

Act I, Scene ii

MERCUTIO:

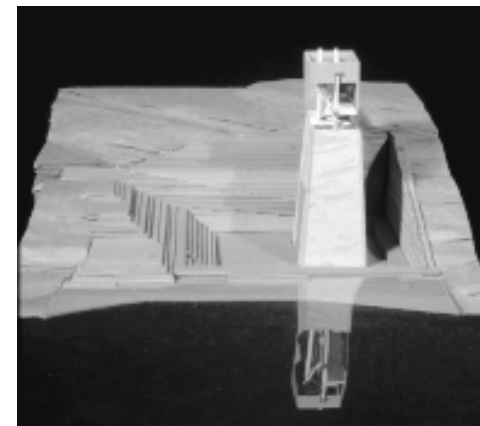
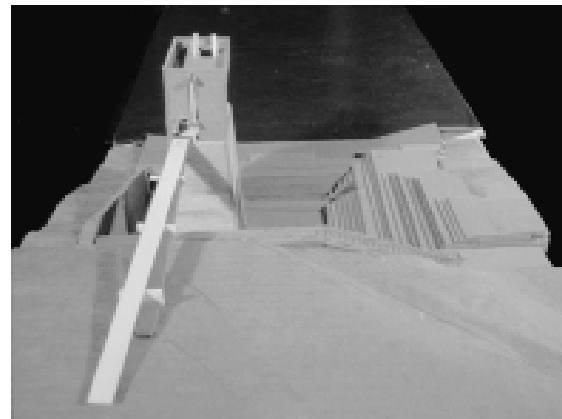
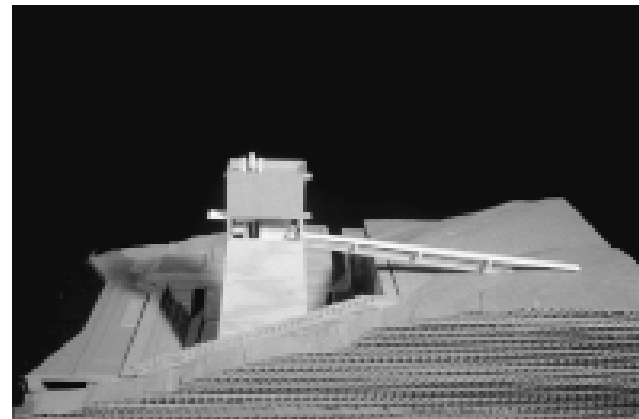
A plague o' both your houses! They have made  
worms' meat of me.

