

**LIBRARY**  
by Julia Johnston

Thesis submitted to the faculty of Virginia Polytechnic  
Institute and State University in partial fulfillment of the  
requirements for the degree of MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE  
approved.

**Bill Brown, Chairman**

**Greg Hunt**

**Jaan Holt**

Blacksburg, Virginia  
August 31, 1992

CHIEFTAIN BOND

CHIEFTAIN

This book is dedicated to  
Neil, Joan, and Ernest

With very, very sincere thanks  
to the faculty of the Virginia Tech.  
Graduate School of Architecture

CHIEFTAIN BOND

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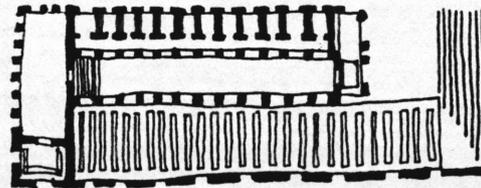
CHEFRAIN

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## LIBRARY

by Julia Johnston

This was a project undertaken to express my desire for a return to the libraries of grand reading rooms. It was as well a project to try my hand at juxtaposing large masonry piers or walls with light steel trusses. In retrospect, though these two ideas remained my motivating forces, it became a project by which to begin to understand the difference between a well defined idea and willfulness.



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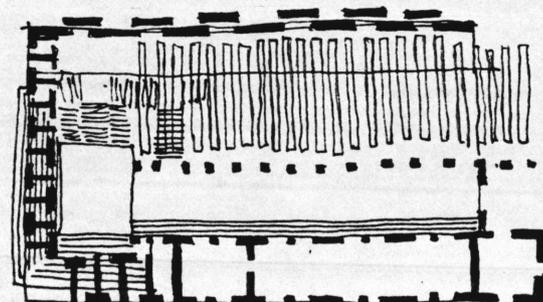
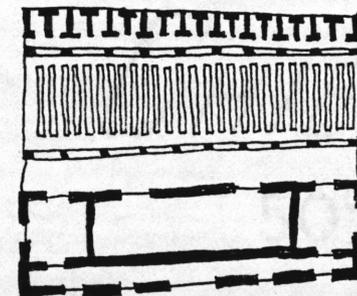
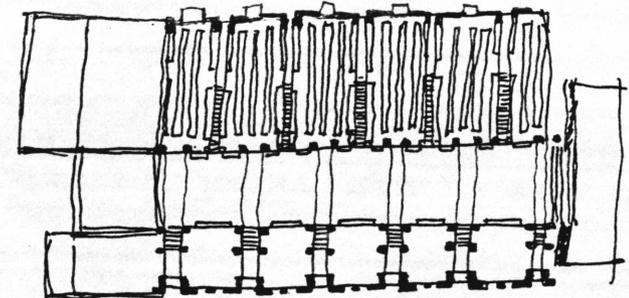
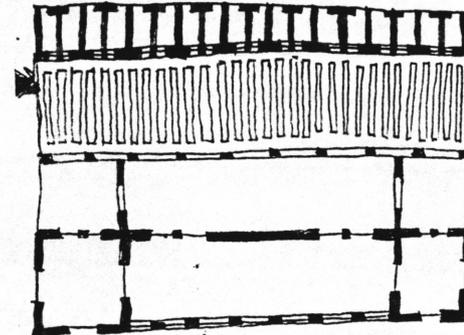
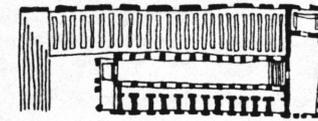
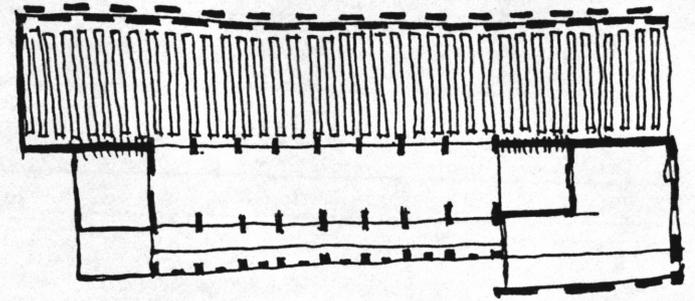


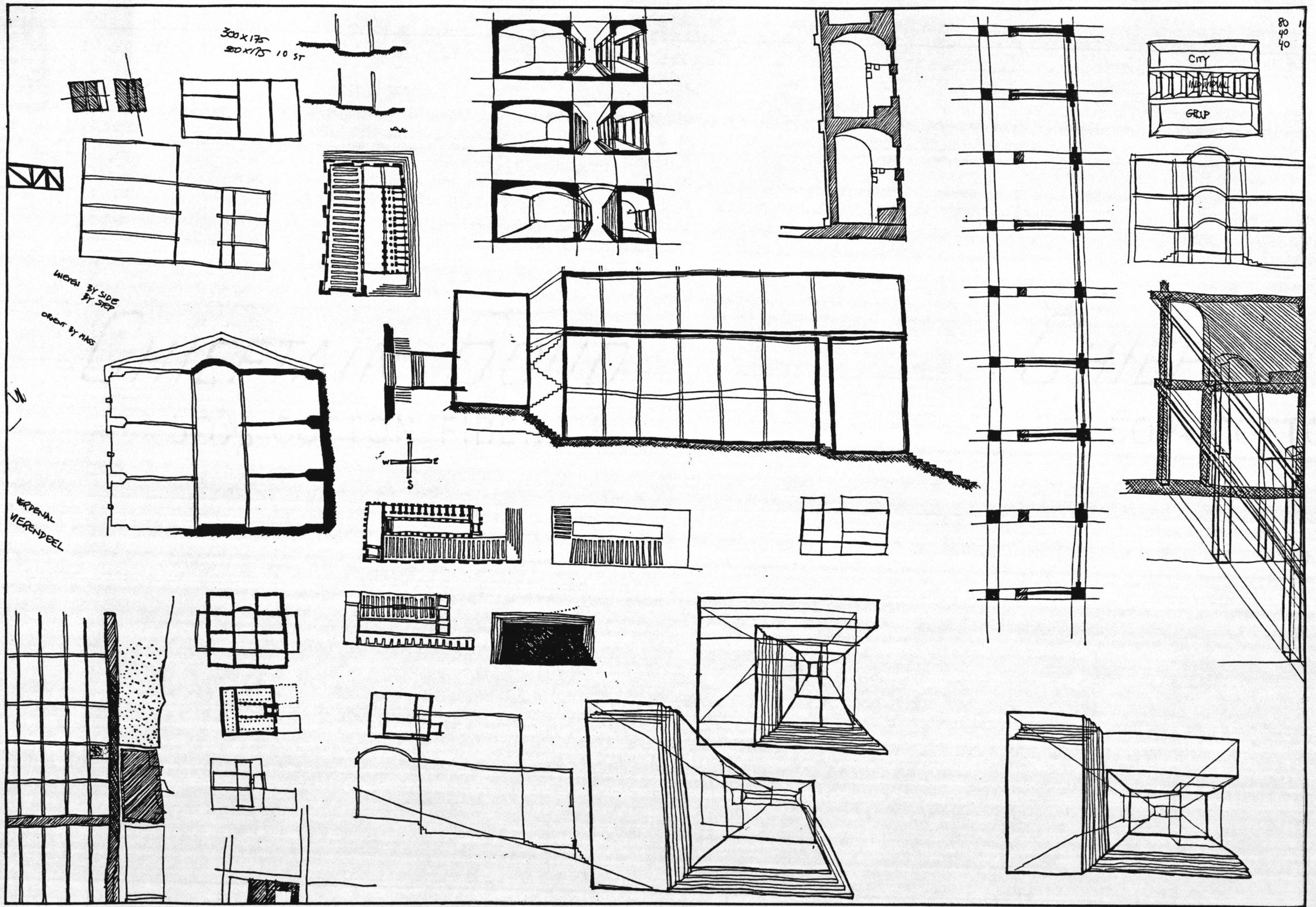
"In twenty-four hours I begin to hate the best of men, one because he is too long over his dinner, another because he has a cold and keeps on blowing his nose. I become hostile to people the moment they come close to me. But it has always happened that the more I detest men individually, the more ardent becomes my love for humanity."

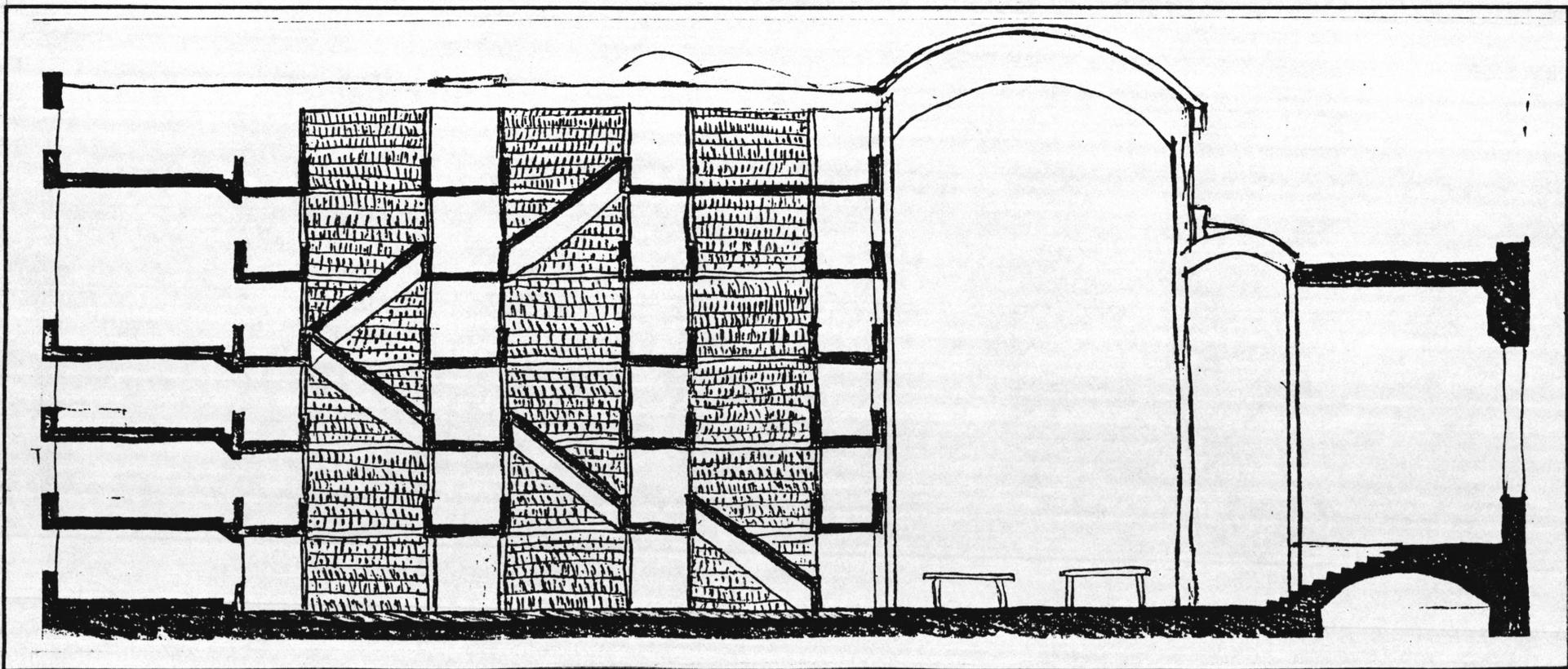
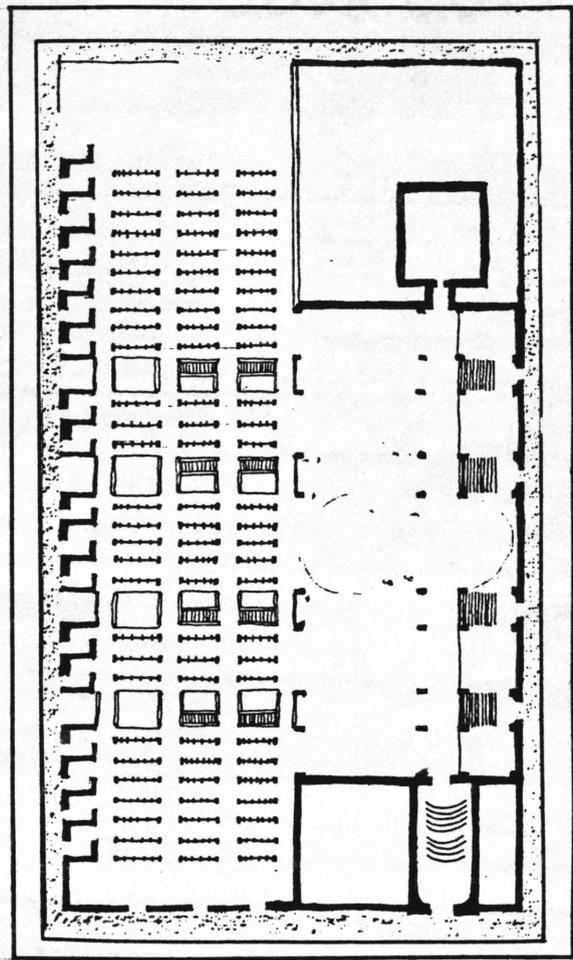
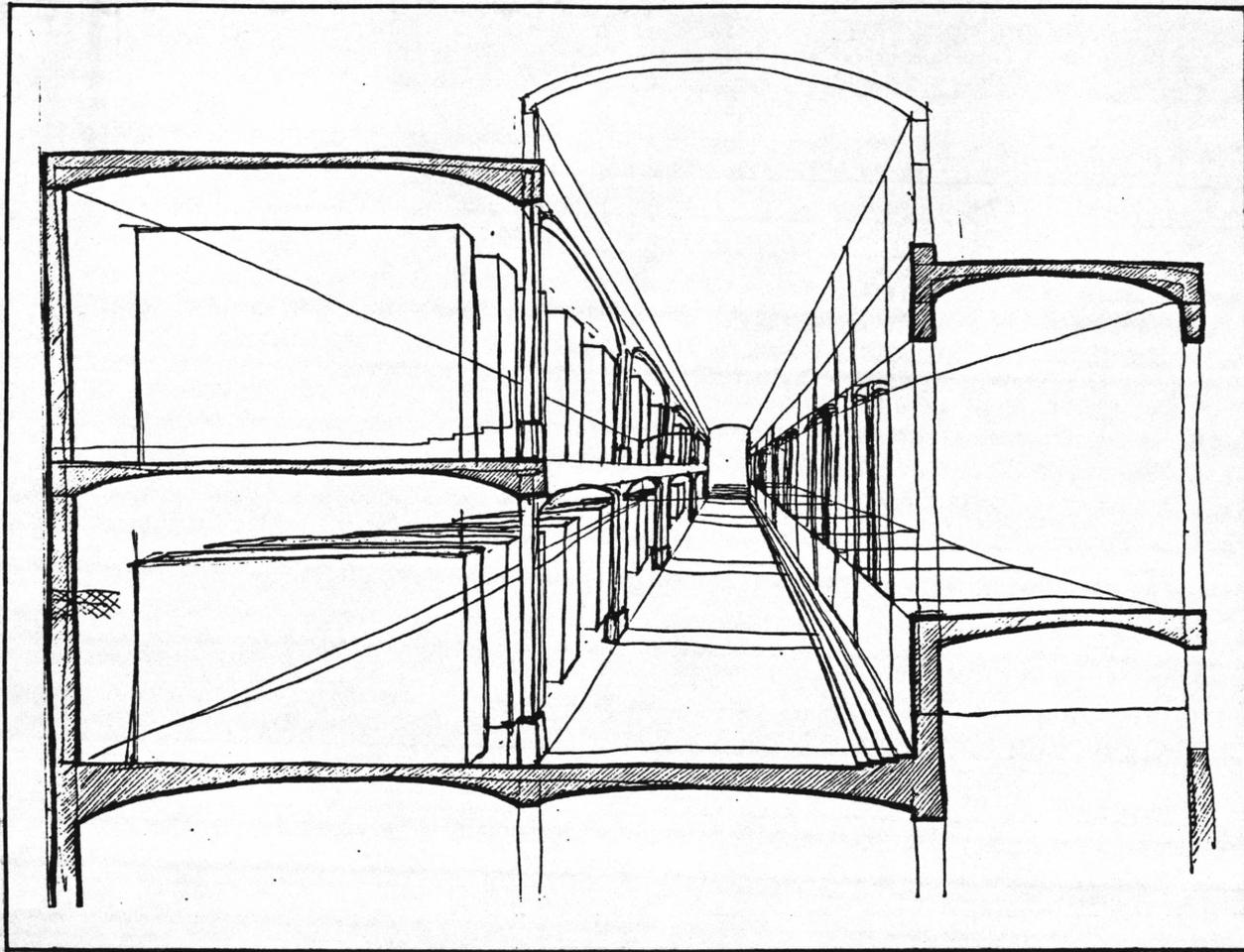
-Herman Hesse

