

Architectural Project Design of “THE SEAT OF THE AFRICAN CRIMINAL COURT”,

In French

Projet d’Etudes Architectural du “SIEGE DE LA COUR PENAL INTERAFRICAINÉ”

Joseph F. Tomi Ngancha

Thesis submitted to the faculty of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in
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Master of Architecture

Committee Chairman, William Galloway

Committee Member, Howard Scott Gartner

Committee Member, Frank Weiner

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(ABSTRACT)

This thesis explores the symbolic form of a significant public building through the architectural design of an international African Criminal Court in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

DEDICACE

Je souhaiterai dedier Ce travail a tout ceux qui l'on rendu possible grace a leur soutien de toute nature, ainsi qu'a tout ceux dont les efforts au quotidien visent a instaurer la paix et une justice equitable pour tous a travers le monde.

DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this work to all of you that made it possible with your support of all kinds, and to all of you whose every day efforts aim to enable peace and fair-minded justice for everyone all over the world.



The work of mind is the exclusive property of its creator who enjoys all of its rights.
L'oeuvre de l'esprit est la propriete exclusive de son createur qui en jouit de tous ses droits.



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The Symbolic

The inspiration for the form of the building comes from the throne which is the historical seat of kings, symbolizing the fact that justice is supposed to supersede everything and apply equally to all over the world.

La source d'inspiration de la forme de ce projet nous vient du trone royal qui de maniere general symbolise l'autorite et le pouvoir absolu, tout comme la vrai justice qui devrait s'imposer a tous et de maniere equitable.



The Site

Since African leaders have not yet decided which country will host this project, I have assumed that a project of this importance should be located in a country that has sufficient infrastructure and stability. I have therefore chosen an arbitrary location somewhere in Bloemfontein, South Africa. It is understood that it could be built anywhere else in Africa.



Le site

Les leaders Africains n'ayant pas encore décidé du lieu d'accueil de ce projet, nous avons pensé qu'il serait important qu'il soit localisé dans un pays fiable et réunissant un minimum d'infrastructures; par conséquent, nous avons arbitrairement choisi Bloemfontein en Afrique du Sud. Il est bien sur entendu qu'il pourra finalement s'exécuter partout ailleurs en Afrique.



Development of Idea

With this first model, we wanted to experiment with the abbreviation of the name of the project as part of the entrance (South) building elevation.

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This model expressed same idea as above

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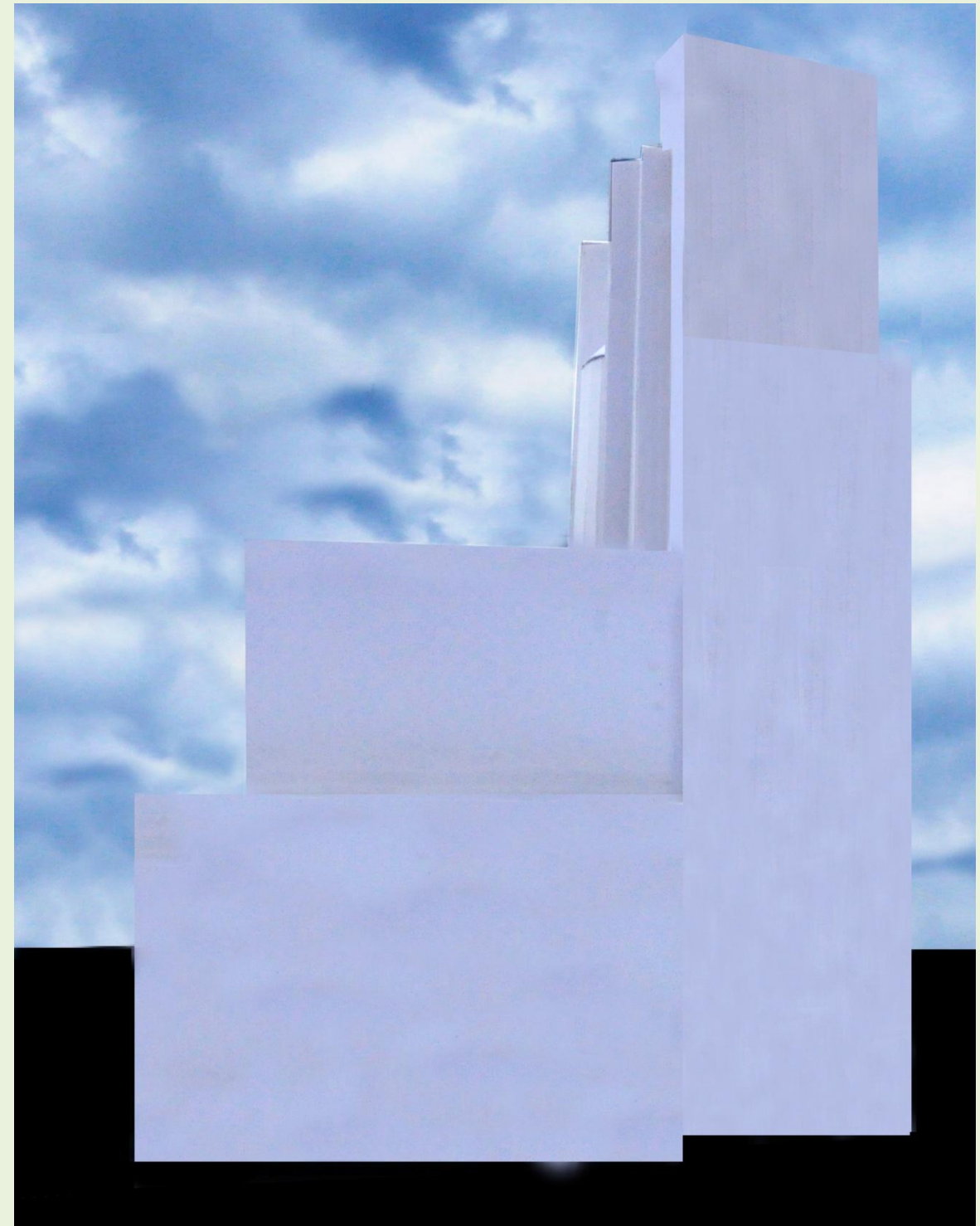
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Same idea as above, but in different view



From this model we understood that the building volume was not well balanced, especially the front view (Entrance).

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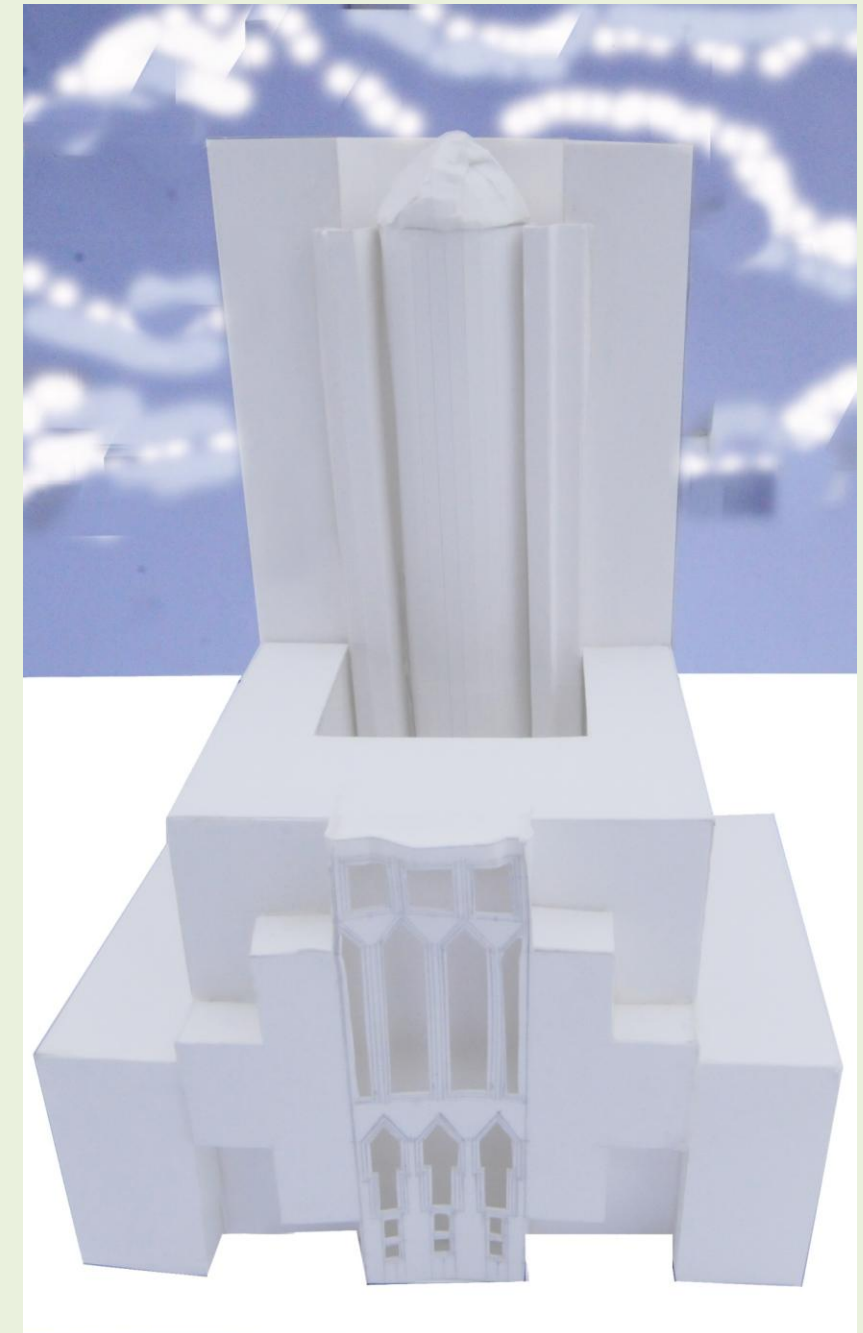
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This model is same as above but viewed from a different position

