact; a place where people can learn and experience and grow through one another.

The importance of the library in culture and society in the past as well as currently must not be overlooked. Knowledge is vital to the growth and development of a society or culture. Without the knowledge learned in the past, we would not be able to form a foundation on which to build for the future. The need for a space for this knowledge to be stored is still imperative and often overlooked simply because the library has not evolved in response to major shifts in the way we interact with and value information. The incorporation of a more efficient and useful means of accessing the information in the library could begin to help remedy this problem. With an increased access to the internet and with newer more technological methods of accessing information, the library could once again reach a level current with today's society. Creating a more comfortable environment would also begin to help bring the typology of the library up to a more even standard with today's society. An emphasis on comfort and relaxation is now being observed throughout our society. Places such as a spot where you can pay to take a nap can now be seen in public areas, this is true in the Mall of America where they charge seventy cents per minute to nap in designated spaces throughout the building. To incorporate a level of comfort that is dictated by society instead of the traditional formal typology would help to reinvent the library to make it more appropriate for today's societal demands.

Some major cities in the United States have begun to address this issue by redesigning and rethinking the role of the library. It still must house the traditional information that society has accumulated in the past, but now it must incorporate the technological advances society has achieved as well. Cities like Seattle have recently built new and modern libraries to go along with the needs of society and they are taking the right step towards rejuvenating the

typology of the library. Places such as the Seattle Central Library have included new technology and better ways of accessing information through technology. They have also upgraded the program of the library by incorporating many things to attract more people; program elements such as a café, bookstore, educational facilities, multi-use spaces, art displays, and even other retail opportunities.

One aspect which has not fully been addressed yet is how the community accesses the books; the layout and the space or location of the stacks. The stacks of most libraries are still almost separated from the rest of the building. All of the books are located in one large multi-level space. In order to make this more congruent to the current level of societal interaction with space, this needs to change. The stacks should be broken up and other programmatic elements should be allowed to mingle in the space. The stacks would then become less uniform and confusing and become a more vibrant and exciting space where the exchanges taking place would not be between just individual and book. This would also allow for a better transition between the different roles of this civic institution; once again, not just a house for a collection of books, but the social and community aspect of the library as well.

It is necessary in design to understand the concepts of place and time in relation to what the sociological interpretation of a given society is. Only when this is fully understood can one truly design what is needed for the society. A greater level of understanding allows for the most efficient, satisfying and functional design. The adaptation of society over time is both predictable and unpredictable; predictable in the sense that we know it will continuously adapt, but unpredictable in that we can never know what changes maybe come about. To fully understand and employ necessary changes to correspond with the adaptation of culture and society is what an architect can only hope to achieve.

JM Tjibaou Cultural Centre

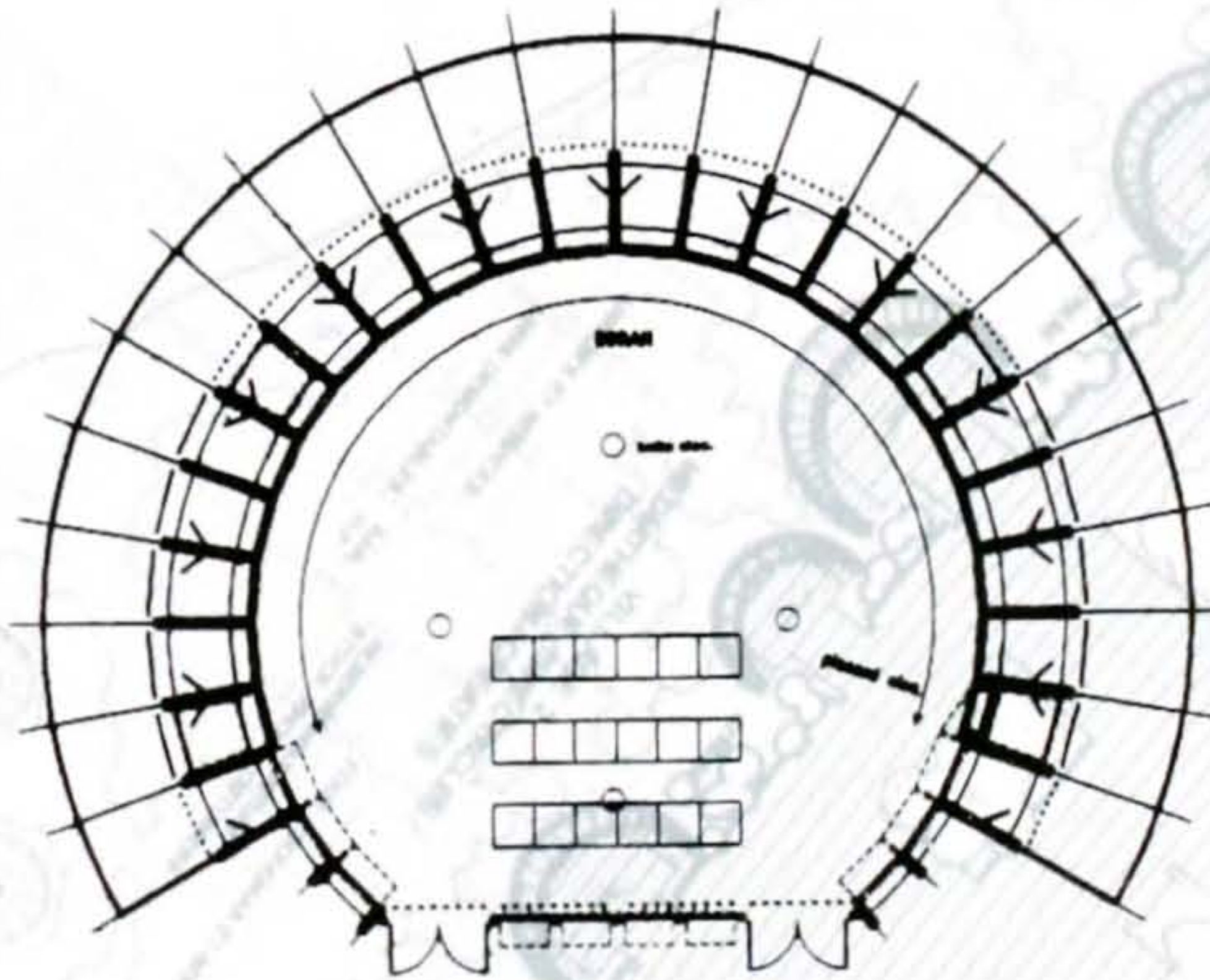
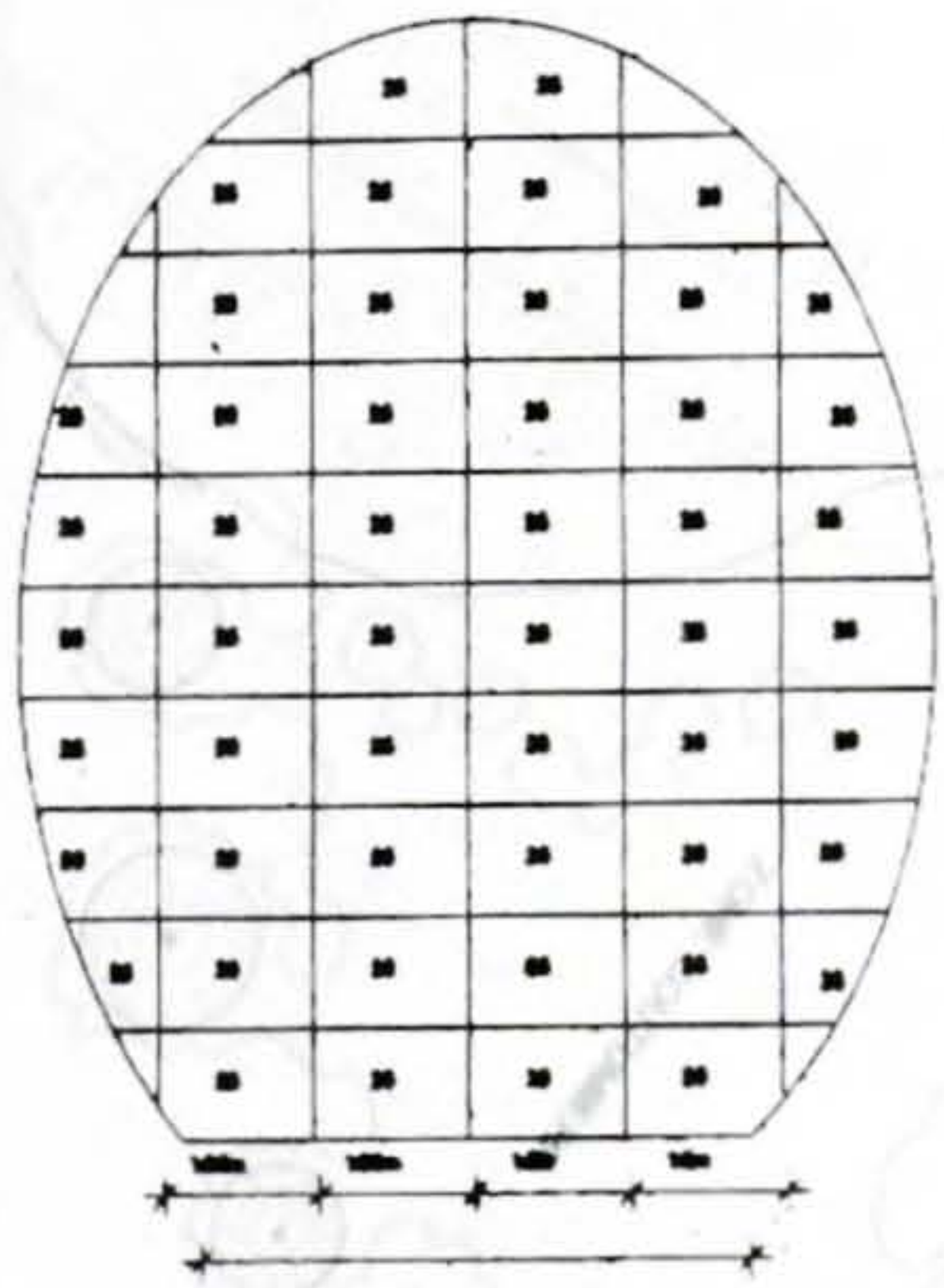
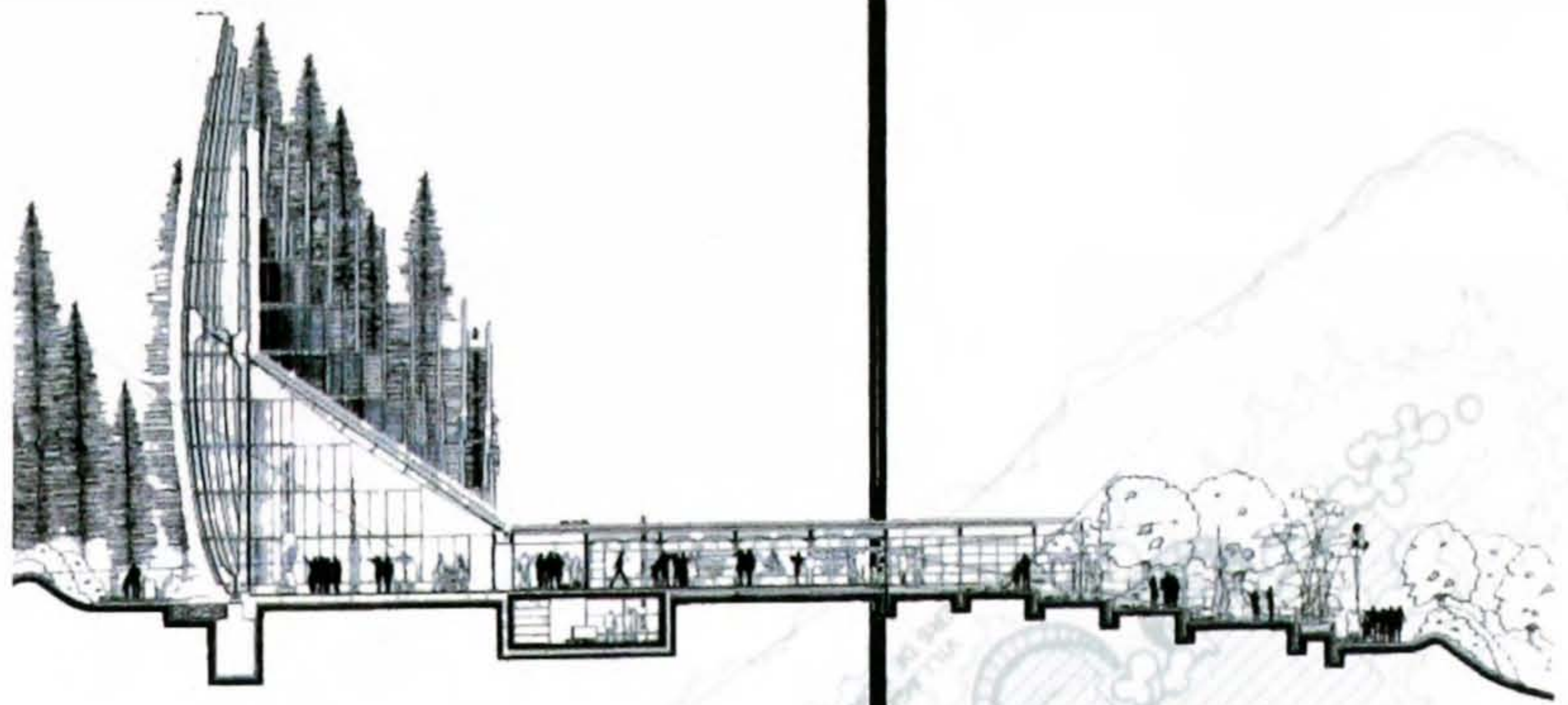
Renzo Piano
Nouméa, New Caledonia
1998

This project was created in order to preserve the Kanak culture and heritage. It is an excellent example of architecture devoted to preserving the culture of people and a community. The program of this building was that of a cultural center devoted to the Kanak culture, the inhabitants of the island.



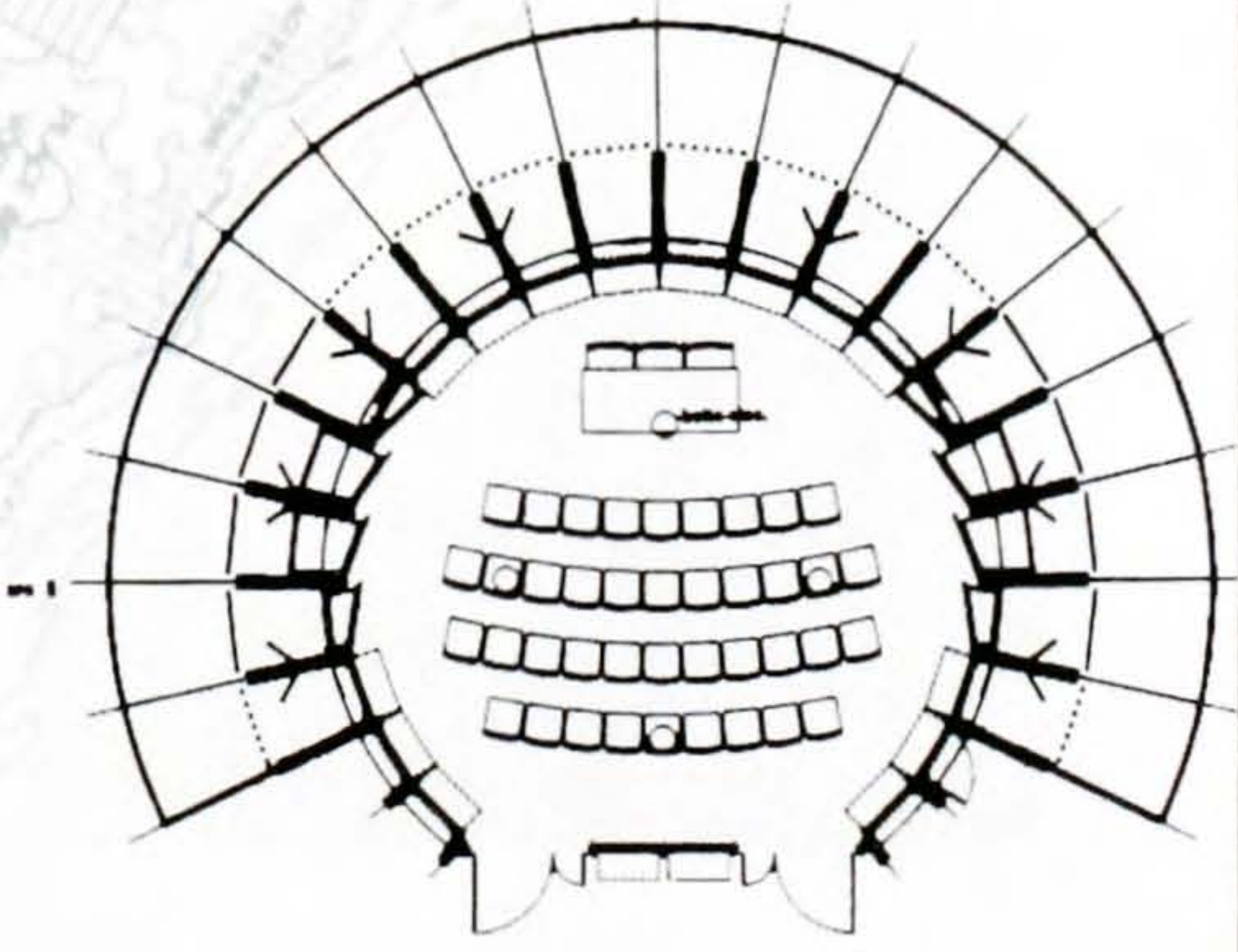
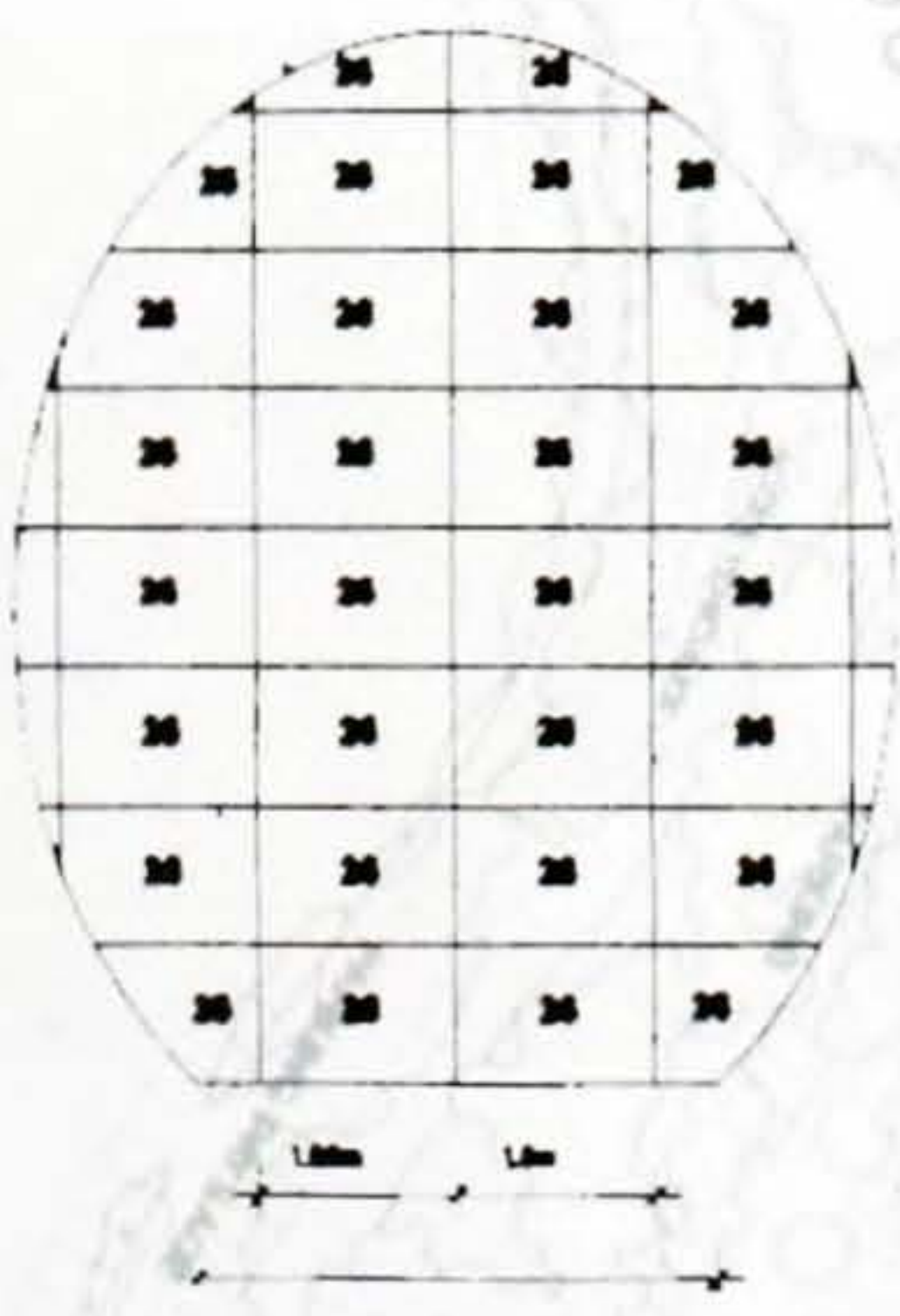
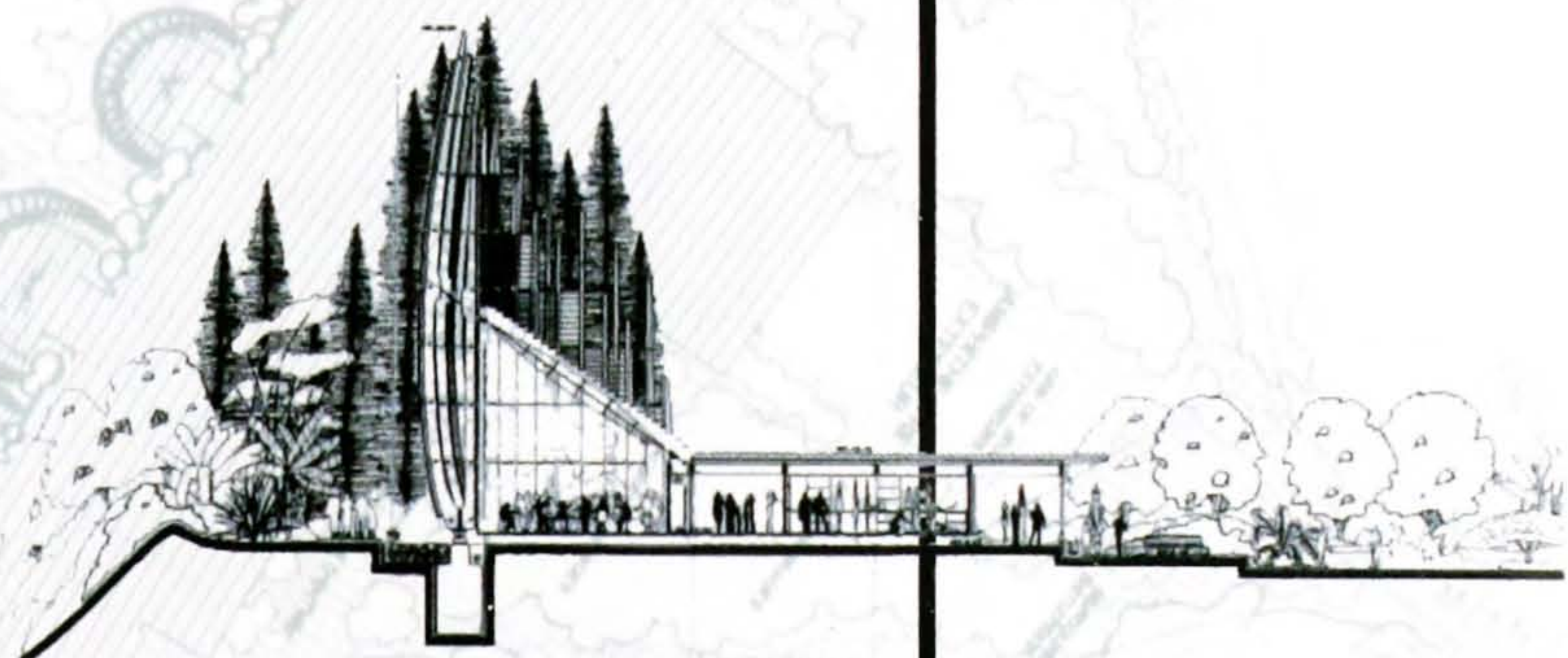
This relates well to this thesis because it not only is architecture designed with the programmatic purpose of preserving a community, but culture was incorporated into the design in very subtle ways that really make this building distinguishable.

Section



Plan

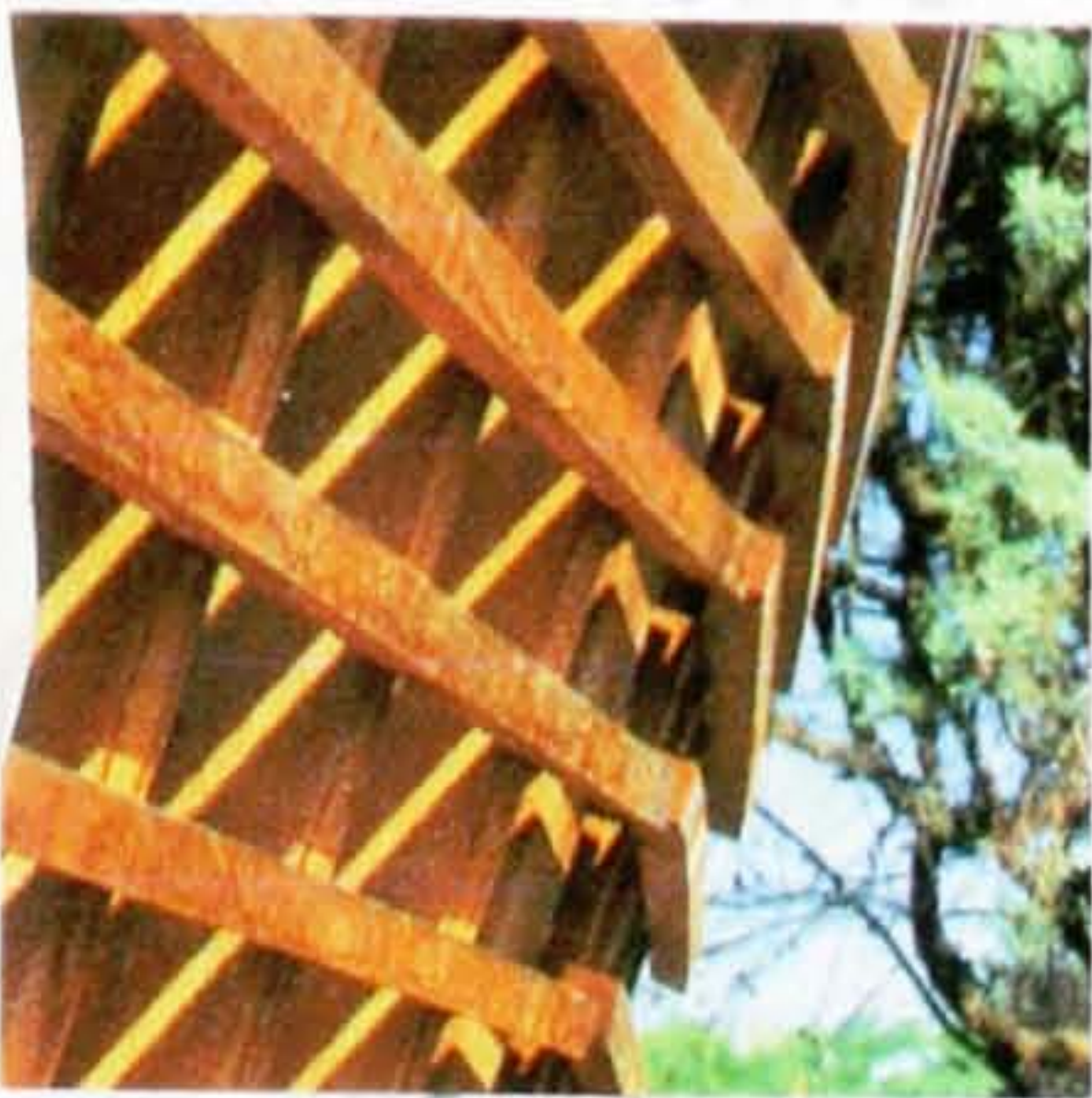
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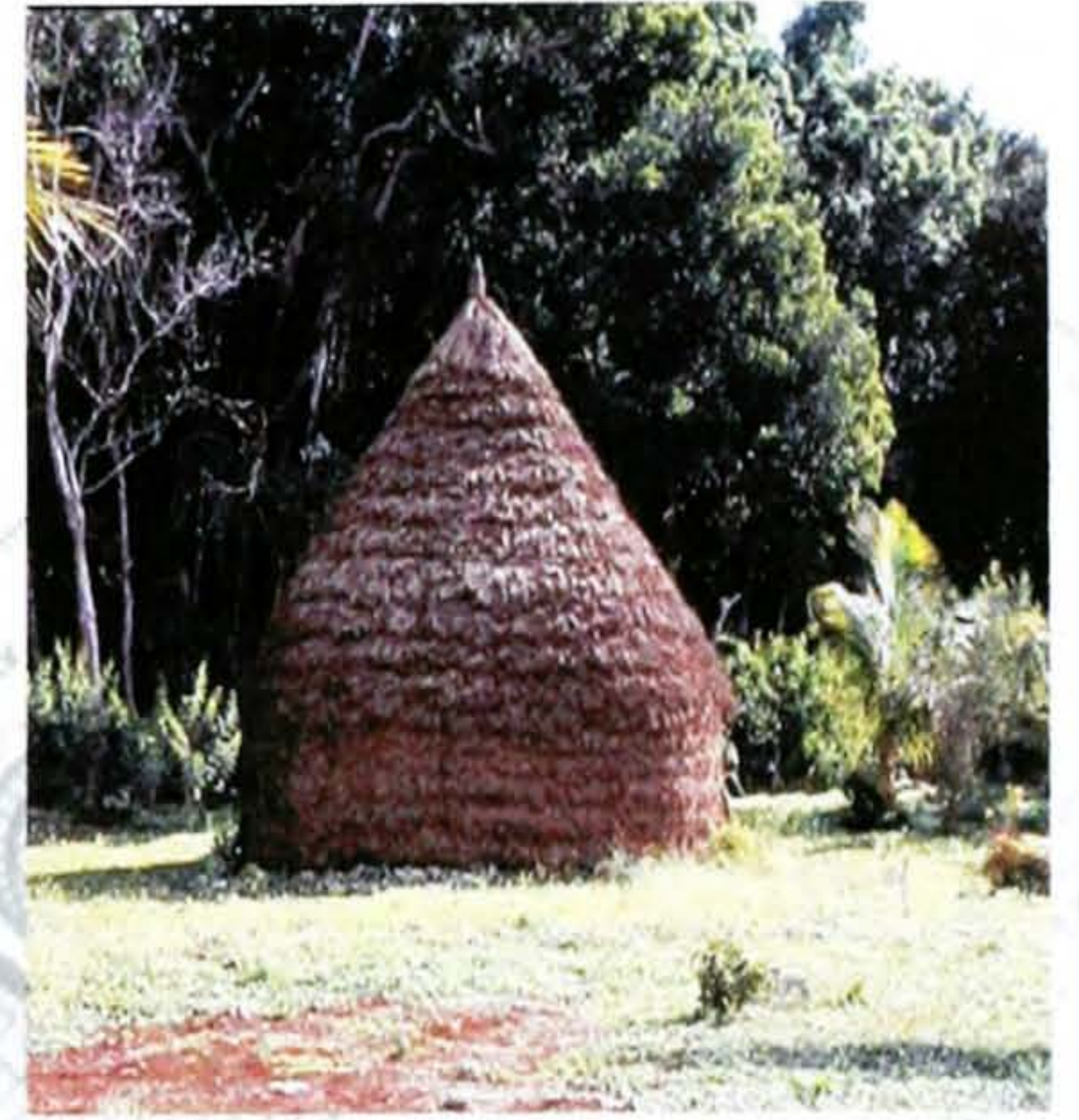
Plan

Views of the prototype

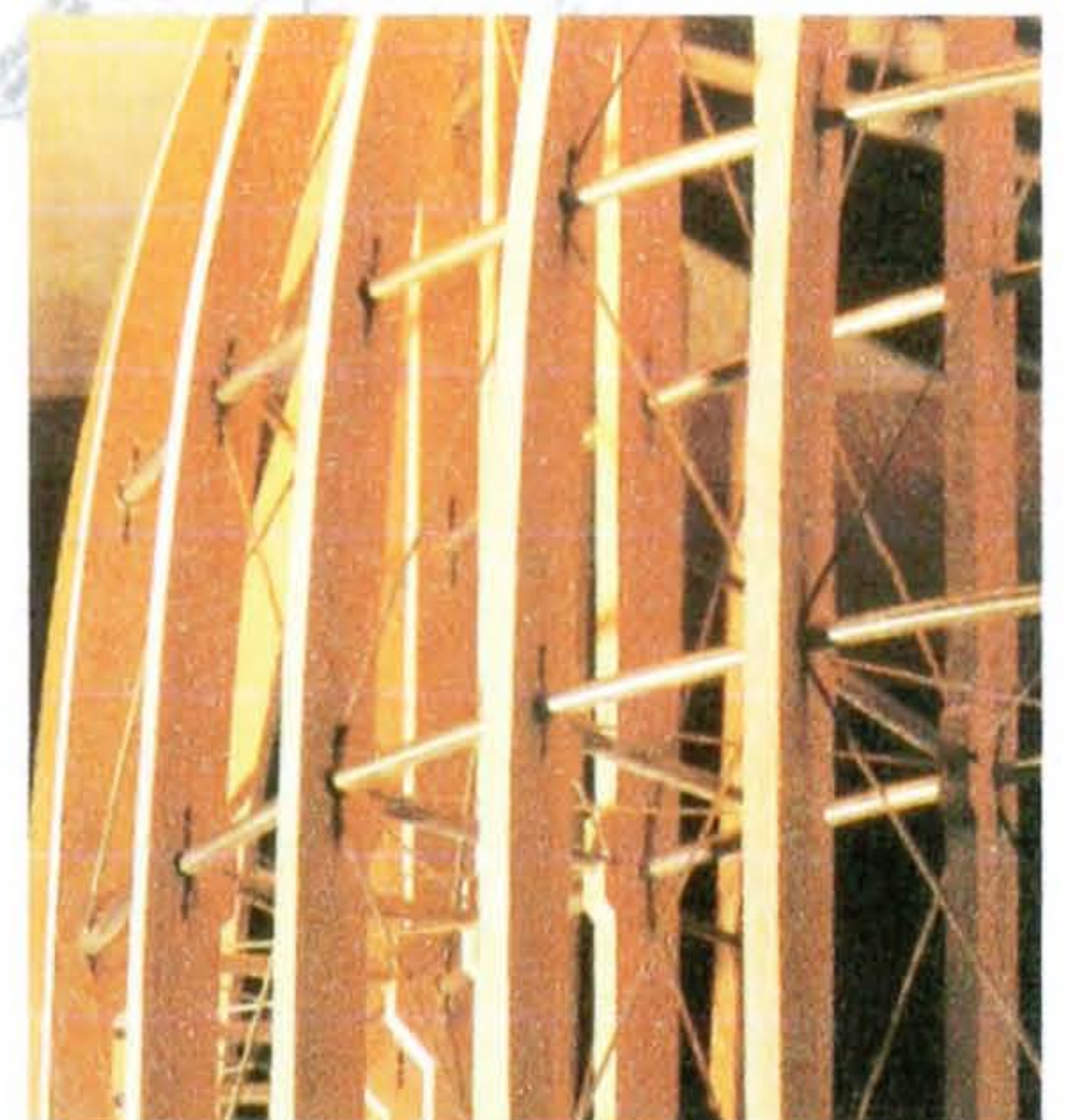
The materials for this project were mostly not from that region, but brought in from elsewhere. However, it was understood that the materials used, though not all indigenous to the region, resembled or were reminiscent of the local materials or habitat. This building is an amazing blend of new technology with the representation of ancient traditions. It achieved this through the careful research done by the architects with their careful respect to regional details.



The design was based on various abstractions and understandings of their culture. The "cages," the main architectural feature of the design, were based off of the Kanak huts on the island. Piano paid close attention to detail in both construction and feasibility.



However, the architecture was not purely poetic, but these cages served a function by both shielding the structure and channeling the prevailing winds that came off the sea. Originally, the layout of the plan was representative of how the villages of the Kanak were laid out. However, due to the fact of prevailing wind conditions on the site it was not appropriate to have such a lay-out. Instead, the basic idea was kept, but all of the "cages" were placed on one side to better suit the site conditions. In this way, the project is very responsive to local climate conditions, which were also considered. This was true of the design as a whole; it fit very well with the site aesthetically and was indicative of the native culture.

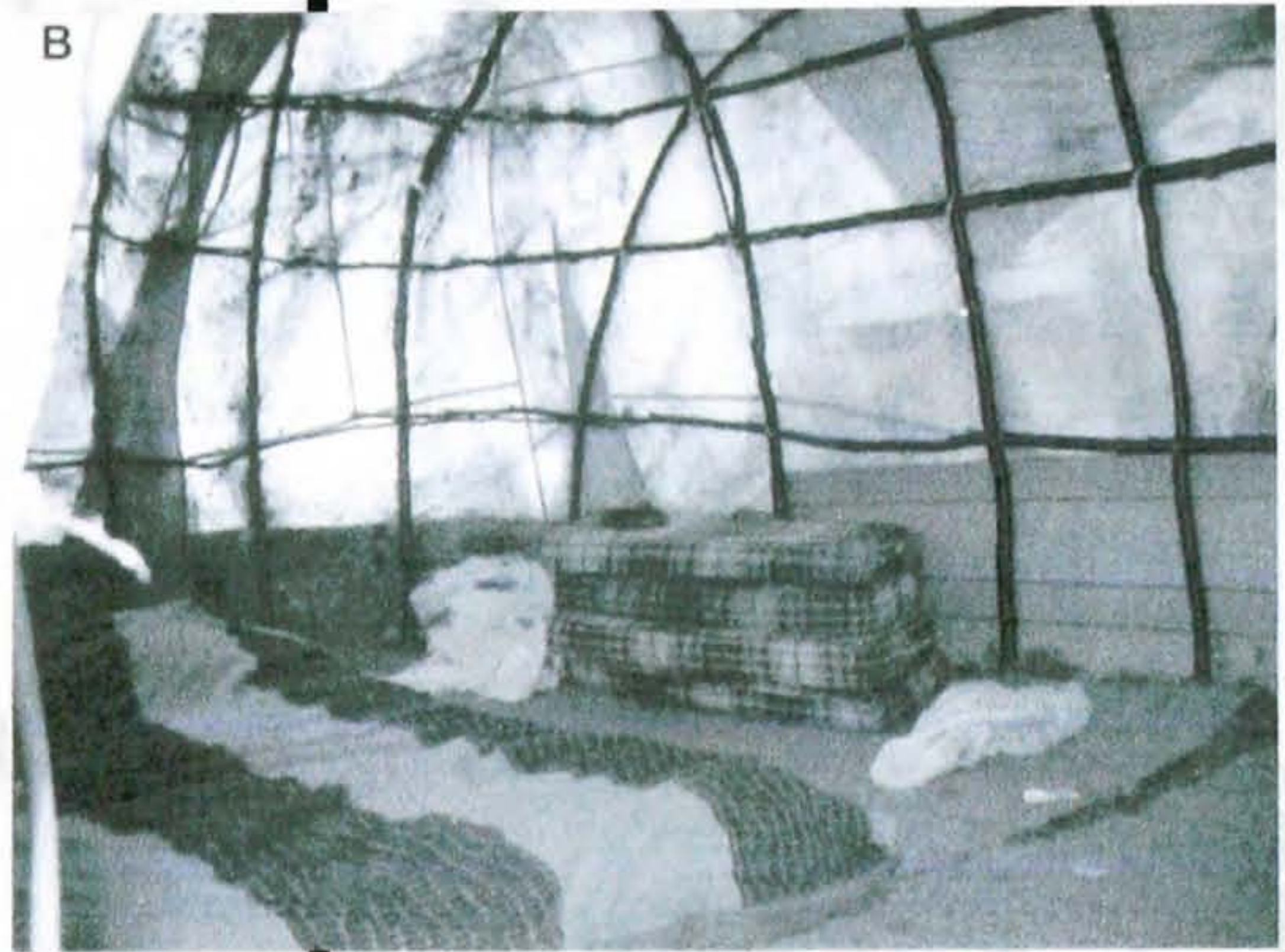


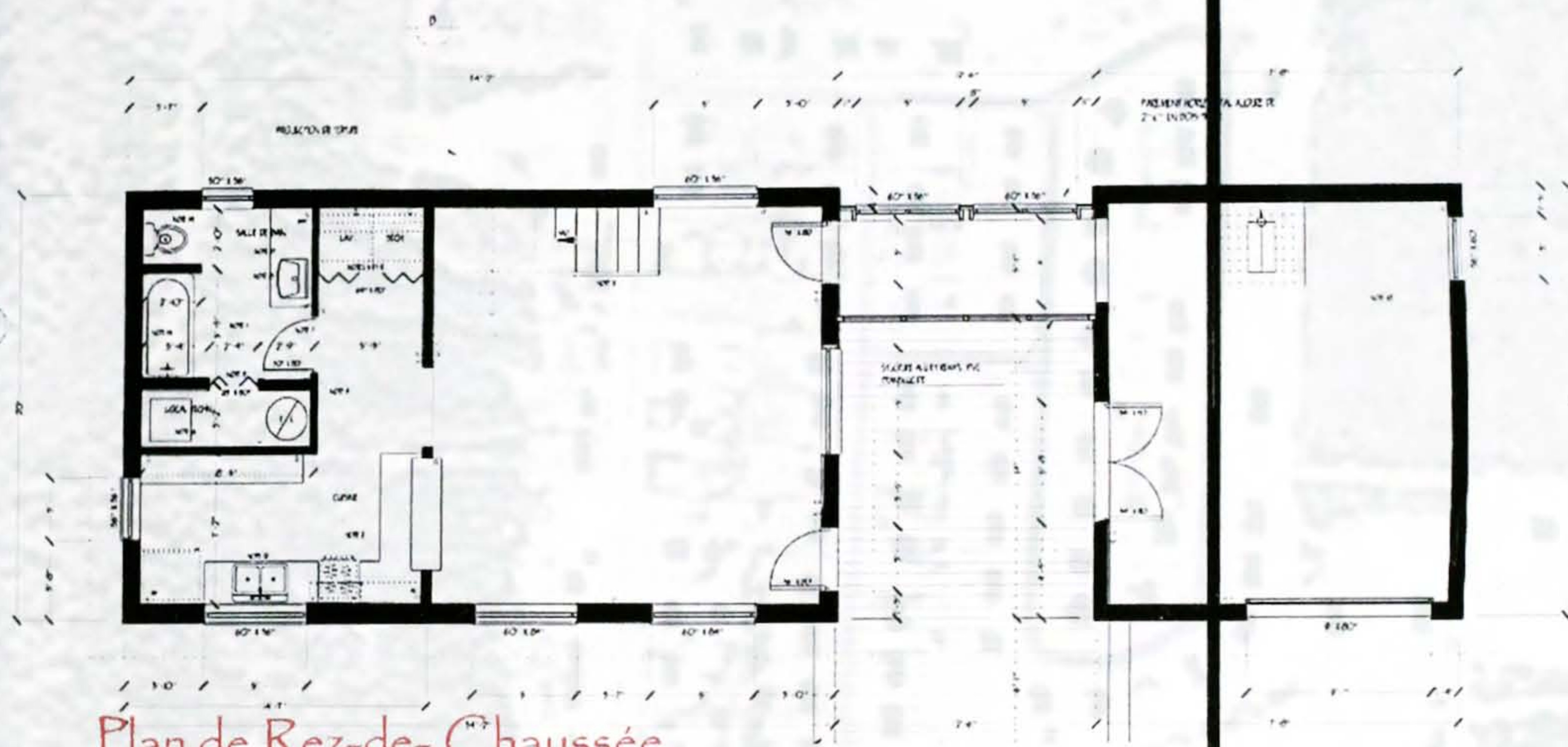
"Housing and Cultures"

Professor André Casault
Innu of Uashat mak
Mani-Utenam
Sept-Iles, Quebec
Fall 2003

This project delves into what defines a culture and begins to create an understanding of what it means to create meaningful architecture pertaining to culture. What had previously been the developed area home to the local tribe was redesigned by the students to create a more hospitable habitat and living environment.