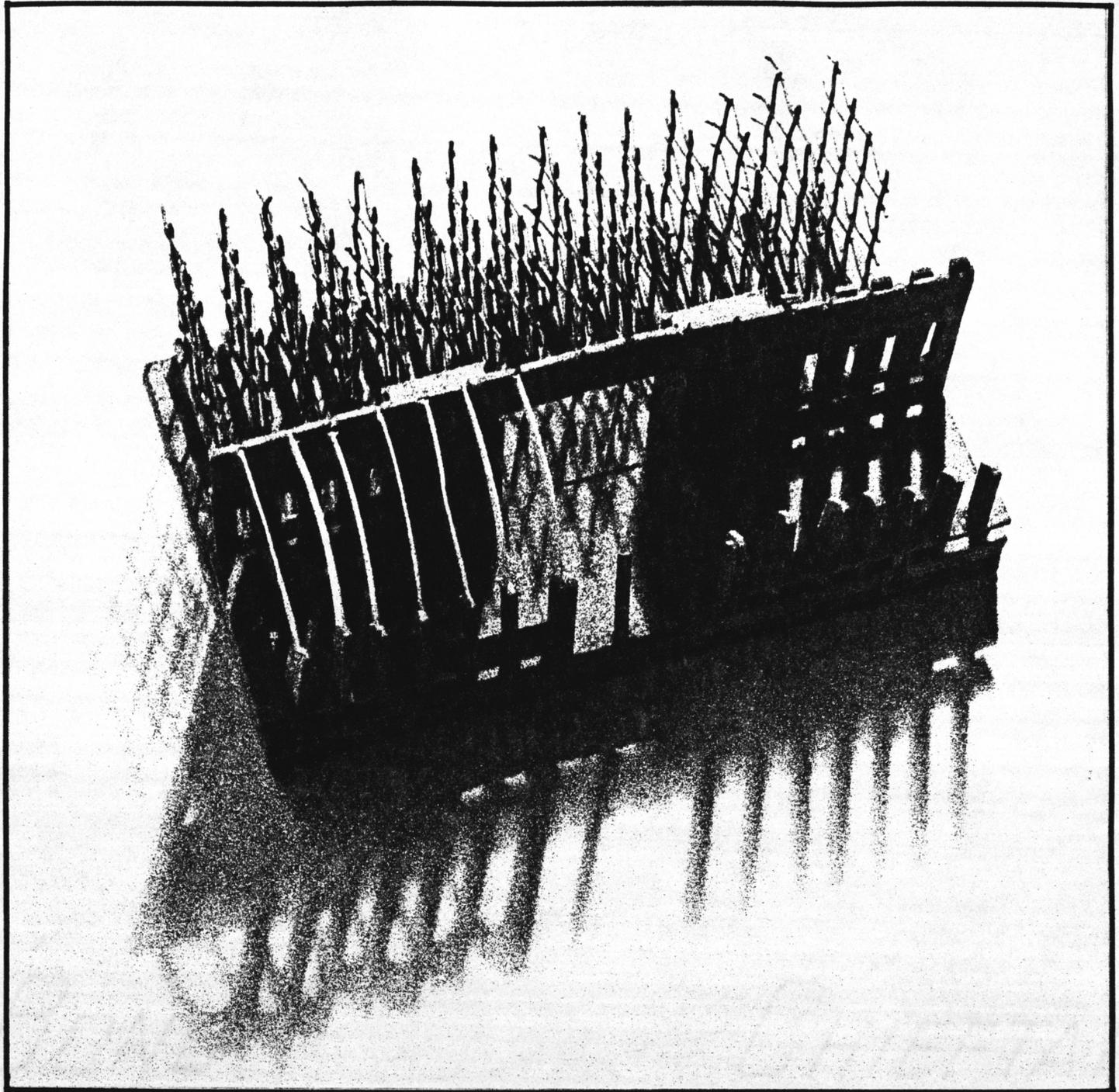
I hate a good many men, and despise a few writers, but in a library I love humanity. My goal was therefore to build a library that humbles individual men while honoring man and his works. My goal was to make each book significant only as a part of the combination of works. If a single man should chose to honor a book, it is like lovers. A man, much like every other man finds a book, much like every other book, and at least for a while they think that they have found something unique.

This small man reads the book in a large room and his thoughts drift up to the roof where no man can go but where his thoughts are great. As he looks at the millions of books he thinks that because he is near and he is reading, he is part of something powerful and wonderful. He loves humanity.



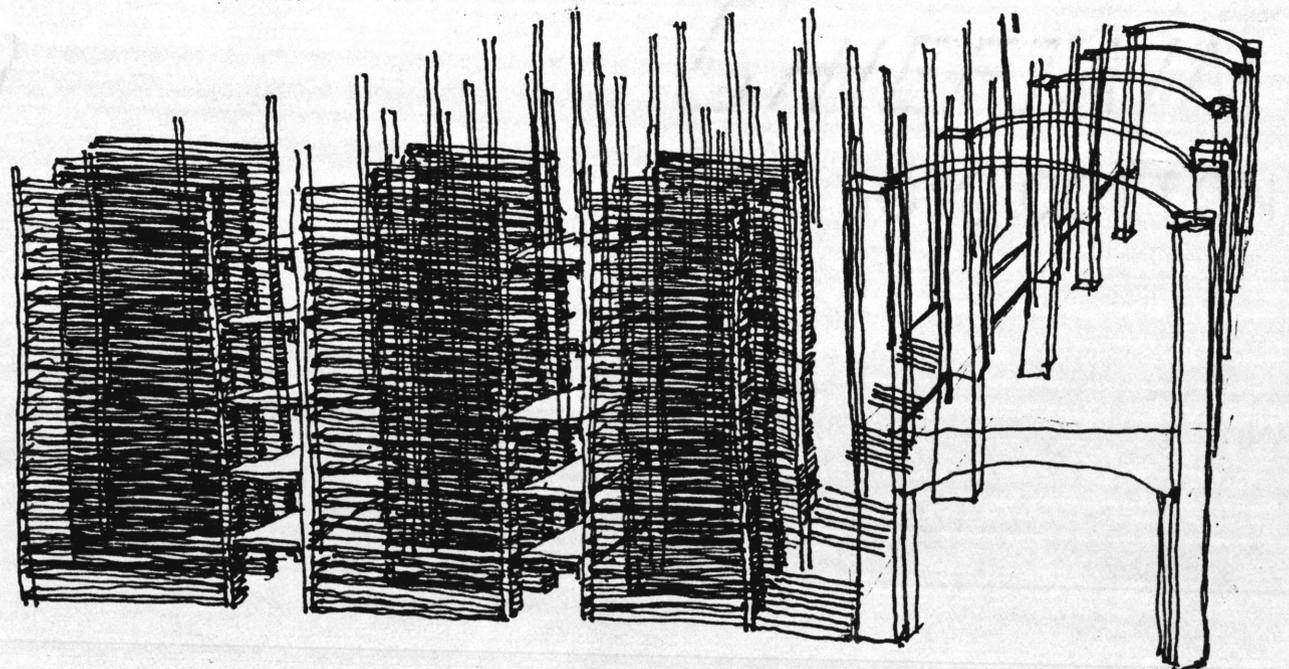
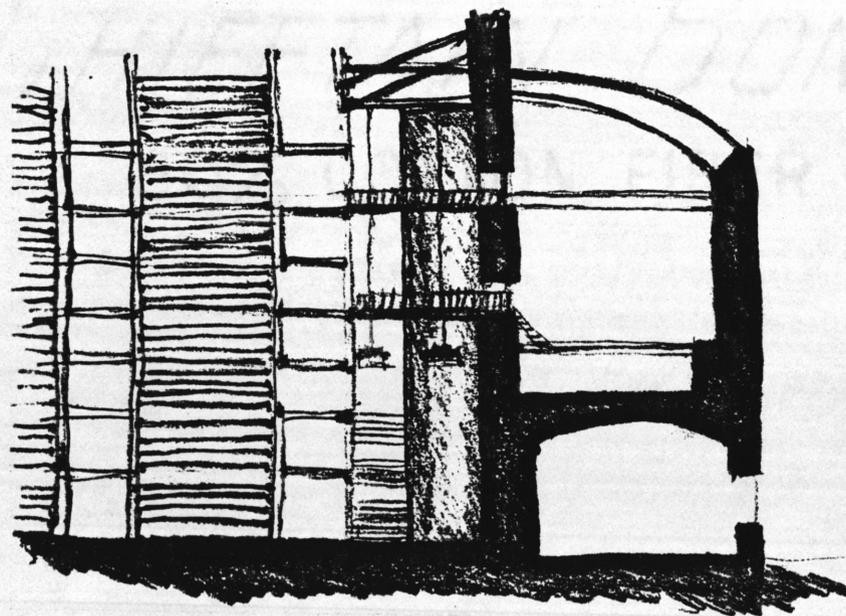
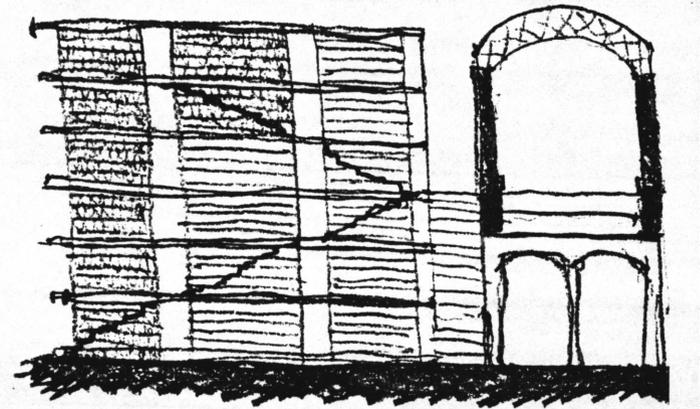
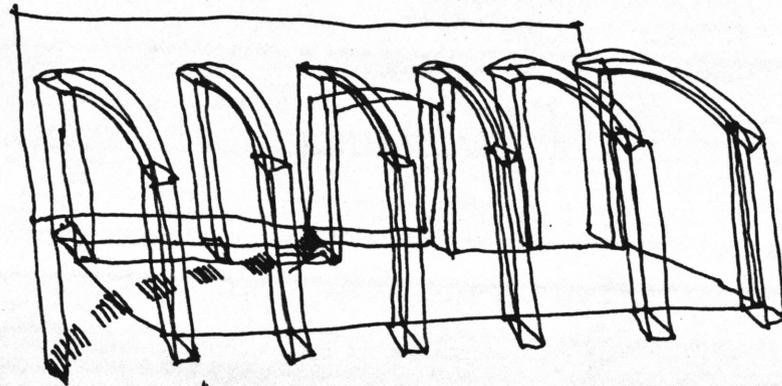
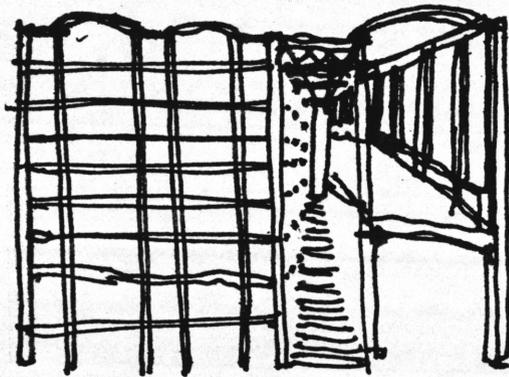
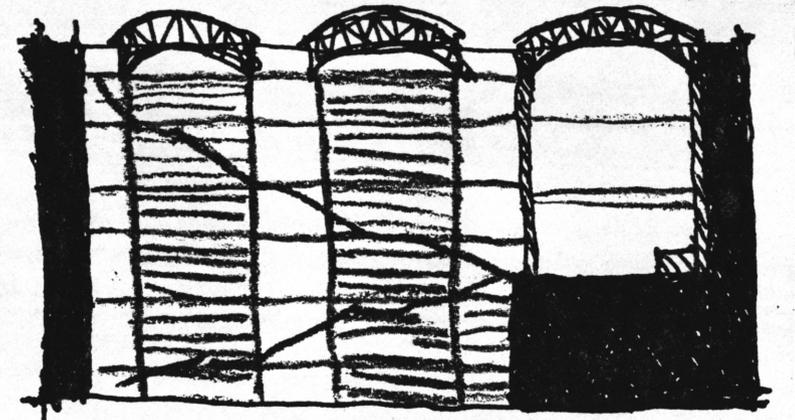
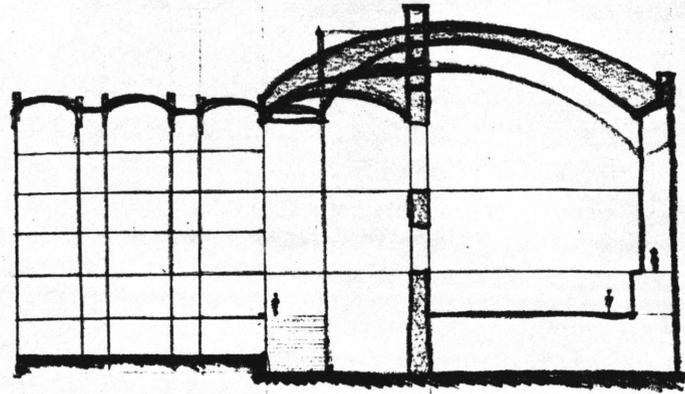
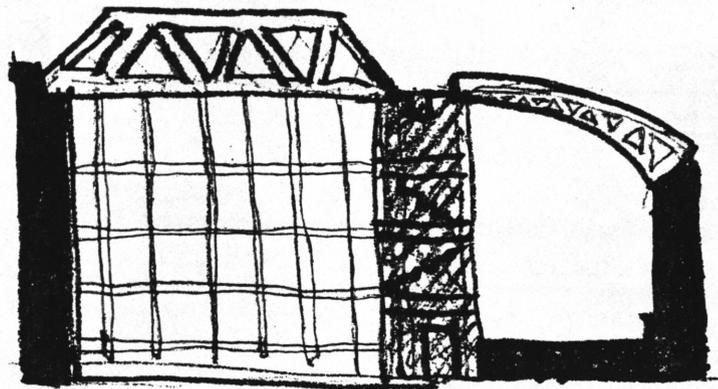


