

**INBETWEEN SPACES:
INVESTIGATION OF MATERIALS IN CONTRAST**

by

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in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE**

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THESIS STATEMENT

Urbanity and Density: Evolution over time creates leftover spaces.

Urbanity is the use of the in-between spaces; use of every available lot, every square inch of space.

A problem is addressed--how to add a new pattern to a jumbled definition of history in evolution--the complicated irregular geometry of a seventeenth century street pattern.

A problem is unraveled--instead of a ten or twenty year cycle of demolition and re-construction--a building should live its natural life span. A building can be added to, taken apart; it can absorb new patterns, or stand separately on its own against the background of a new structure's integrity.

A building is a structure growing constantly, not separate; in its transitory link to other structures creating exterior spaces to live in as well as inside rooms. A structure, continuously changing, a joint over time and distance; is separate yet always related to the cycle of buildings that grow around it.

Forces change an urban area over time. They direct and define, through constraints, the form that evolves.

The history of an urban place can be outlined in terms of the elements that remained constant throughout its evolution. These constants change the form they control. They allow for transformation and growth, but they act as a solid framework - a background for the changes to occur.

Blackstone Block, a relic of colonial urban times, was shaped by waterways, canals, and pathways. The one constant left - the irregular street pattern - is a force that still rules the changes that occur to the network of leftover spaces and brick buildings found within the boundaries of the block.

A series of ideas and proposals is developed for these in-between spaces. A framework is established based on existing lines of influence, a framework that is to act as a constant for future transformation and growth.

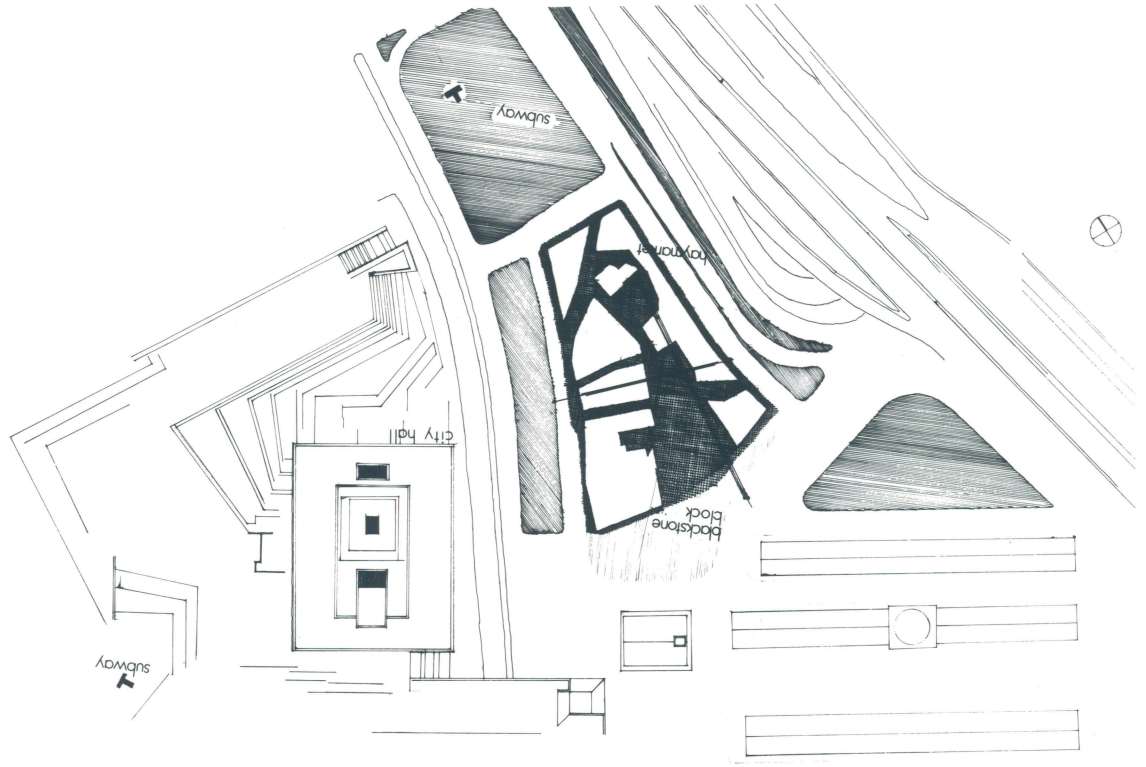
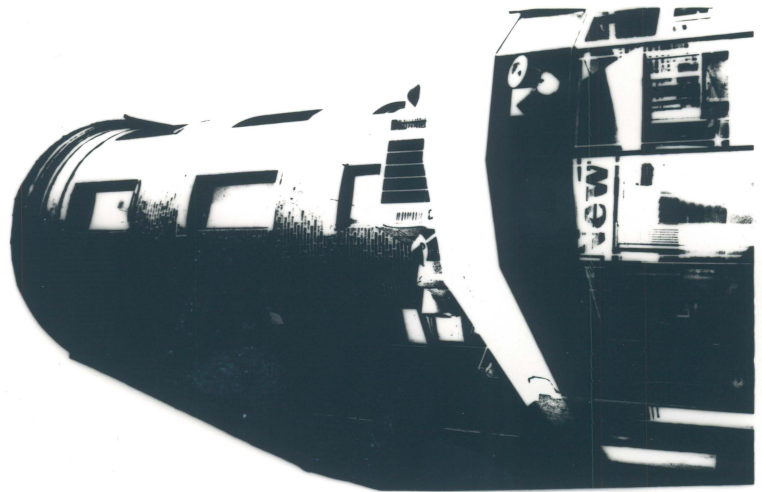
The block should retain its character - characteristic elements - old brick building, crooked streets, outdoor/indoor produce market. Any new construction should allow for this by means of a strong contrast, with the introduction of a controlled pattern and a contrasting material.

There is a need and a search to find a transition between two opposing systems of divergent times.

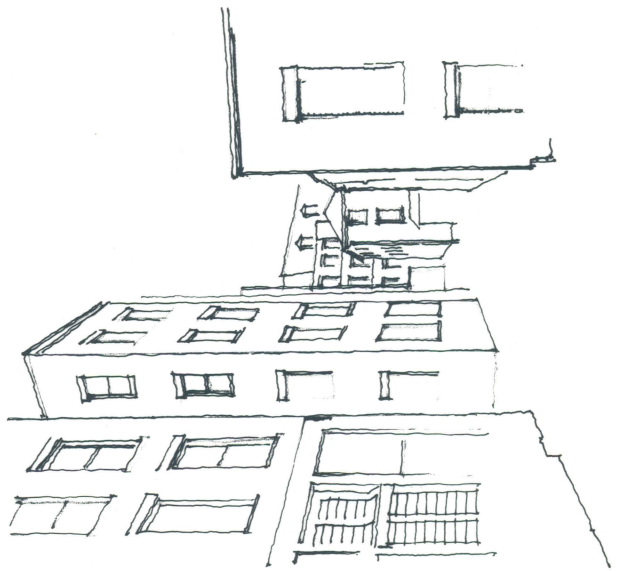
This search to bridge the gap between a new pattern and a jumbled definition of a historical pattern is carried out through the design of a prototype multi-activity building. This prototype helps to deal with the resolution of balance between noise and privacy, sun and views, old and new, brick and steel.

