

Dedication

# On the Silence of a Chapel

by

Helen Elizabeth Boone

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

approved:

And to the memory of:

Helen Elizabeth Boone  
William Kyle Boone  
and Alexander Murray Boone

---

Olivio Ferrari, Chairman

---

Rudy Hunziker

---

Maureen Shea

---

Salahuddin Choudhury

August, 1988  
Blacksburg, Virginia

Where is where our stars from. As we grow older  
The world becomes stranger, the pattern more complicated  
Of cross and level. Not the narrow moment  
Isolated, with no before and after,  
But a lifetime learning in every moment . . .

T.S. Eliot

**Dedication**

To my mother,

To my father,

To my sister,

To my brother,

To my sister,

To my grandmother,

And to the memory of

and

Home is where one starts from. As we grow older  
The world becomes stranger, the pattern more complicated  
Of dead and living. Not the intense moment  
Isolated, with no before and after,  
But a lifetime burning in every moment . . .

T.S. Eliot









*"Marcel" by Barbara Richter, oil on canvas, 20"x 30"*

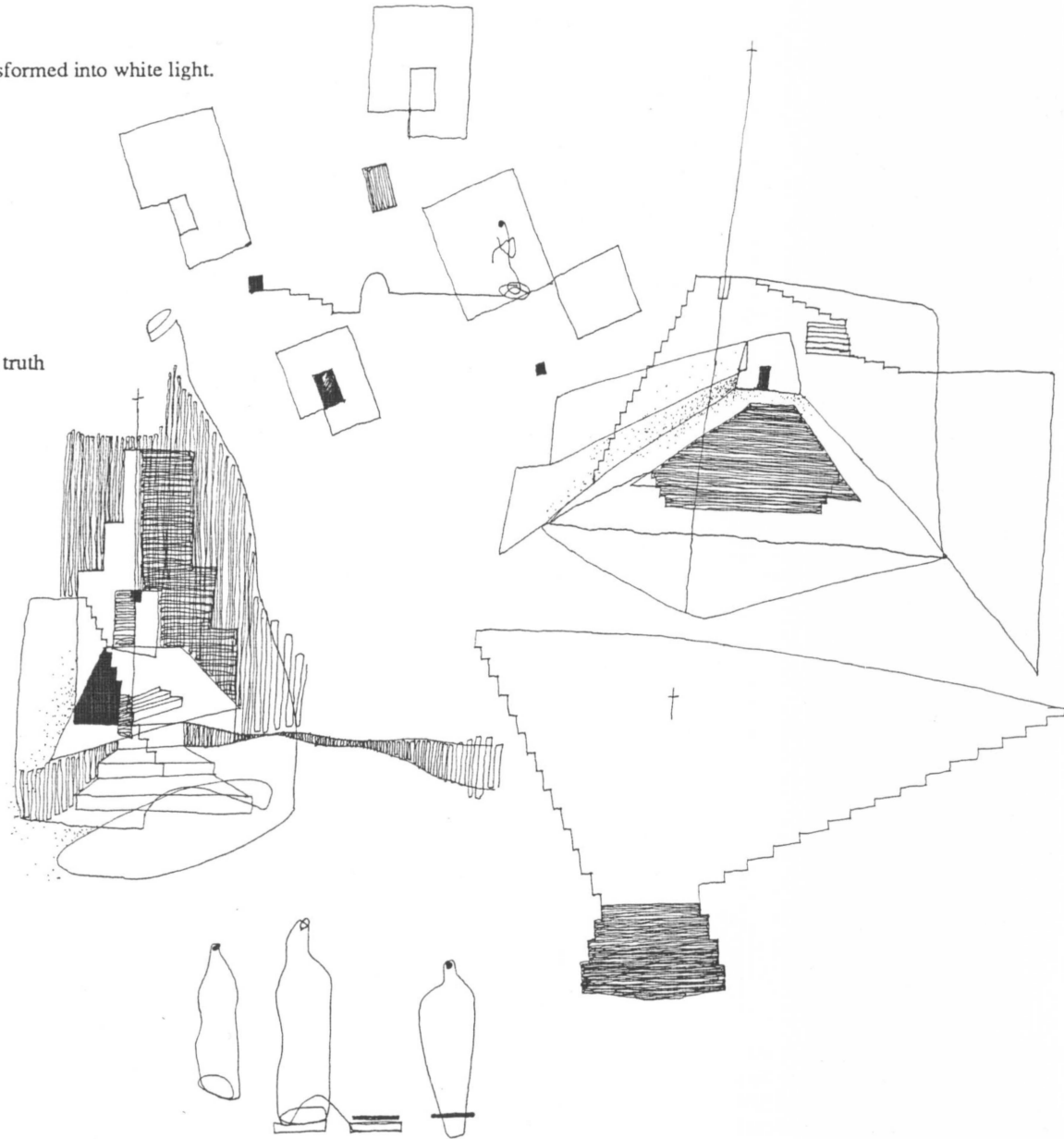
On the Silence . . .