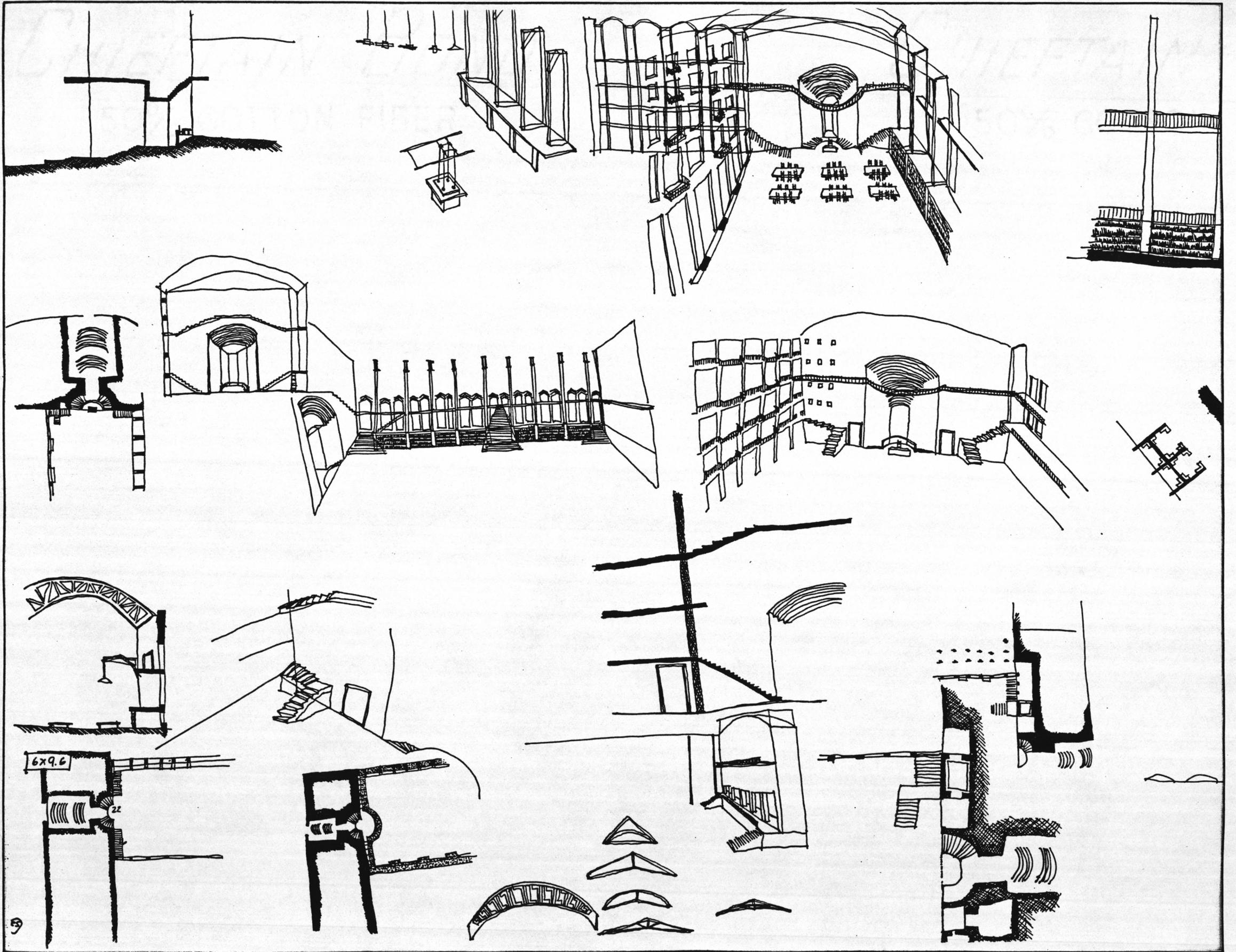




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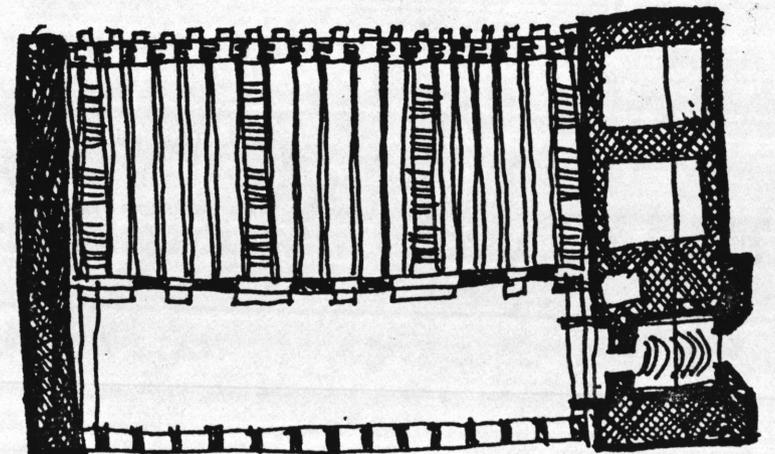
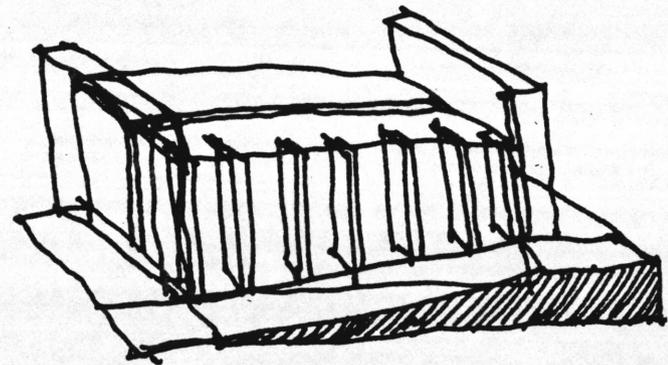
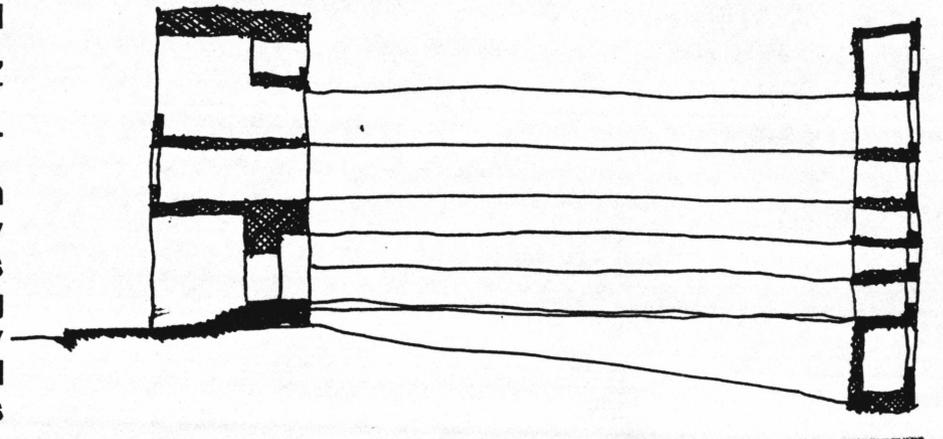
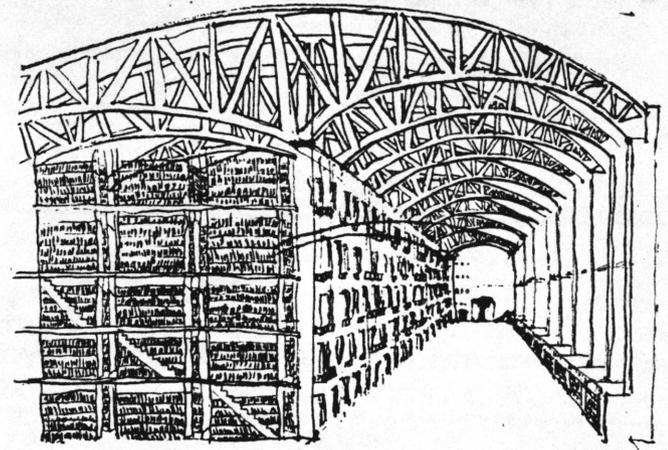
A great hall made up of repeated elements provides the purity of a single member developed according to its individual role, and the richness of a larger entity created by the repetition of this element.

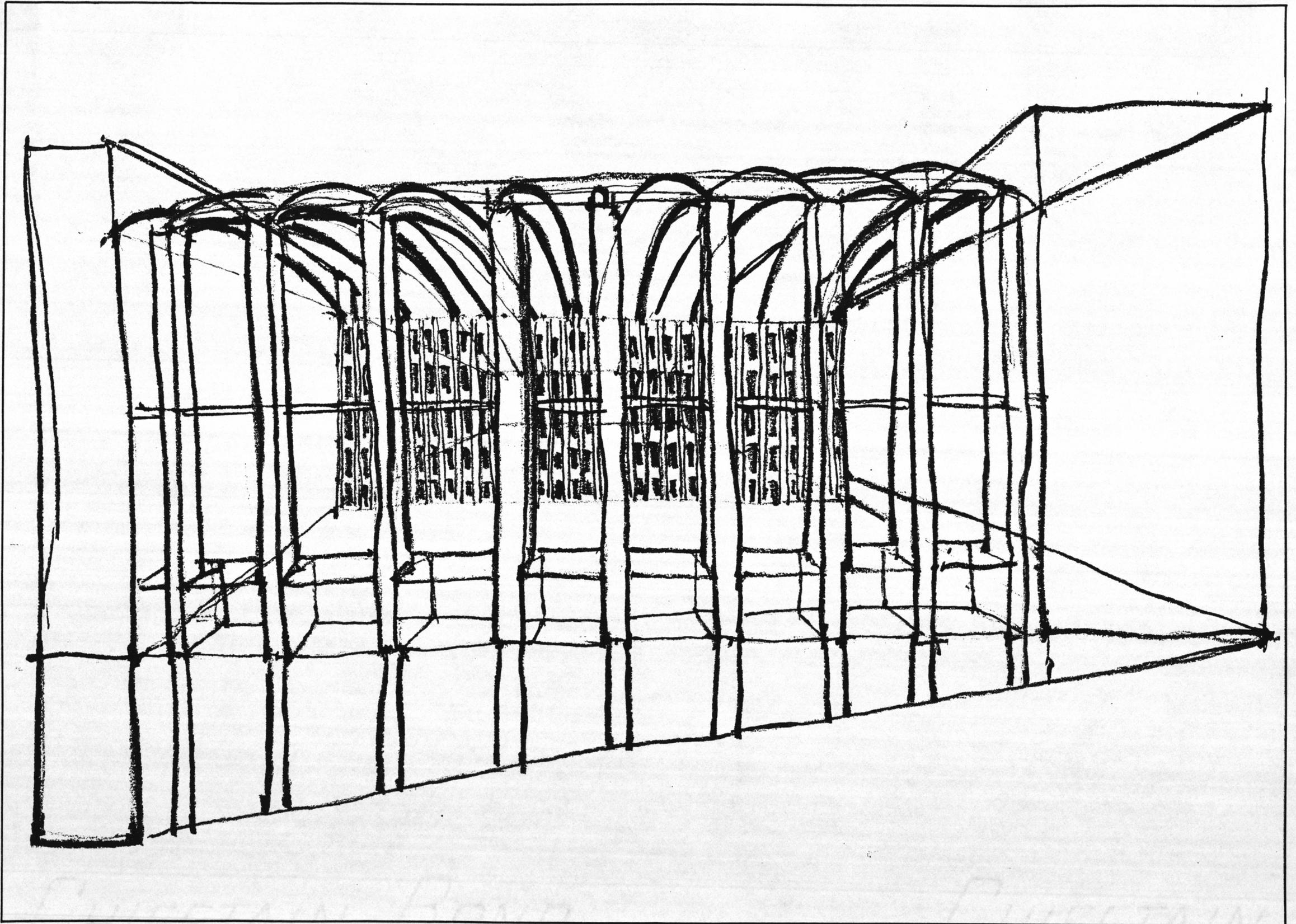
The inherent quality of an organization based on such repetition is its tendency to continue infinitely. A change made at regular intervals, such as the stairs at every third bay, gives a moment for pause, but is in fact simply another element of the infinite progression.

In order to maintain human scale I needed to find a way of breaking off a piece of this continuous room and terminating the ends. Large masonry constructions at each end clearly define the boundaries of what would be an infinite chain.

I recognize now that the reading room should have encroached into the ends in an attempt to continue the repetition that is thwarted by the large masonry masses. Such additional interaction between the continuous and terminal elements would maintain the clarity of the statement but would make the final gesture less brutal.

I am beginning to understand the need to allow the elements to form themselves and each other, and the importance of maintaining the original idea while allowing it to become both more clear and more complex, as it too is molded by the architectural elements.



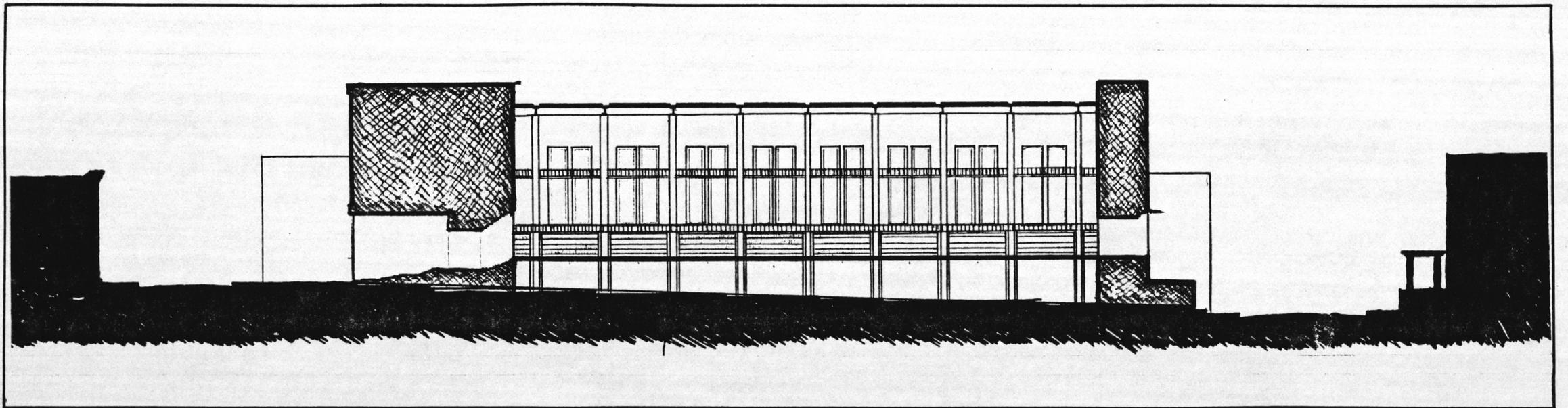
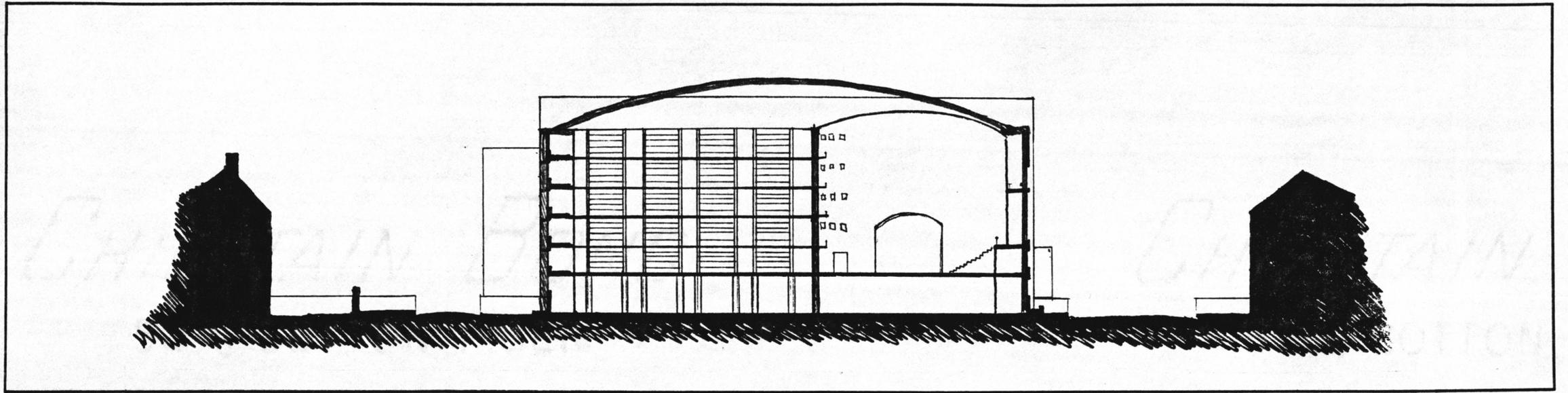


SHIRT TAIL BOARD

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SHIRT TAIL BOARD

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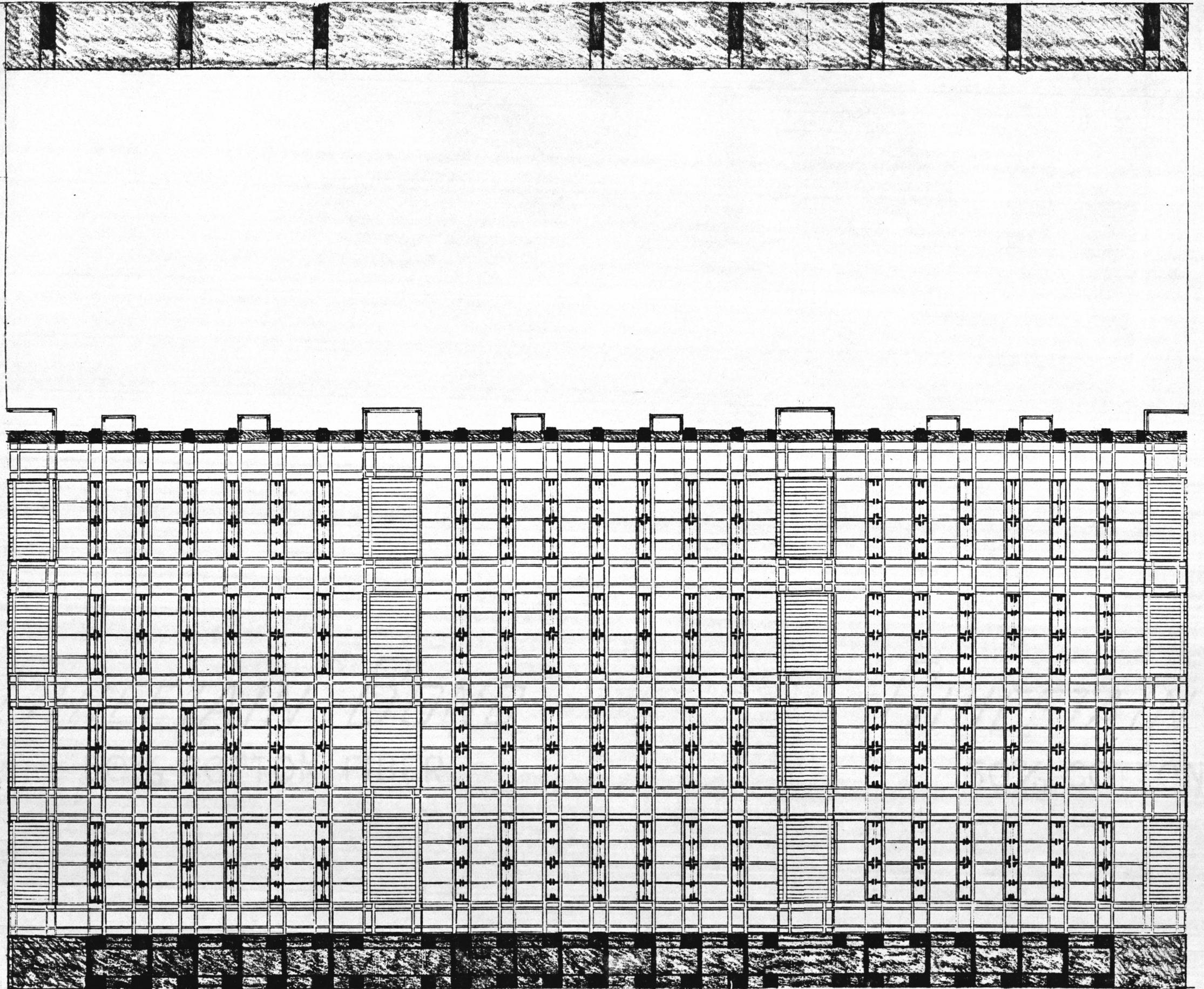