This search involved a balance between general ideas and specific illustrations, objects, things, continuously checking one against the other and working towards a coherent visual and verbal statement of the development of these.

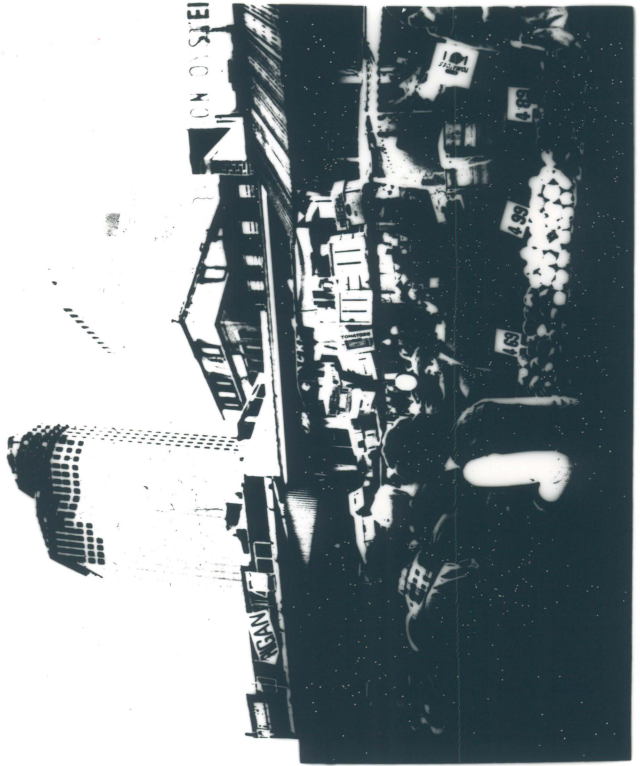
an urban block. a historic district. brick buildings to be preserved. reused. leftover geometrically irregular spaces to be built on and around.



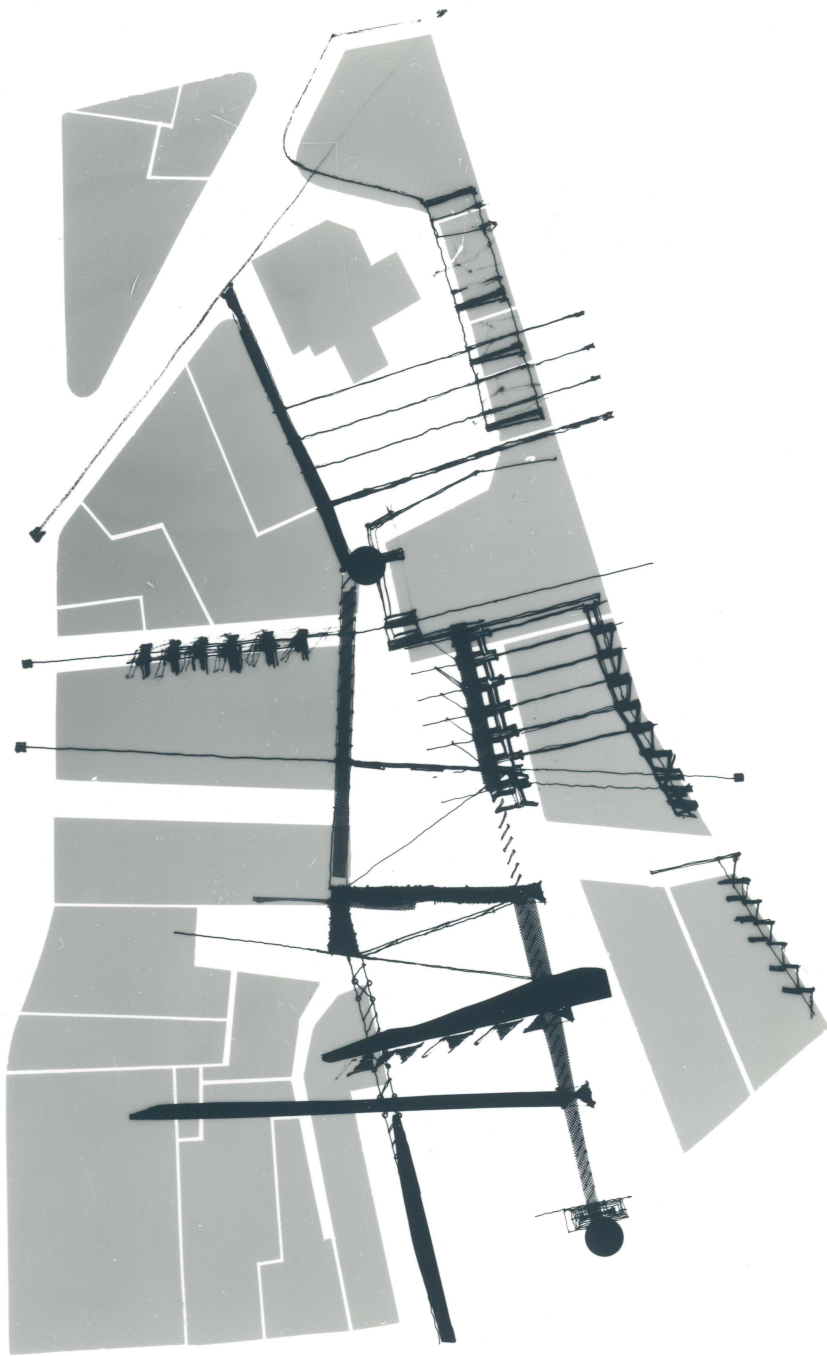
interior street · turning inwards



market · turning outwards



constructing lines of influence found in existing geometry to
set up a structure that integrates old & new pattern.



a frame supporting movement.
implying direction·spanning.