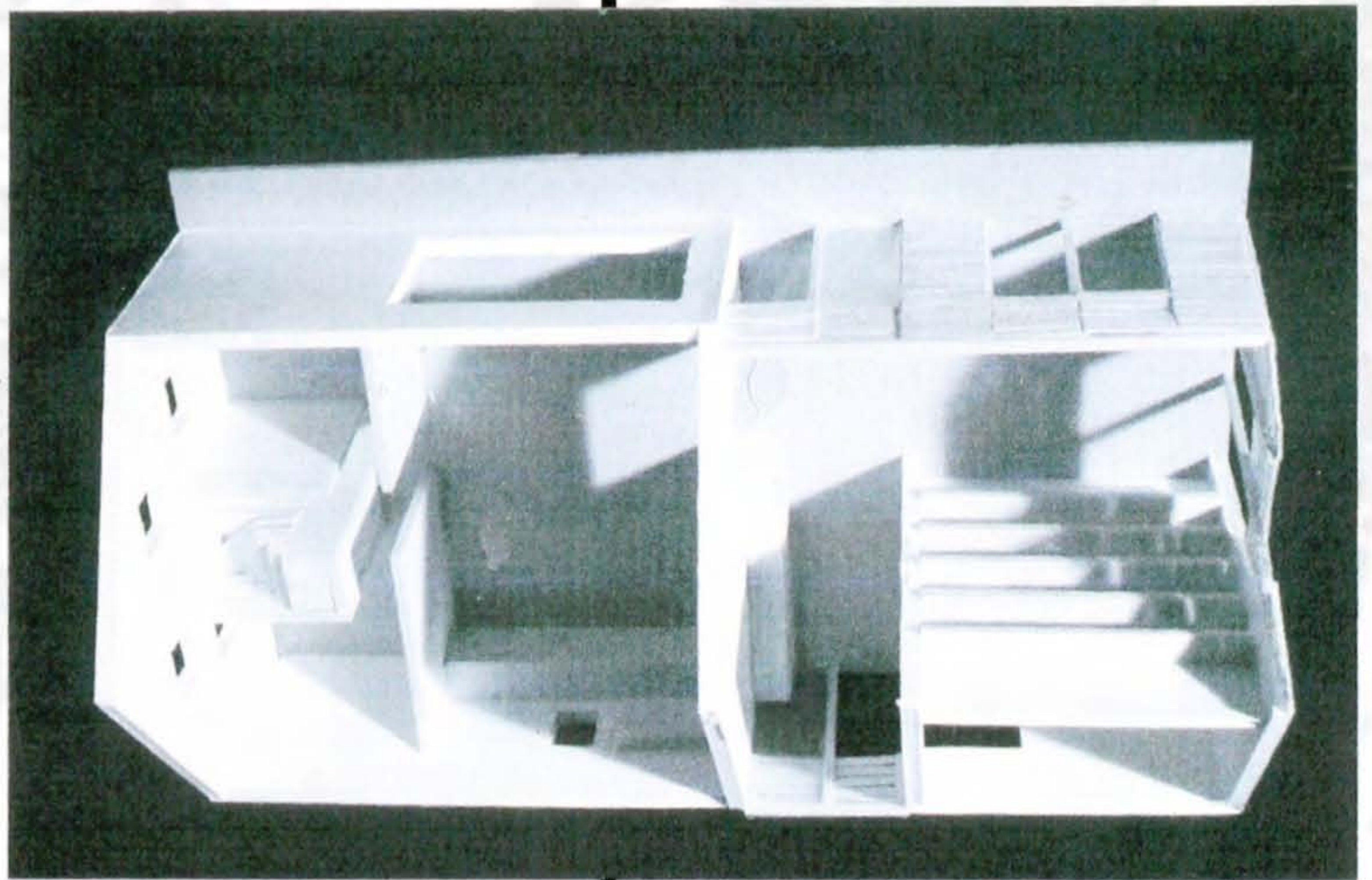
The students interrogated the Innu; asking a series of questions to draw out what was meaningful to the people and what they felt were elements that they, as a community and a culture, were beginning to lose in their way of life. This is very significant to this thesis in that there is an understanding that culture is intrinsic to architecture.



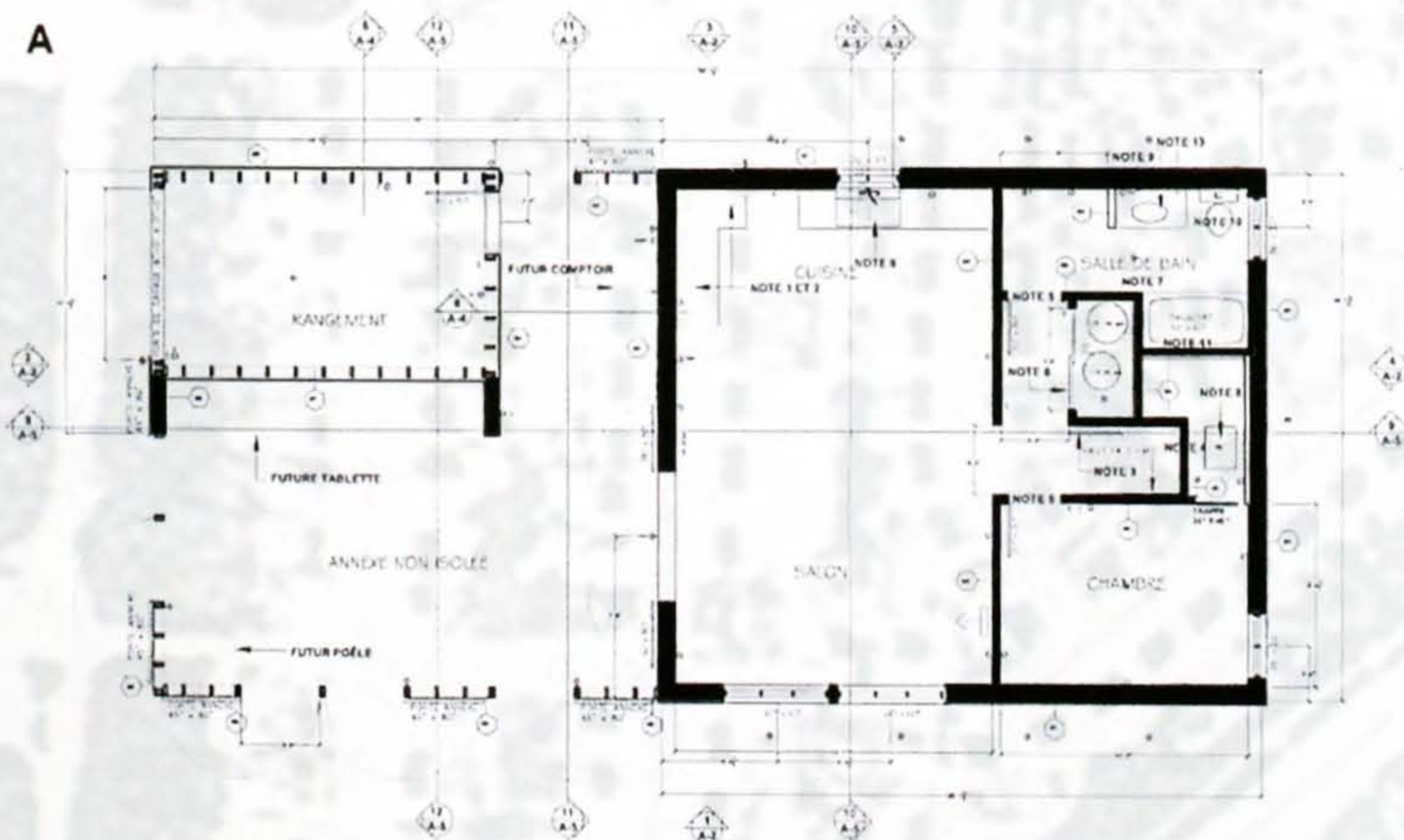


Plan de Rez-de-Chaussée

One such aspect of this ingenuity was the open layout of the housing plans. Instead of a closed floor plan, the students opened up the living space to allow views to the front door from most of the living space to allow the inhabitants the ability to see who was entering their home. This was done in regards to the Innu's tradition of not knocking, but simply entering the house unannounced.

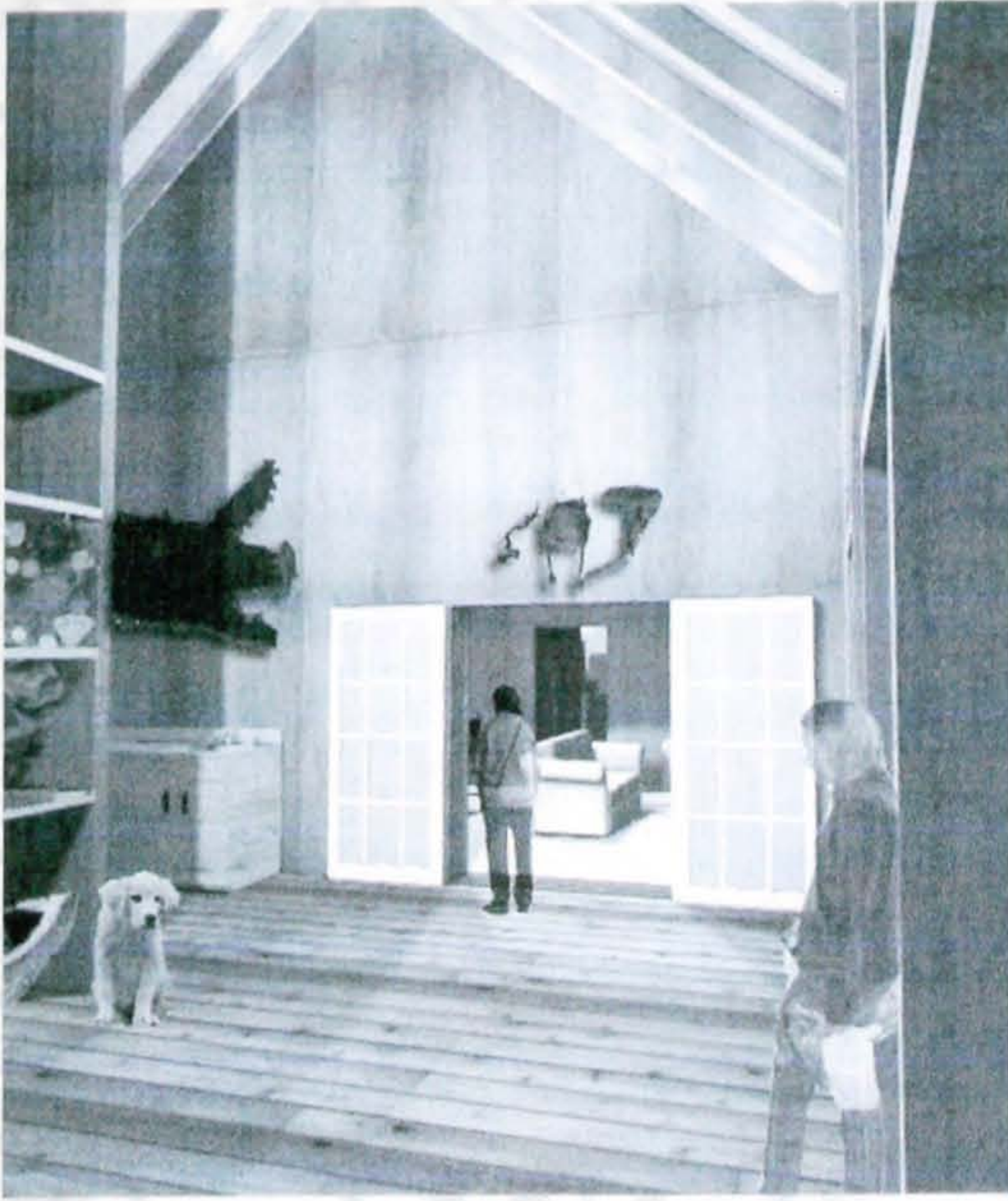


Interim Model,
Verdier/Proteau Team



Plan Rez-de-Chaussée

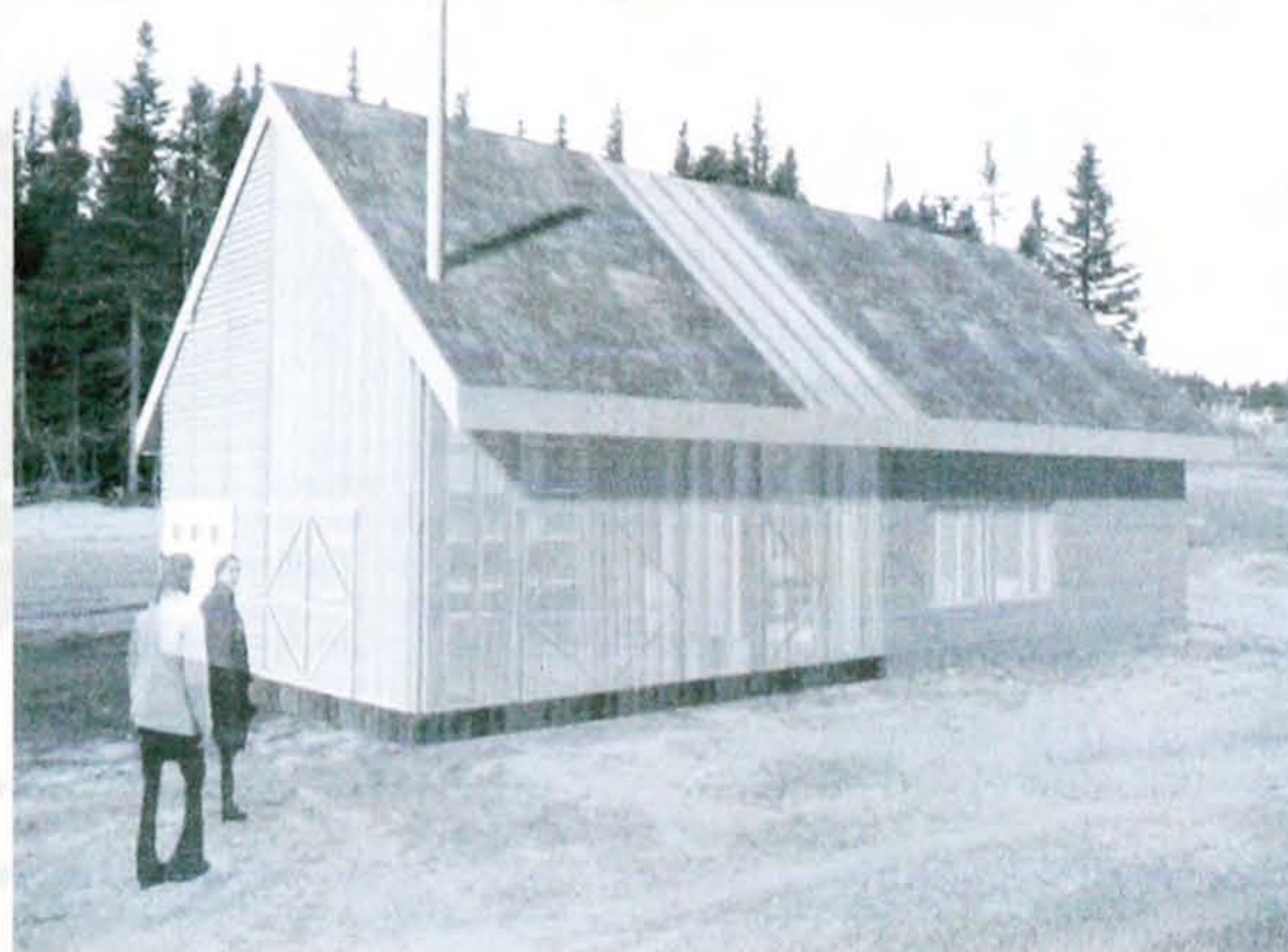
From the Innu, the students also learned that they enjoyed having large central spaces in which the entire family could gather. Instead of sleeping in their own bedrooms, the Innu would, at times, sleep together in the main central room in front of the television, each pulling up their own mattress.



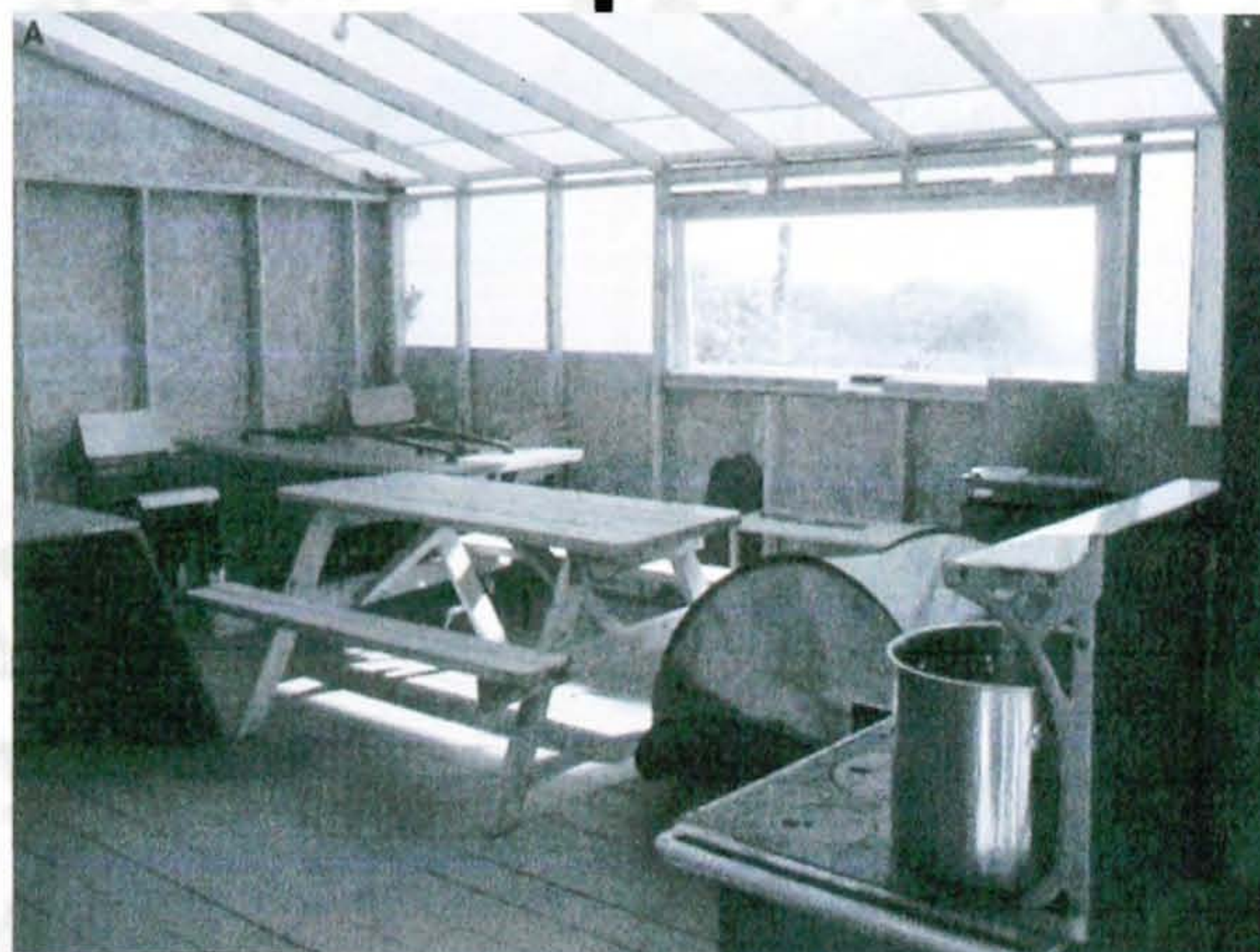
Computer rendering,
Verdier/Proteau Team

From the Innu, the students also learned that they enjoyed having large central spaces in which the entire family could gather. Instead of sleeping in their own bedrooms, the Innu would, at times, sleep together in the main central room in front of the television, each pulling up their own mattress. The students were able to take this knowledge and translate it into an architectural design that was far more suitable to the Innu than the housing that was there previously.

The students of the master's studio did an excellent job of communicating the culture of the Innu people in their architectural designs. They were able to express those architectural elements focusing mainly on how the spaces were inhabited. This was all based upon meeting with the local people and learning their way of life.



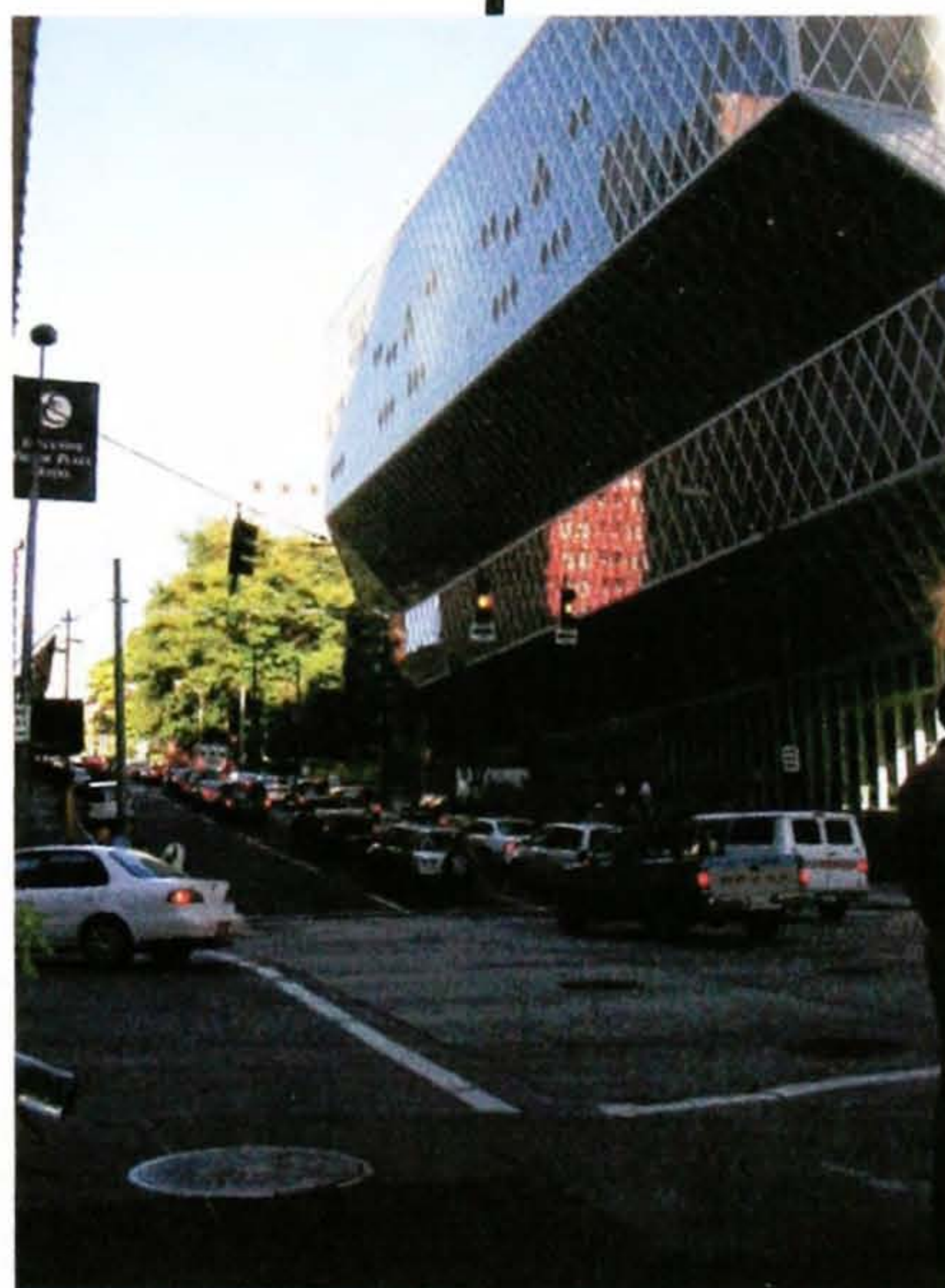
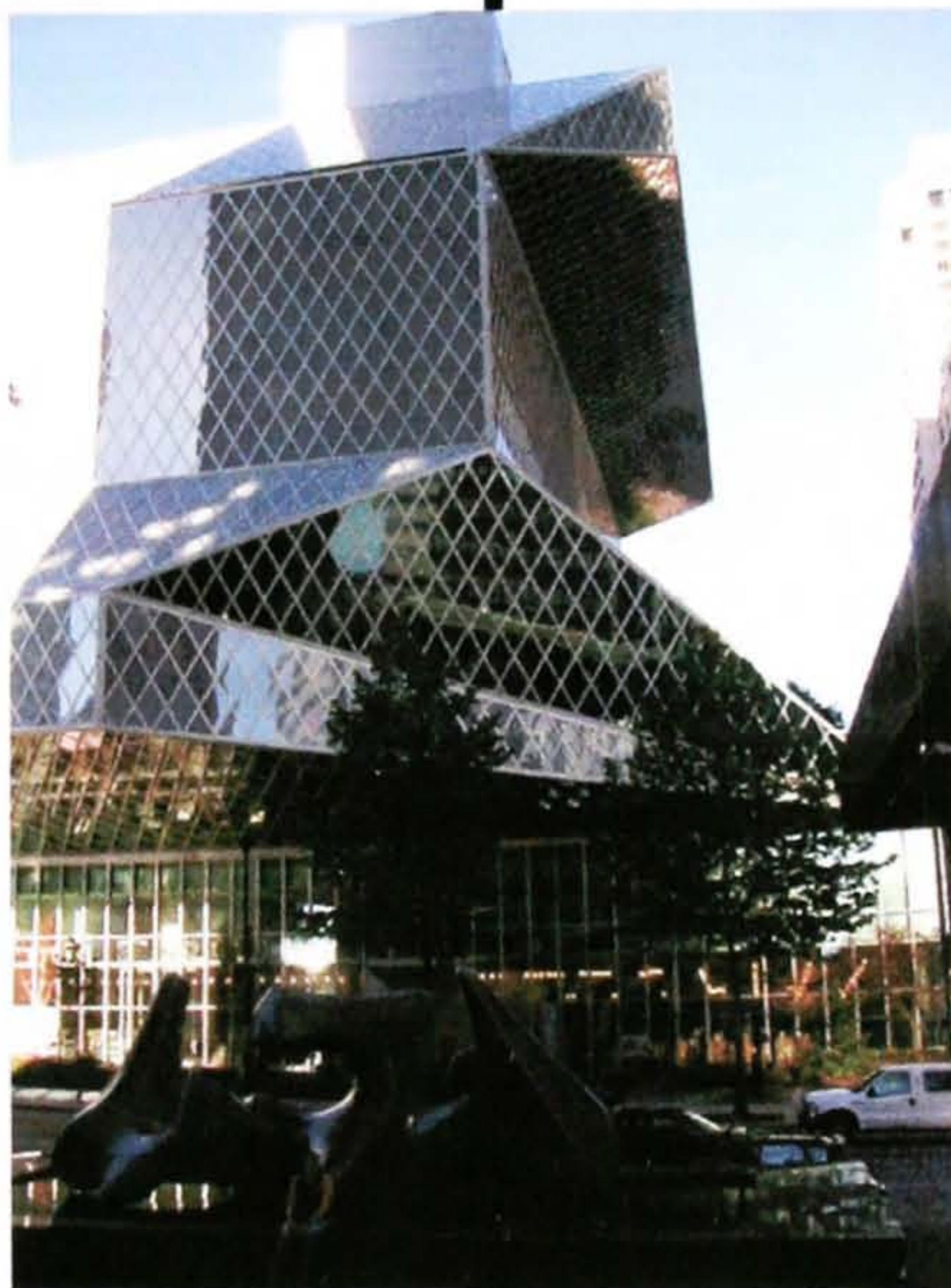
Computer rendering, Verdier/Proteau Team

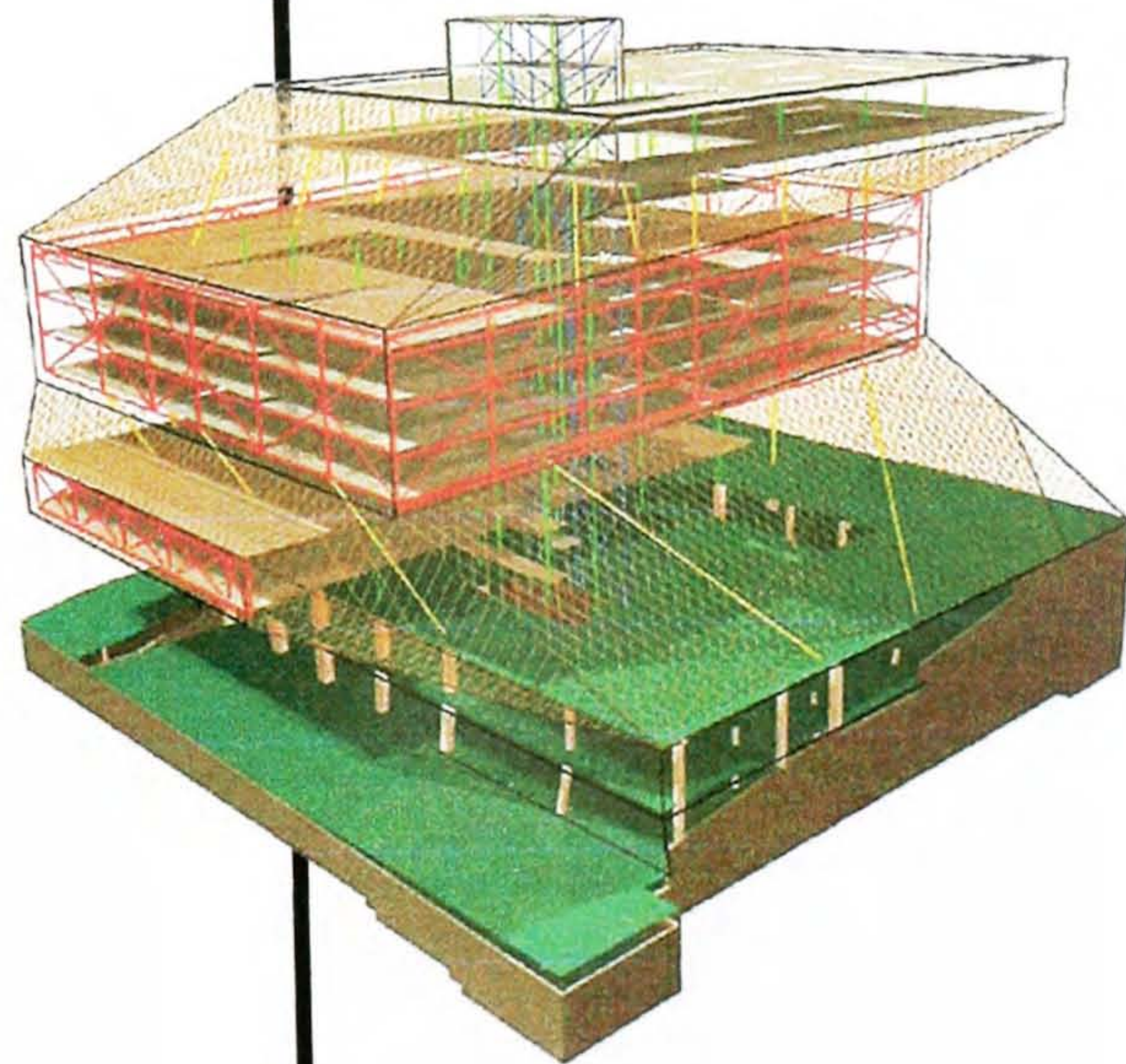
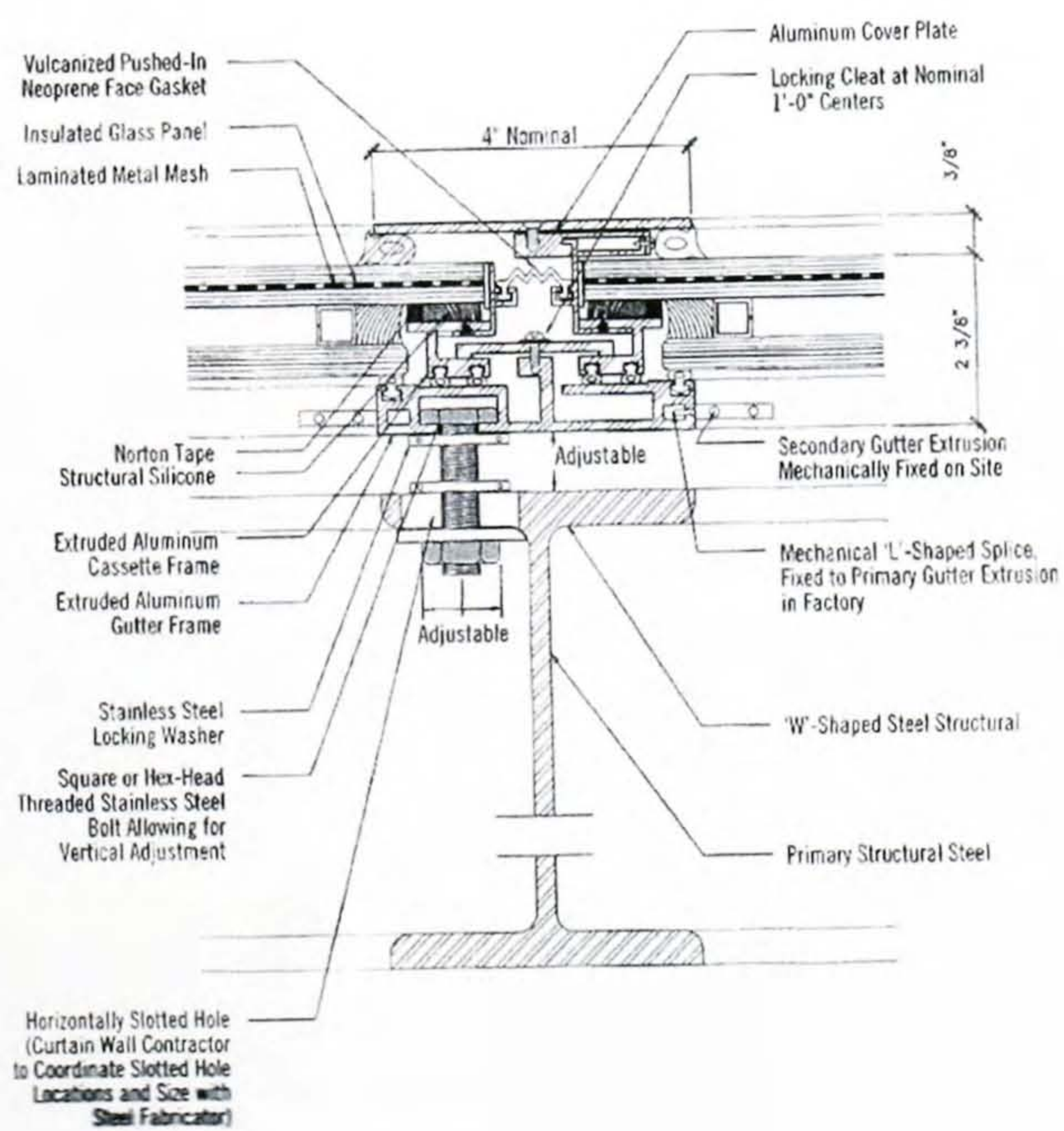
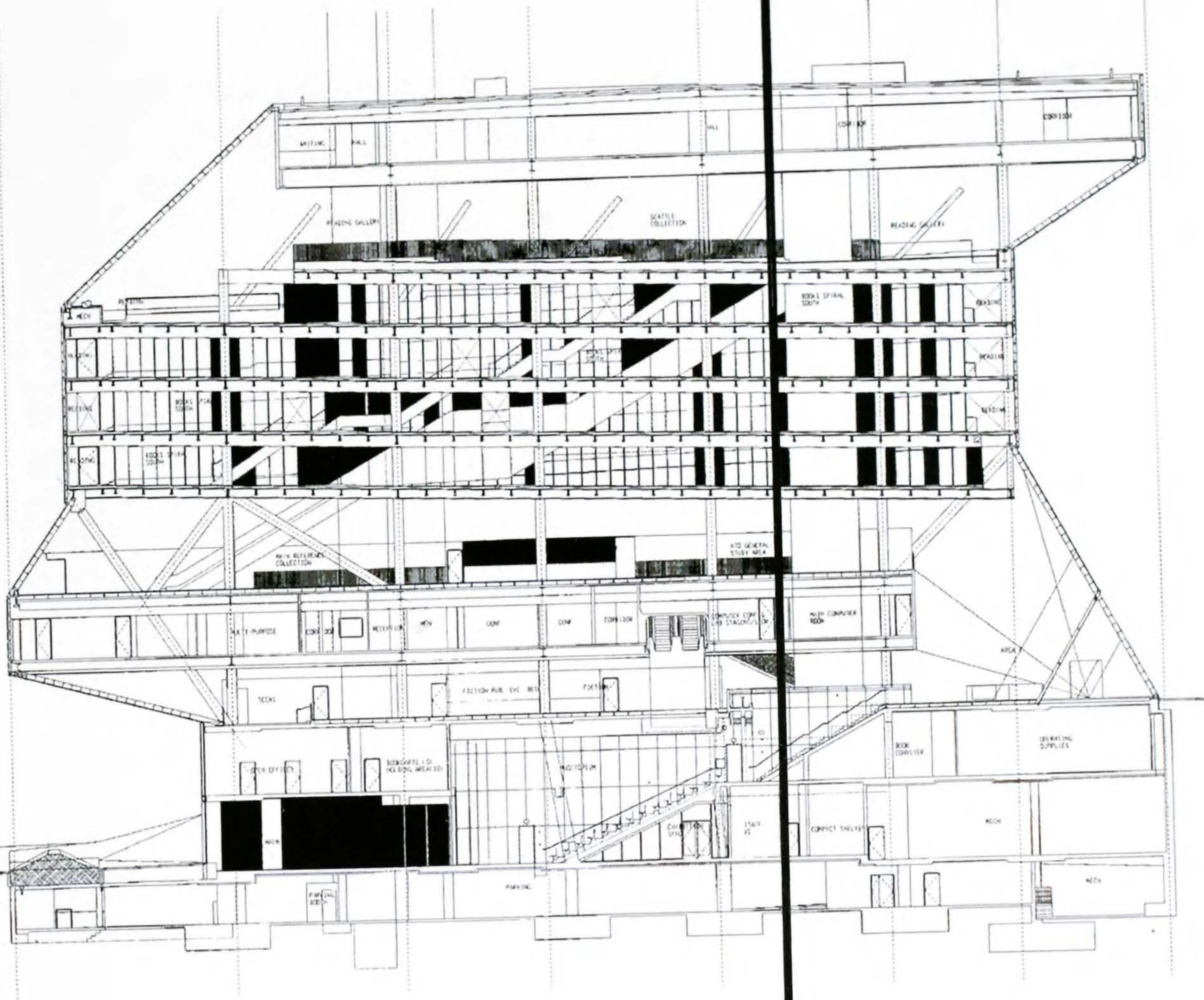


