The unification of the individual buildings with the articulation of the public lawn landscaping and hardscaping completes the composition. Using a limited pallet of materials but varying the way in which they are used provides continuity and individuality of pieces.

Images:

(left) Photo of 1”=16’-0” scale model along the length of the public lawn with the new and existing Courthouses in the foreground.

(right) Photo of 1”=16’-0” scale model along the length of the public lawn toward the rear of the existing Courthouse.

The Department of Environmental Management building is developed further by carrying this examination into the realm of tectonic detailing.

Construction detailing for the new buildings is of the same nature as the detailing of the existing buildings. However, the new work it is not a copy of the past. Fundamental ideas for assembling these spaces are taken from the way the buildings of this region were made. These include aspects of the regional standards for building form and the materials to be used. Many of these aspects are quite subtle, in the past buildings and the new. All the detailing and material assembly of the new buildings are connected in purpose to the past, but executed with contemporary construction standards.

The nature of the buildings of this region from the time European settlers began to inhabit this area is largely unbroken. The buildings are formally organized, built of materials readily available and uncomplicated of form.

European, particularly English and Irish, influences on this area were previously discussed. The new buildings follow these examples of simple 'boxes' with balanced openings and symmetrical gabled roofs. Side chimneys, usually two per house, also frame and anchor the building, structurally and visually.

Brick and wood are the components most prevalent in buildings of the past in this region. If not an all brick building, a brick base was provided at most wood framed buildings. Large wood beams typically spanned the buildings and formed the structure of the upper floors and roofs. The new buildings present brick as a material to be viewed and touched, but it is not used structurally.. Concrete block construction is provided to preserve the sense of mass and security originally afforded by brick cavity walls, piers and chimneys.

Due to the scale and spanning requirements of the new building spaces, wood framing is impractical. Steel truss roof construction and double-'t' precast concrete plank floor systems provide the required structural capacities without the mass of some other systems.

Another building characteristic in this region is the use of assembly construction. Brick walls, lapped siding and shingle roofs are never covered or embellished. Structural walls, however, are built with clear expression of purpose.

The new buildings continue the practice of uncomplicated assembly. Concrete block walls are veneered with brick in such a way as to clearly demonstrate that the brick is not structural, but rather is used for aesthetic and tactile purposes. Steel trusses are supported with the sides of the concrete block walls through corbelling the block. This clearly expresses the forces on the wall. Simple post and beam construction, the norm for this and many regions in the early colony era, is continued in these new buildings, but done in harmony with the contemporary space requirements.

Images:

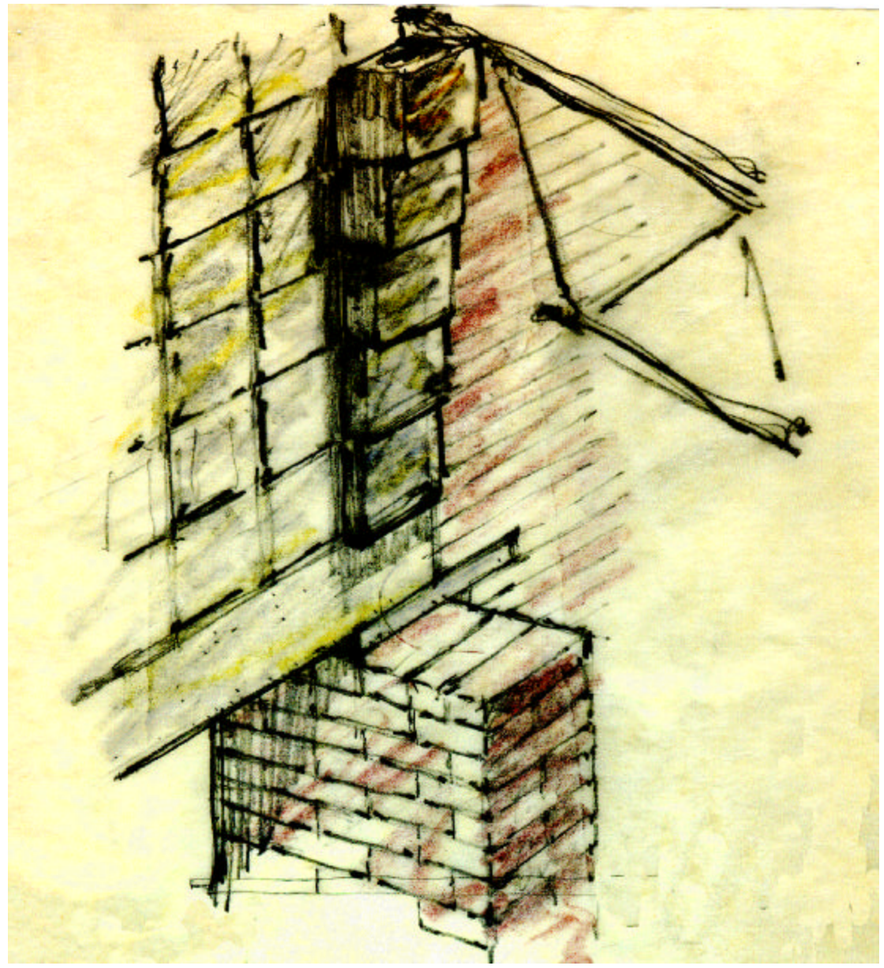
(above left) Axonometric sketch of masonry wall bearing steel truss

