

# **TWO LIBRARIES**

by  
Richard L. Dominick

Thesis submitted to the Faculty of the  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

## **MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE**

in

Architecture and Urban Studies

APPROVED:

Dennis J. Kilper  
Chairman

Salahuddin Choudhury

Hans C. Rott

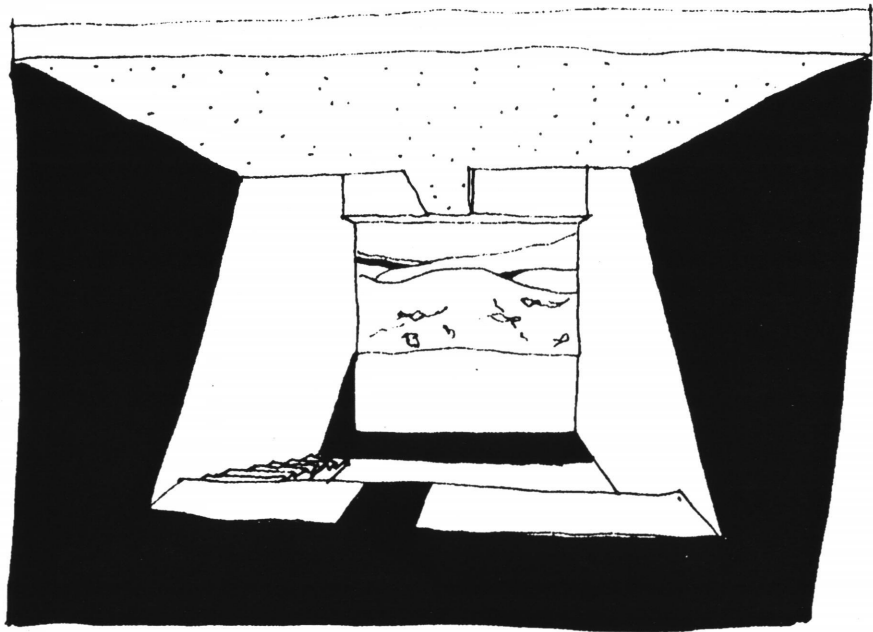
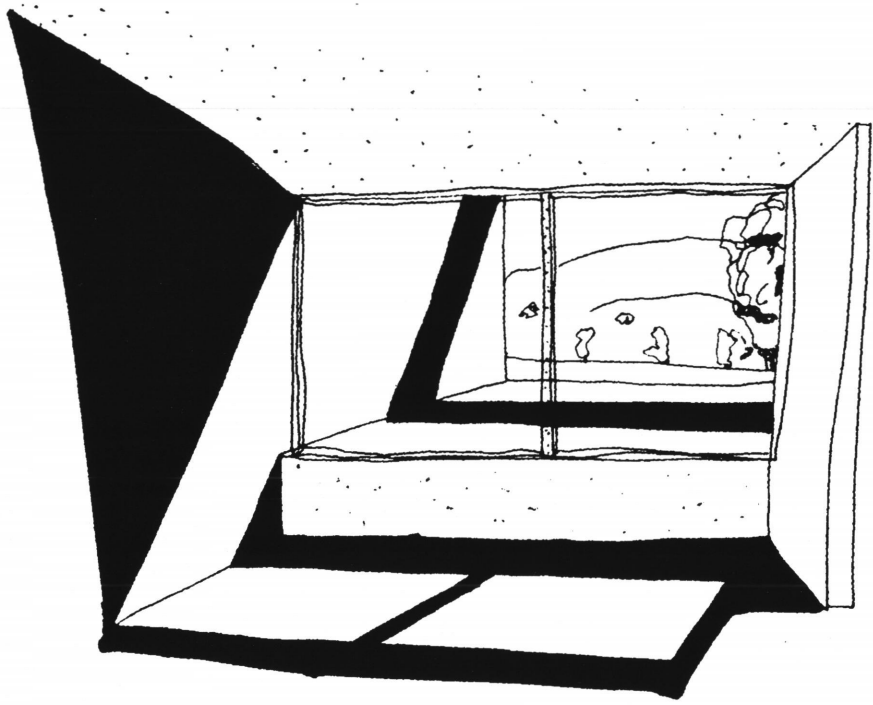
September 1993  
Blacksburg, VA

C.2

LD  
5655  
V855  
1993  
D665  
C.2  
Folio

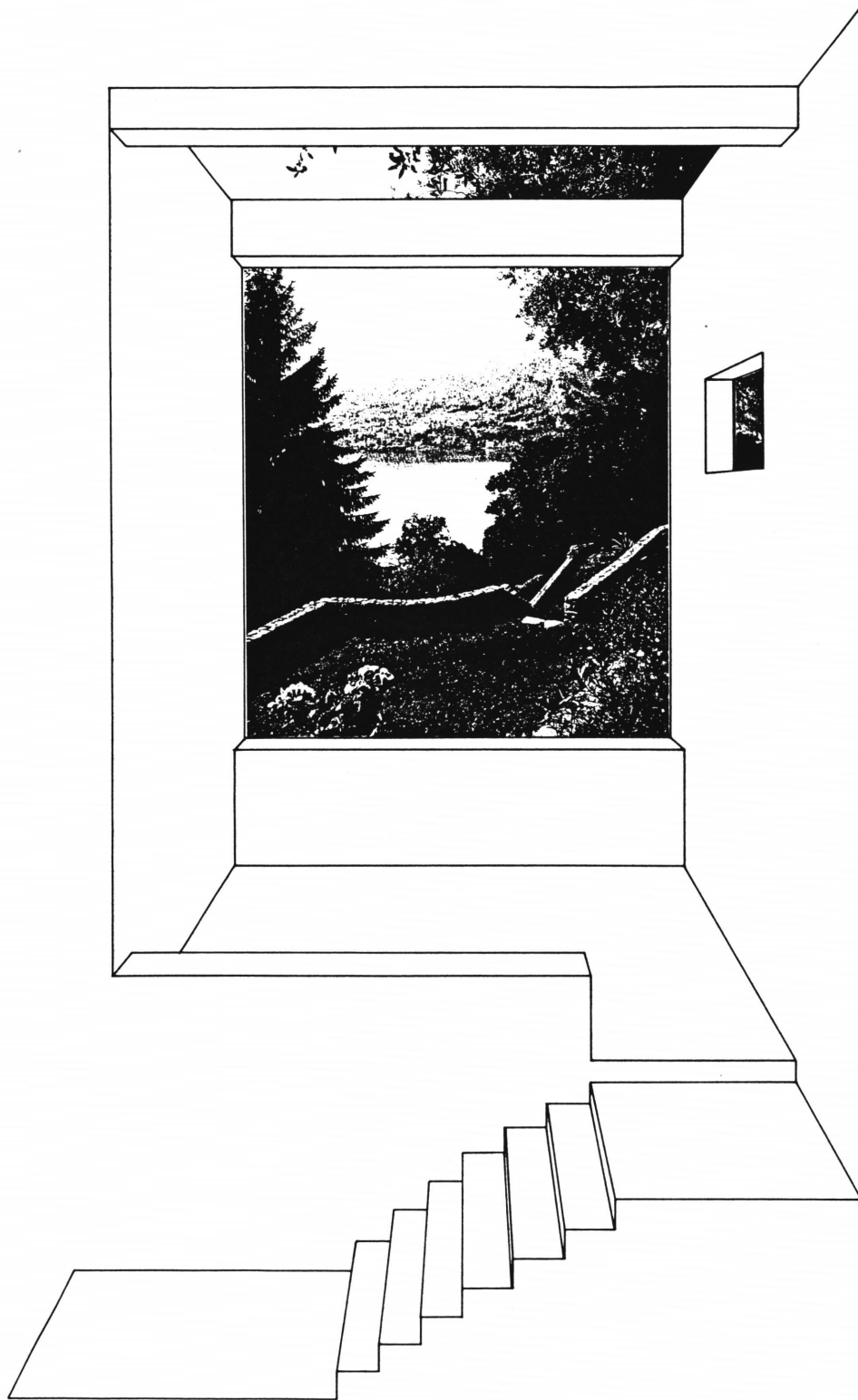
### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

The work that follows is the product of a period of difficult struggle and exploration. I would like to thank those people who have pushed me to expand the scope of my studies and those who have supported me when I felt my investigations were in vain. Special thanks go to my mother and my brother whose patience and sense of humor have provided comfort and lightness when needed. Thanks to my committee members whose instruction has made my education rich and rewarding. Thanks to for their friendship and helpful critiques. Thanks to for his insightful perceptions. And very special thanks to whose strength, patience, courage and understanding has made this all possible.



**TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

Abstract	5
Thesis Description	6
Project One	8
Project Two	14
Vita	23

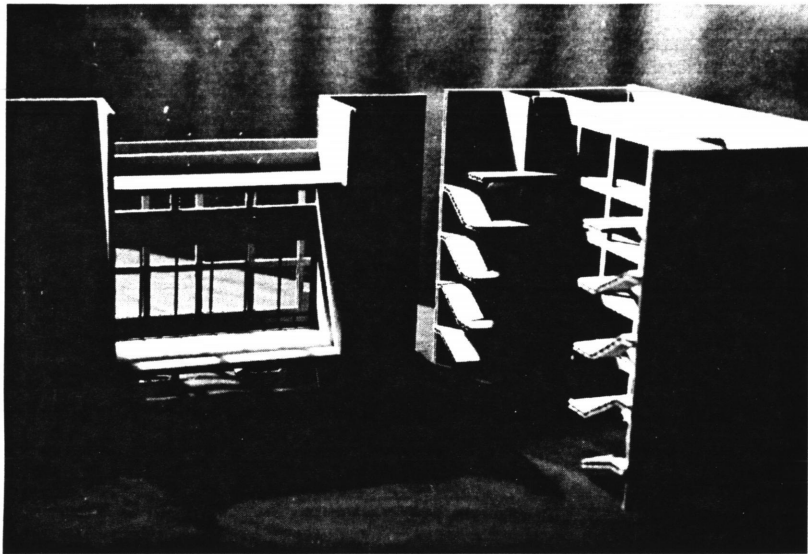


## **TWO LIBRARIES:** (Abstract)

The two libraries and studies that follow are the products of an exploration into the problematic relation of man to nature. The work specifically examines the fact that while we are unquestionably a part of nature we are, at the same time, separated from it by our self-awareness. We exist as both symbolic and physical beings. As Christian Norberg-Schulz notes, we are precariously situated between the earth and the sky. Focusing on the fundamental elements of light and shadow, the projects explore the issues of separation and inclusion. It is hoped that a glimpse of the innate terror, wonder and beauty of our daily existence may be revealed.