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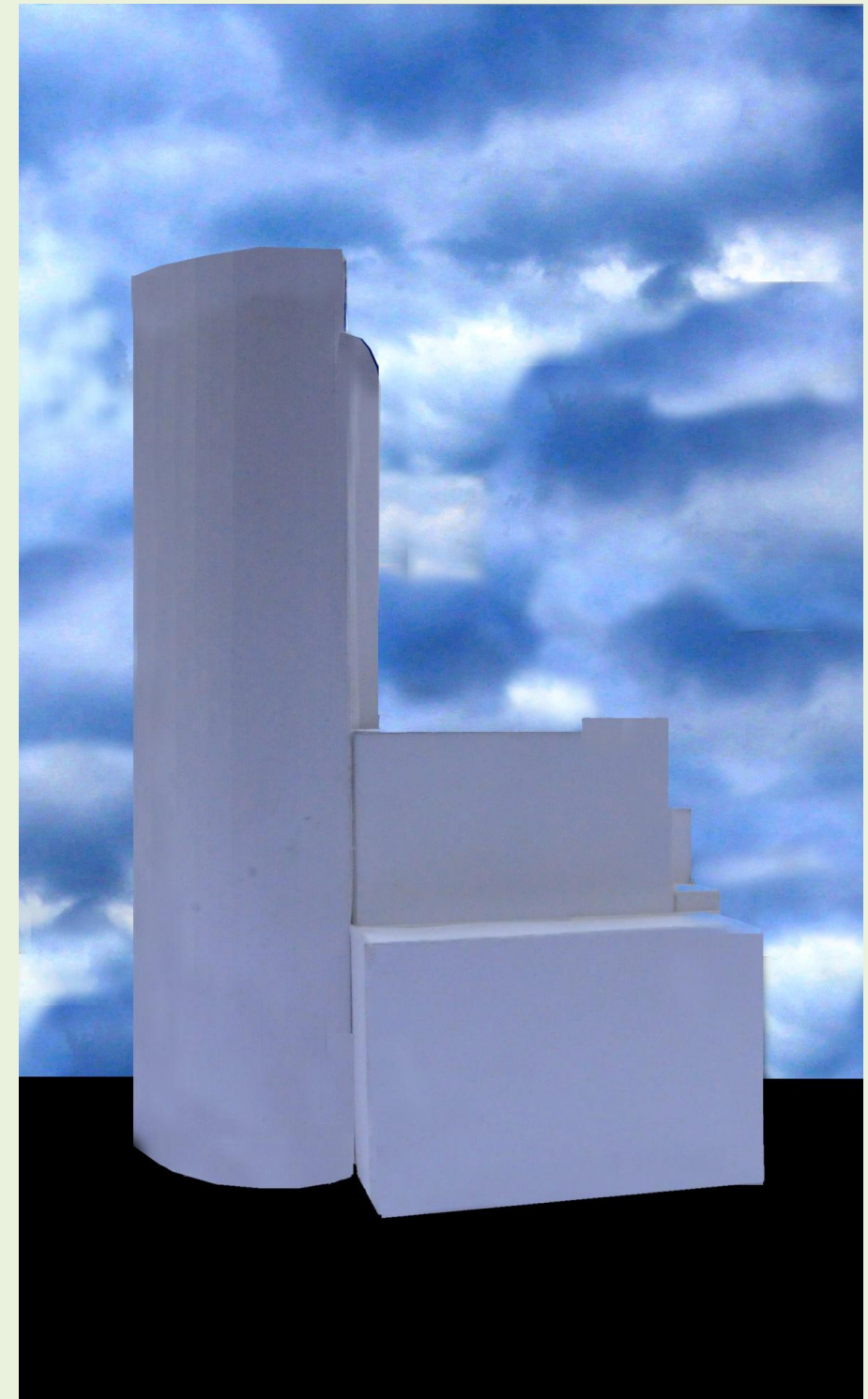
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This View is from the side of the above model as we were continuing to search for a better way of balancing the overall volume of the building

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The top of the cylinder tower of this model is left flat to experiment with how that could impact the overall shape of the building

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*This model is same as above, but viewed from a different position.
As we were unsatisfied with the result, we continued to try.*

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rights.*

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droits.*



We conclude the study of the building shape with this model after the different volumes seem to have been perfectly balanced.

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This is a different view of the same model shown above.



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The Project

Introduction

The African Criminal Court is intended to be the first and highest permanent base treaty court established to help bring to justice the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the continent.

This court is intended as an alternative to the International Criminal Court (ICC) which lacks credibility in many parts of Africa. Similar to the ICC, this court will be specifically established to prosecute perpetrators of genocides, crimes against humanity, and war crimes on the African continent.

Creer par l'union Africaine comme une reponse aux nombreuses critiques des Africains qui pensent que le **Tribunal Penal International** devient de plus en plus un instrument politique des puissances du Nord pour assouvir le leaders du Sud (discutable), "**Le tribunal Penal Inter Africain**" va contribuer à mettre fin à l'impunité des auteurs des crimes les plus graves qui touchent le continent. Plus specifiquement, il s'occupera des Africains auteurs des genocides, des crimes contre l'humanite, et des crimes de guerre sur le continent Africain. Independant et souverain, les decisions de ce tribunal s'imposeront a tous et de maniere equitable.

Organization on the site

The building is oriented South-North, which means that the access to the site is from the South toward the North, with the entrance of the building facing South. There are two basement floors for personnel parking only, a ground floor, and thirty five floors above ground (total of 38 floors). The parking for the public is on the right front side of the site, just after the entry gate which serves as the vehicle checkpoint. The entrance of the building is within walking distance from the public parking lot. The flags of all African countries will be displayed in a walking gallery between the parking lot and the entrance. The African union flag is located at the entrance to the building.

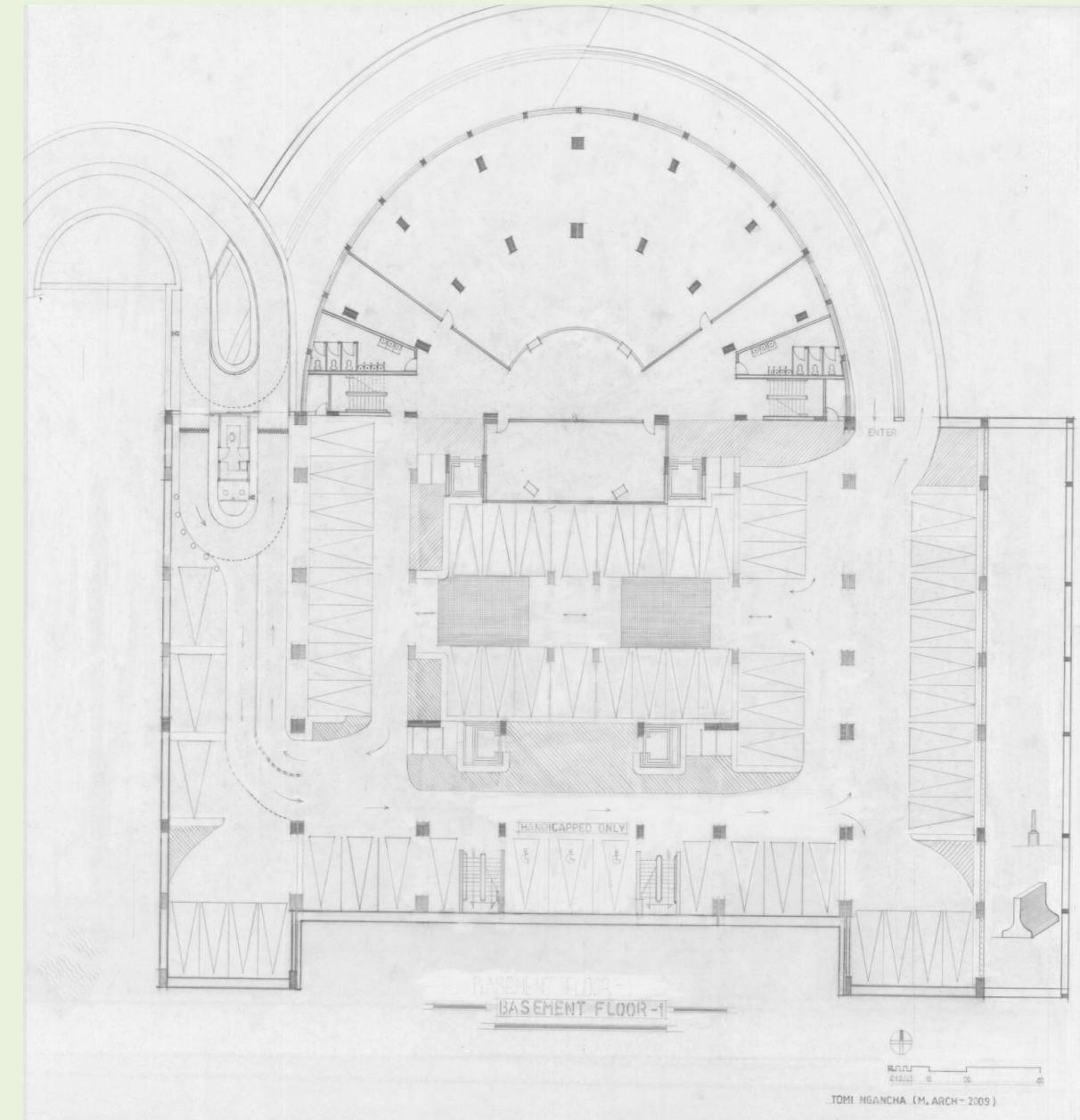
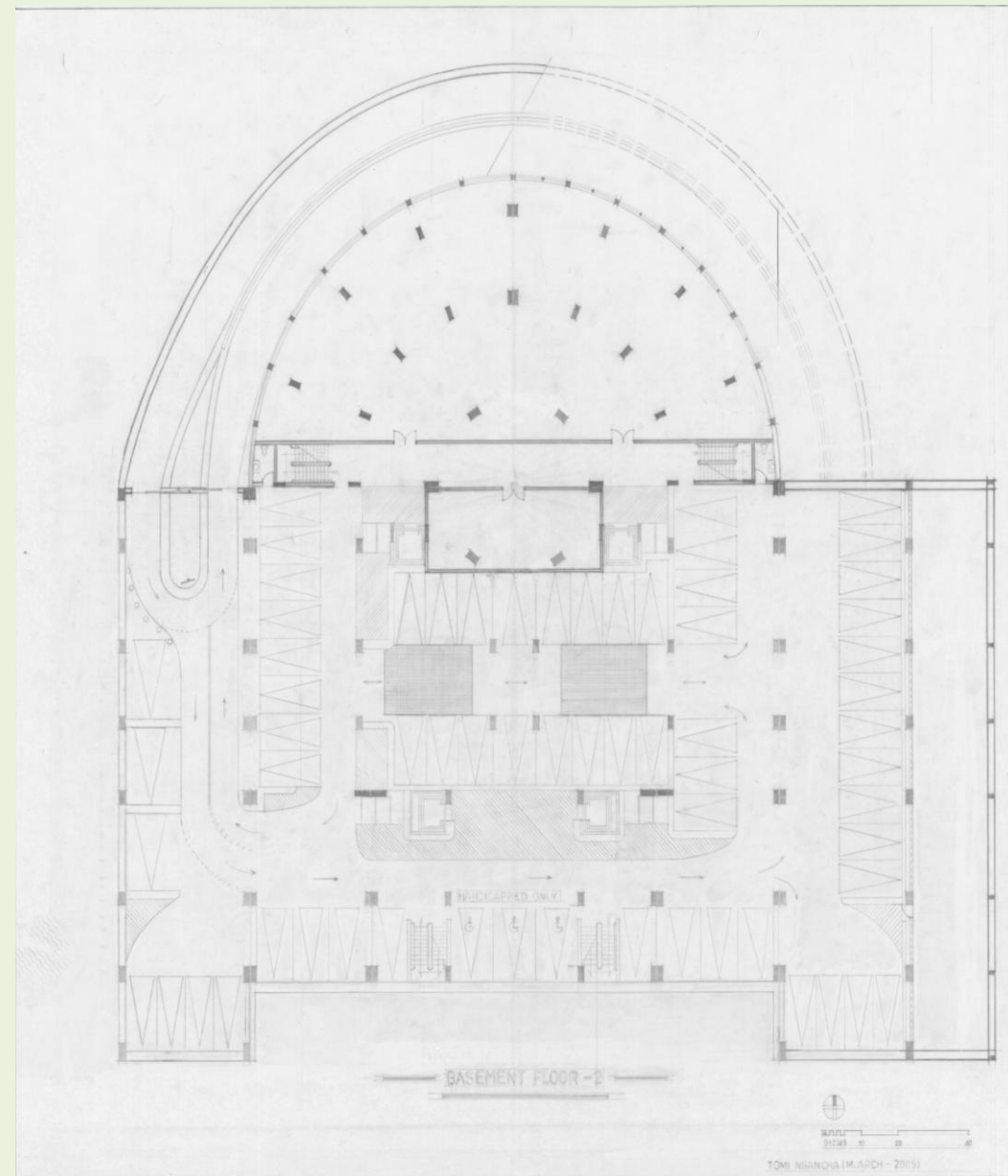
The jail itself will be developed later in an adjacent building with a secure underground connection.