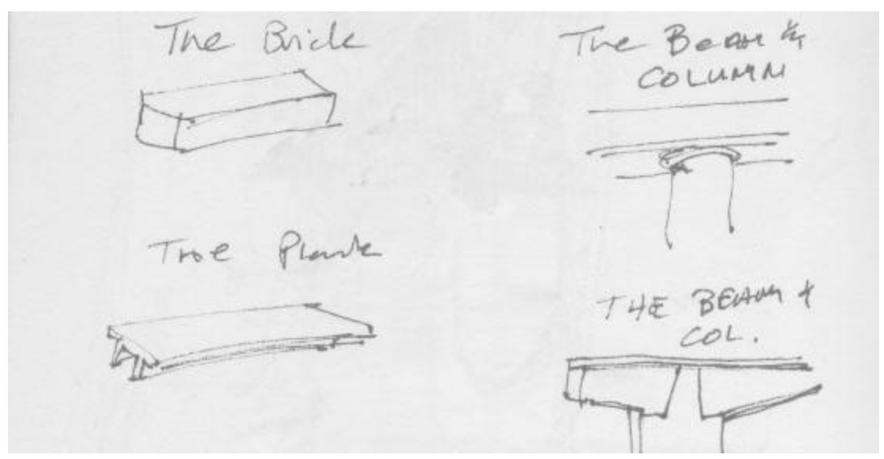
(above right) Two-story porch detail from a regional residence; photo by author.

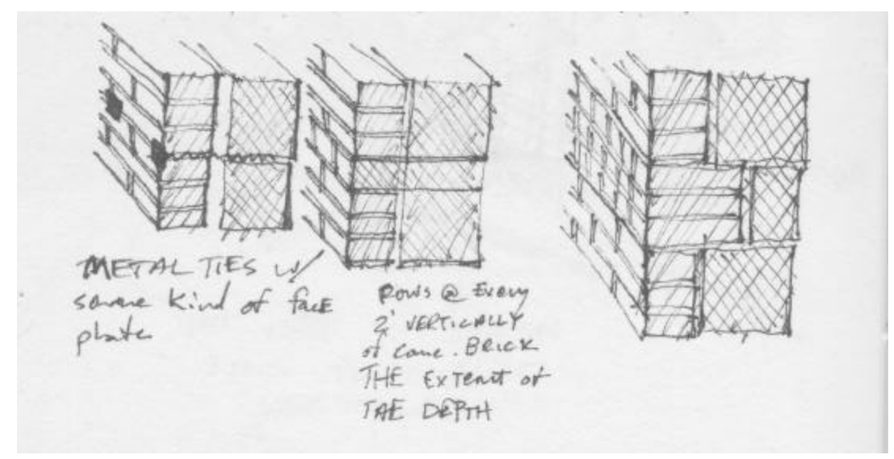
(center right) Beam pocket at existing jail masonry wall.

(below left) Sketches of the pieces of a construction.

(below right) Sketches of masonry construction with brick veneer.