The work deals specifically with the making of layers and edges while accentuating spatial flow and continuity. The desire is to bring the library patron into close contact with nature while simultaneously emphasizing a profound separation. Complementary to this is an interest in highlighting a perception of leaving and returning. Reading involves leaving one's present awareness in order to pursue another that is revealed through the pages of a book. One may gain a new perspective on the world through one's literary ventures. Regardless, however, of the distance one may symbolically travel one must always return to the immediacy of one's present situation. Seemingly endless possibility is balanced by the confinement imposed by one's own mortality.

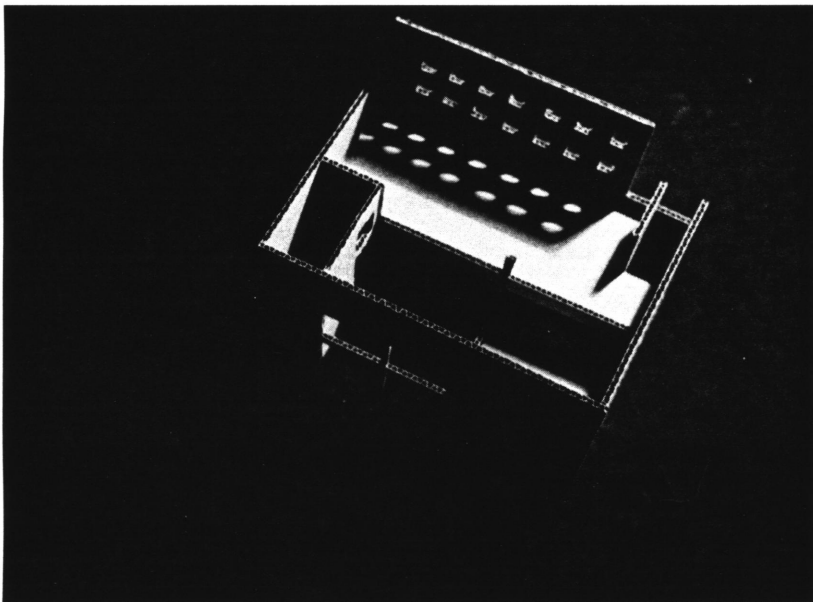
In each project the visitor moves through layers of light and space, crossing a small, enclosed courtyard before reaching the main body of the library. Once inside, he regains a view of the courtyard as he sits down by the window to read. By emphasizing distance through layering, the visitor is withdrawn from the hectic cityscape and focused on the subtle interplay of light and shadow on simple concrete walls and on the fluttering leaves and branches of a tree. It is hoped that by withdrawing the visitor from the city and reminding him of his peculiar relation to nature he may renew his awareness of the human condition.

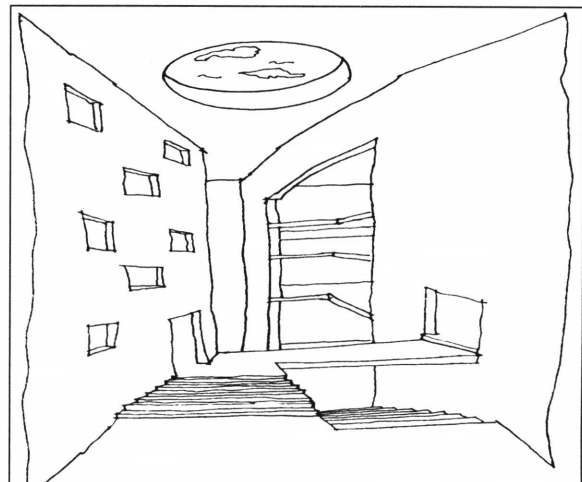
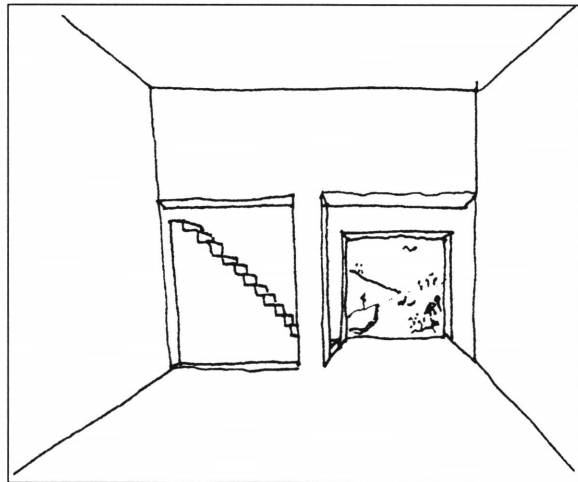
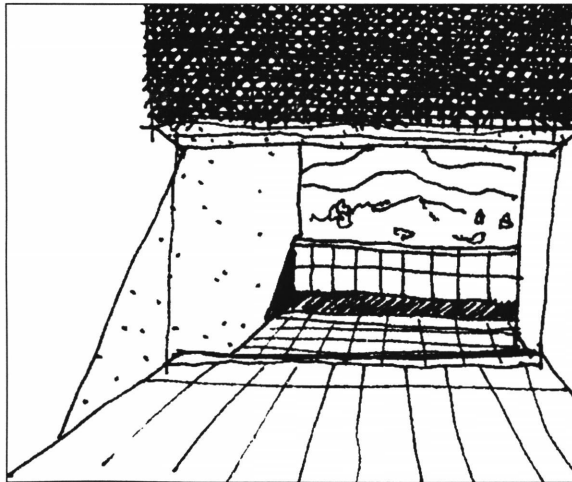
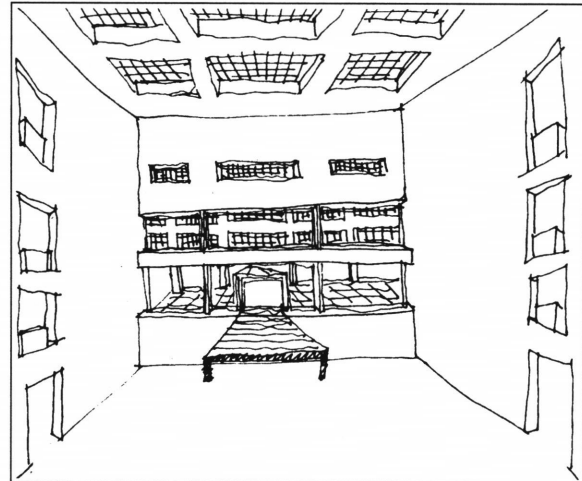
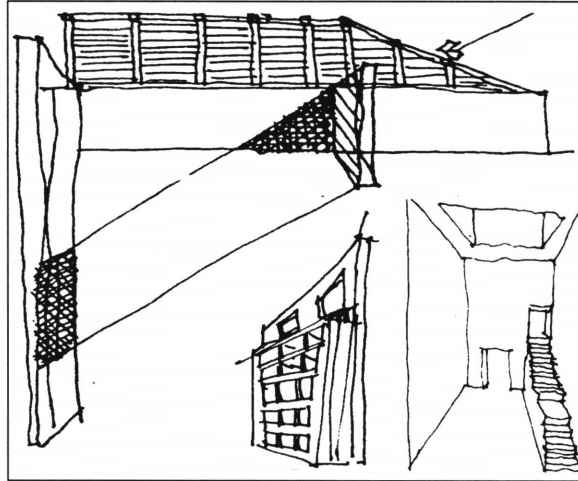
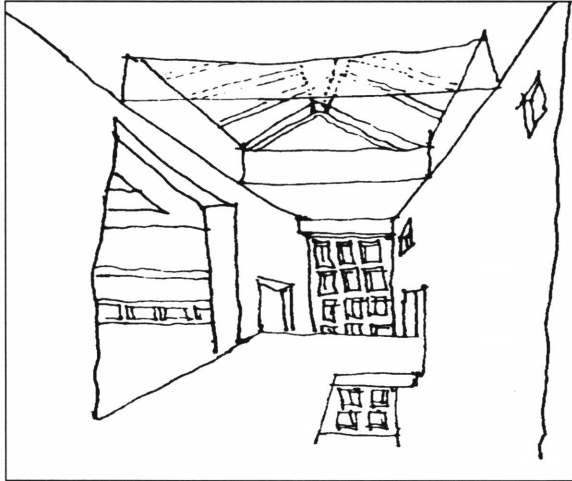
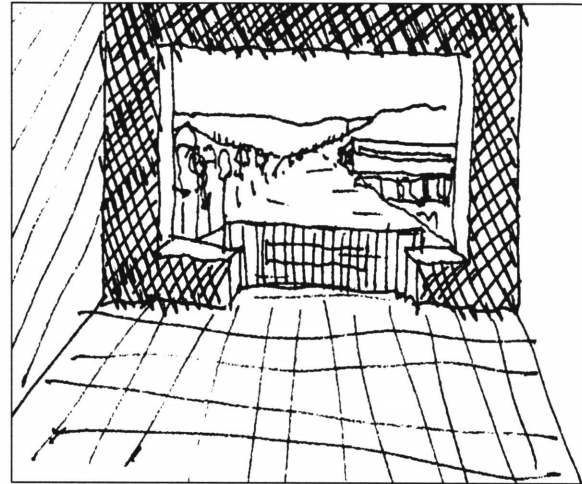
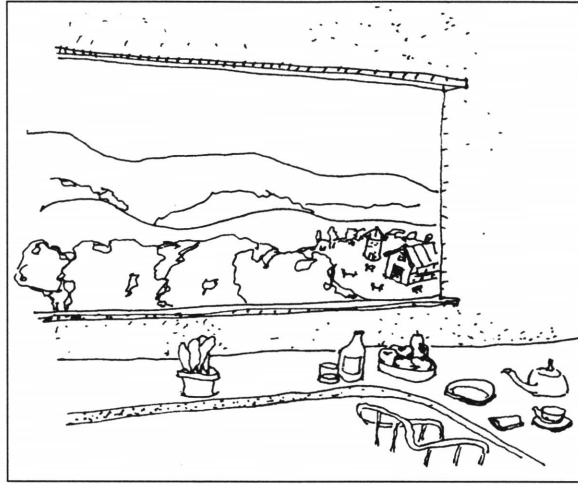
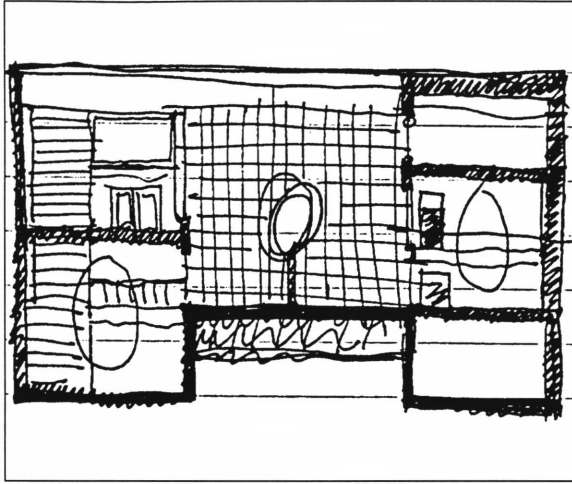