Organisation sur le site

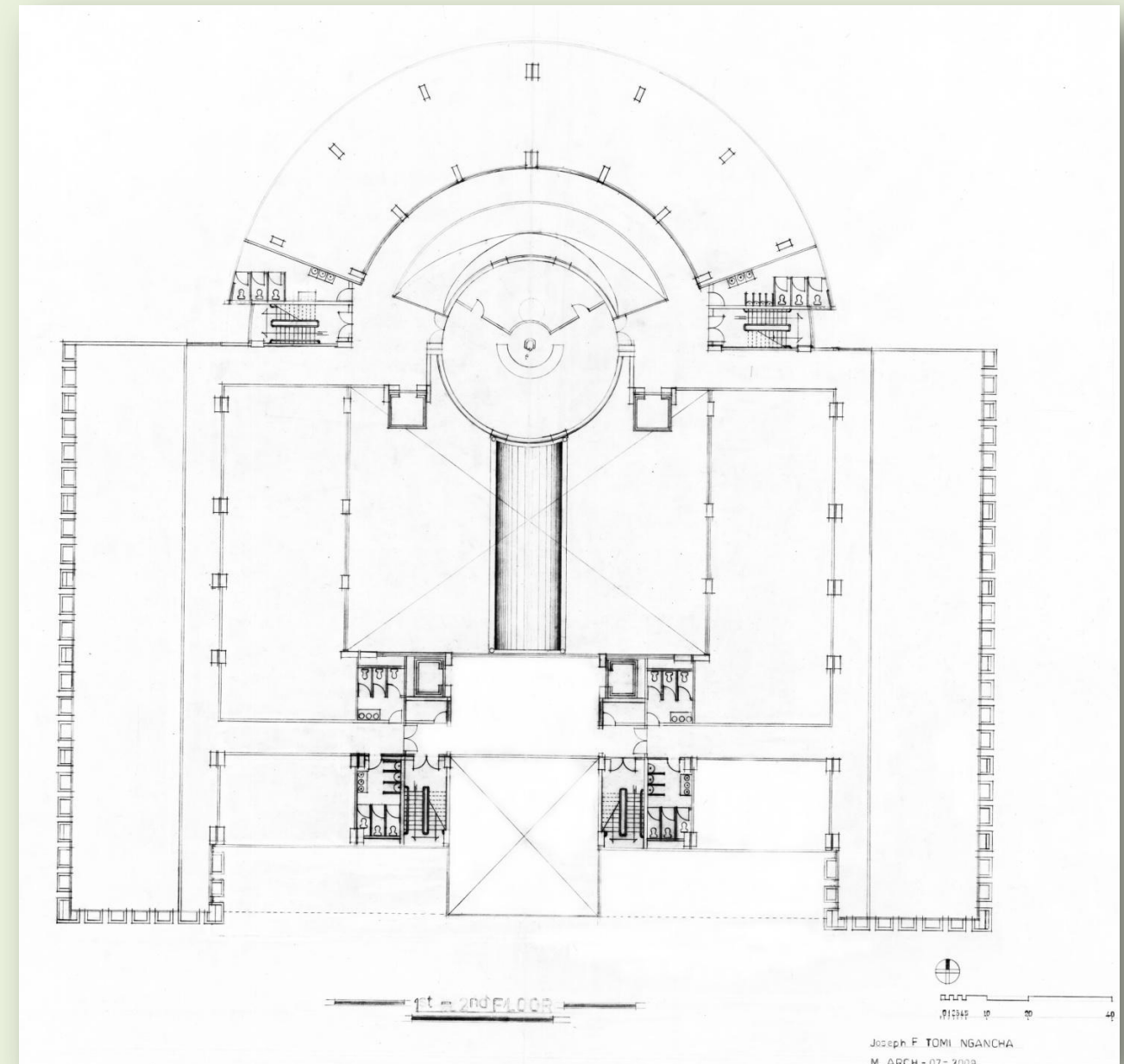
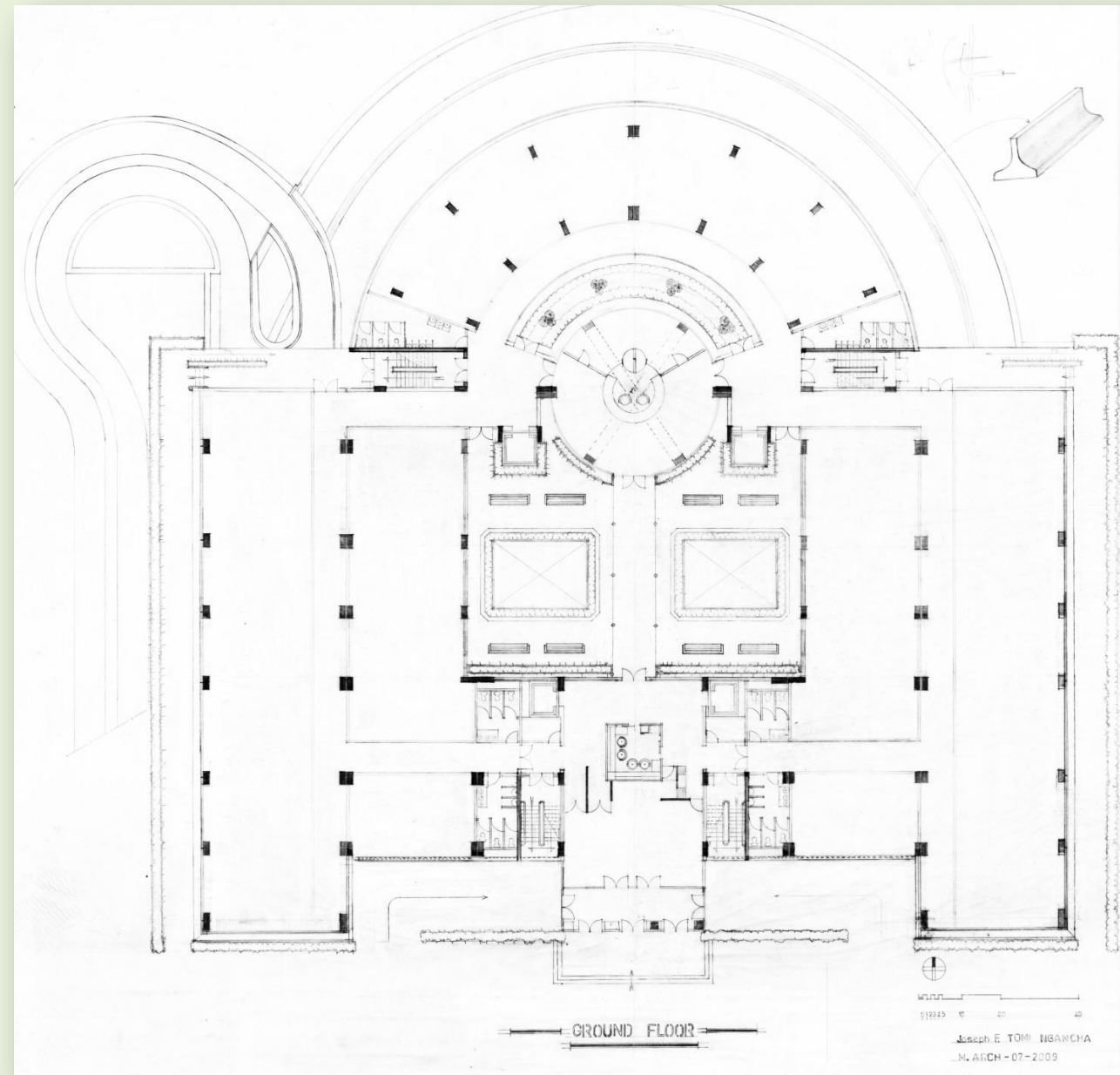
L'immeuble a une orientation Nord-Sud pour ainsi dire que l'entrée pricipale se trouve au sud (geographique). IL comporte deux sous sol servant de parking pour le personnel et trente six niveaux au dessus du sol. Une guerite et point de control vehicule se trouve a l'entrée du site, suivi par le prking pour public qui se trouve a une bonne distance du building. Une allée avec de part et d'autre les drapeaux de tous les pays Africains conduit le public jusqu'a l'imeuble ou trone a l'entrée le drapeau de l'union Africaine.