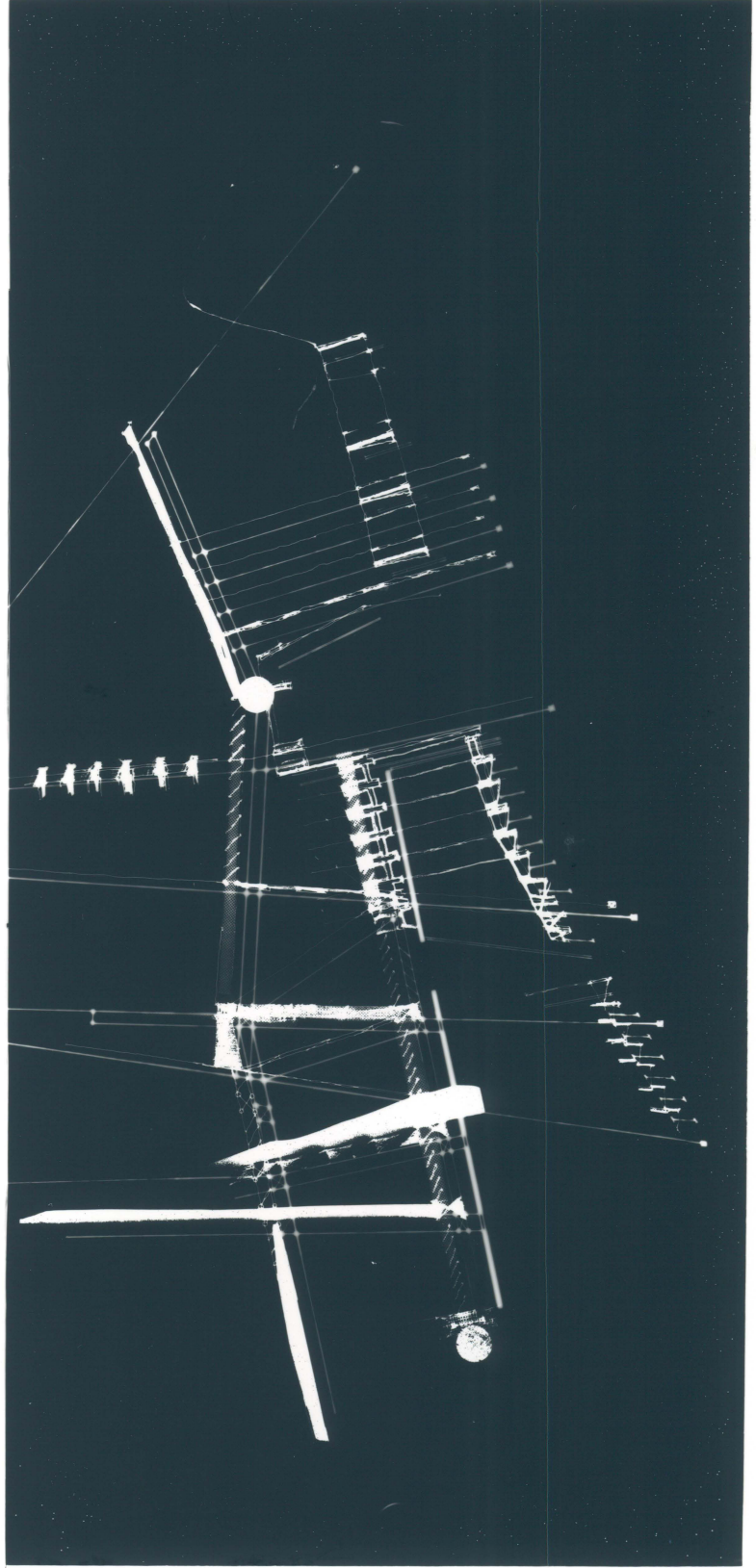


setting up a framework·spine.
structure as space definer.
supporting, partially enclosed.
interior street with a series of
ramps·bridges·platforms.

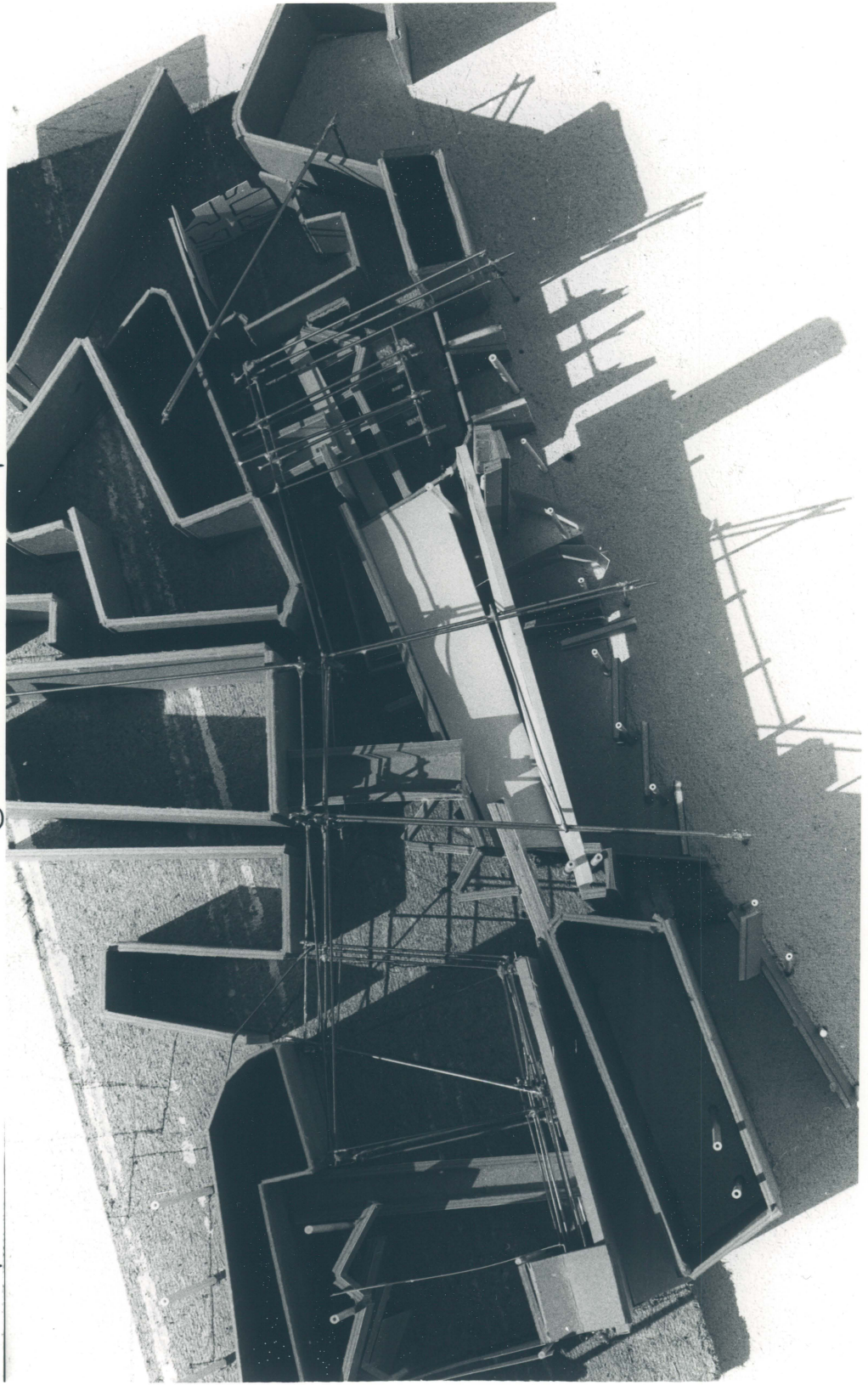
ramps connecting old to new.
weaving through brick
volume·steel frame·open to
closed·light to dark·bridging
over·tunnelling under.

framework · spine.

a building as a constant - to be added to and taken away from -
it absorbs new patterns or stand separately on its own.



constructing lines of influence found in existing geometry to
set up a structure that integrates old & new pattern.

