

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



PUBLIC PARKS



BY
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DESIGN THESIS submitted to the Graduate Faculty
of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
degree of

MASTER IN ARCHITECTURE

Approved

Jack Davis, Chairman

Jim Ritter

Wayne Hughes

LEGEND

- UNDER FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY JURISDICTION
- UNDER NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY JURISDICTION
- NATIONAL PARK
- STATE OF VIRGINIA
- OTHER PARK LAND
- GOLF COURSES

LEGEND

- INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS - LIMITED ACCESS
- U.S. HIGHWAYS
- STATE ROADS & MAJOR THROUGHROADS
- LOCAL ROADS & STREETS
- PROPOSED OR UNIMPROVED ROADS
- RAILROADS
- METRO LINES & STATIONS
- PIPE LINES
- TRANSMISSION LINES
- CITY & TOWN BOUNDARIES
- COUNTY & STATE BOUNDARIES
- FEDERAL & STATE PROPERTIES

BY
DANIEL P. BURKE
(ABSTRACT)

"The room is not only the beginning of architecture: it is an extension of self. If you think about it, you realize that you don't say the same thing in a small room that you say in a large room. If I were to speak in a great hall, I would have to pick one person who smiles at me in order to be able to speak at all.

"The large room and the small room, the tall room and the low room, the room with the fireplace and the room without, all become great events in your mind. You begin to think, not what are the requirements, but rather what are the elements of architecture that you can employ to make an environment in which it is good to learn, good to live, or good to work."

Louis I Kahn¹

"A good structural organism worked out passionately in detail and in general appearance is essential to good architecture, structural architecture leads to that synthesis of static-aesthetic activity, technical knowledge and mastery of execution which produced the masterpieces of the past."

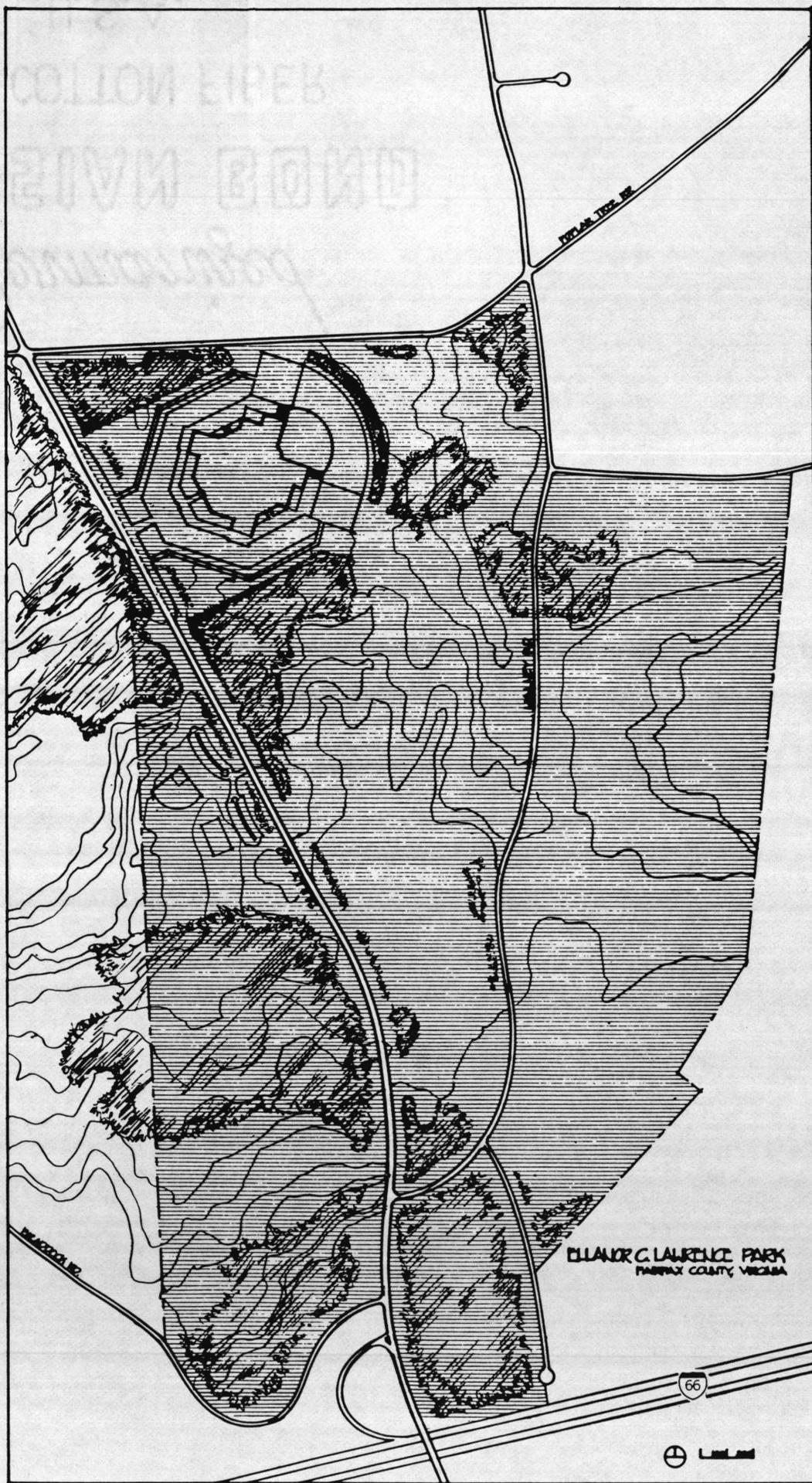
Pier Luigi Nervi²

TO [REDACTED]
whose never-ending encouragement, support
and inspiration made the vision a reality.

Optimizing
ARTESIAN BLEND
50% COTTON FIBER
U.S.A.

THE PROJECT

Project Introduction and Site Plan	1
Plans	
Roof Top Level	2
Entrance Level	3
Pool and Baseball Level	4
Lower Court Level	5
Elevations	
Front Elevation	6
Side Elevation	7
Rear Elevation	8
Sections	
Longitudinal Section—Entrance	9
Longitudinal Section—Lighting Tower	10
Transverse Section—Pool	11
Transverse Section—Lounge	12
Perspectives	
Entry	13
Pool	14
FOOTNOTES	15
BIBLIOGRAPHY	16
VITA	17



PROJECT INTRODUCTION

The project, a facility accommodating both competitive and recreational sporting activities, is sited on parkland in Fairfax County, Virginia. The site, Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, is 640 acres of primarily undisturbed open and wooded land surrounded by residential and commercial development. The Fairfax County Park Authority currently has four indoor recreation centers, three other centers under construction and plans for at least two more.

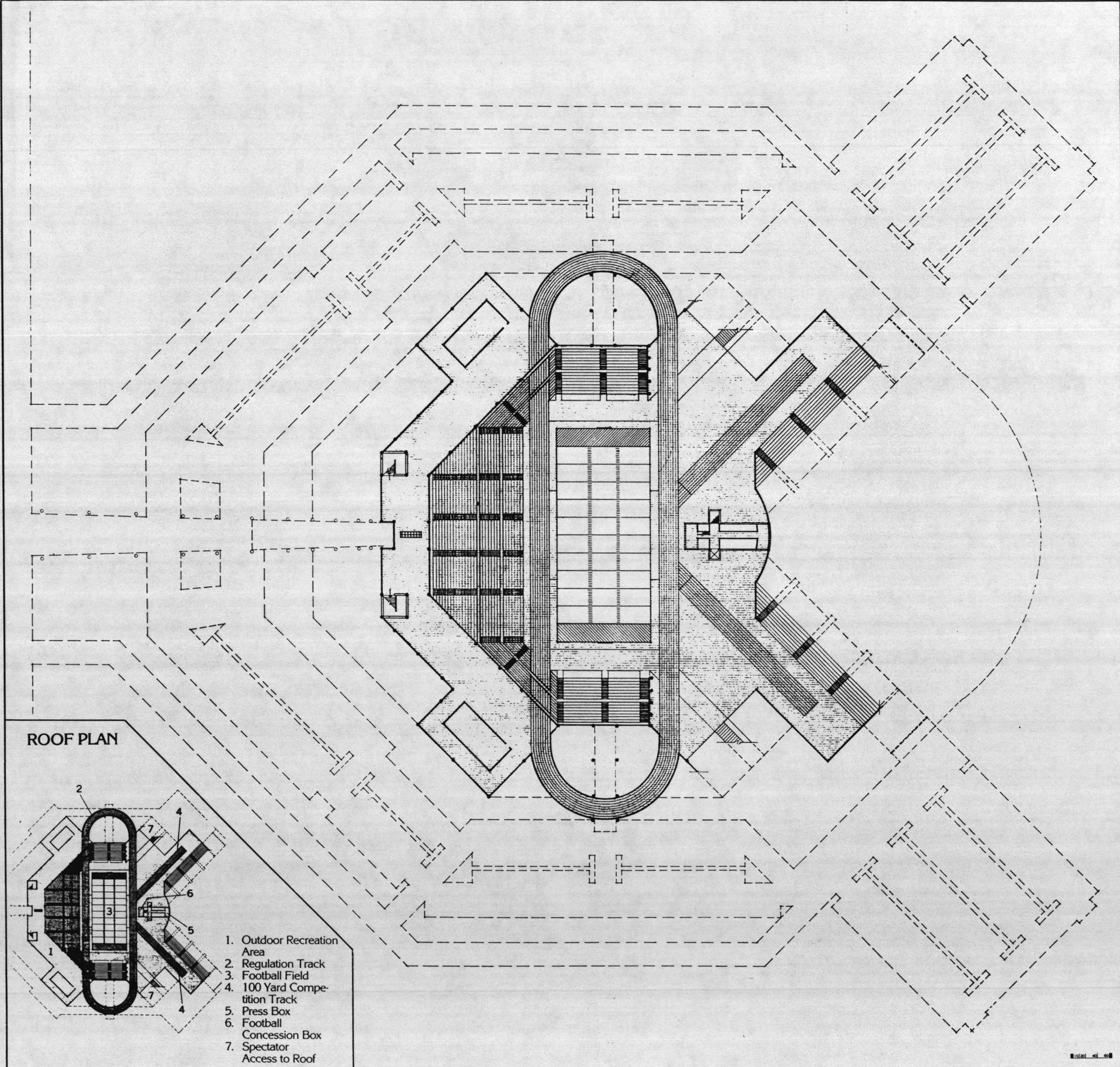
Three primary elements contributing to the evolution of the facility are circulation, structure and the union of space.