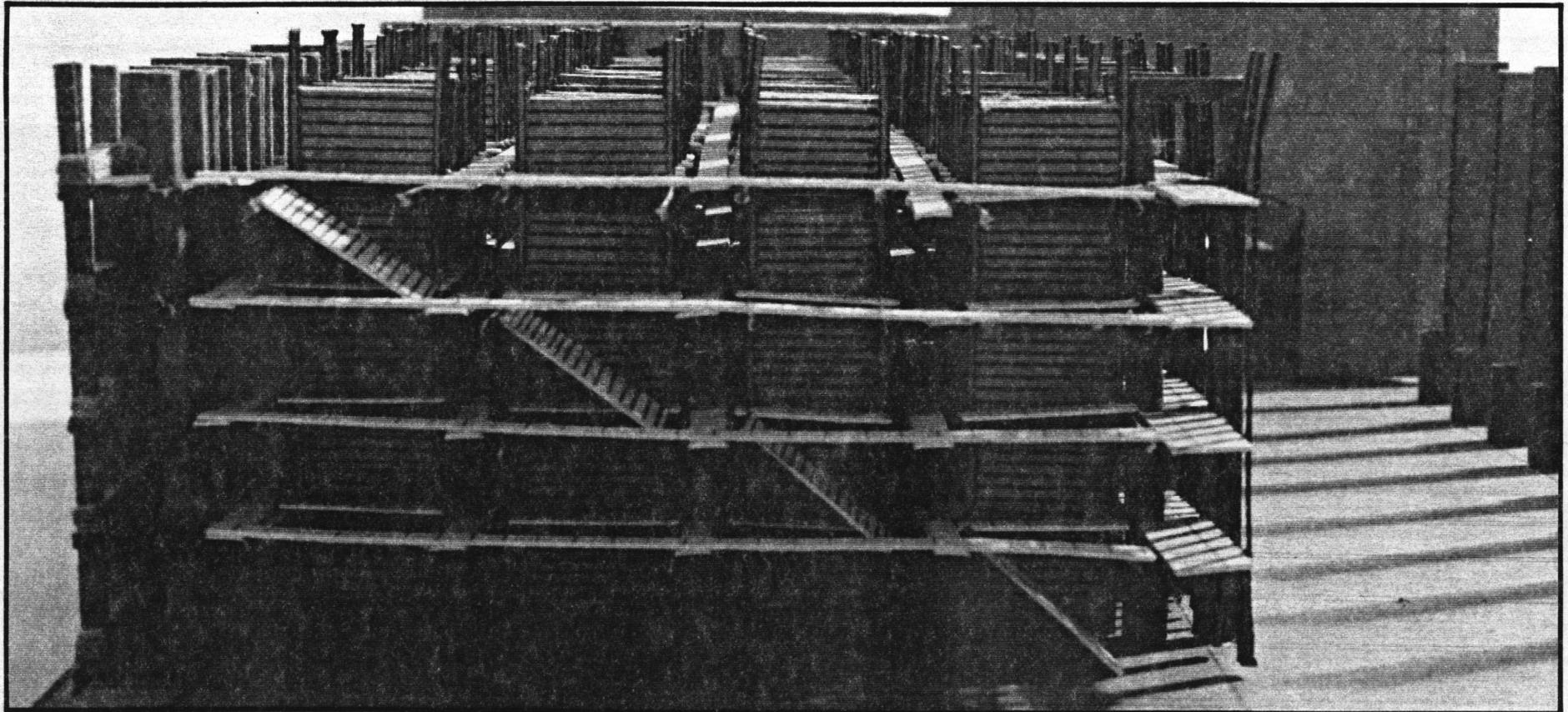
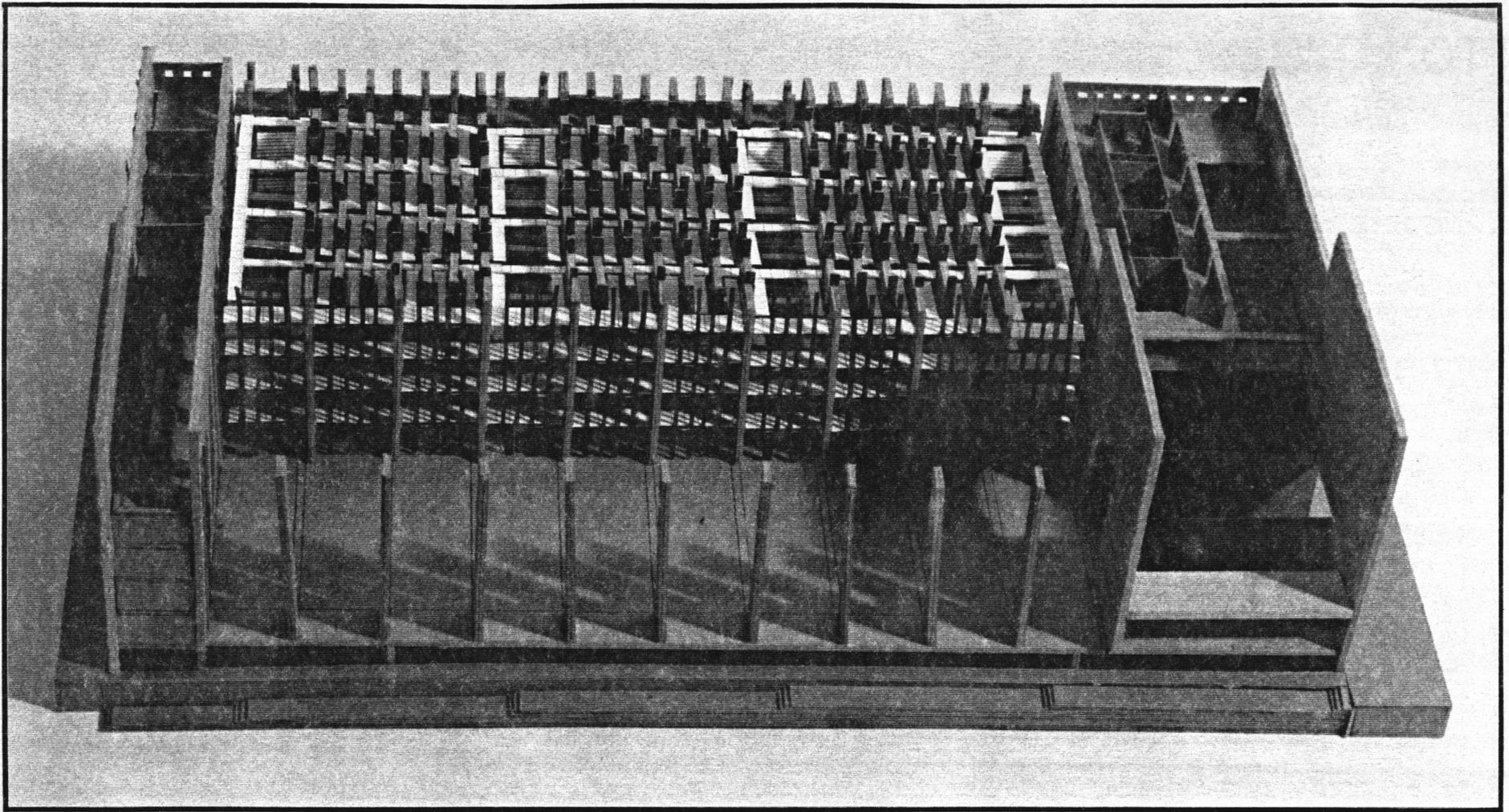
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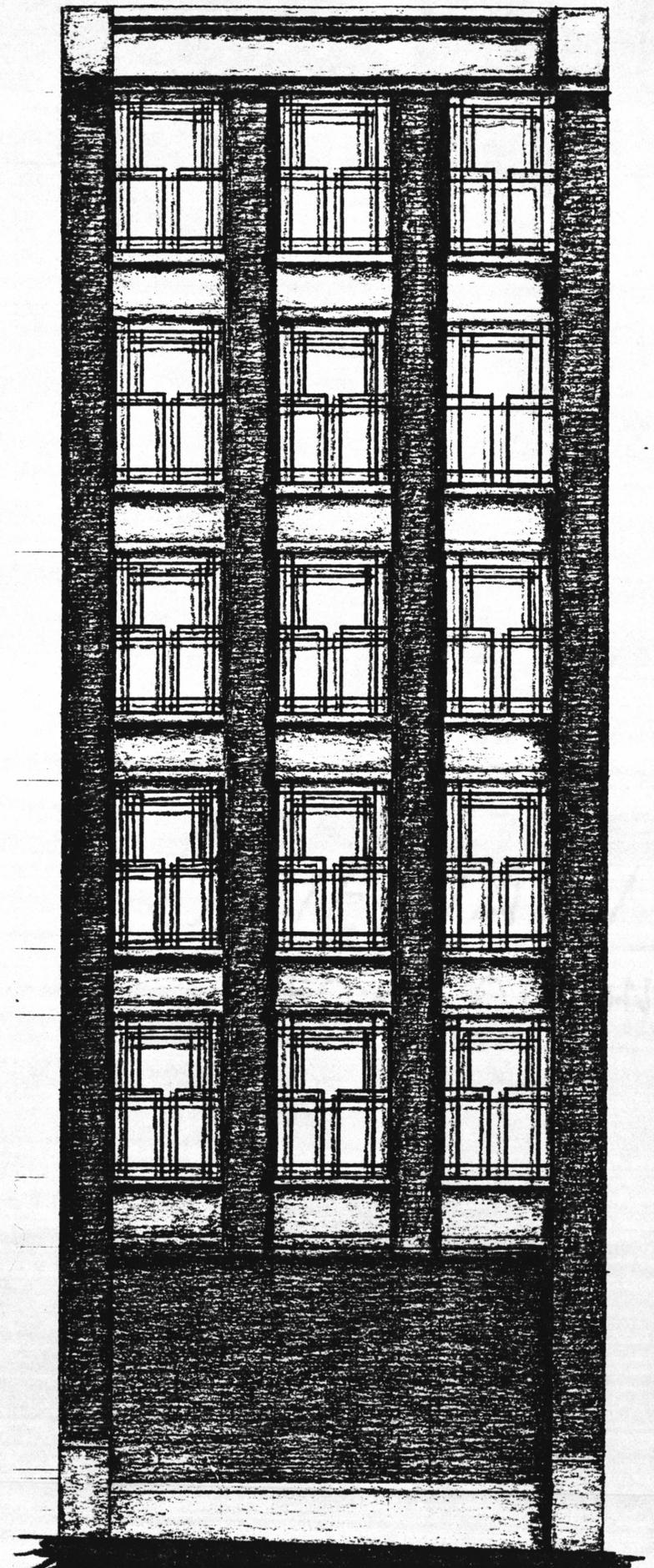
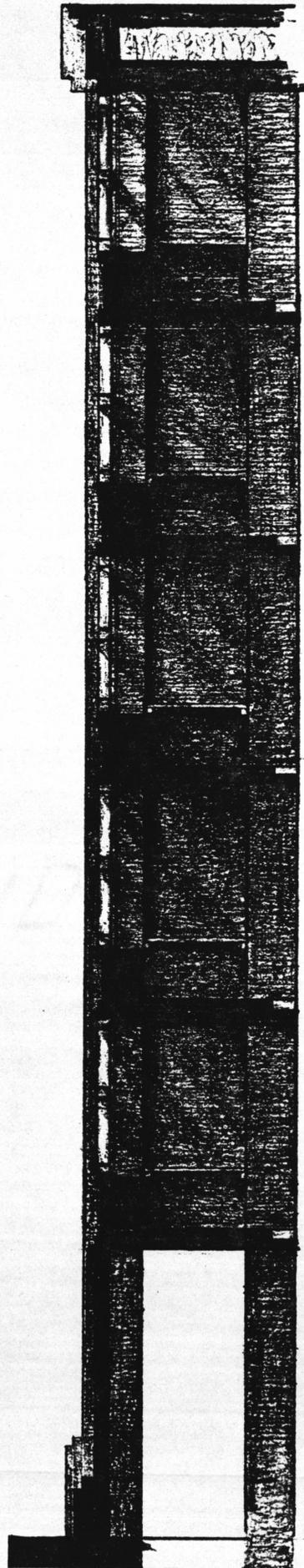
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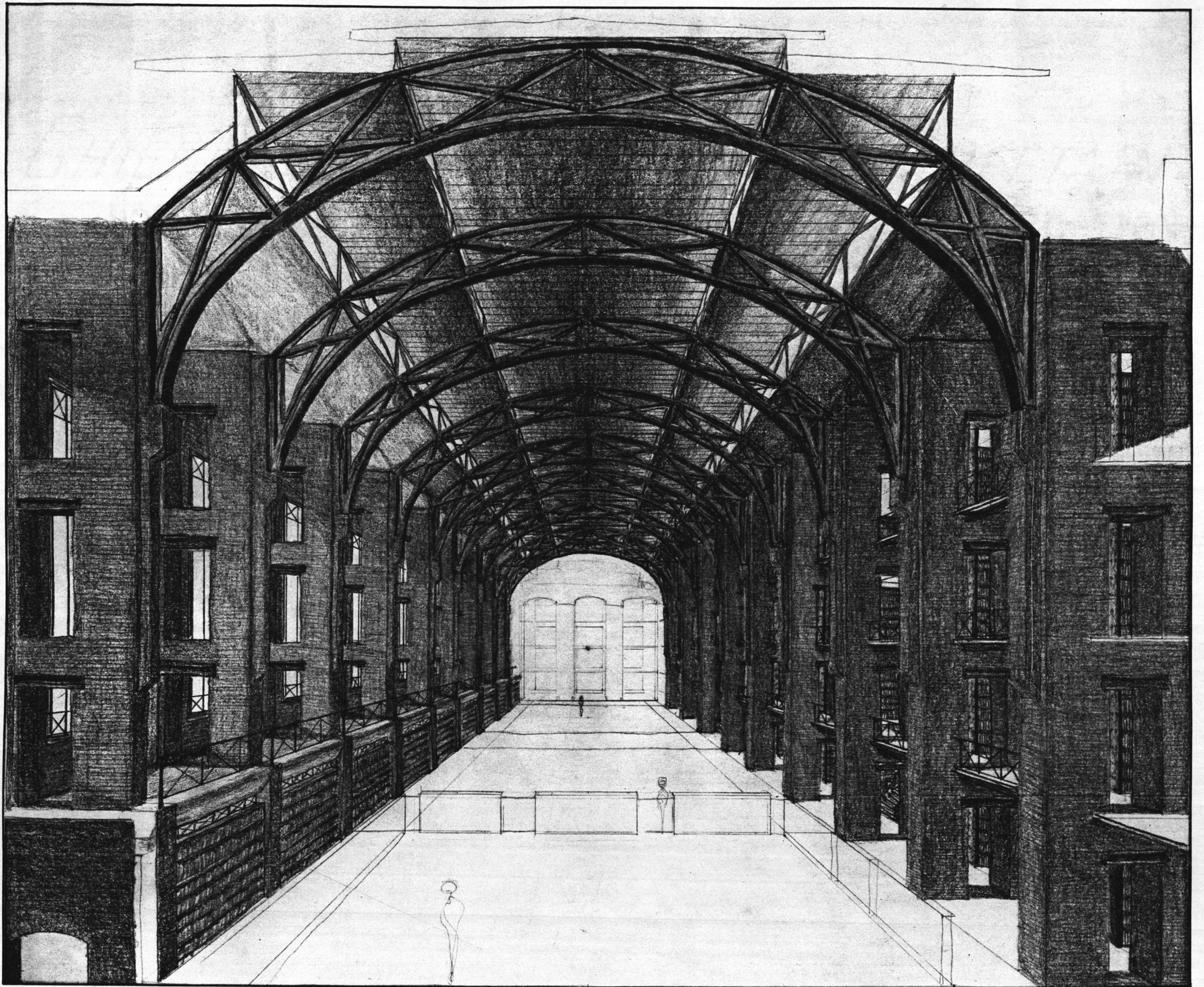
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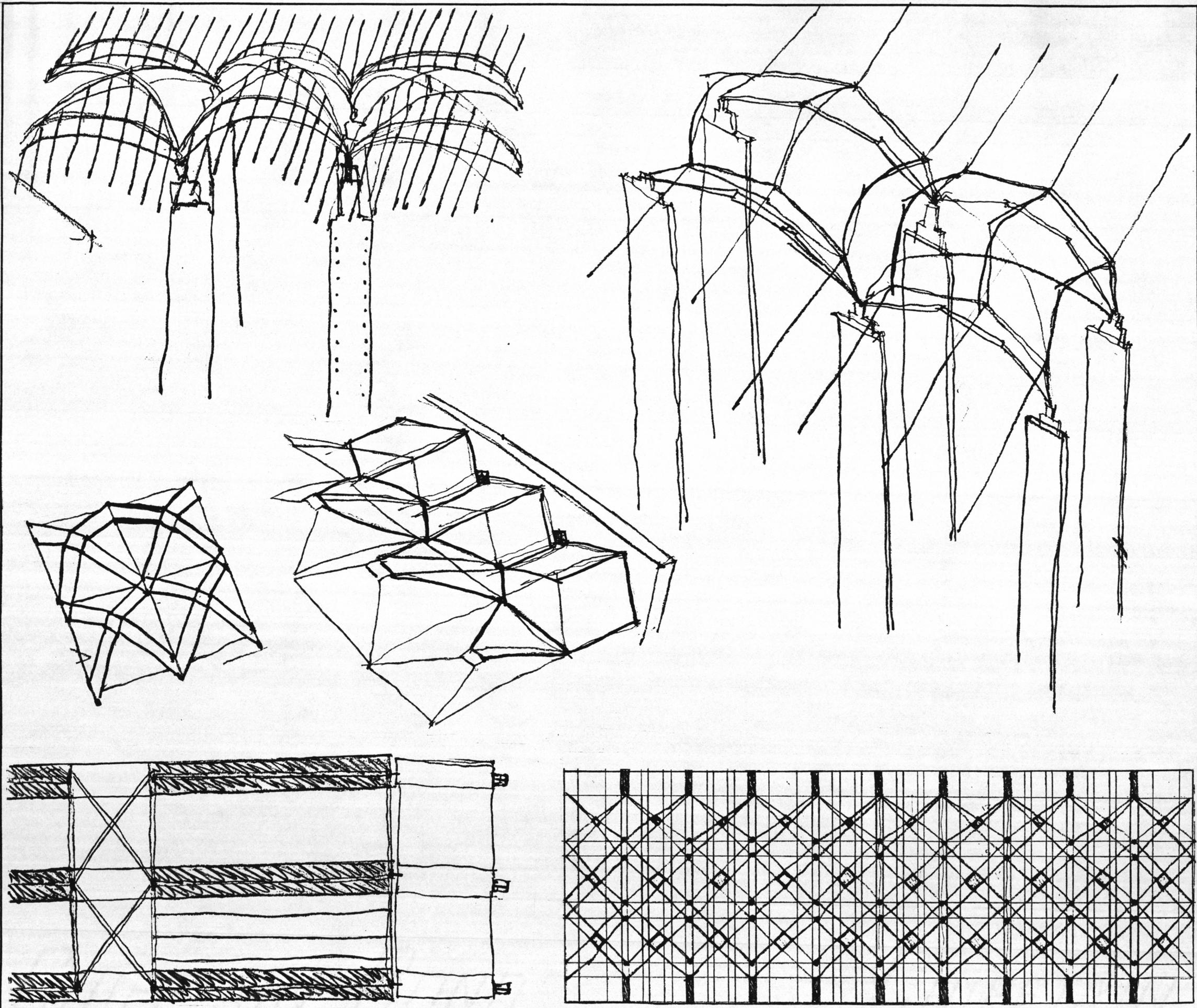