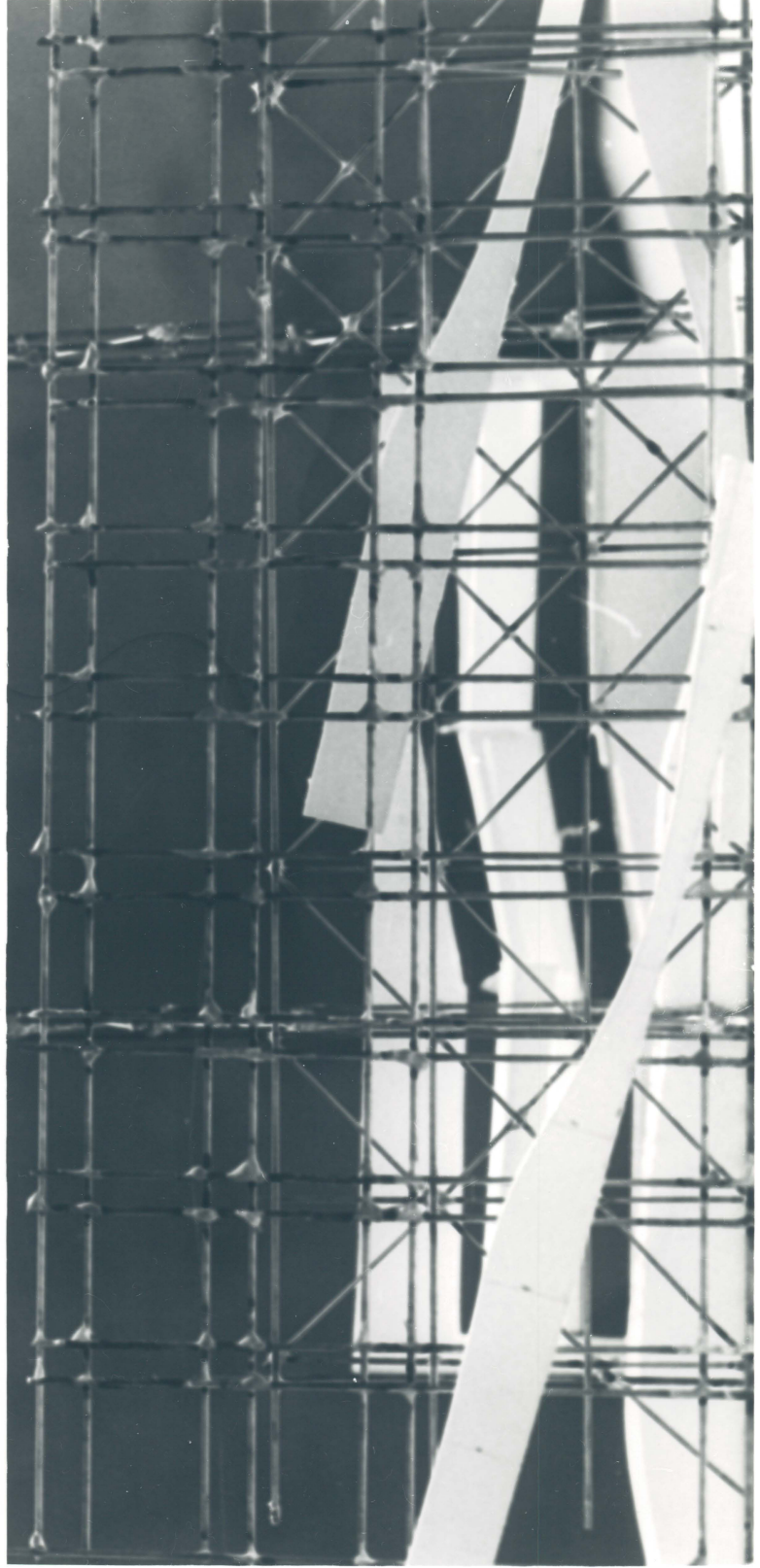


reversing orientation of block. looking inward. turned inside out
over a time cycle of demolition and re-construction.