The Brick
The Beam & COLUMN
The Plank
THE BEAM & COL.


METAL TIES w/ some kind of face plate
Rows @ Every 2' VERTICALLY of Conc. Brick THE EXTENT of THE DEPTH

Further development of the tectonics and detailing leads to the building of the masonry walls, roof trusses and foundation systems.

Steel trusses which span the large central space in the Department of Environmental Management building bear on the tops of enlarged portions of concrete block intermediate wall. The shorter trusses which span the single-story side areas are carried by this same intermediate wall, bearing on the top of corbelled concrete blocks.

High on the intermediate wall, in between the structural bearing points, the concrete block is replaced with translucent glass block. This allows additional natural light into the central space, while at the same time expressing the nonstructural nature of the wall in that area.

The intermediate masonry walls are structurally loaded at the sides of where openings are provided. Enlarging the thickness of the wall for structure in these areas also architecturally accentuates the idea of threshold as one passes through this wall.

The secure side spaces are roofed by the use of inverted trusses which are hidden from the outside view. These are provided to emphasize its connection to the central space.

Ideas of using the cores of the concrete blocks as ways of providing grilless mechanical supply and return diffusers for the central space are also being developed. These ideas are very much in keeping with the ventilation openings provided in the masonry walls of existing buildings.

Images:

(above left) Axonometric sketch of masonry wall receiving steel roof truss.

(above center) Sketch of masonry wall receiving steel truss.

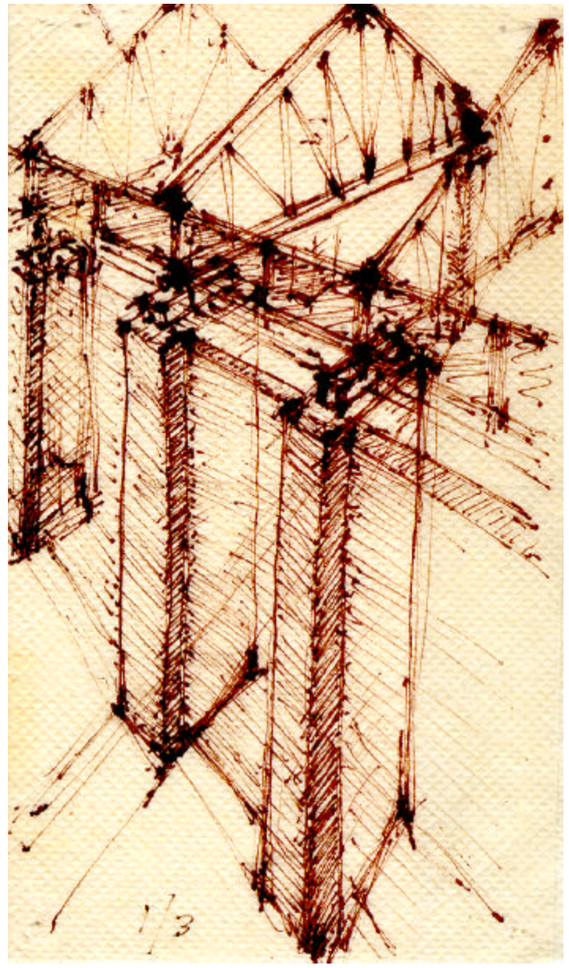
(above right) Photo, by author, of house within the region.

(center) Sketch of stacked glass block within concrete block wall construction.

(below left) Photo, by author, of ventilation voids in the brick gable face of the existing jailer's house.

(below center) Sketch section through the single-story side mass of the Department of Environmental Management building.