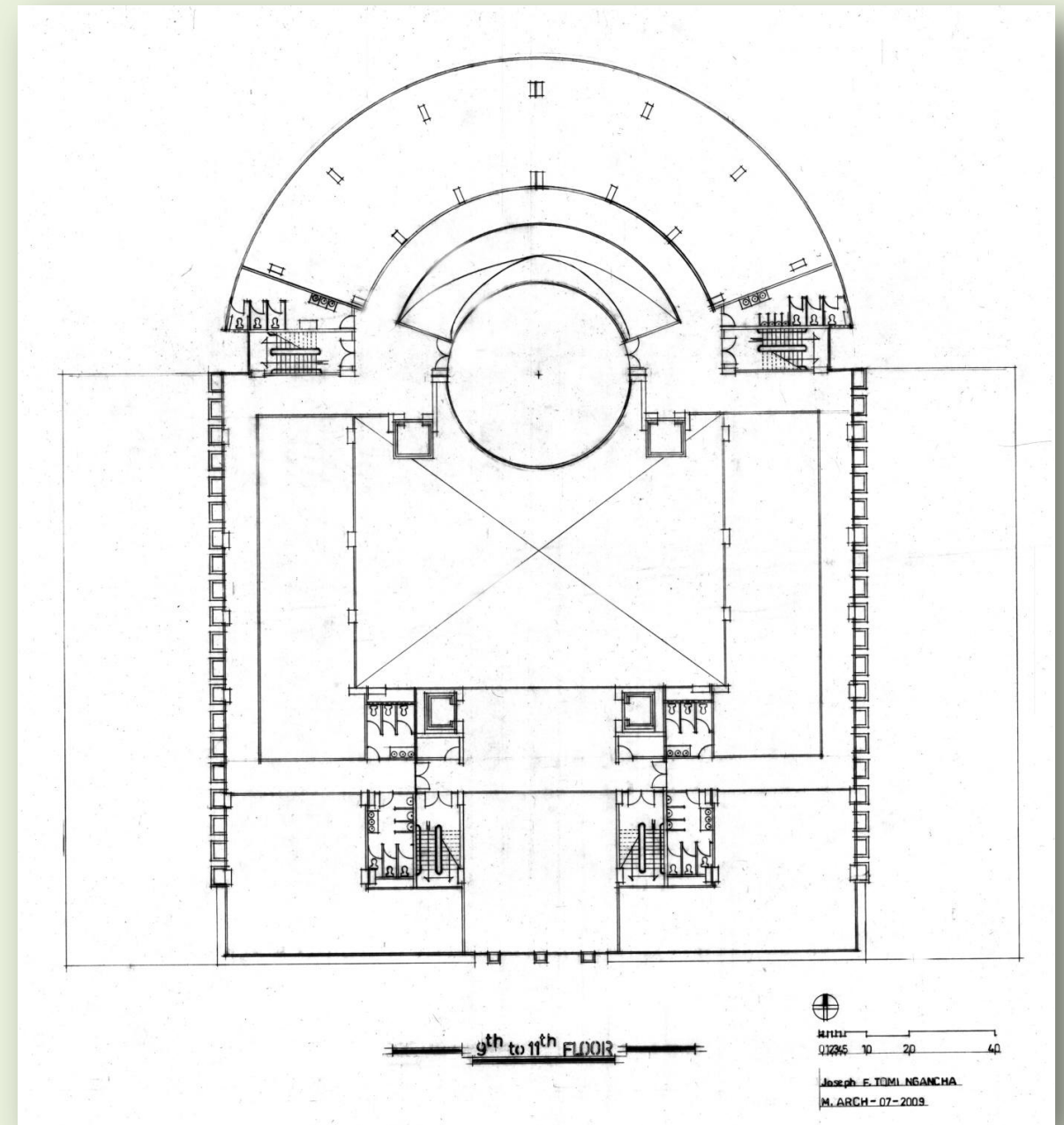
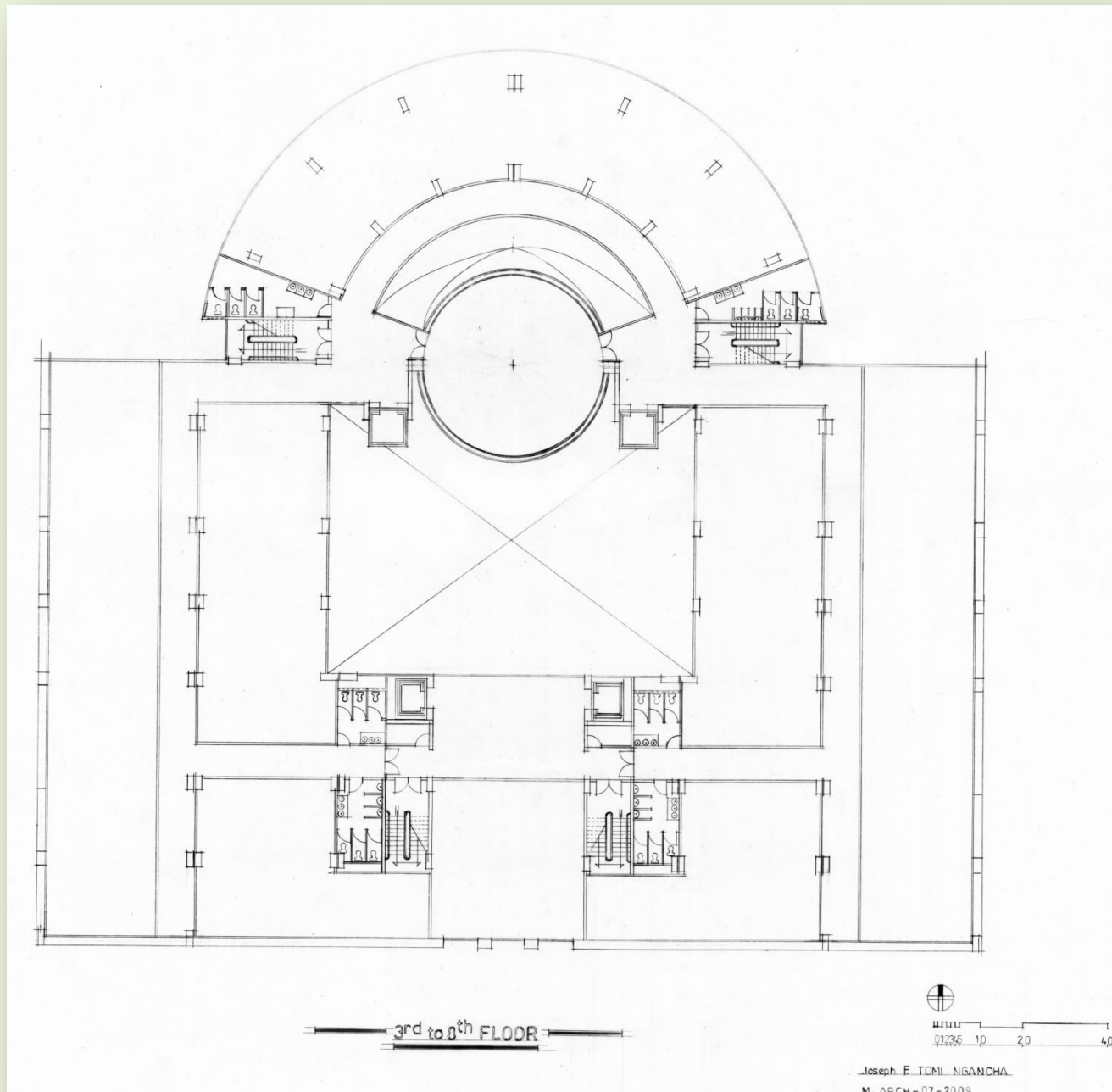
L'immeuble carceral fera l'objet d'une etude anterieure au projet actuel, mais les deux auront une connexion souterraine securisee.

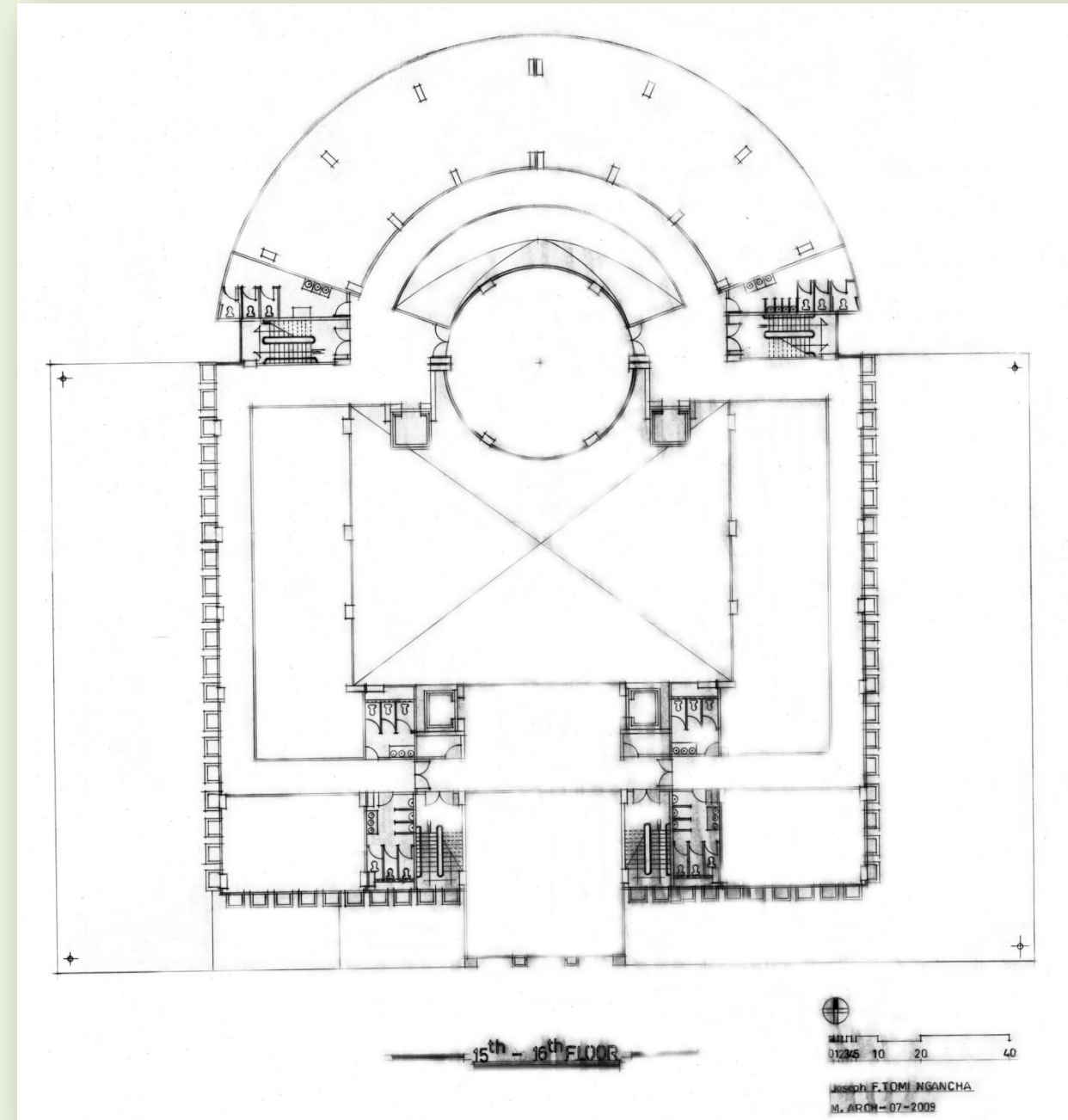
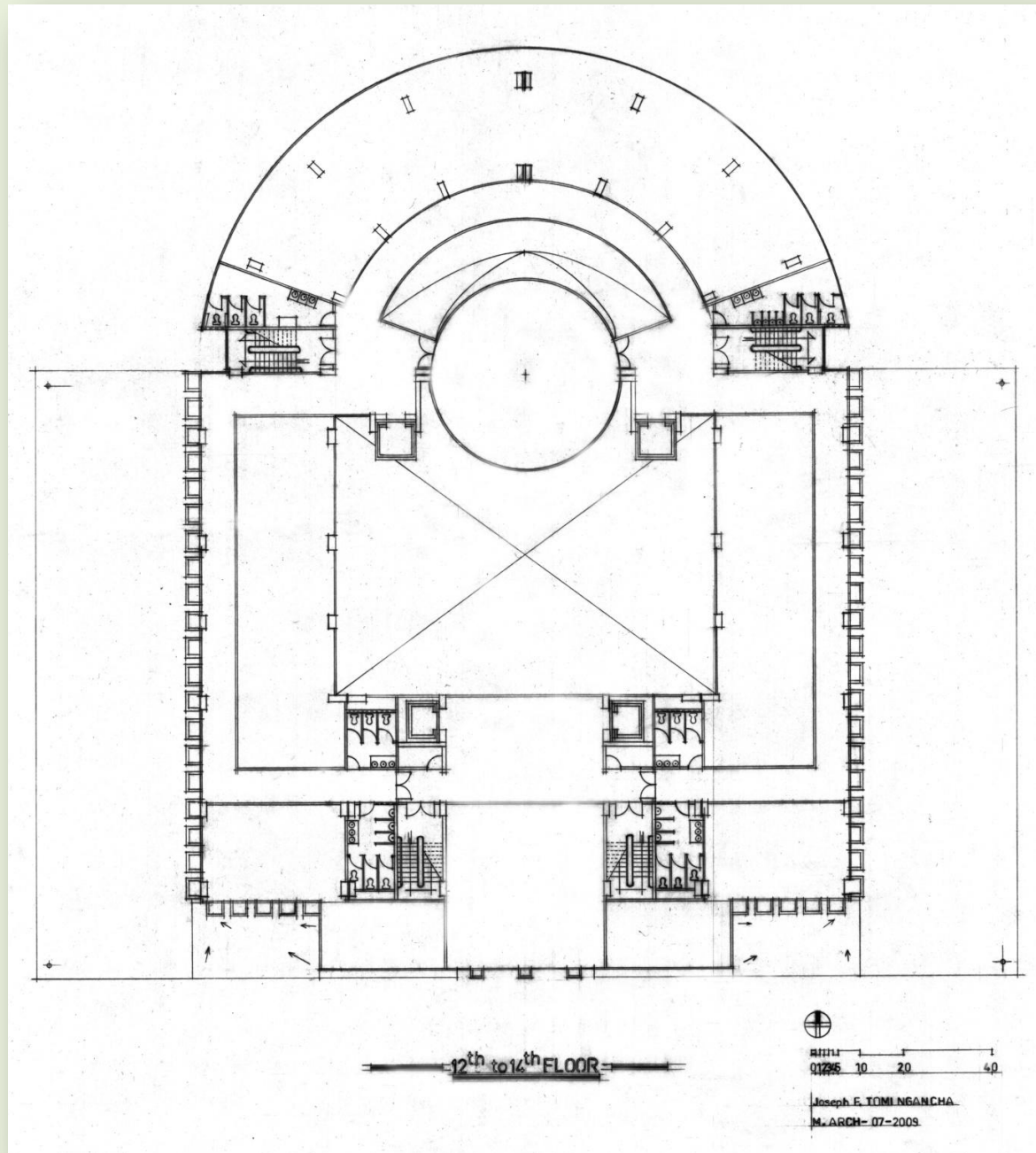
Drawings