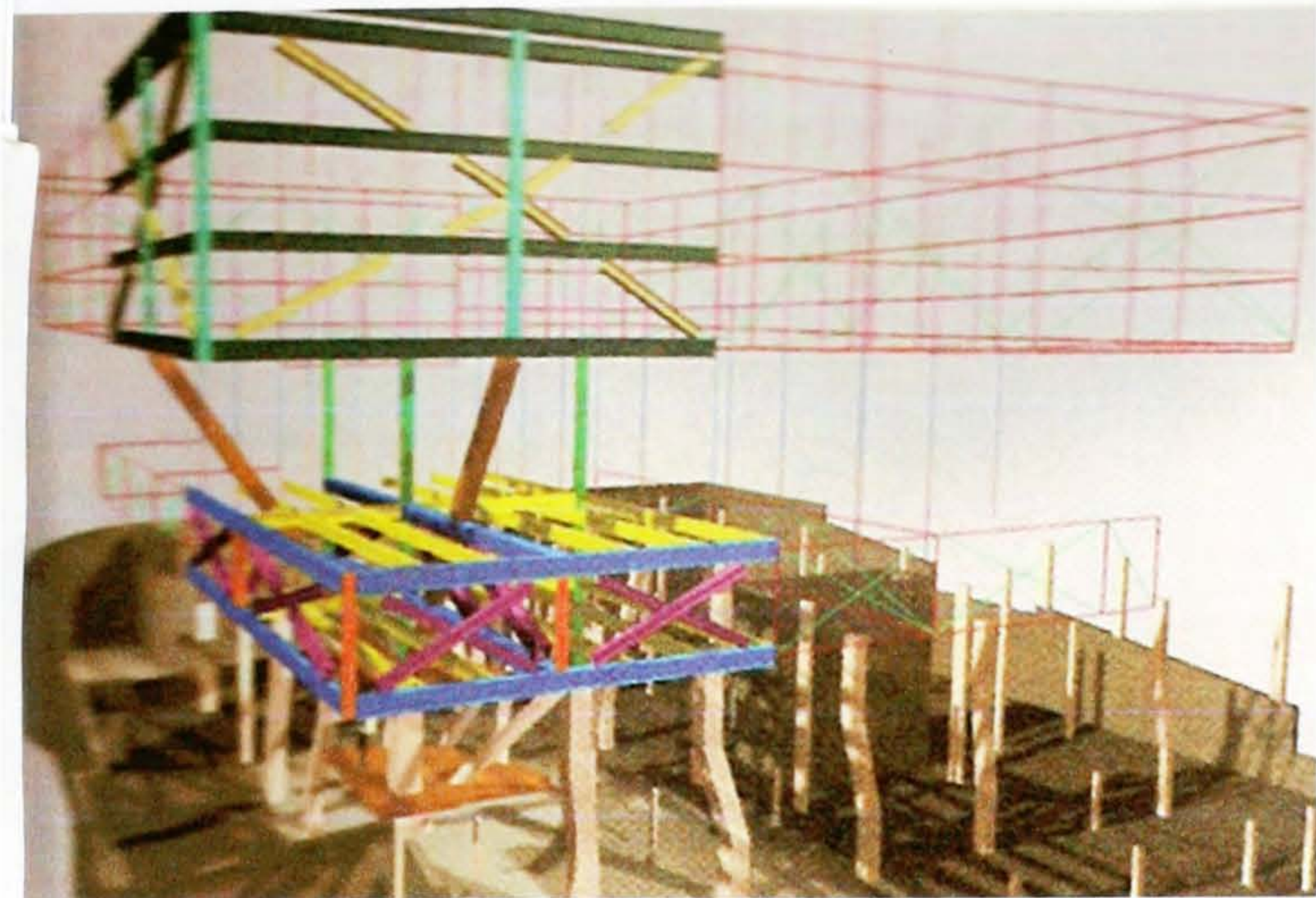
Photograph taken by students

Seattle Central Library

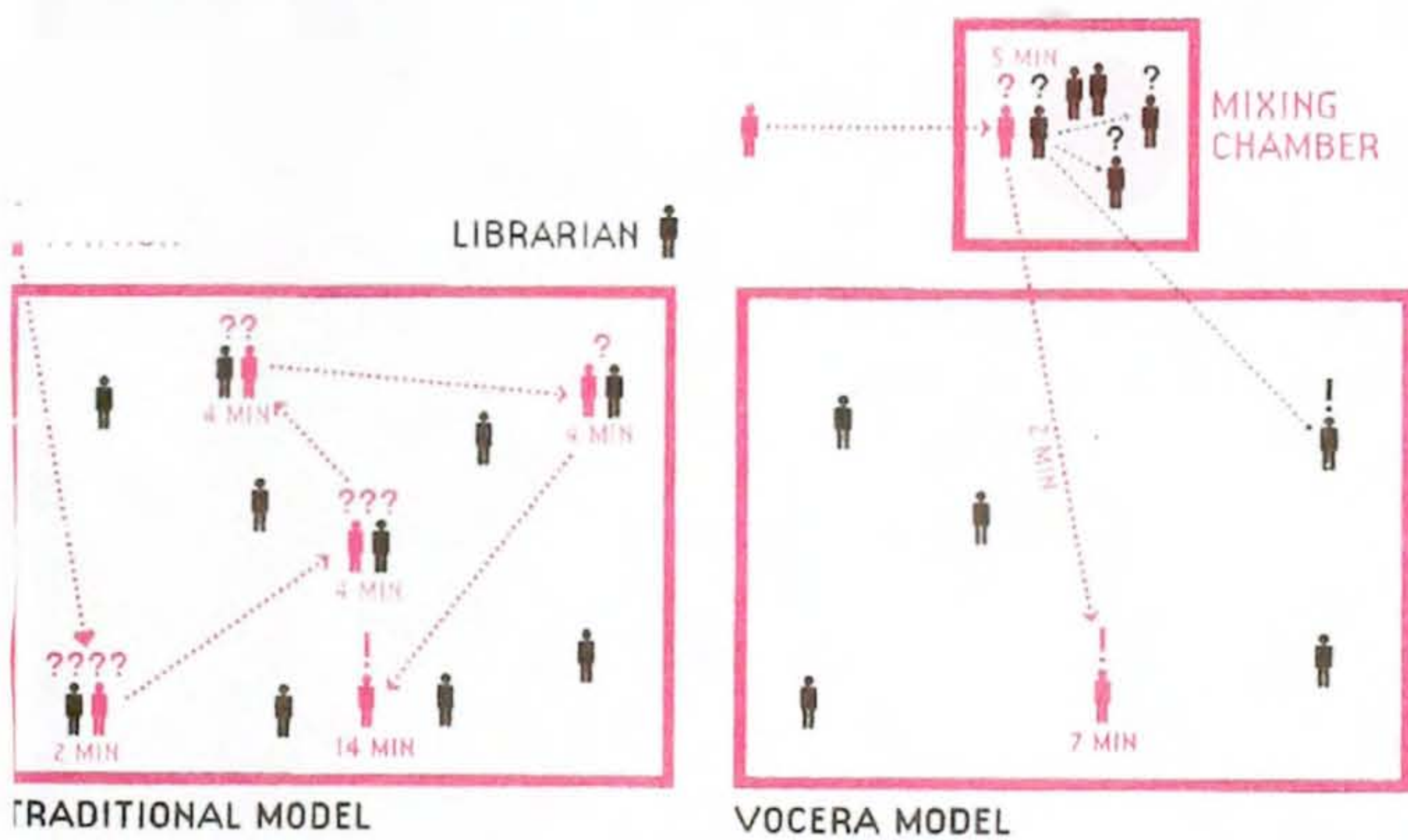
Rem Koolhaas
Seattle Washington
2004



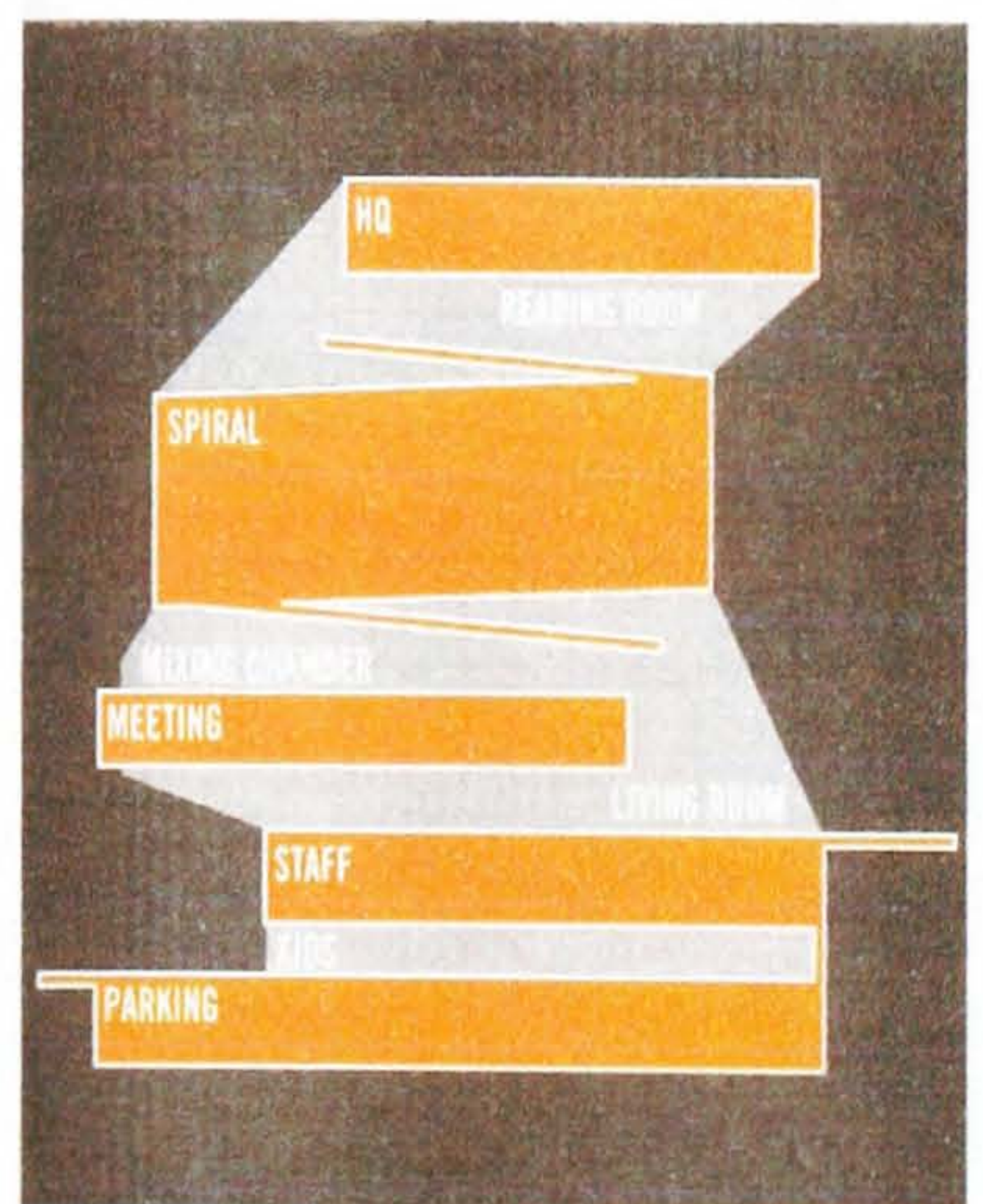
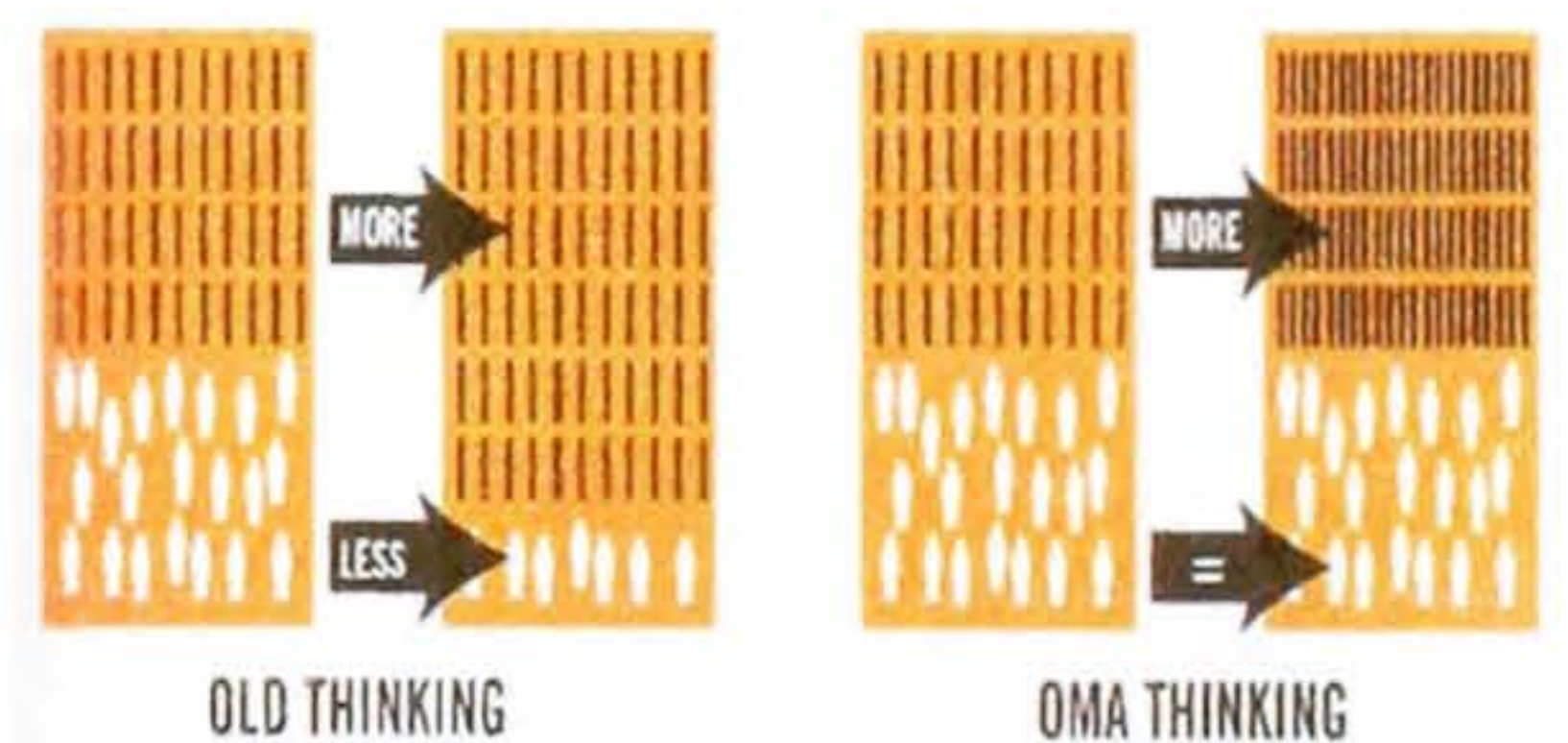




The interior of this library was focused mainly on how people move about the spaces. They created a system of platforms and based their placement according to their hierarchy of functions. The concepts of how people move throughout the space and modernizing the library in sense with a greater use of technology and also straying from the usual typology of a typical library are strong. However, this building pays absolutely no attention to it's site with a complete disregard to it's environment and it's surroundings.



RETHINKING THE PROBLEM OF LIBRARY GROWTH

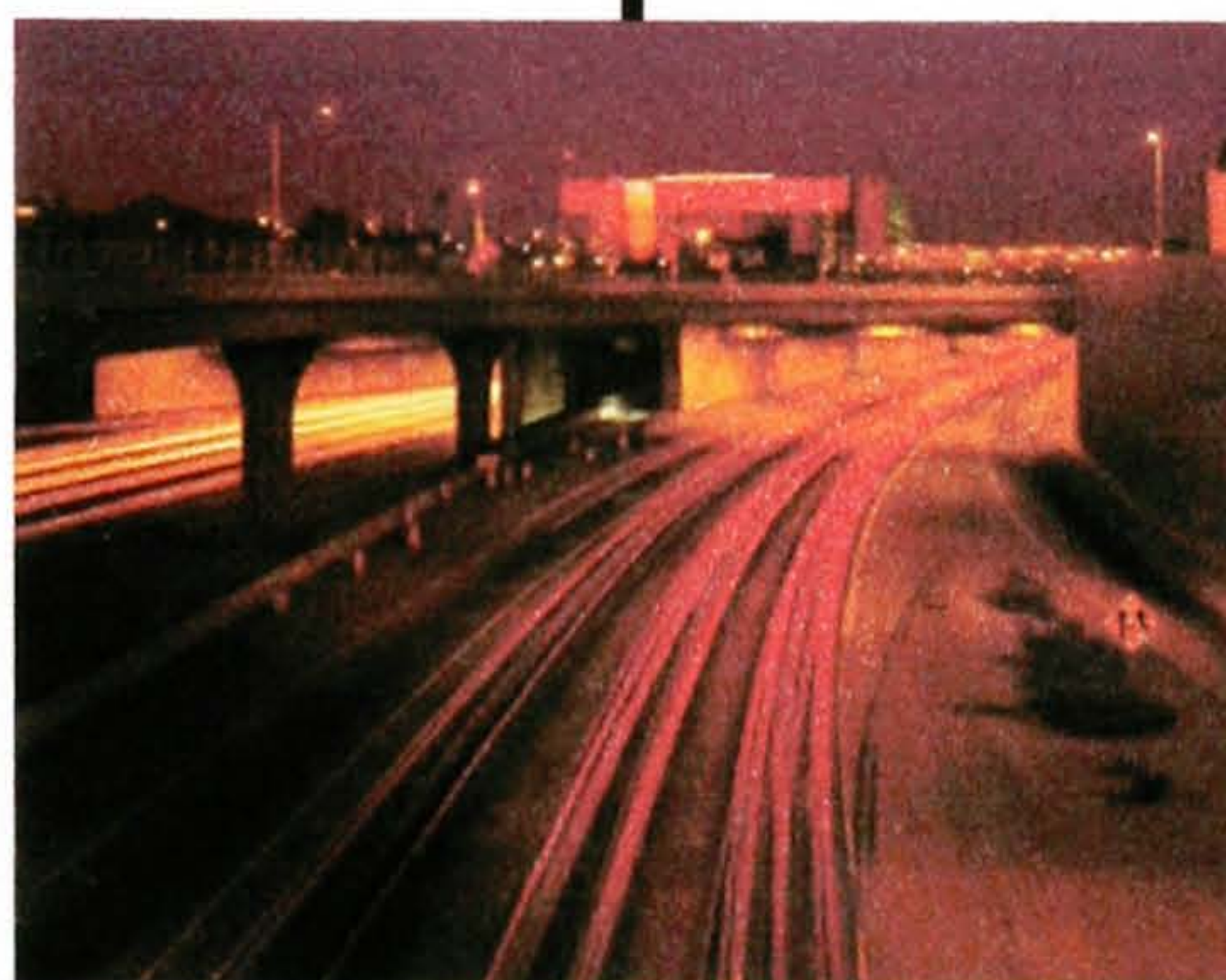
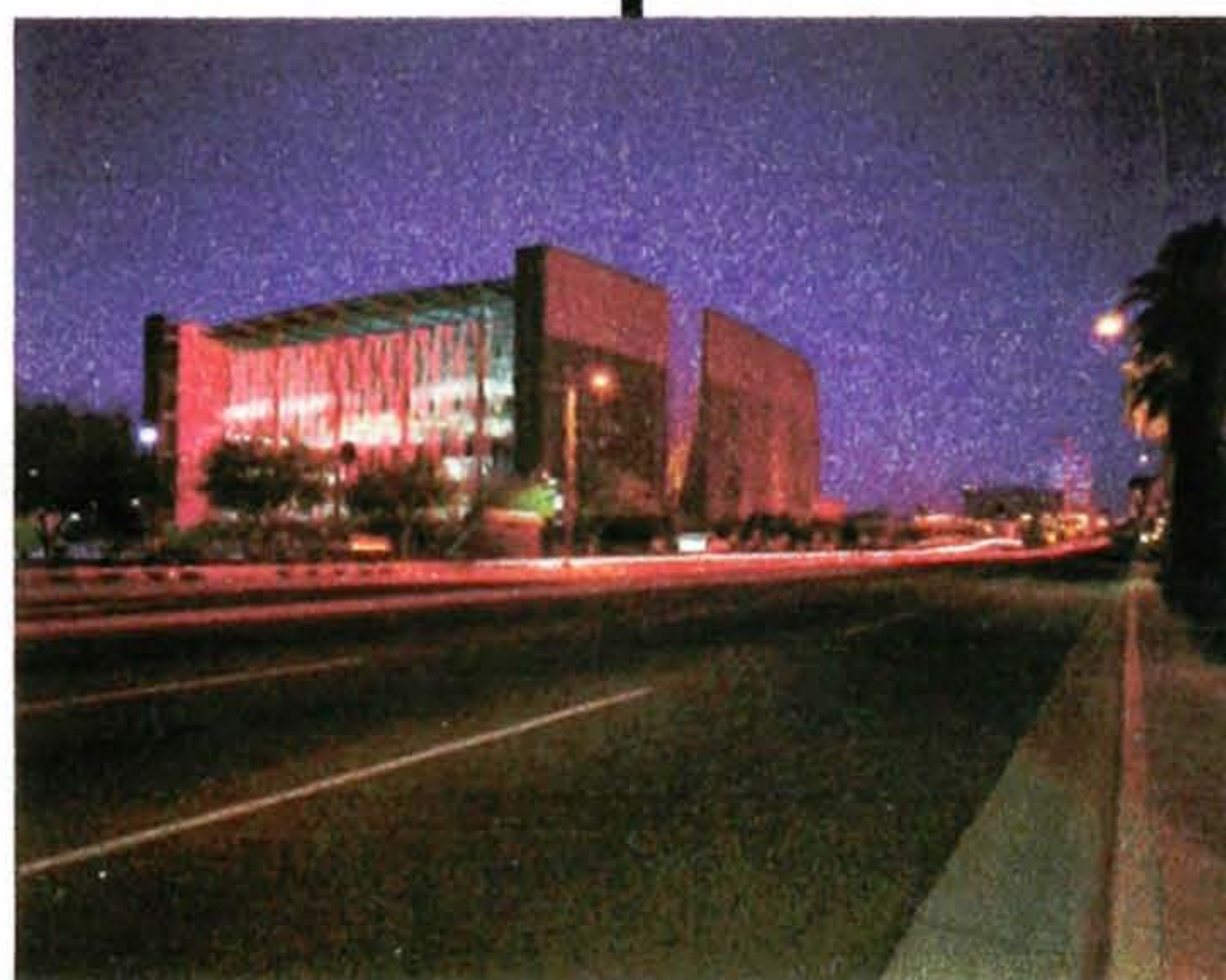


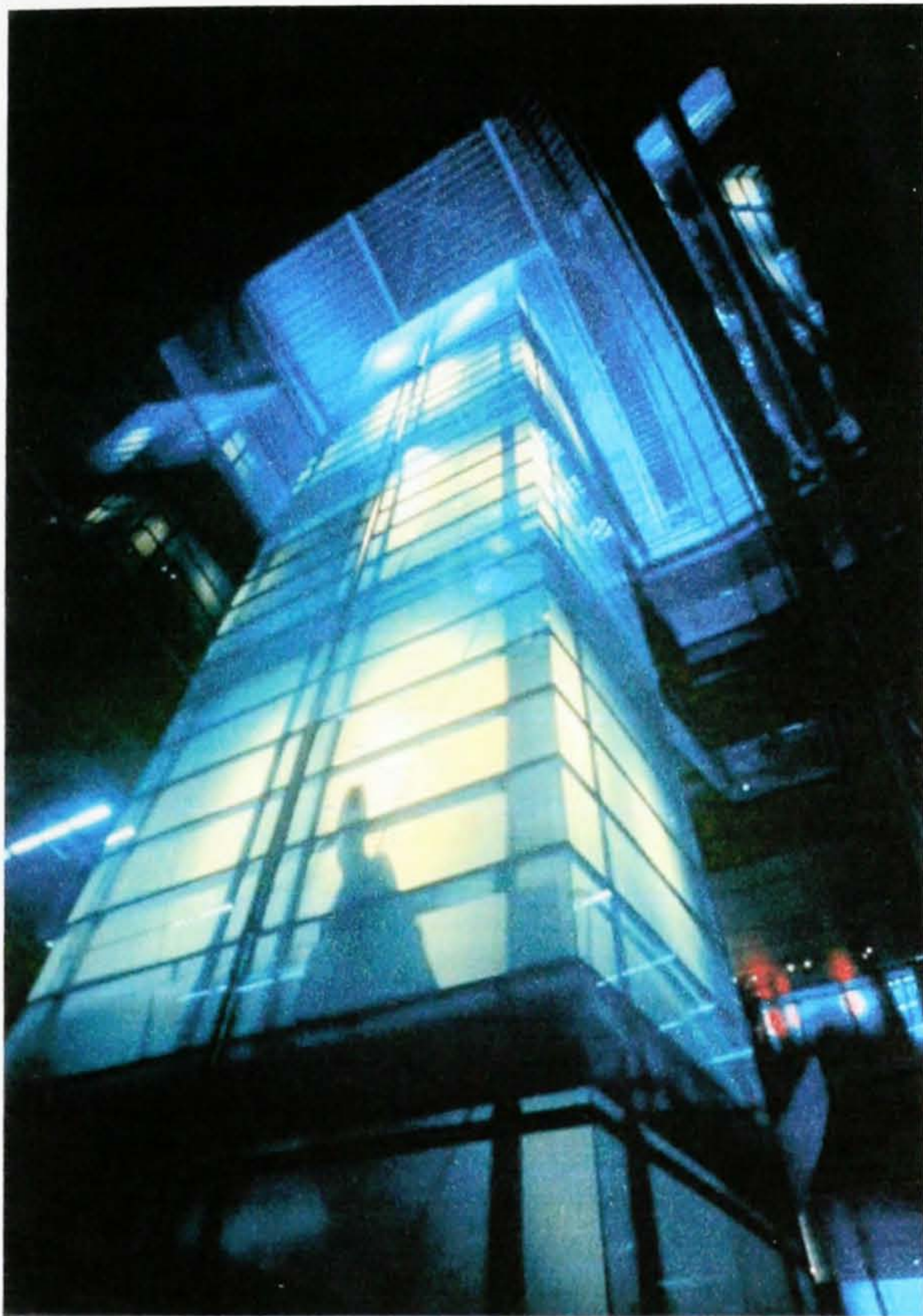
With the intention in mind, "new libraries don't reinvent or even modernize the traditional institution; they merely package it in a new way," Rem Koolhaas and his firm designed the Seattle public library. The form of this building although very sculptural was not derived on any abstractions of its location on the site, but was created by merely pushing "boxes" of space around in order to meet with zoning codes and set back restrictions. The interior spaces were designed to create a sense of movement through urban spaces; not just moving through different spaces in a building. Also, the interior structure of the building was designed to give the people inside the sense that the interior spaces were floating. This was achieved by minimizing the usage of columns on the exteriors of the interior platforms.



Phoenix Public Library

Will Bruder Architects
Phoenix, Arizona
1995



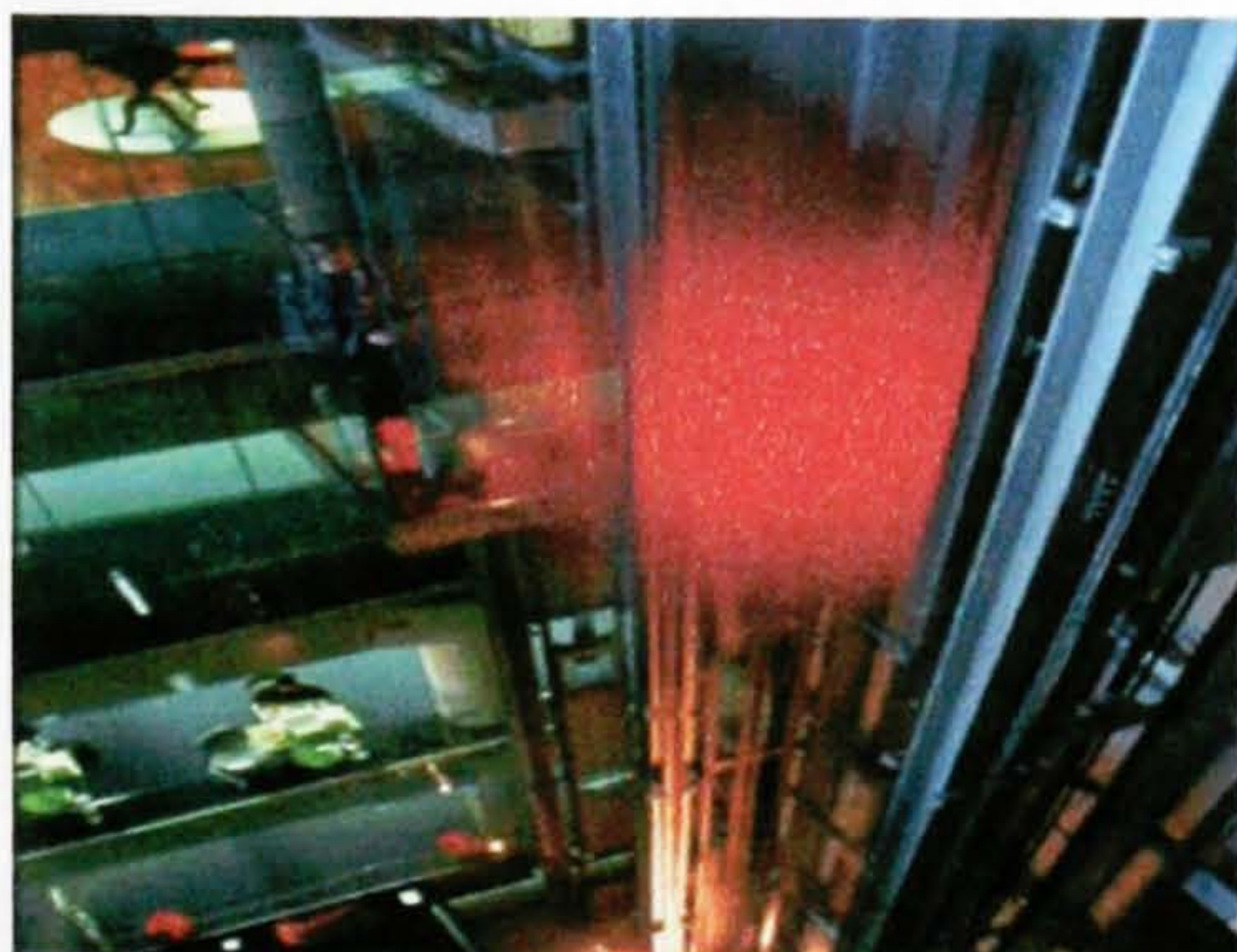


Mission Statement:

It is the mission of the Phoenix Public Library to foster an informed and literate community with information resources and works of the imagination.

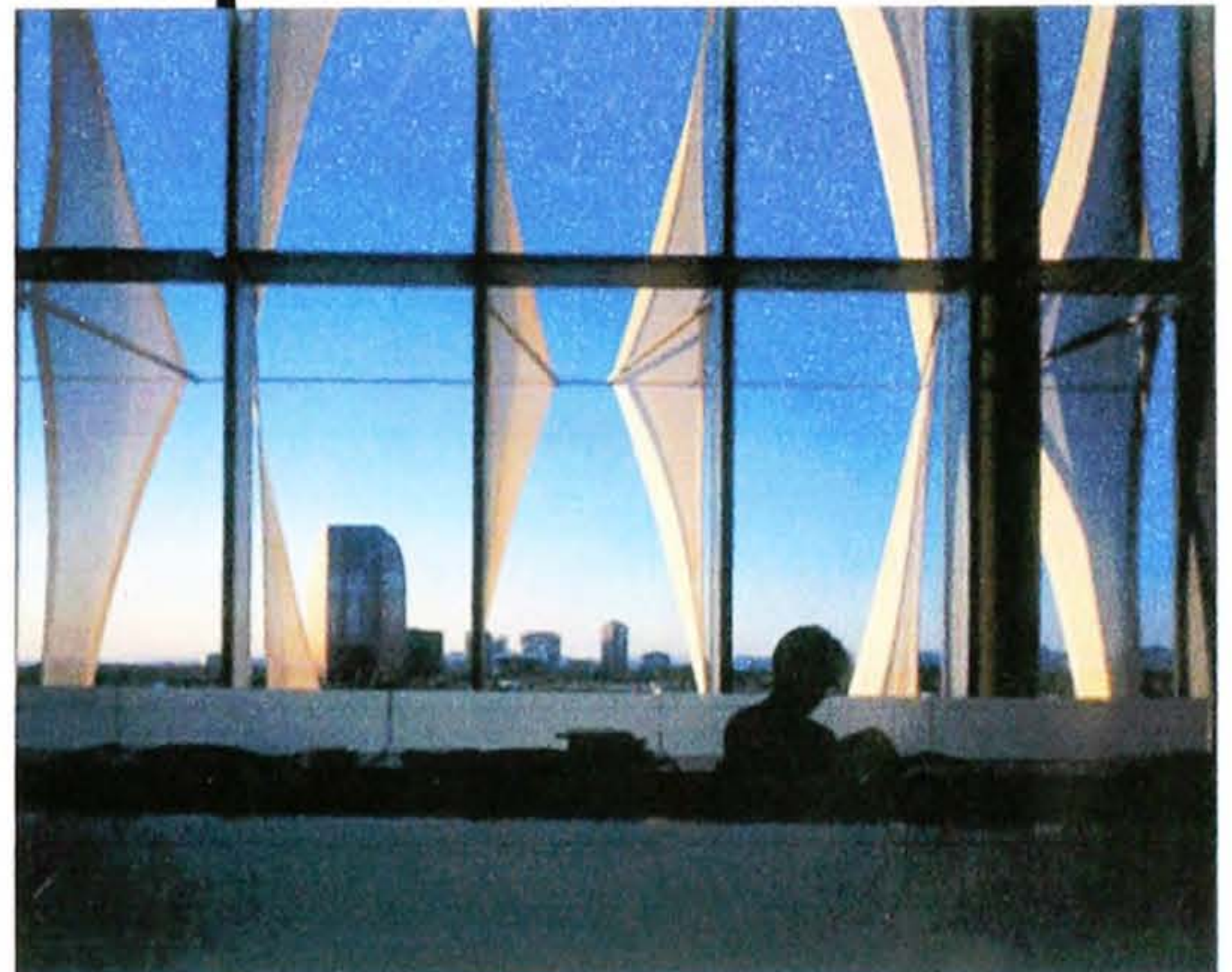
The great reading room on the fifth floor, housing the nonfiction collection, is the largest reading room in North America.

Using a single, central open core, the 'crystal canyon' provides vertical circulation with three high-speed elevators and the grand staircase, a plan arrangement that renders all collections accessible and easy to find. The combination of innovative computer cabling, lighting, furniture design, and layout strategies with the library's digital and real information has given the library a unique flexibility to meet changes in operation gracefully and economically.

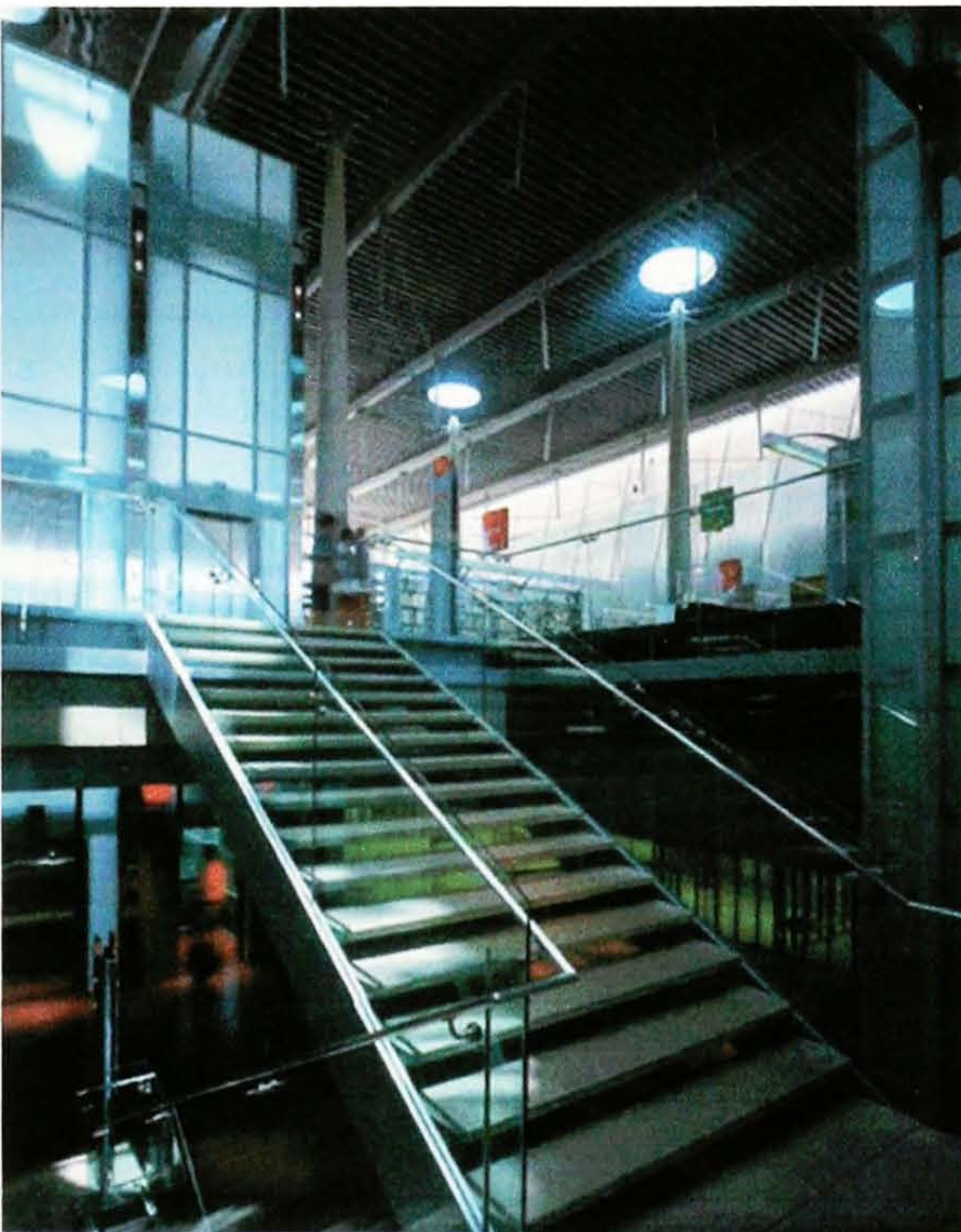




The Phoenix Public Library is widely considered an example of green architecture. The thermal mass of the walls and a highly efficient mechanical system cut energy usage to one-third the amount initially projected by city planners and utility experts. The interior space is laid out well in regards to ease and quickness of movement throughout the space.



Because this building is laid out well and has many aspects to its design that make it green architecture, I feel that it is a very successful project. It created a more modern feel to this civic institution and also was incorporated well into its site and environment in both climatic conditions as well as site.



Bibliotheca Alexandrina

Snøhetta
Shatby, Egypt
2001

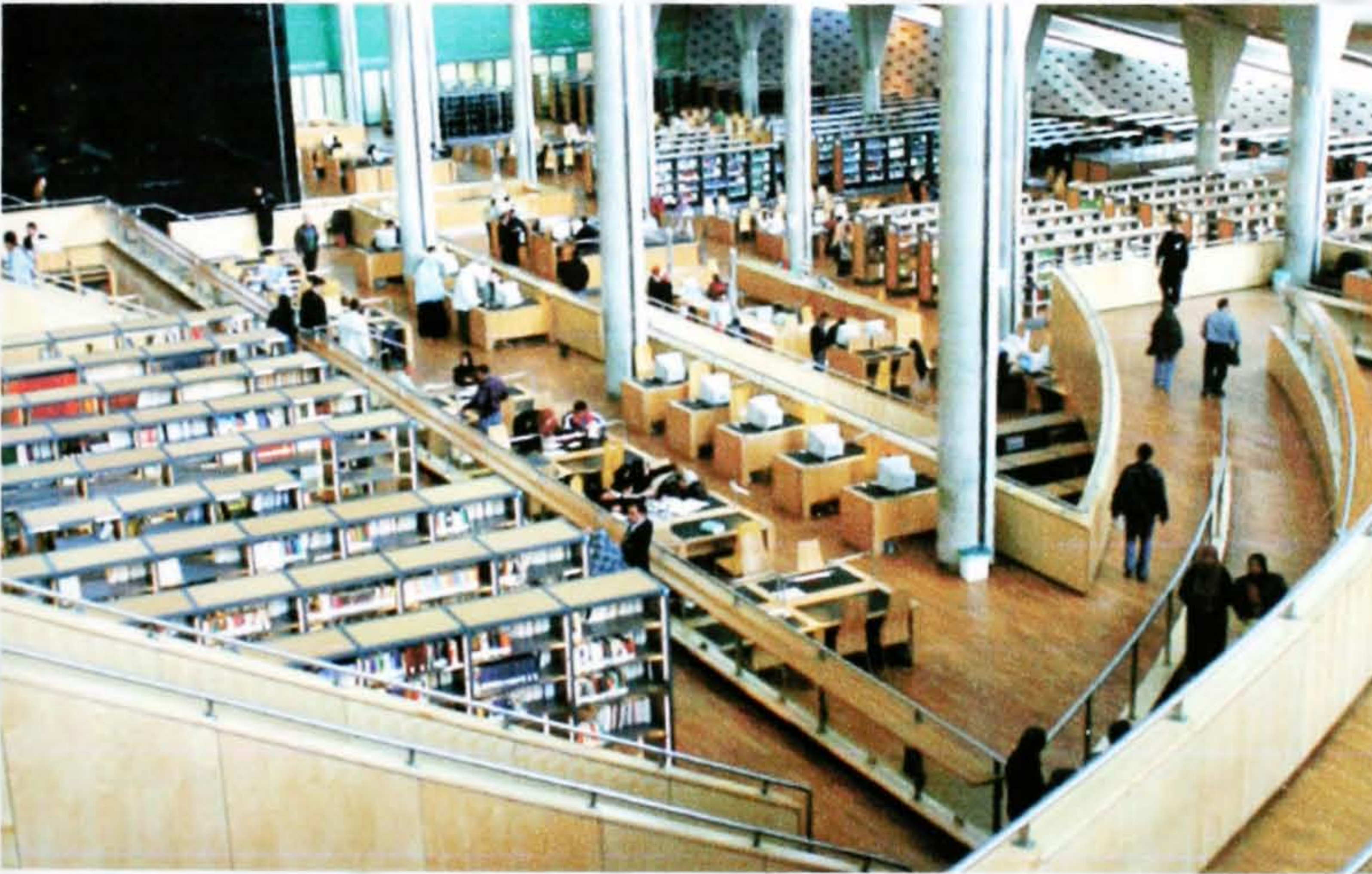
Legend was a key inspiration for the design and completion of this project. The lore of a great library of Alexandria sparked the Arab Republic of Egypt to build a new library reminiscent of the past history of the area. History and cultural heritage were especially important for this project. A library can be a frozen moment in time that teaches us to distinguish between past, present, and future. This is even apparent in the wall depicting texts and languages from all cultures over all time periods.

The site created a dramatic setting for the new building, including the circular harbor, the long curving wall of the Corniche, and the contemporary seaside buildings. This design also begins to be dictated by geometry in a sense. Though the circular form of the building is indicative of the ancient harbor, it also is a means used to recall the heavenly bodies of our universe.





The columns throughout the building also play an interesting role in the design and structure of the building. These columns are capped with a prism shape which allows for a greater diffusion of light throughout the building from the skylights above.



The furnishings in this great building were also designed by the architect. They play a rather great role in the design due to the terraced form of the interior of the building. The furniture is exposed so it was design to reflect ancient egyptian tradition. It also reads as a horizontal facade when viewed as whole throughout the building.

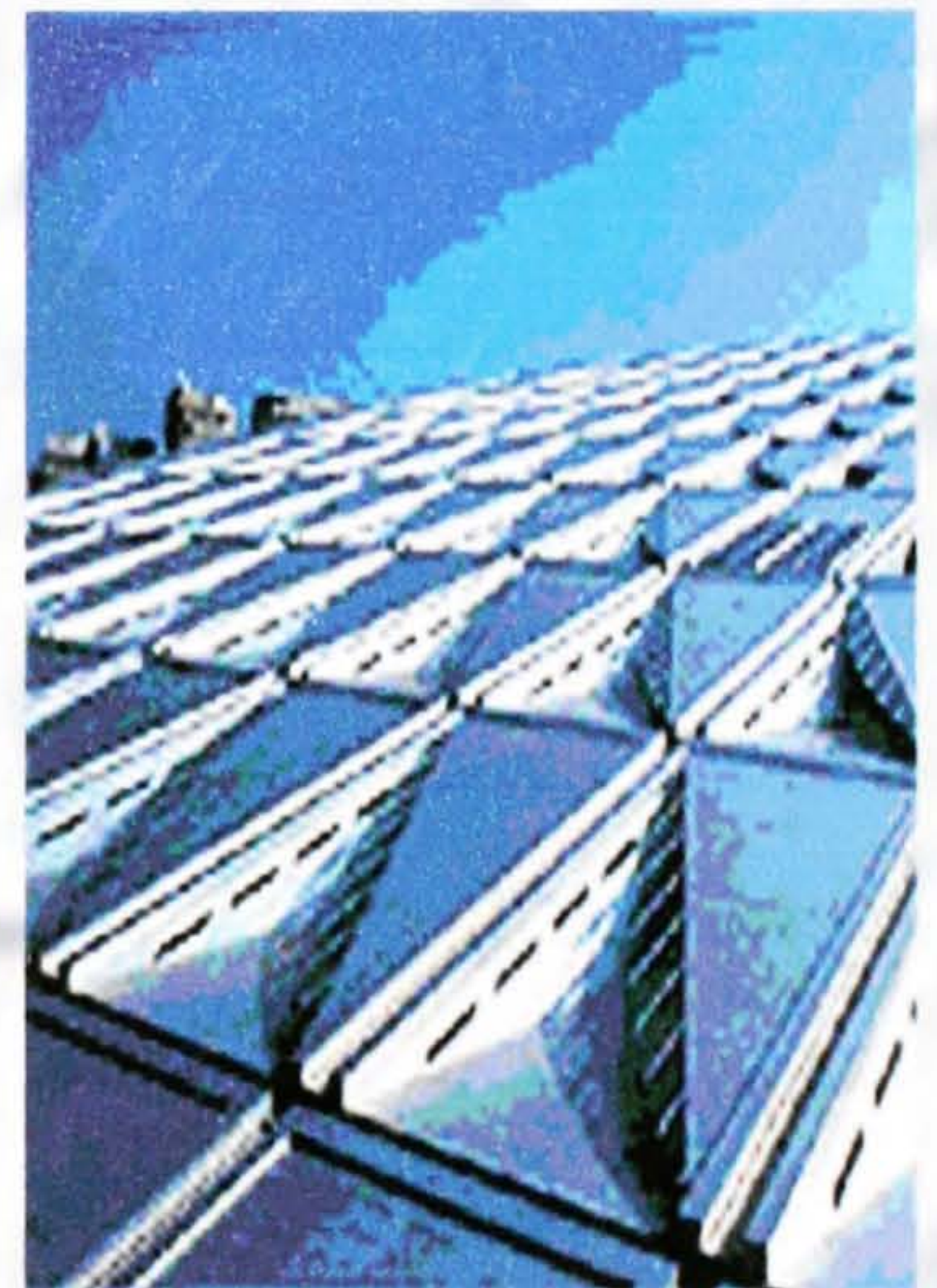
This library has a large reading room that is easily accessible throughout the building. The room's seating capacity is approximately 2000 individuals. Also, the room is equipped and capable of handling current technologies as well as flexible for possible newer technologies. The room raises up to the ceiling in a grand fashion but still retains an intimate quality desired to arabic culture and design to allow for a secure feeling and a place for meditation.





The skylights are a very important aspect of design to this building. Because of the shape of the building and how it penetrates into the Earth, the skylights rise from the ground and extend along the entire surface of the roof. The form of the skylights is once again based off of geometry; a repeating pattern of tetrahedrons.

Not only do the skylights have an aesthetic and conceptual significance, but they also have an important mechanical purpose as well. The tetrahedron skylights in the ceiling are up to 16 feet (5 meters) deep, fully enclosed and between 55 and 70 feet (17 and 21 meters) over the floor. They act as a "hot box" so that if the electrical and mechanical systems fail, they will act as passive solar convectors, pulling cool air from levels below ground. This unique relevance is a very important design aspect because of the location of the building in Egypt.



These skylights face North and are designed not to allow direct sunlight into the main space of the building. Because of their positioning and direction they allow an individual inside the building to gain a sense of the changing environment around them.



Sketch Problem:



Interior Perspectives



The purpose of the sketch problem was to explore concepts that might be related to our thesis projects. I was assigned to design a bakery for the city of Hamtramck in Detroit. Hamtramck is of a predominantly European descent mostly from Poland. Because of this ethnic background, in correlation with my thesis, I attempted to design the bakery while respecting the history and the culture of the people that dwelled in this city.

Through a series of site visits and explorations, I was better able to grasp an understanding of the atmosphere and character of the environment. However, to have been completely successful, I would have hoped to spend a considerable amount more time on my site.

Creating a bakery that was consistent to the style of architecture and building design in Hamtramck, but furthered the perceived benefits of such design was the issue of this project. The goal was not to mimic what was existing, but to improve upon these precedents.

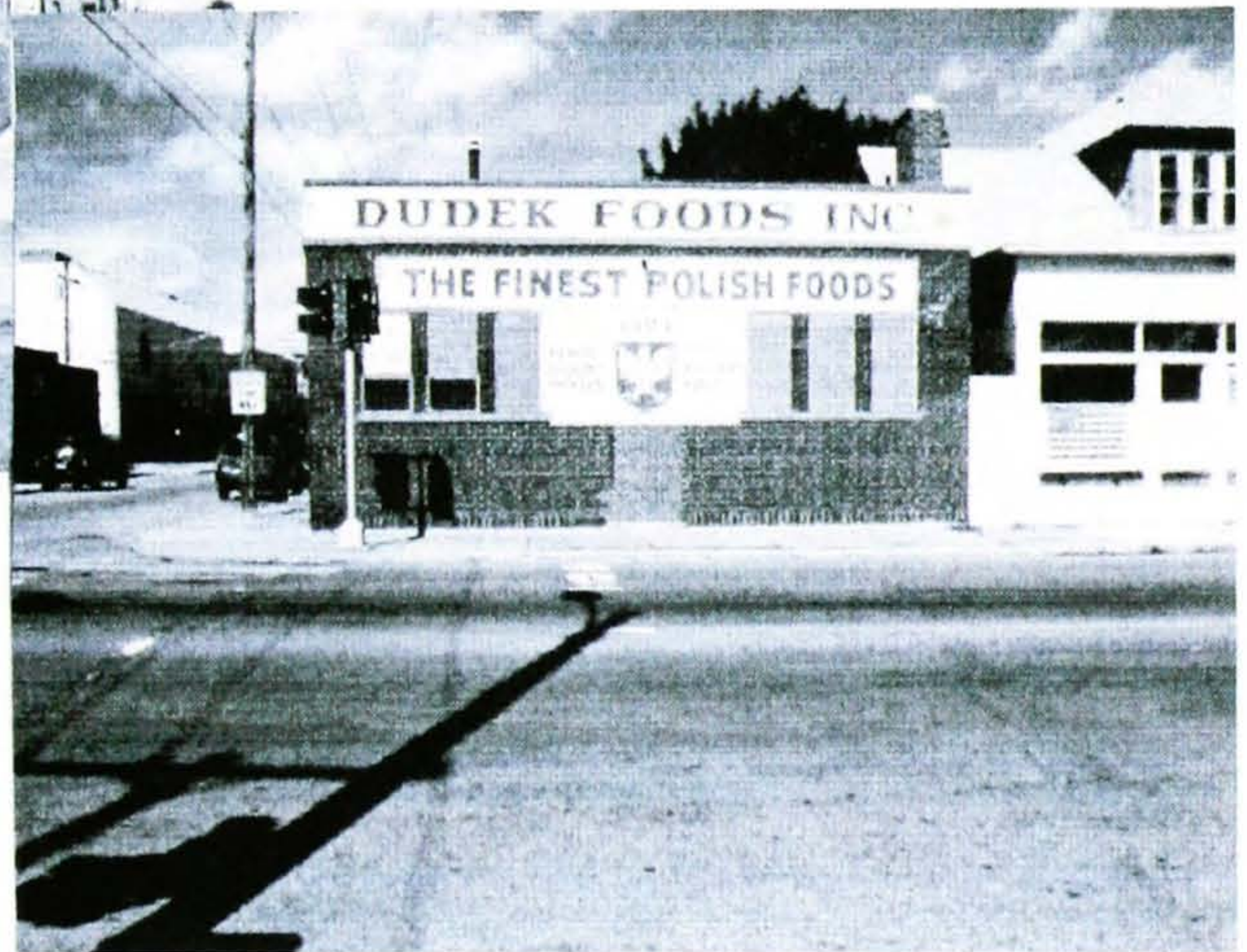


By adopting a similar form and a simplistic base, I began to elaborate on the design. By incorporating more modern marketing techniques, I began to separate this simplistic form. However, this was done using a glass cut that penetrated entirely through the building.

