

It was important for the site to have a way for people to travel up and down this slope. This emphasizes a human way to integrate with this slope by means of architecture. One of the places that inspired me was around Lake Como in Switzerland. The most significant of the villas is perhaps the Villa Balbianello. Built in the late 1500's at the farthest tip of the Dosso di Lavedo, the villa seems to virtually rise out of the water. The structure was originally intended for the rest and relaxation of cardinals and Catholic clergy. It was enhanced in the 1600's by the addition of a terrace. Villa Balbianello has three separately roofed areas with stairs and gardens weaving through at different levels. This locale shows grand schemes similar to the restaurant/ market. The villa has a separate exterior dining area. This "tea room" on top of the hill is like a gazebo. The living space has many formal areas for private and public entertaining. Vaulted greenhouses in the back to maintain site plantings.



Villa Balbianello

Another inspiration is located in Tremezzo. Villa Carlotta is a luxurious building completed in 1690 by the Milanese banker, Giorgio Clerici. A generation later formal stairs and galleries enrich the villa with a magnificent English garden. Its scale makes passing traffic on a main thoroughfare minuscule. At present, it is owned by the Italian Local Administration that supports it, thanks to the "Villa Carlotta" foundation. This villa shows the illusion of connecting to the water even though it is separated by a main roadway. This is a similar factor in my project.

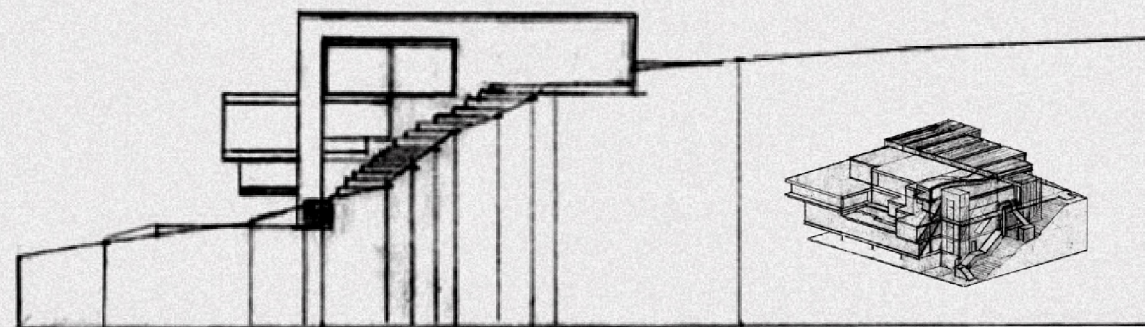
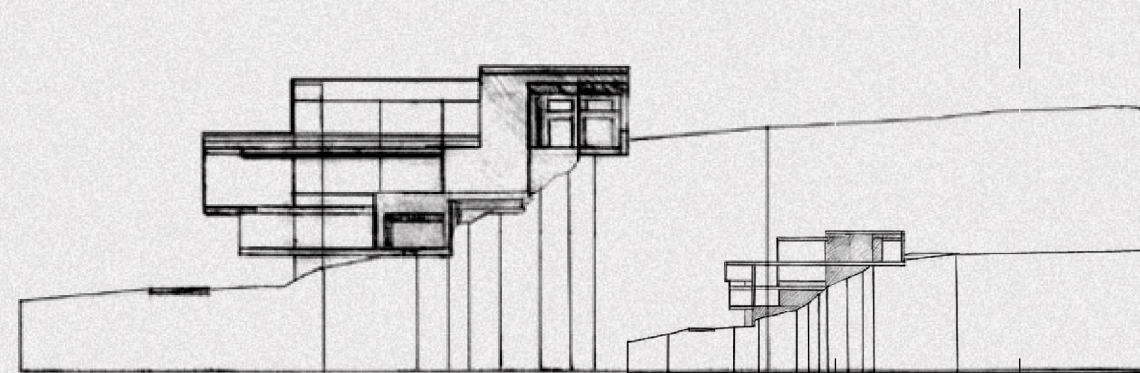
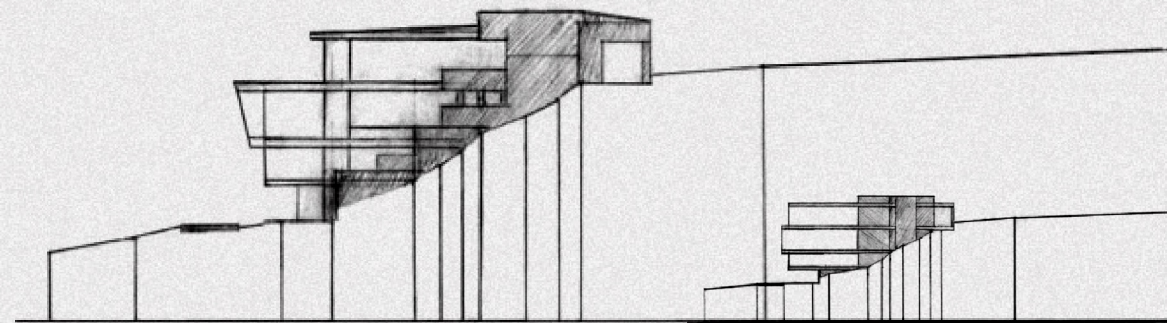
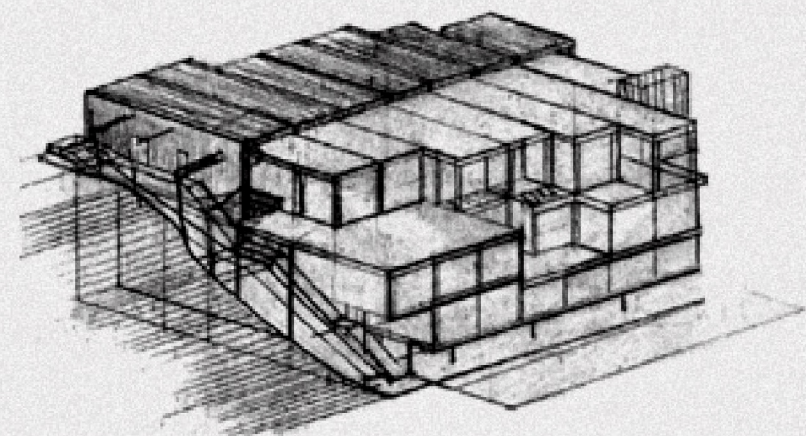