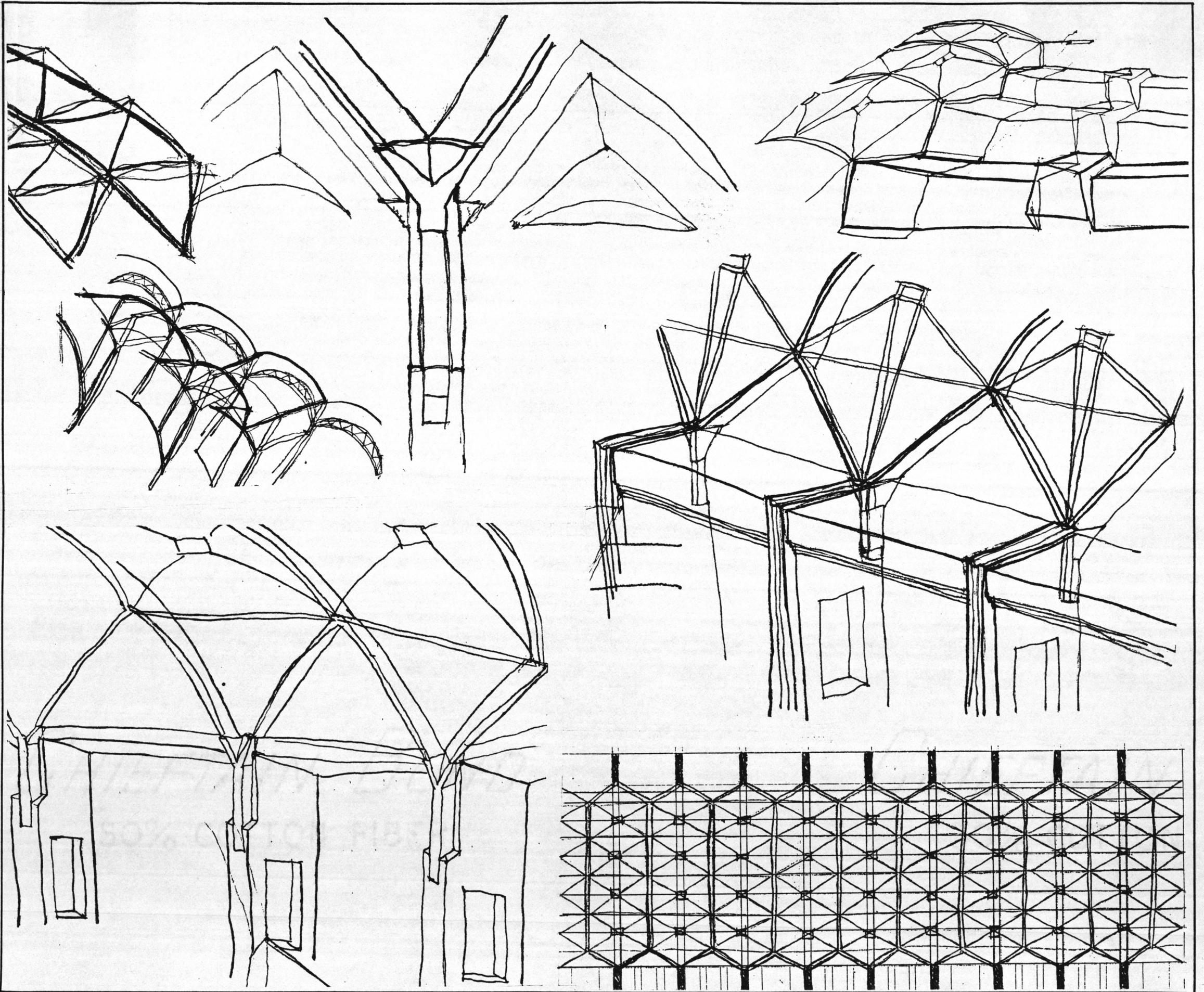


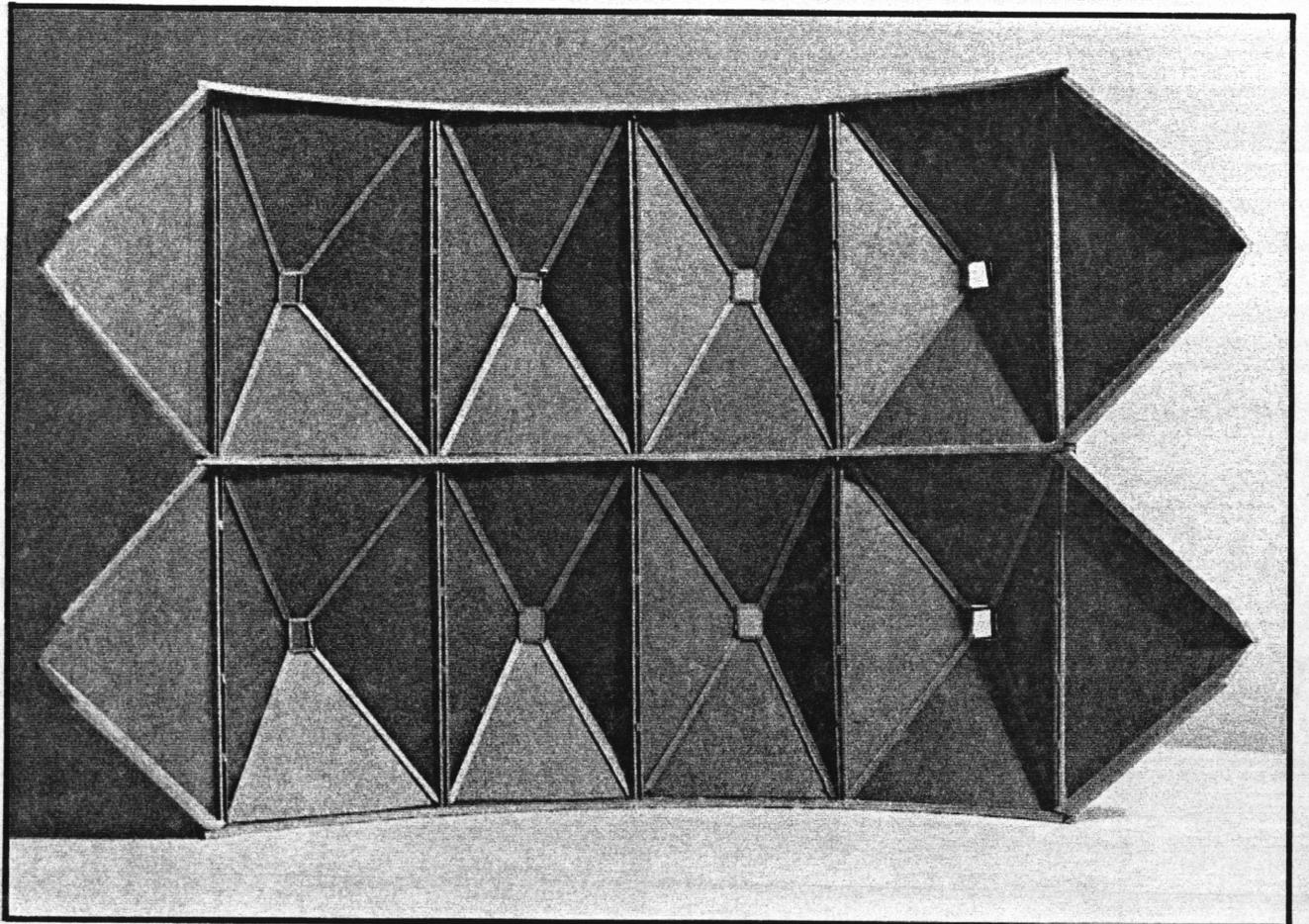
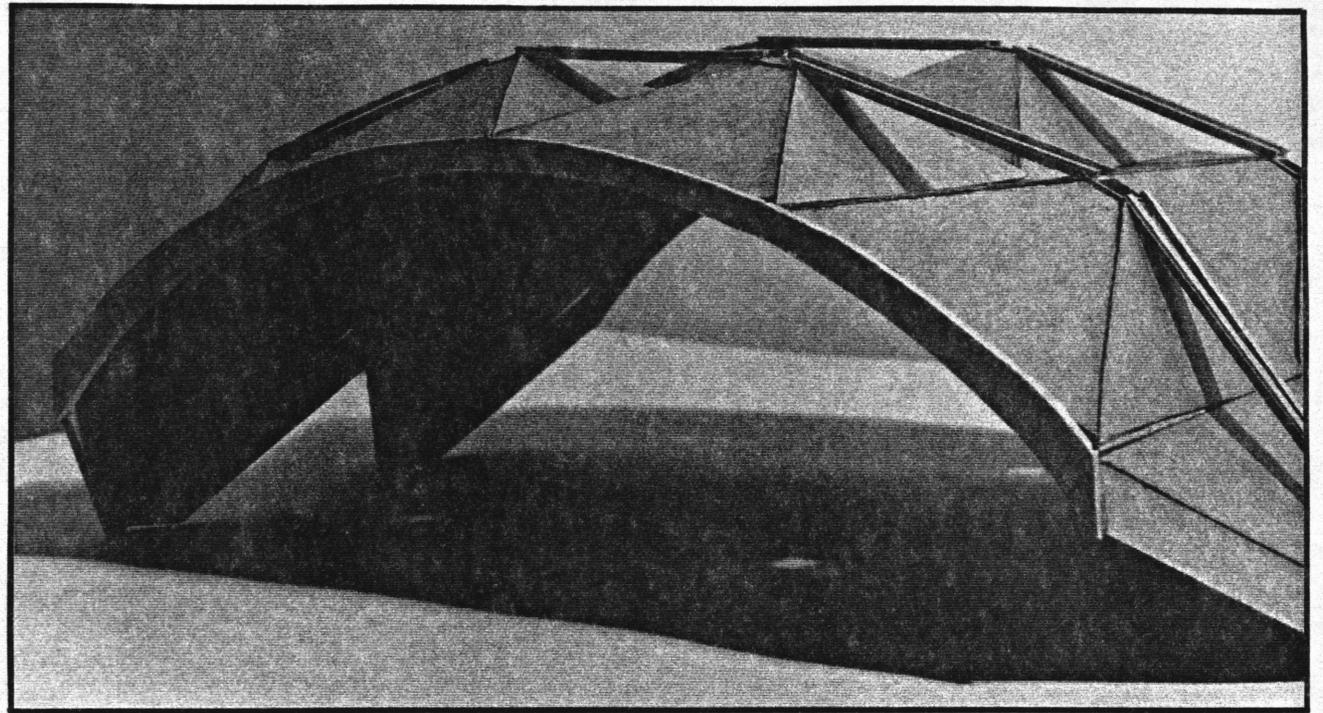