The circulation paths play an integral role in unifying the spaces of the building. The main axis at the entrance of the building is critical in divulging the building's core. Discovery of the building's mass occurs only upon reaching the entrance bridge, where its full elevation can be observed. The tall flag poles and lighting towers help define the building's presence on the site, providing vehicular orientation and a relationship to the parkland's tall evergreens. The descending flag poles along the main axis define the beginning of the building and help bring the building's main axis into focus. The flag pole at the end of this major axis, which is visible at the entrance, terminates this path. The entrance level is devoted almost entirely to the main circulation path and the secondary perimeter axes. These axes reveal the lower level plans and set up a central point through which the union of the inside space to outside space can occur. The circulation paths also unify the primary functions of user and observer. The elevated paths' movements throughout the usable spaces, the balconies off the walkways, and the central lounge allow the spectator full visual awareness of the physical experiences below.

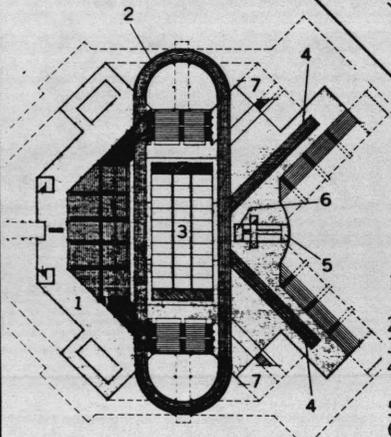
Through the structural order of the building, events form a relation between themselves and a relation to the whole. The structural column grid, spaced for recreational events, determines and illustrates the internal spatial structure and generates the well-defined circulation paths. LeCorbusier wrote: "In this home we are presented with a real architectural promenade, offering prospects which are constantly changing and unexpected, even astonishing. It is interesting that so much variety has been obtained when from a design point of view, a

rigorous scheme of pillars and beams has been adopted."³ The importance of structure is emphasized by the presence of the columns in the pool which are placed within the established grid and not altered to accommodate the pool's functions. What results are two spaces in the pool that allow a natural separation between competitive events and recreational swimming. The continuation of the interior columns to the exterior columns, which carry the flag poles and the entrance bridge, contribute to the structural order. Elsewhere, structure is used to articulate circulation paths through the use of the arched beams along the main and peripheral axes.

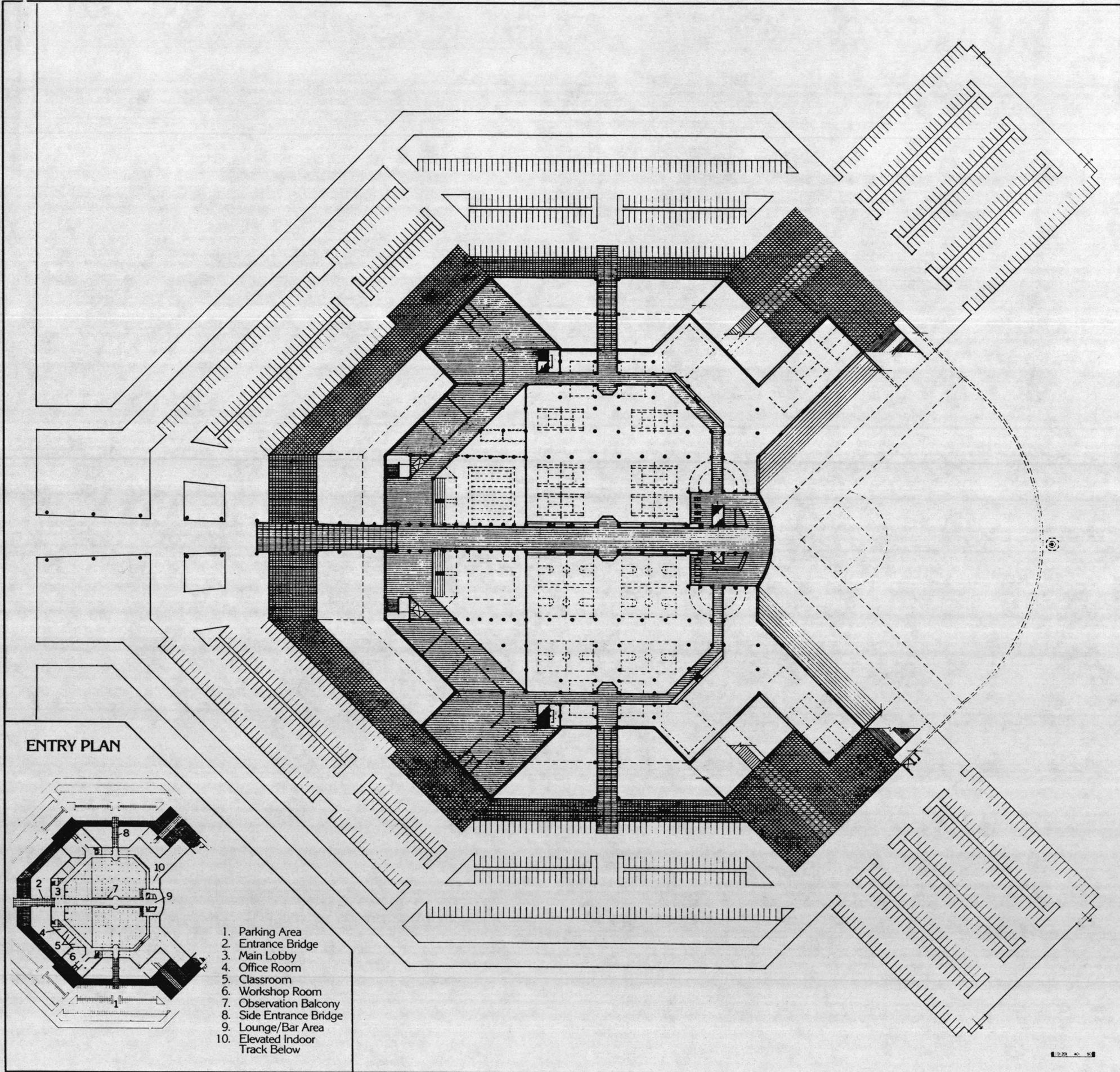
The space-defining elements of the building, the columns, the walls, the horizontal planes, help emphasize the union of spaces. Although the physical experiences both inside and outside the structure are many, the emphasis on the union of space brings a comprehensive totality to these experiences—whether through active participation in the events or simple spectating. The column order, the transparency of walls and the use of natural lighting strengthen the union of space. There is a visual awareness of the swimming pool from the roof. The interior lounge overlooks the various inside courts and related activities as well as the exterior baseball field. The running tracks focus on interior and exterior events. All of these are purposeful elements to emphasize and enhance the continuity between spaces.