III.i

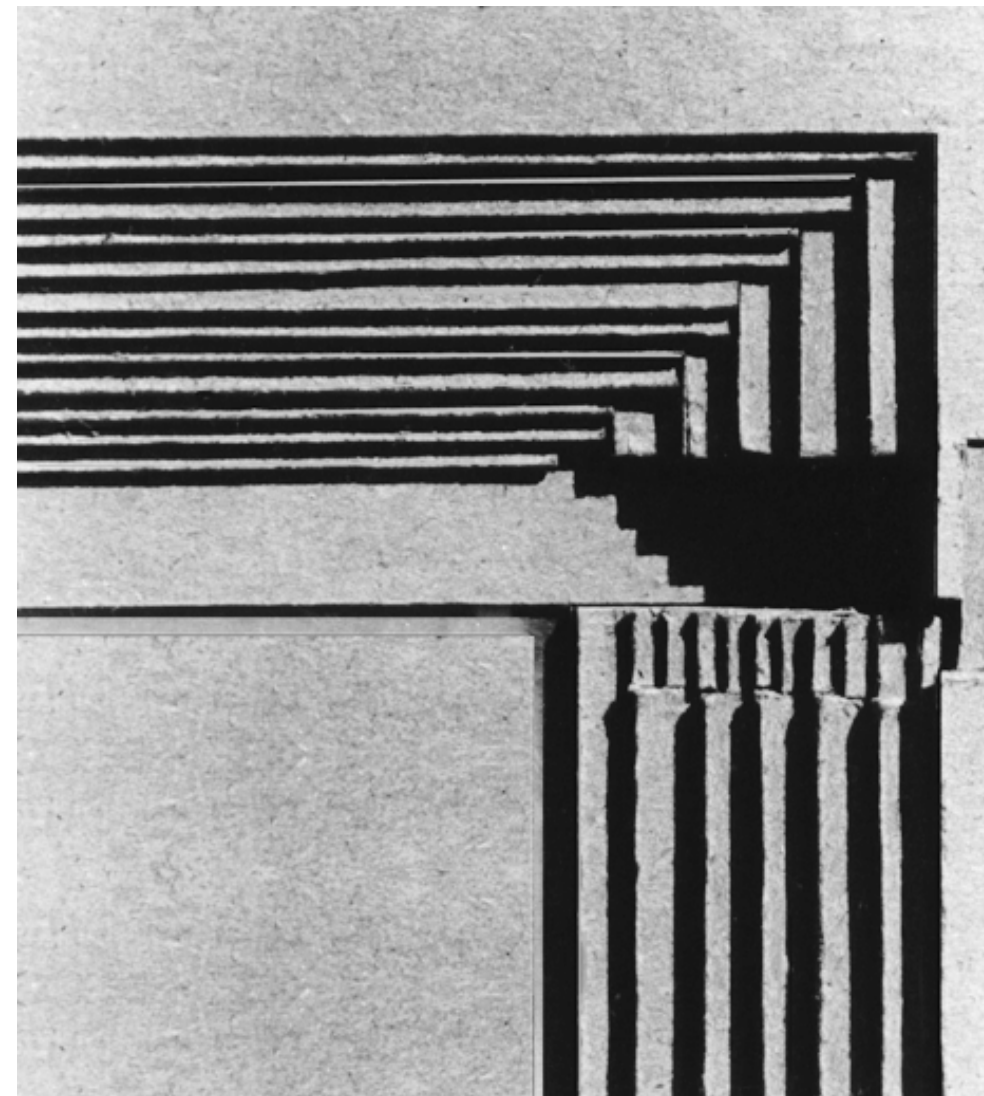
The verticality of the fifty-six foot tower, which responds to the horizontality of the river, also elevates the dying Mercutio as he shouts a curse to the Montagues and the Capulets in the plaza below. Within a play, the tower may become a significant metaphor for an idea, or it may lie in the background as the action occurs at its base. The amphitheatre acts as a joint between the play and the audience's perception of the action. The condition of the joint is also evident in the physical changes in material which join the different elements of the architecture.

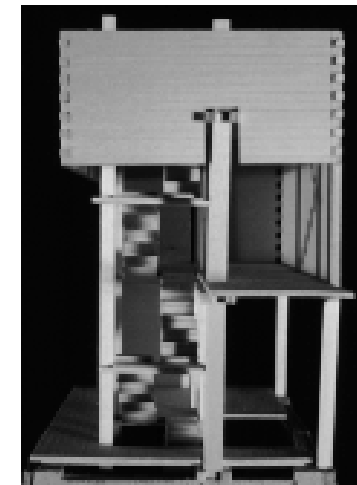
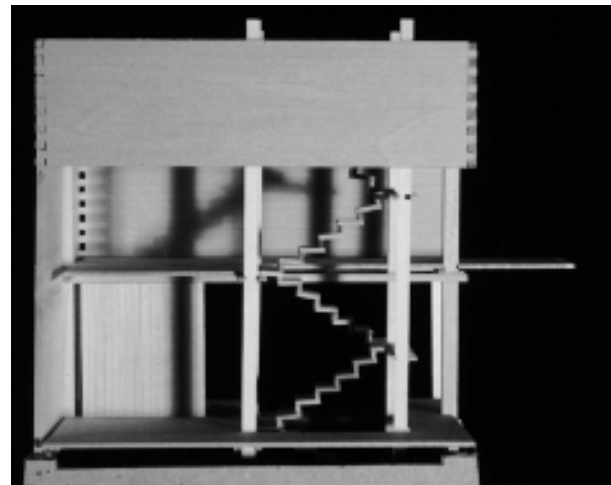
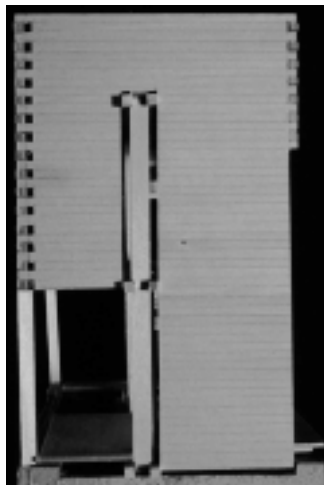