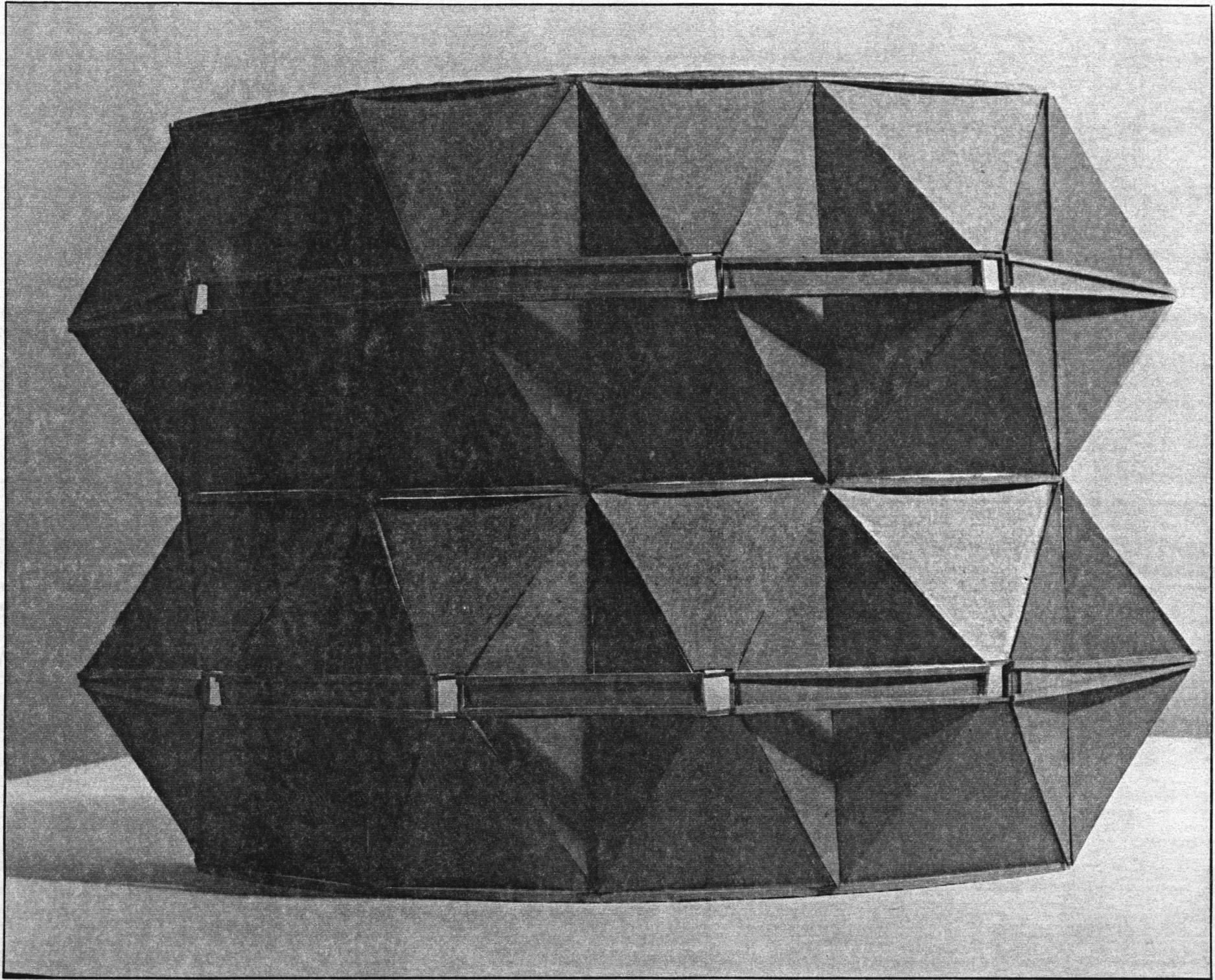
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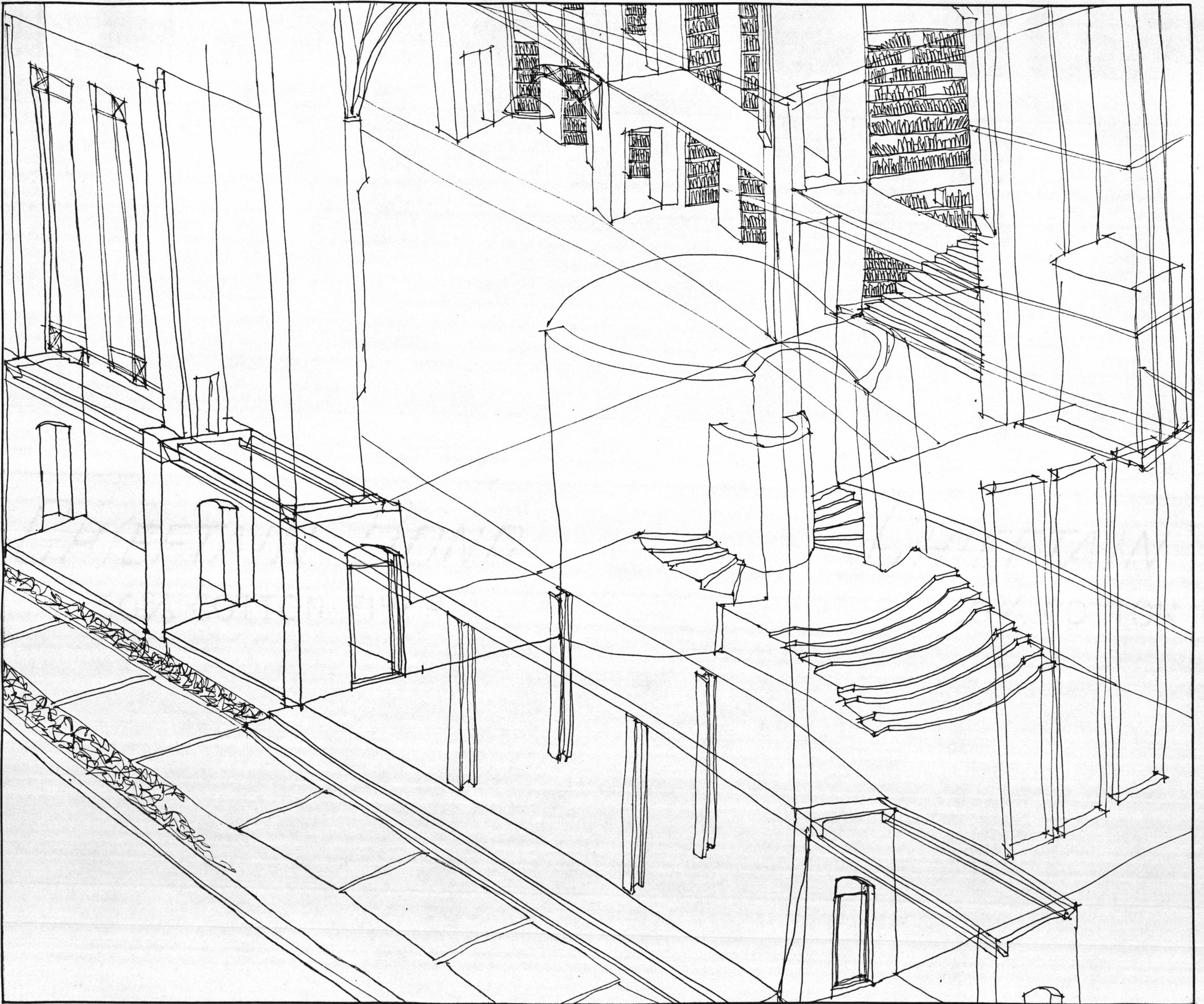


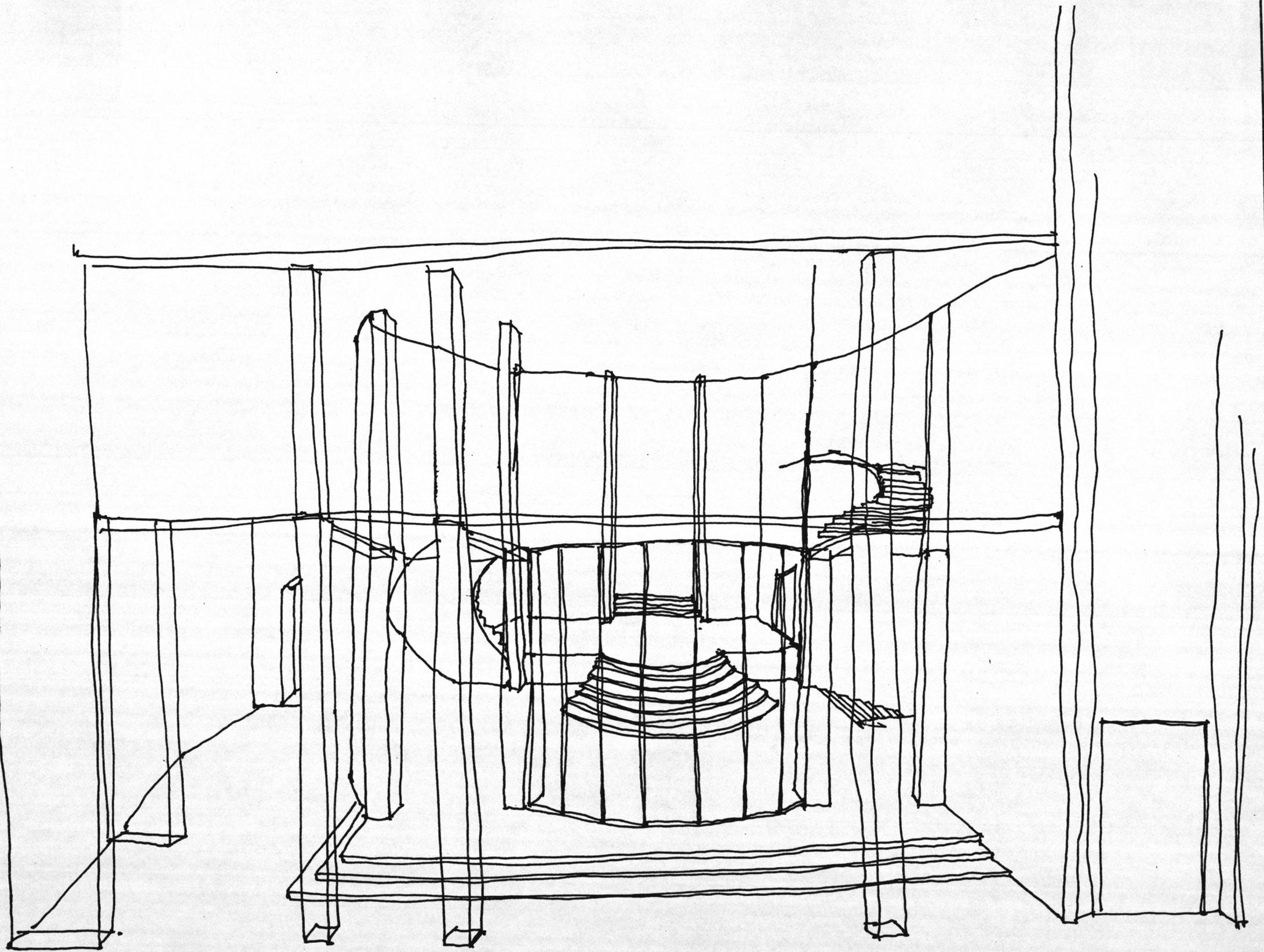










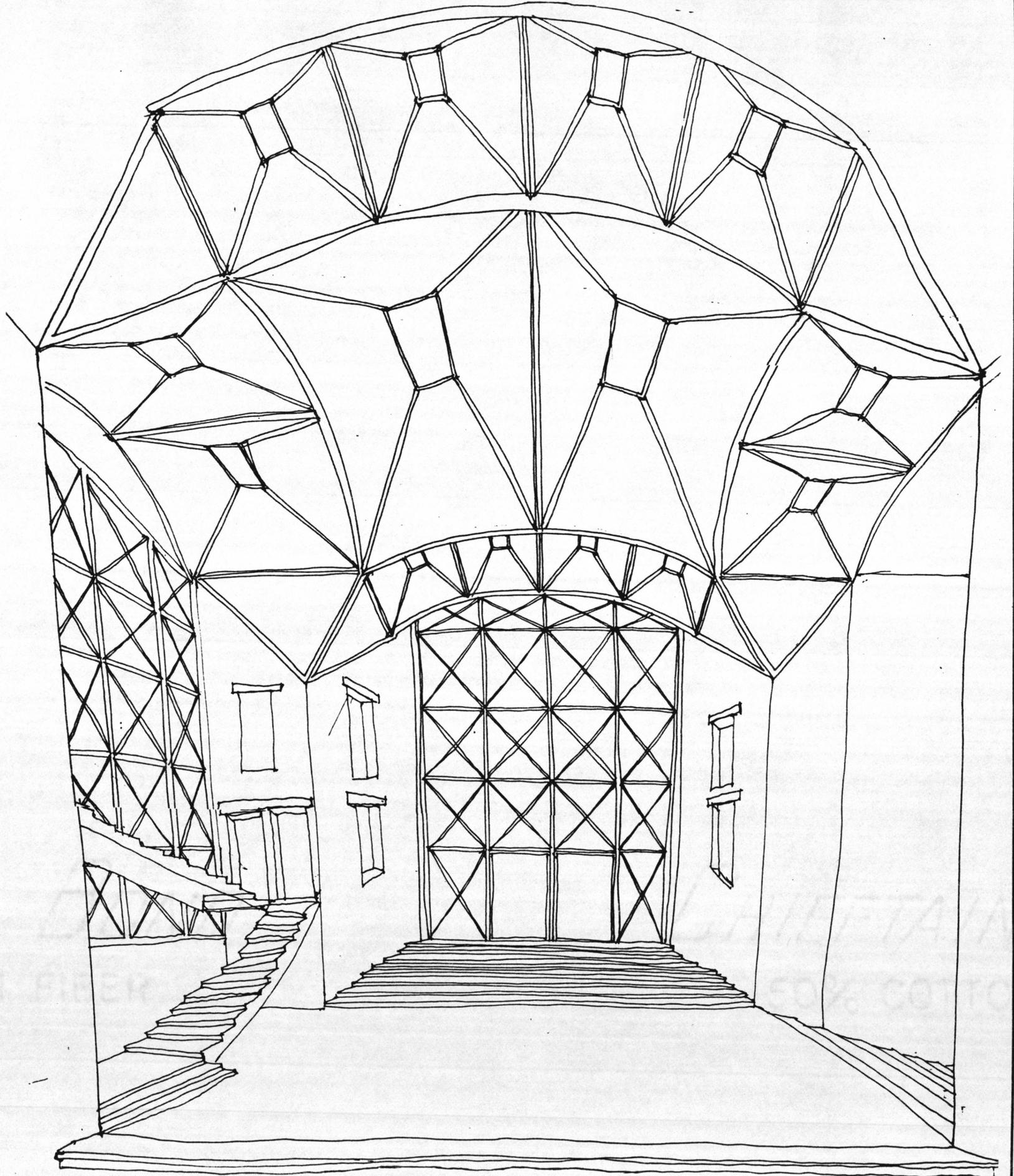
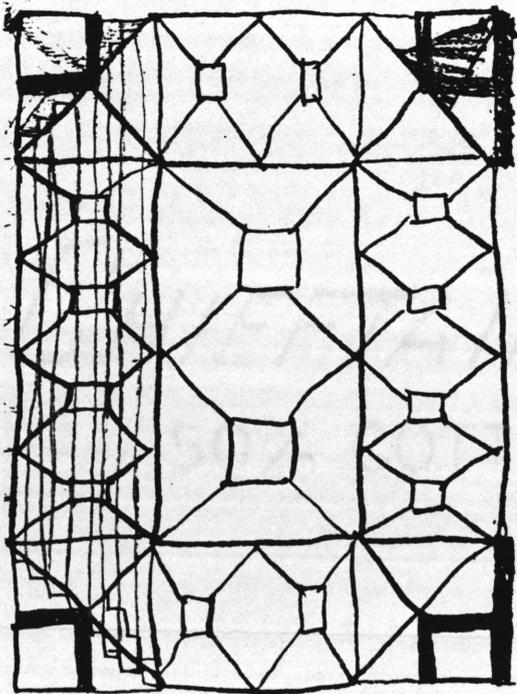
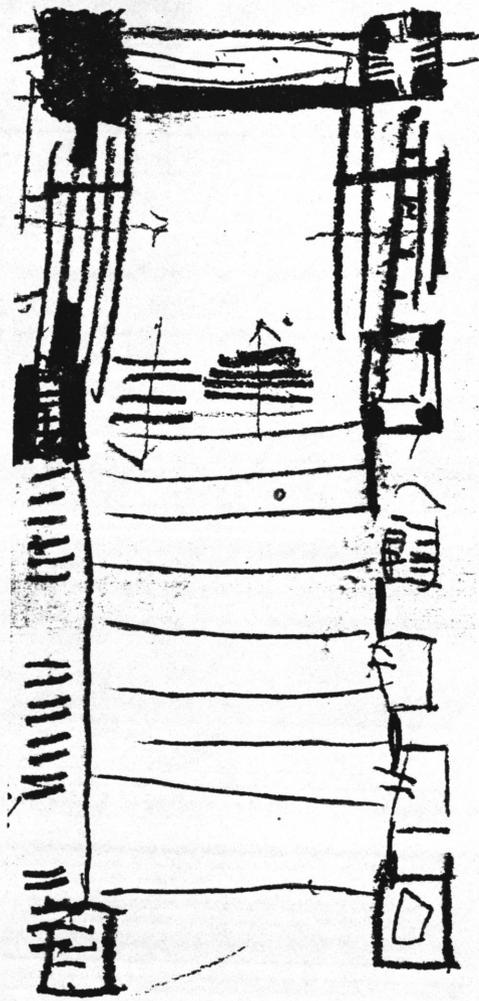


HEIGHT 30'

30' x 30'