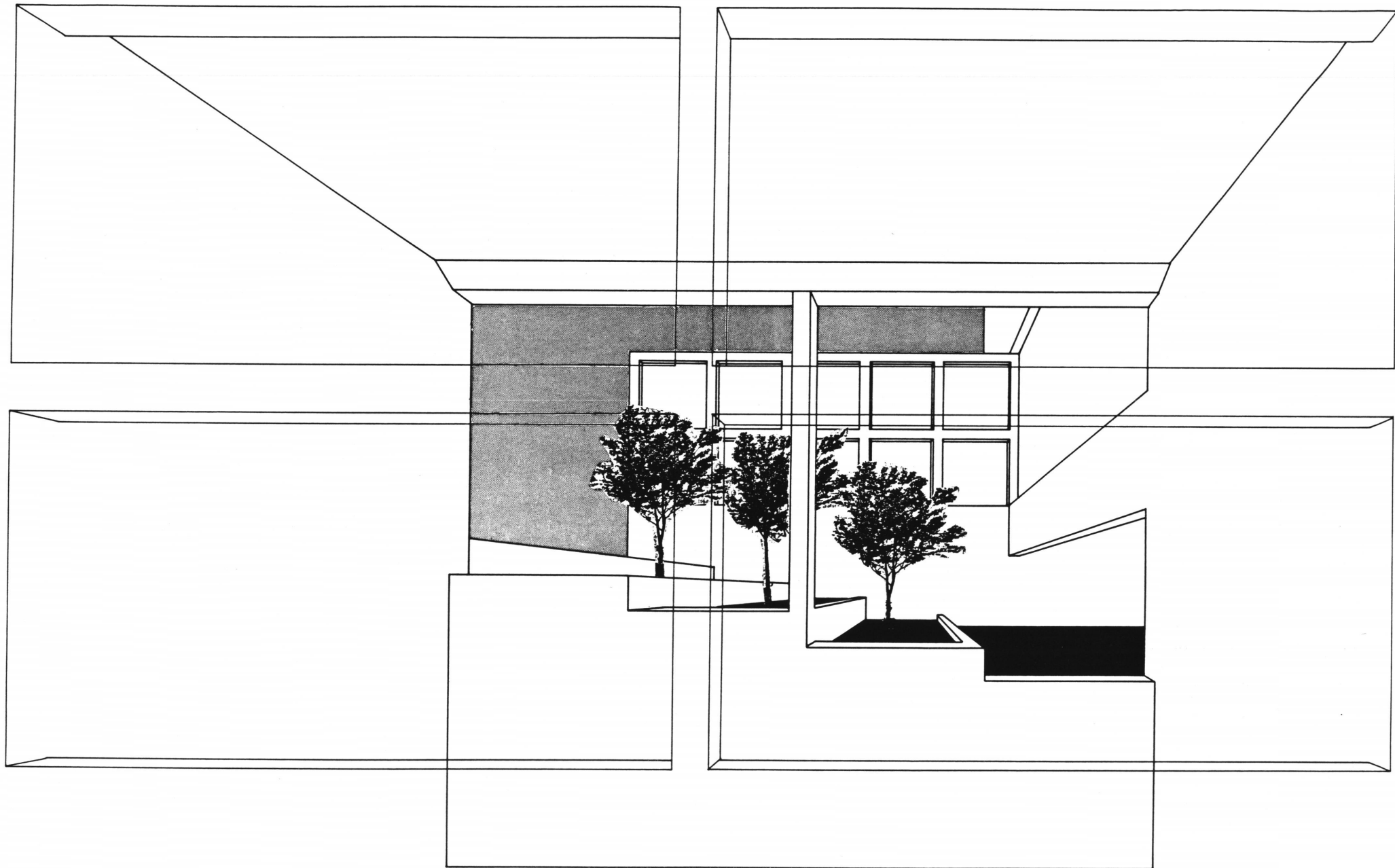
## THESIS DESCRIPTION:

The two libraries are constructed of concrete, steel and glass. Each building is conceived as a refuge where one experiences the simplicity and wonder of the natural elements. The buildings are finished plainly, with natural materials, in hopes that the contrast between the cool concrete walls and the warm sun and trees will bring out and intensify the innate qualities of both the natural and the constructed elements.

The buildings were designed in relation to the sun and the earth as primary considerations. Other specific site concerns were not examined so that the architectural ideas could be more fully investigated.

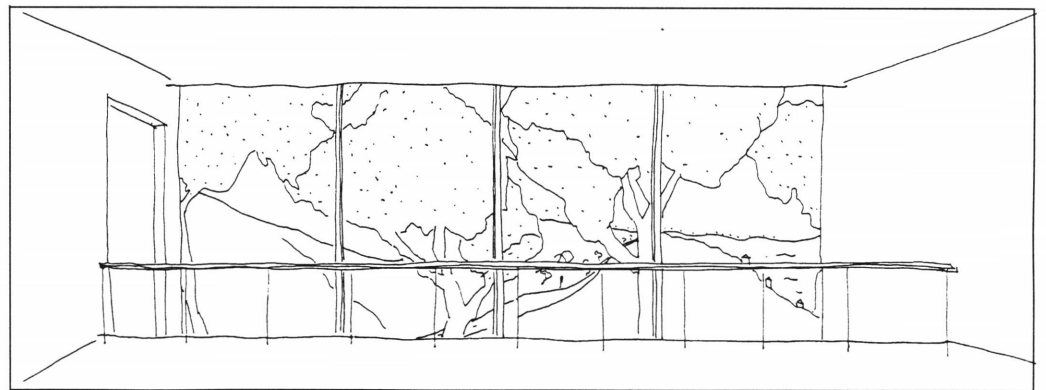
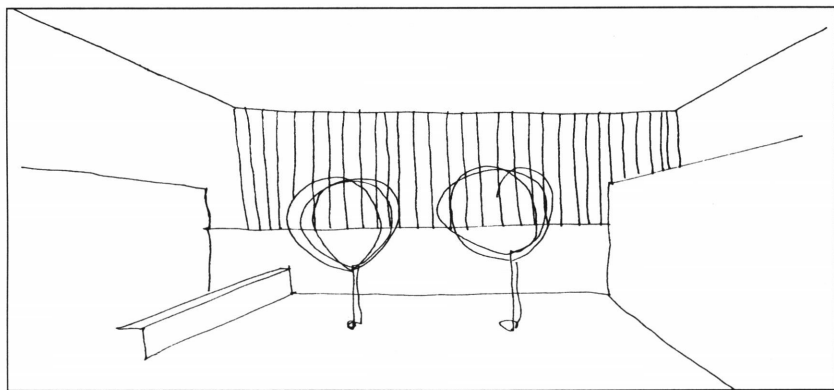
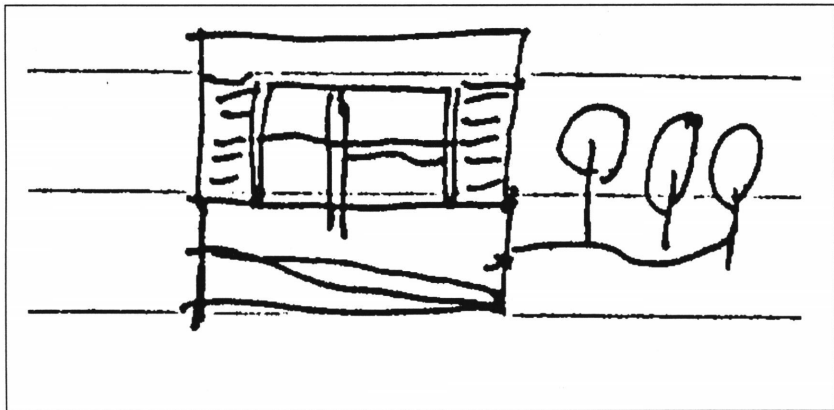
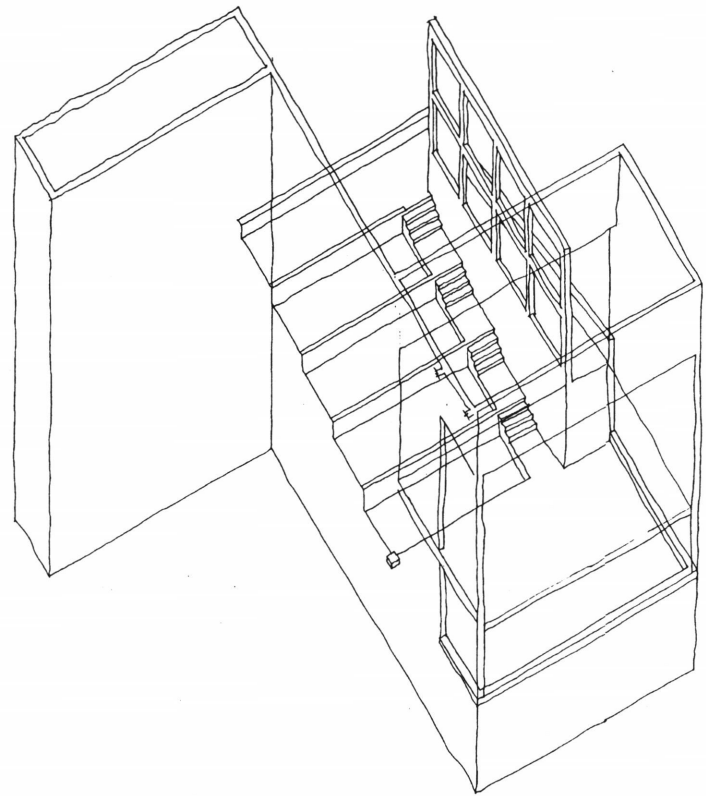
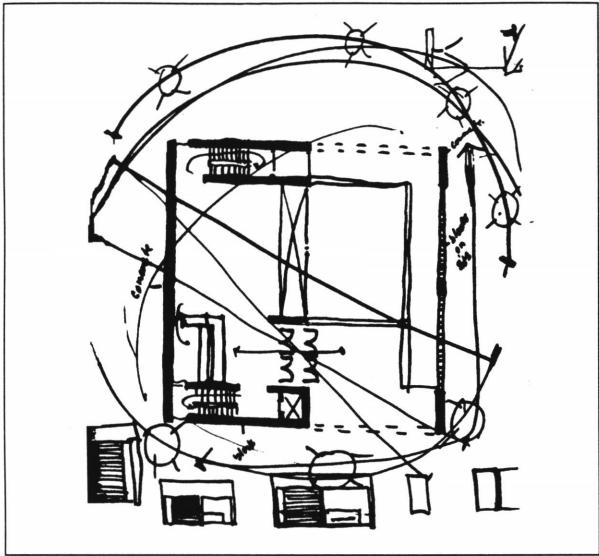