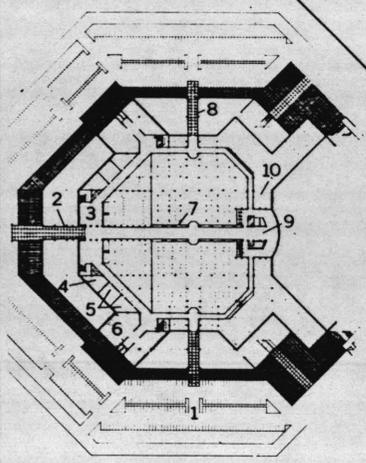
ROOF PLAN



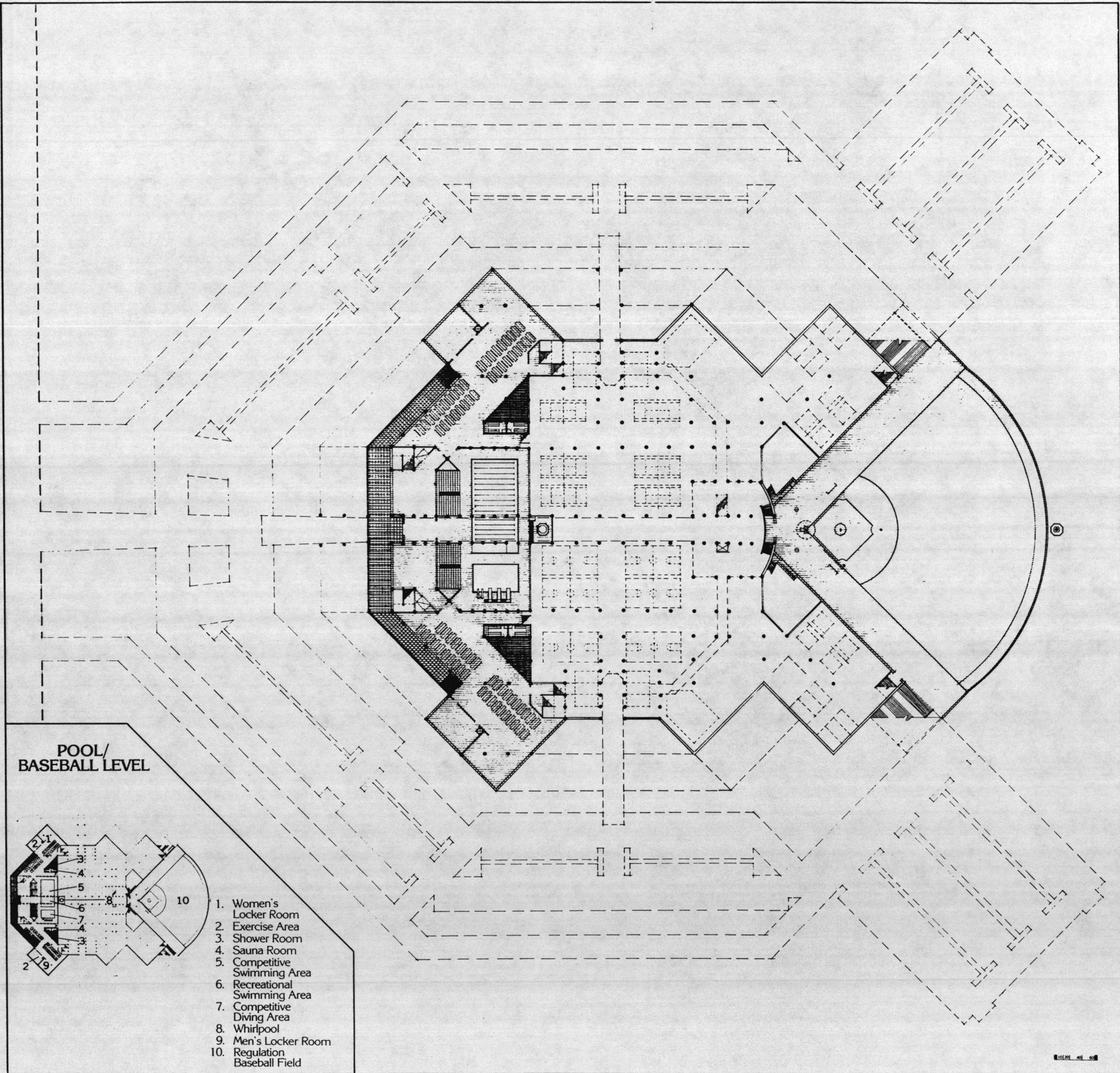
- 1. Outdoor Recreation Area
- 2. Regulation Track
- 3. Football Field
- 4. 100 Yard Competition Track
- 5. Press Box
- 6. Football Concession Box
- 7. Spectator Access to Roof



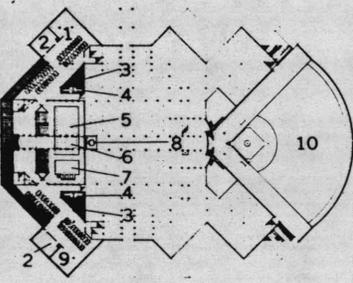
ENTRY PLAN



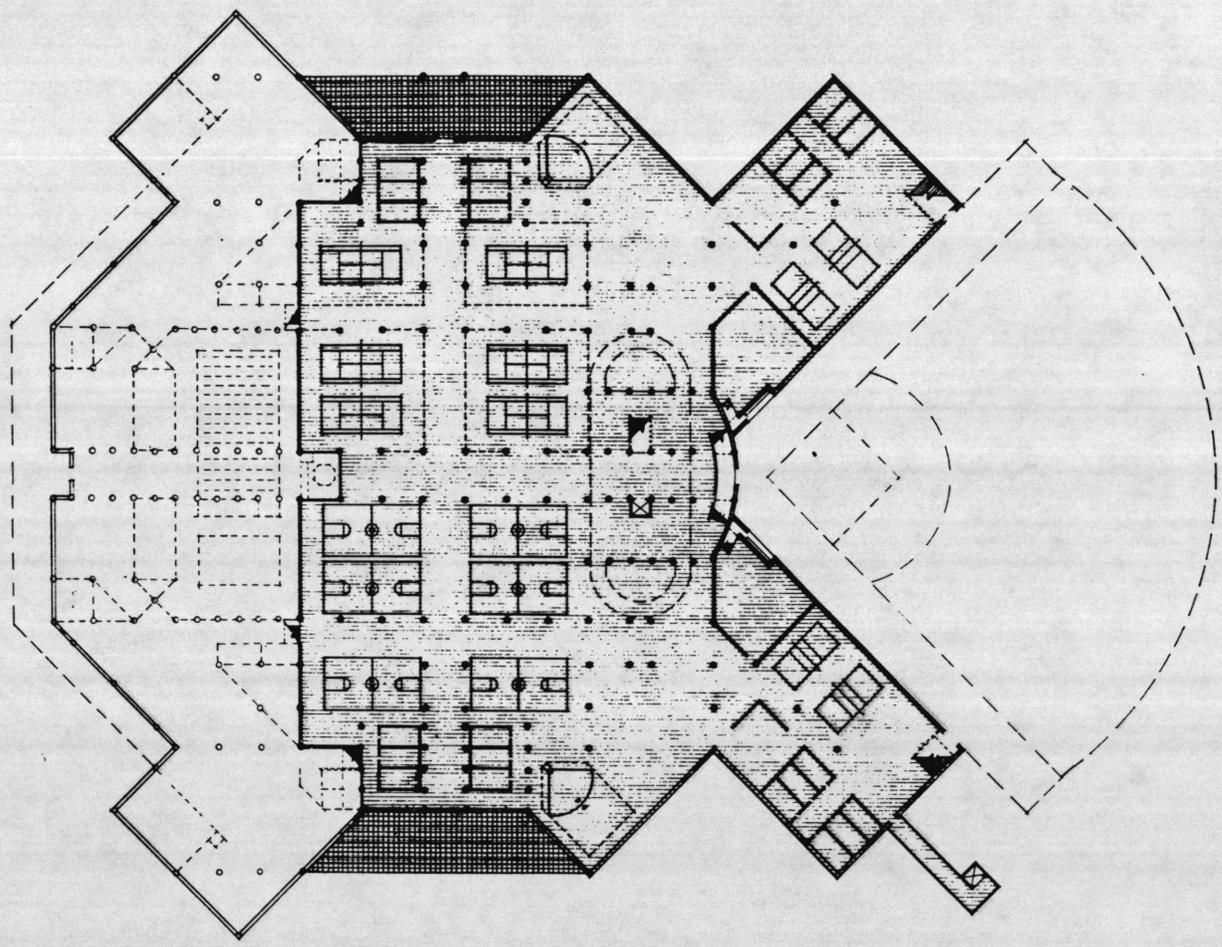
- 1. Parking Area
- 2. Entrance Bridge
- 3. Main Lobby
- 4. Office Room
- 5. Classroom
- 6. Workshop Room
- 7. Observation Balcony
- 8. Side Entrance Bridge
- 9. Lounge/Bar Area
- 10. Elevated Indoor Track Below