*Microcosm: the play within the play*

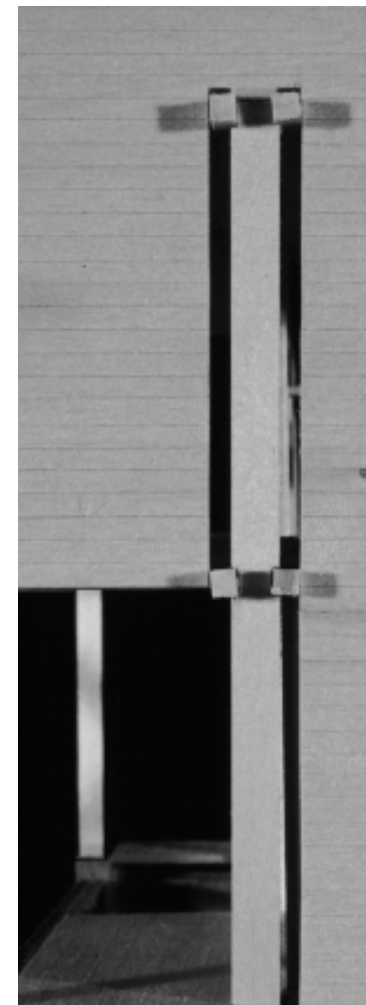
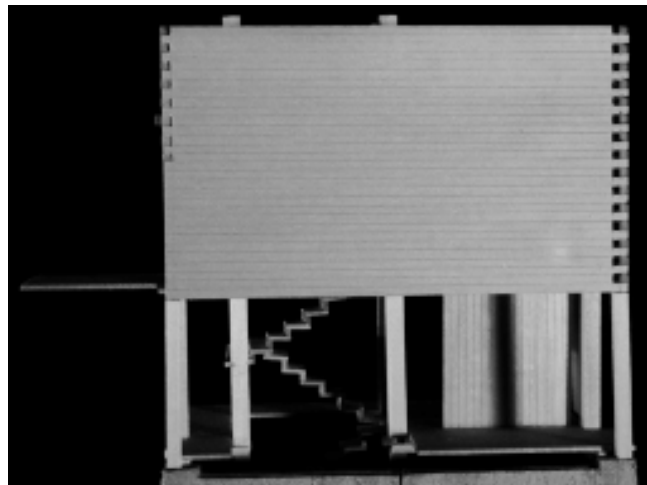


Throughout the site, the concrete walls are the joint between land and river. The amphitheatre walls push the land back and liberate the vertical structure of the tower so it can respond to the horizontality of the river. The formwork for the concrete is made of six inch horizontally placed boards, making the walls a gauge for the flood. The old and the new - the existing tower and the amphitheatre walls - join through a change in material. The lightness of the footlights around the perimeter mediate the heaviness of the concrete.





The old joins the new: the tower joins the new room on top through a change in material. Steel columns join old concrete to timber floors