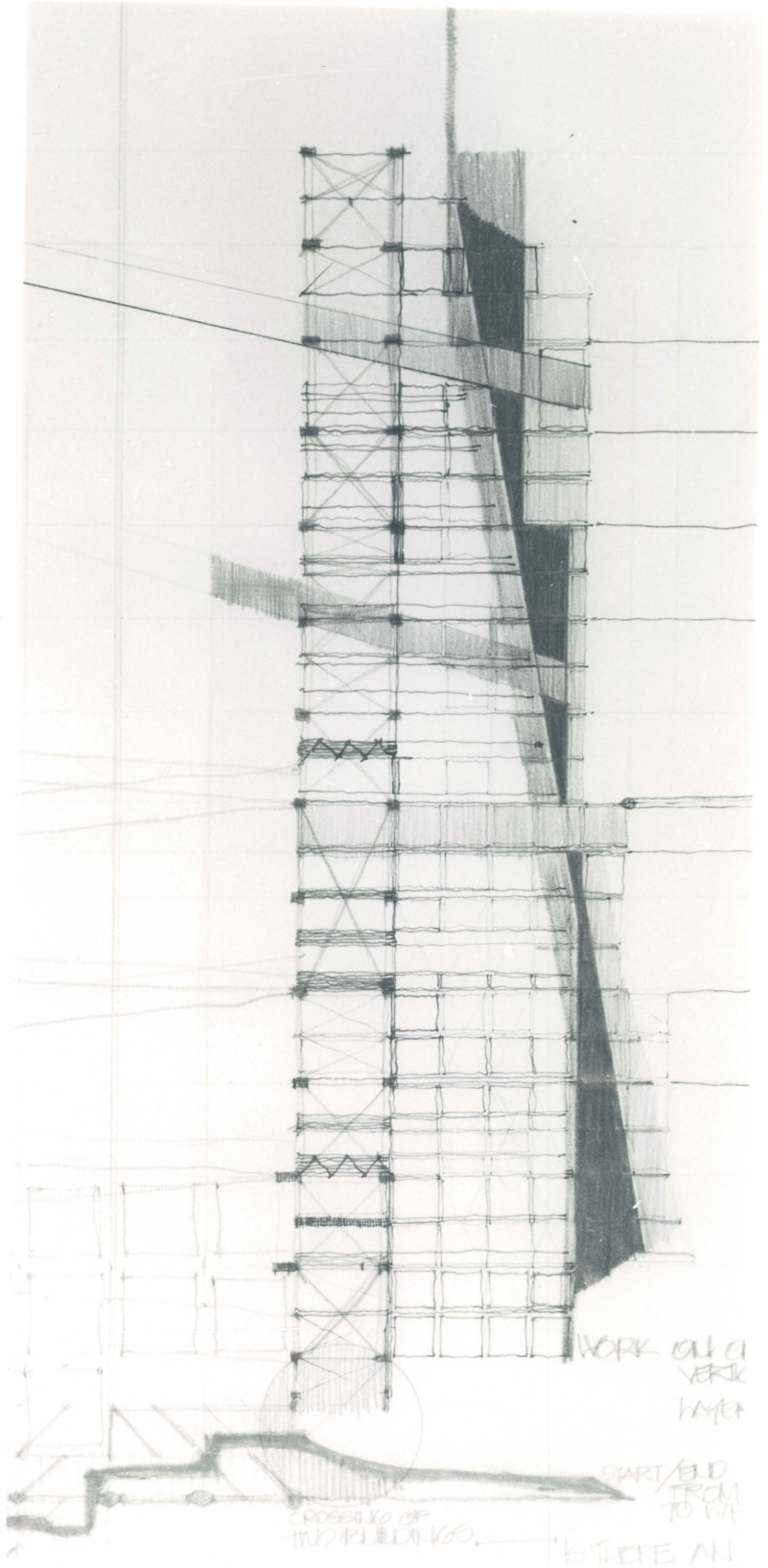
a grid wall · steel frame ·
viereindeel truss · a plane
of transluence letting
letting in light and air · a
series of walls in proximity.

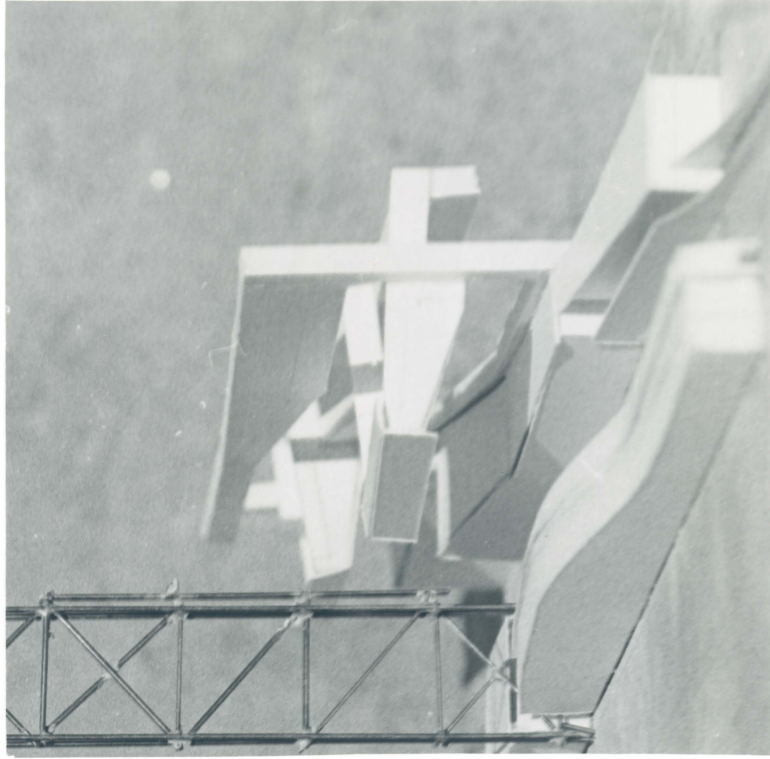
a frame · a plane' of
concrete · volumes of
brick · each defining
separate zones of
activity · character.



ramps connecting old to new.
weaving through brick
volume. steel frame. open to
closed. light to dark. bridging
over. tunnelling under.