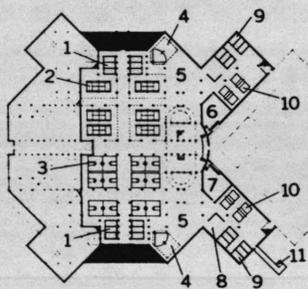
**POOL/
BASEBALL LEVEL**



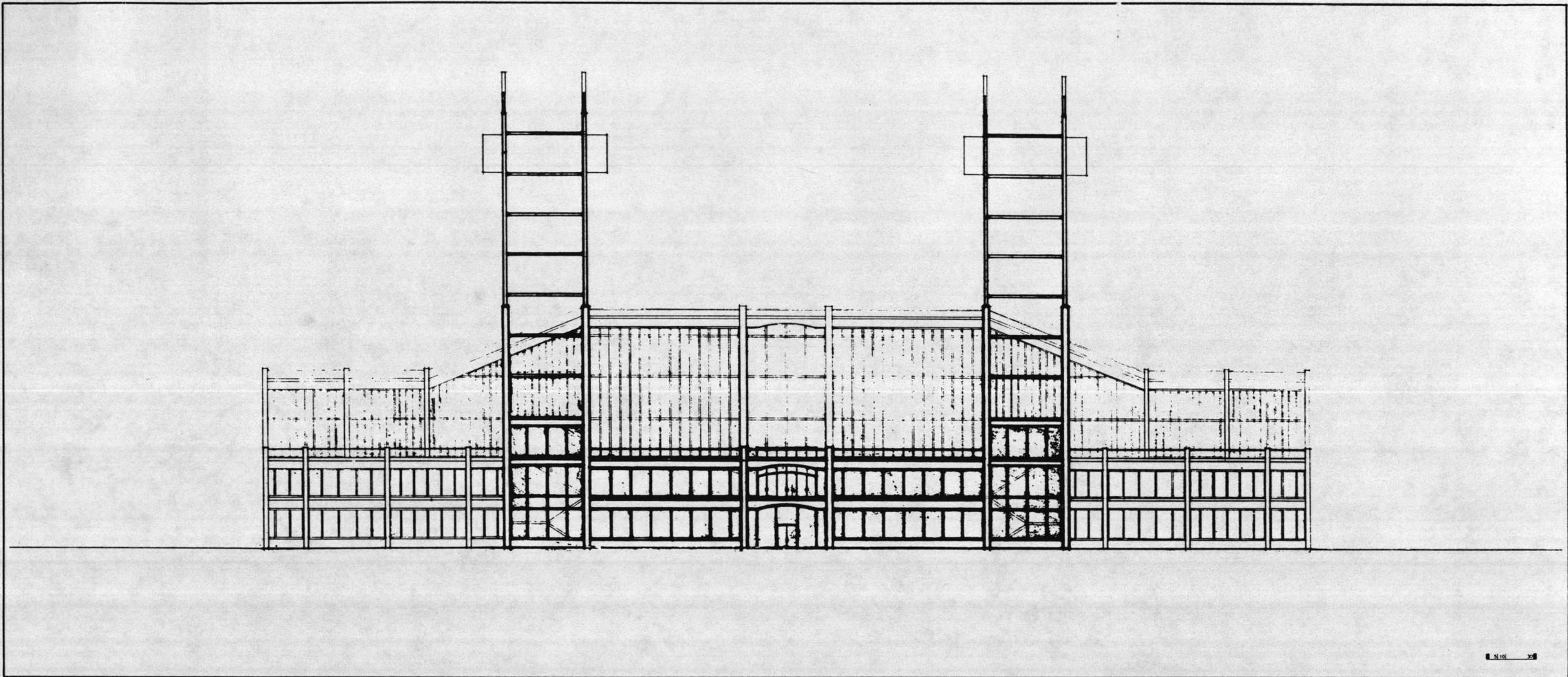
- 1. Women's Locker Room
- 2. Exercise Area
- 3. Shower Room
- 4. Sauna Room
- 5. Competitive Swimming Area
- 6. Recreational Swimming Area
- 7. Competitive Diving Area
- 8. Whirlpool
- 9. Men's Locker Room
- 10. Regulation Baseball Field



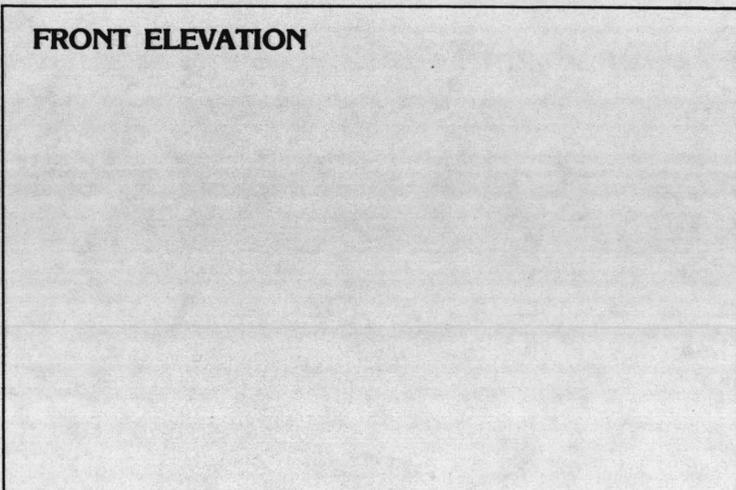
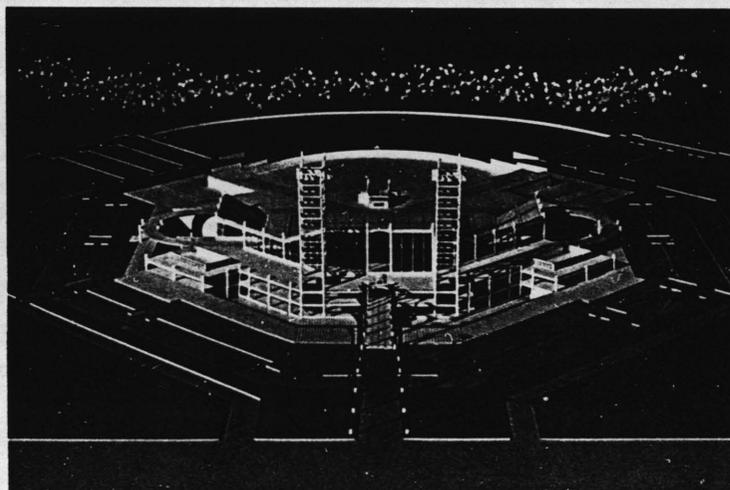
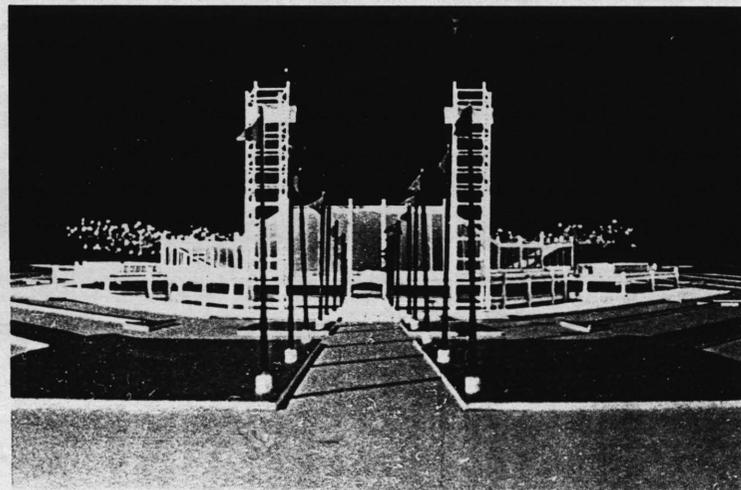
LOWER COURT