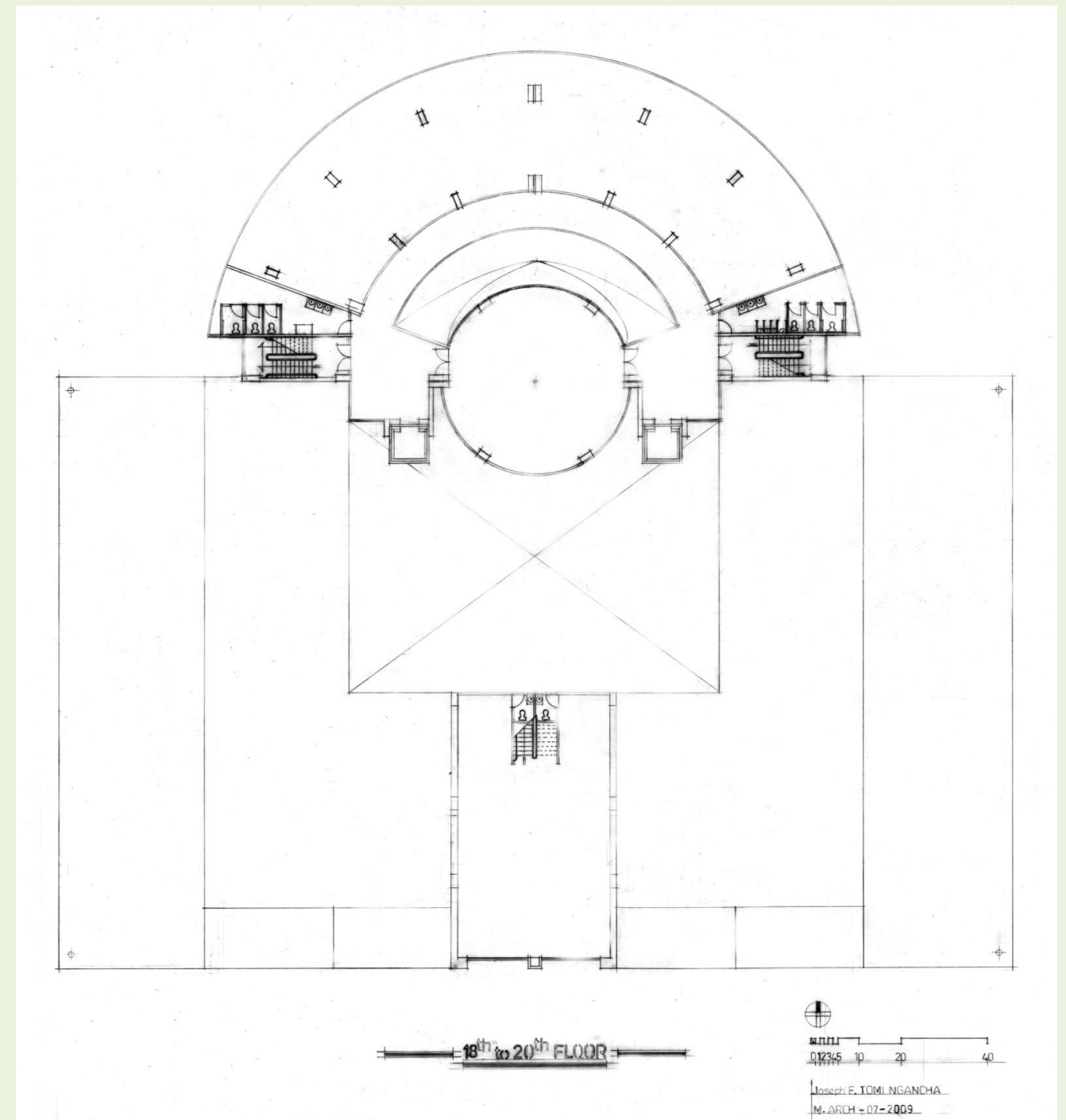
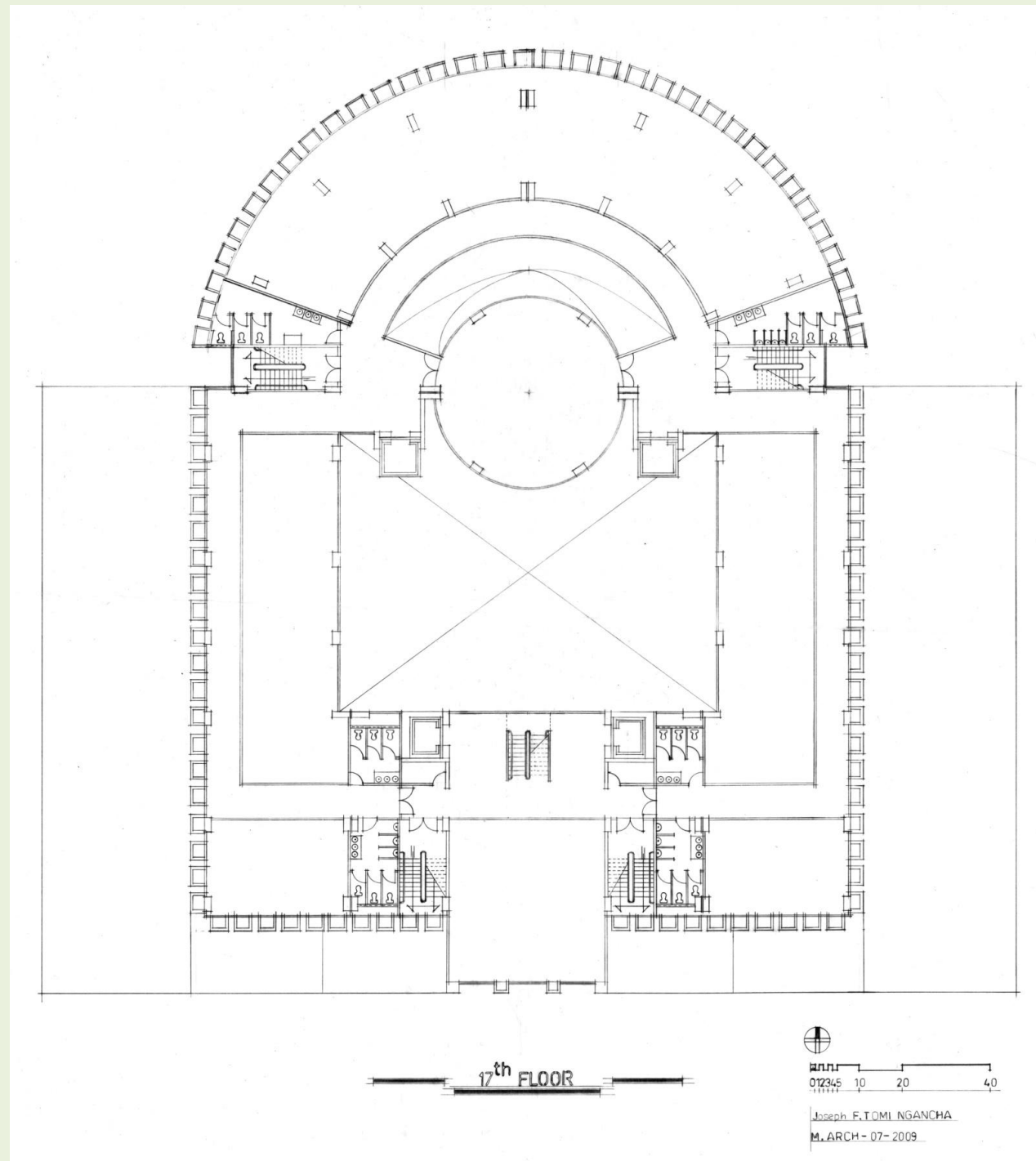