(below right) Sketch of side entry into stair tower. This shows the beginnings of the idea of revealing the brick as a veneer. It is extended to the corners for tactile opportunities but pulled away at the center to show the structural wall behind.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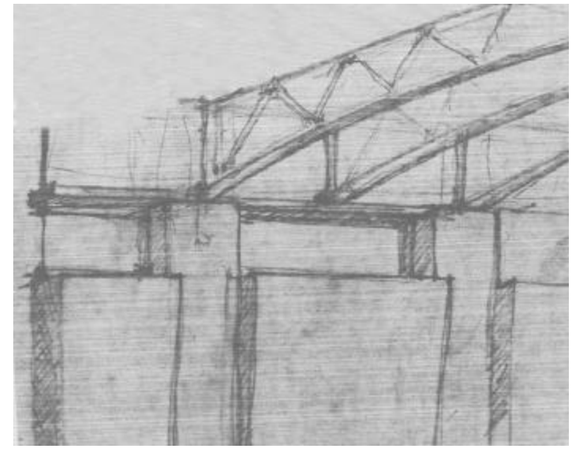
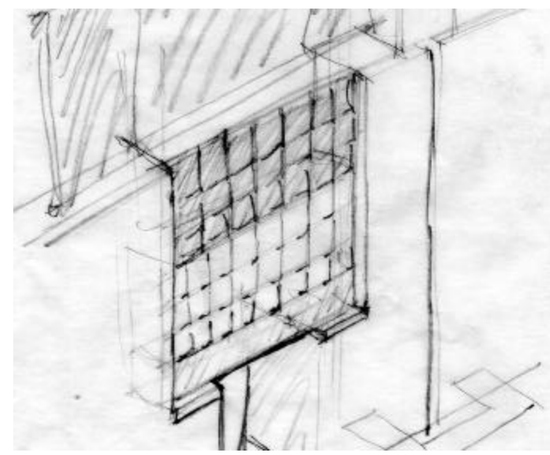
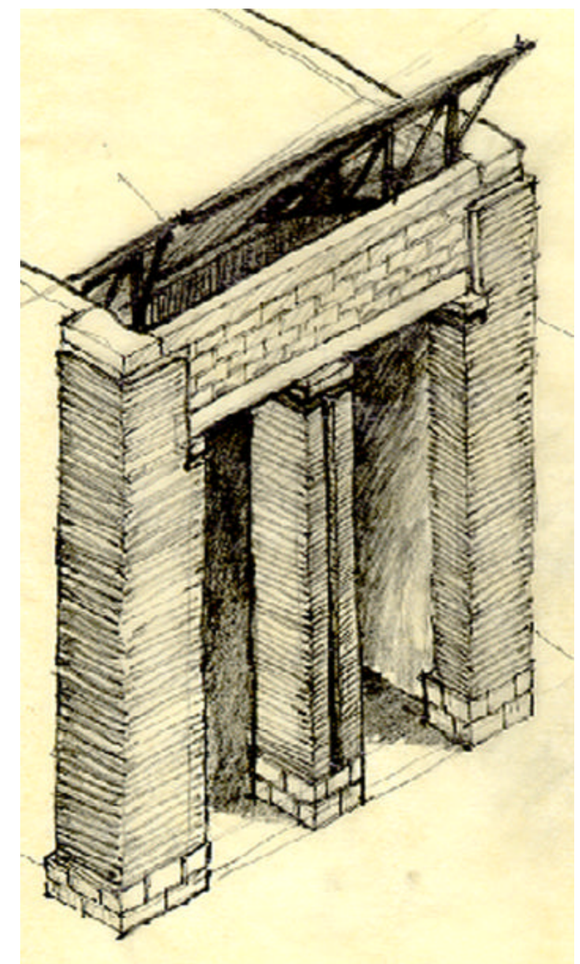
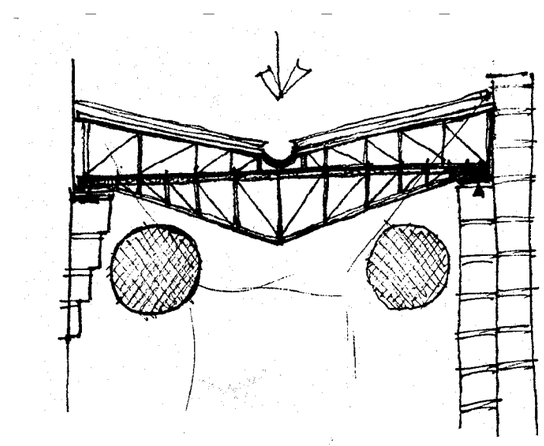








Continuing the detailing ideas previously presented, the intermediate wall of the Department of Environmental Management building takes on a composition of complexity without embellishment.

The supporting concrete block is revealed through a break in the brick veneer. This extends from the three course concrete block base to the point at which the roof truss bears directly onto the top of the wall.