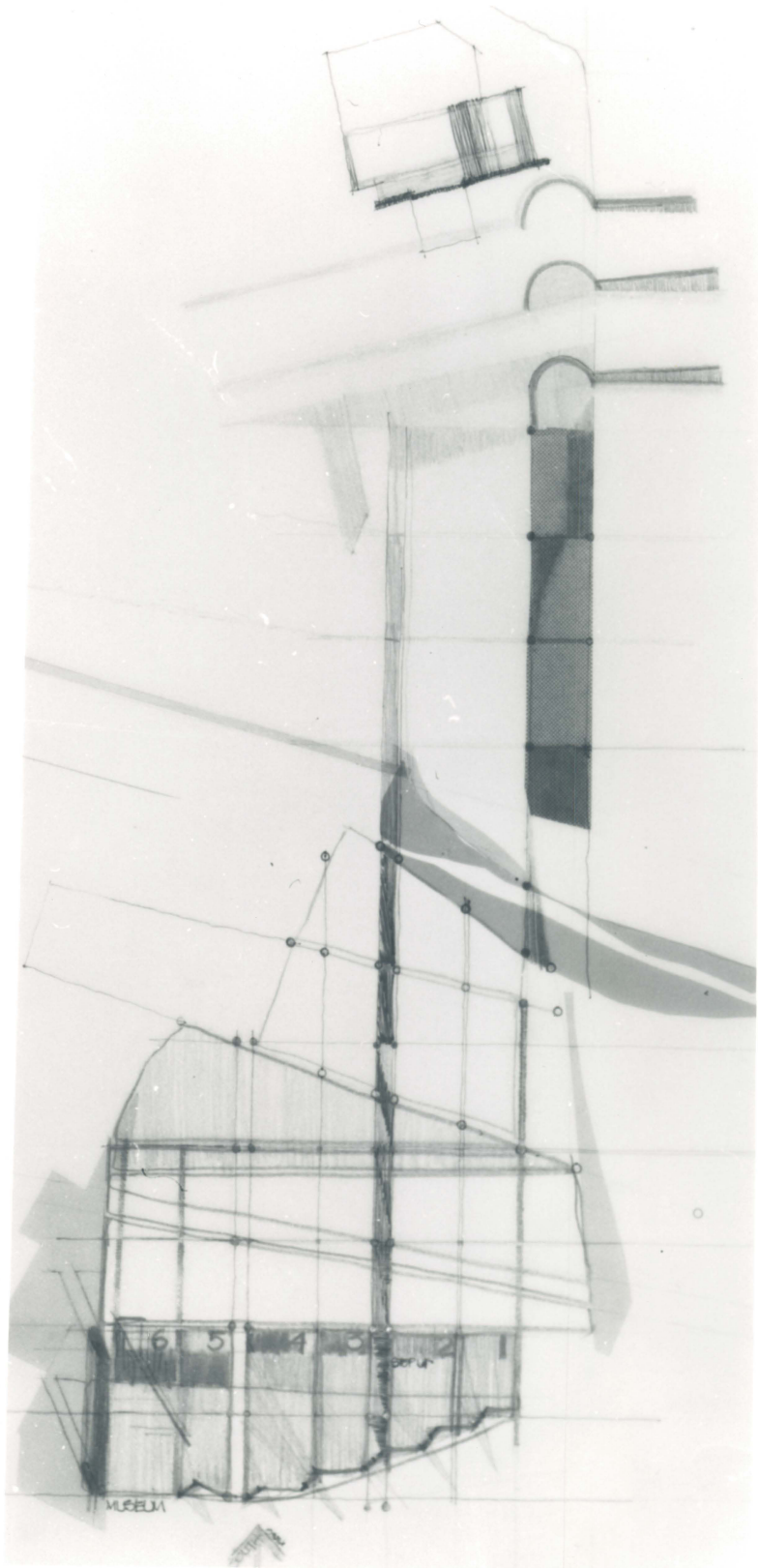
materials in contrast



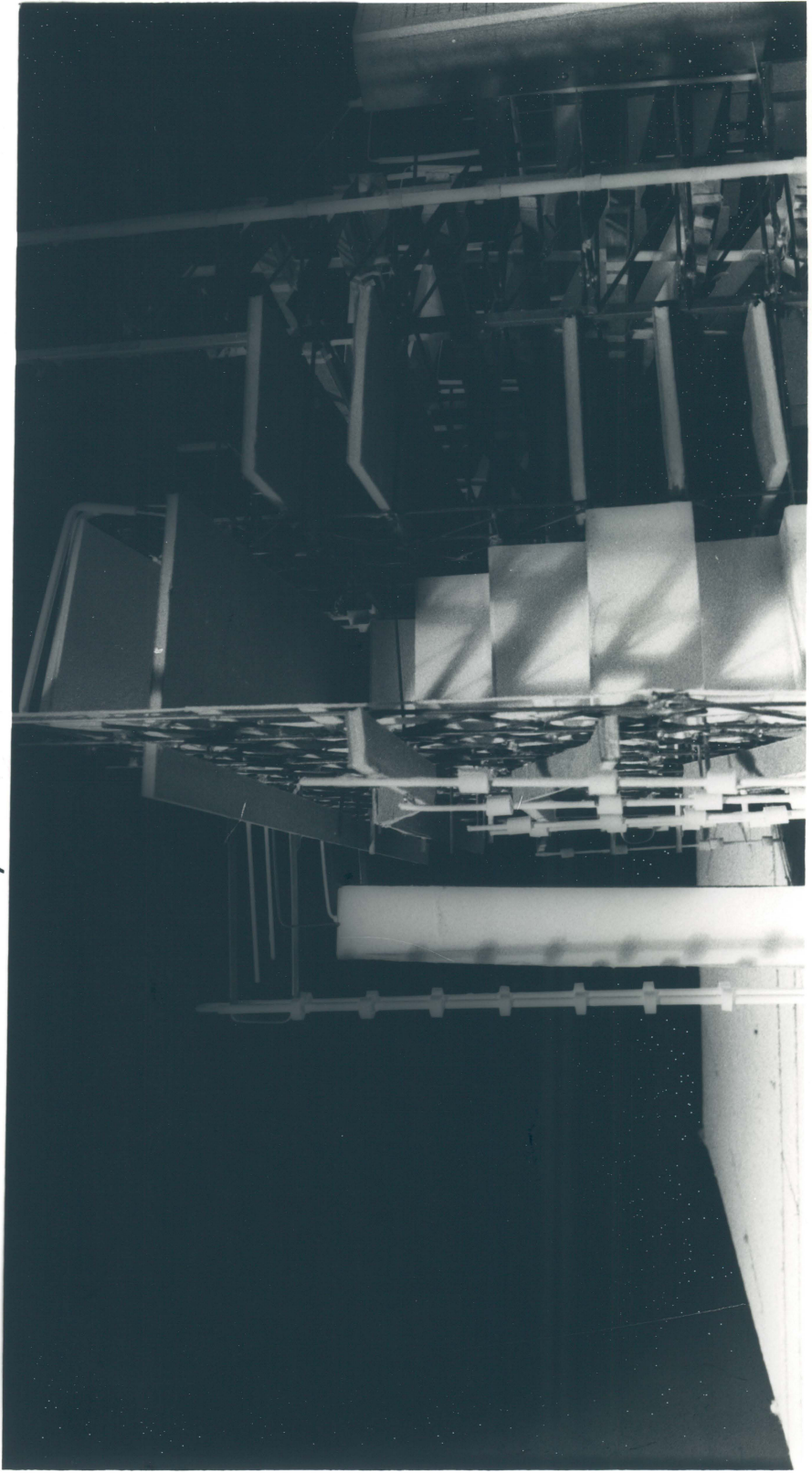


a brick wall
penetrated from
outside · a concrete ramp
extending from the break
in the wall - opened to let
light in - creating a passage
for movement · diffused
light.