Elevation

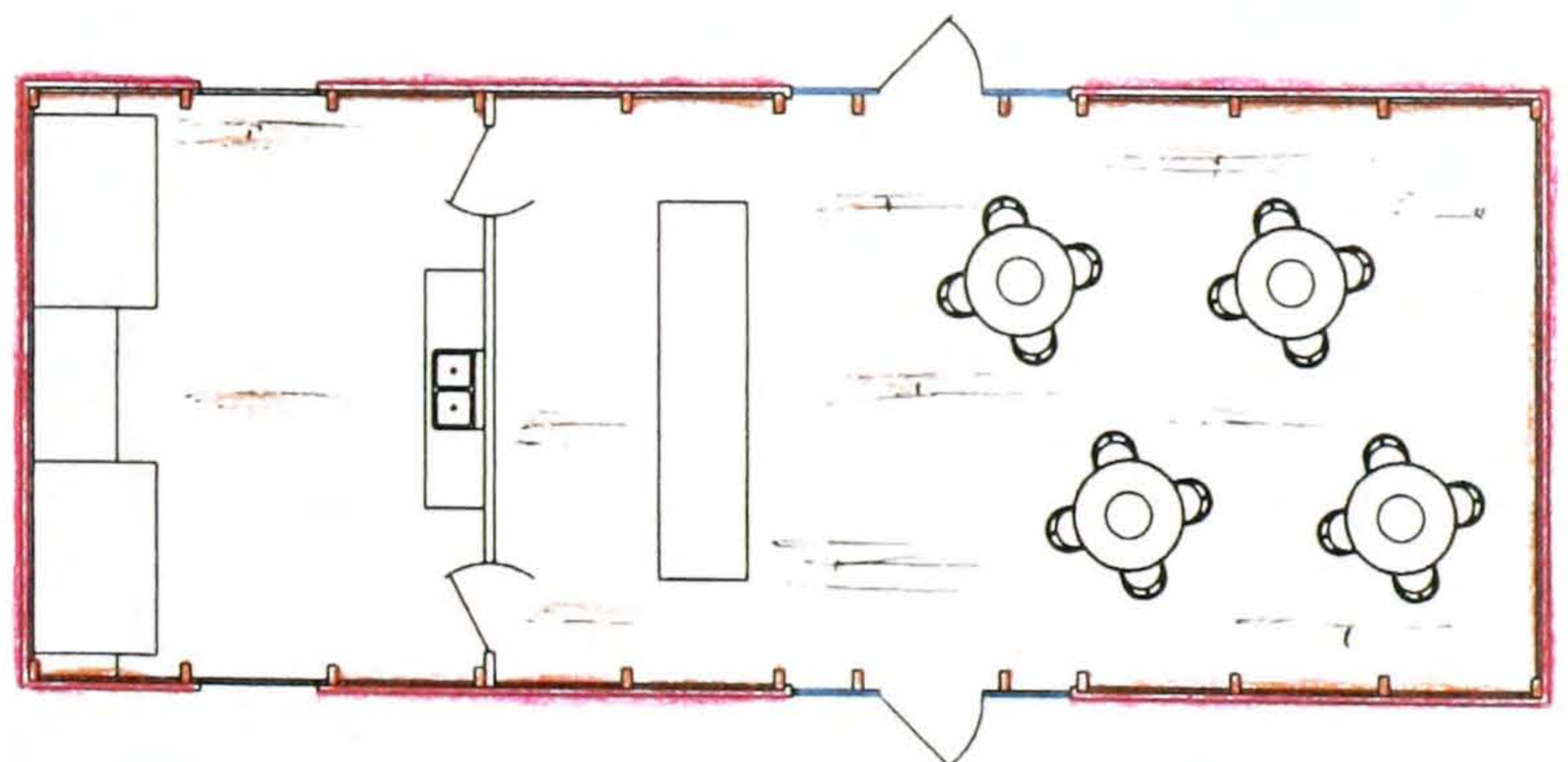


I felt it was necessary to attempt to create a more homelike (kitchen) atmosphere inside the bakery. This sense of feeling permits the user to feel more at ease and relaxed; to feel more like a part of the history of the bakery rather than just another customer.



The use of wood - wood timber for structure and wood paneling throughout the interior - begins to create a more soothing atmosphere. Also, by detailing the interior more considerably, a more homey atmosphere is created. Even the lighting used, both interiorly and exteriorly, adds to this effect.

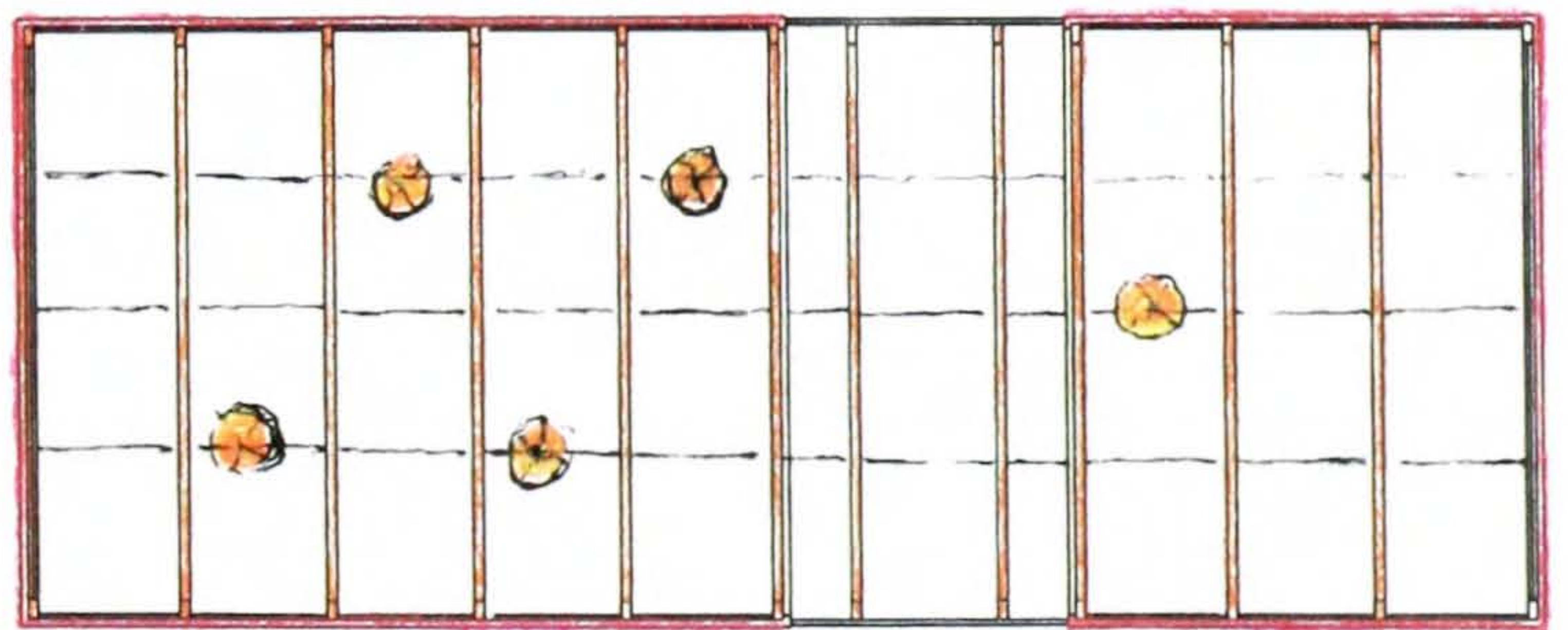
Floor Plan



This gap, formed by the glass, also lets the light and atmosphere of the interior to spill out into the public realm. Because of this interesting aspect of design, the use for other more captivating or more extravagant means of signage is negated.



The use of glass here enables a plentiful amount of natural sunlight into the bakery. It also creates a form of separation between the business aspect of the bakery and the social aspect of enjoying other's company.



Relected Ceiling Plan

Site Analyses:

The following site analyses depict the various sites which I researched over the course of my study. The intention was to select an area or location which had a strong cultural influence rooted into its' community. The idea to select locations with a strong specific cultural influence ties into the intention of the thesis establishing a certain criteria to abide by.

The first three site locations were taken in specific areas of the city of Detroit, Michigan. Each of these areas does indeed have a strong cultural influence: Southwest Detroit being influenced strongly by a Mexican/Hispanic heritage, Dearborn being influenced by a high Middle Eastern population and Hamtramck being mainly influenced with a high concentration of a Polish/European population. The next two sites were of specific cities in general that could be ascertained to have a strong cultural influence relative to a distinct society; San Antonio having a large Mexican population and influence and Pittsburgh having a number of localized cultures thorough out its limits.

The final site was the site that I selected to situate my thesis project. This site, located along Woodward Ave. in Detroit, Michigan apparently lacks a specific strong influence, however, it was selected because of a stronger link to the thesis topic than is easily apparent. The subtleties of this site include a link to both the down-town area of Detroit as well as the more residential area of Detroit, only seemingly separated by the I-75 freeway. Also, this site begins to depict what the character and the city of Detroit is truly about. Detroit was a city that burgeoned through the booming of the car industry and revolves around the use of the automobile. Woodward Ave. is quite possible the most important axis way in the city and the I-75 freeway is a high use road. It is apparent though, that at this particular site is a missed opportunity. Where pnce a large building representative of Detroit's prosperous times in the 20th century, now stands an empty shell. I feel this site provides an important representation to the cuture, history and society of the Detroit area as well as provides an incredible opportunity to link these two diconjointed areas in an attempt to bridge the gap of the fabric of Detroit.



Southwest Detroit



4600 Martin St, Detroit, MI

© Scott Teven photohouston.com

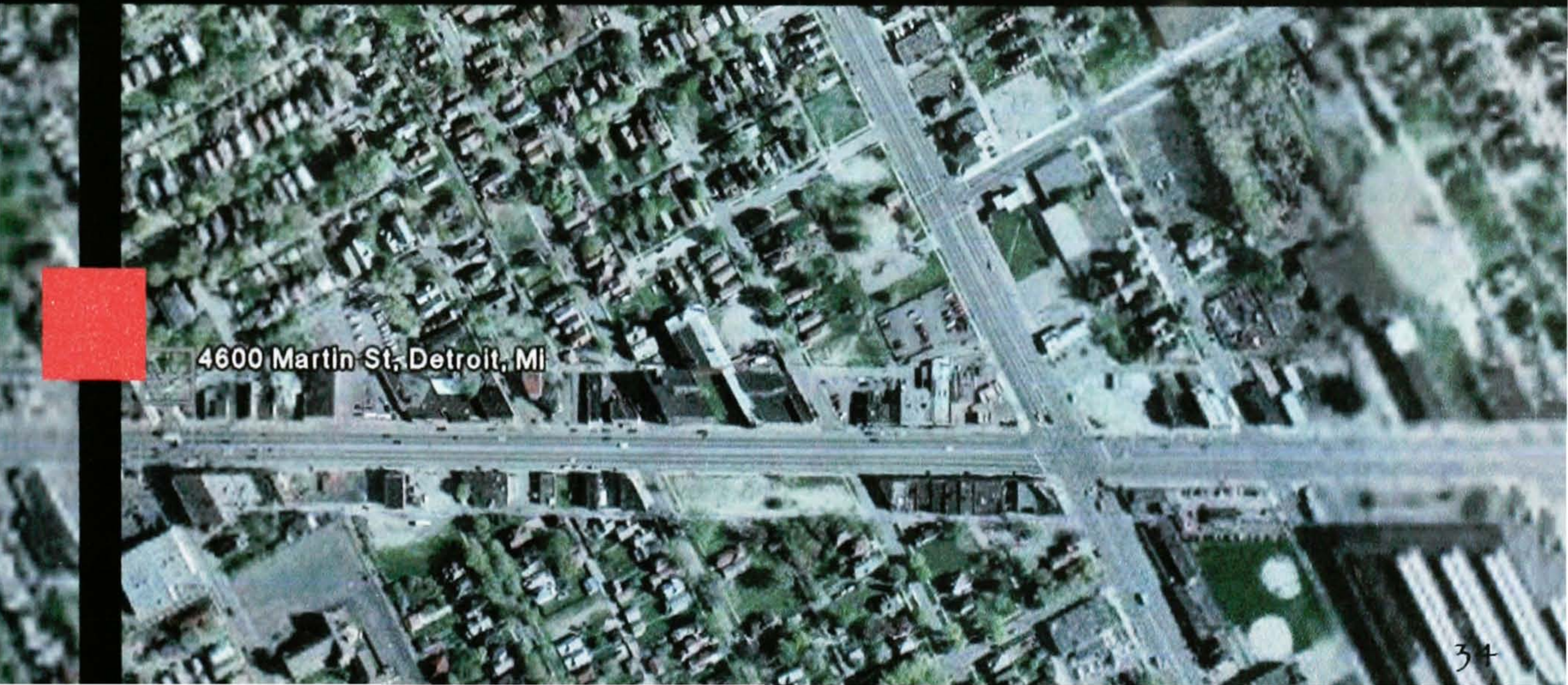
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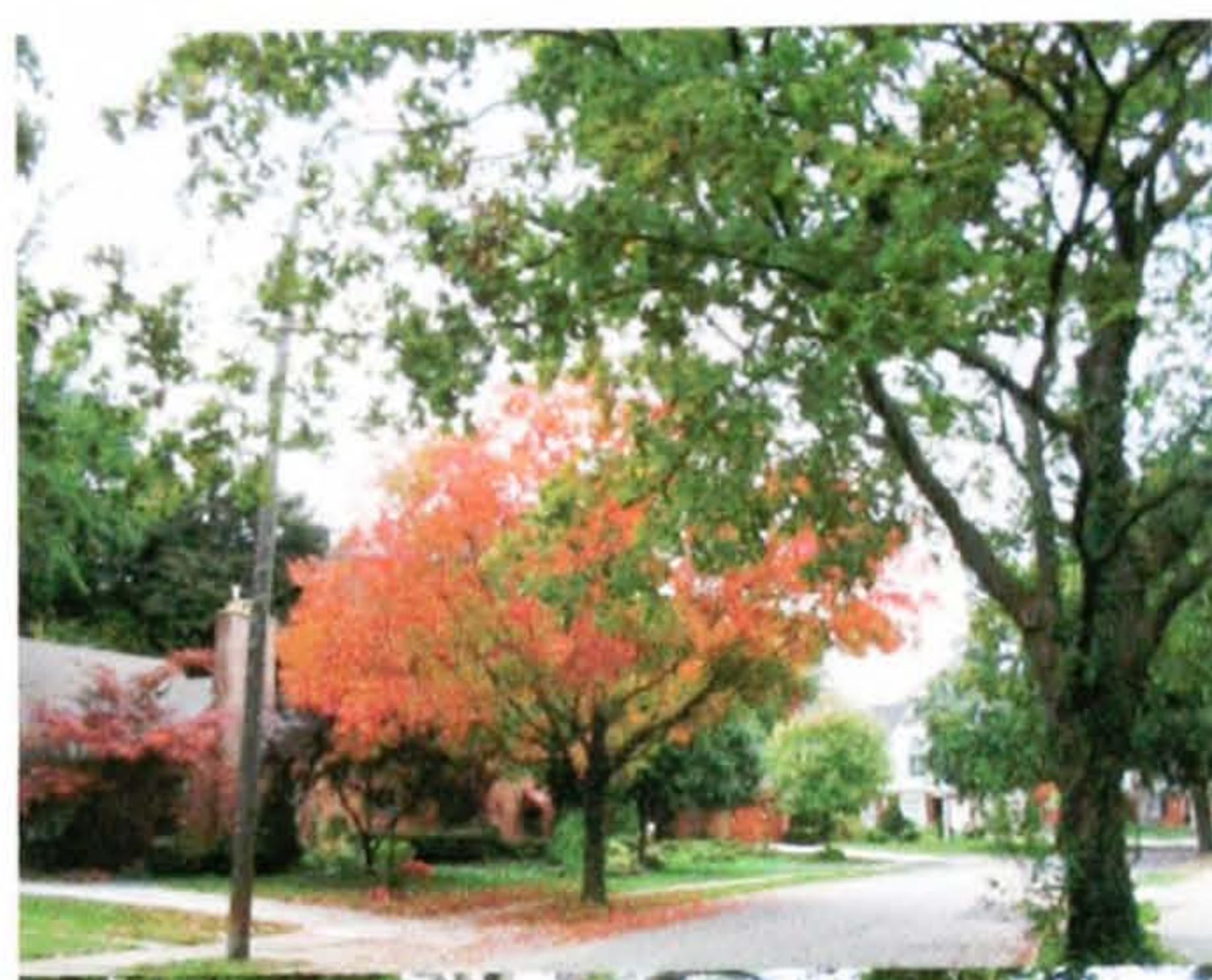
Southwest Detroit has a high percentage of Latin Americans inhabiting the area. This can easily be observed when walking the streets or visiting the neighborhoods. The Latin Americans have left their mark on many aspects of the community. However, the architecture of the area fails to reflect this cultural background.

The site I have chosen is the existing branch of the Detroit Public Library. I feel that this site can provide an excellent opportunity where the architecture and the program of the institution can begin to reflect the community and the culture that it is providing for.

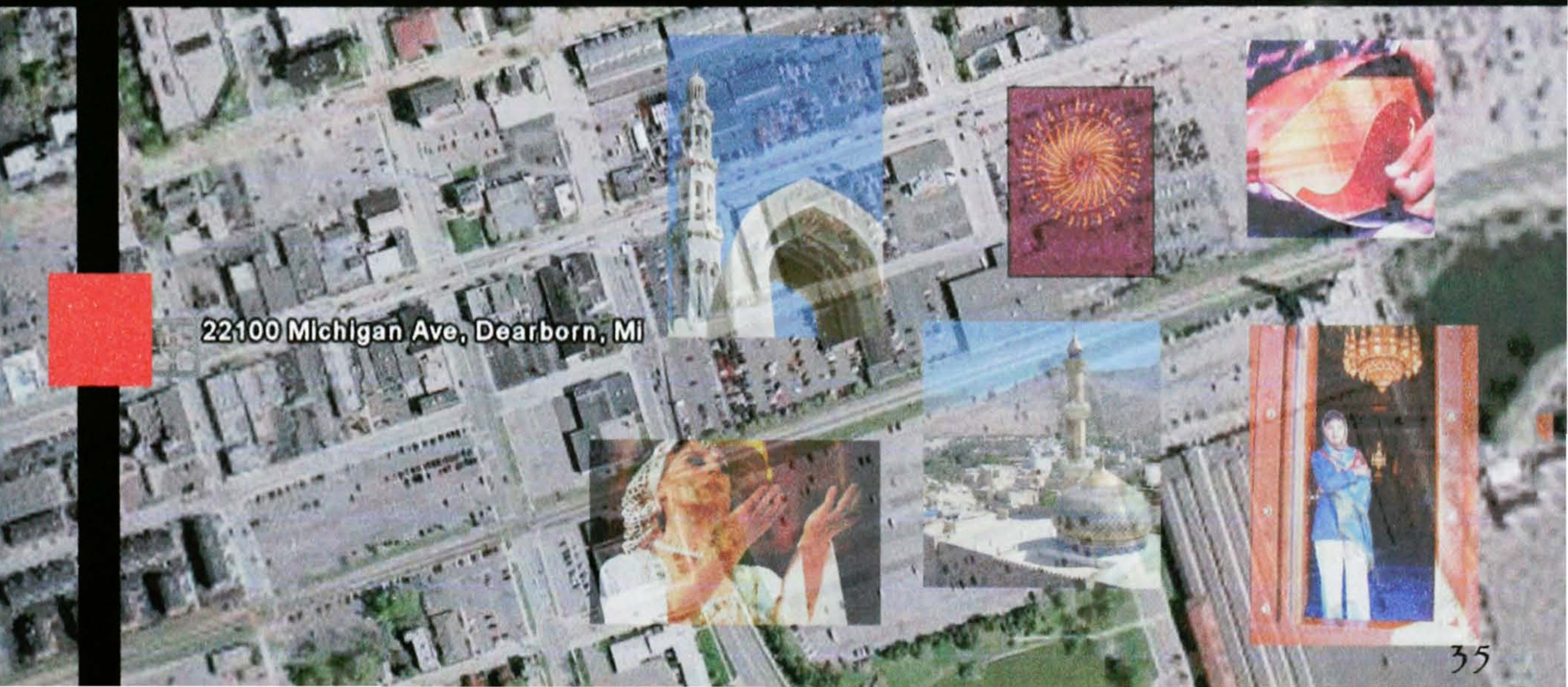
Southwest Detroit



4600 Martin St, Detroit, MI



Dearborn

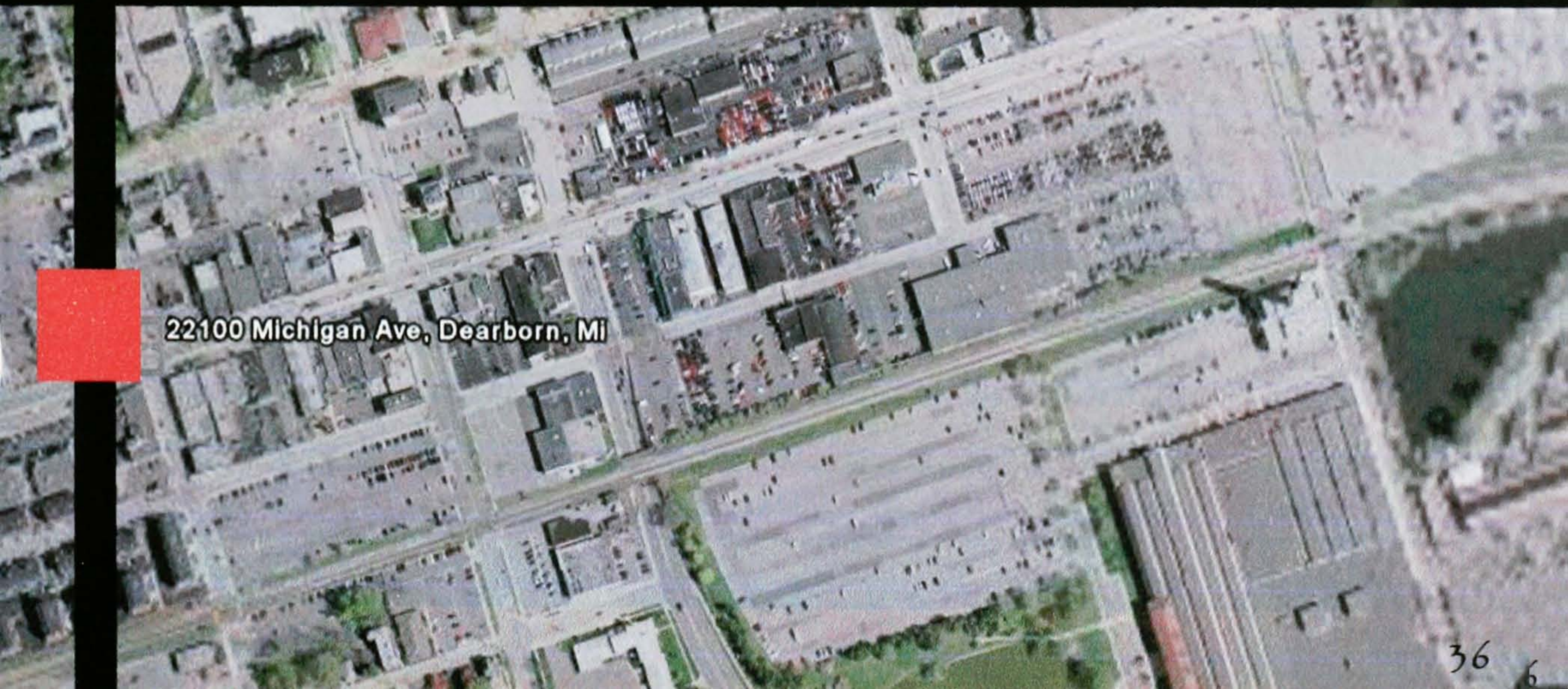


22100 Michigan Ave, Dearborn, MI



The city of Dearborn, Michigan is beautiful destination for many. It is a world famous industrial center and contains a multi-million dollar commercial development. The city is located near the Detroit metropolitan area and has a diverse ethnic background. Many inhabitants of Dearborn have a Middle-Eastern background. Because of this unique situation, I chose the site of the Dearborn Public Library. This site can begin to allow the existence of such a strong community and culture to show. The library is located on Michigan Avenue and is in a central spot in the community. This creates an excellent opportunity in which to show that strong heritage of the community. The architectural form of the library and the layout of the site can begin to translate to all, of the strong background of the community.

Dearborn



22100 Michigan Ave, Dearborn, MI



Hamtramck



2360 Caniff St. hamtramck, mi

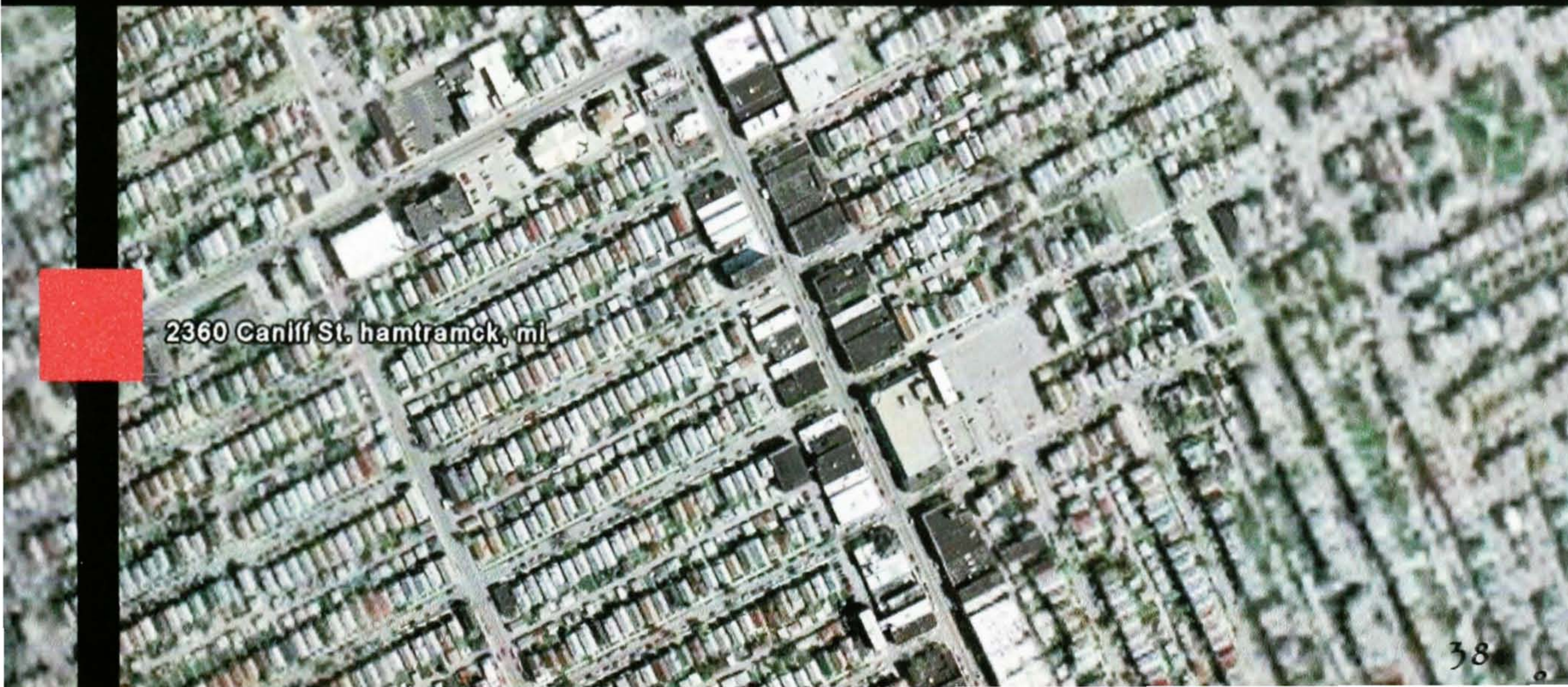




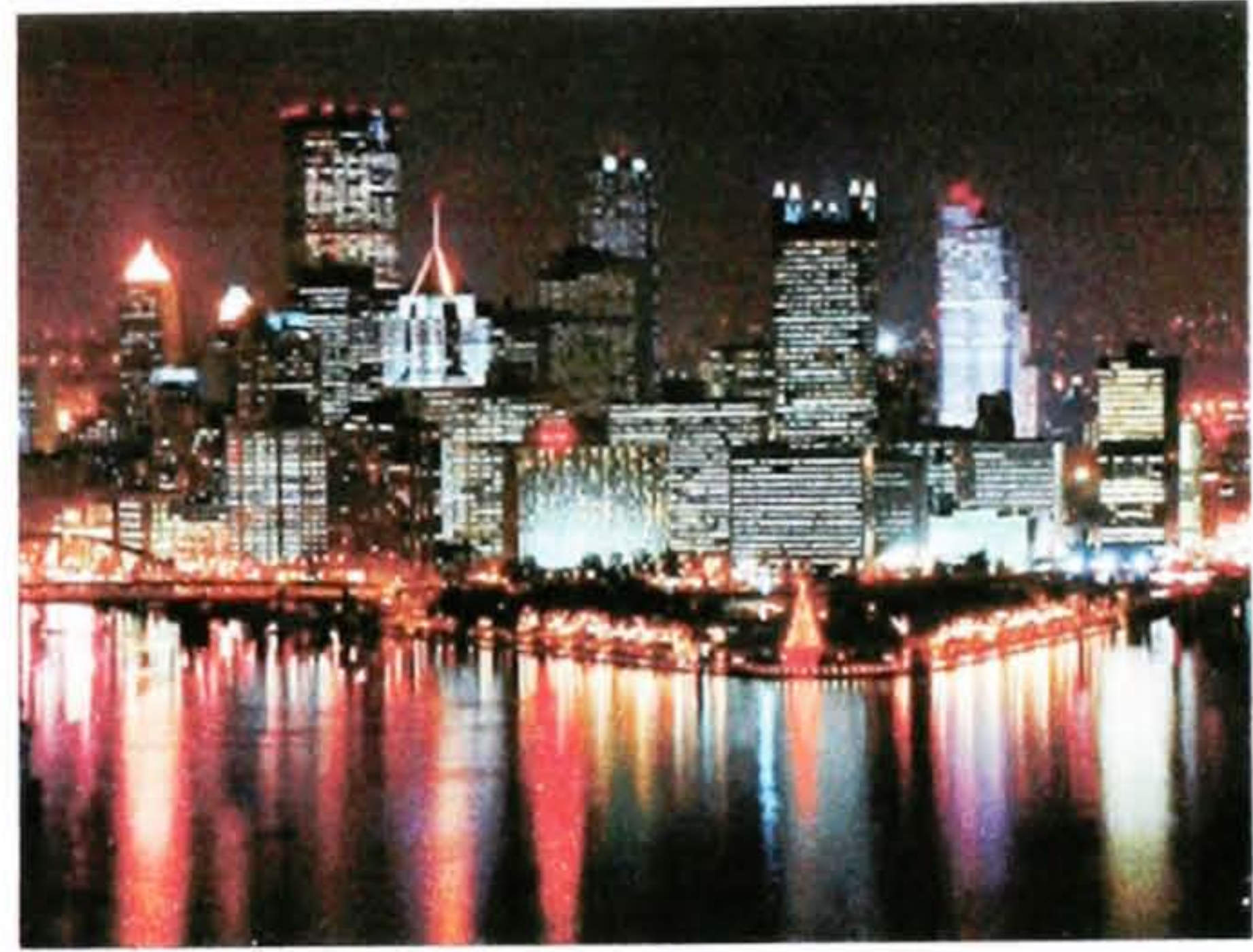
The city of Hamtramck is located in the Detroit metropolitan area. Hamtramck has a very diverse cultural background, including many different European ethnicities. However, the most predominant European ethnicity is Polish, and this is very apparent when touring the city. One can experience a unique feel and blend of cultures when traveling the city.

I chose the site of the current Hamtramck Public Library as my future site. Because of the strong Polish background of the area, I feel that this can provide an influential basis in the architecture of the area; something more relevant to the surrounding local community and culture.

Hamtramck



2360 Caniff St. hamtramck, mi



Pittsburgh



4400 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh, Pa



The city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is located on the West side of the state. Pittsburgh was predominately run by the production of steel in the earlier part of the century, however, it has now turned to other means of industry to undergo a "renaissance."



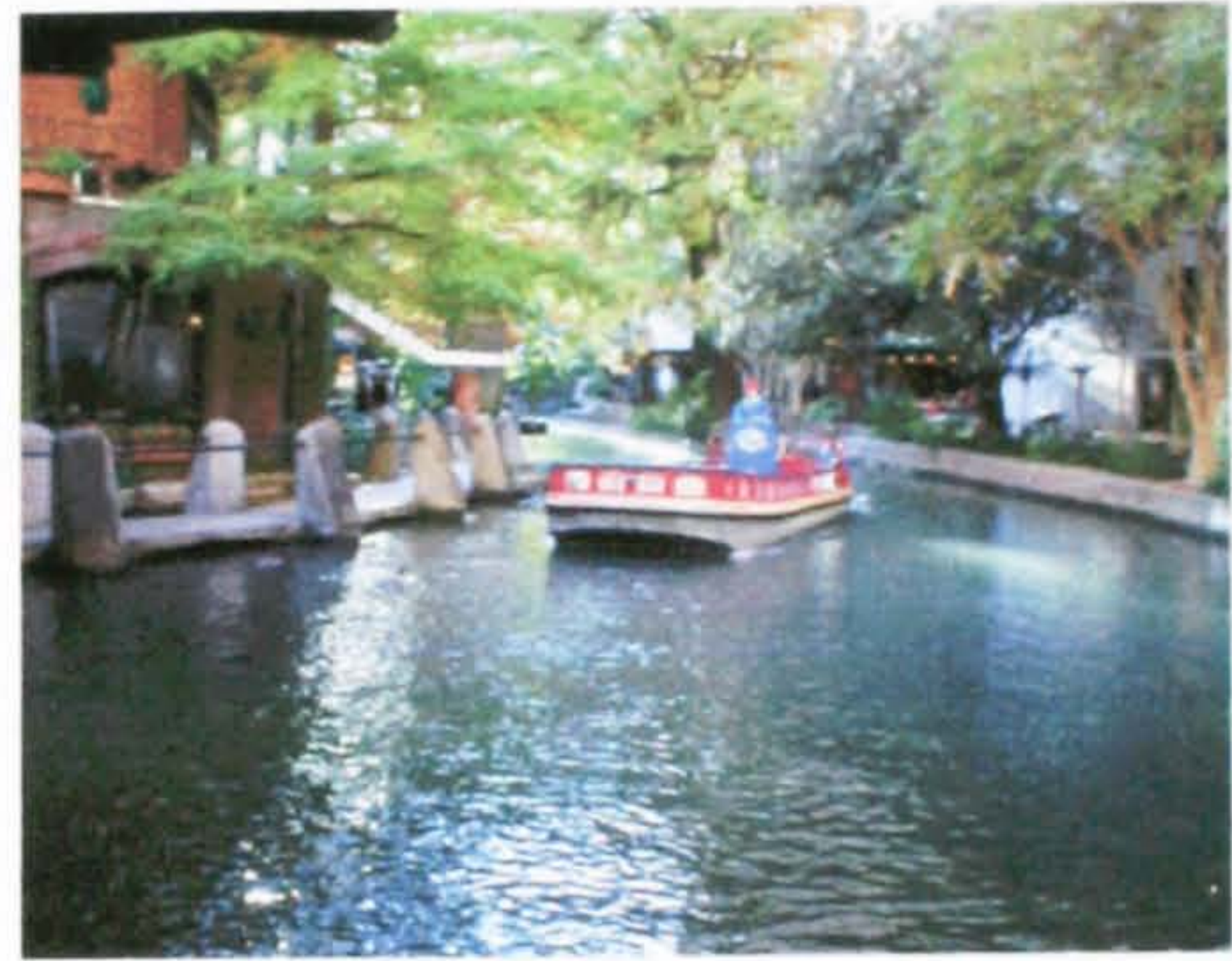
Pittsburgh consists of many different ethnicities from around the world. I chose the site of the Carnegie Public Library. Because of the wide variety of cultures and communities that here in the city, I feel that this is an excellent place were such attributes can be drawn from to influence architecture.



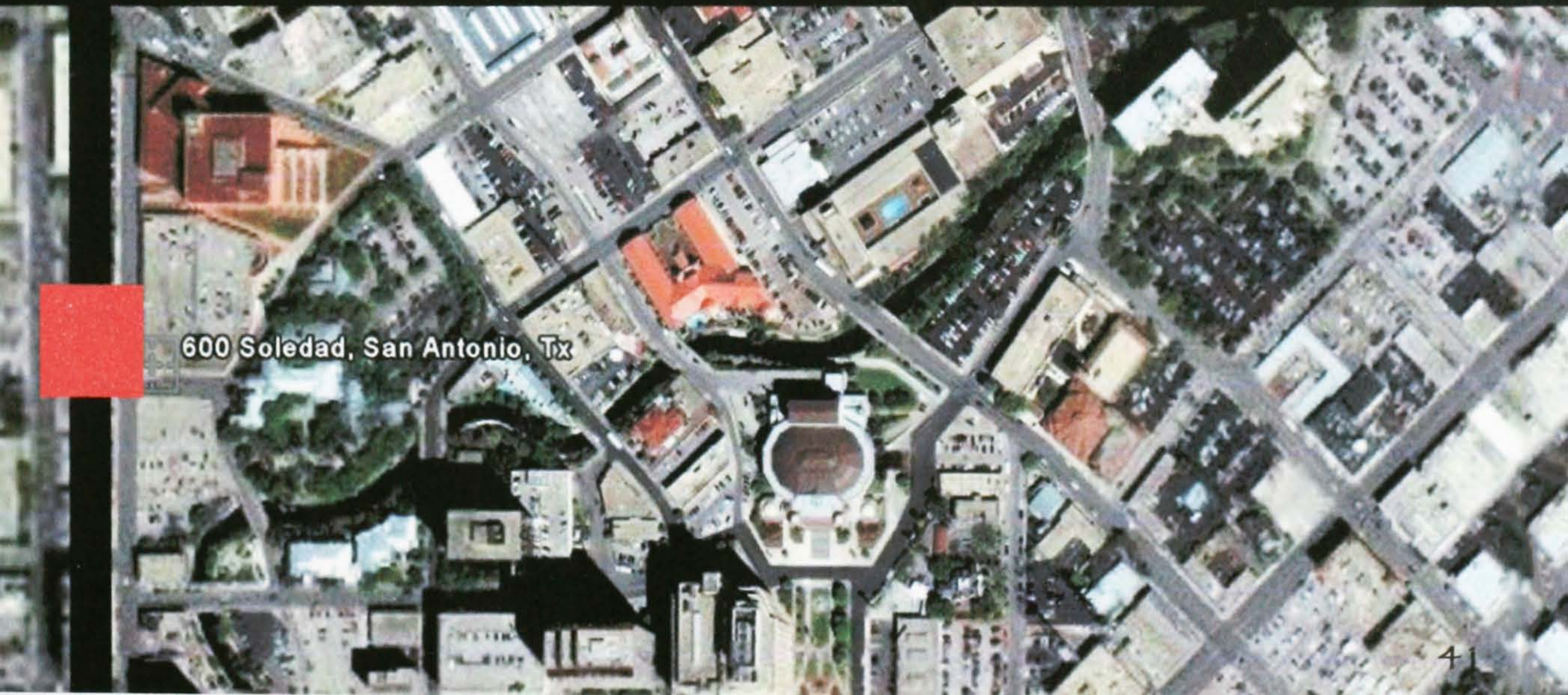
Pittsburgh



4400 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh, Pa



San Antonio

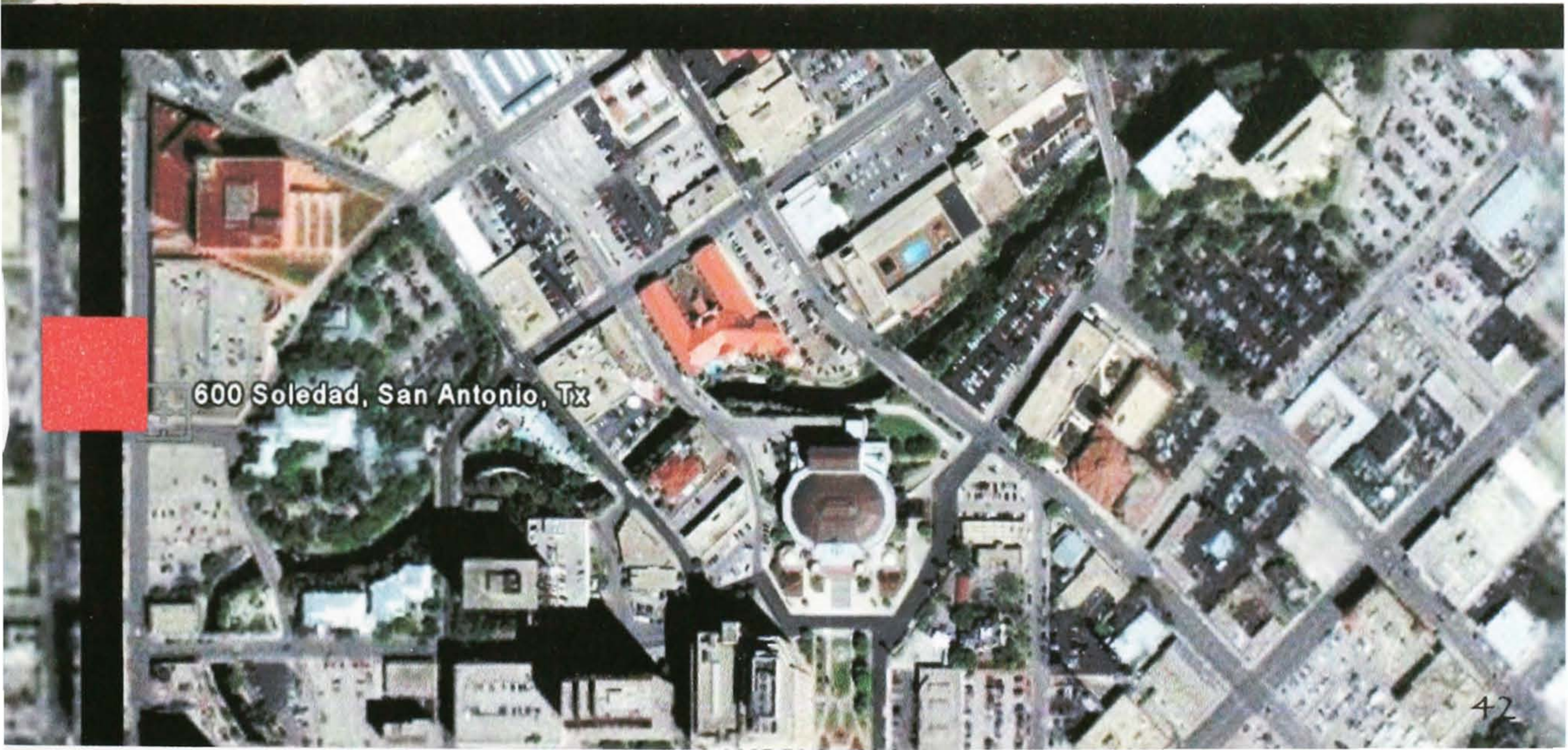


600 Soledad, San Antonio, Tx



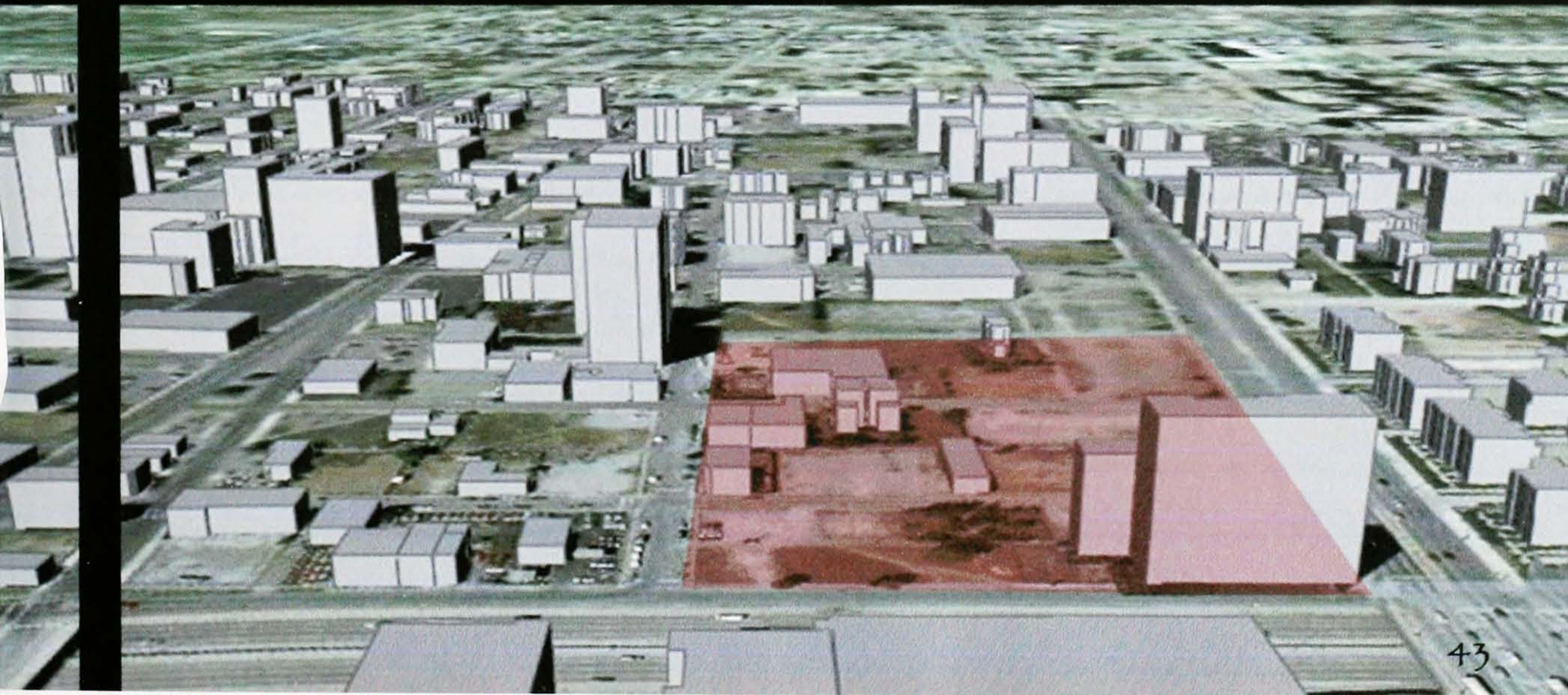
The city of San Antonio is located in the Southern part of Texas. This city has a population of around 1.2 million people. These people come from many different ethnic backgrounds from all over the globe. However, San Antonio is quite unique in that it is occupied by a large percentage of Mexican Americans. This adds to the cultural diversity of the city and begins to distinguish it from others in both tradition and architecture. The site I have chosen is the existing library done by Ricardo Legorreta Vilchis. The San Antonio Public Library is widely considered by many to be a poor example of an architectural work.