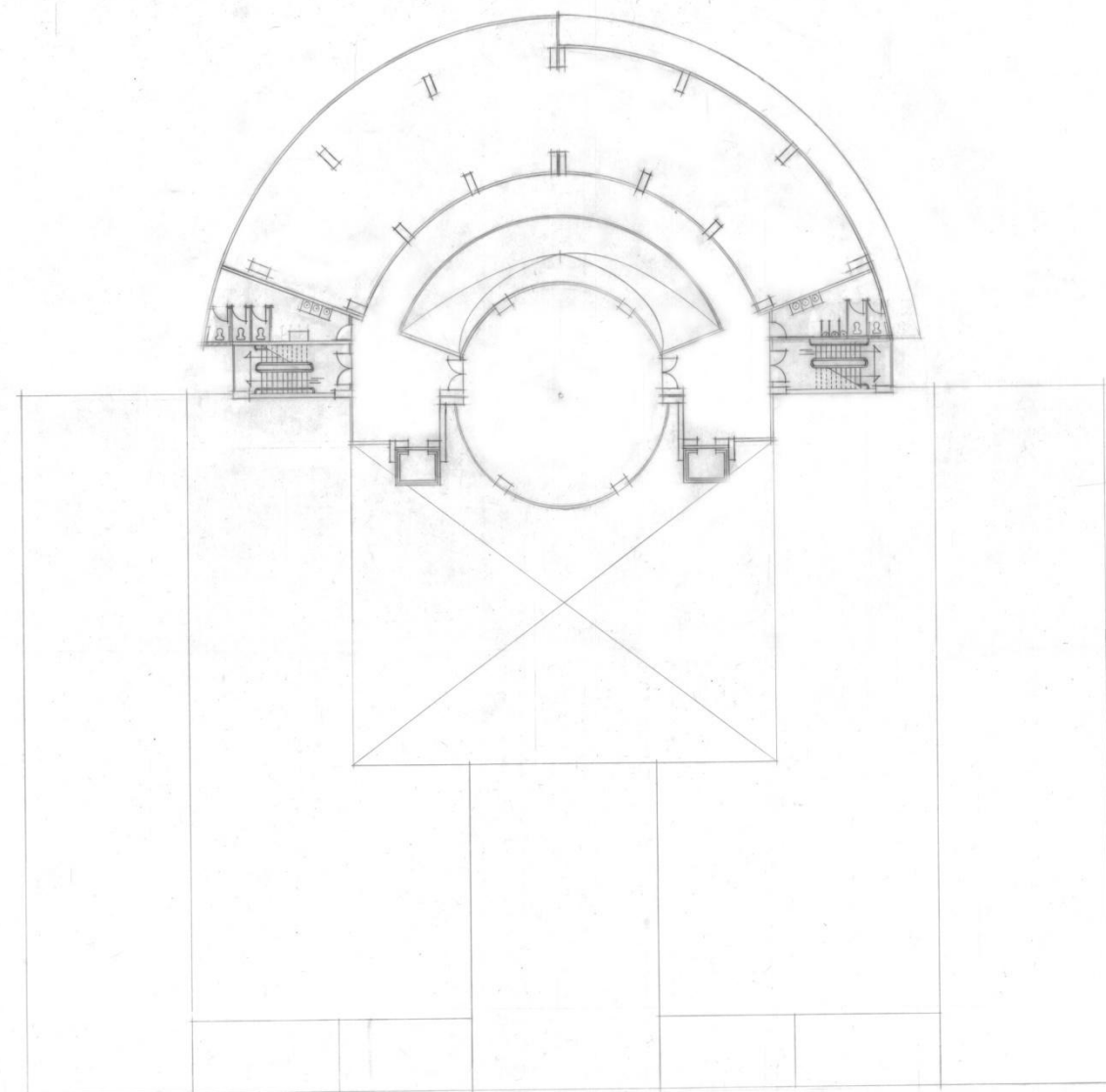
Floor Plans









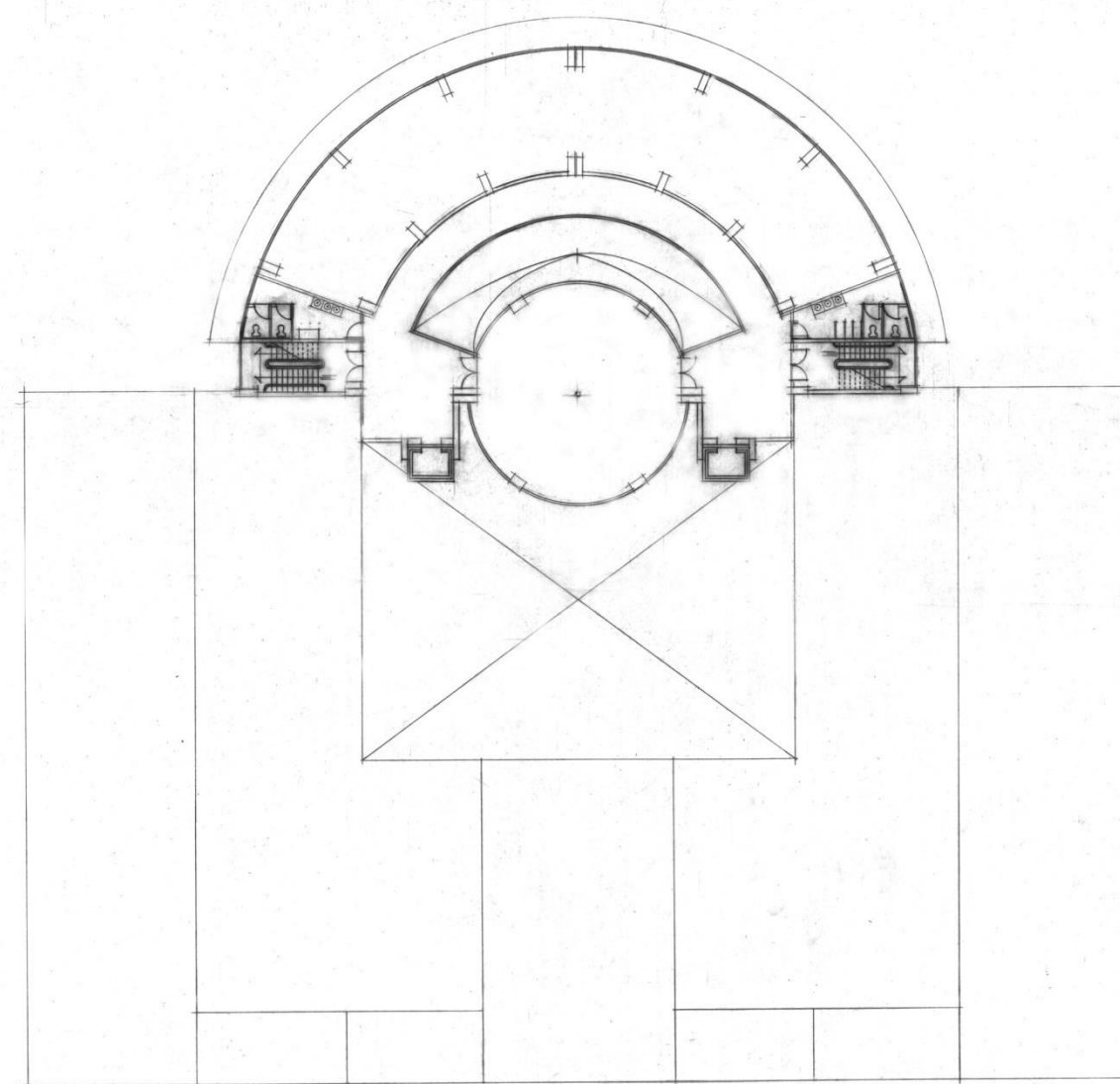


21st to 26th FLOOR



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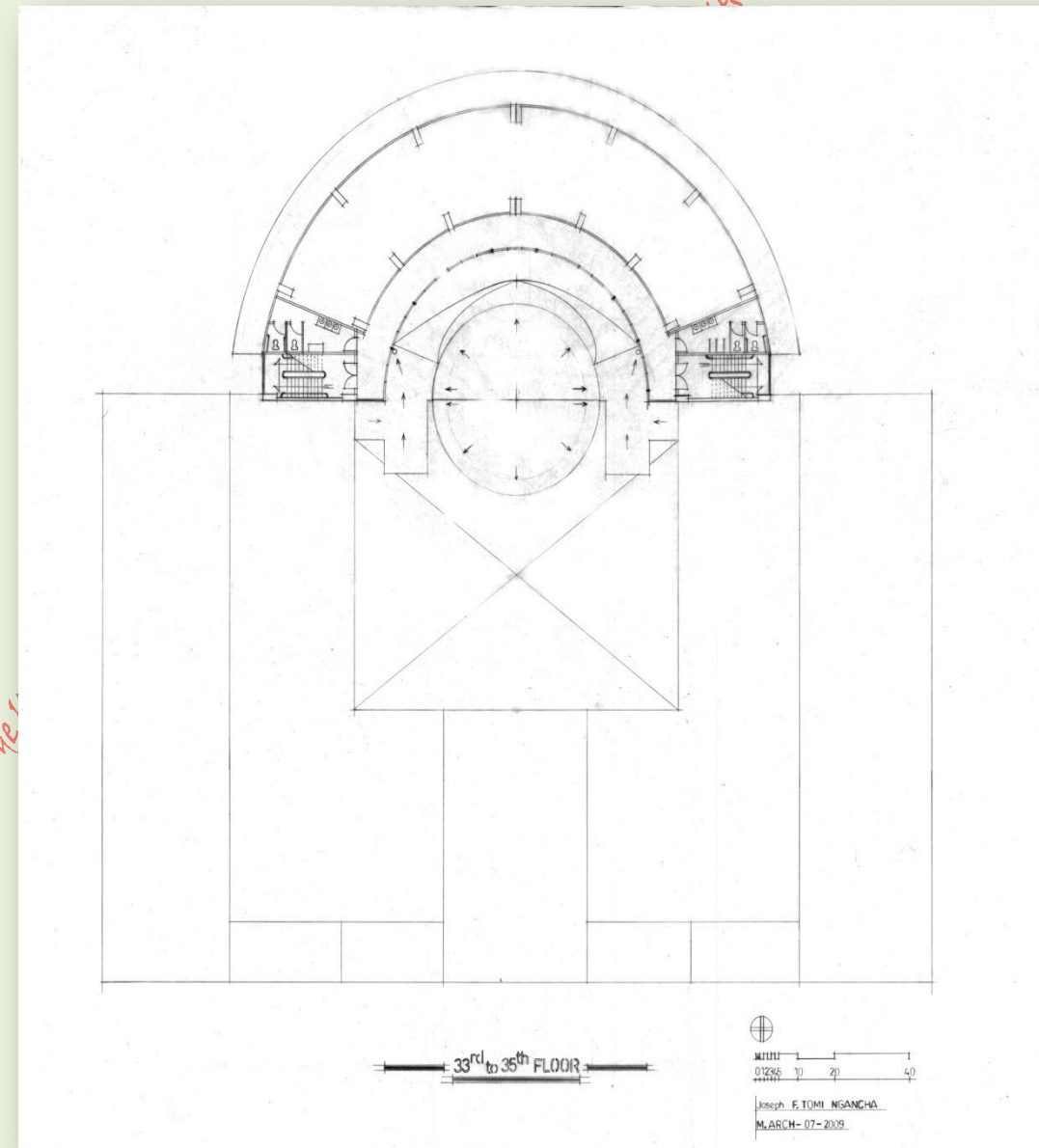
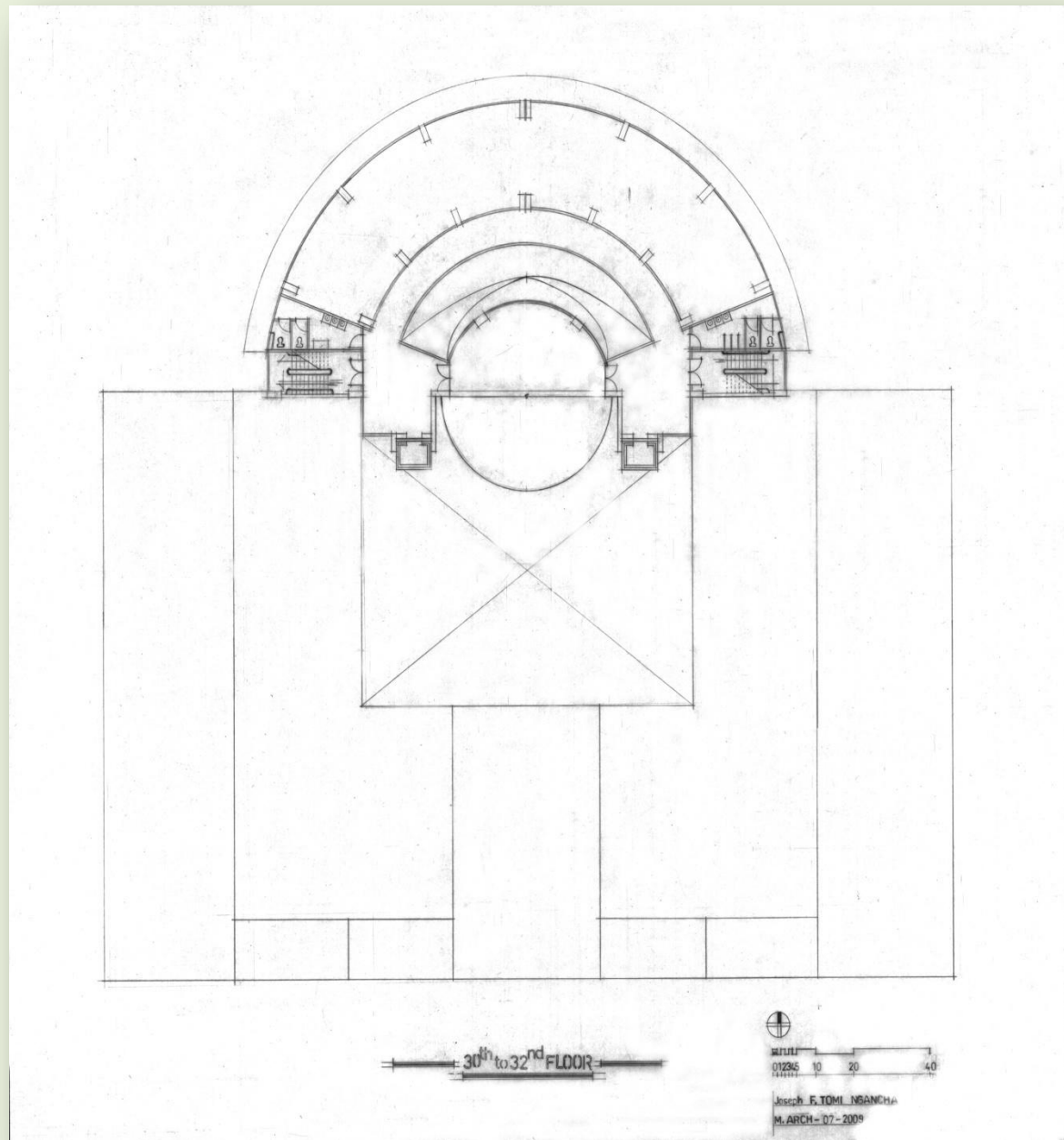