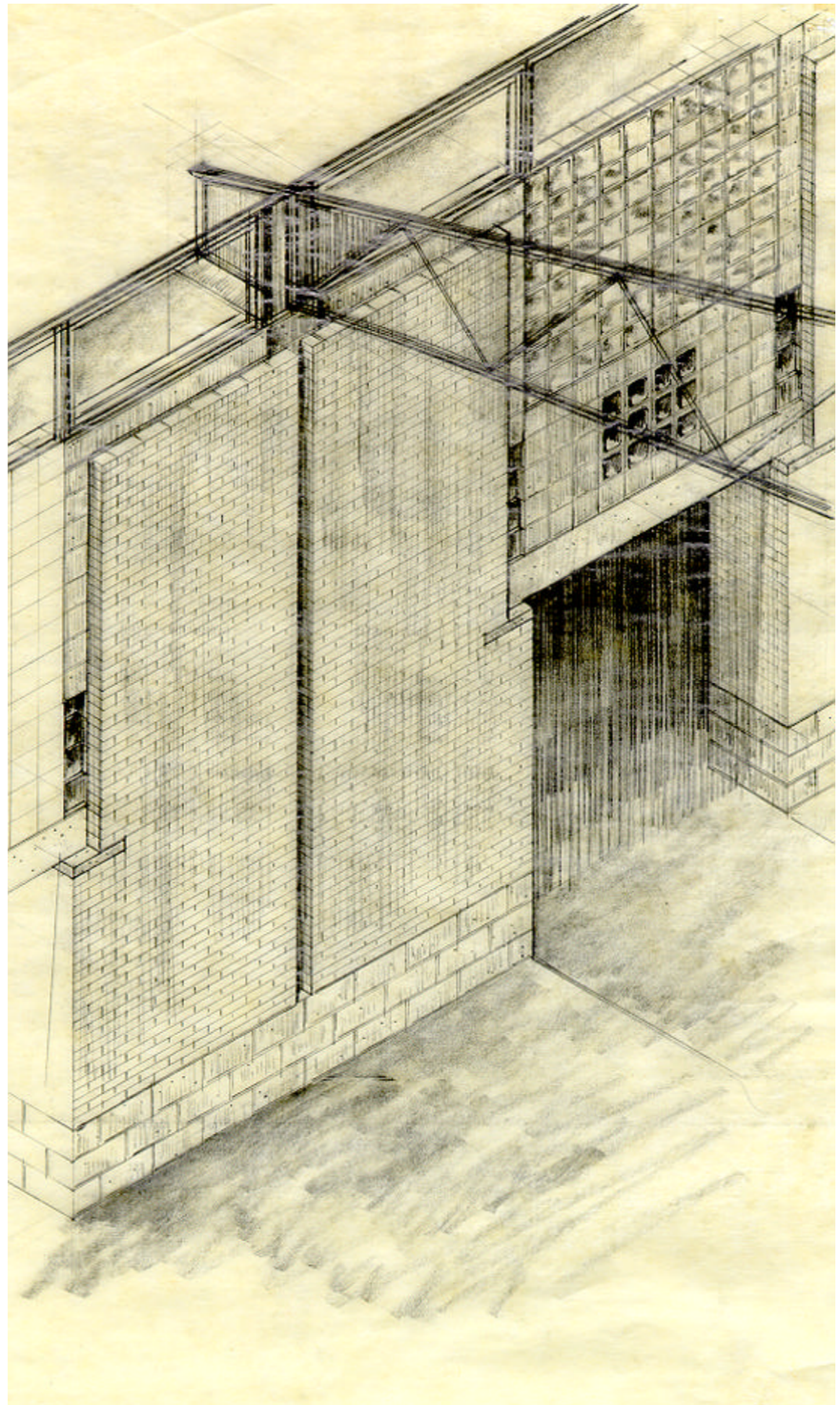
Other detailing considerations include the stack coursing of the concrete block on the precast lintel over the wall openings. This is an expression of the concrete blocks' non-structural purpose.