**Abstract**

A chapel is a band of demons transformed into white light.

there is no reason to doubt  
so yet none to believe  
there is no cause  
spurring to gesture the impulse  
of form  
the content of vision  
potent and resting in the silence of truth

the image forges itself  
of itself  
seeks its kind  
and finds its place  
sings its place  
and plays silence.



of a Chapel



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## Bibliography

T.S. Eliot, The Four Quartets. Copyright 1971 by Esme Valerie Eliot.  
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers. San Diego. New York.

Paul Eidelberg, On the Silence of the Declaration of Independence.  
University of Massachusetts Press. Amherst. 1976.

**Note:** The intention of this thesis regarding an attempt at the architectural exploration of the concept of a chapel was significantly influenced by the thoughts of Paul Eidelberg as set forth in his book, On the Silence of the Declaration of Independence. In the preface, Eidelberg defines his essay as

*...more than an "interpretation" of a historical document. It seeks to elucidate, by examining what the document says, what its authors did not and could not say, but what they somehow manifest when engaged in a dialogue intended to reveal the Declaration's "silent teachings."*

He adds that

*...Transcending (stale) dogmas, the Declaration is and shall always remain a radical document--radical because it goes to the roots of things. And because mankind is ever in need of being reminded of its roots, the Declaration is and shall ever remain a revolutionary document, inexhaustible in its possibilities.*

The recognition of the wealth of "silent teachings" embodied in the idea of a chapel is of primary importance to this thesis. To limit this silence, "inexhaustible in its possibilities," has been my task.

*...As will soon become obvious, however, this essay makes no reference, nor does it depend upon, any other works on the Declaration. No doubt I shall be roundly condemned by scholars for such unscholarly behavior.*

-- Eidelberg

## Aknowledgements

I thank

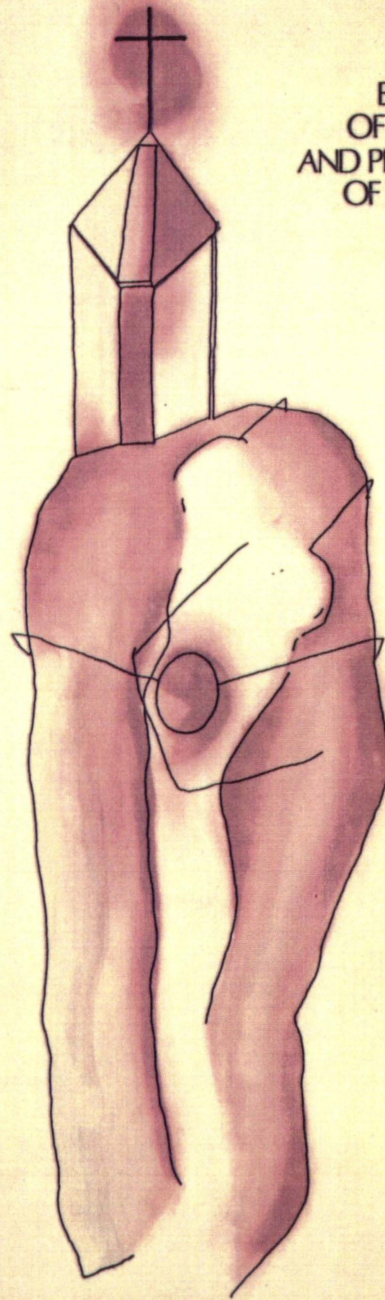
for their support and guidance.