50% COTTON PAPER

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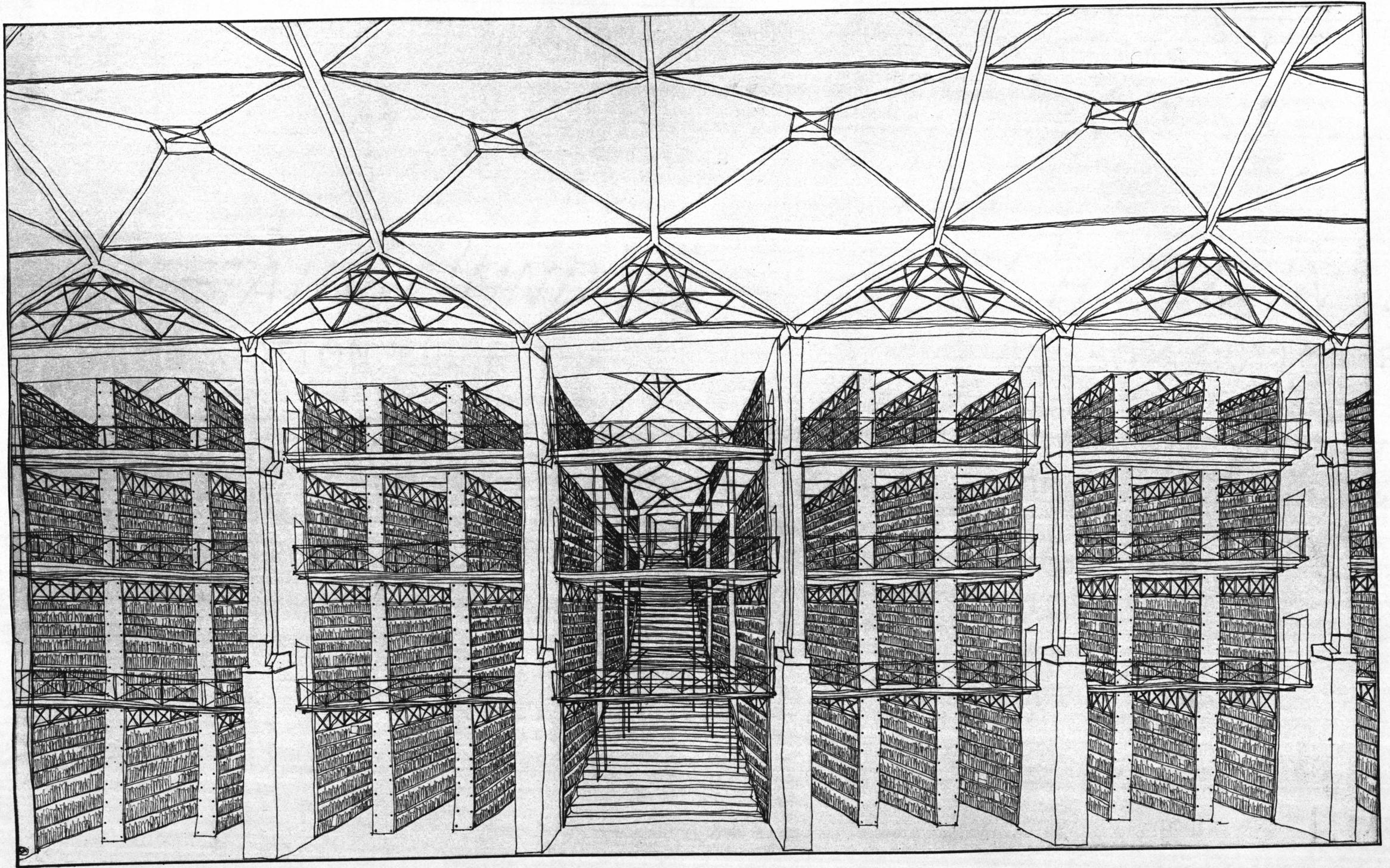
## Final Drawings

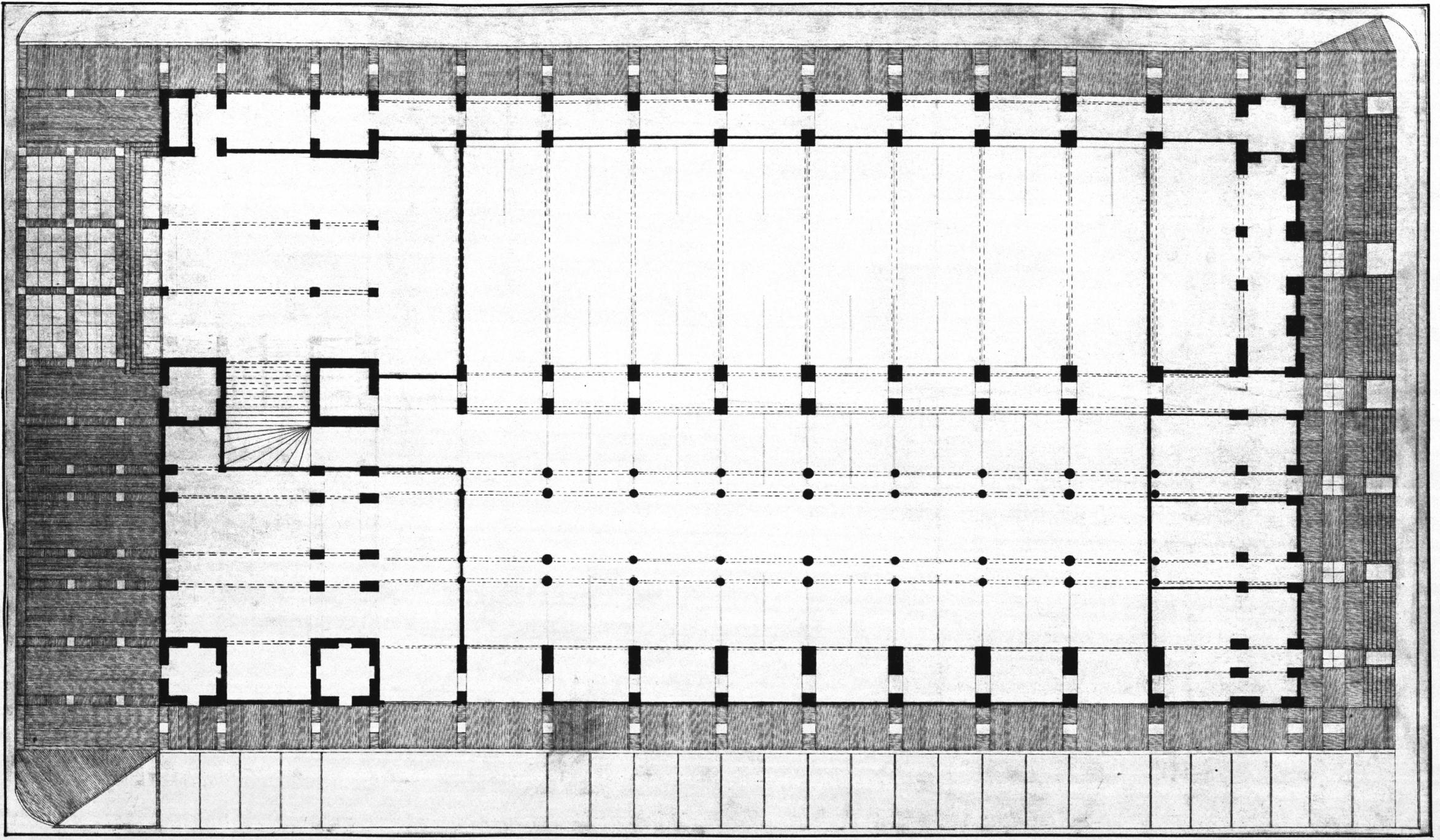
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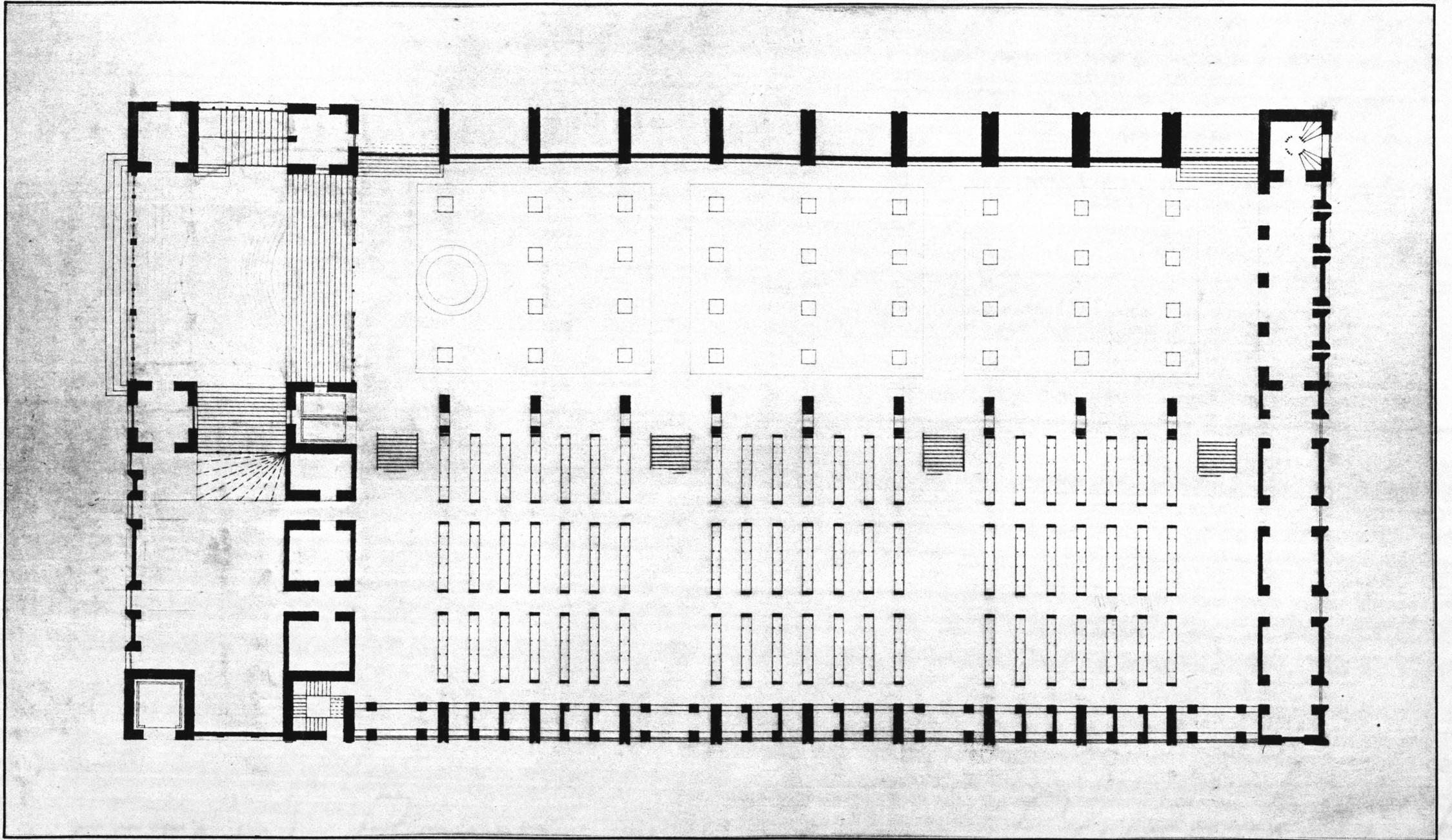
23. View from the reading room looking south
24. Floor plan - parking level
25. Floor plan - main floor
26. Floor plan - third floor
27. Section looking east
28. Section looking south
29. South elevation
30. North elevation
31. View from the reading room looking west

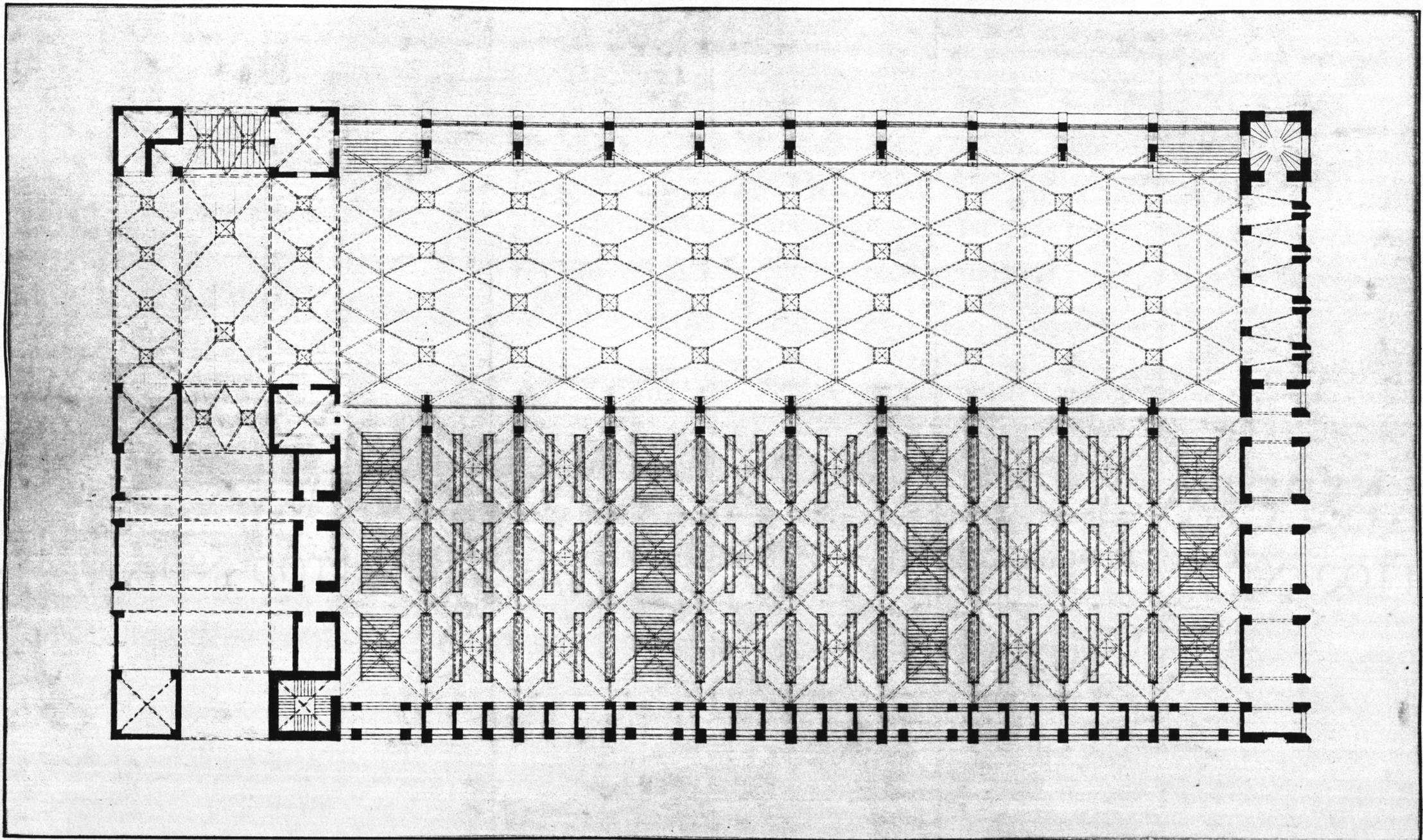
The value of final drawings such as those that follow is in their ability to summarize, and in their inherent demand for a prolonged effort in their creation

To give these drawings credit in more than these limited areas would be to imply that this was a project undertaken to create a final product rather than to understand the process necessary to clarify and distill an idea.