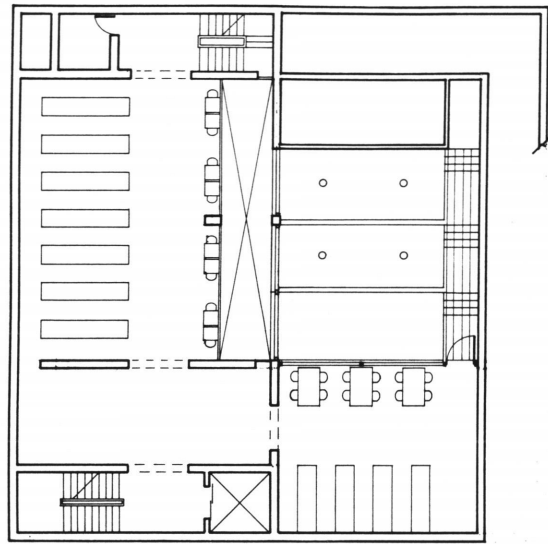




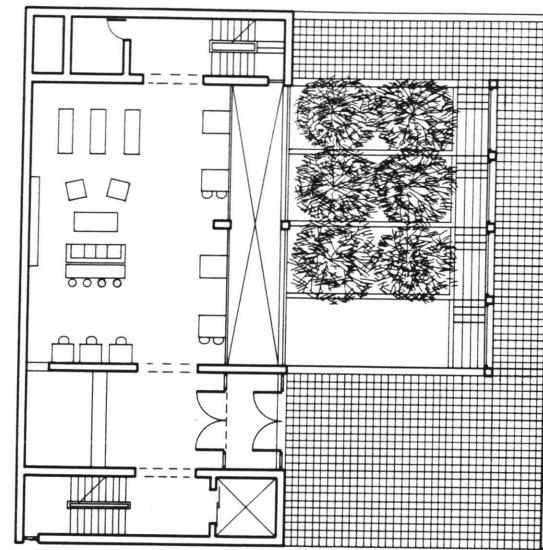
**Project One**



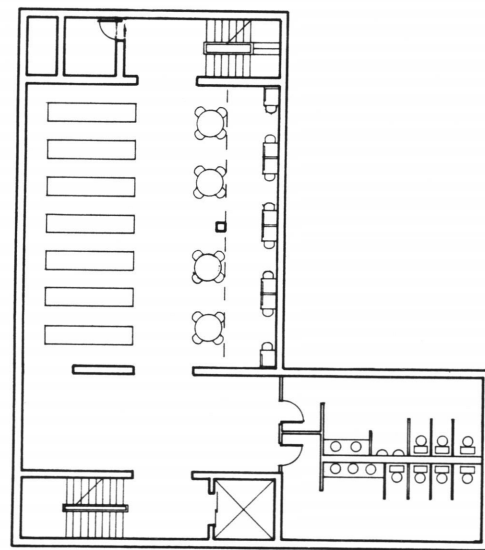




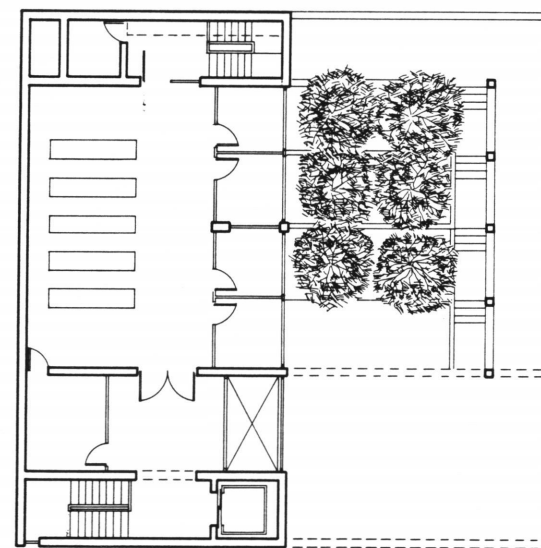
-1



00

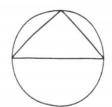


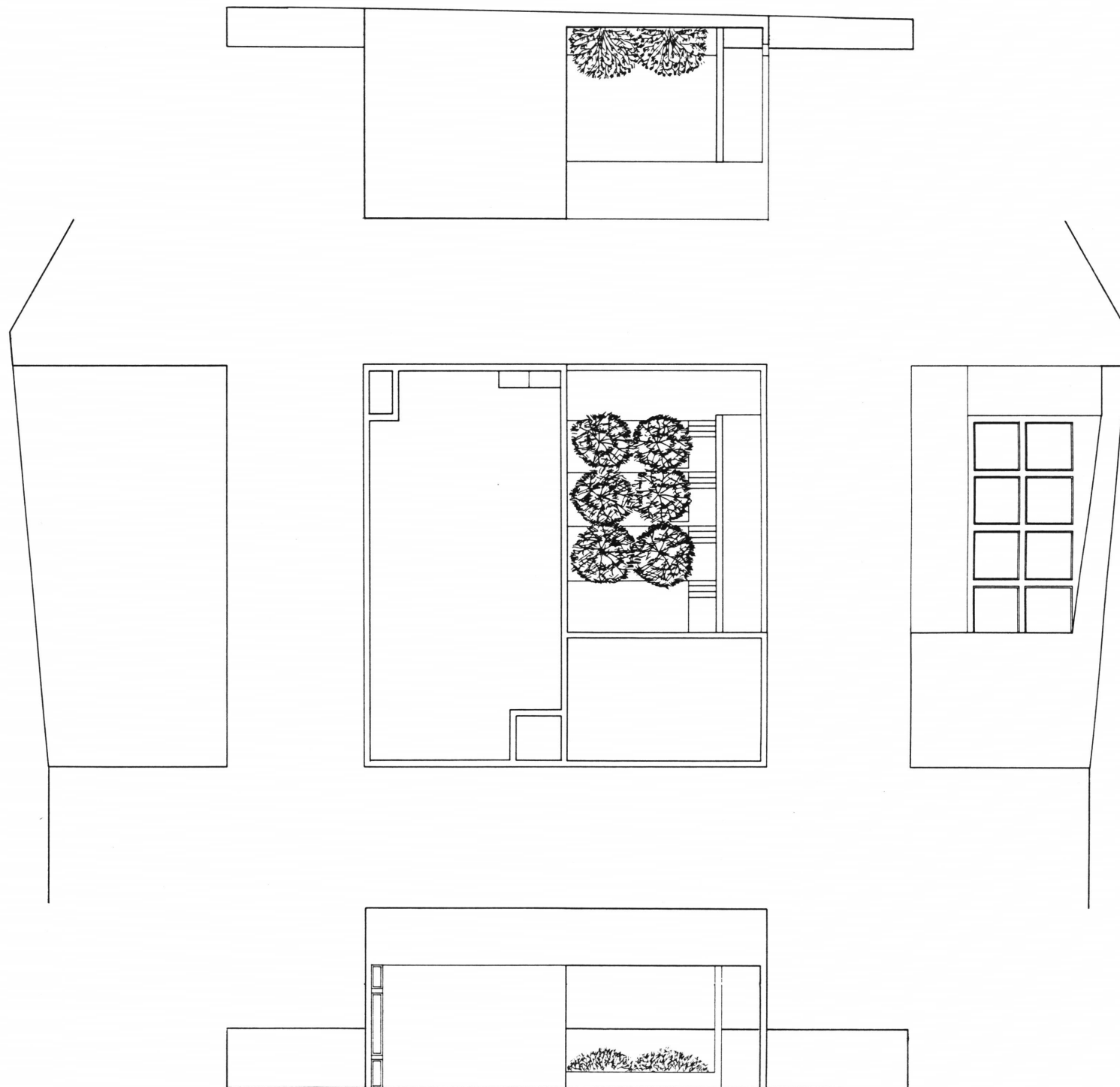
-2