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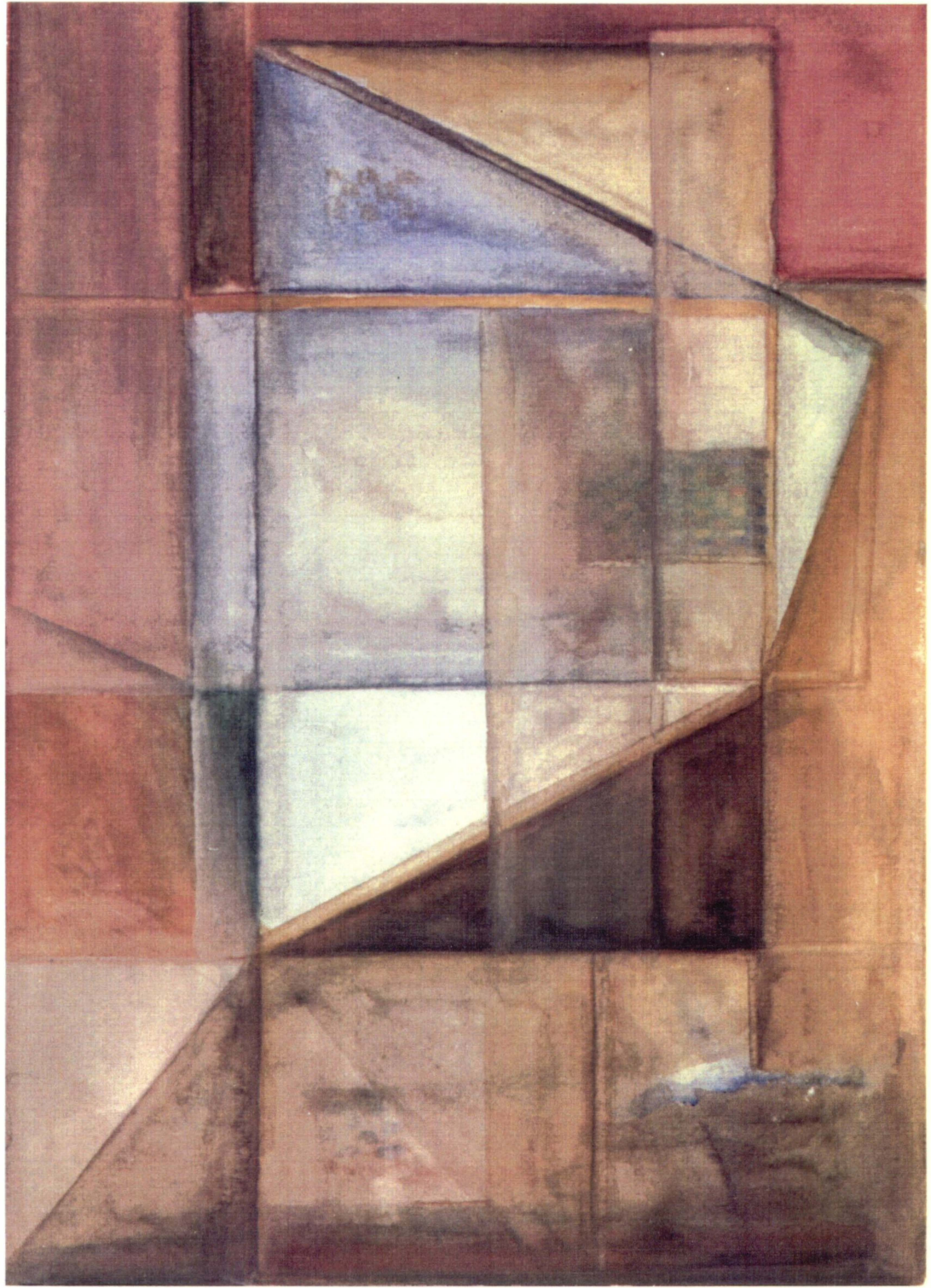
We shall not cease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time.