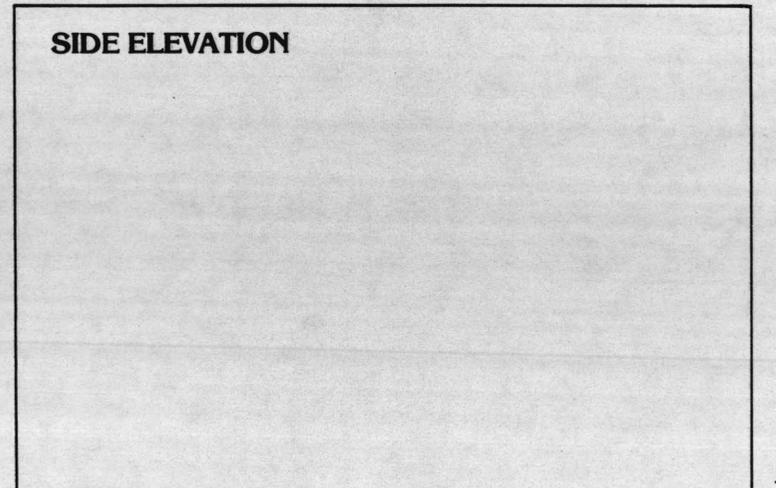
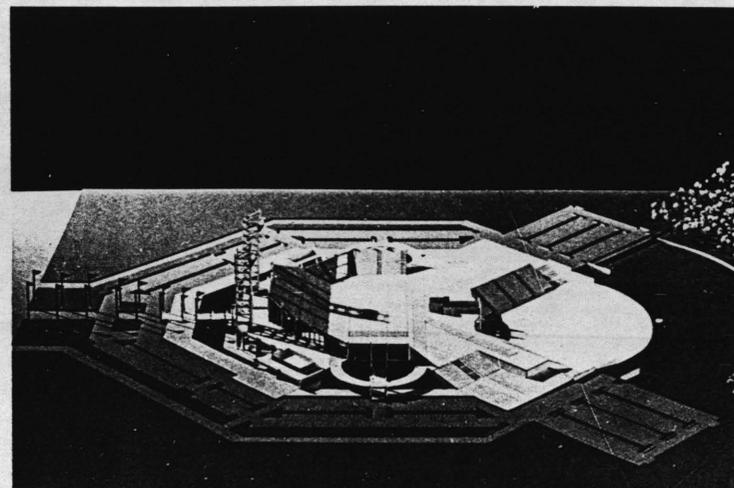
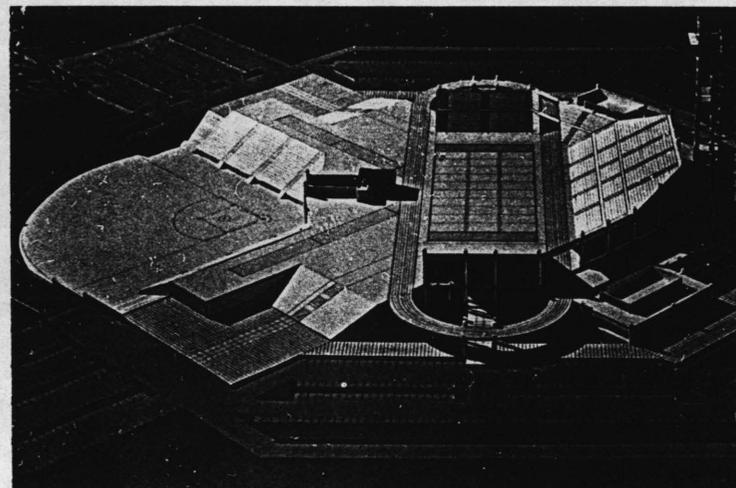
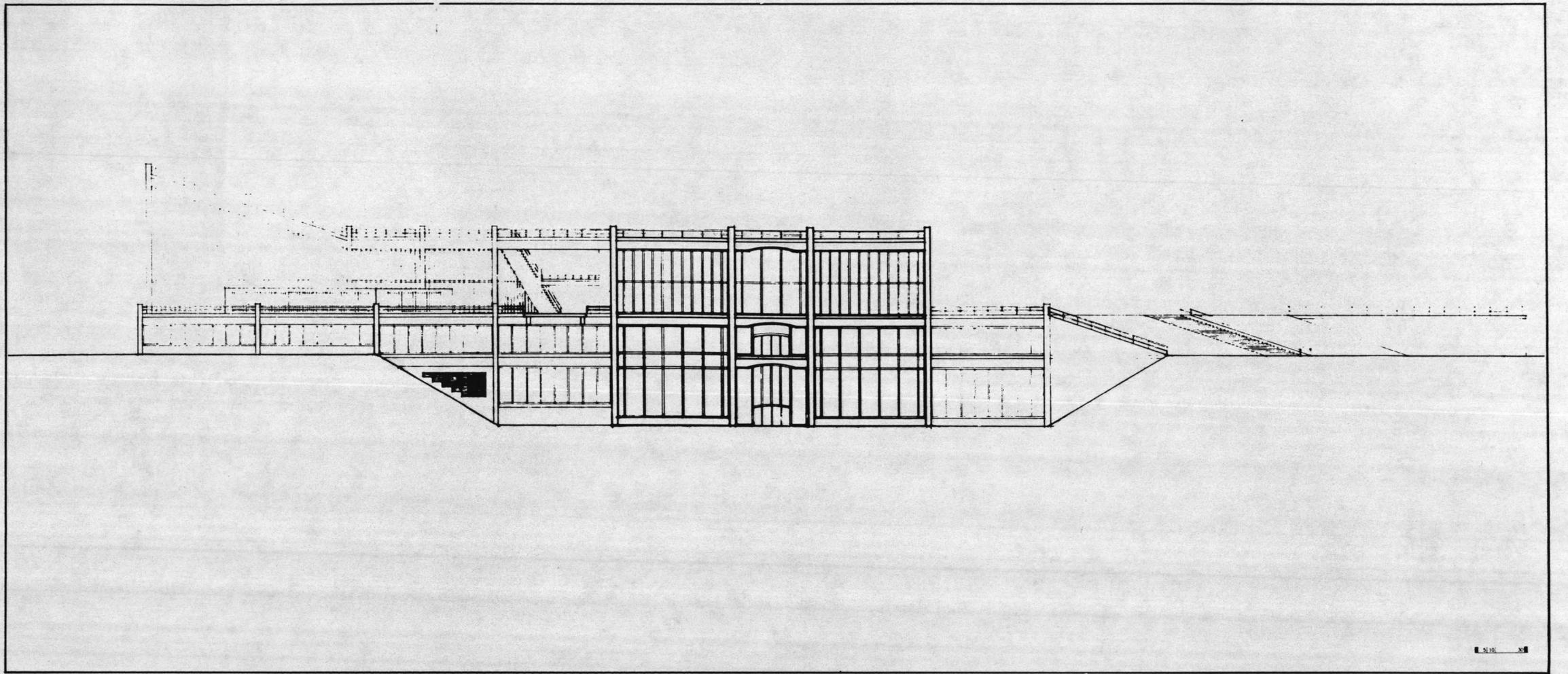


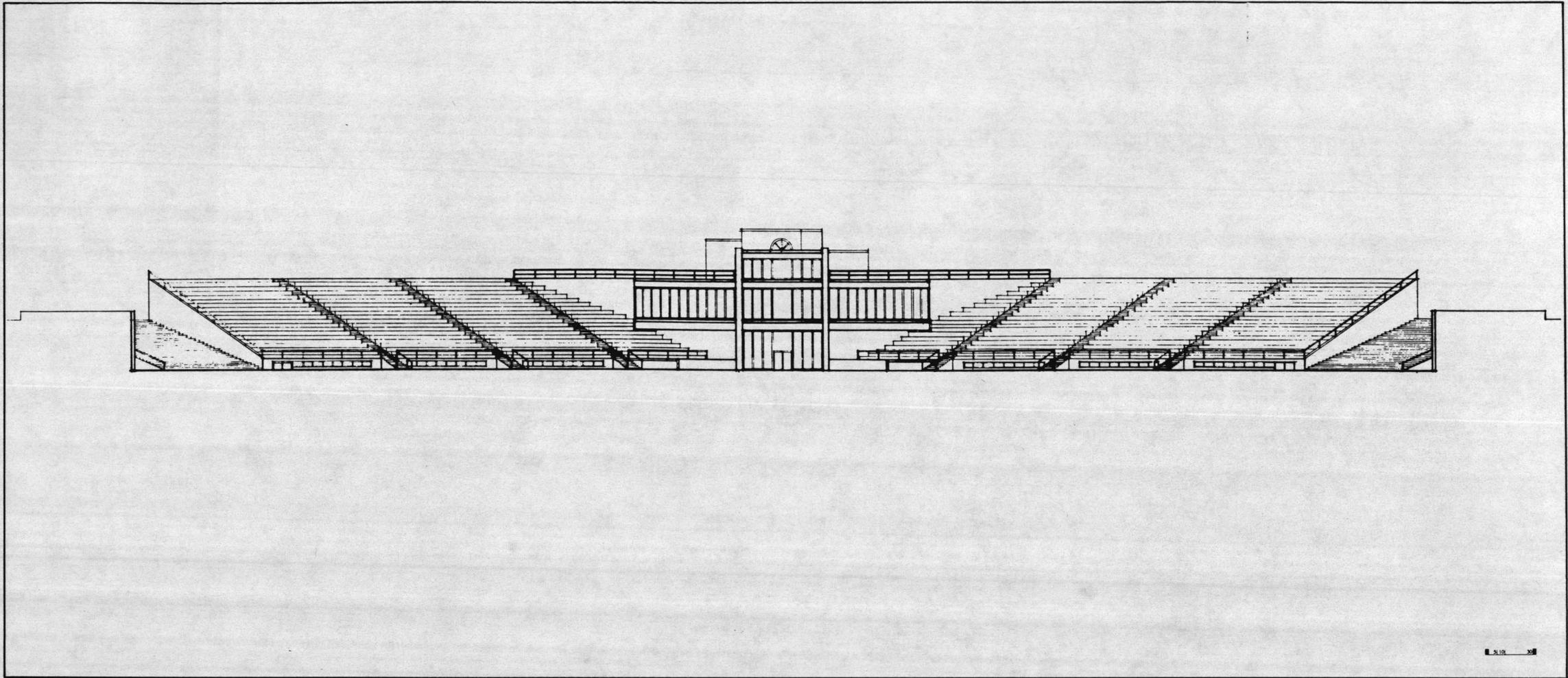
- 1. Racquet Ball
- 2. Tennis Court
- 3. Basketball Court
- 4. Indoor Softball
- 5. Exercise Area
- 6. Home Team Locker Room
- 7. Visiting Team Locker Room
- 8. Lesson Room
- 9. Squash Court
- 10. Volleyball Court
- 11. Service Elevator



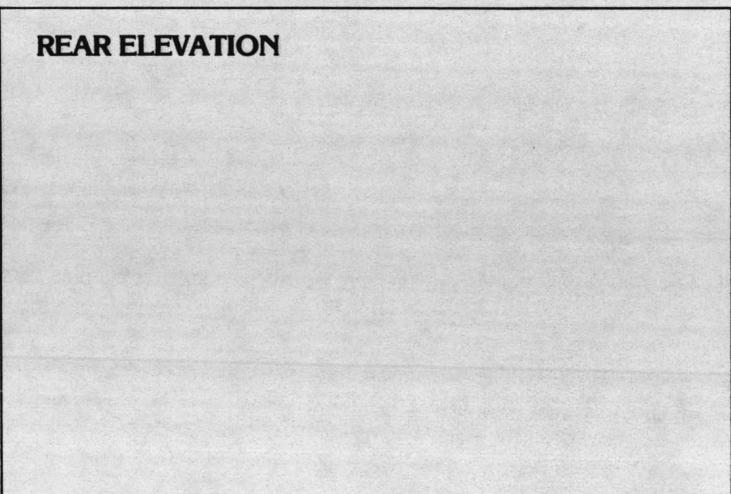
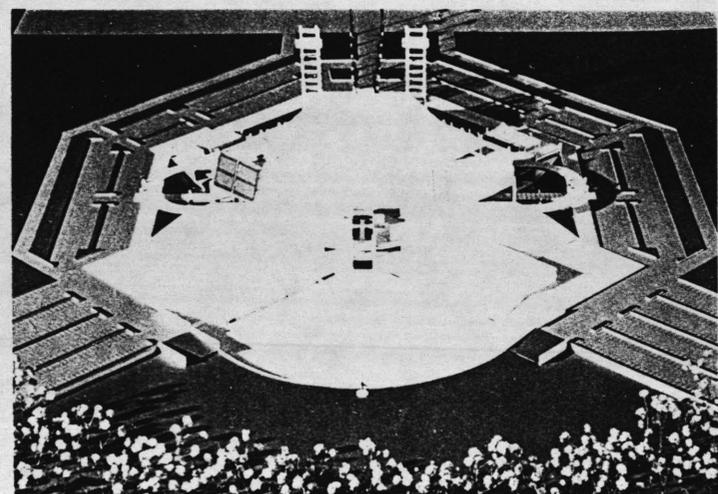
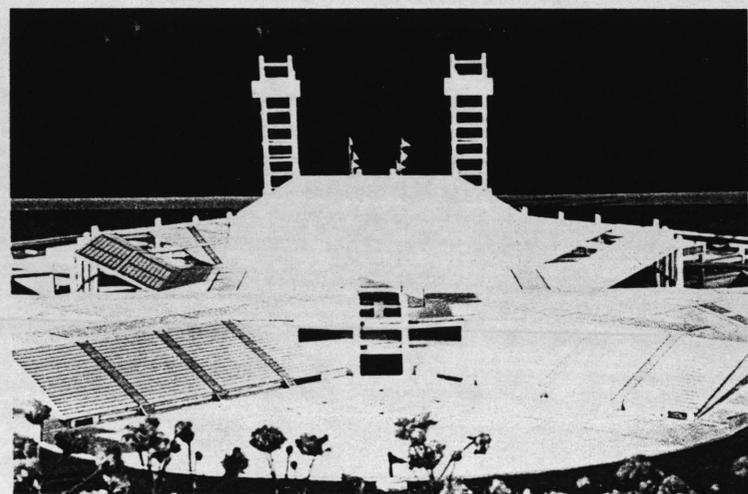
1/8" = 1'-0"