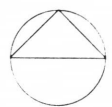
01

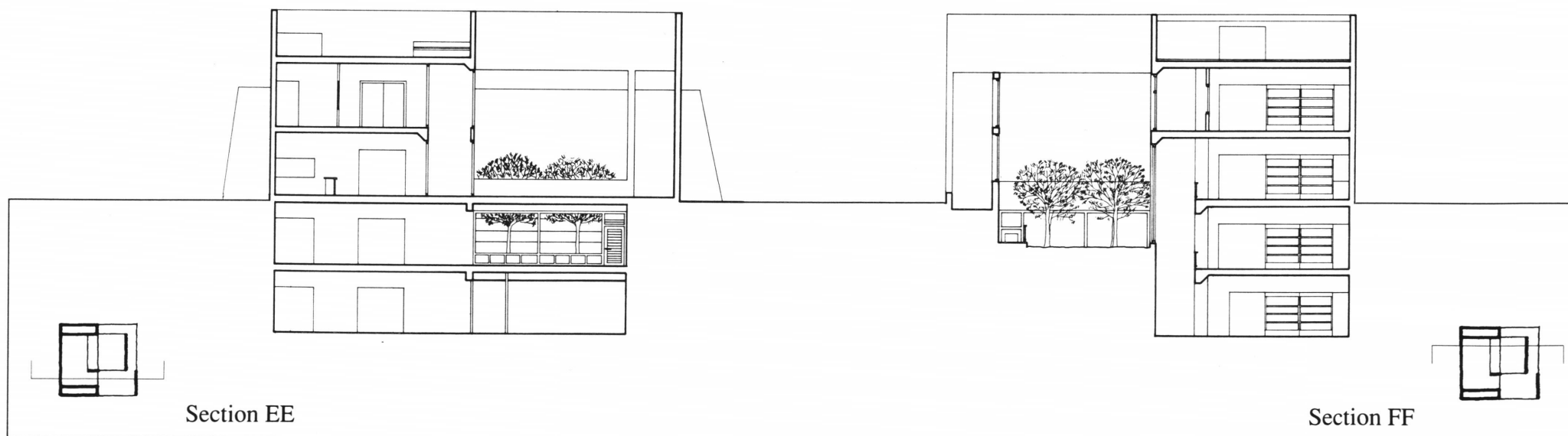
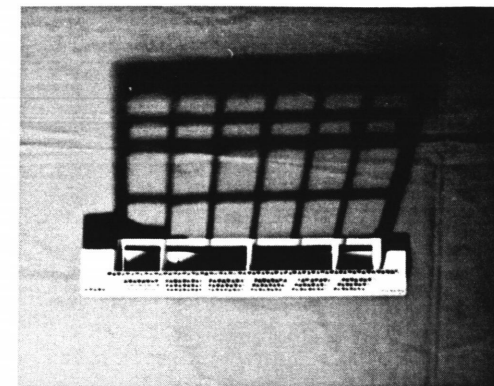
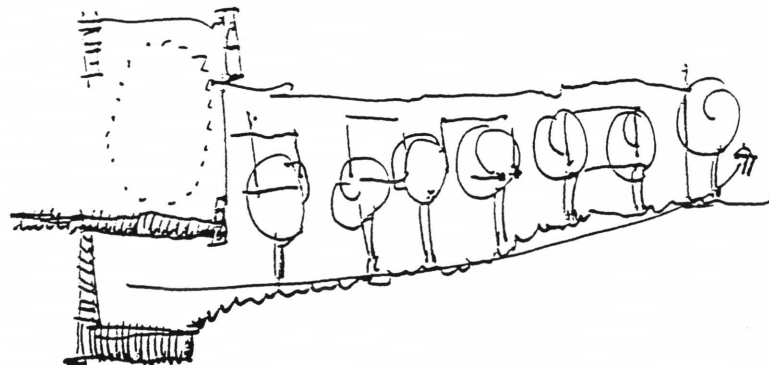
a. Floor Plans

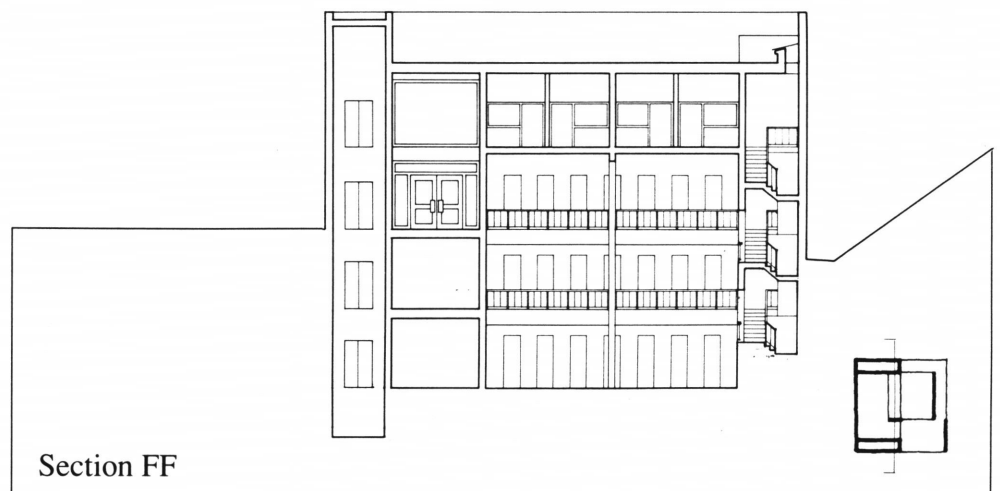
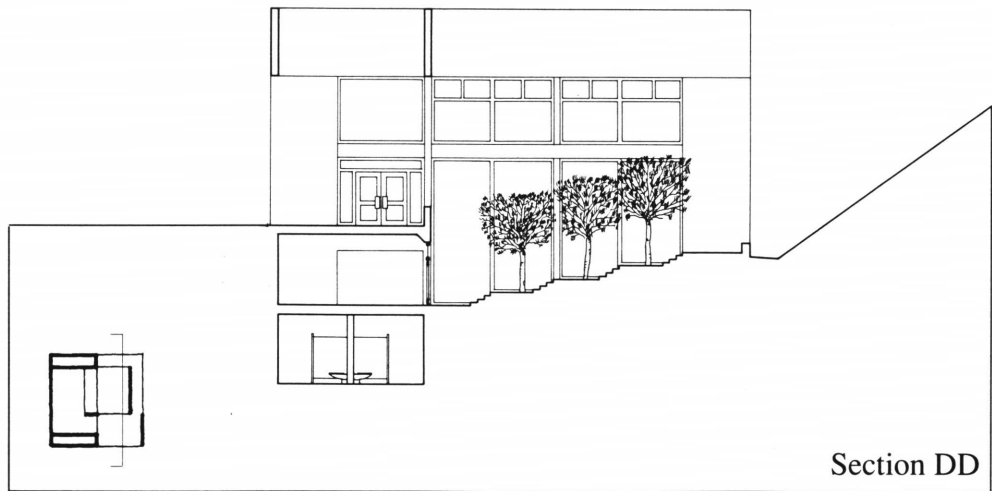
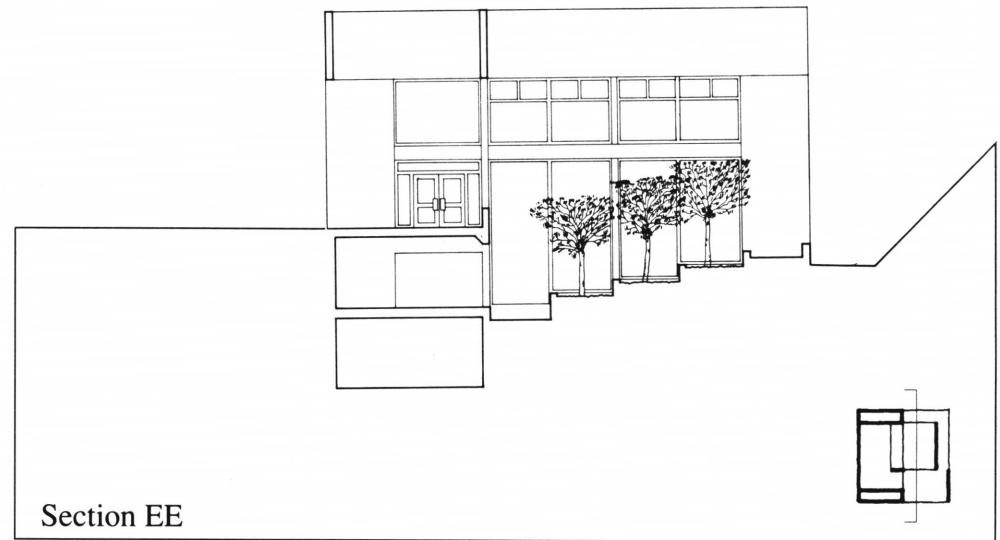