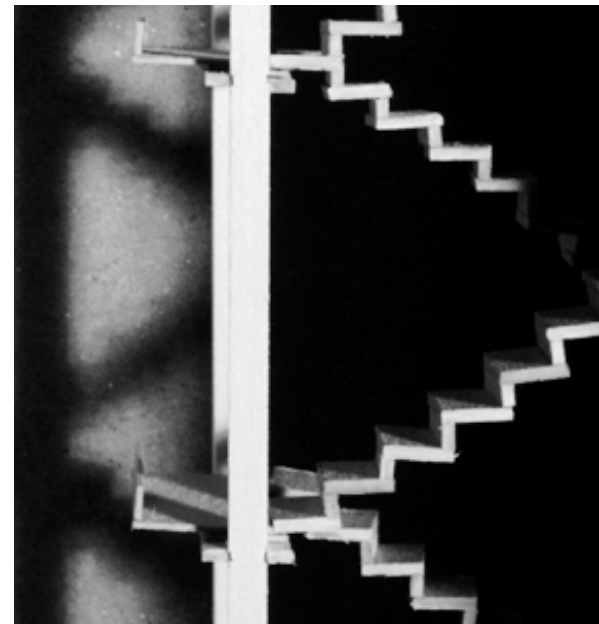
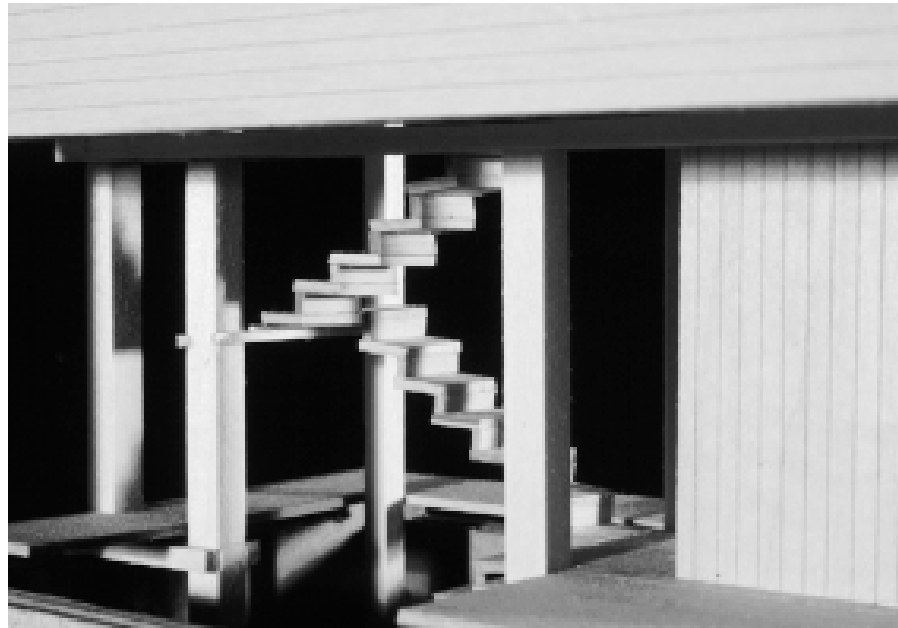


and walls. Two columns stand on the top of the tower walls and are clasped by beams for stability and to provide for different floor levels. A steel ladder column forms the stairwell.