San Antonio





Woodward Ave.

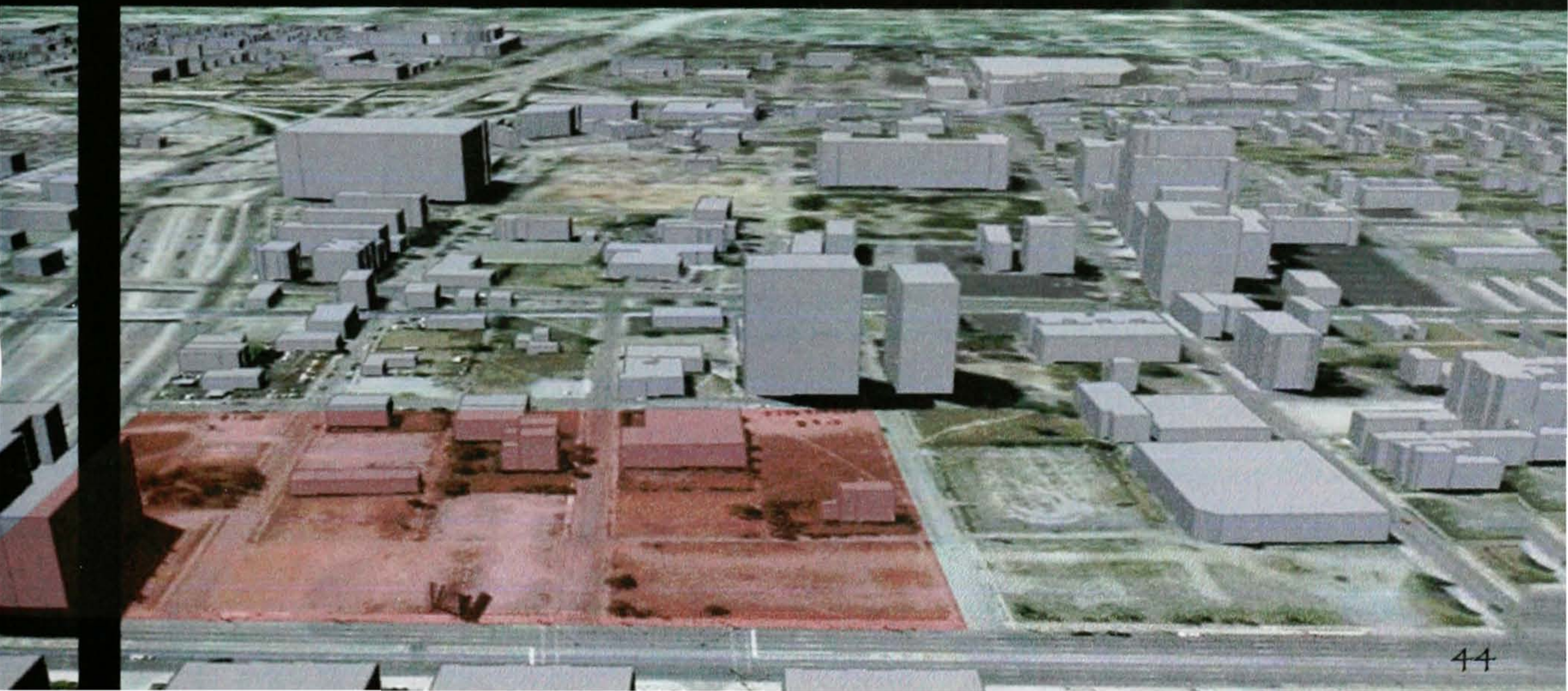




This site is located along Woodward Ave. where it crosses over the I-75 highway in Detroit Michigan. The old Donovan building was located here but was recently demolished. This site is a perfect fit for the intention of the thesis in that it is located in a distinct part of Detroit with many historical ties such as the nearby Comerica Park and the importance of Woodward Ave. to the city. Here, located by the freeway which seemingly separates the location from the down-town district allows an interesting opportunity to bridge this gap and attempt to re-establish the street presence here along Woodward.



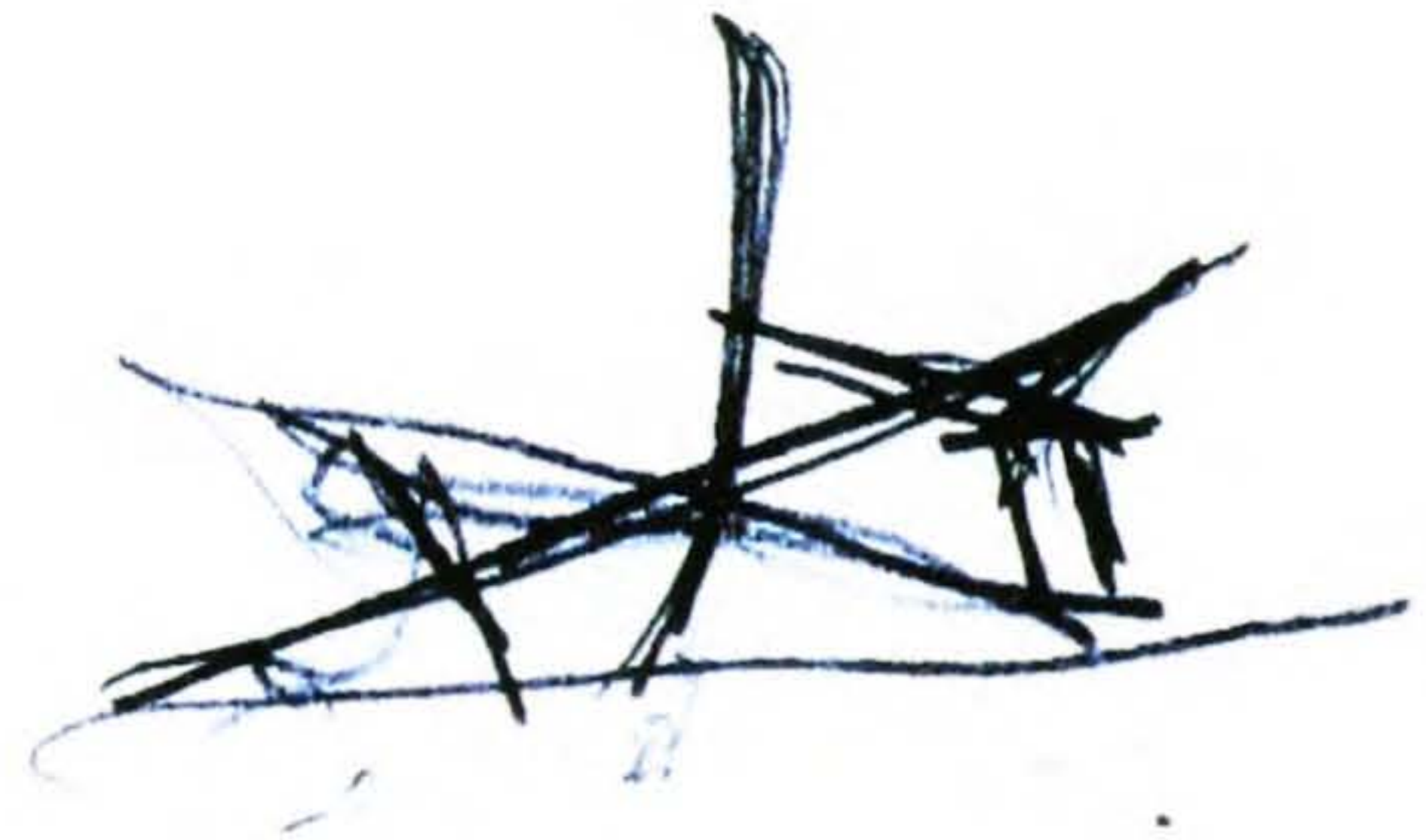
Woodward Ave.



Program Statement:

Project Identification

The intention of this study is to create a library in an urban area that is designed specifically to respond to the local culture and community. This civic institution will be designed to house a large collection of books and information and to provide dynamic portals for accessing electronic information.



Articulation of Intent

The intention of this project is to tie this civic institution to the current culture of the local community in order to promote a better understanding and a more integrated use of the library. Relative to the site and the culture, the library will have a greater influence on its surroundings based on its revised program.

Because it is a library with a public function, it is owned and shared by the entire community. With the programs and functions involved in this institution, it is well suited to this thesis in that, through a re-evaluation of the program, the architecture can begin to investigate and reflect the character of the community.

In the past, libraries have had the function of keeping the books and the collective knowledge of the community. For a certain percentage of the population this is still a vital component of a central library function. However, with the changes and the advancement of technology in our society, it is much easier to access such information than going to the library and checking out a book. The function and program of the library has not adapted to these contemporary forms of communication and must be revised. Therefore, the library should be representative to the current cultural tradition.

Enumeration of actions

Local people of the community could interact with this building in many ways. They will be able to browse through the library in the typical fashion, but they will have a greater number of opportunities for research based on a greater focus on technology throughout the building. More computers with internet access as well as multi-media and digitally displayed information centers will enable the user to engage a much broader range of information and informational displays. The users will also be provided with comfortable locations in which to sit and sift through the information they have uncovered or to simply read for enjoyment. The program of this civic institution will also include weekly seminars relative to the community and the culture dealing with local, state, regional and global matters. These seminars will allow the congregation of anyone in the local community to experience the changes that have taken place in local matters as well as their affect on the rest of society.

While accessing information at a computer terminal, the user will be seated in a room specifically designed for that function. The lighting will be ample and soft so as not to tax the viewers' eyes. It will be an open space with easy access from different locations throughout the building. It will be a quiet space so as to not be distracting when doing research.

When the people are moving throughout the space, they will be walking in an open and well lit environment. The spaces will be connected to each other relative to function so as to eliminate the extensive use of long corridors throughout the building and create an ease of access from one area to the next.

When the people of the community gather for the weekly seminars that are held, they will be contained in a series of rooms dedicated to this particular function. The rooms will be of ample size containing the required technology to best convey the information, such as a digital display. They would also give a sense of the local community, whether it is through cultural artifacts throughout the room or things relevant to the community.

Enumeration of actions (cont.)

The building programmatically will contain other elements such as indoor and outdoor green space, retail elements such as a café and bookstore and educational elements such as class rooms, reading rooms an auditorium and a specific children's area. These elements will be woven into the fabric of the library to create a more cohesive whole rather than just stacks. They will allow for the modern societal needs of the community. People will be able to move through one space to the next without feeling a distinct separation between the different functions.

Site Criteria

Due to the nature of the program, an urban setting would be most beneficial. Also, it would be very beneficial, if possible, to locate it on a site that has some specific characteristics relative to a particular culture, or at least in a community with a distinct background. This would enable the architecture to reflect the area, allowing the language to be more specific. The area required for such a space could be four hundred and twenty five thousand square-feet. Because the building will represent the local community and culture, it would be most successful for the area it is located in to have a particular architectural style, whether it be relative to climate, style or period. The library would be located more centrally in the region it is placed to allow it to become a community destination; a place where the local residents can gather.



Quantitative Summary:

Educational Facilities	+/- 20,000sqf
Classrooms	2,500sqf
Seminar Rooms	2,000sqf
Multi-Media Facilities	2,000sqf
Computer Rooms	5,000sqf
Digital Media Displays	2,500sqf
Auditorium	4,500sqf
Restrooms	1,000sqf
Mechanical	

Offices	+/- 10,000sqf
Private Offices	2,000sqf
Studio Offices	2,000sqf
Shipping & Receiving	4,000sqf
Restrooms	1,000sqf
Mechanical	

Retail	+/- 12,000sqf
Display	10,000sqf
Storage	500sqf
Restrooms	1,000sqf
Mechanical	

Cafe	+/- 6,500sqf
Seating	4,000sqf
Kitchen & Storage	1,000sqf
Restrooms	1,000sqf
Mechanical	

Stacks	+/- 195,000sqf
Stacks	150,000sqf
Children's Area	15,000sqf
Lobby/Checkout	4,000sqf
Seating/Lounging	24,000sqf
Restrooms	1,000sqf
Mechanical	

Parking	+/- 150 spaces
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Space Detail Sheets:

Classrooms

Educational Facilities

Units: 5

Unit Capacity: 25

Net Square Feet/Unit: 500 square feet

Total Net Area: 2500 square feet

Purpose/Function:

The purpose and the function of the classrooms are to allow for a number of people to attain a more intricate knowledge of subject matter that is offered by the central library. This gives them the space and the proper atmosphere to be taught and interact with others.

Activities:

The classroom activities will consist of a group of "students" who will be taught by an individual with considerable knowledge relative to the subject. The "teacher" will have the opportunity to involve the students more critically in the process of teaching with any range of activities permissible in the space.

Spatial Relationships:

The classrooms will be located clustered together on one of the lower floors of the library to create an ease of access to these spaces. The classrooms should also be located on the exterior of the building to allow controlled, direct sunlight into the room.

Special Considerations:

There will be considerations for the possibility of combining one or more of the separate rooms to allow for the opportunity that interest in a particular class may cause the need for more room. Considerations will also be taken to allow for a quiet and personalized setting when classes are in session.

Equipment/Furnishings:

The classrooms will be furnished with desks and comfortable seating as well as plenty of shelving or other such storage space. A white-board will also be located in each room.

Mechanical/Electrical Systems:

Systems that will be provided in these rooms consist of electrical access so as to permit the use of personal computers, projection devices and other such mechanical devices used in the assistance of teaching.

Site/Exterior Environment Considerations:

An access from the exterior would be beneficial because the nature of the rooms. This would allow private access so as not to disturb others using different parts of the library.

Seminar Rooms

Educational Facilities

Units: 5

Unit Capacity: 15

Net Square Feet/Unit: 400 square feet

Total Net Area: 2000 square feet

Purpose/Function:

The purpose and function of these rooms is to allow for a more personalized and intricate manner of learning. With a smaller class size, the intimacy of the interaction of the teacher and the students can reach a greater level. The seminar room will allow for a greater interaction between the students as well. This space is also intended for a more high-level education or a more difficult subject matter.

Activities:

Students will once again be taught by their teachers. However, in this case, there will be more of an interaction between the students themselves attending the class with the teacher acting as more of a mediator or guide for the students.

Spatial Relationships:

The seminar rooms will be located in the same sector of the building as the classrooms. They may however be on a different level to allow for a more private atmosphere. They will also be located on an exterior edge of the building to allow for access to direct sunlight, but this may also be done via adjacency to interior atriums.

Special Considerations:

Considerations will be taken to provide for the needs of the students to maintain a quiet and comfortable environment in which to learn, study, and interact.

Equipment/Furnishings:

These rooms will be furnished much like the classrooms to allow for all modern teaching needs such as computers, desks, chairs, tables, cabinet space, white-boards, etc.

Mechanical/Electrical Systems:

The mechanical and electrical systems will be consistent with the classrooms as well.

Multi-Media Facilities

Educational Facilities

Units: 2

Unit Capacity: 50

Net Square Feet/Unit: 1,000 square feet

Total Net Area: 2,000 square feet

Purpose/Function:

These spaces would be used to allow for a number of different means of accessing or displaying information. They will allow a greater understanding of the information being researched by creating a plethora of options for analyzing, viewing and experiencing data.

Spatial Relationships:

The spaces would be located dispersed throughout the building. This would allow the students to easily access the space as well as the other users of the library. They will also be located on the interior of the building on the mid-levels of the building to allow for the need for controlled light in the space as well as a quiet atmosphere.

Special Considerations:

Because of the abundance of technology and equipment in this space, there must be a special consideration as to the climactic conditions of the space. It may need to have more ventilation because of the heat thrown off by the devices. Also, these spaces will need added security to allow for the protection of the expensive equipment.

Equipment/Furnishings:

This will consist of equipment capable of displaying information or data on number of different levels. The furnishings will provide comfortable seating and access to work and study area.

Mechanical/Electrical Systems:

The mechanical and electrical systems must be sufficient to cover the extra equipment located in these two rooms. It will also be necessary to have greater ventilation in these rooms to maintain a comfortable temperature.

Computer Rooms

Educational Facilities

Units: 5

Unit Capacity: 35

Net Square Feet/Unit: 750 square feet

Total Net Area: 5,000 square feet

Purpose/Function:

These rooms are allotted to the access of computers. They allow users of the library and the classrooms internet access as well.

Spatial Relationships:

The computer rooms would be somewhat spread throughout the building. Some would be located near the classrooms while others would be located near the entrance of the building and the stacks to allow the use of computers throughout the building.

Special Considerations:

Allowing for the ease of computer and internet access throughout the building will be taken into account. Locations of these rooms in the most convenient parts of the building will be considered; places like those close to the stacks, near the entrance, in close proximity to classrooms, etc.

Equipment/Furnishings:

Comfortable seating as well as furnishings on which to create a personal work station capable of supporting a computer will be in these rooms.

Behavioral Considerations:

These spaces need to be somewhat open to allow for the ease of accessing the computers when the spaces are in high use.

Mechanical/Electrical Systems:

These rooms require a greater extent of electrical systems due to all the computers and their extent of use. These rooms will also require more extensive mechanical systems as well because of the greater need for ventilation.

Digital Media Displays

Educational Facilities

Units: 5

Unit Capacity: 20

Net Square Feet/Unit: 500 square feet

Total Net Area: 2,500 square feet

Purpose/Function:

These spaces allow for the display of information for the observance of a group of people.

Spatial Relationships:

These rooms are located near the classrooms and the multi media facilities due to the nature of their function.

Special Considerations:

It must be considered that these rooms will need the special ability to easily adjust the level of interior lighting.

Equipment/Furnishings:

These rooms would be furnished with seats that also have their own small adjustable tables in order to take notes.

Mechanical/Electrical Systems:

These rooms will have an outlet at each desk to allow for the use of a laptop computer.

Auditorium

Educational Facilities

Units: 1

Unit Capacity: 200

Net Square Feet/Unit: 4,500 square feet

Total Net Area: 4,500 square feet

Purpose/Function:

This space allows a large group of people to be gathered together for a common purpose or activity.

Activities:

Speeches and other informative acts or performances can be given in this space to inform or entertain the group.

Spatial Relationships:

Due to the size and the likelihood of an elevated noise level, this space would be located on the lower floors near the other educational facilities.

Special Considerations:

Because of the volume of the space, considerations must be made as to the centrality of the location of this space in regards to the other aspects of the library.

Equipment/Furnishings:

This room would be furnished with seating comfortable for approximately 150 people. A performance stage and podium would also be present in this space. Sound and projection equipment will be necessary.

Behavioral Considerations:

Because of the large amount of people in this space, entry ways and exit ways must be considered to allow for an easy flow of traffic.

Mechanical/Electrical Systems:

Electrical and mechanical systems in this space must be sufficient to accommodate the large amount of people and presentations or performances.

Site/Exterior Environment Considerations:

Access from the exterior of the building will be important to limit the number of people walking through other more private parts of the library. This will keep disturbances of this nature to a minimum.

Restrooms

Educational Facilities

Units: 2

Unit Capacity: 8

Net Square Feet/Unit: 500 square feet

Total Net Area: 1,000 square feet

Purpose/Function:

This space functions to allow the maintenance of personal hygiene.

Spatial Relationships:

These rooms would have a central location between all of the rooms incorporated into the educational facilities.

Equipment/Furnishings

These rooms would be equipped with toilets, urinals, sinks and a place of storage for cleaning equipment.

Mechanical/Electrical Systems:

Plumbing and access to water would be required for these rooms as well as ventilation.

Private Offices

Offices

Units: 10

Unit Capacity: 3

Net Square Feet/Unit: 200 square feet

Total Net Area: 2,000 square feet

Purpose/Function:

The function of these places allows the administrators private space to do their work and to hold small conferences with other employees.

Spatial Relationships:

The private offices are located on the upper floors of the library on the exterior edge of the building.

Special Considerations:

Because of the private nature of their function, these rooms need a quiet atmosphere to be most productive.

Equipment/Furnishings:

These rooms will be furnished with a sizeable desk on which to work along with a number of chairs. They will also be furnished with storage spaces.

Mechanical/Electrical Systems:

Not much is needed in these rooms aside from a computer and phone line and some other outlets for personal lighting like a desk lamp and other such devices.

Studio Offices

Offices

Units: 10

Unit Capacity: 3

Net Square Feet/Unit: 200 square feet

Total Net Area: 2,000 square feet

Purpose/Function:

The function of these spaces is to allow for more office space if needed by the directors of the library. These offices would generally be allocated to those running the educational aspect of the library as well as the programmatic part involved in running community meetings and councils.

Spatial Relationships:

These spaces would be located on the upper floors of the building to allow for privacy; close to the private offices and also in close proximity to the educational facilities incorporated in the library.

Equipment/Furnishings:

These rooms would be equipped much like the private offices.

Mechanical/Electrical Systems:

These rooms would once again match the properties of the other private offices in both systems.

Shipping & Receiving

Offices

Units: 2

Unit Capacity: 10

Net Square Feet/Unit: 2000 square feet

Total Net Area: 4000 square feet

Purpose/Function:

This space would be used to run the department of shipping and receiving. It would function to house any equipment, merchandise or other objects brought into or shipped out of the library. It will also function as a partial storage space.

Spatial Relationships:

The shipping and receiving departments will be located on the exterior of the building on the side with the other offices.

Special Considerations:

This space will need to be open to allow the movement of larger objects.

Equipment/Furnishings:

It will be furnished with equipment enabling the movement of larger objects easily throughout the space. It will be furnished with any necessary equipment such as computers and smaller machinery.

Mechanical/Electrical Systems:

Ventilation will need to be more significant in this space due to the use of heavier machinery and the possible exhaust coming in from the delivery vehicles outside.

Site/Exterior Environment Considerations:

This will be located towards the back of the building and have its own access from the main roads.

Restrooms

Offices

Units: 2

Unit Capacity: 8

Net Square Feet/Unit: 500 square feet

Total Net Area: 1,000 square feet

Purpose/Function:

This space functions to allow the maintenance of personal hygiene.

Spatial Relationships:

These rooms would have a central location between all of the offices, including both private and studio offices.

Equipment/Furnishings

These rooms would be equipped with toilets, urinals, sinks and a place of storage for cleaning equipment.

Mechanical/Electrical Systems:

Plumbing and access to water would be required for these rooms as well as ventilation.

Retail - Display

Retail

Units: 1

Unit Capacity: 75

Net Square Feet/Unit: 10,000 square feet

Total Net Area: 10,000 square feet

Purpose/Function:

The function of this space is to allow for the browsing of merchandise which is placed on sale.

Activities:

People move throughout the space looking at merchandise and displays. Some small social interaction may occur between buyer and seller.

Spatial Relationships:

This space will be located on the exterior of the building and be somewhat separate from the other major functions. It would be more adjacent to the educational facilities than the stacks of the library.

Special Considerations:

This space would need an added amount of security and equipment to maintain the merchandise.

Equipment/Furnishings:

Adequate shelving and display cases would be included in the furnishing of this space as well as equipment for security.

Behavioral Considerations:

People may like to spend time talking to one another, so the aisles of the retail display area should be wide enough for easy passage.

Mechanical/Electrical Systems:

Only minimal electrical systems will be needed for this space; only to allow for security.

Site/Exterior Environment Considerations:

This space will have its own entrance to allow it to be open and separate from the other functions of the library.

Retail - Storage

Retail

Units: 1

Unit Capacity: 2

Net Square Feet/Unit: 500 square feet

Total Net Area: 500 square feet

Purpose/Function:

The purpose of this space is to allow for the storage and equipment used in the retail book store.

Spatial Relationships:

This space is located adjacent to the display and market place of the book store to allow for ease of access to supplies and materials by the retailers.

Special Considerations:

This space must be large enough to house all of the possible merchandise sold in the store.

Equipment/Furnishings:

Only basic equipment and furnishings are needed for this space such as shelving and counters.

Mechanical/Electrical Systems:

Limited mechanical equipment is needed for this space, but it is still equipped with heating and ventilation and only simple lighting is required.

Site/Exterior Environment Considerations:

This space will not be visible from the exterior.

Retail - Restrooms

Retail

Units: 2

Unit Capacity: 8

Net Square Feet/Unit: 500 square feet

Total Net Area: 1,000 square feet

Purpose/Function:

This space functions to allow the maintenance of personal hygiene.

Spatial Relationships:

These rooms will be located adjacent to the display and marketing aspect of the retail space.

Equipment/Furnishings

These rooms would be equipped with toilets, urinals, sinks and a place of storage for cleaning equipment.

Mechanical/Electrical Systems:

Plumbing and access to water would be required for these rooms as well as ventilation.

Café - Seating

Cafe

Units: 2 (1 indoor & 1 Outdoor)
Unit Capacity: (100 indoor) (50 Outdoor)
Net Square Feet/Unit: 2,000 square feet
Total Net Area: 4,000 square feet

Purpose/Function:

This space is used to seat all of the people who are being served or using the services of the café.

Activities:

Socializing, eating and other such activities will take place in this space.

Spatial Relationships:

The café will be located adjacent to the retail facilities located on the first floor of the library.

Special Considerations:

Because of the somewhat boisterous atmosphere that can be generated in a café, a special attention to the containment of sound will be considered.

Equipment/Furnishings:

The space will be furnished with adequate seating and tables for the allotted amount of people. The furniture exterior to the building will be more durable and weather proof.

Behavioral Considerations:

This space allows for the eating and movement to flow easily to the outside if enjoyable weather is the case.

Mechanical/Electrical Systems:

Standard mechanical and electrical systems for a public café will be incorporated in this space.

Site/Exterior Environment Considerations:

The café will have its own entry and will be easily accessible from the exterior. The environment will be fully landscaped with relaxing features, possibly the usage of a water feature will be employed.

Café - Kitchen & Storage

Cafe

Units: 1

Unit Capacity: 15

Net Square Feet/Unit: 1,000 square feet

Total Net Area: 1,000 square feet

Purpose/Function:

The purpose and function of these spaces would be to sustain the café. The preparation of food and the storage of supplies are necessary for the café.

Activities:

Food will be prepared in this area in order for the service of the customers.

Spatial Relationships:

This space would be located right next to the seating area of the café in order for the most expedient and productive service.

Equipment/Furnishings:

All equipment and furnishings needed to prepare and maintain food will be located here in the kitchen; equipment such as dish washers, sinks, stoves, and other such devices.

Mechanical/Electrical Systems:

Running water and more electrical outlets will be needed for this area due to the large amount of electricity needed to run a kitchen as well as additional ventilation.

Café - Restrooms

Cafe

Units: 2

Unit Capacity: 8

Net Square Feet/Unit: 500 square feet

Total Net Area: 1,000 square feet

Purpose/Function:

This space functions to allow the maintenance of personal hygiene.

Spatial Relationships:

These rooms will be located adjacent to the seating and service area of the café and be accessible to the employees of the café as well.

Equipment/Furnishings

These rooms would be equipped with toilets, urinals, sinks and a place of storage for cleaning equipment.

Mechanical/Electrical Systems:

Plumbing and access to water would be required for these rooms as well as ventilation.

Stacks

Stacks

Units: 4

Net Square Feet/Unit: Approximately 35,000 square feet

Total Net Area: 150,000 square feet

Purpose/Function:

The purpose of these spaces is to house the different genres of books for the library. They allow the user to browse around looking for any interesting or wanted reading material. These spaces will also house reference materials, periodicals, and other such media as videos and dvds.

Activities:

Browsing around looking for books is the main activity in these spaces.

Spatial Relationships:

The stacks are located in the central part of the building and are a number of stories tall.

Special Considerations:

Special considerations will be looked at concerning how the books are accessed by the people and how people move through these spaces.

Equipment/Furnishings:

These spaces will be furnished with many shelves and stands in order to hold the books and other materials.

Mechanical/Electrical Systems:

An extensive mechanical system will be used to monitor the room conditions to make sure it is best suited for the books that are being housed.

Site/Exterior Environment Considerations:

These spaces will be visible from the exterior of the building because they are the building's tallest components.

Children's Section

Stacks

Units: 1

Net Square Feet/Unit: Approximately 15,000 square feet

Total Net Area: 15,000 square feet

Purpose/Function:

The purpose of this space is to allow the children to have a place of their own. They will have a lower portion of one of the stacks which houses all of their materials.

Activities:

Children browsing the space and experiencing knowledge and history. The space will also include a slide running from the third floor to the second floor and then from the second floor to the first floor.

Spatial Relationships:

The stacks are located in the central part of the building and are a number of stories tall.

Special Considerations:

Special considerations will be looked at how the children can best be proved with a unique place of their own, somewhat separate from the other main stacks.

Equipment/Furnishings:

These spaces will be furnished with many shelves and stands in order to hold the books and other materials. Also, the children will be provided with special seating such as bean bag chairs throughout the space.

Mechanical/Electrical Systems:

An extensive mechanical system will be used to monitor the room conditions to make sure it is best suited for the books that are being housed.

Site/Exterior Environment Considerations:

These spaces will be visible from the exterior of the building because they are the building's tallest components.

Lobby/Checkout

Stacks

Units: 2

Net Square Feet/Unit: 1,000 square feet

Total Net Area: 4,000 square feet

Purpose/Function:

The function of this space is to allow for the entry way into the stacks and to allow for the check-out of books and other materials.

Activities:

People will be checking out their books and other materials in this space. This is also the space where people access each of the different stacks.

Spatial Relationships:

The Lobby will be located centrally on the first floor amidst the two groupings of four stacks.

Equipment/Furnishings:

This space will be furnished with a main desk to accommodate the librarians and their responsibilities. Seating will also be provided in a limited amount in this space.

Mechanical/Electrical Systems:

The electrical systems will have to accommodate for lighting and computers and all other equipment located at the front desk in each lobby.

Seating/Lounging

Stacks

Units: 16 (8 Public & 8 Private)

Unit Capacity: 50

Net Square Feet/Unit: 1,500 square feet

Total Net Area: 24,000 square feet

Purposes/Function:

These spaces will provide seating for those browsing throughout the library and the stacks.

Activities:

Sitting and reading will take place in these areas.

Spatial Relationships:

These spaces will be dispersed throughout the building near all of the major functions to allow for studying, seating and relaxing throughout the building in a comfortable environment.

Special Considerations:

The quality and level of privacy of each space is a special consideration. This is so to attempt to accommodate all possible needs of the people.

Equipment/Furnishings:

Comfortable seating, tables, chairs, desks, and other such equipment will be furnished in these spaces.

Mechanical/Electrical Systems:

These spaces will allow for electrical access from the seating in case of personal computers or other devices.

Restrooms

Stacks

Units: 2

Unit Capacity: 8

Net Square Feet/Unit: 500 square feet

Total Net Area: 1,000 square feet

Purpose/Function:

This space functions to allow the maintenance of personal hygiene.

Spatial Relationships:

These rooms will be located adjacent to on alternating floors to all of the seating/lounging spaces to provide access from either there or the stacks.

Equipment/Furnishings

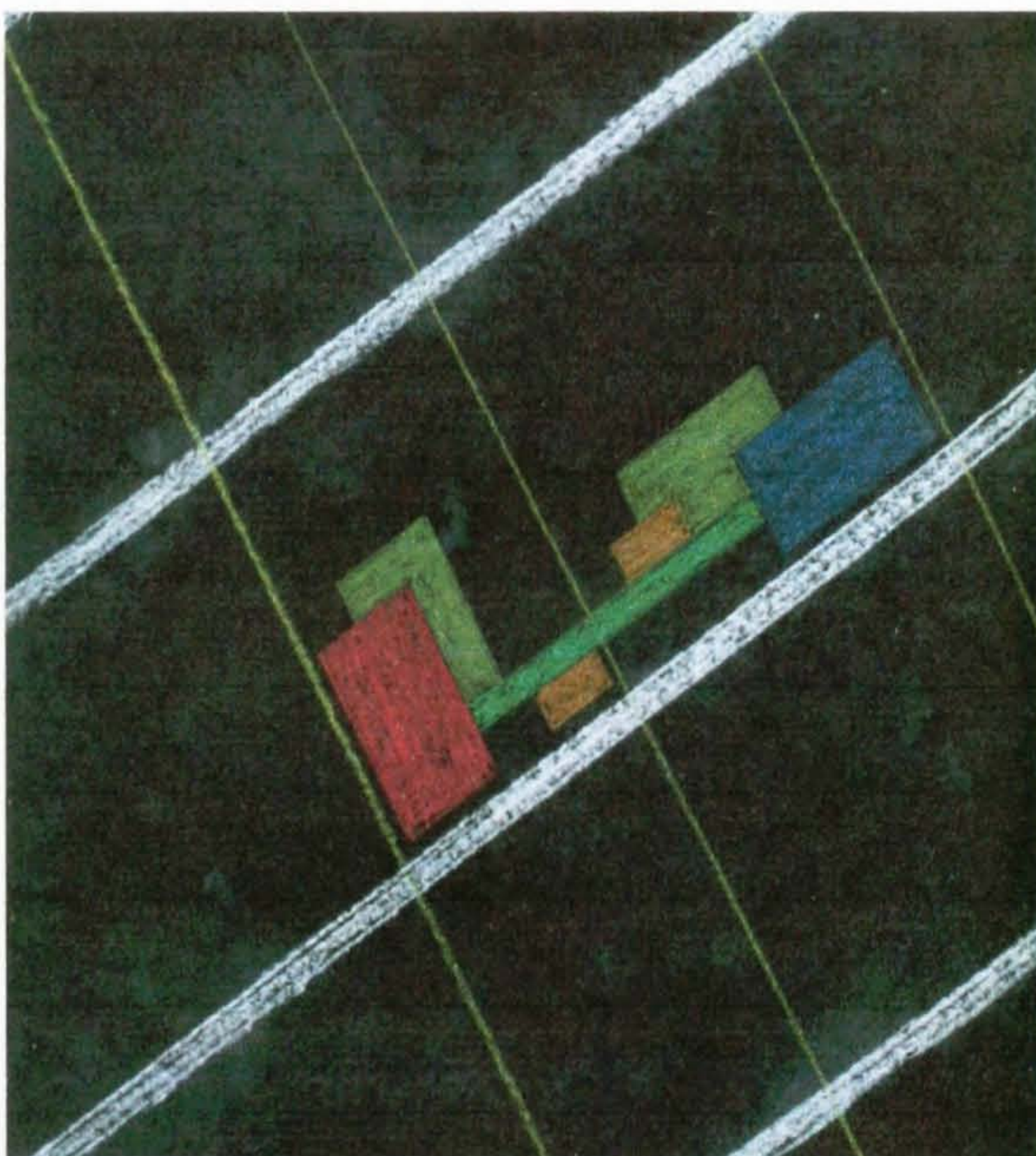
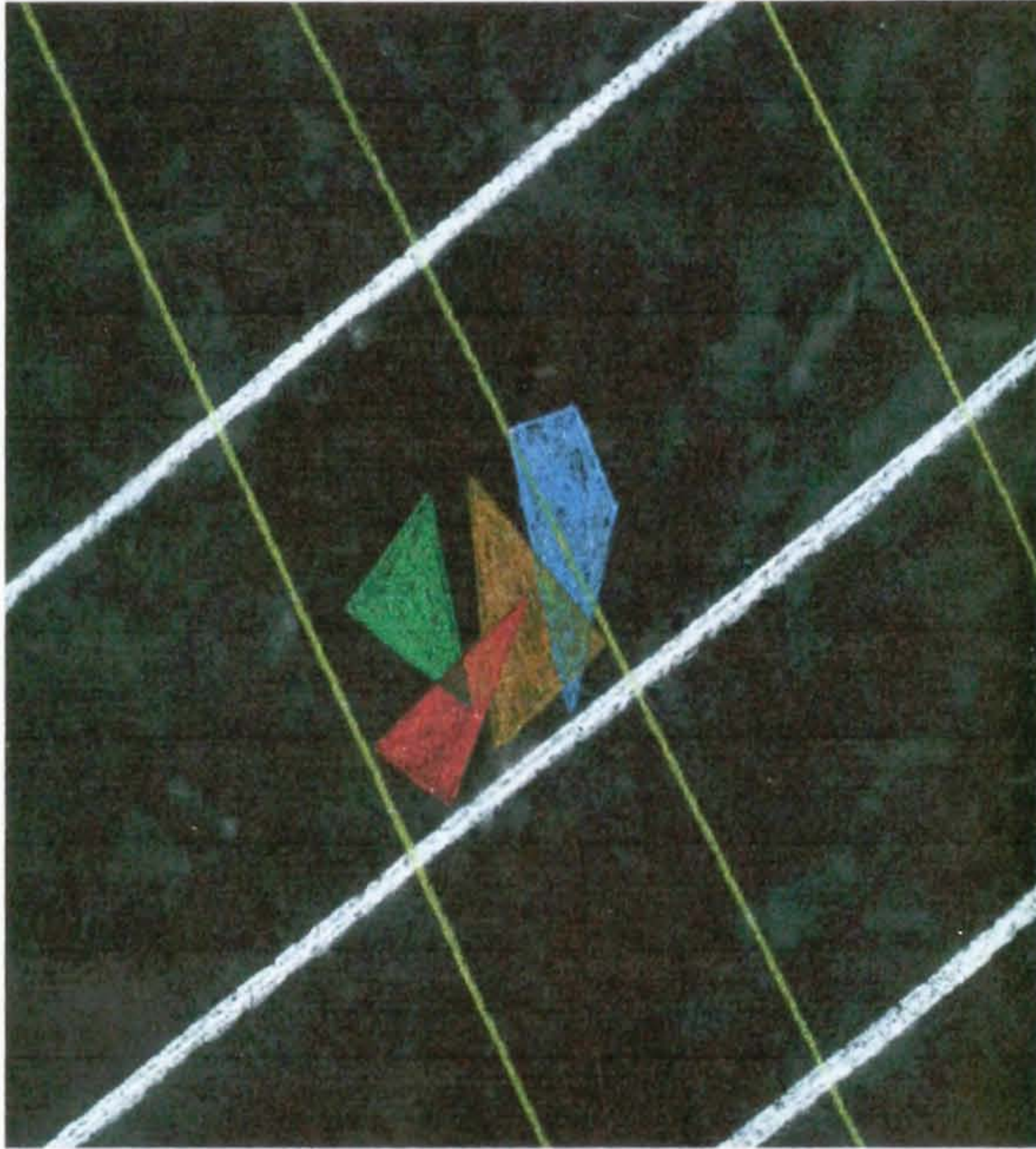
These rooms would be equipped with toilets, urinals, sinks and a place of storage for cleaning equipment.