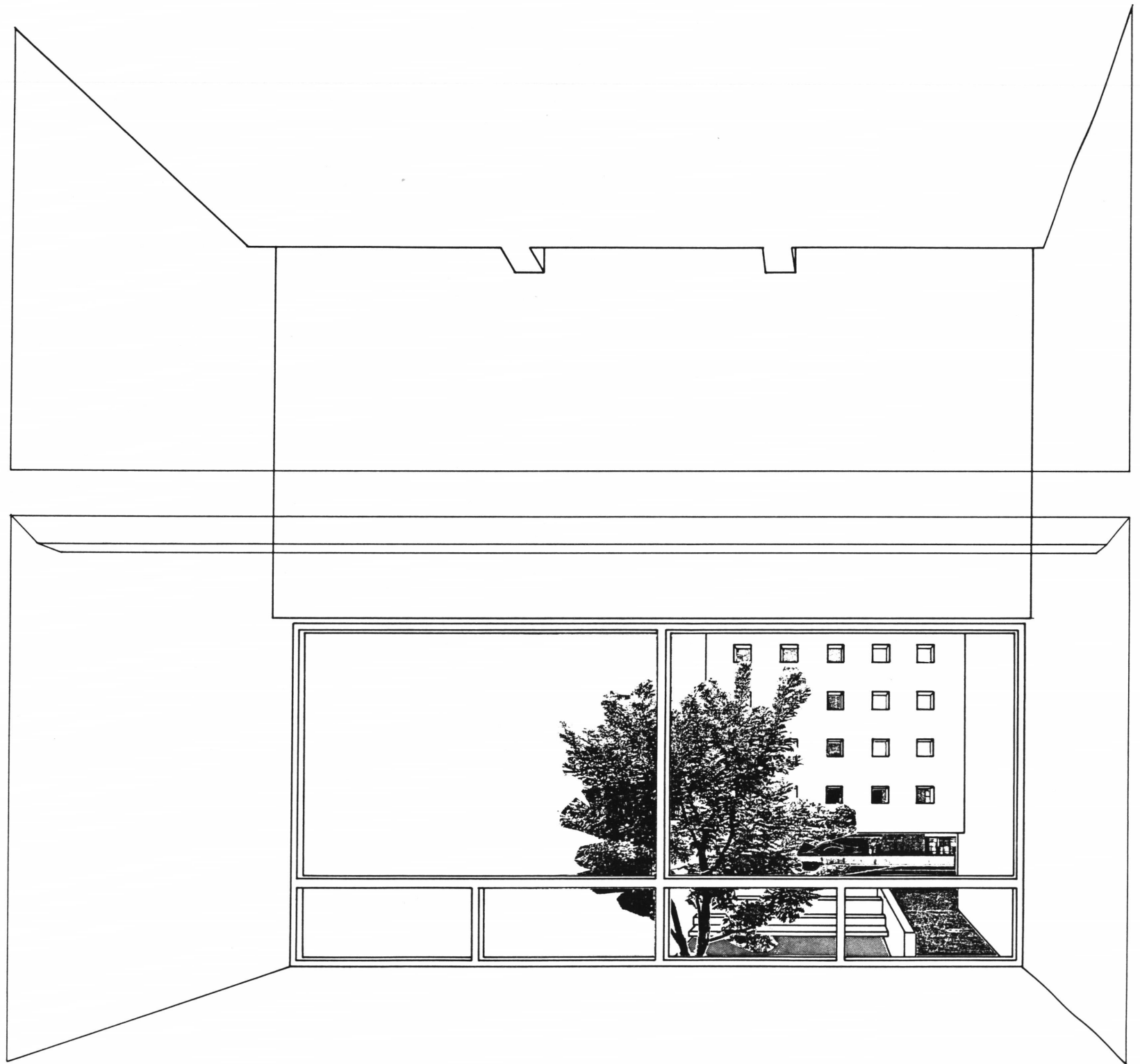


a. Roof Plan  
b. Elevations

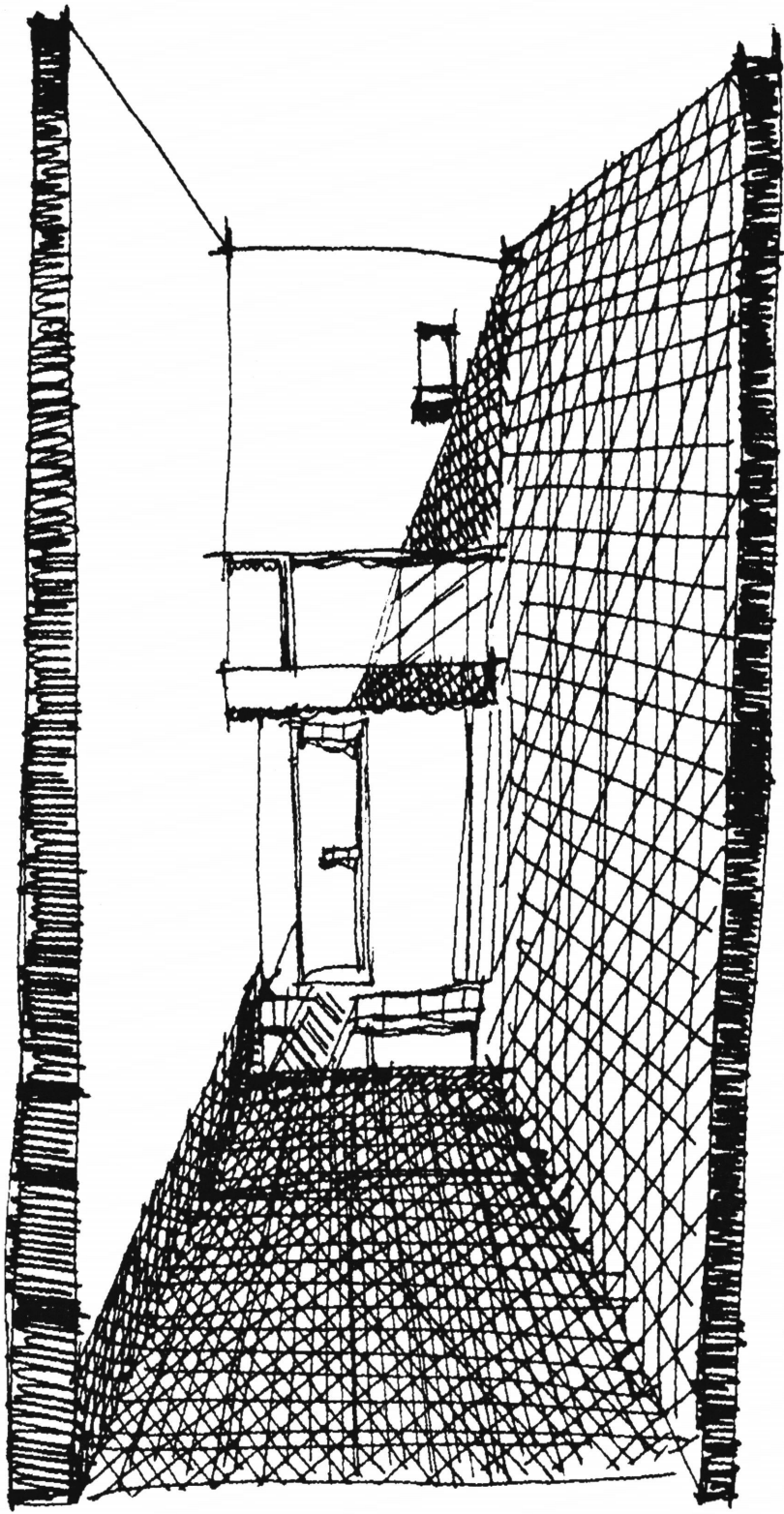
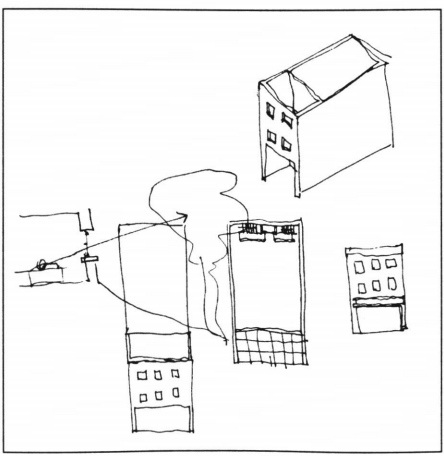
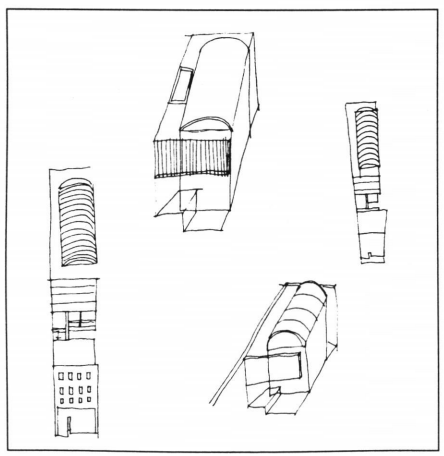
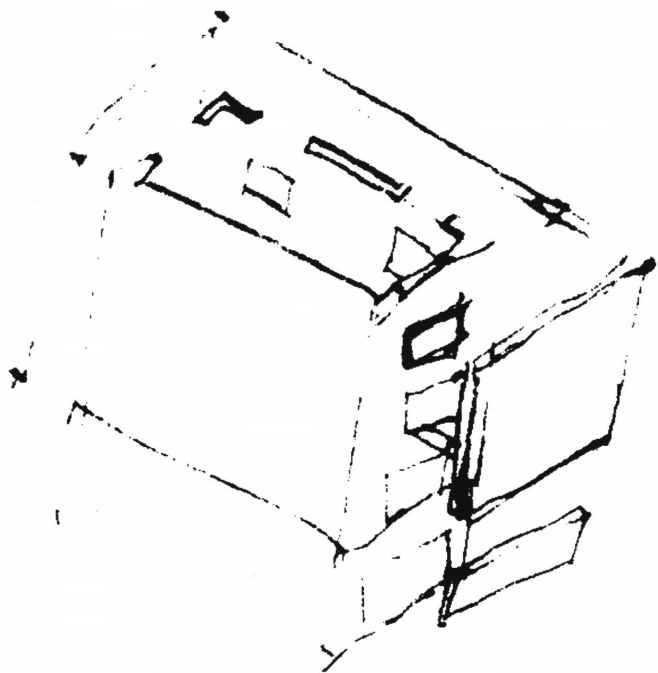