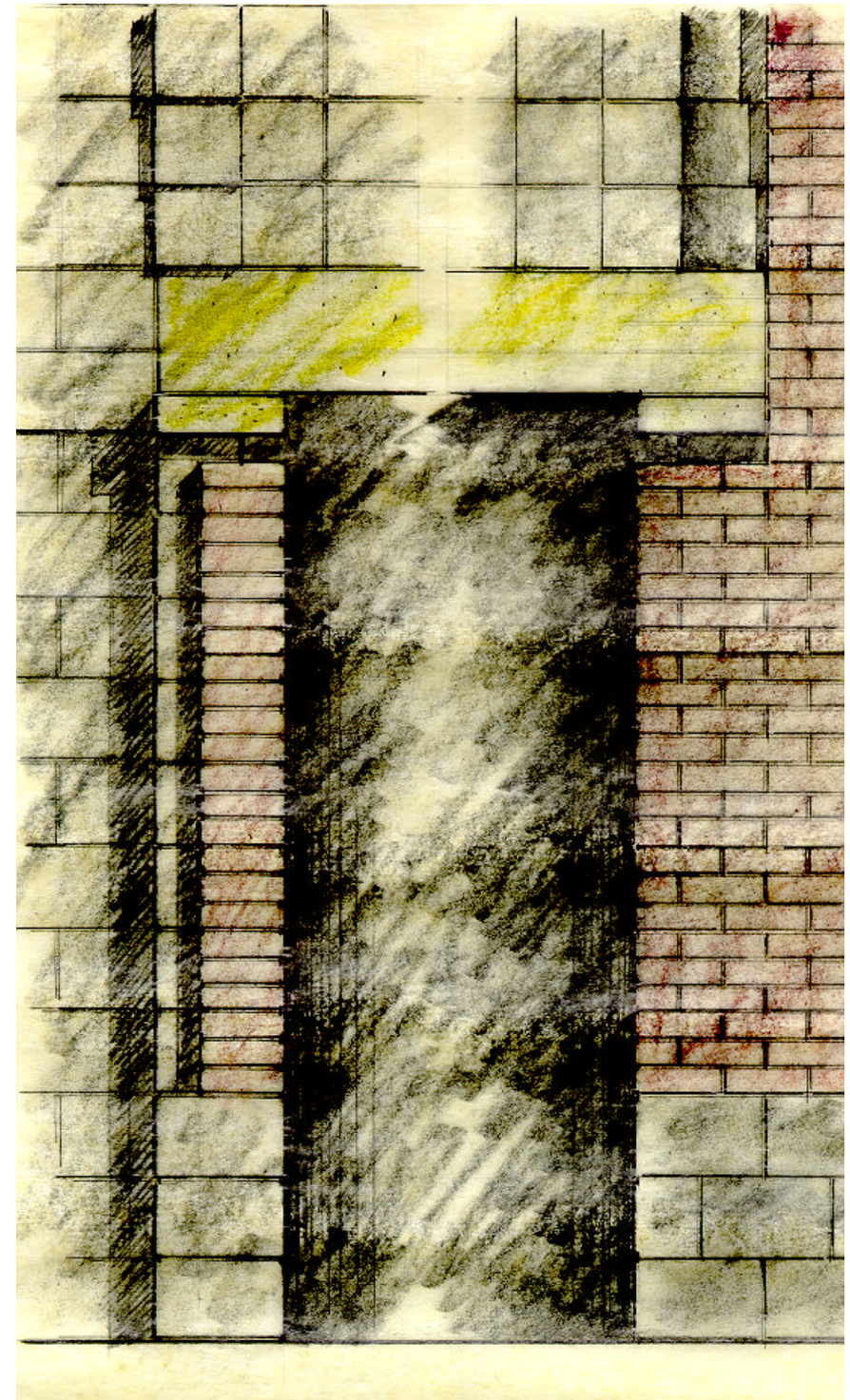
Also, precast lintels bear on thin precast concrete bases which act as an intermediary to the concrete block wall. These thin bases extend to align with the face of the brick veneer but, since the course of brick just below the base is removed, it is clear that the base is independent of the brick.

Images:

(left) Axonometric drawing of the interior of the intermediate wall at the Department of Environment Management building.

(right) Sketch of opening in intermediate wall from within the secure side area - left - and from the central space - right.