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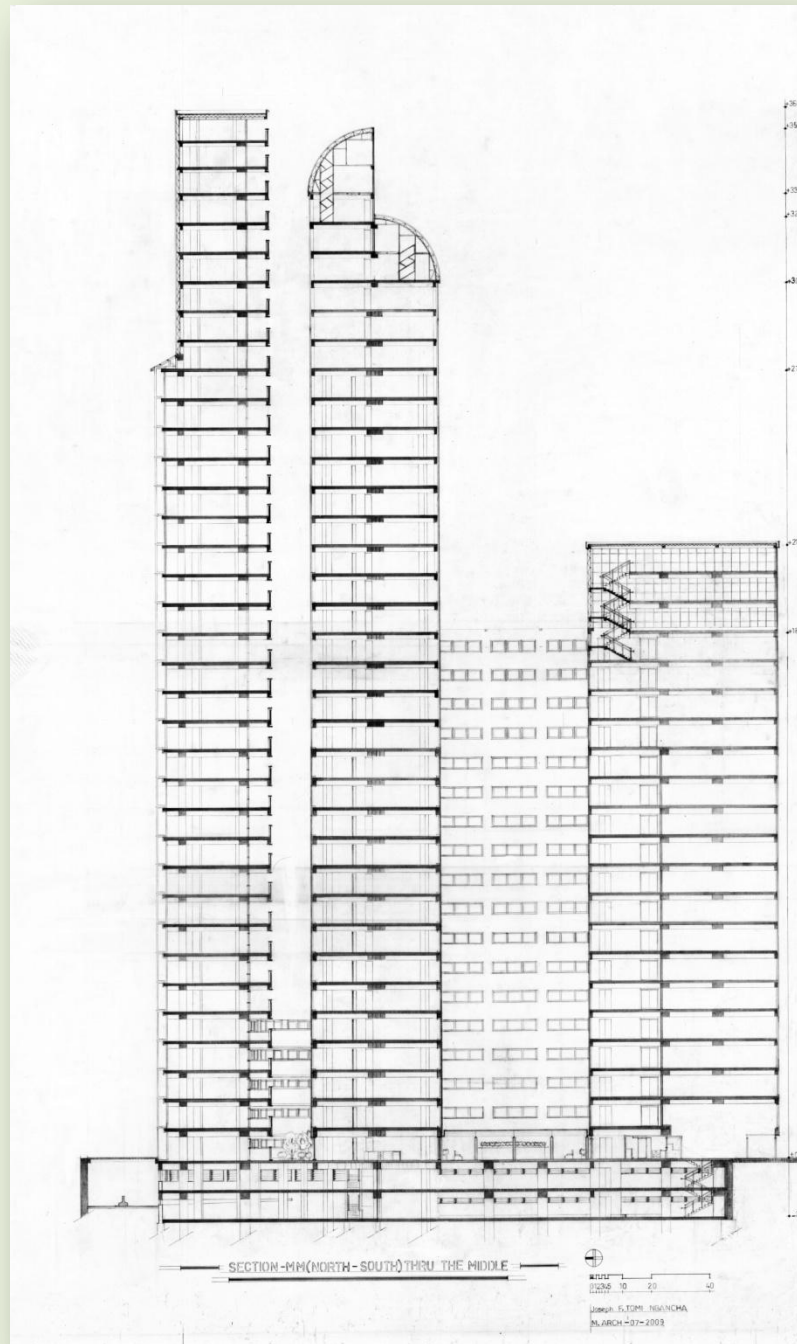


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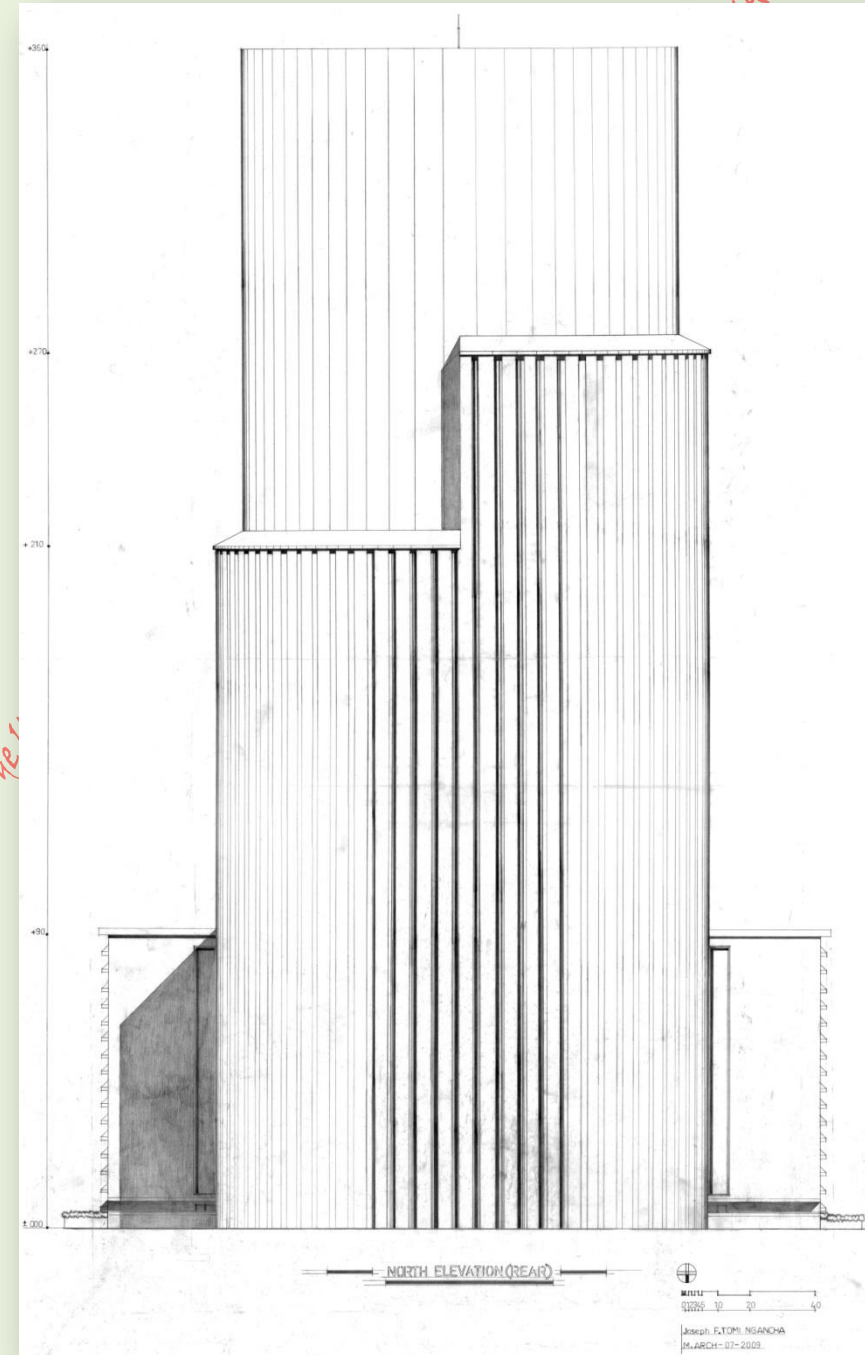
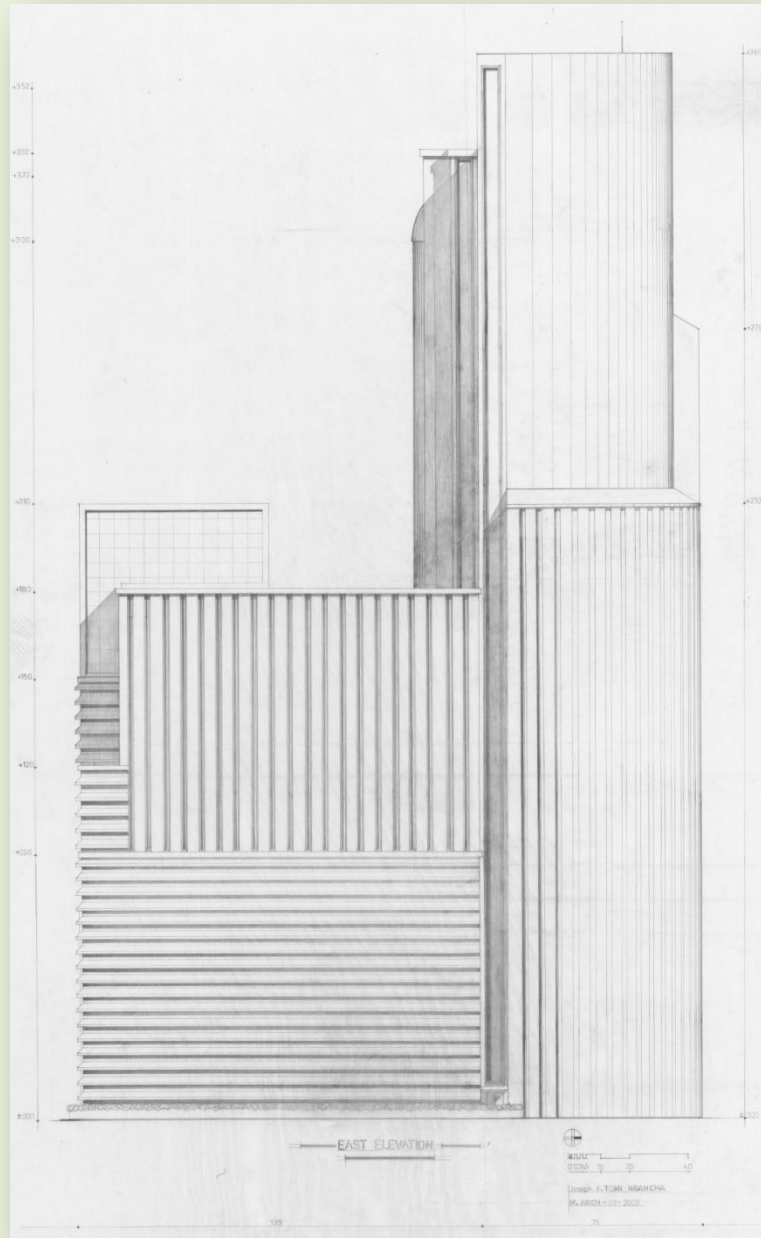
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The work of mind is the exclusive

