Organizing Grid

A comprehensive order was necessary to parallel the function of the building with its meaning and purpose. The grid represents order that serves as a framework for design. The purpose of the Urban Graduate Center is to provide students with a framework to develop ideas. Subjects and methods are taught not as an end to themselves but so new discoveries and lessons can be learned. Likewise, the 6-ft by 6-ft grid is used to articulate changes in function throughout the center. For example, the joints of the concrete are designed in 6-ft by 6-ft intervals. In addition, the professor’s office building is designed on a 12-ft by 24-ft column grid and the classroom building is designed on a 36-ft by 36-ft column grid.

Early parti model with a repetitive grid.

Model bird’s eye view from parking lot.

Study model view at corner of Duke Street and Holland Lane.