Mechanical/Electrical Systems:

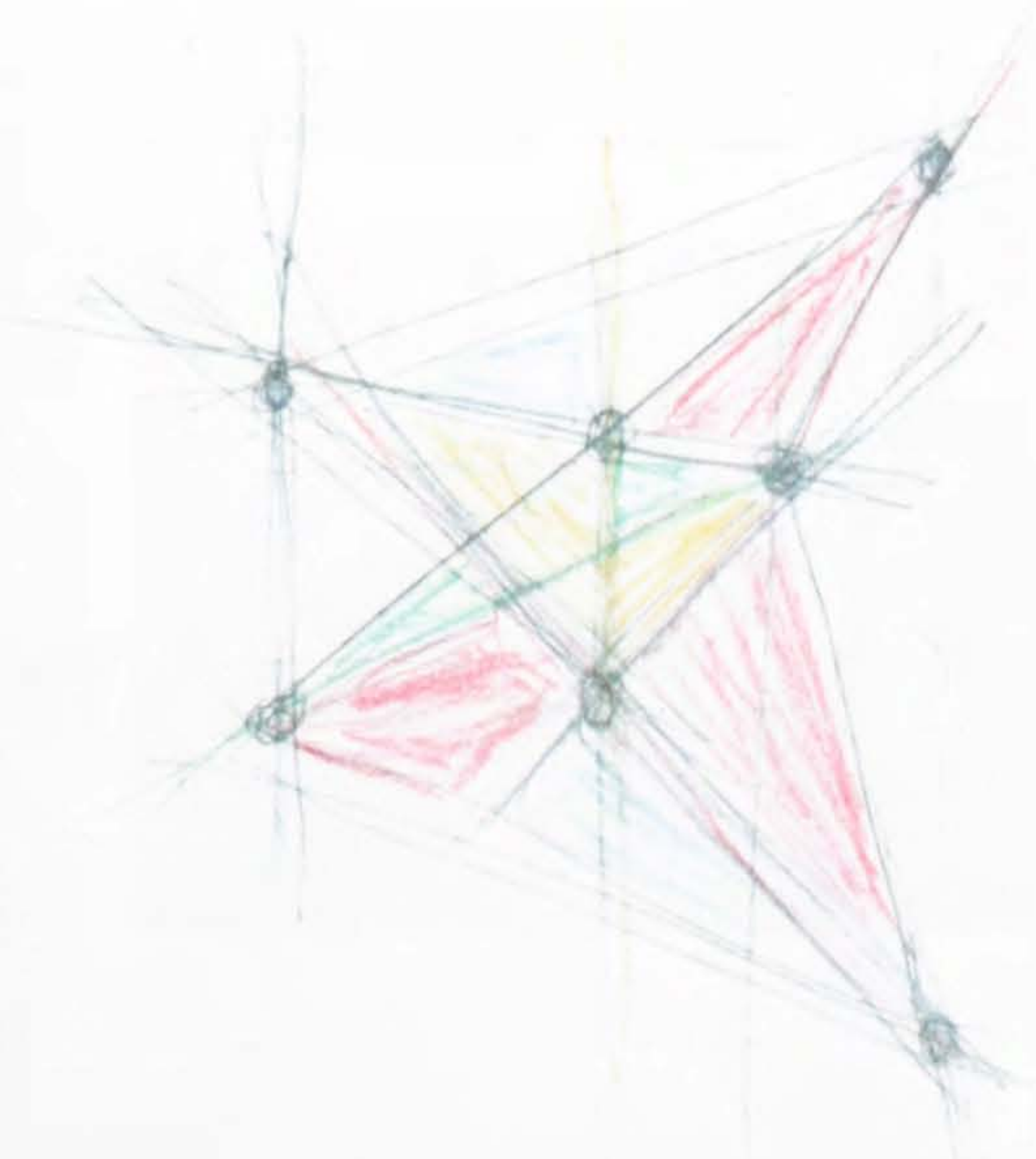
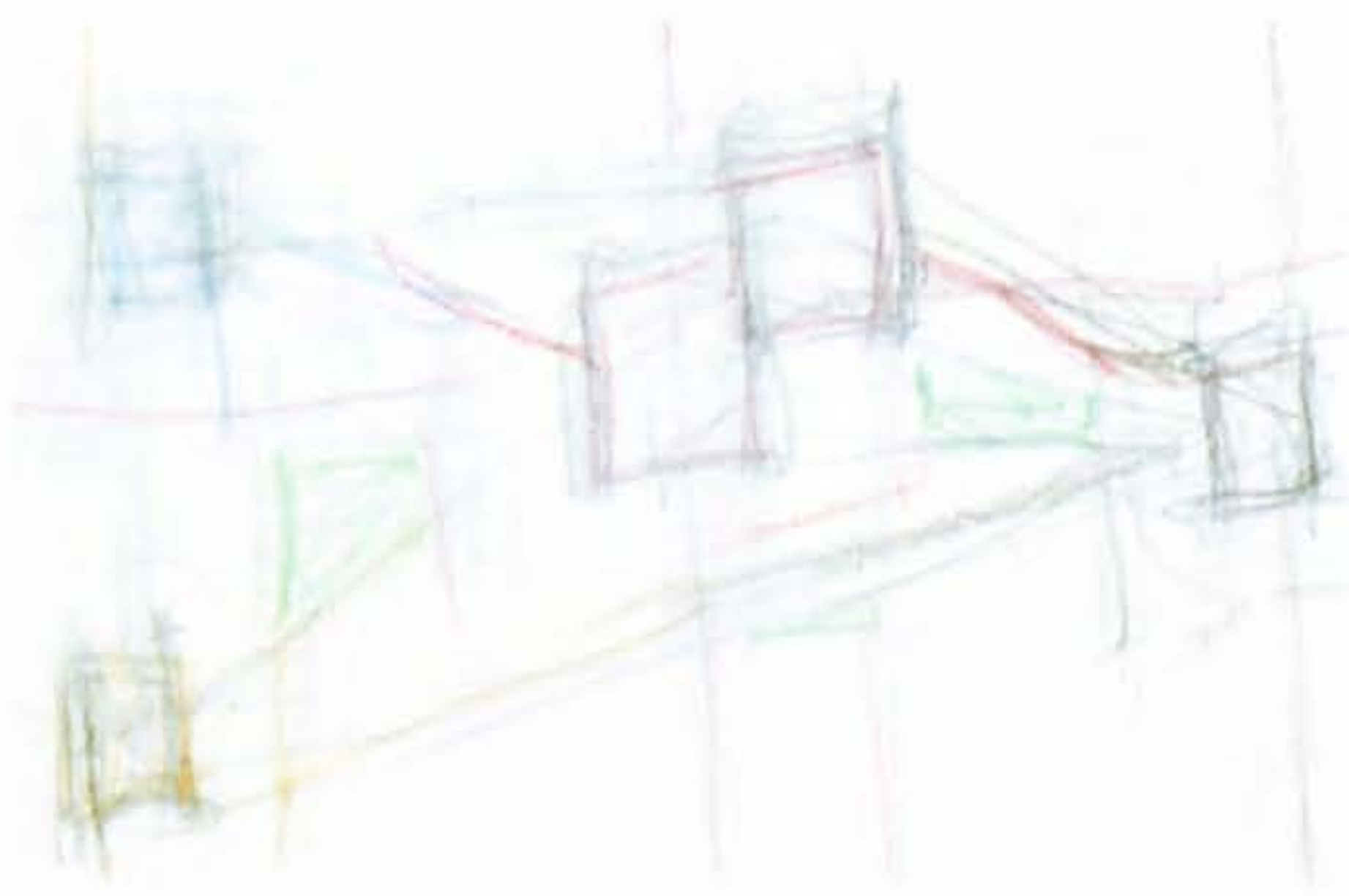
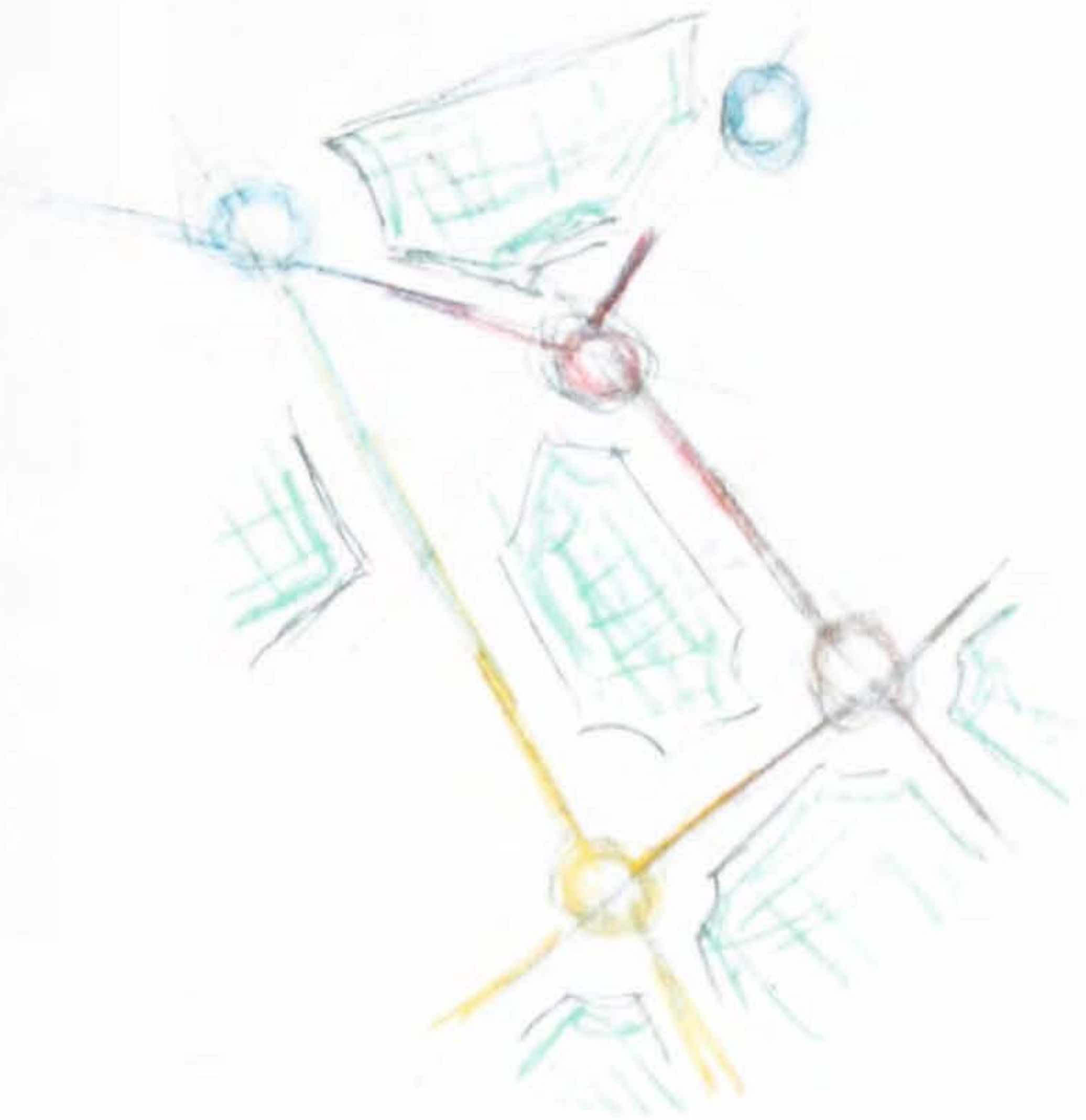
Plumbing and access to water would be required for these rooms as well as ventilation.

Documentation of Design:

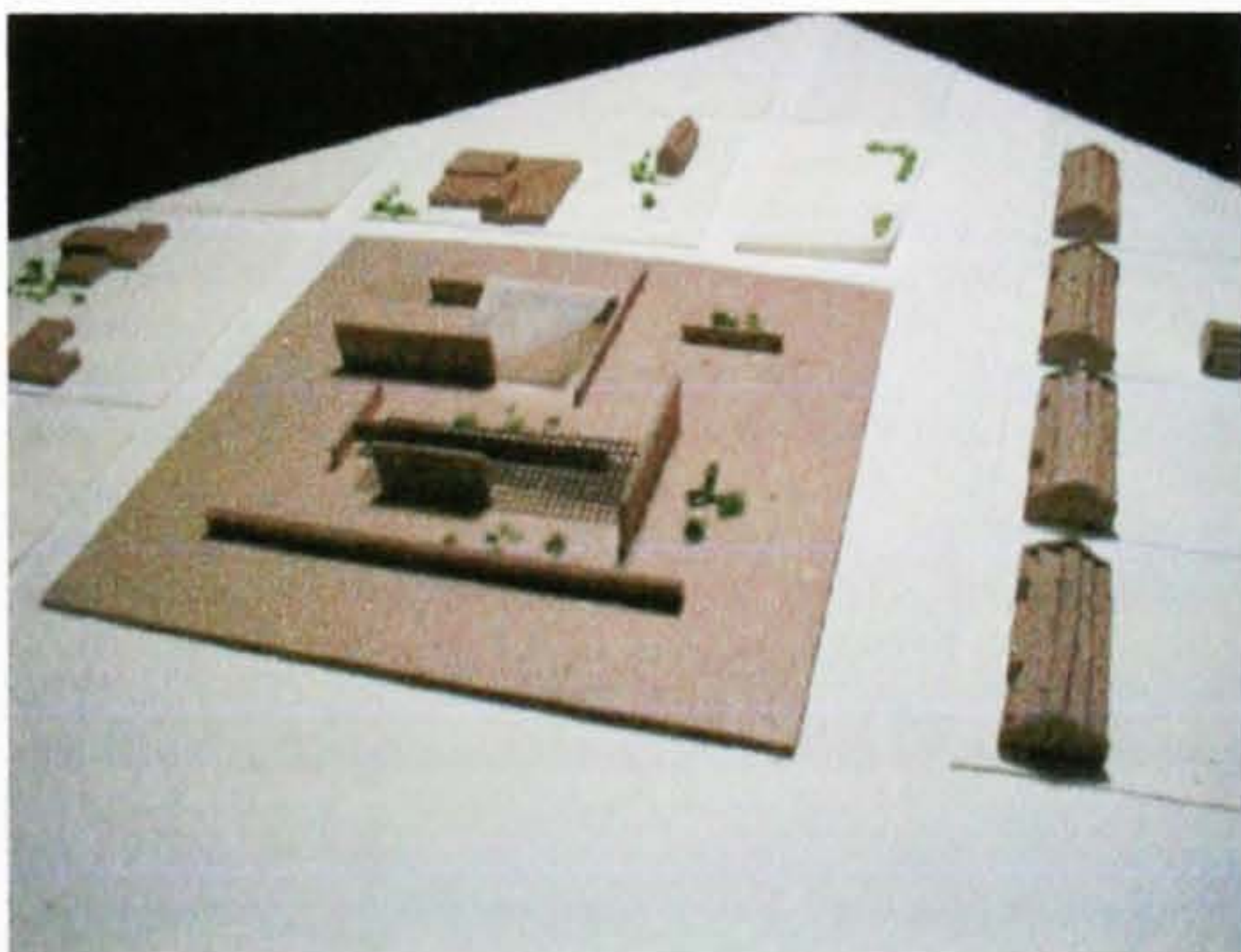
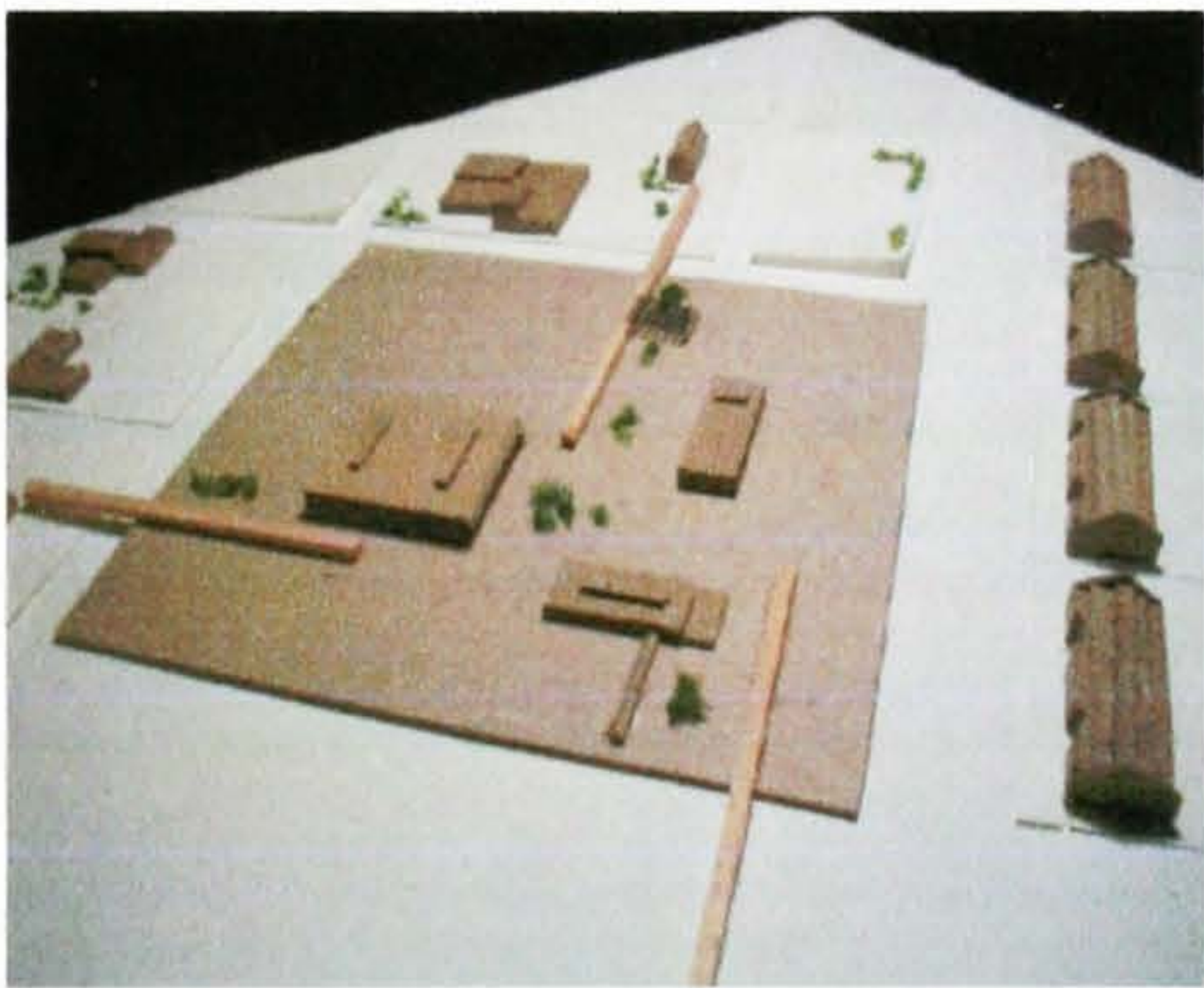
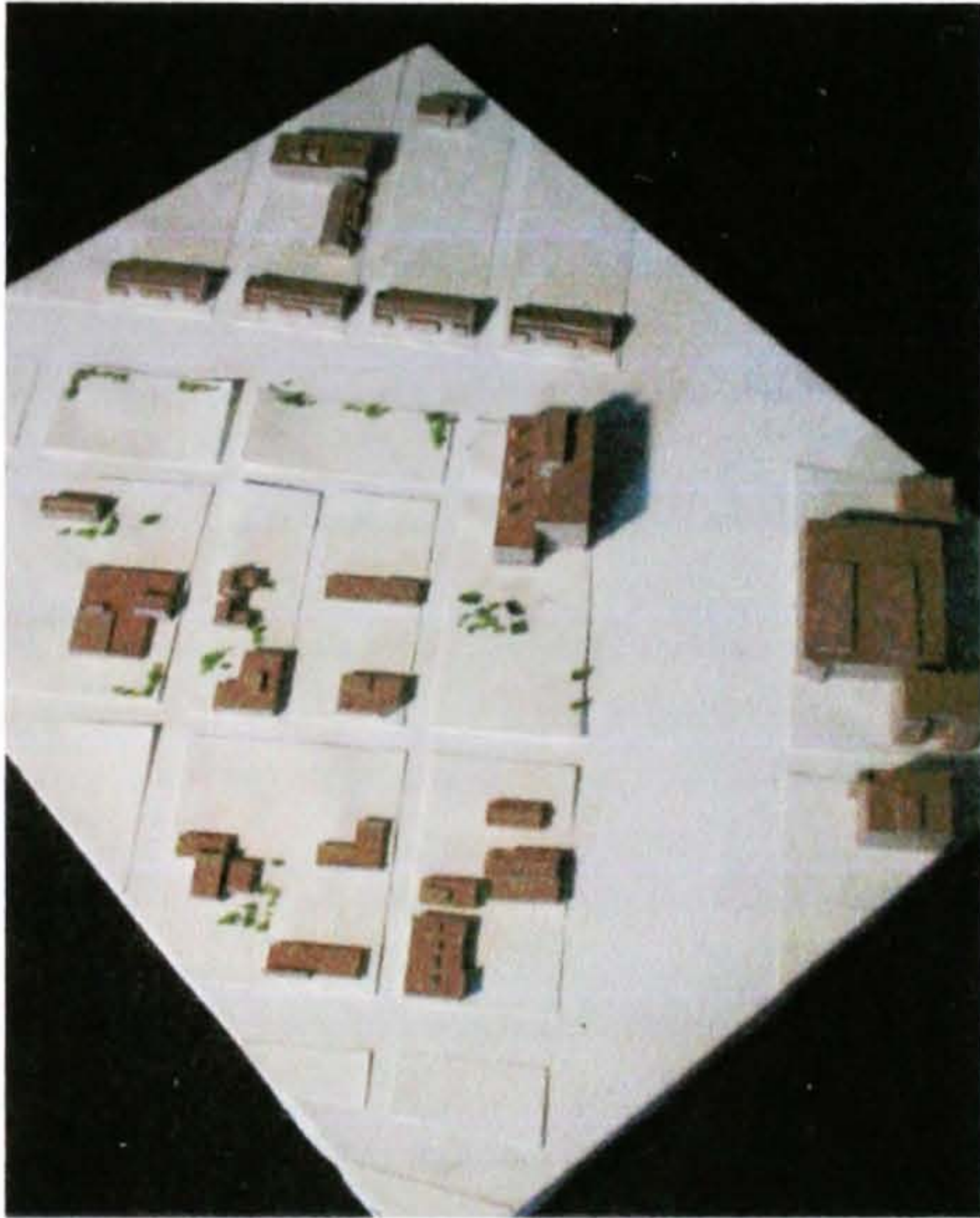
November/December



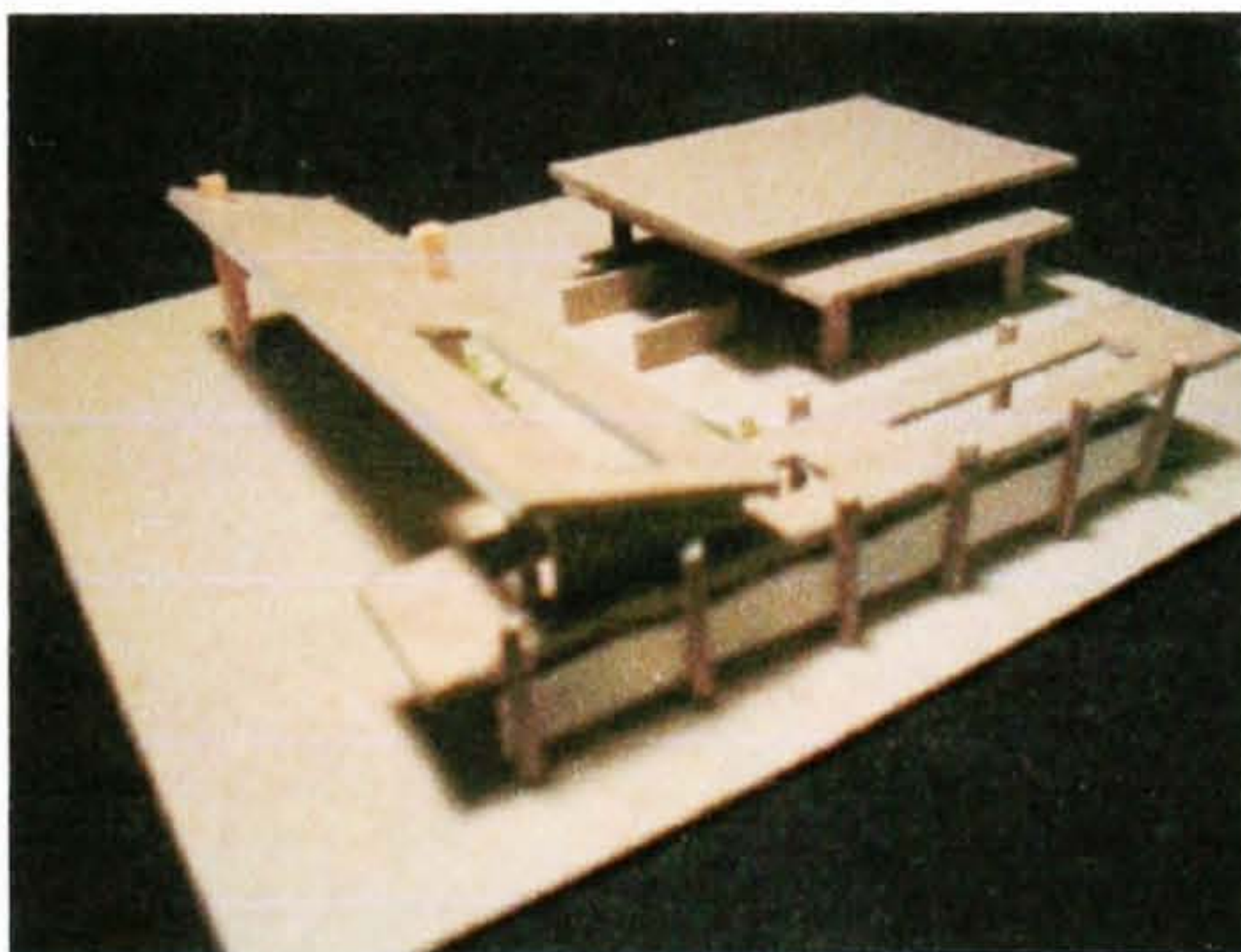
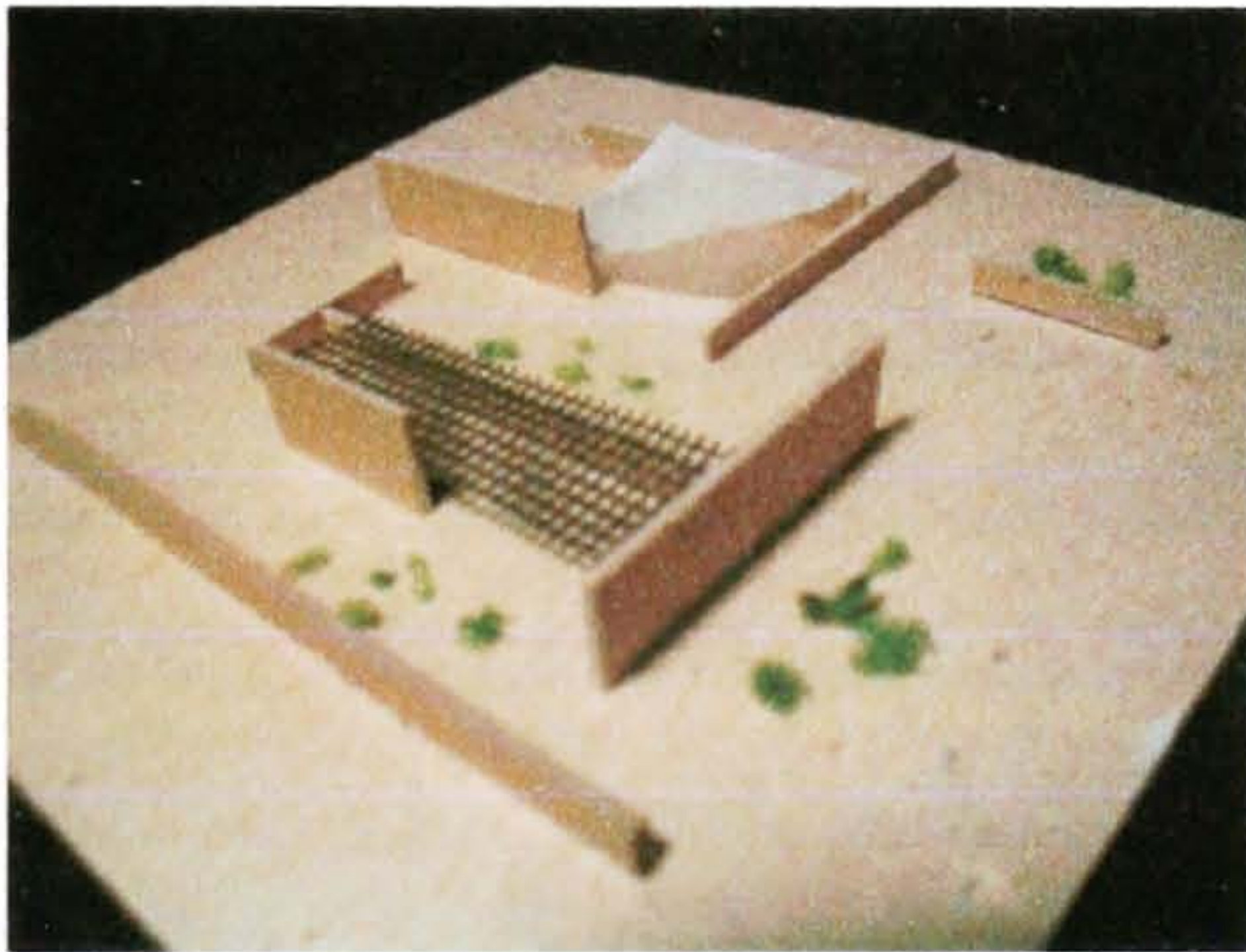
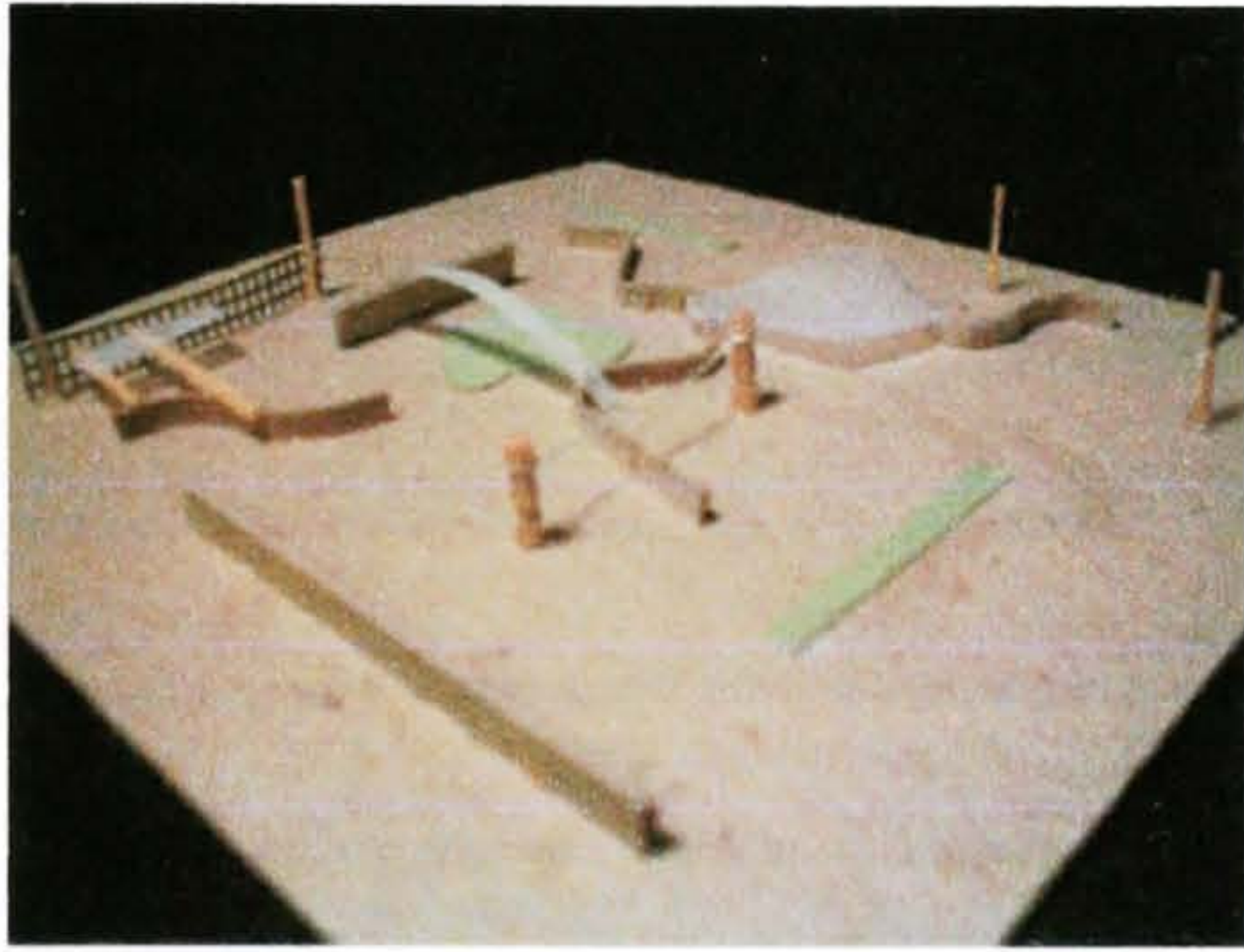
The design process began by intricately examining the lay-out of the site that was selected along Woodward Ave. The grid pattern of the surrounding streets was denoted and an initial study was done in a very diagrammatic and basic programmatic method.



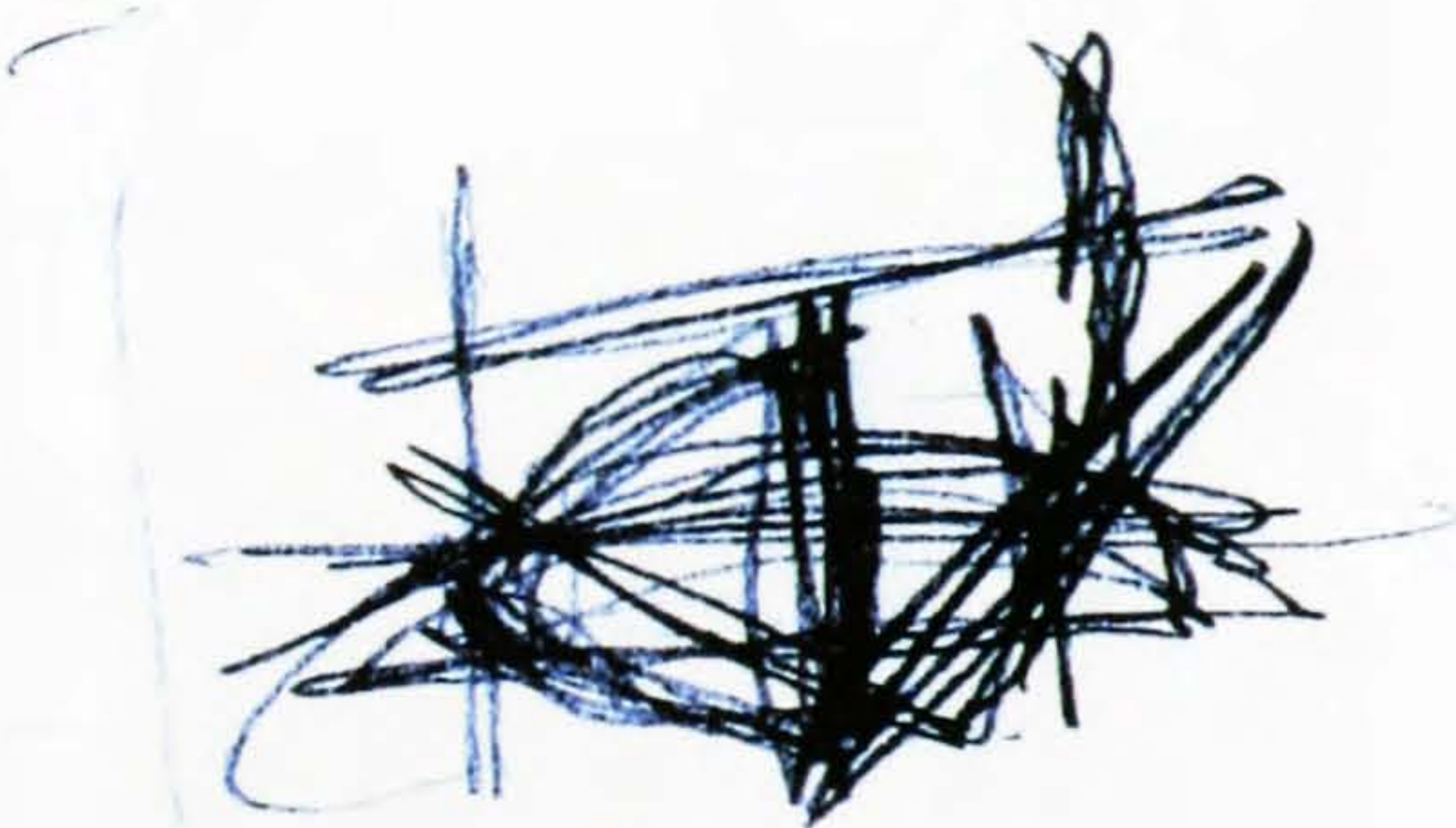
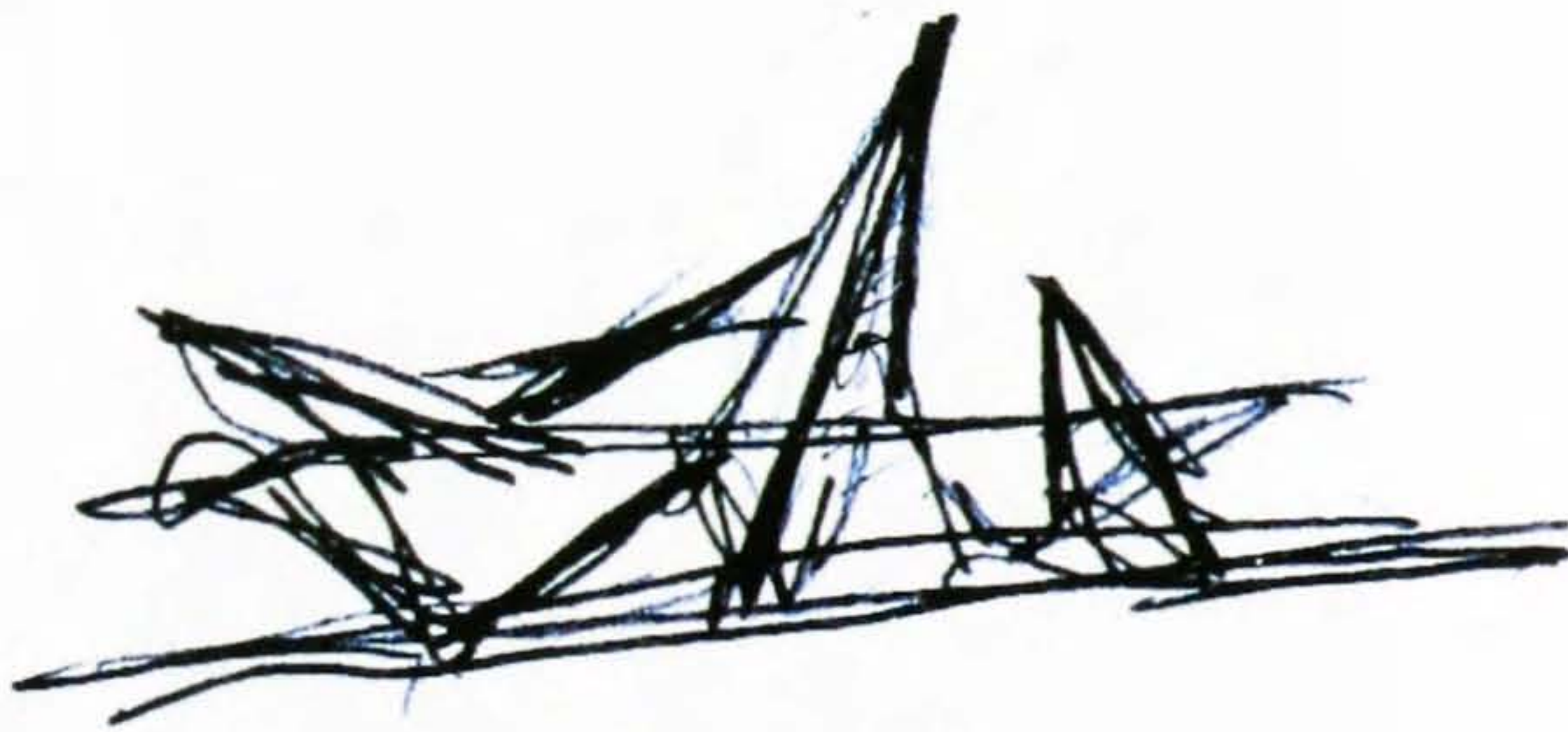
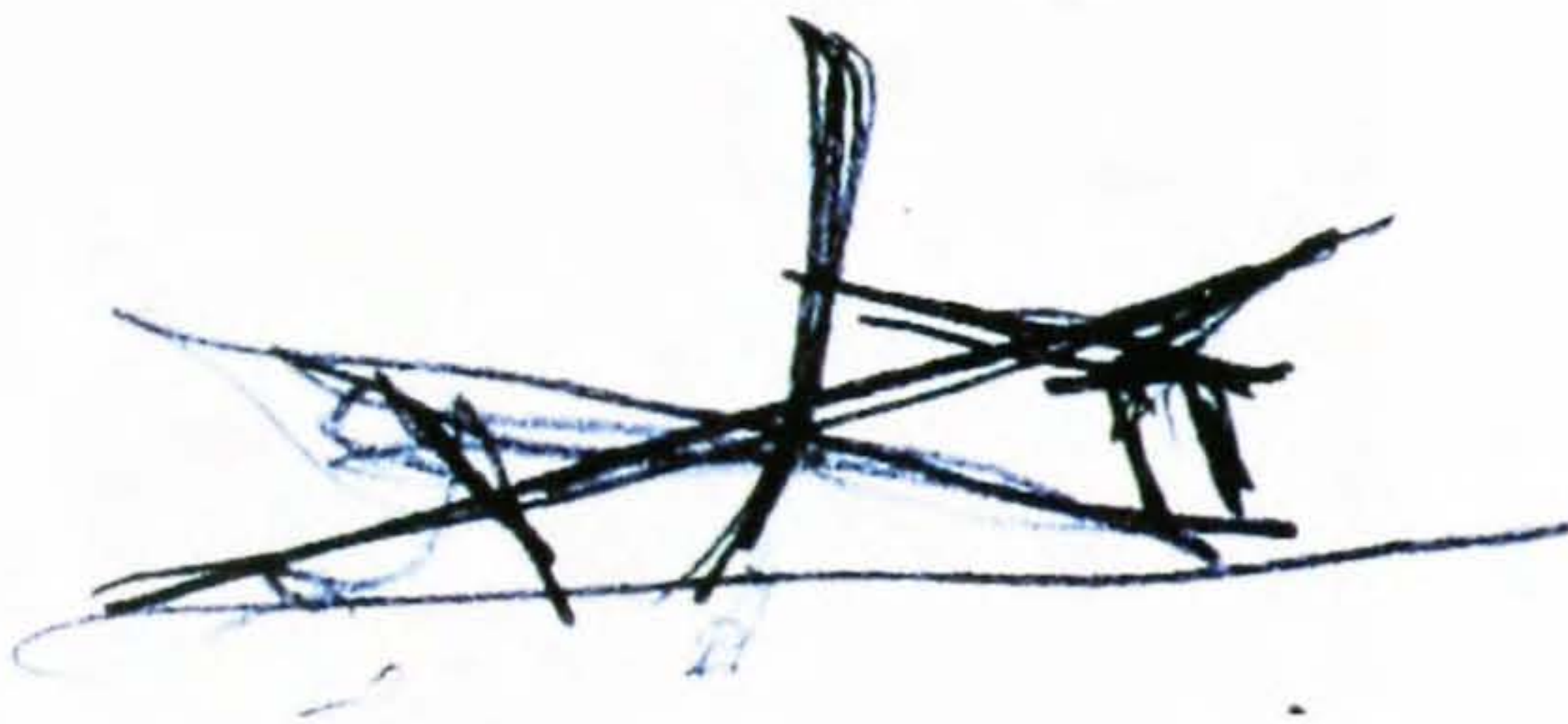
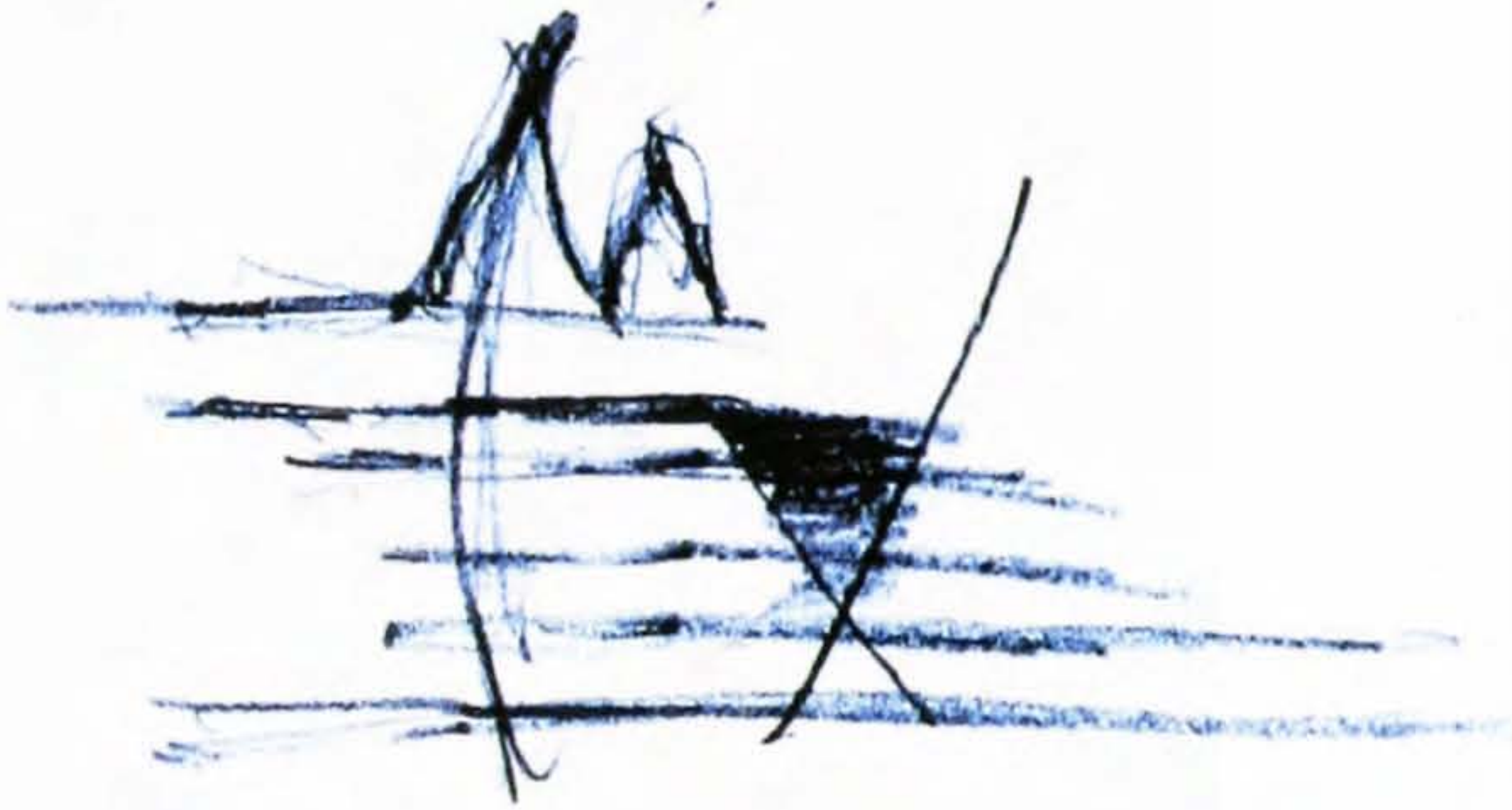
This is a further analysis of how the current grid of Detroit directly effects the site. The current grid was extended over the site using various view-ports from around the site as well as an extension of current paths and roads. Here, important nodes were highlighted and spaces began to be formed through examining the spaces created by the grid and node points.