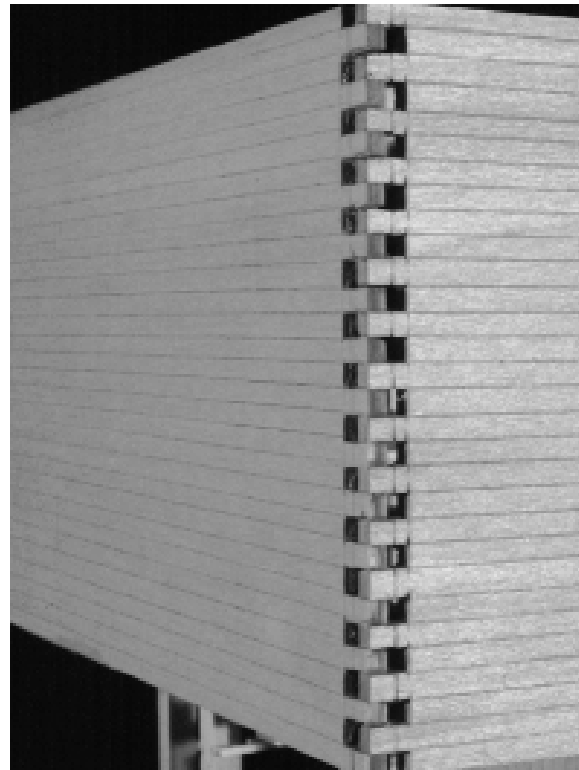


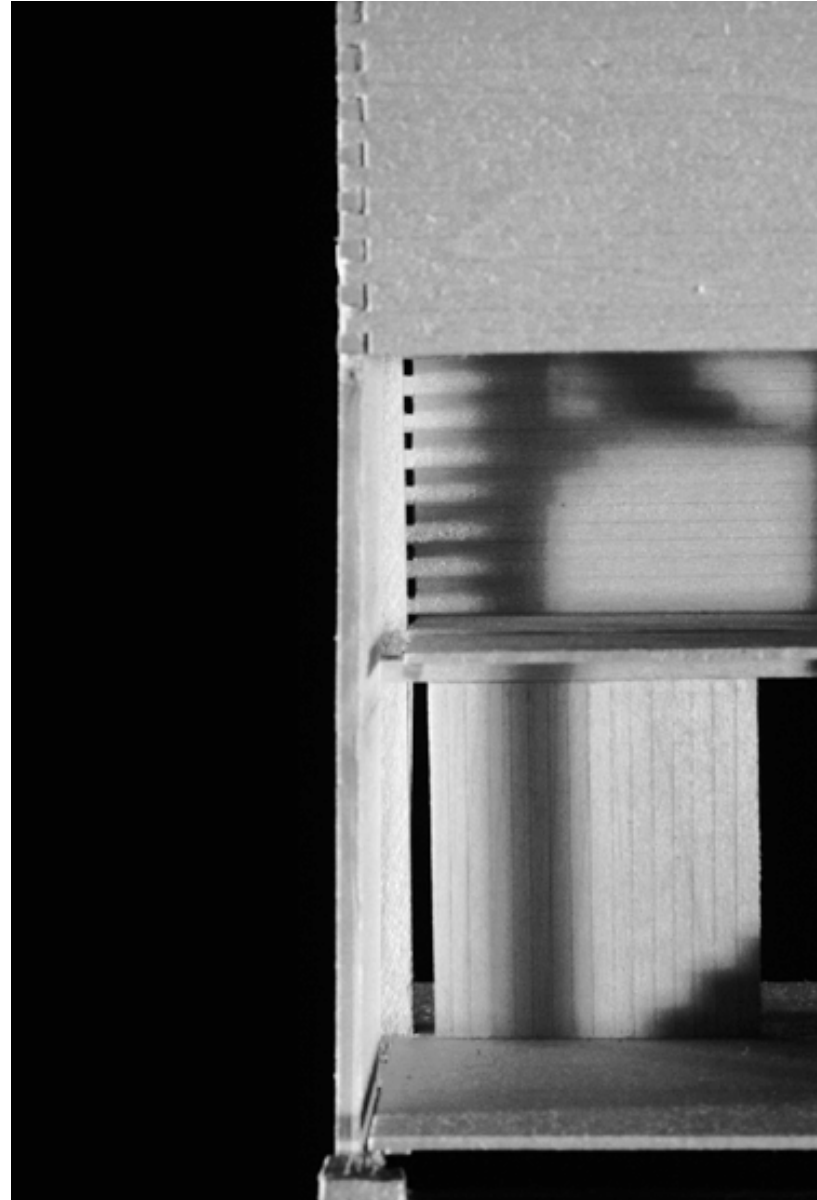
The structure defines the space in the new room and stairwell.