*Villa Carlotta*

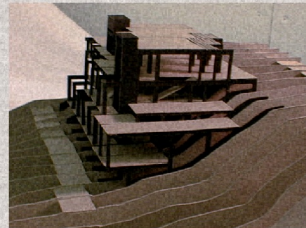
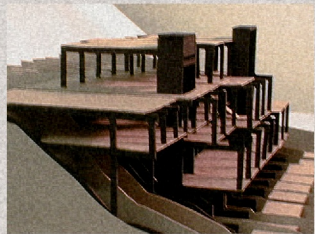


*Villa Carlotta*

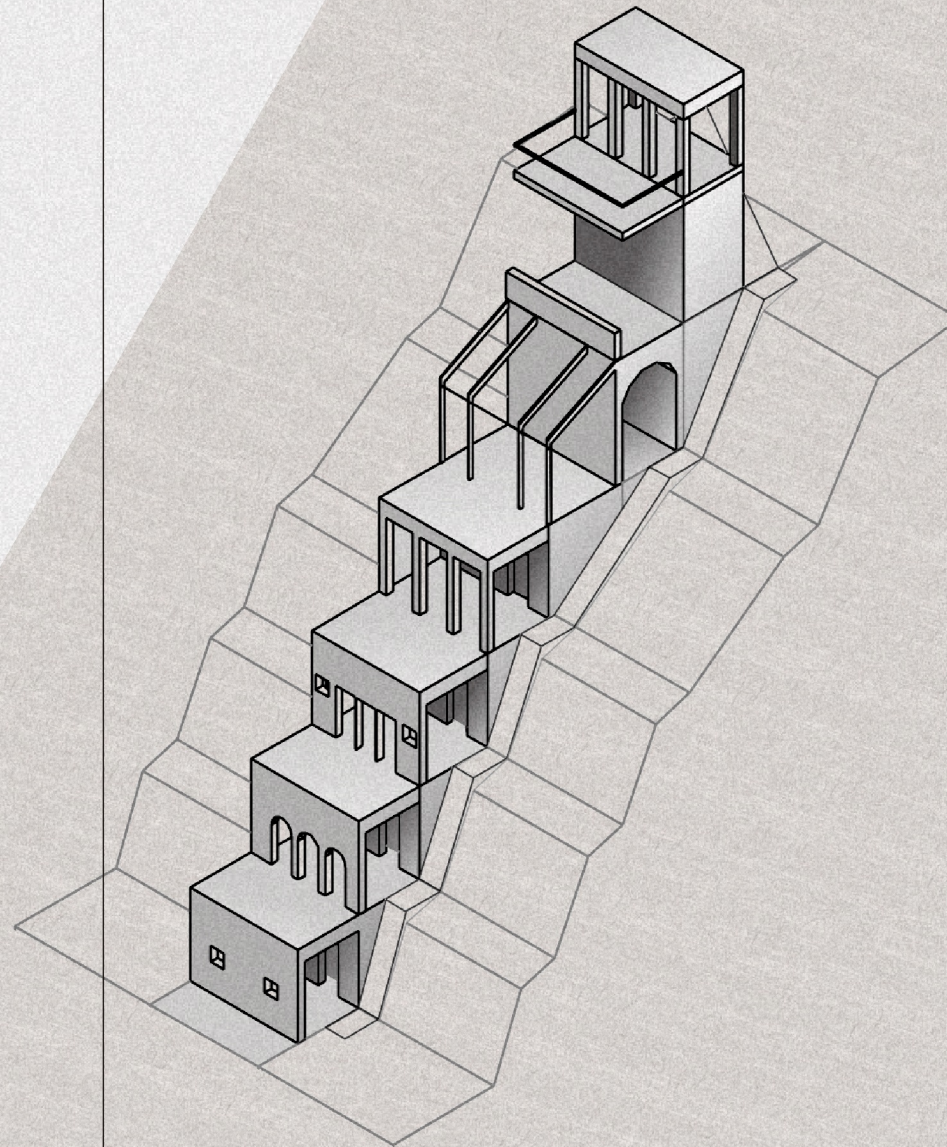
An issue to consider was the "massing" of the building. Should this structure integrate with the hill, project from the hill, or be recessed into the hill? Should this structure be light or massive? Should the roof line mirror the sloped contours of the hill? The architecture of the complex is differentiated from the mass of the hill by the light frame steel structure making a more open, public inhabited area. In contrast, there is a separate area made of a concrete block mass, built into the hill, which becomes the service area of the complex.



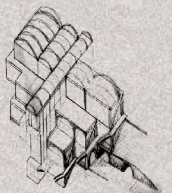
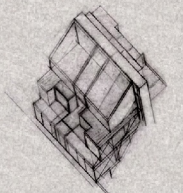
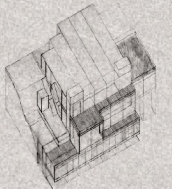
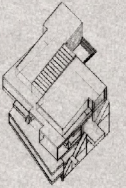
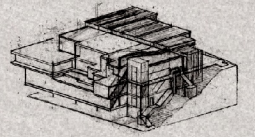
It was important to develop floor levels accessed interchangeably from interior areas to exterior. This makes a zone of transition between inside and outside- neither entirely indoors nor completely outdoors. These areas provide a secure place out of the weather from which to survey the surroundings. These outdoor rooms respond to site direction, prevailing winds and sun orientation as well as meeting programmatic demands. Natural factors determine the amount of wall that is retained and whether the space is glassed-in, screened or open to the air. A deck, suspended high above the site adds great drama to an impressive river front view. The degree to which spatial and visual continuity is maintained between an elevated or depressed space and its surroundings depends on the scale of the level change. The formal dining in the restaurant is compartmentalized in this manner. To break down the large space I used varying ceiling heights and raised floor levels in the rear of the dining space. This offers more access of views to those seated in the back. Part of the restaurant offers outdoor seating, both covered and open.



*Initial model to study how structural grid creates a visual framing and a peeling away of the platform levels to reveal framework.*



*Study of Degrees of enclosure*



*"Massing" development and roof compositions.*