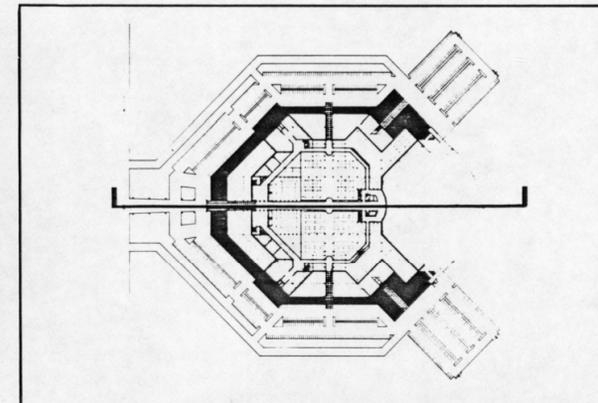
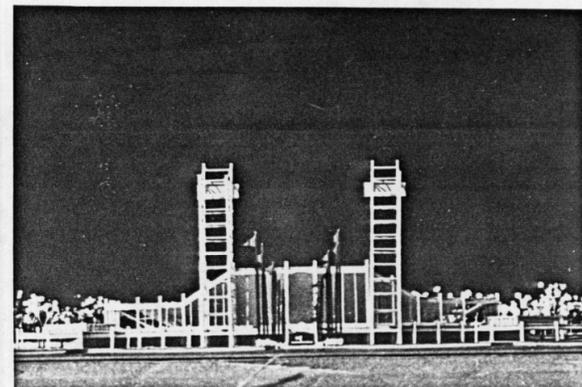
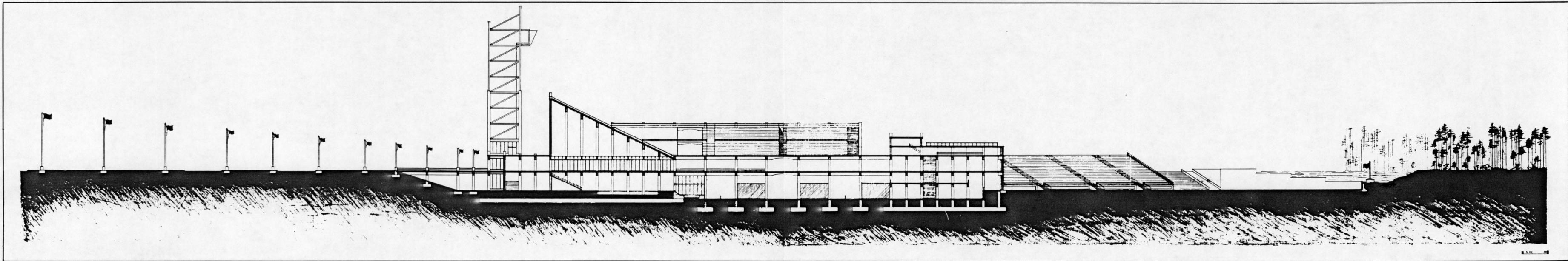




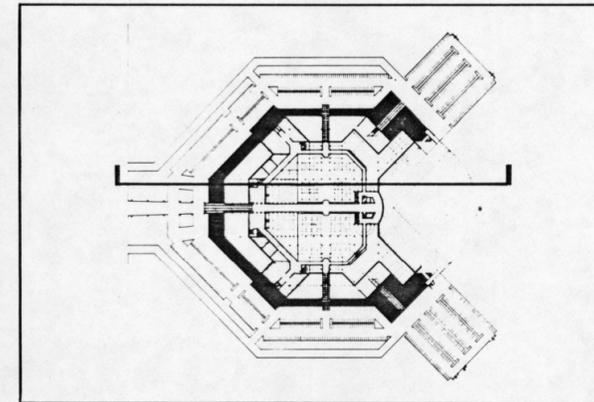
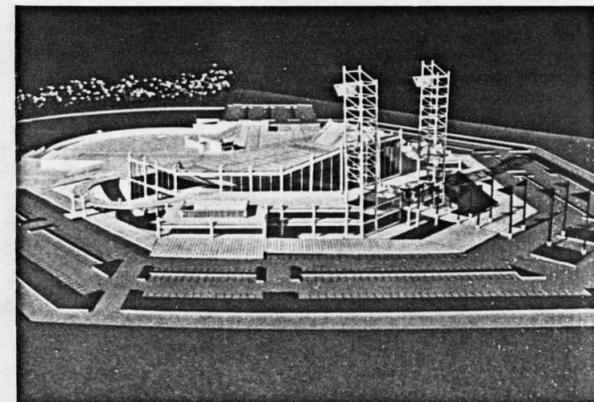
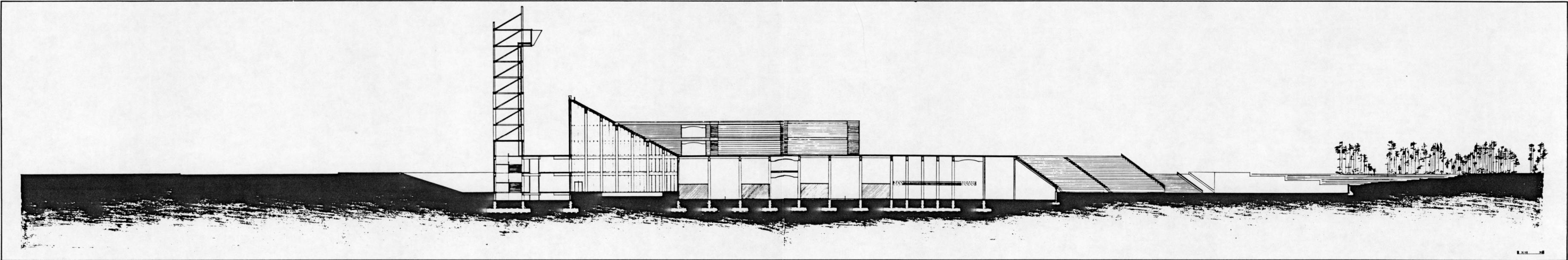
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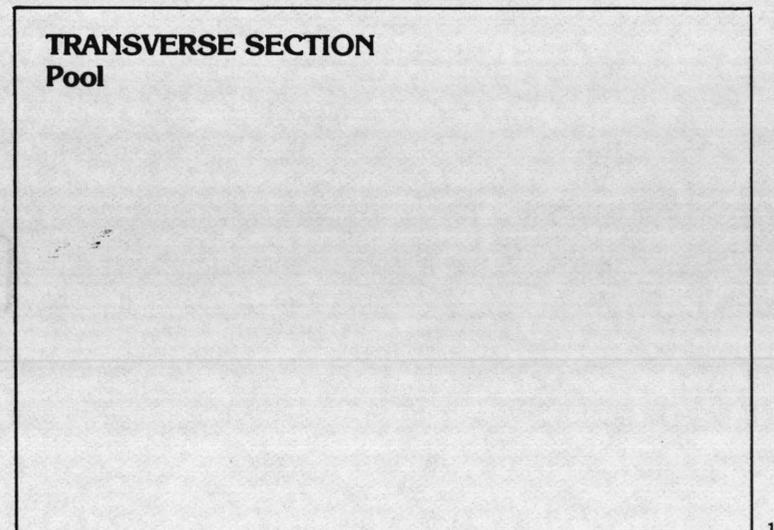
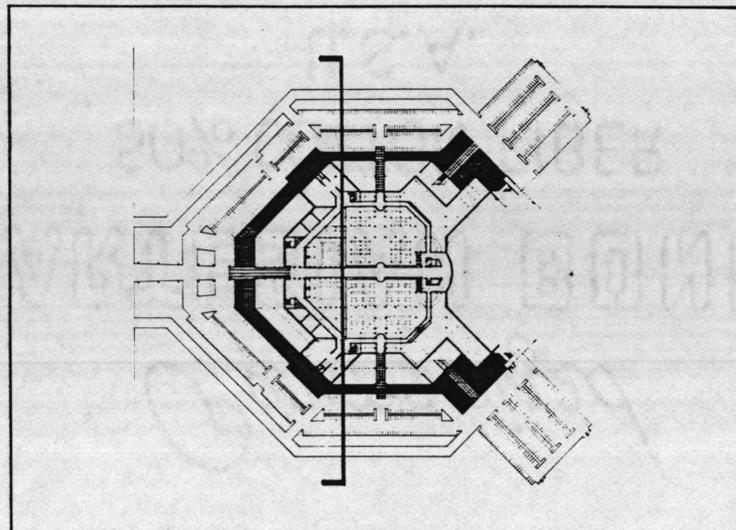
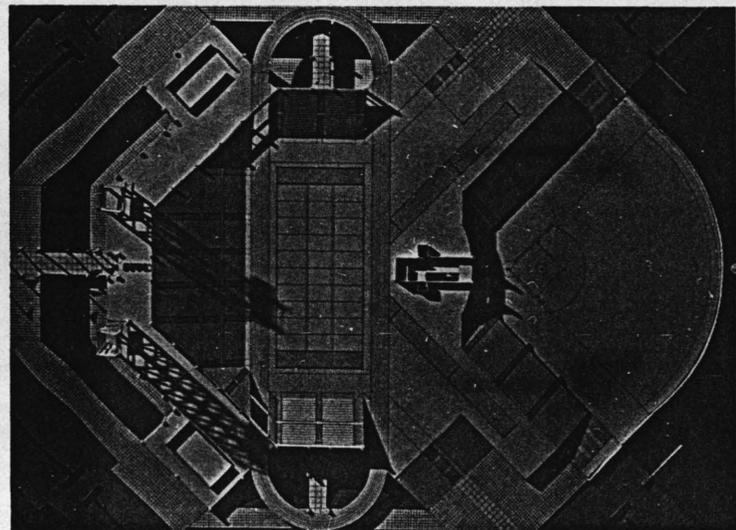
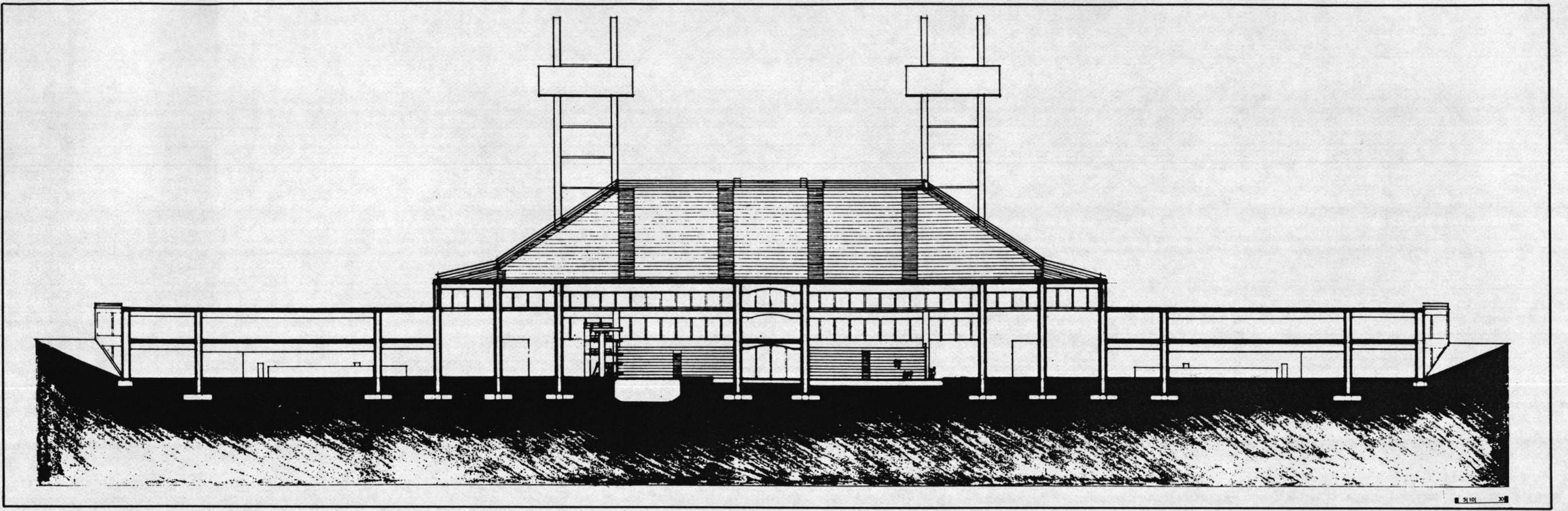
REAR ELEVATION