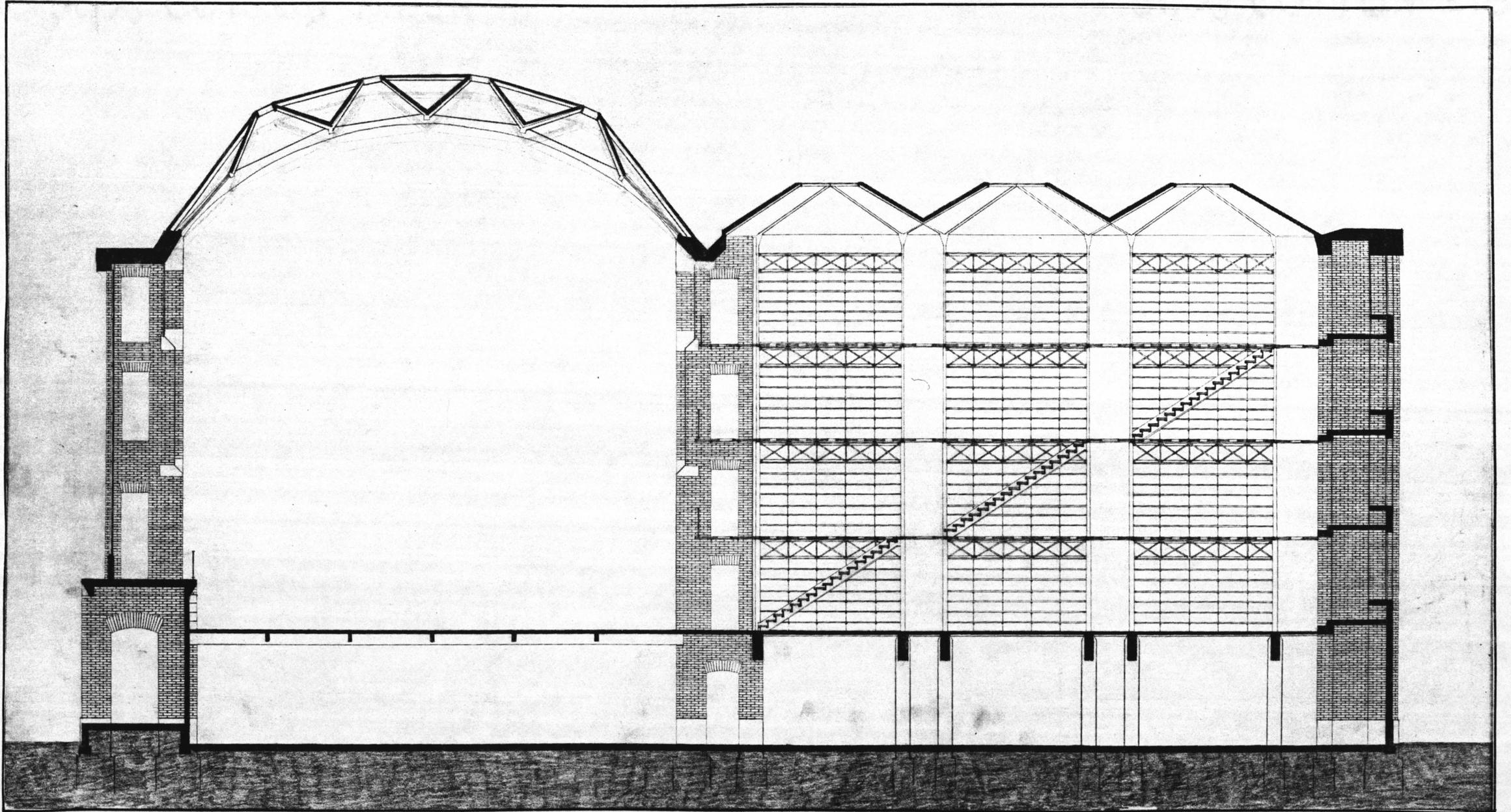


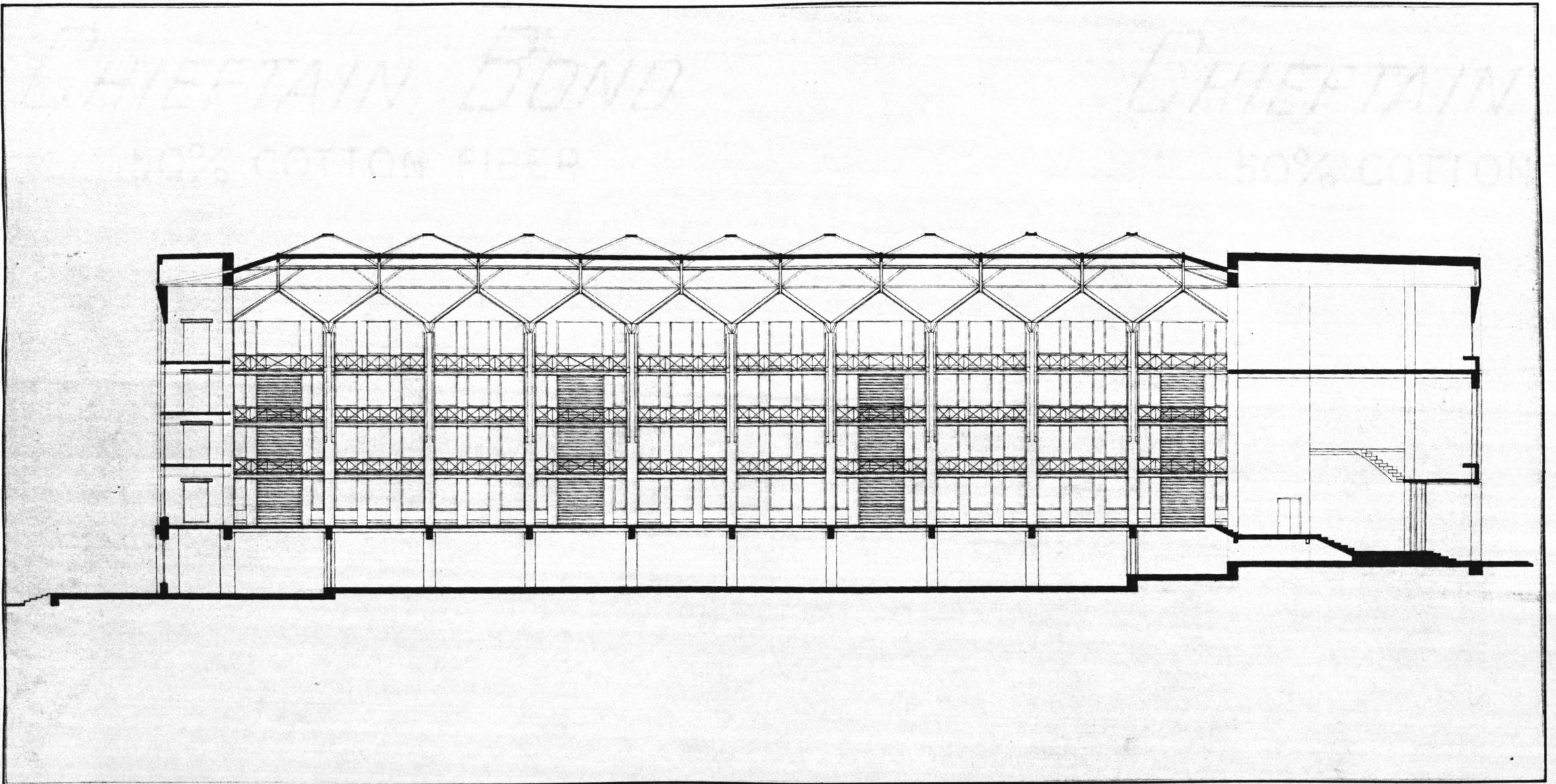


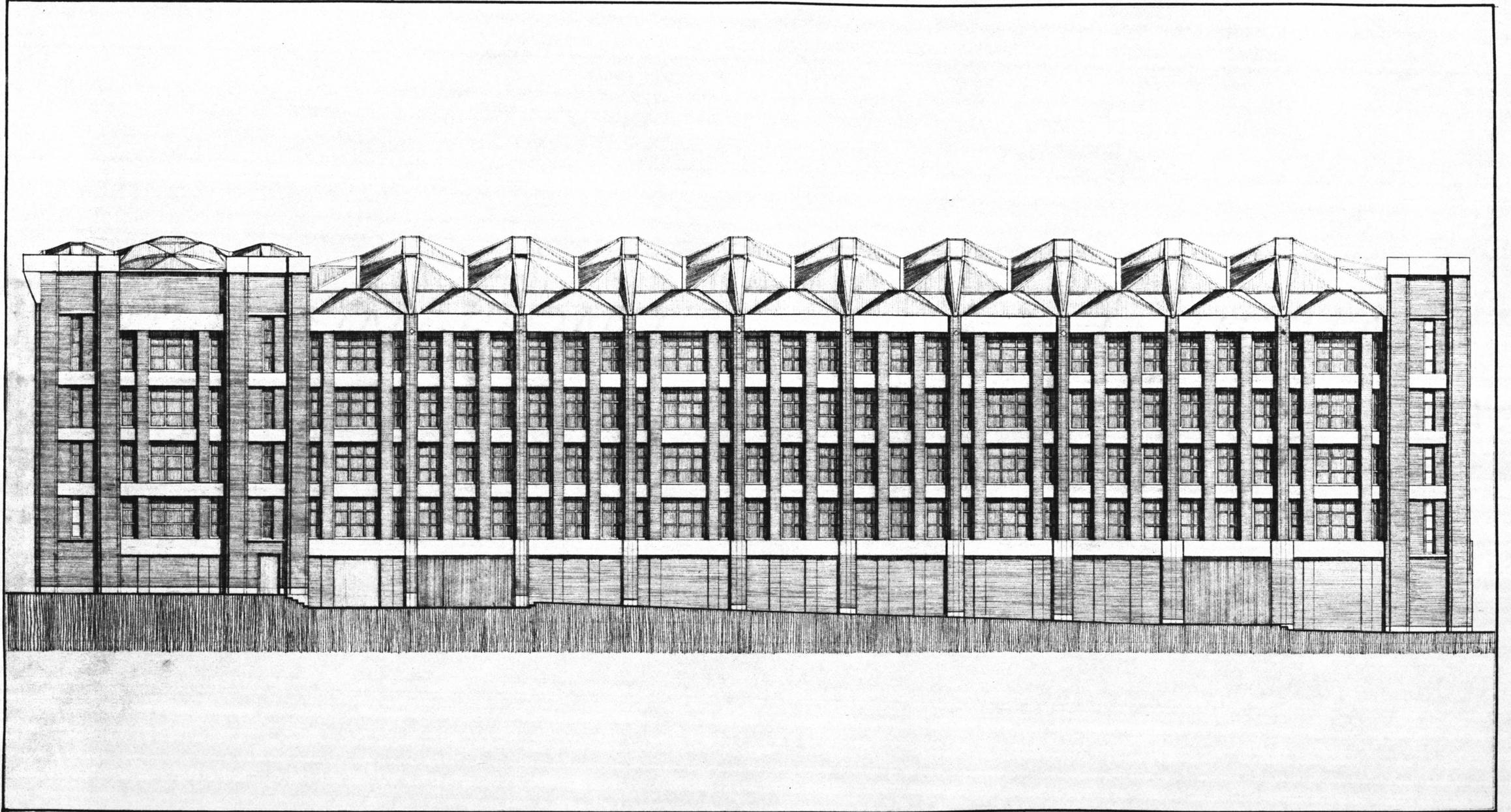


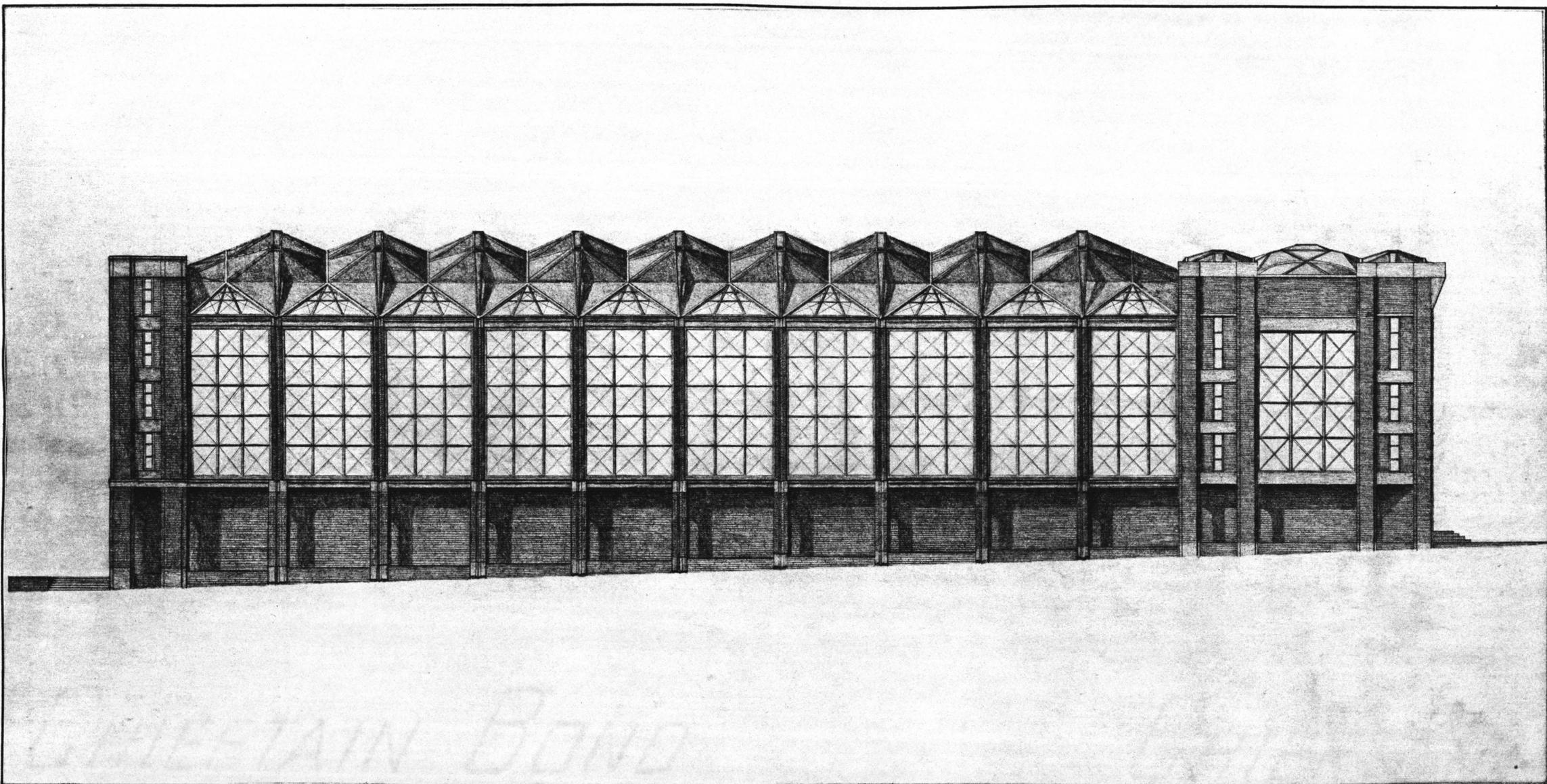
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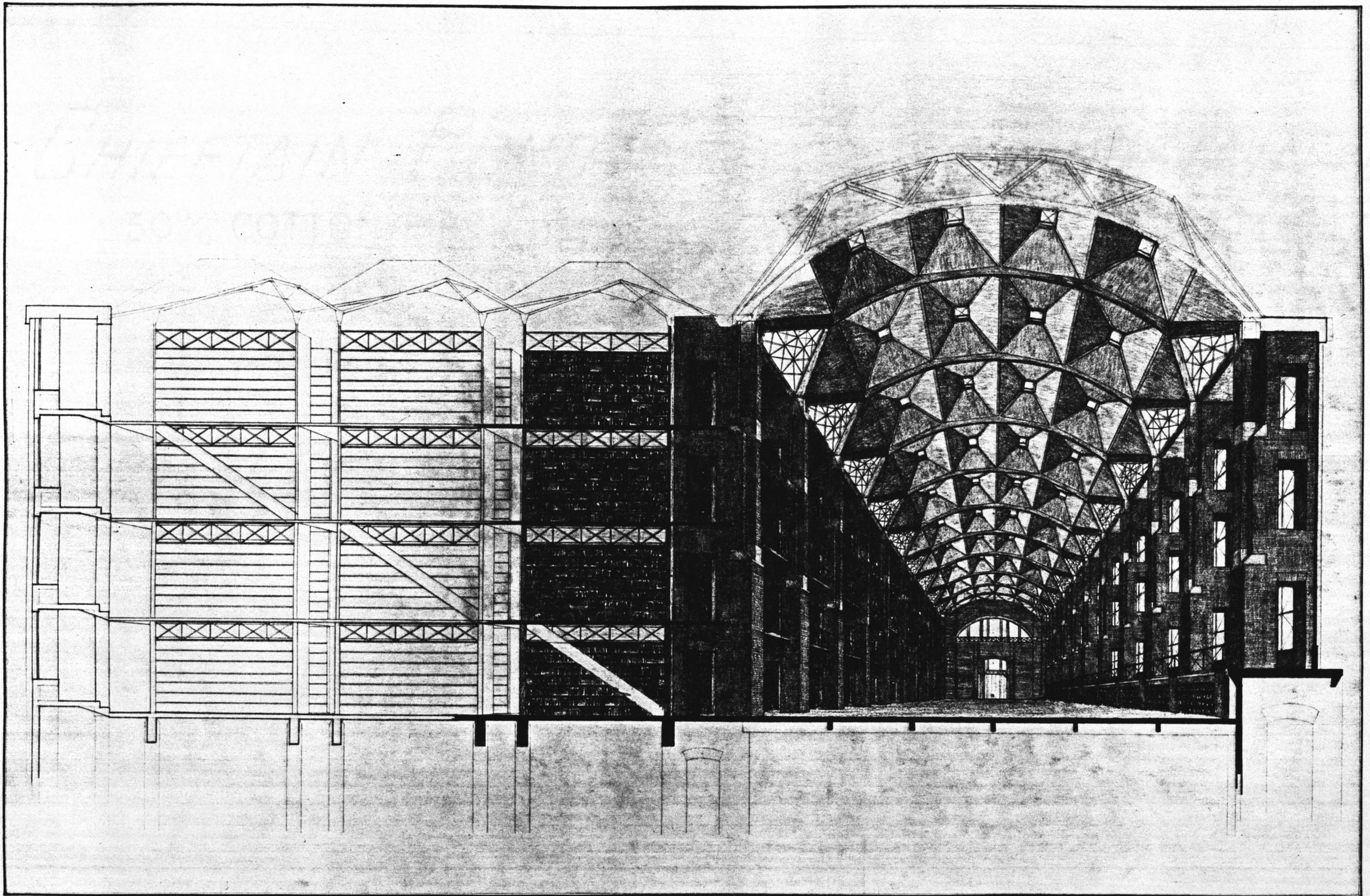






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