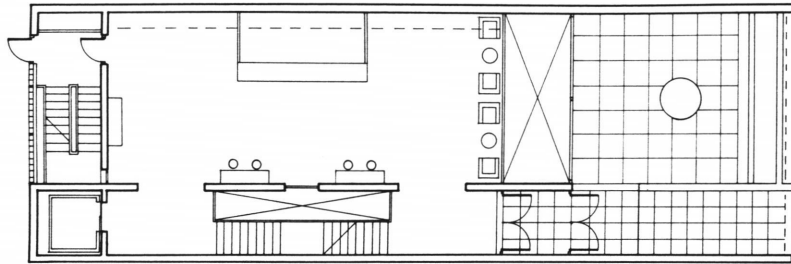




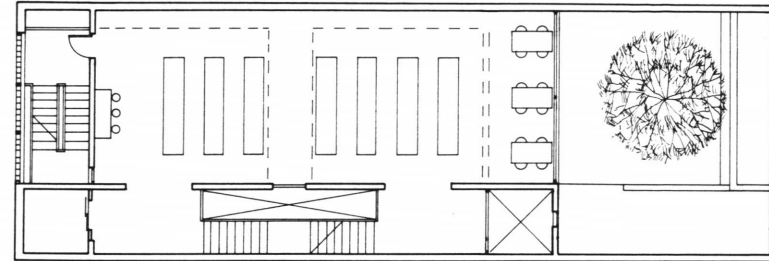


**Project Two**

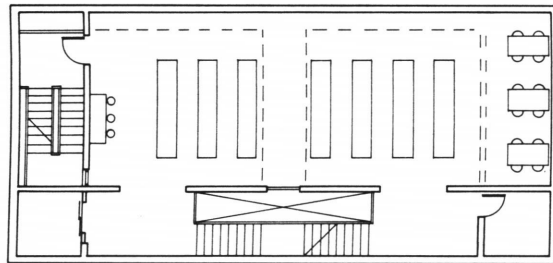




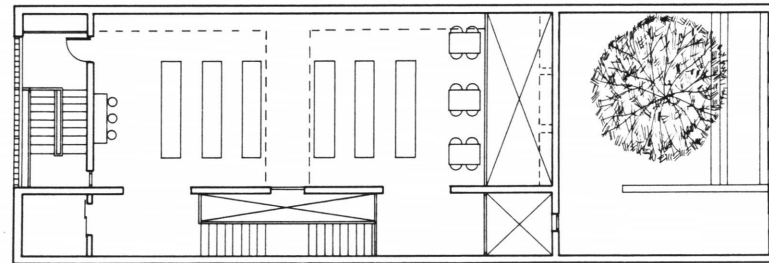
00



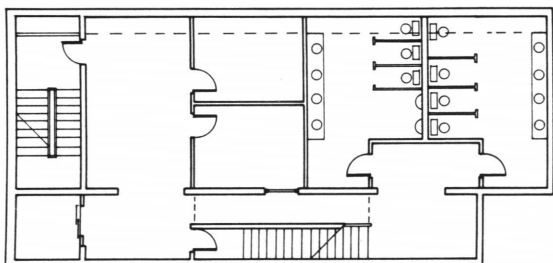
01



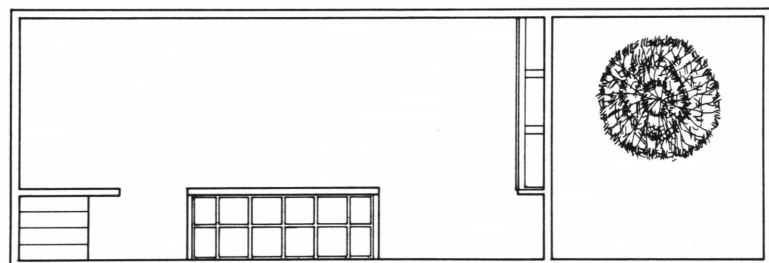
-1



02

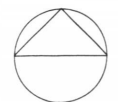


-2

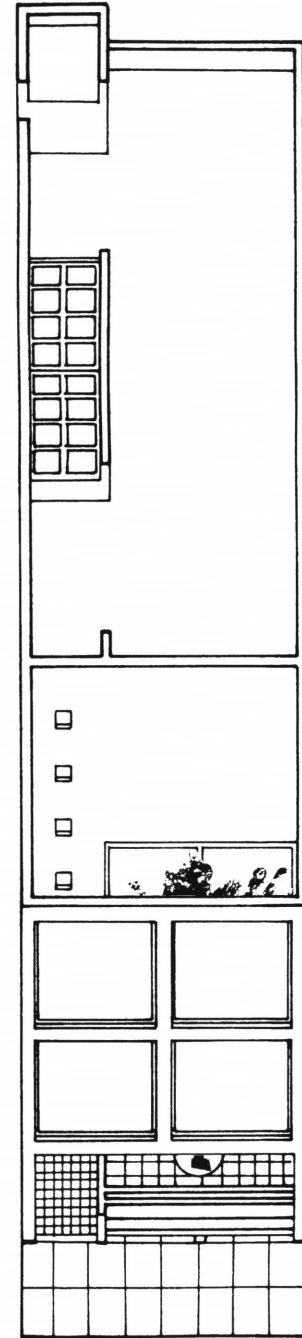
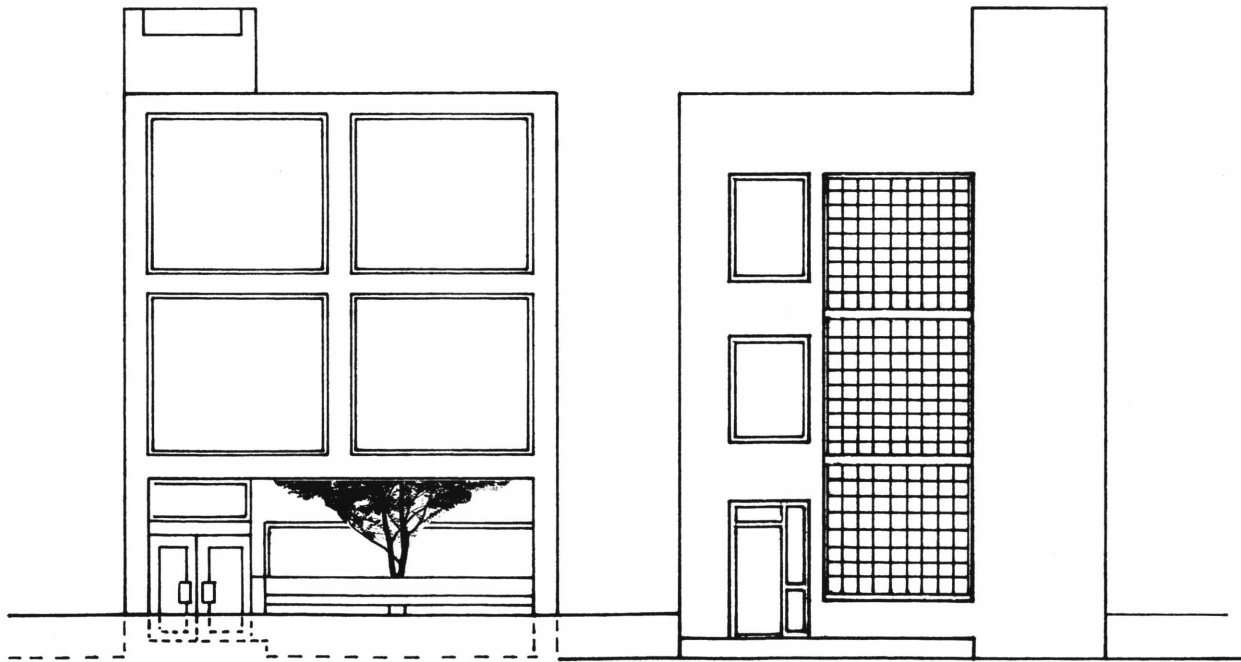
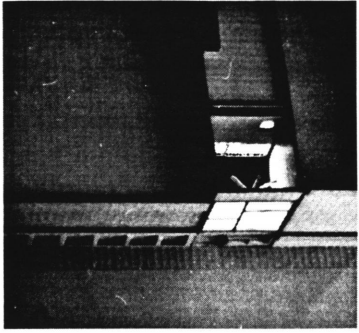


Roof Plan

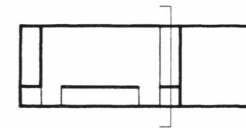
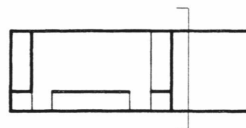
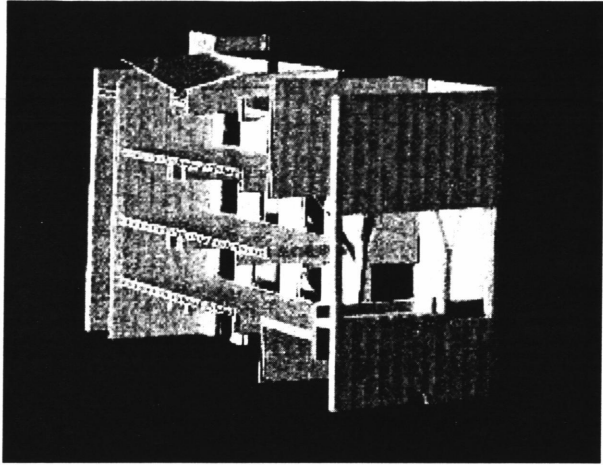
a. Floor plans



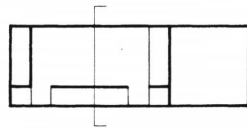
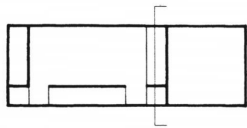
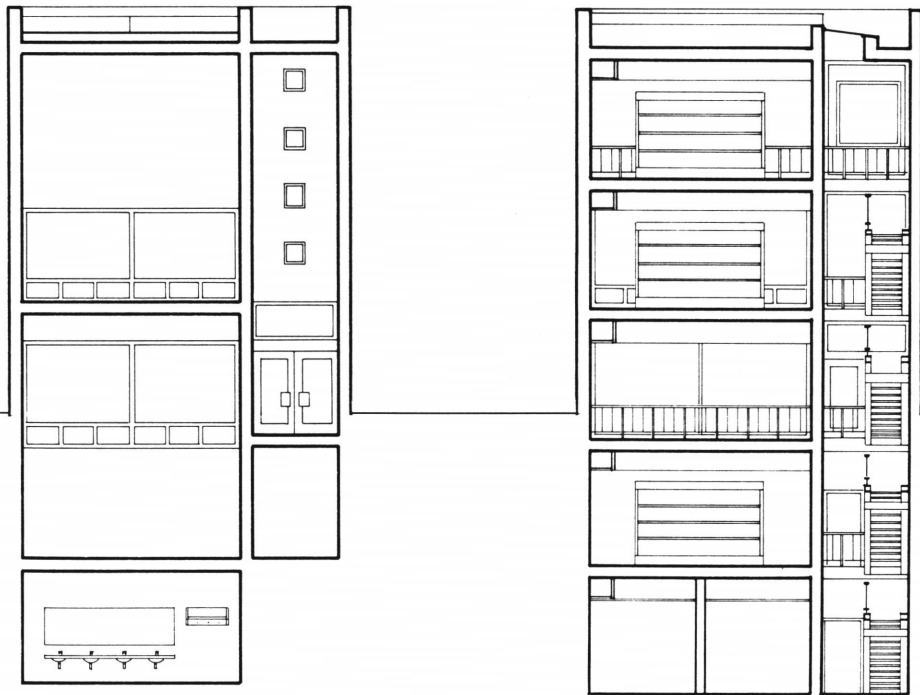
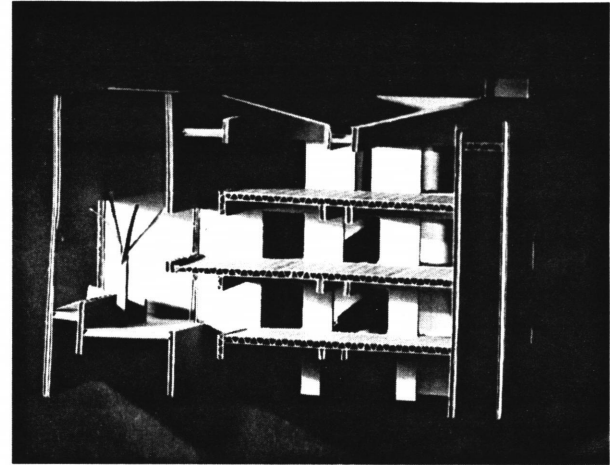