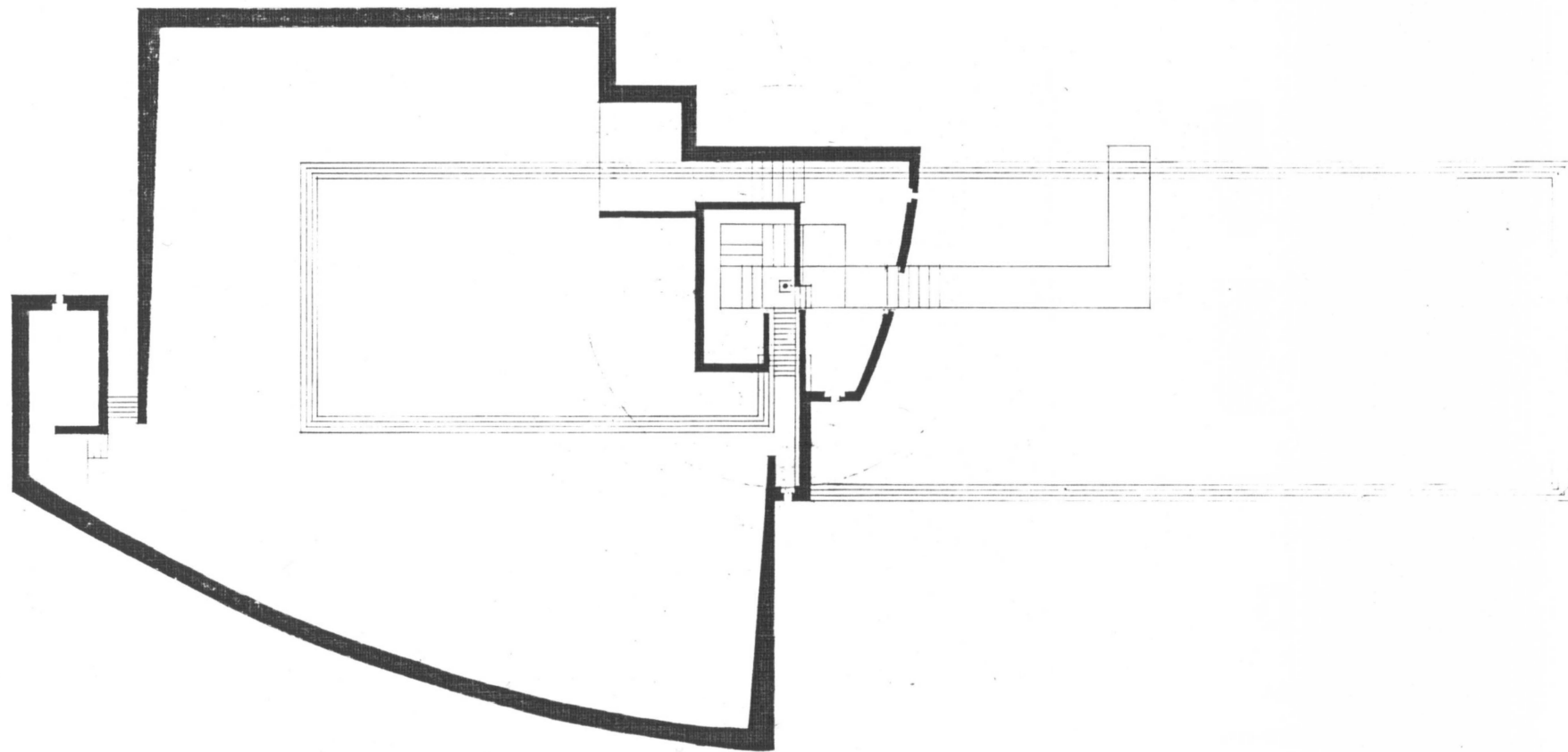
T.S. Eliot

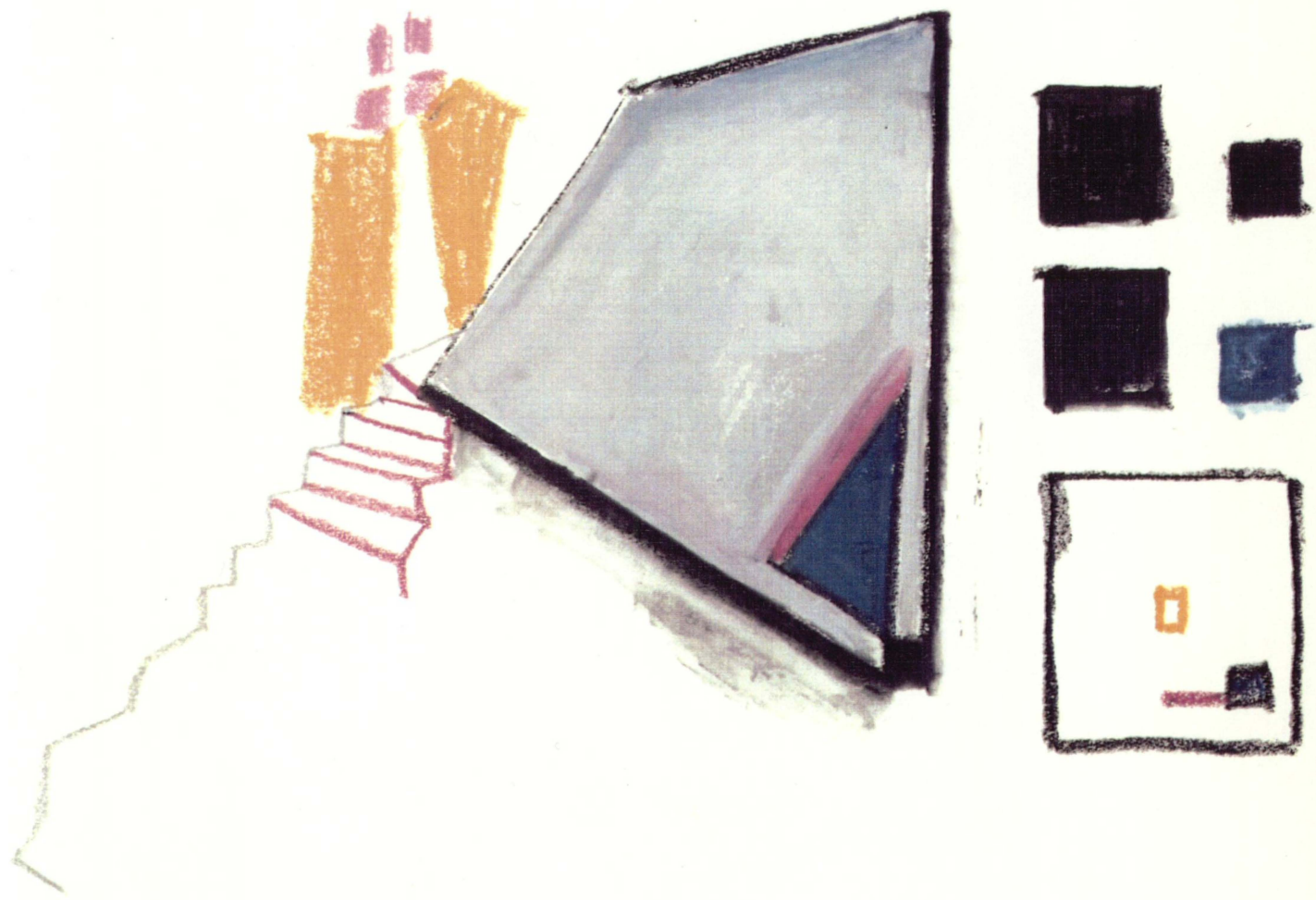