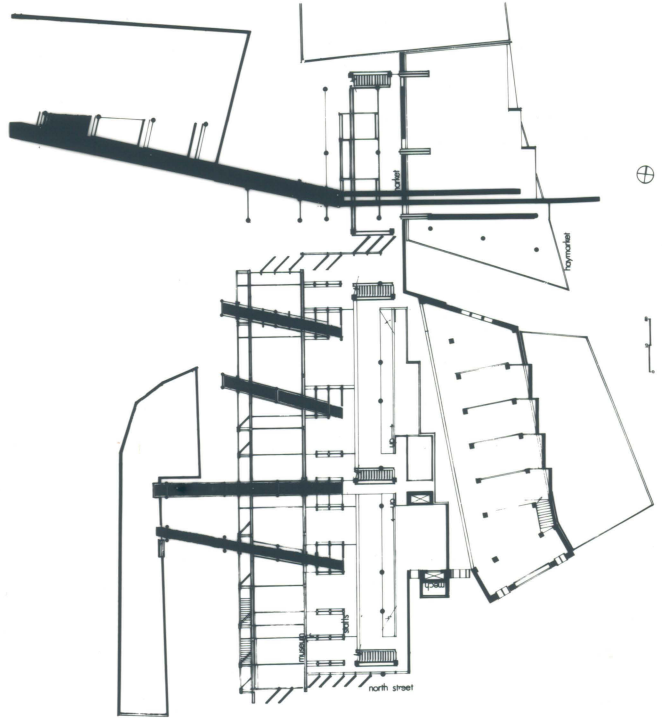
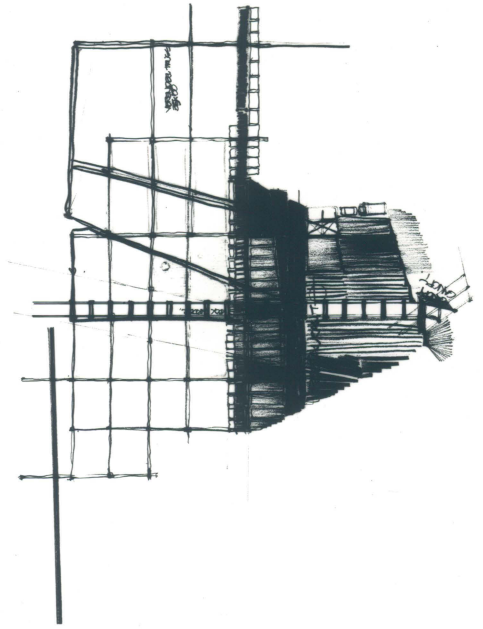
ramp weaving through
a sequence of levels.
activities • places.

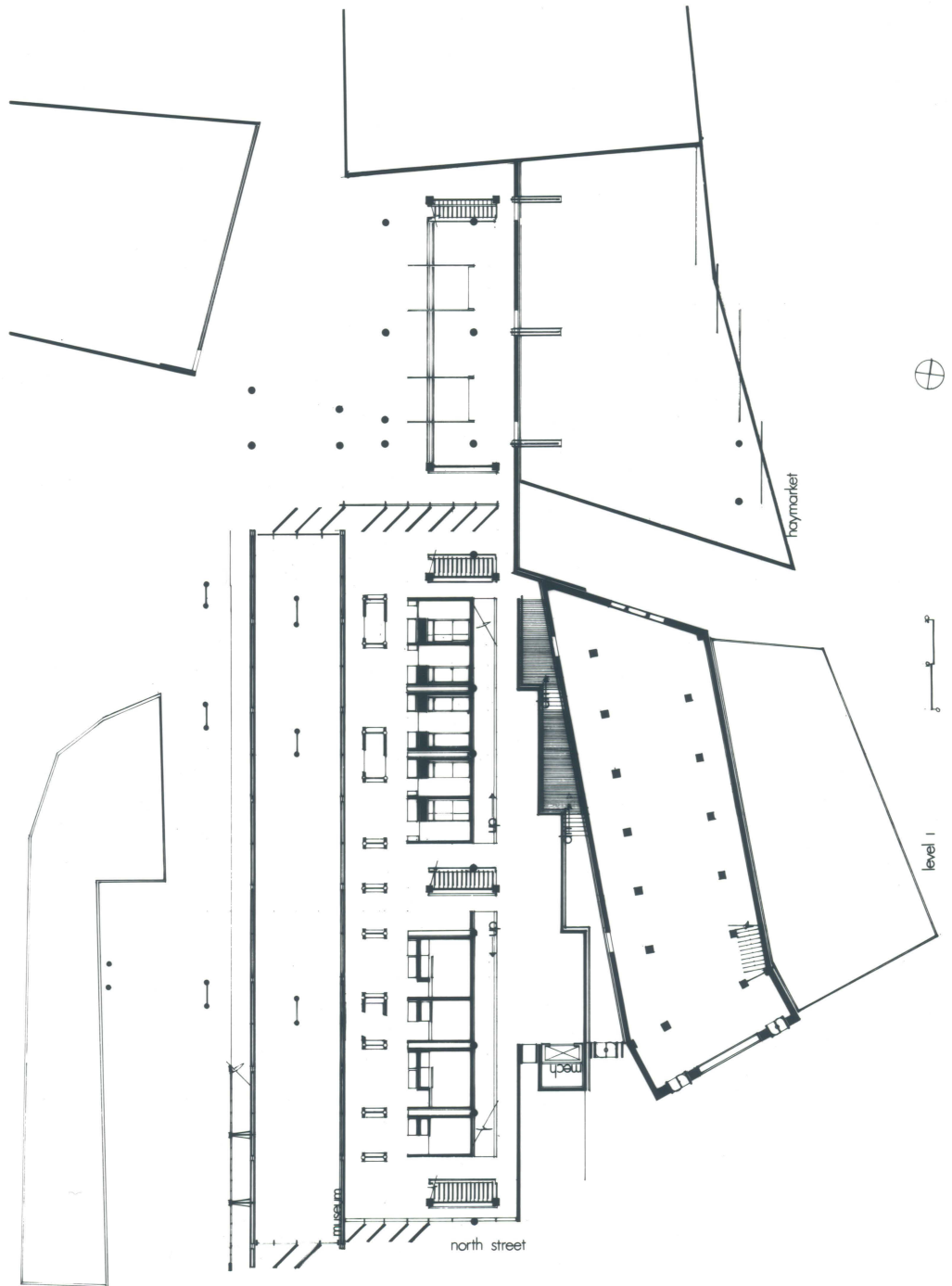


a multi-use building complex. a new structure in a context
of random urban density.
old and new in confrontation. each defining separate
zone of character. activity.