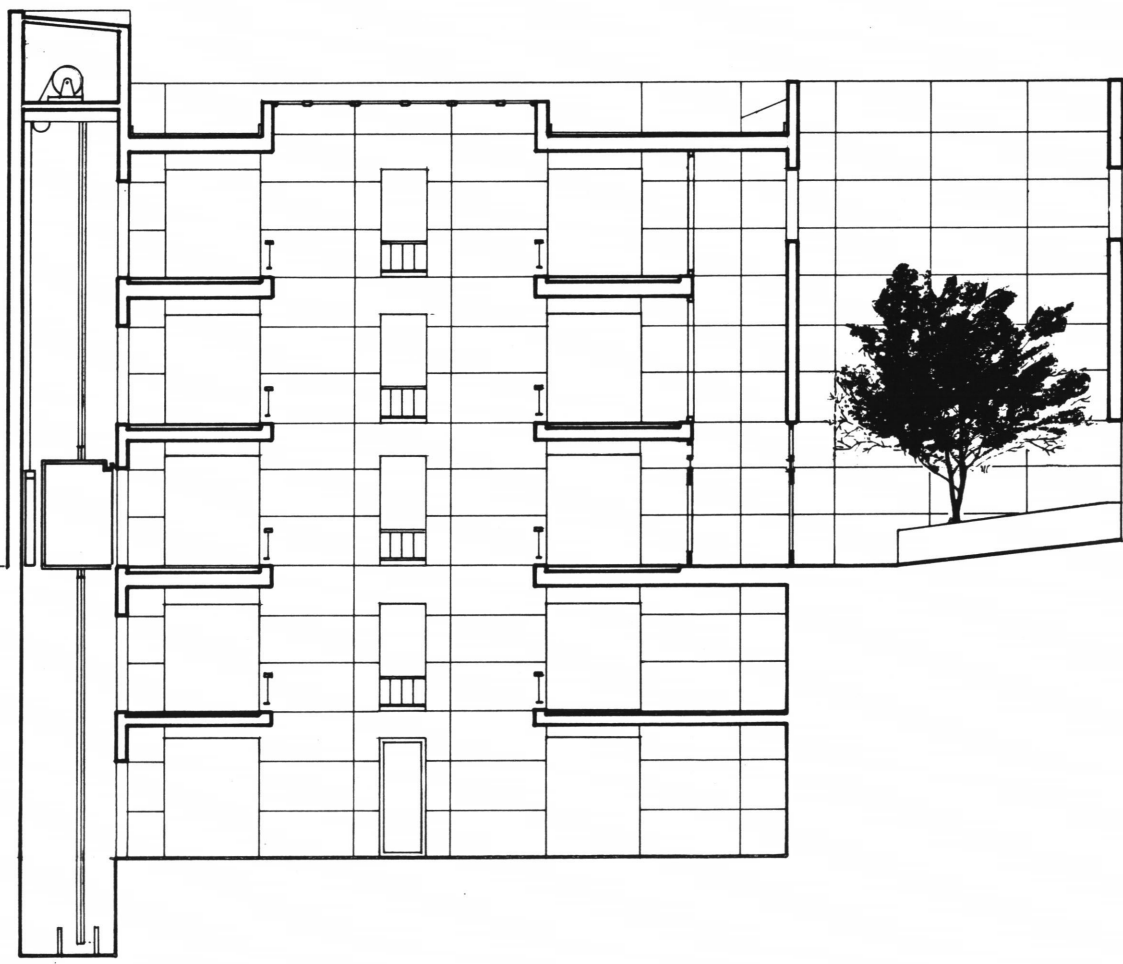
- a. Front Elevation
- b. Rear Elevation
- c. Axonometric



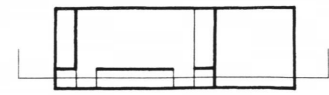
- a. Model
- b. Section AA
- c. Section BB

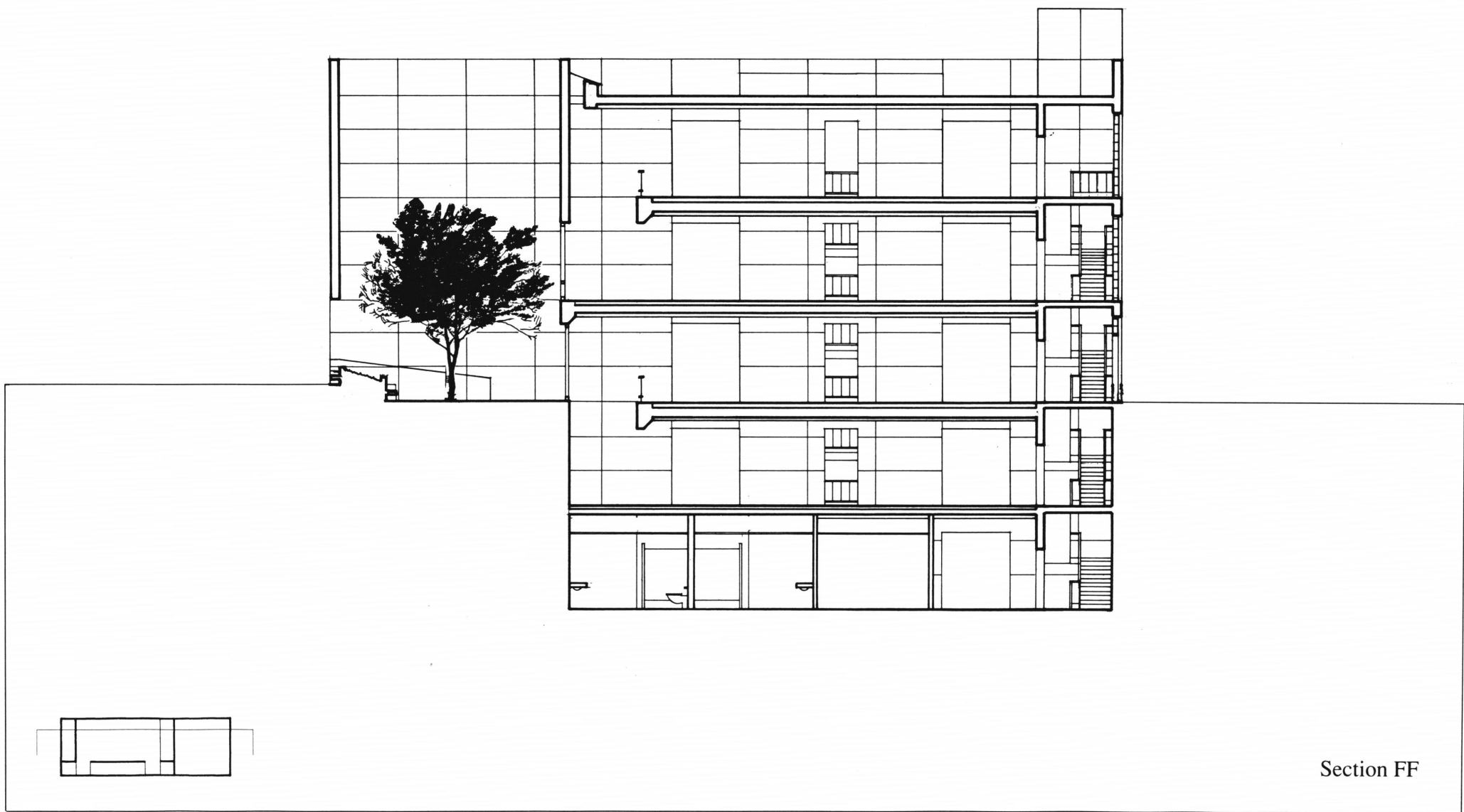


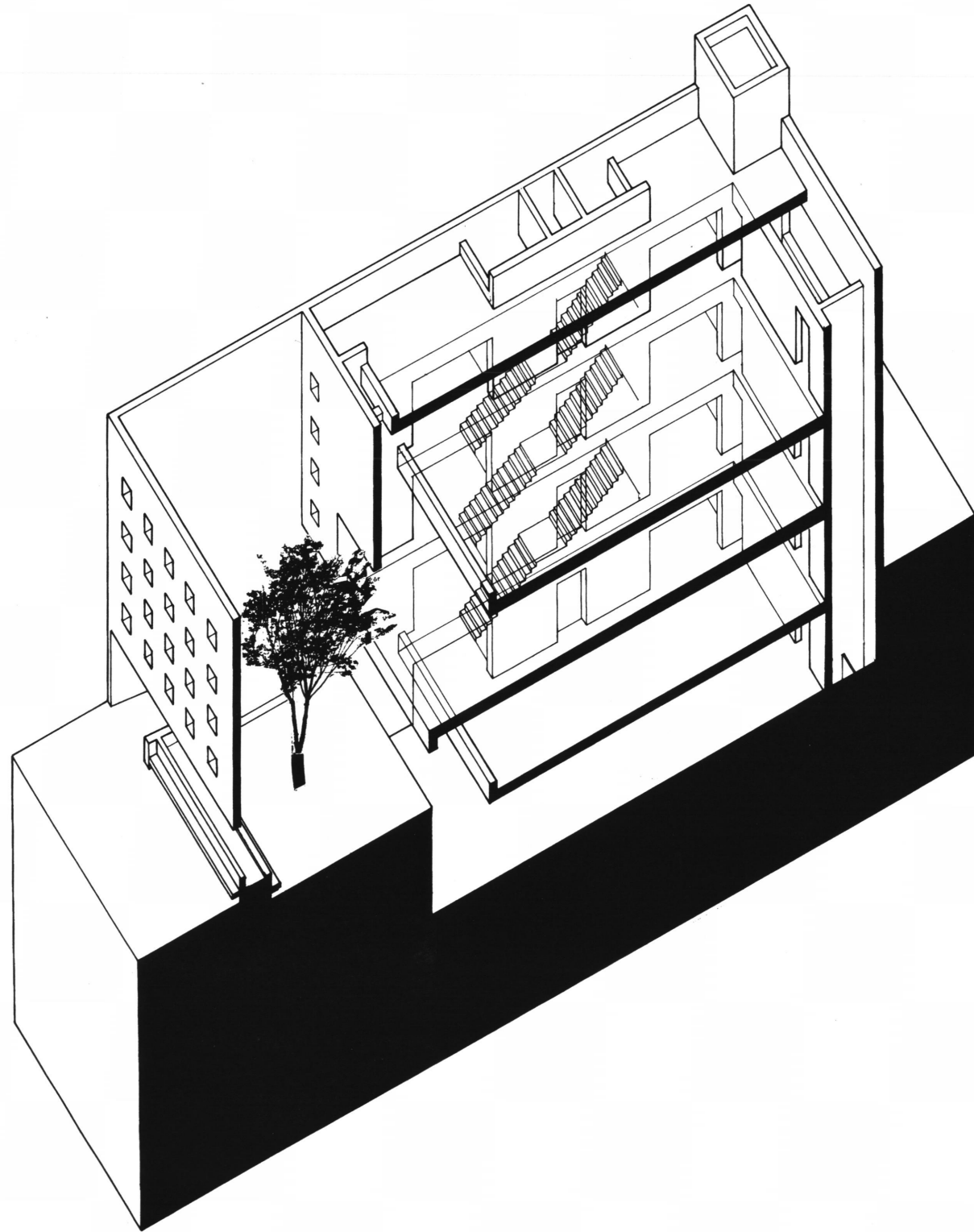
- a. Section CC
- b. Section DD
- c. Model



Section EE







Axonometric

**The vita has been removed from  
the scanned document**