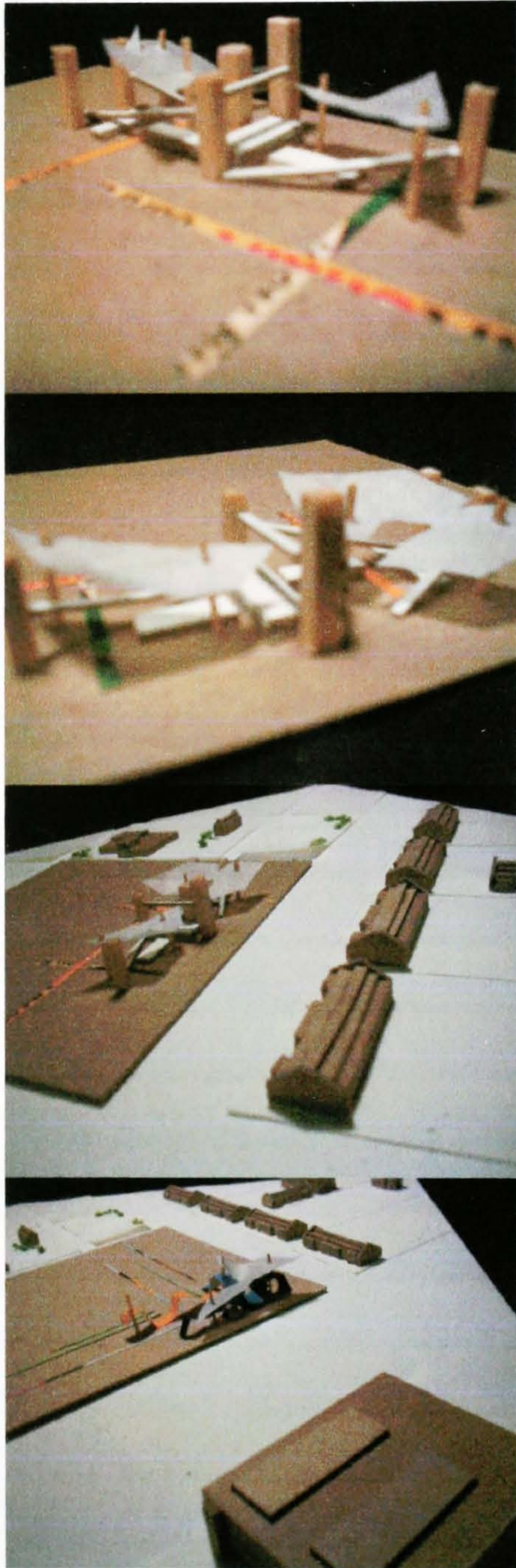
Having studied the site in drawing and sketch form, a site model was made to attain a better scale of the proposed site. Other models were then made to fit on this site model and to begin to understand what kind of scale and lay-out was appropriate for this location. The models were made at a 1:200 scale.



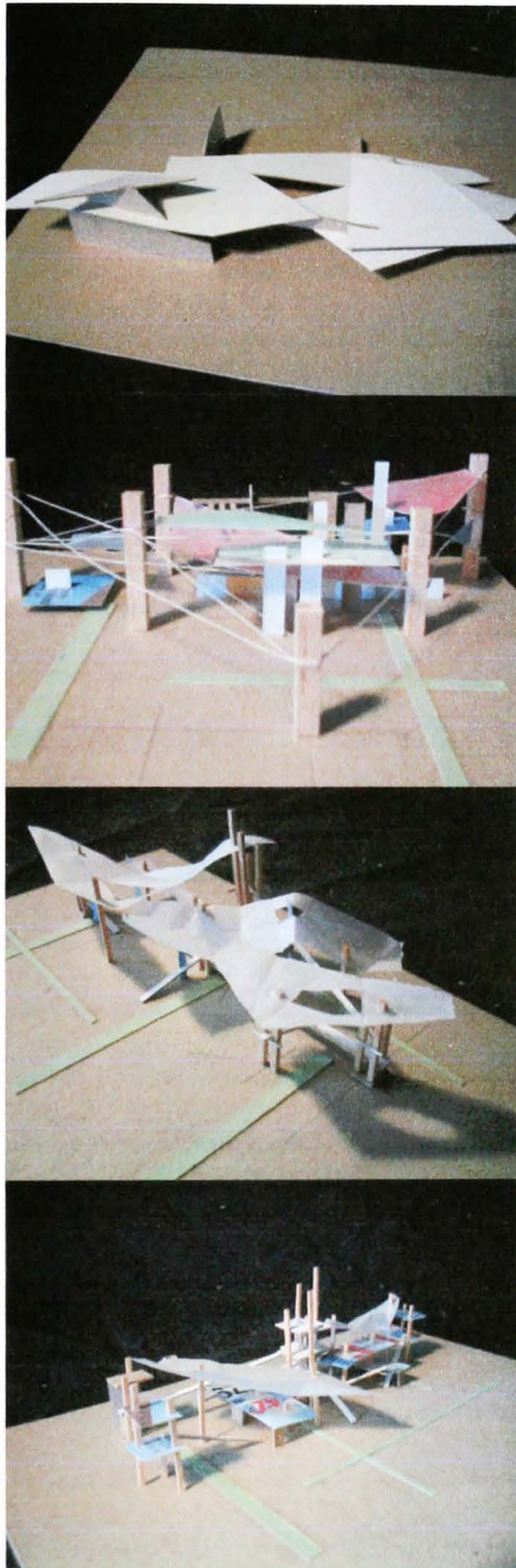
A number of varying attempts at a vague building form were created using this site model and technique. In the first few attempts, the insertion inhabited the entire site. This was done in an attempt to create a sense of density upon the site and create as many opportunities of dwelling space as possible. Because of this intention, the building almost seemed to take on the feeling of a college campus.



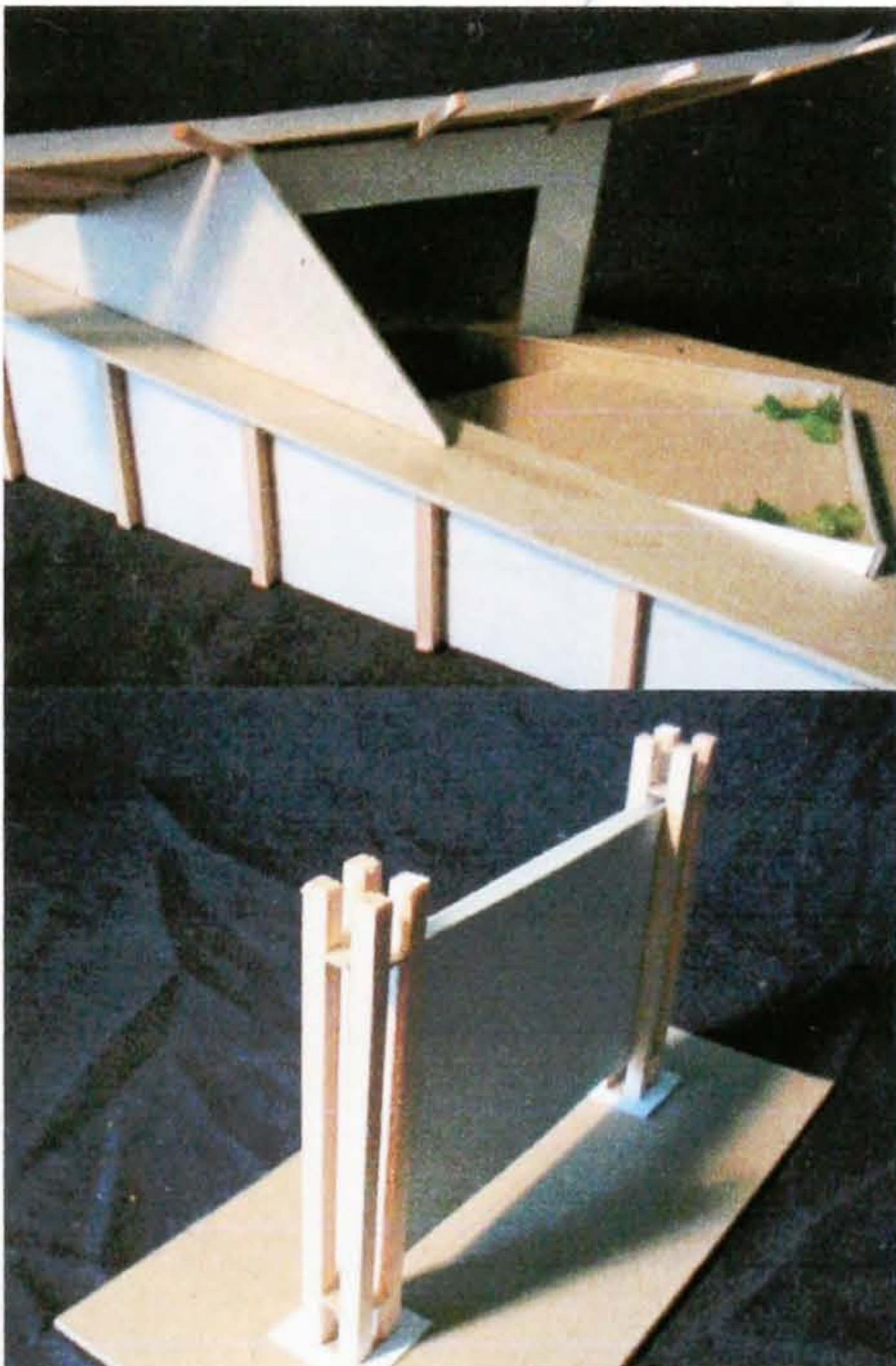
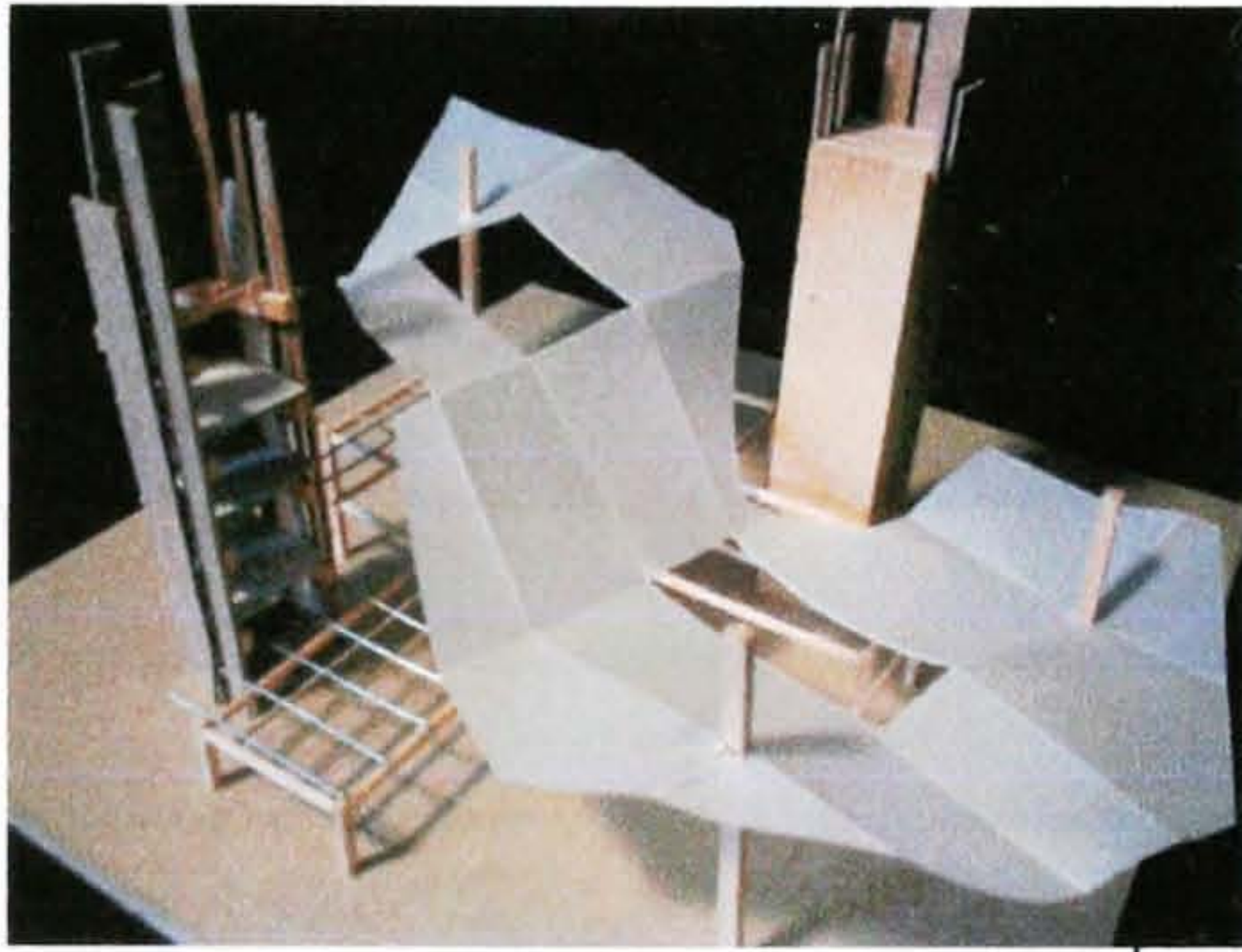
Having created various forms from the series of site studies in both drawing and model form, sketches were done of what the form of the building might become. Here, it is apparent that the elevations are influenced by the angular pattern of the grid study from the series of spaces that were created.



After the sketches began to take on more of an angular form, a new series of study models were created at the 1:200 scale to study how this insertion came across in scale and on the site. The scale felt appropriate these attempts began to address the street scape of Woodward more appropriately than the campus layouts. However, much of the site now seems unutilized.



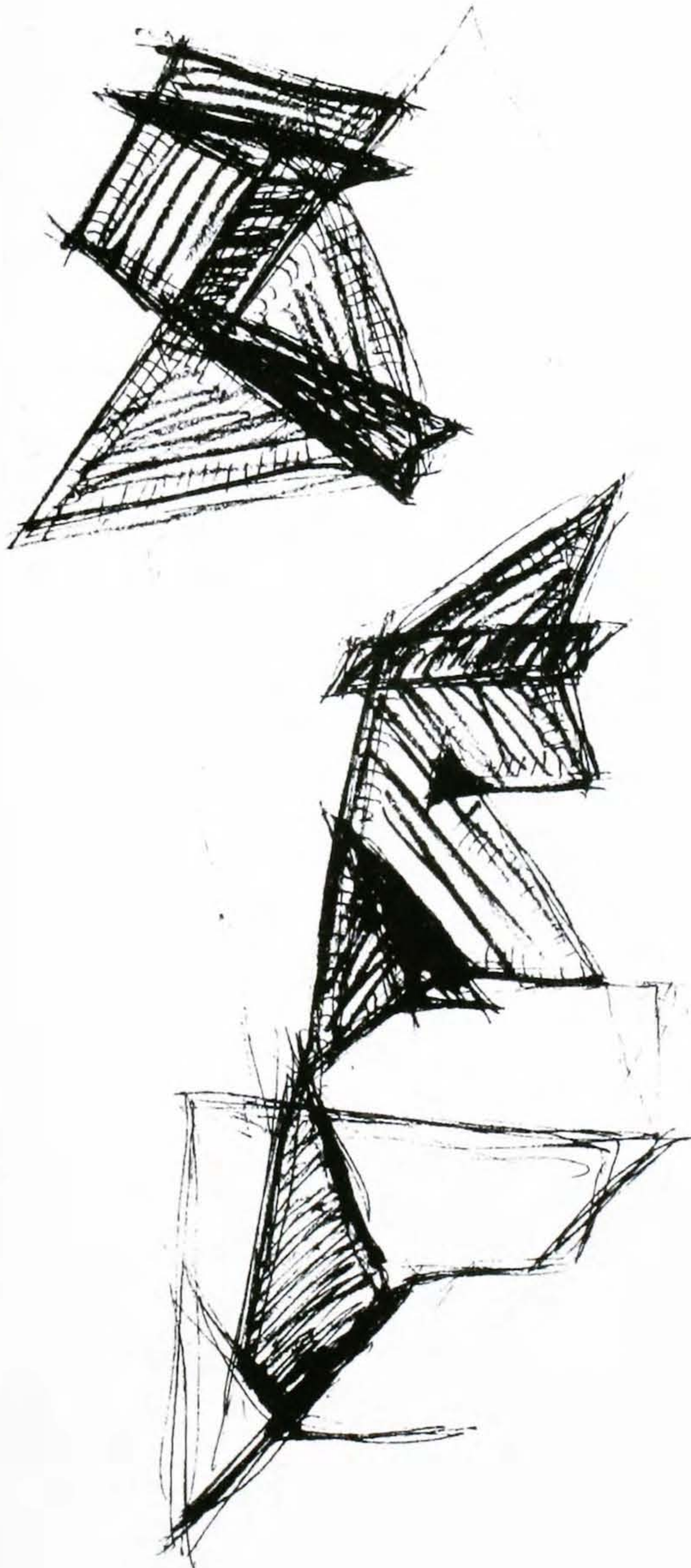
Models were then made at a larger scale to gain a better grasp of the spaces that were being created by these angular forms. Also, the intent of expressing various means of movement both throughout the building as well as the site were expressed with these iterations of design. The angular form was accepted because of its' still basic shape which references the typology of old, but uniquely fits the present site.



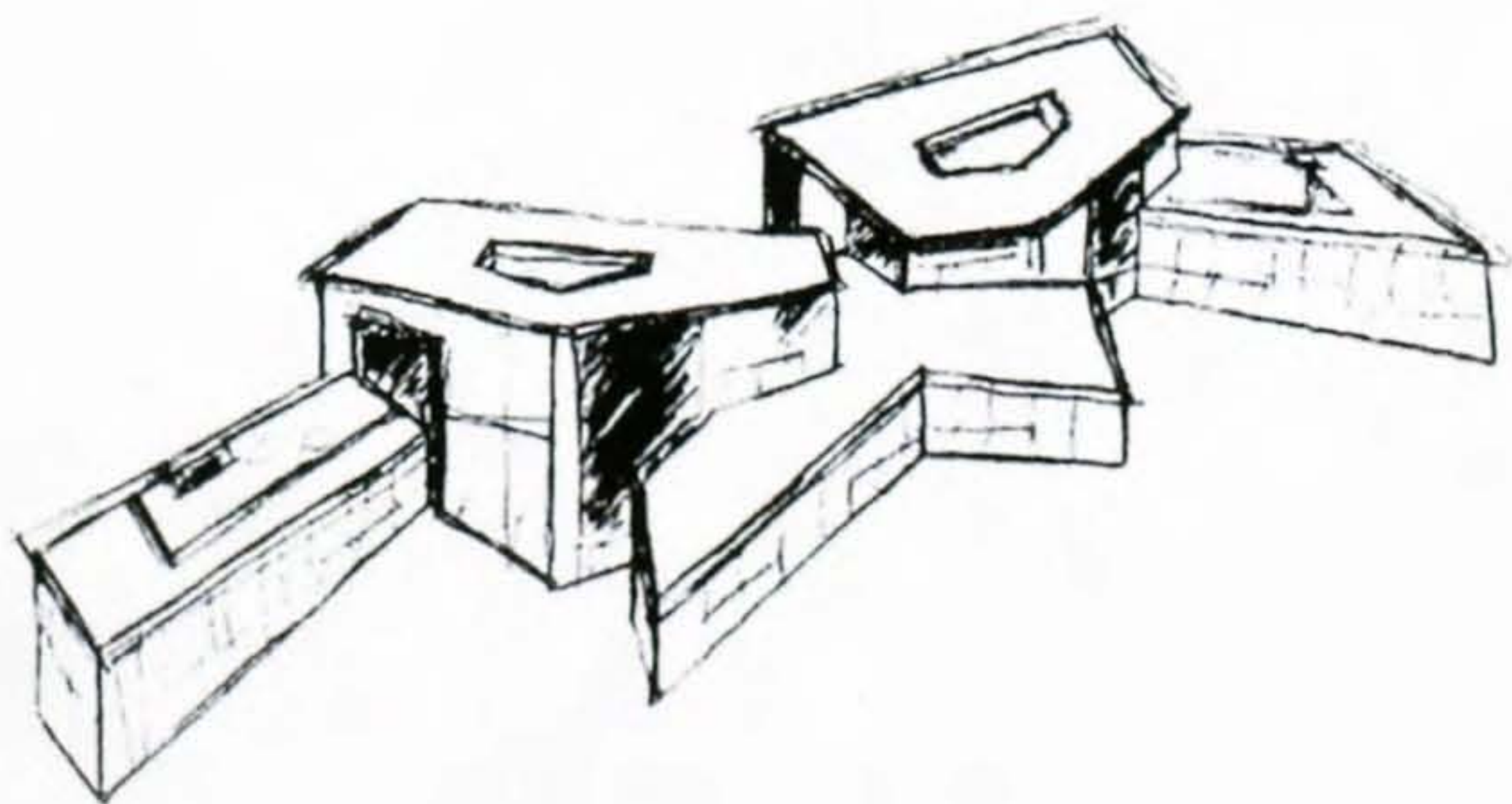
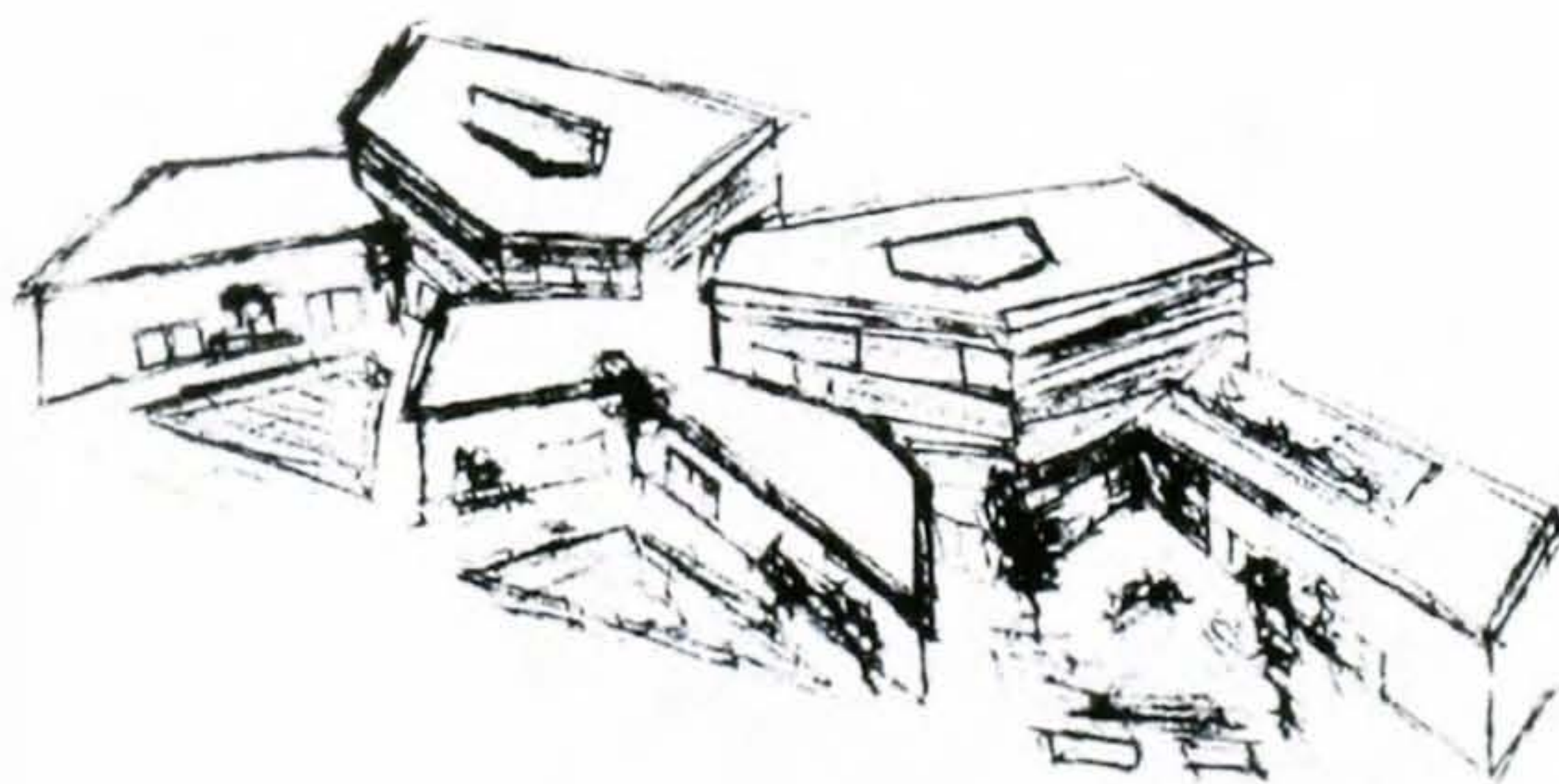
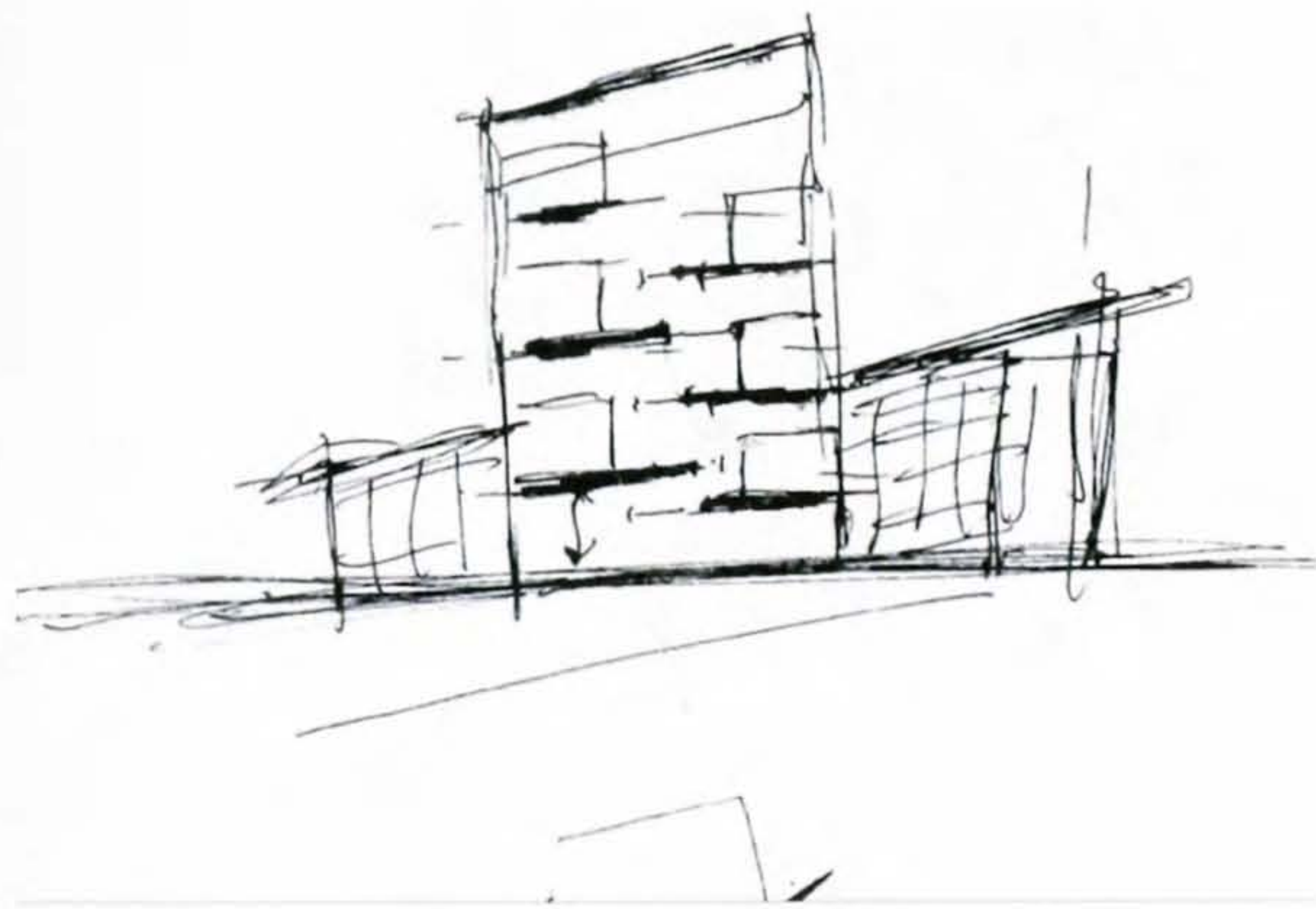
During this design process, distinct spaces also began to be developed. The idea of a rooftop garden began to be incorporated and the addition of an auditorium was added to the program. Also, the stacks were sought to be expressed to relate the importance of our history and source of education to our culture. A wall detail was also developed incorporating lighting directly into a translucent wall to distinguish reading areas.

Documentation of Design:

January - March

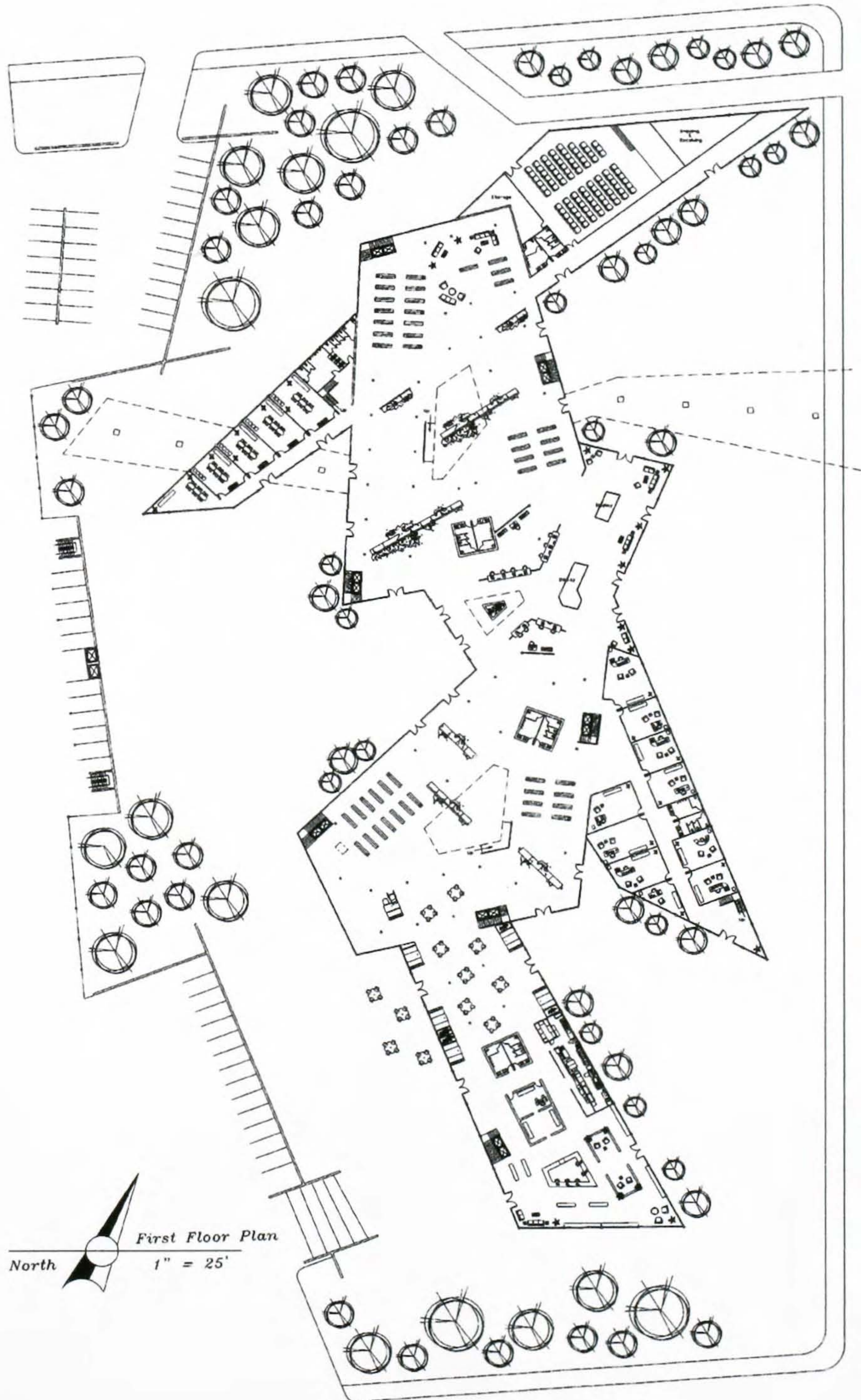


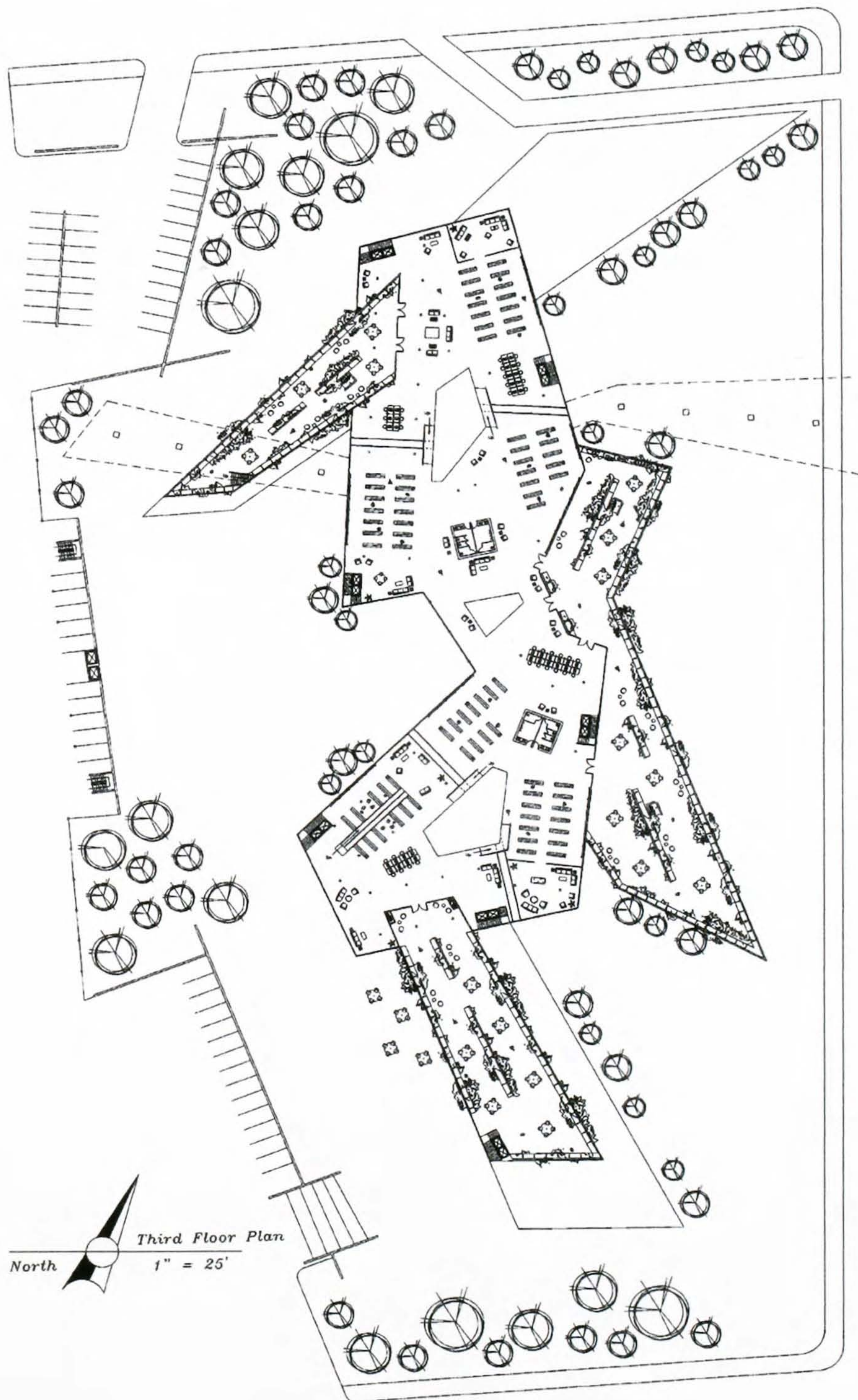
During this time period of our design process, the design sought to become more like an actual building. Having focused on movement and the creation of green-space throughout the design in the previous phase, it was necessary to begin to think of the project as an actual building rather than an open park.




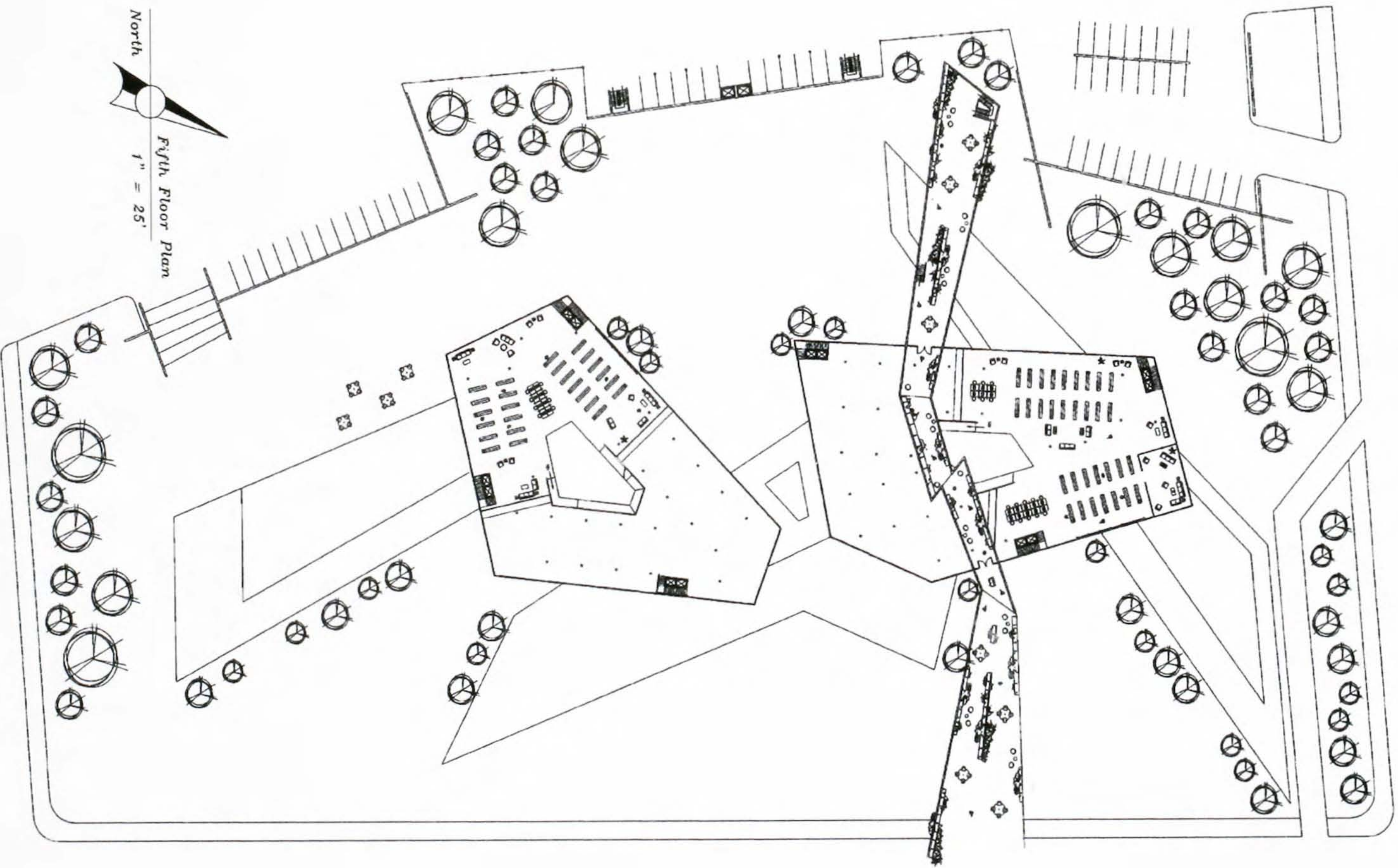
Most of the design changes done to the building form that was accepted were done through computer programs. The design was altered on many levels, including the incorporation of an Urban Park tying it to the site and the fabric of the city. Also, various floors were removed to express the tectonic movements going on. Many other features were incorporated as well.