The construction of the forward portion of the Department of Environmental Mmanagement building extends the vocabulary of assembly developed for the intermediate wall. This construction of the building between the large central space and the public porch has complexities not dealt with in the large central space. The construction of wall openings, articulation of the brick veneer, and combination of running bond and stacked bond concrete block construction continue into this area, but other developments are required. These include the following.

In keeping with the notion of assembling the building from pieces which are integrated in purpose, the stair steps are precast concrete treads which have formed ends which fit into and course with the concrete block walls.

The roof trusses at the stair entry rise above and project beyond the entryway as a sign to the users of the stair's location. This configuration also allows more natural light into the stair entry area.

Due to the public purpose of this building, and the probable abuse it will receive, heavy metal doors are provided. These doors are held at the head and threshold with pin connectors which seat into the precast concrete lintel above and concrete plank below.

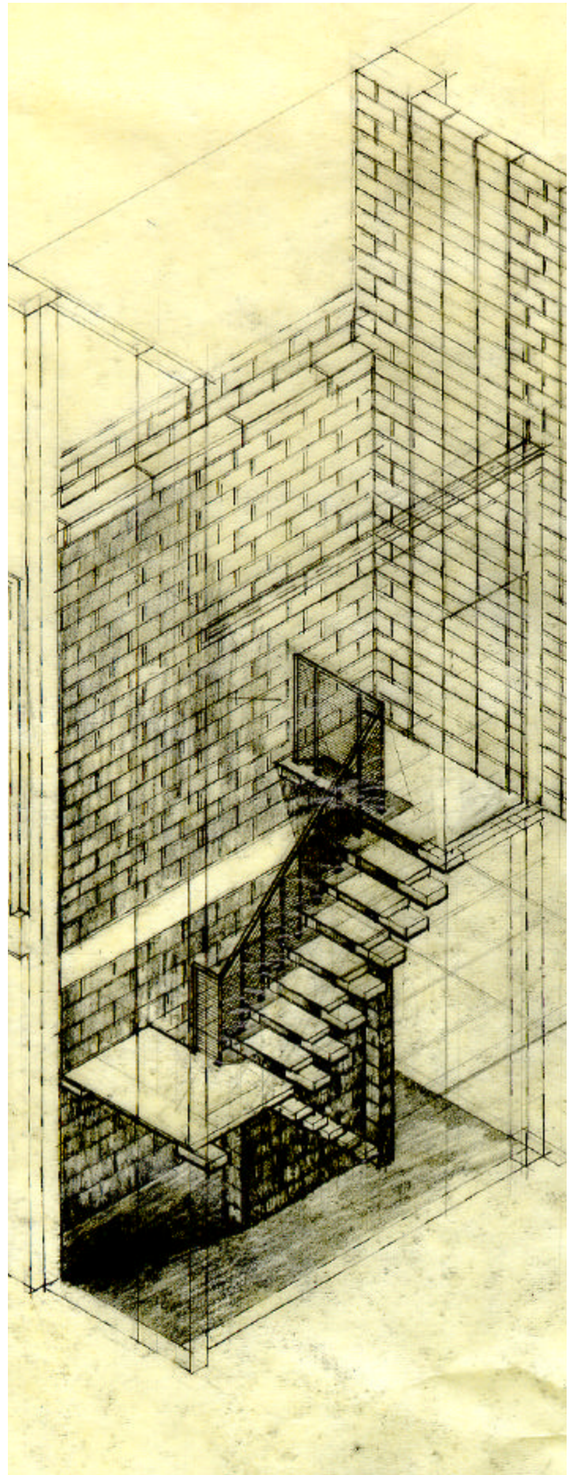
Built-in seating is provided at the building lobby within the wall common to the stair. Above this seating is an example of the integration between the mechanical system and the concrete block construction.