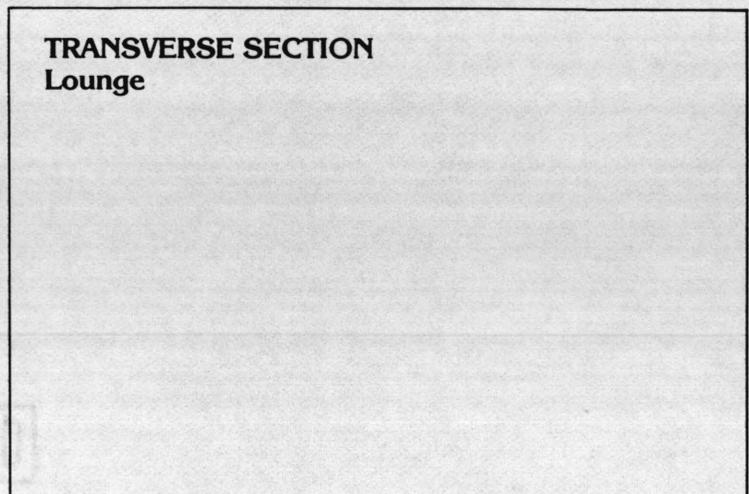
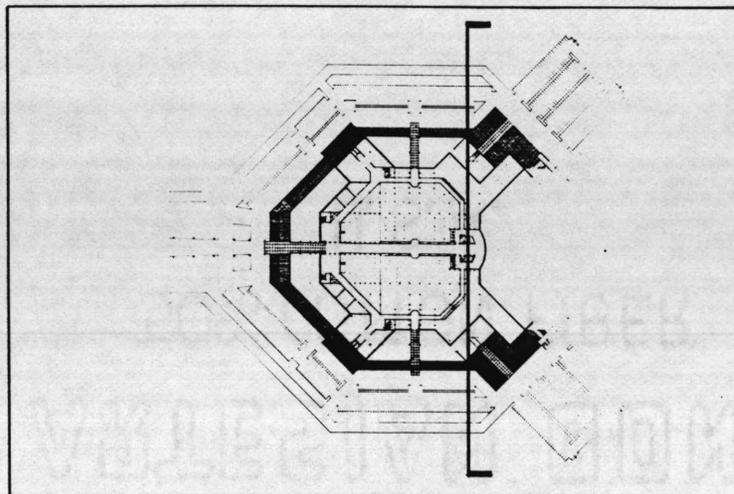
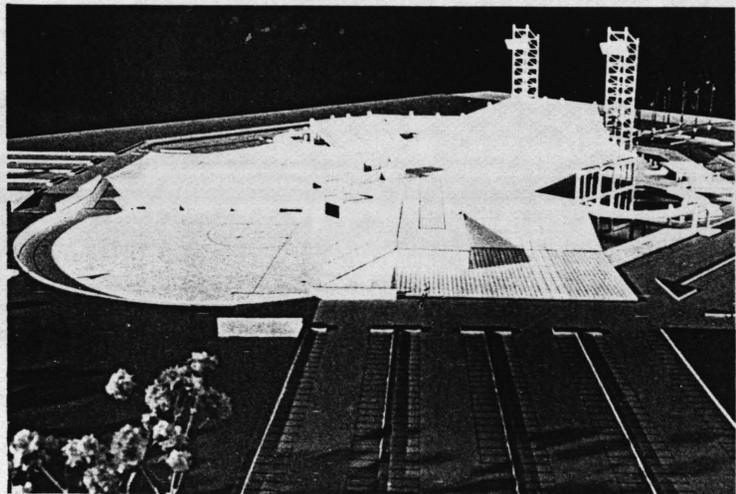
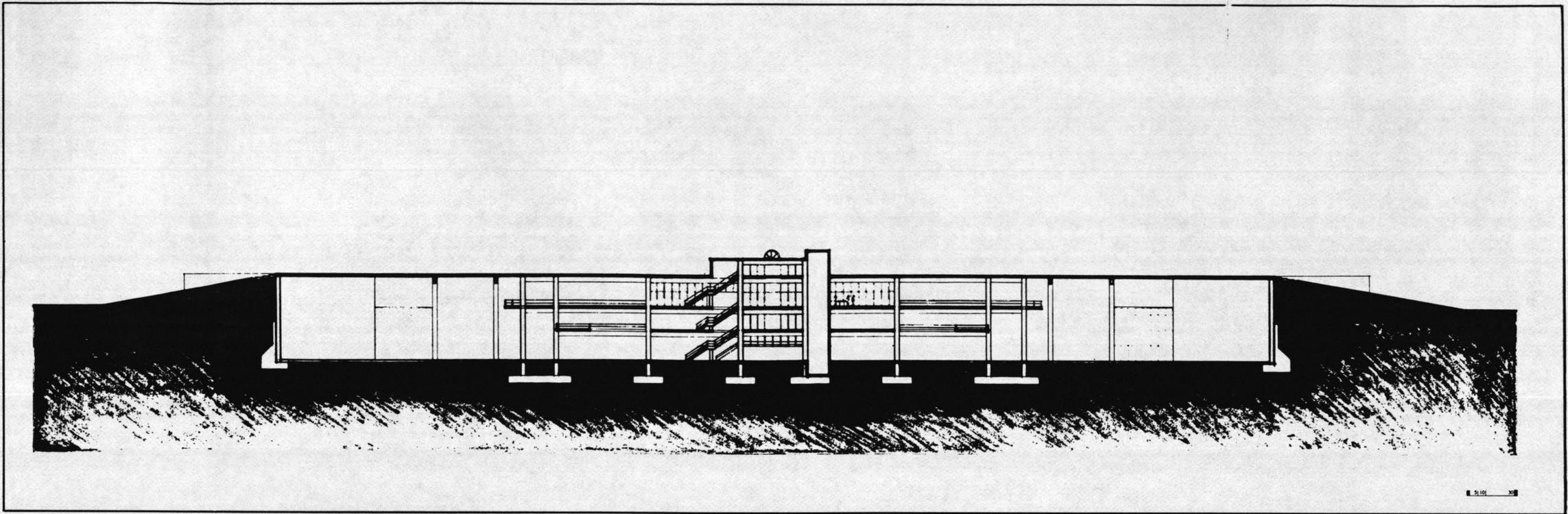