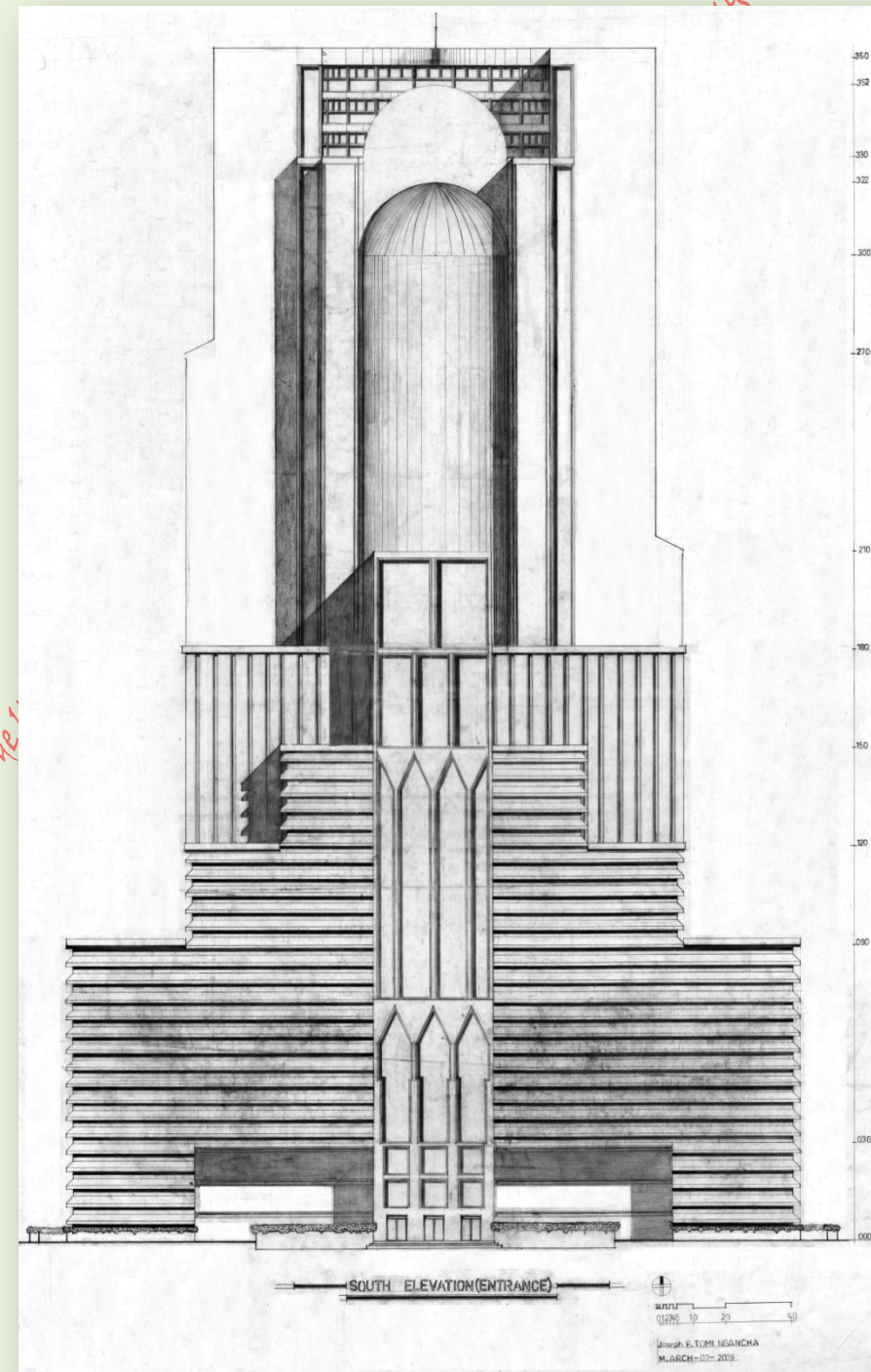
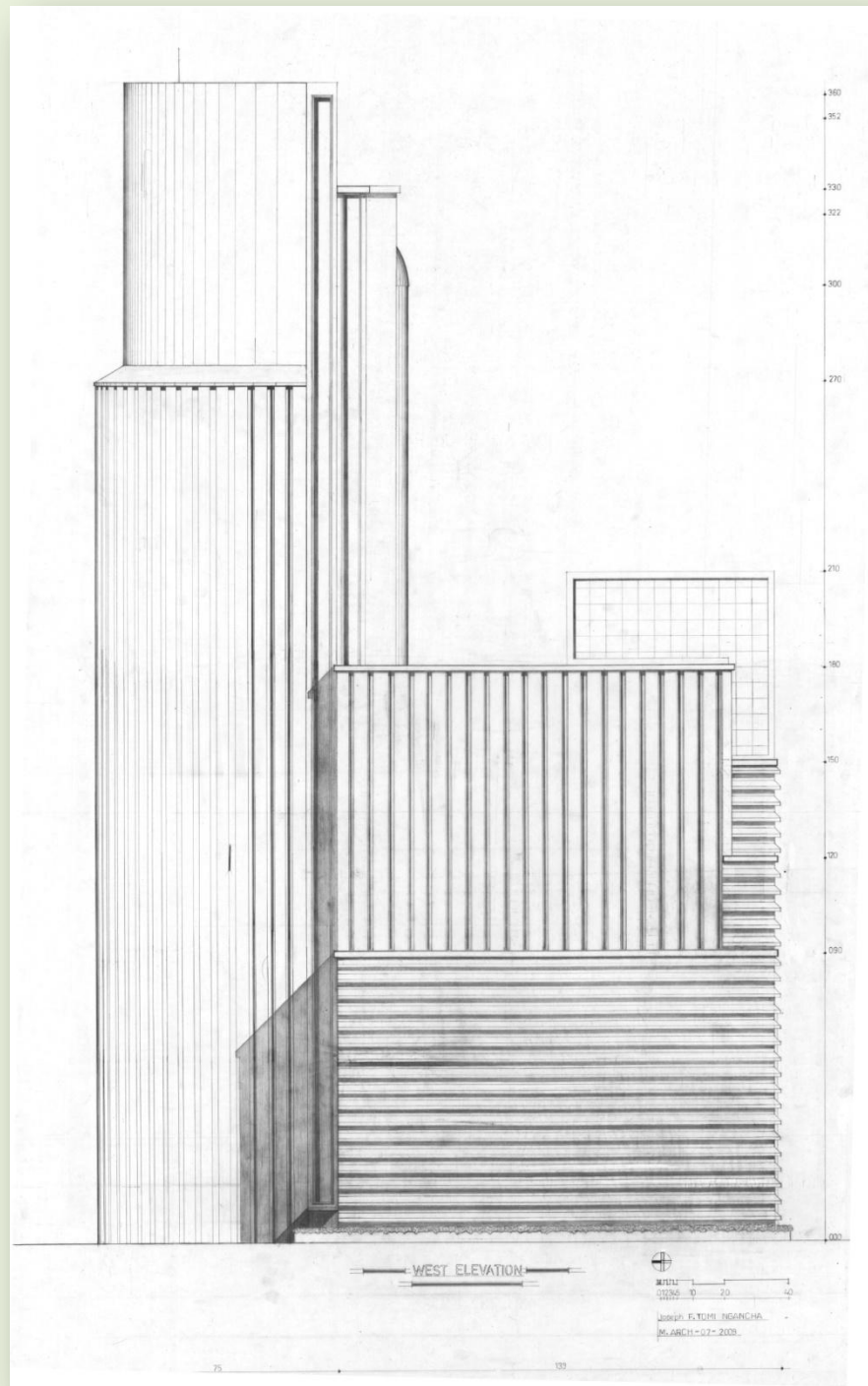




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Model from Design









Model from Design



The work of man

of its creator who enjoys all of its rights. L'oeuvre de l'homme





The work

enjoys all of its rights. L'oeuvre de l'esprit est l.





The work of mind is the exclusive property of the creator who enjoys all of its rights. L'oeuvre de l'esprit



The work of man

...or who enjoys all of its rights. L'oeuvre de l'esprit





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Tim



rights. L'oeuvre



enjoys all of its rights. L'oeuvre





Creator who enjoys all of its rights. L'oeuvre





...rior who enjoys all of its rights. L'oeuvre



Conclusion

During the design process of this project, one of the very important things I learned from my peers and committee members is that model experimentation is key to achieving good design in architecture, and I will strongly recommended that to my young fellows.

La réussite d'une bonne étude architecturale passe par la maquette est l'enseignement que j'ai tiré de mes encadreurs dans l'étude de ce projet et je le conseille vivement aux jeunes confrères.



Bibliography

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