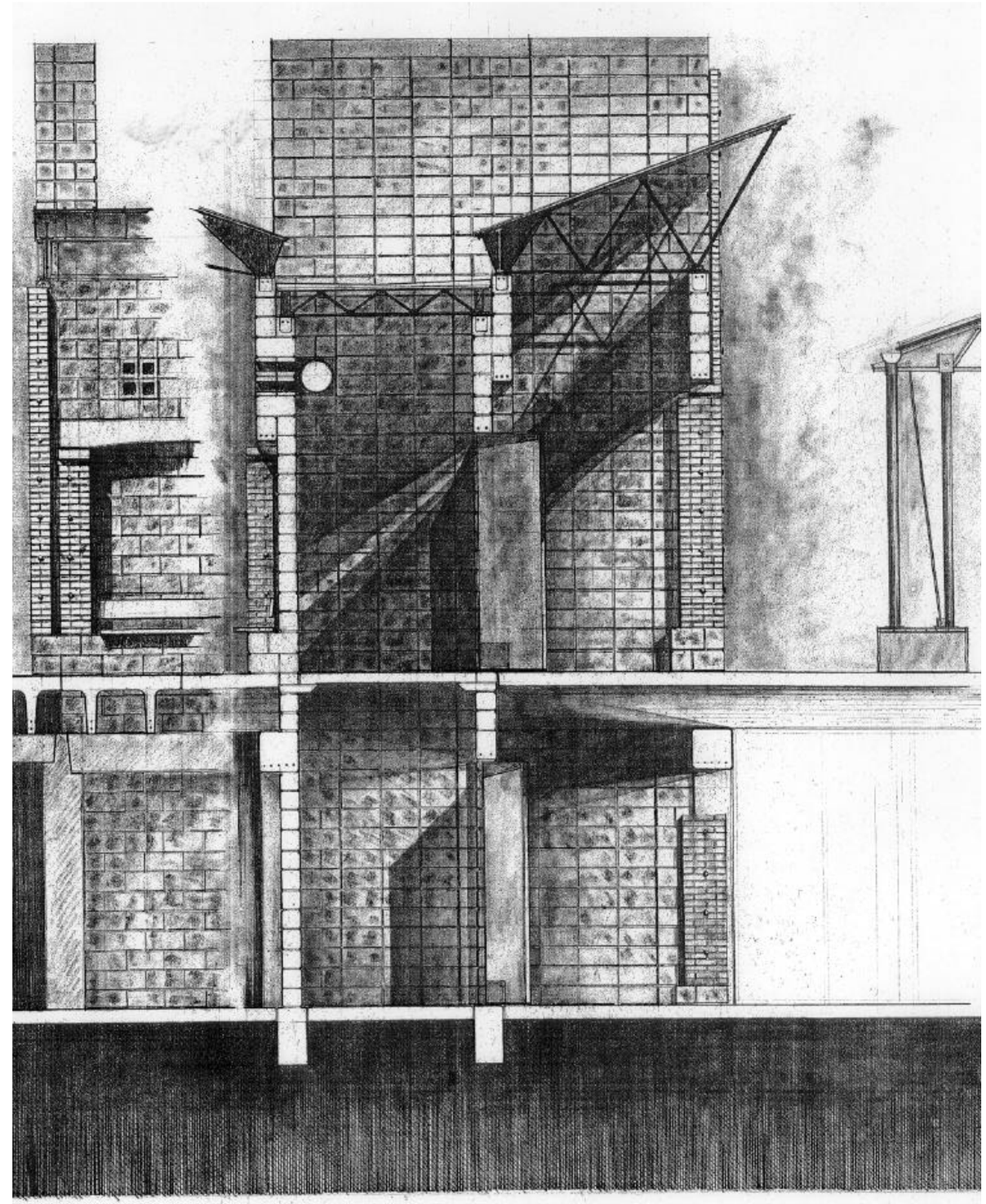
The public porch roof covering is visually supported by four pipe columns, two are used for structure and two for drainage. Bases for the columns are formed of poured-in-place concrete which provide places for seating. The total depth of this construction provides intermediate collecting spaces for the public along the porch.

Images:

(left) Axonometric drawing of the stair at the side tower chimney-like mass. This detail is specifically of the Department of Environment Management building, but is the same as, or very similar to, that provided in the other buildings.

(right) Section/elevation drawing through the stair tower landing, stair entry and building entry lobby sitting area. This is specifically of the Department of Environment Management building but is the same as, or very similar to, that provided in the other buildings.





The Department of Environmental Management building is then generated once the specific areas are examined and the vocabulary of construction understood. A consistent vocabulary is thus used to develop all of the buildings of the complex.

Images:

Axonometric drawing of the Department of Environment Management building and public porch.