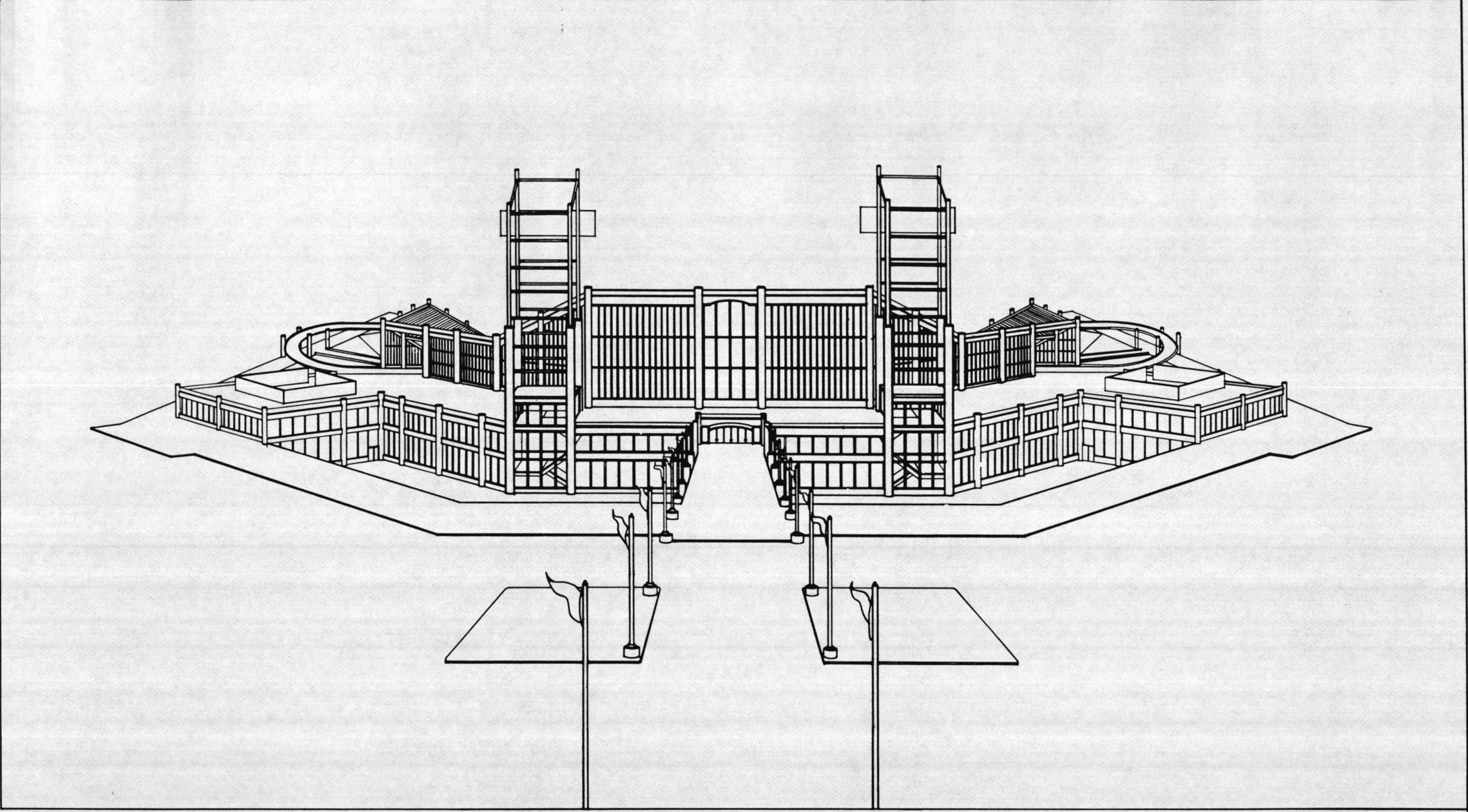
LONGITUDINAL SECTION
Entrance



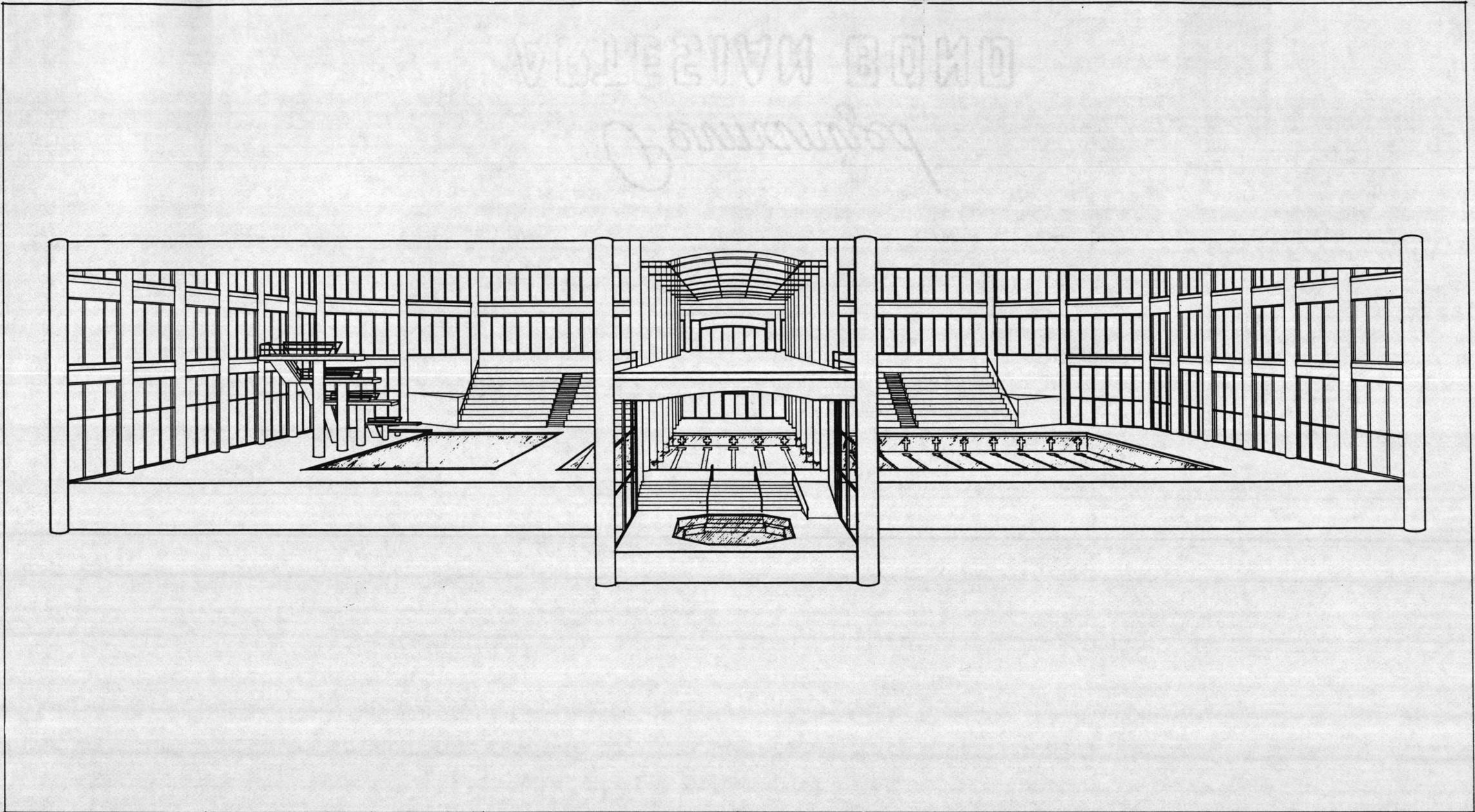
LONGITUDINAL SECTION
Lighting Tower







PERSPECTIVE
Entry



PERSPECTIVE
Pool

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