Final Project:

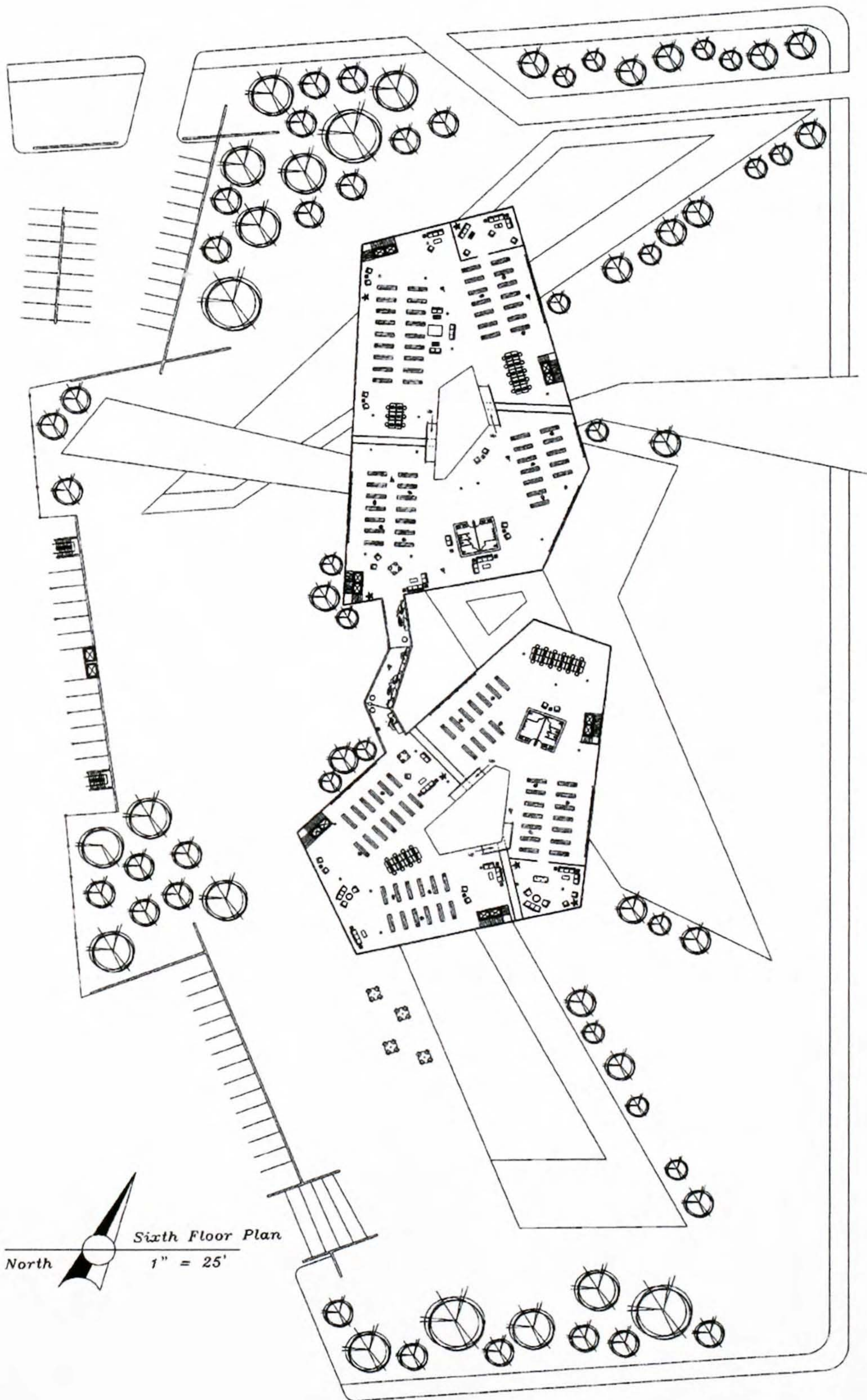




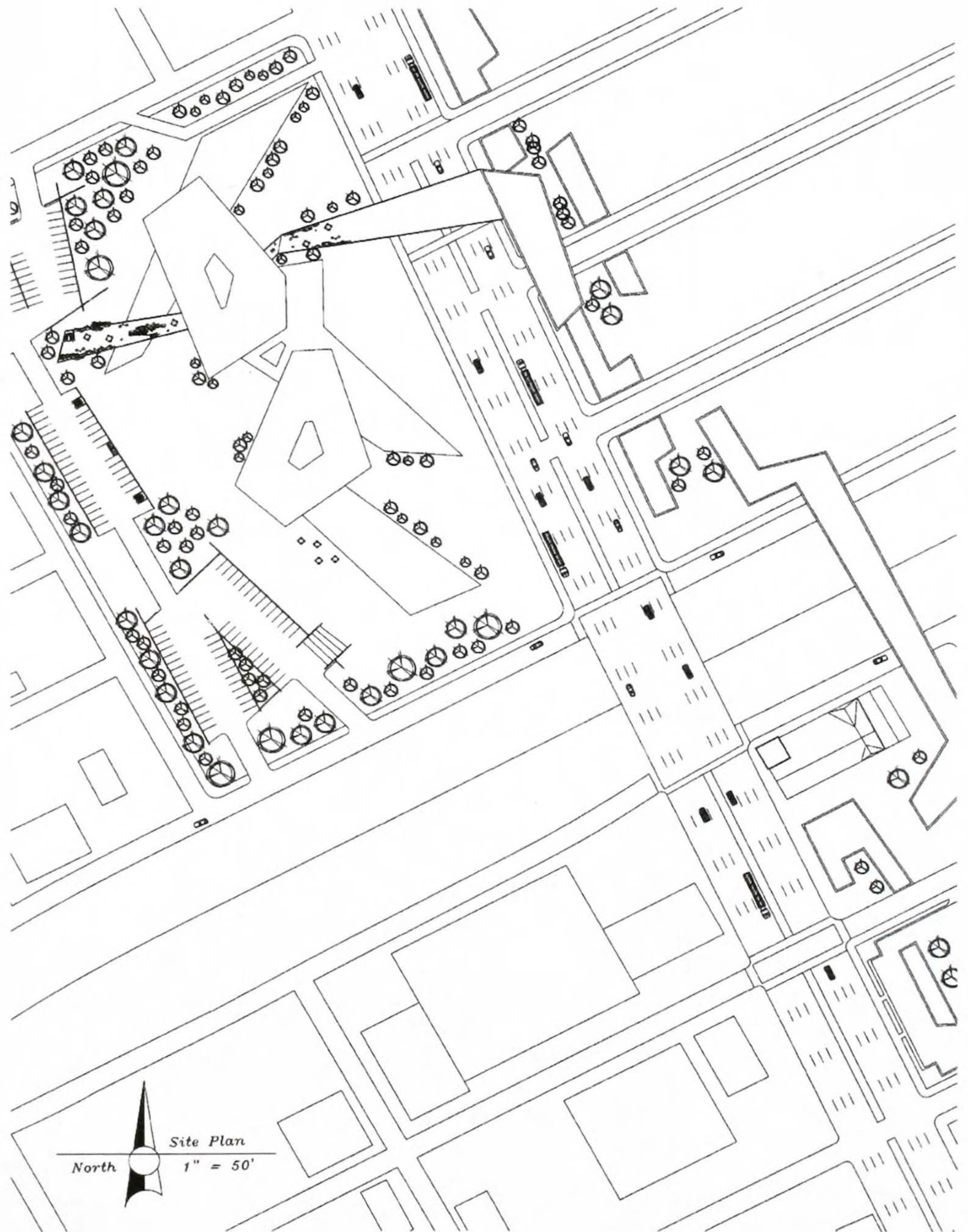
North  *Third Floor Plan*
1" = 25'



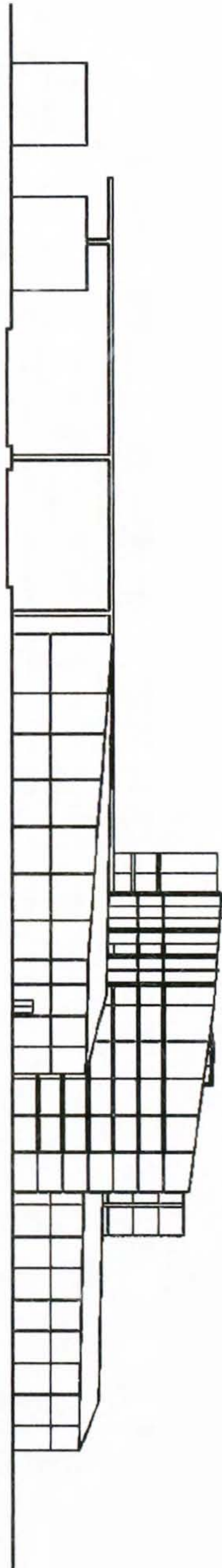
North
Fifth Floor Plan
1" = 25'



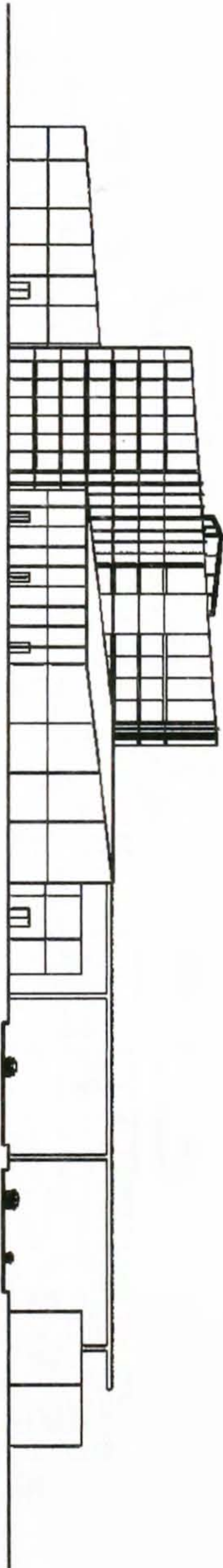
North *Sixth Floor Plan*
1" = 25'



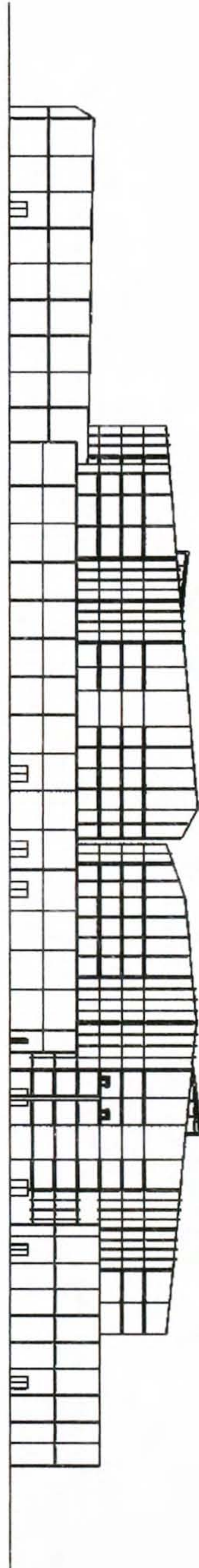
West Elevation
1" = 25'



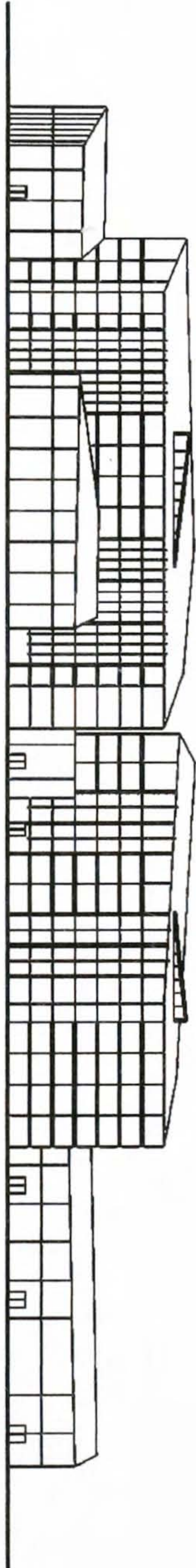
East Elevation
1" = 25'



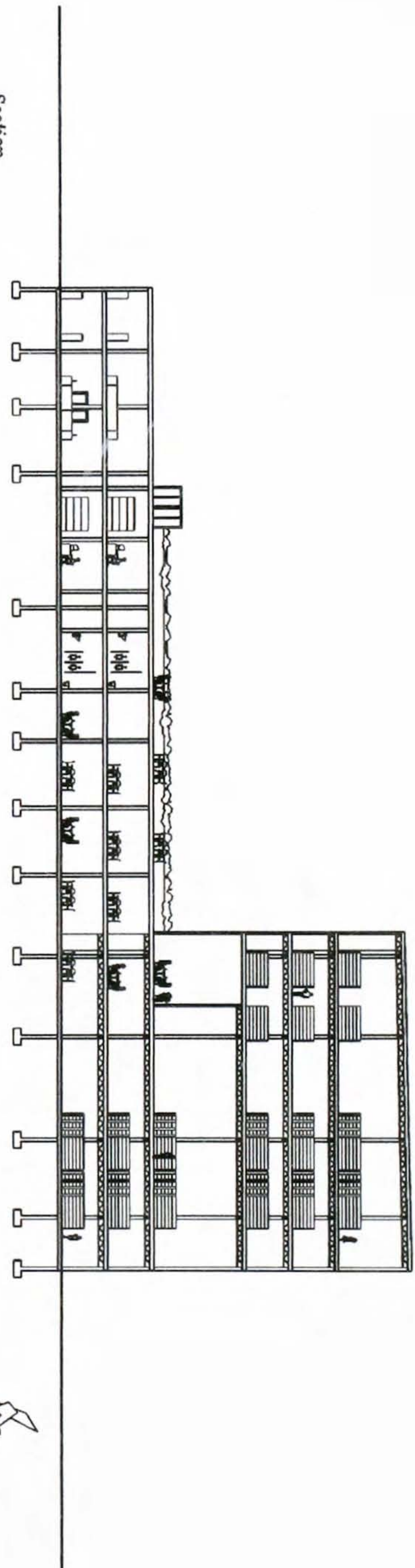
North Elevation
 $1'' = 25'$



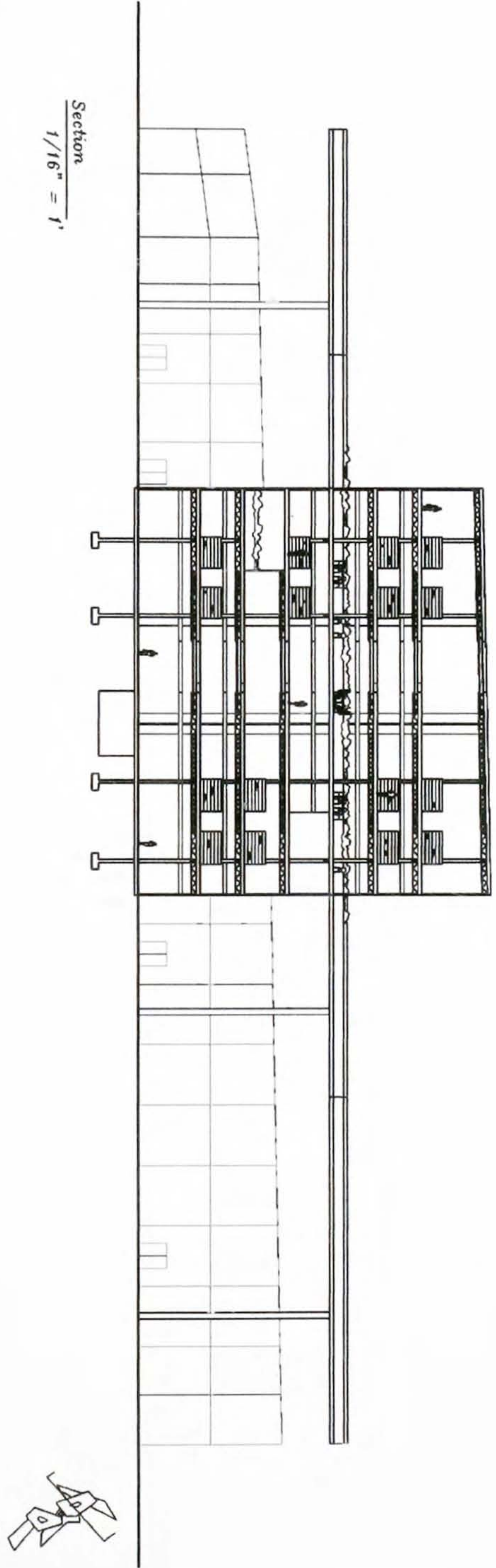
South Elevation
 $1'' = 25'$



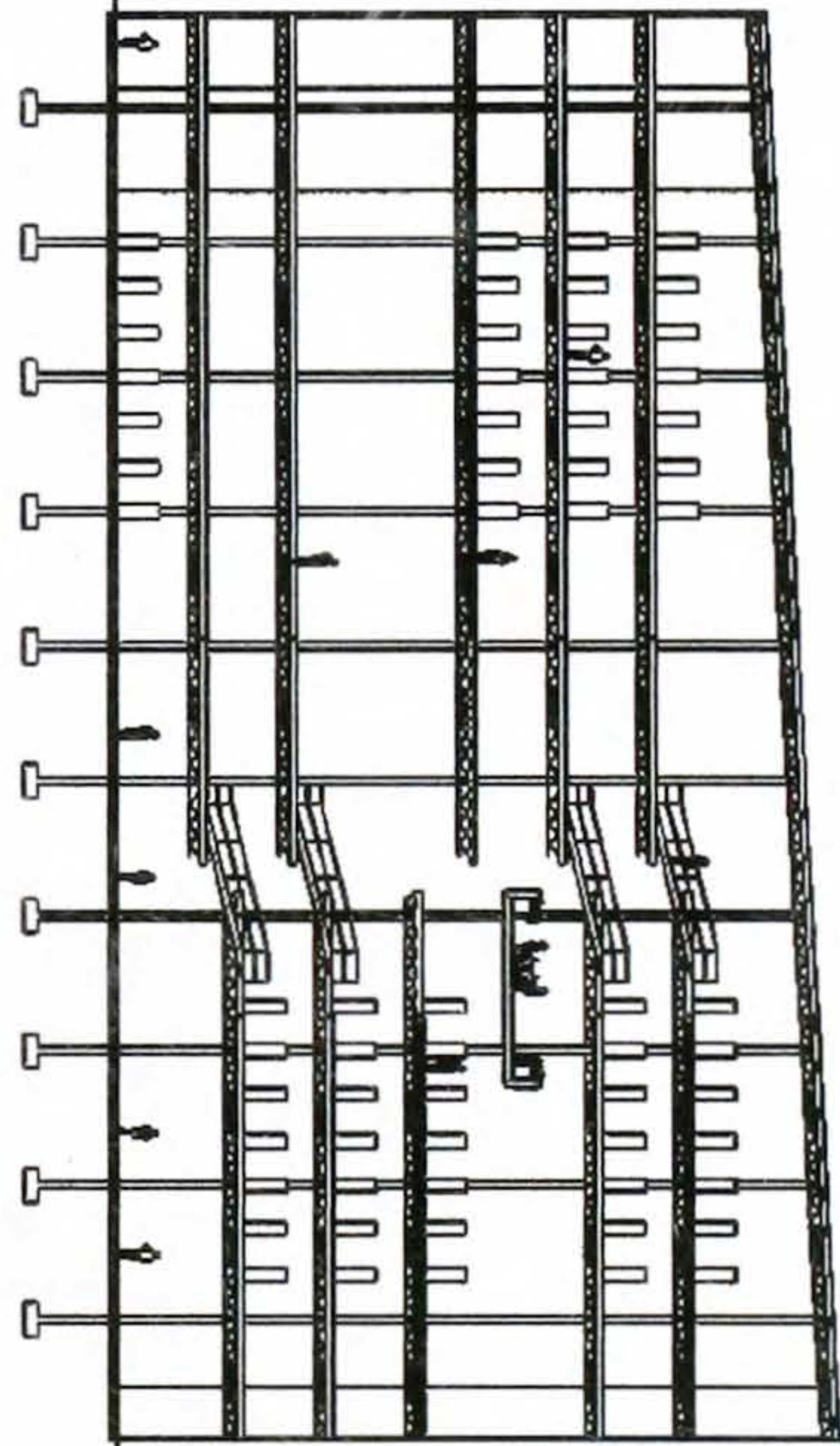
Section
1/16" = 1'



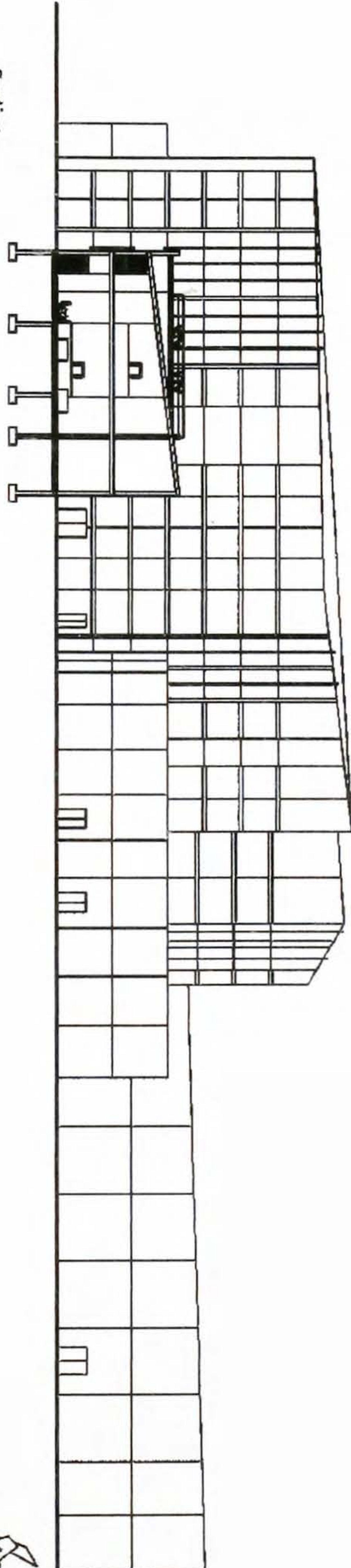
Section
1/16" = 1'



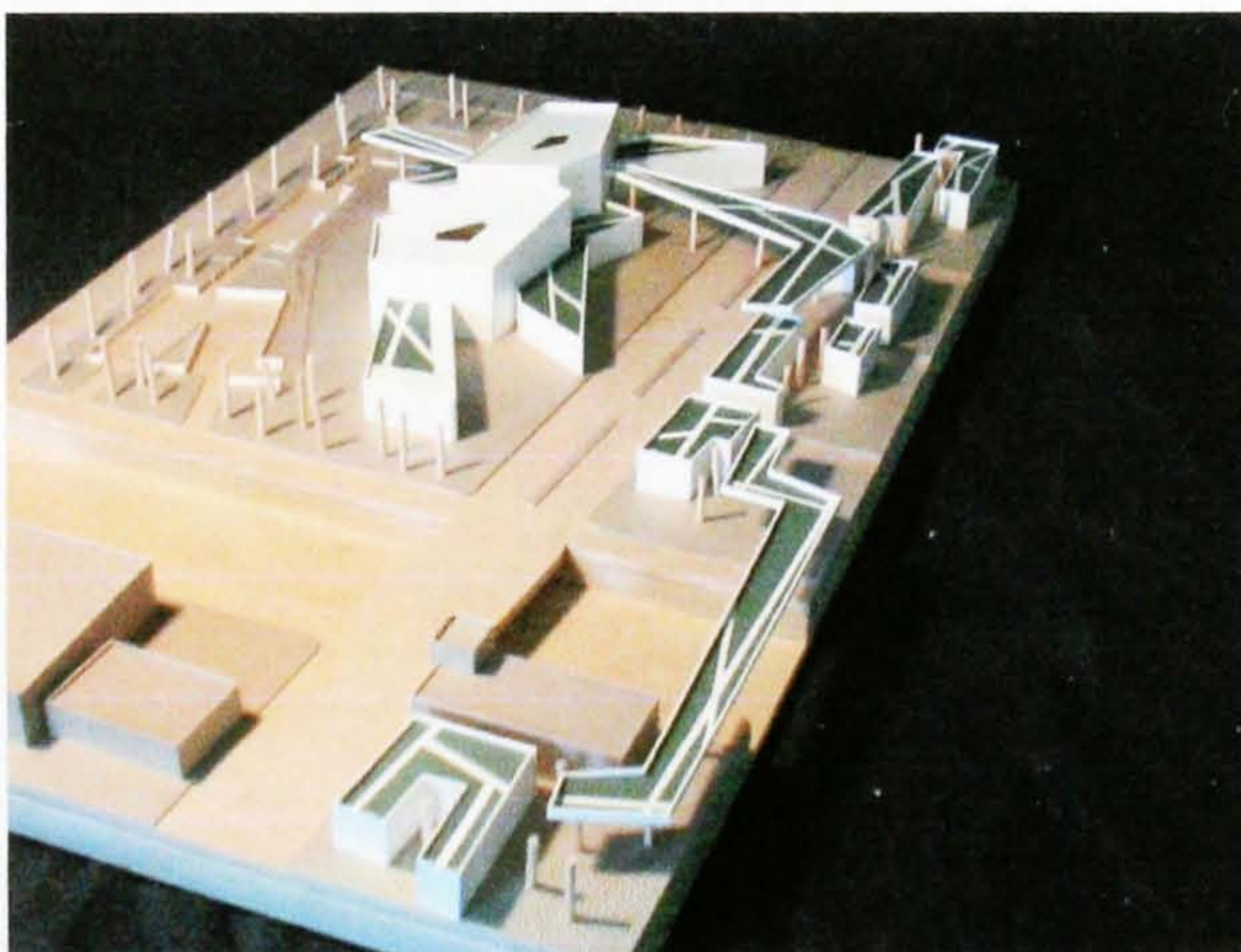
Section
1/16" = 1'



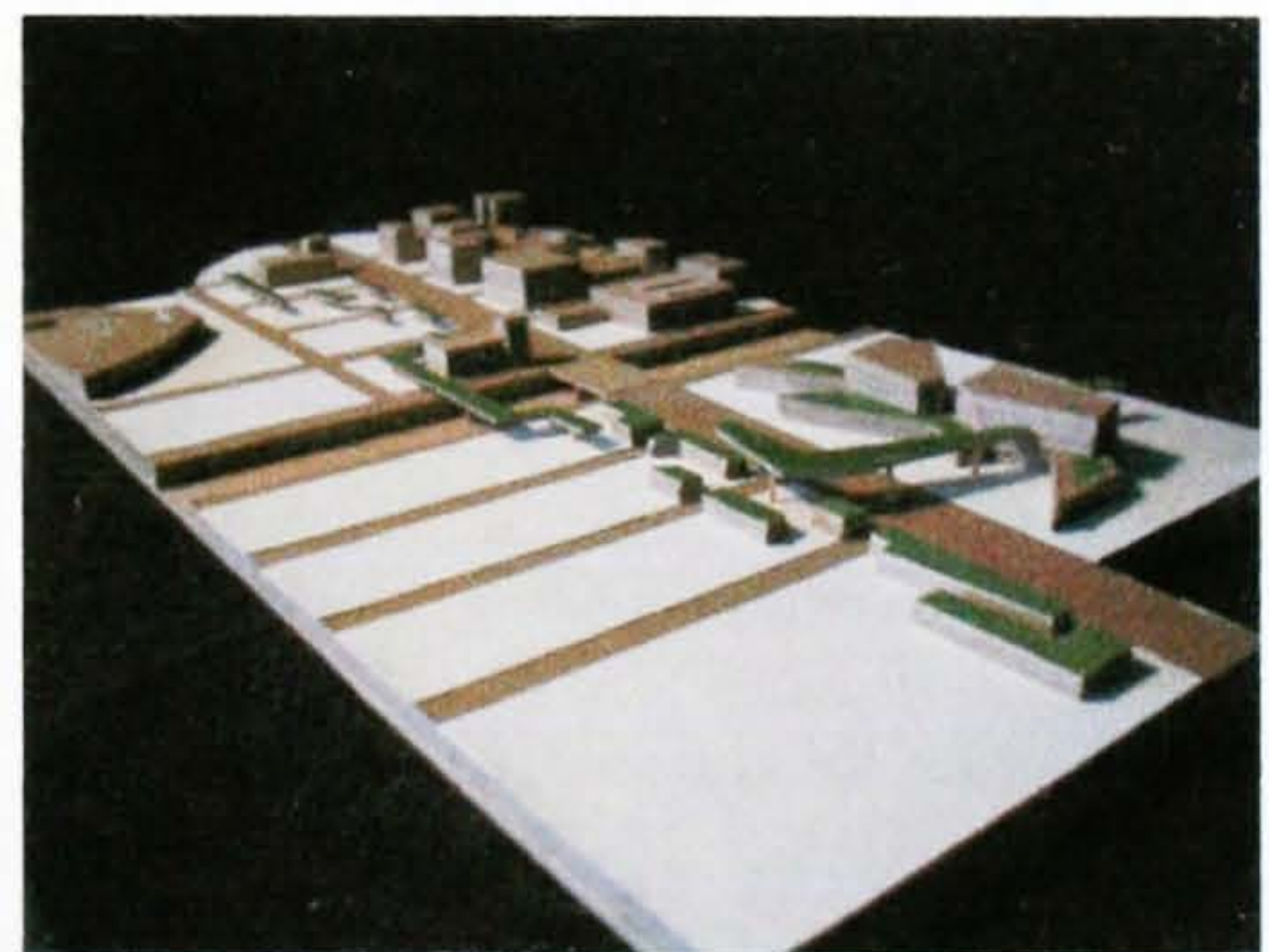
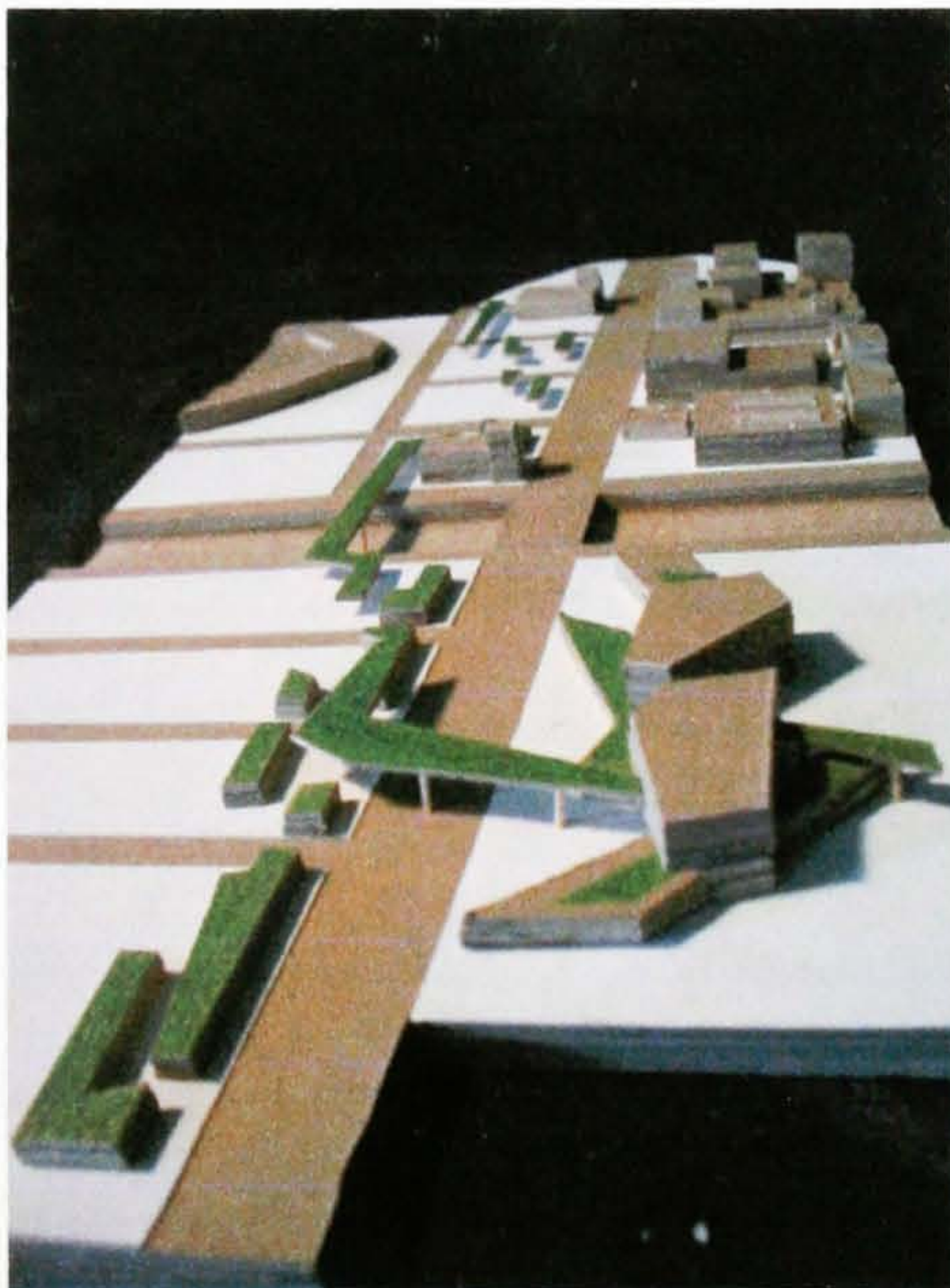
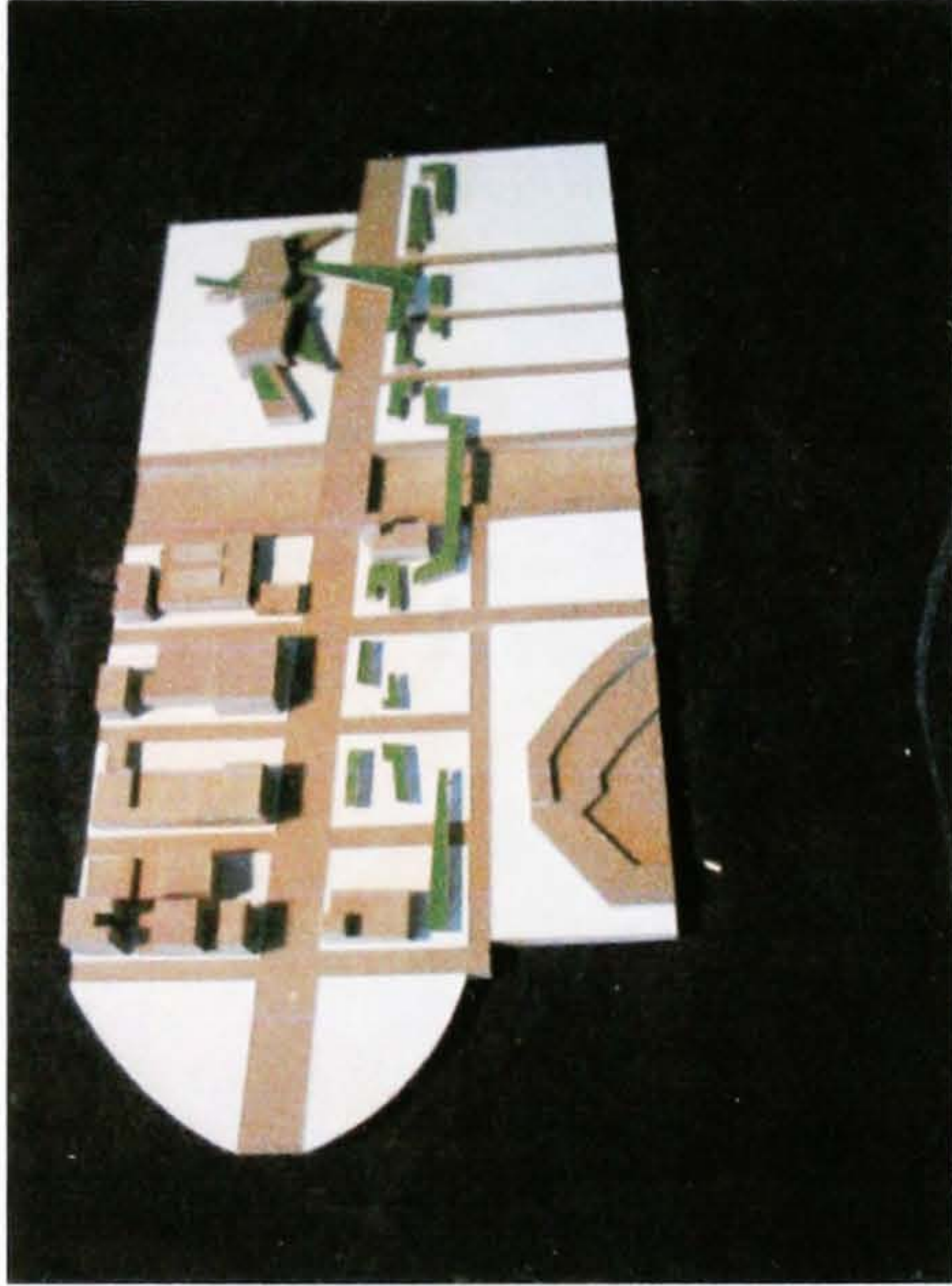
Section
1/16" = 1'



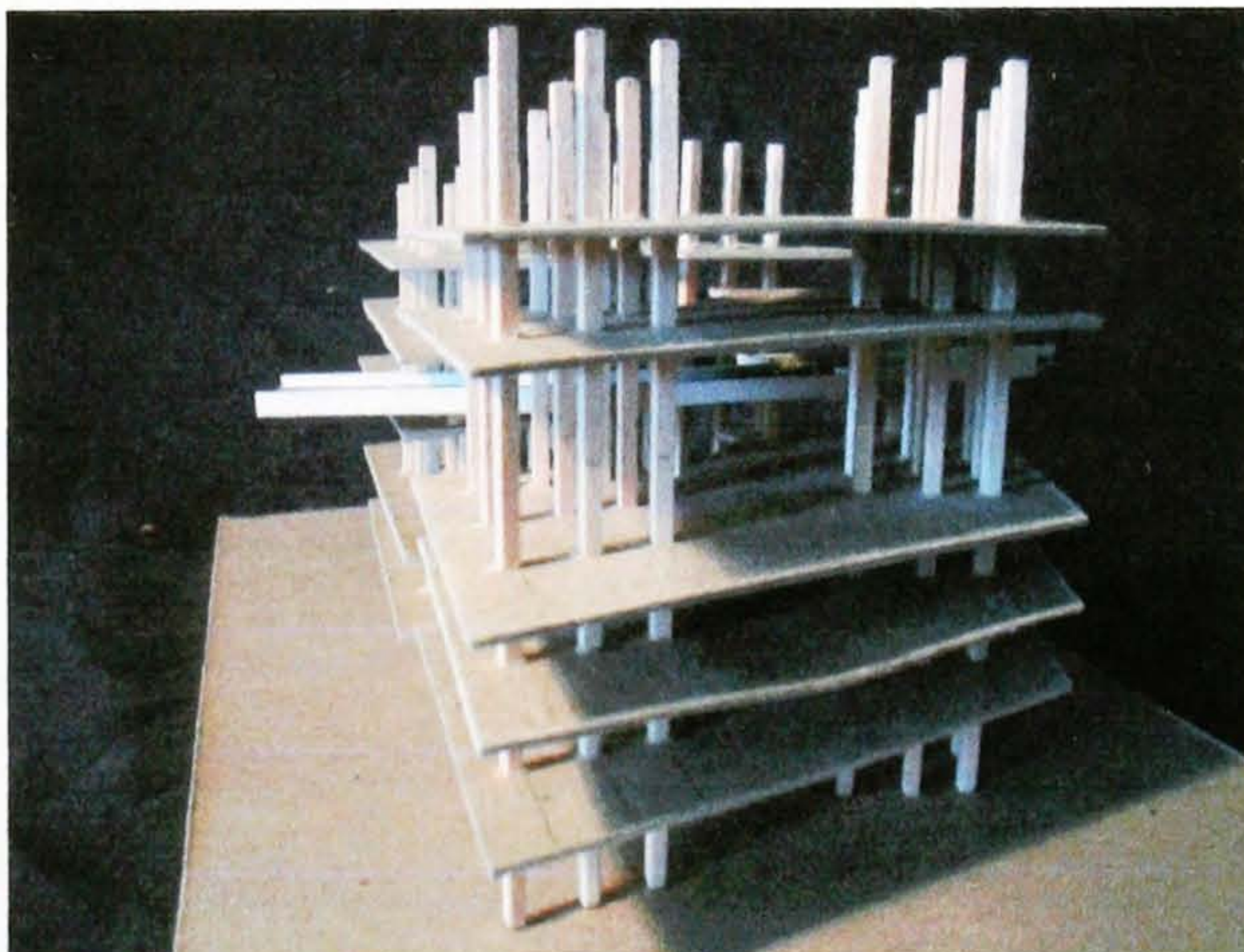
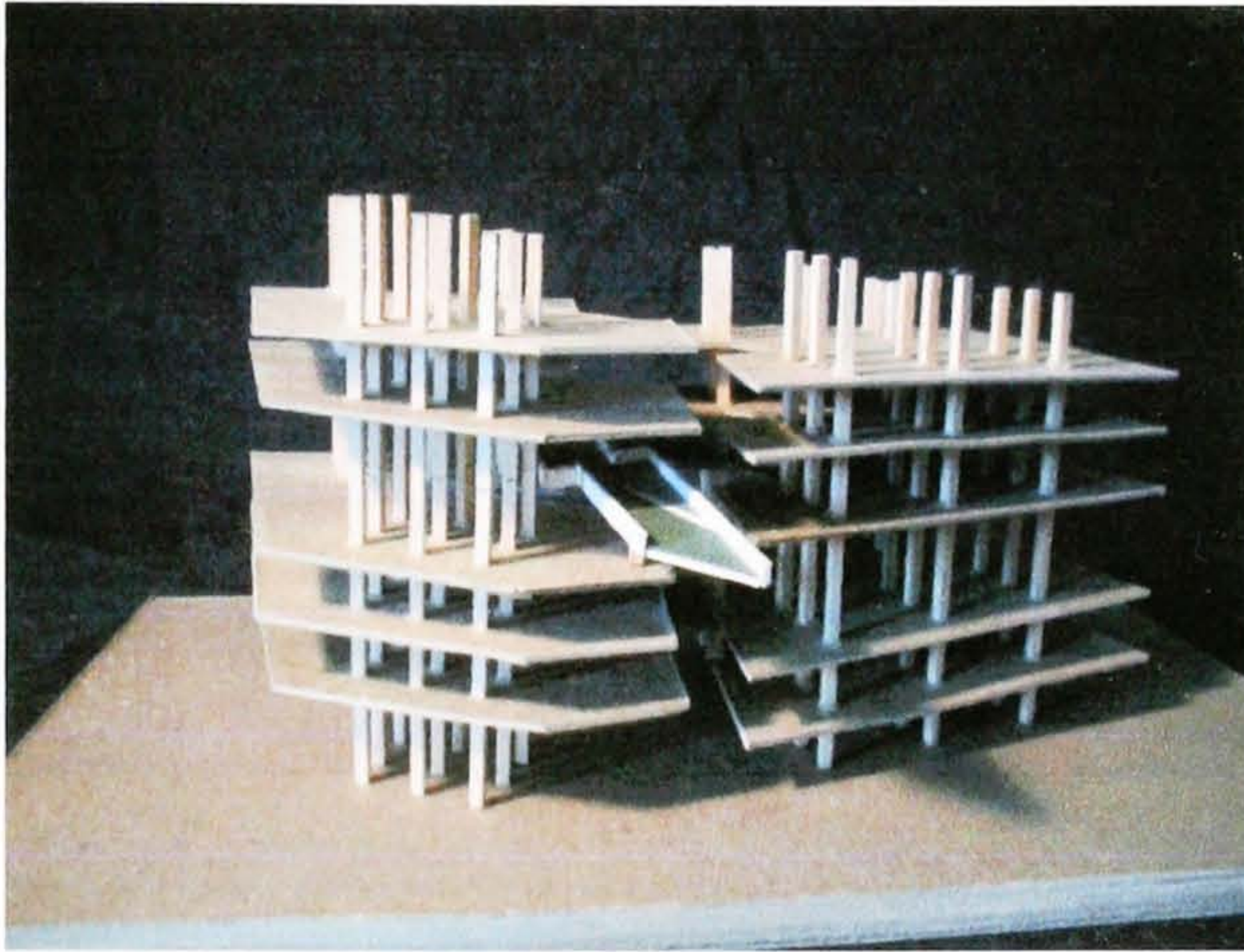
Site Model 1"=50"



Master Plan Model 1"=200'



Section Cut/Structural Model $1/32''=1'$



Conclusion:

The intent of this project was to achieve a modernization of the typology of the current library. In doing this, the project would address such issues as the importance of time and place in our society and culture today. These issues are of great importance because of their relevance to everyone. Everyone has their own definition of place and that is constantly changing and adapting over time. The library, has not evolved with our society and thus, has somewhat started to become irrelevant with our current generation. Many people now access information through computers and other means of technology. However, we can see that the library still plays a significant role in our society. This is apparent through the success of recent library designs done in cities such as Seattle or Phoenix.

Such libraries as these have proven that the library is still vital to our society. Libraries not only play the role of housing our information, but they also are a civic institution, a social institution. Upon visiting the Southfield Library in Detroit, I witnessed a bustling place full of vibrancy; people of all ages, from children to adults, were partaking in the local library. This new library had seemed to grasp the concepts of what other existing libraries seemed to be lacking, the concepts that had shifted past the usefulness of these places full of books, but it inspired the community to come and take an interest in their own culture, their own past, their own society.

What was it that makes these libraries so different from the old ones? The answer is that these new libraries have finally begun to incorporate aspects of design which our current culture needs and values. Rather than stagnating and becoming an archaic relic of the past, we just continue to push the envelope of design to meet our current societies needs and desires. The only way to do this, is to best understand what it is that the society or culture interprets to be the space in which you are designing, and what it is that are their current requirements of such as space. In the case of the library, there is an obvious need to incorporate a more integrated usage of technology such as computers and other such digital media. Also, programmatic requirements become apparent as well, with the shift in our society turning to comfort and ease.

I chose a site located in Detroit where Woodward Avenue crosses I-75. I chose this specific site because I felt that the central library plays a role in both Commercial hustle and bustle of a Downtown as well as a place where residents can easily access. By locating the building at this particular site, it is somewhat close to the Detroit River and the Downtown area, but is still located in the midst of a residential and housing area. By locating the building at this point, I have decided to link the Downtown and heart of Detroit with the rest of the city and its residential area. The Downtown is currently "unofficially" cut off from the rest of the city by the I-75 freeway. It is through the establishment of the institution of the Central library closer to the Downtown and the creation of retail space along with a public park which bridges the freeway and connects to Grand Circus Park, that I have attempted to link these two elements of the city and use the library as a gateway between the Downtown and the rest of the city. The system of retail, rooftop gardens and elevated parks, also allows for a bridging over several roads and begins to establish a street presence at the level required for Woodward, being a prominent avenue in the city.

By creating a more inviting space to allow for the social nature of the library to flourish, this institution should become more successful and relevant to current societal requirements and desires. To create such a space, I have incorporated a system of elevated parks and rooftop gardens which create interesting social spaces that permeate the whole of the building through the areas of the stacks and other functions of the building. One such aspect is the ability to walk out on the roofs of other elements of the building which incorporate other useful functions for a library such as a café, bookstore, offices, educational facilities, and an auditorium. One such elevated park crosses over Woodward Avenue, is visible from the Detroit River, and penetrates into the library on the fifth floor. This creates the opportunity for visitors to move through and experience the building and parks even when the space is closed at night and also allows for other spaces to be open and accessible to the public when the library may be closed.

The library itself consists of a number of different angular forms which seem to penetrate each others. Each of these forms is consistent with a particular function which is being injected into the library to allow for a modernization of the typology of the library. These forms begin to establish interesting spaces both on the interior and exterior of the building and allow for a more organized layout of space. The stacks themselves are split into eight different sections pertaining to specific subject matter broken up by the Dewey Decimal System and are on a very open floor plan with computers access and study spaces incorporated throughout. This also allows for a greater level of organization and ease of access to the information where the stacks are separated into similar or relevant subjects located next to each other. A system of ramps located around a central atrium space in the middle of each section of stacks allows for a continual flow throughout the stacks. The stacks themselves are also broken up into halves with a shift in floor heights. This creates a greater level of organization as well. Also, in the stacks the level of the fourth and fifth floors has been removed in certain parts. This is to represent where the rooftop gardens and the parks begin to penetrate into the stacks.

The building begins to relate to its heritage and location in the city of Detroit by beginning to reveal how it was constructed and put together. The city of Detroit had lived off of us industry and this must begin to be represented. The structure of the building is made visible through an expression of connections and structure throughout the both the exterior and interior of the building. Moveable panel walls surround the spaces where the books are stored to moderate the amount of natural light that is allowed in this space. The façade of the building is mainly glass to allow the people inside experiencing the building to be seen from others outside of the building. This is done to allow people from both inside and outside to view how the people move and circulate through the building both horizontally and vertically.

Although the building takes into account many of the issues which are relevant to the thesis, I feel that it could still make a stronger connection to the surrounding community. The formal design could also be modified as well.

End Notes:

1. Lure of the Local. Lucy R. Lippard
2. The Development of Durkheim's Social Realism. Robert Alun Jones

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