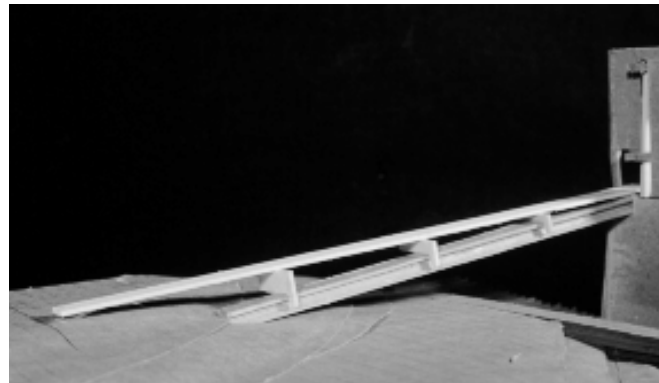
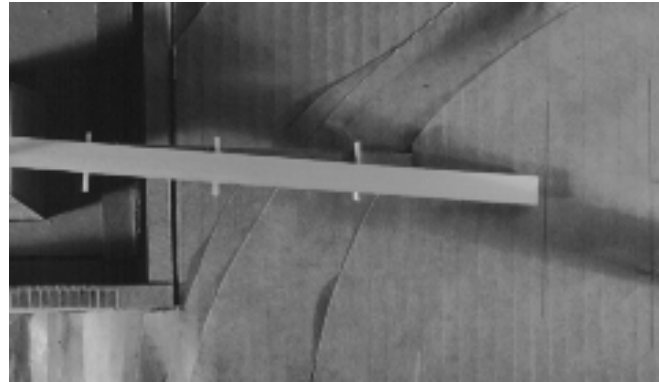




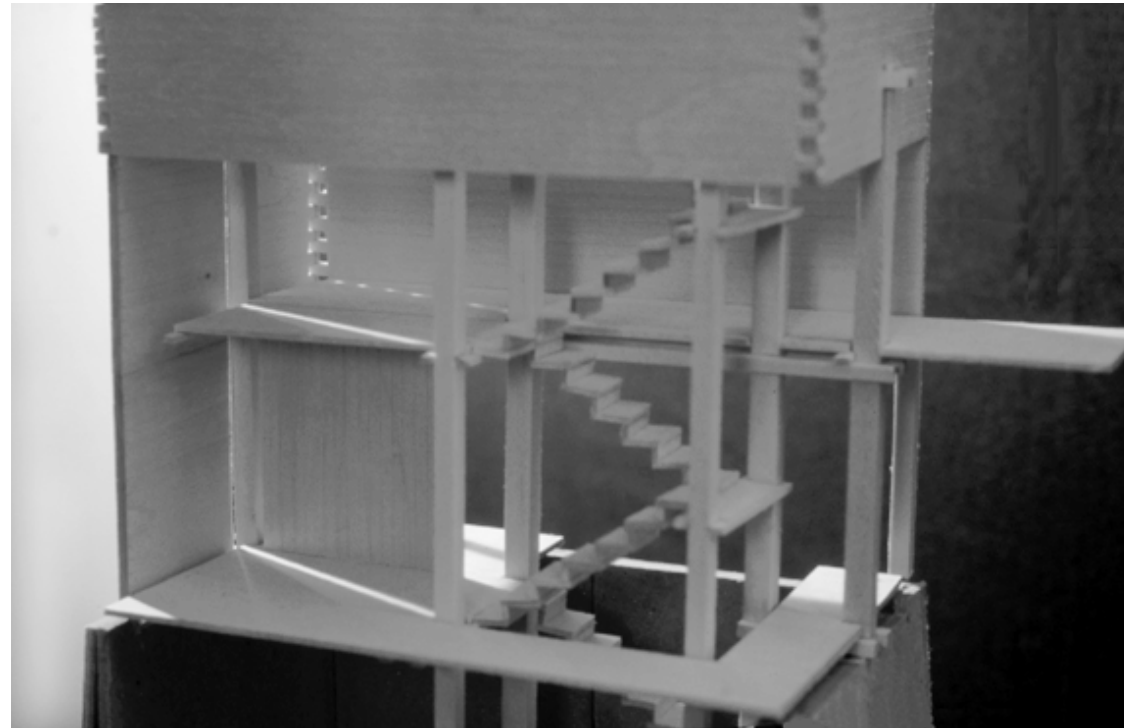
The western light joins inside and outside.







An existing four foot wide steel beam supports the walkway from the top of the hill to the entrance of the tower. The tower joins the amphitheatre to the town through a new ramp which is oblique to the old beam, making the ramp in line with a sidewalk on Frederick Street.



The whole tower rejoins with the site through another change in material: the joint is the void, the sky between the man-made and nature.