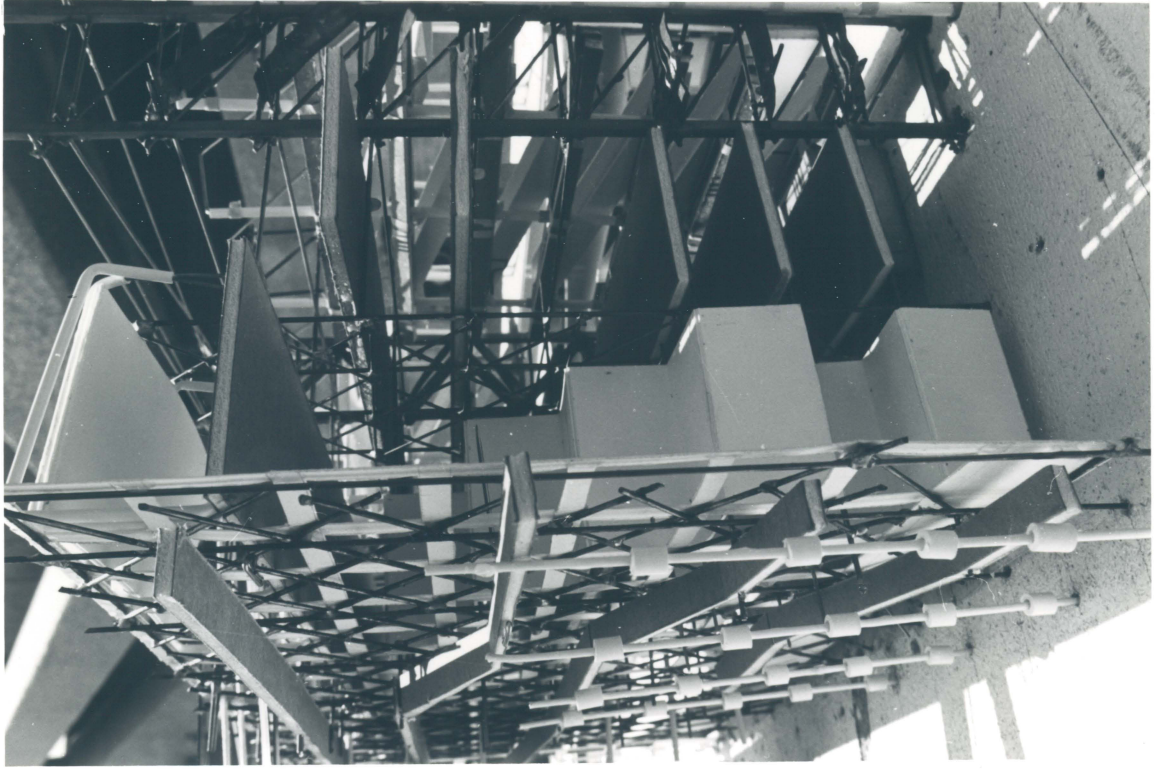


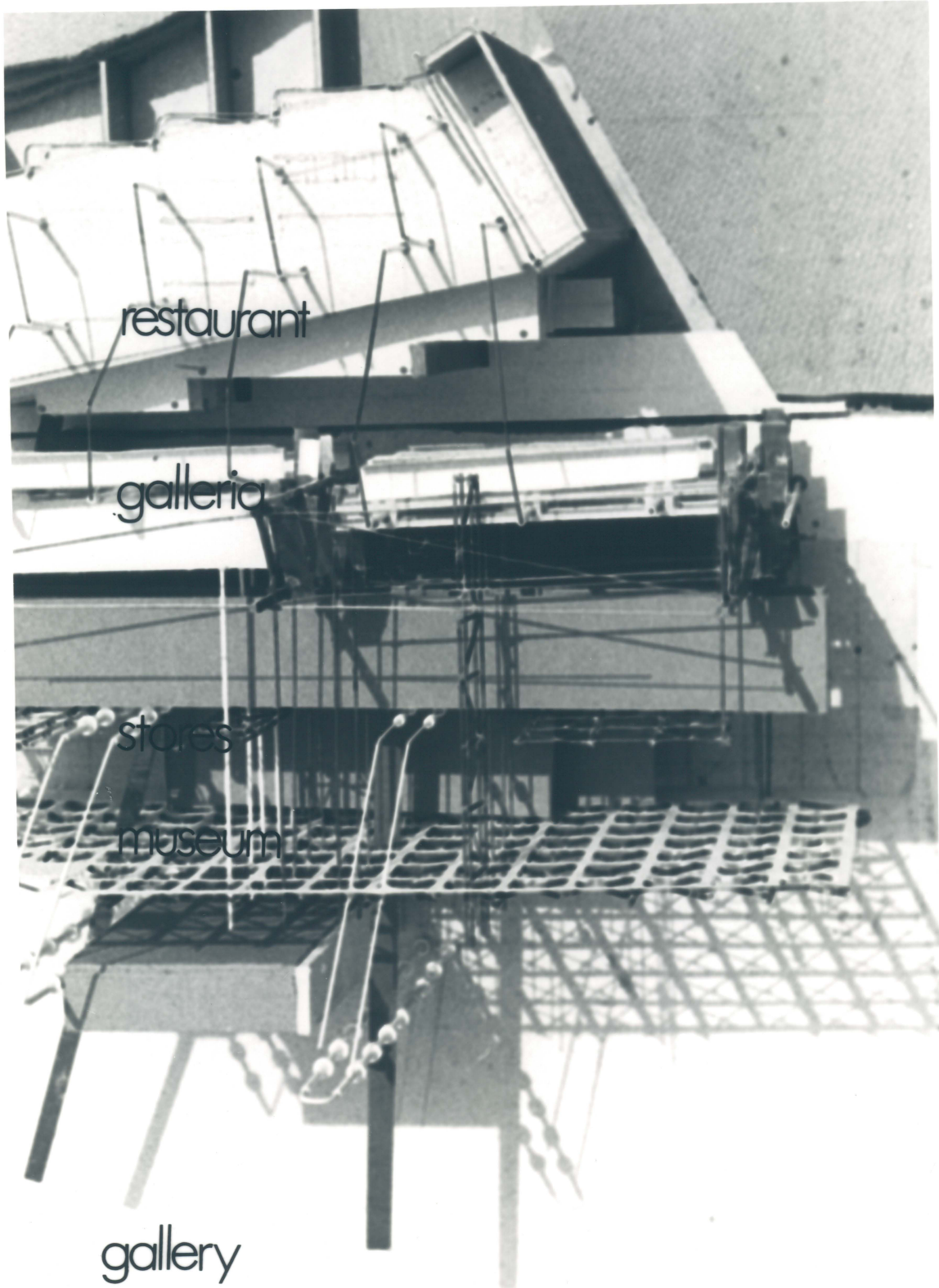
a range of physically inter
connected activity zones.
storage · display · traffic of
goods · movement of people.





ramps connecting old to new.
weaving through brick volume
volume . steel frame . open to
closed . light to dark . bridging
over . tunnelling under .





restaurant

galleria

stores

museum

gallery

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(ABSTRACT)

The investigation is carried out through the design of a multi-activity building. A basic concept is to deal with the resolution of balance between noise and privacy, sun and views, old and new, brick and steel.

The site is an urban block, existing buildings are landmarks to be preserved and reused; the leftover irregularly geometric spaces are to be built on, rehabilitated by construction and inhabitation.

It is important to keep the character of the medieval street. This is to be realized not by conforming and directly following existing patterns or materials' construction, but by strongly contrasting with the introduction of a new pattern, specifically a new material and system.

This is setting to resolve the real issue that arises--to find a balanced joint that is the transition between two opposing systems of two divergent but interconnected times.