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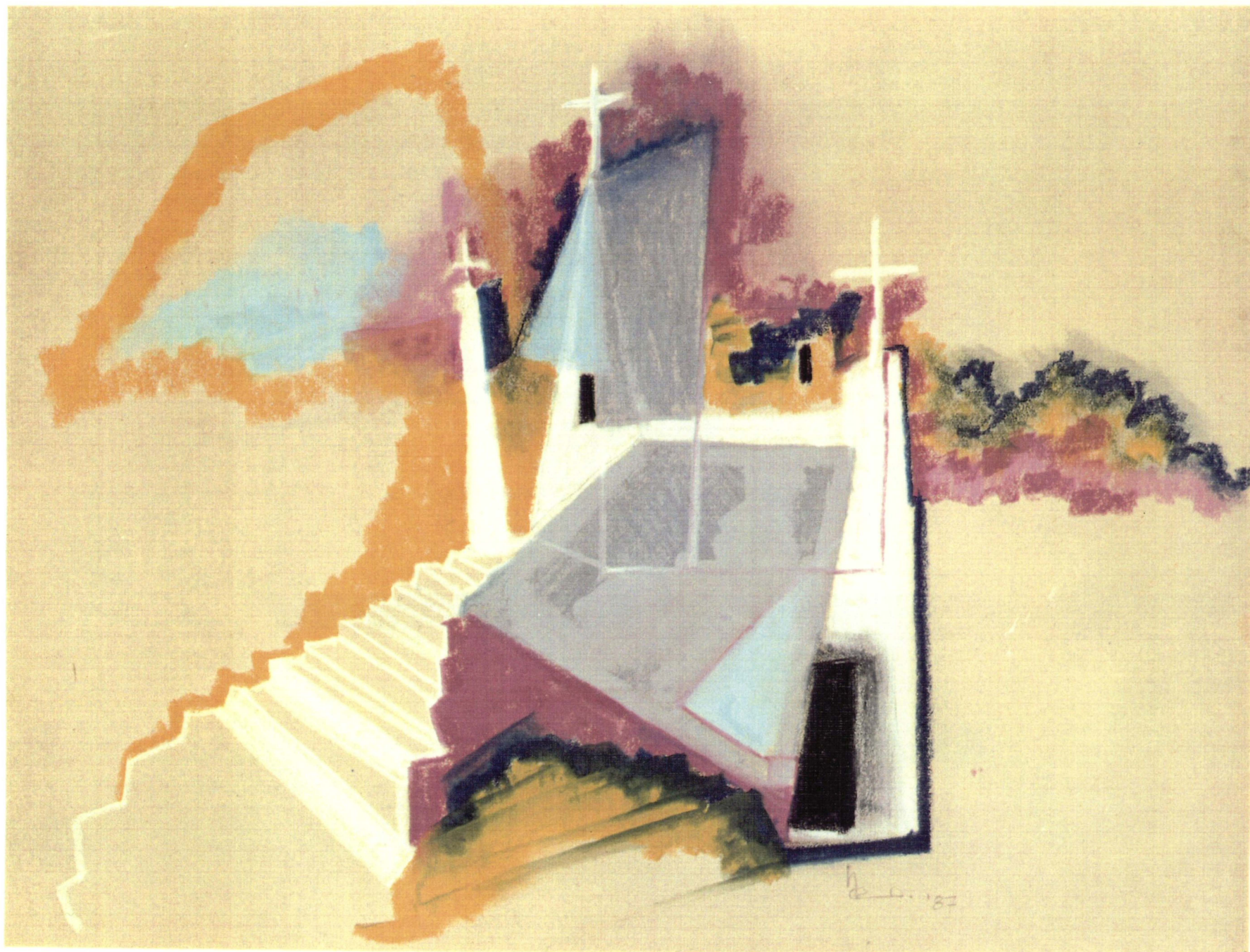
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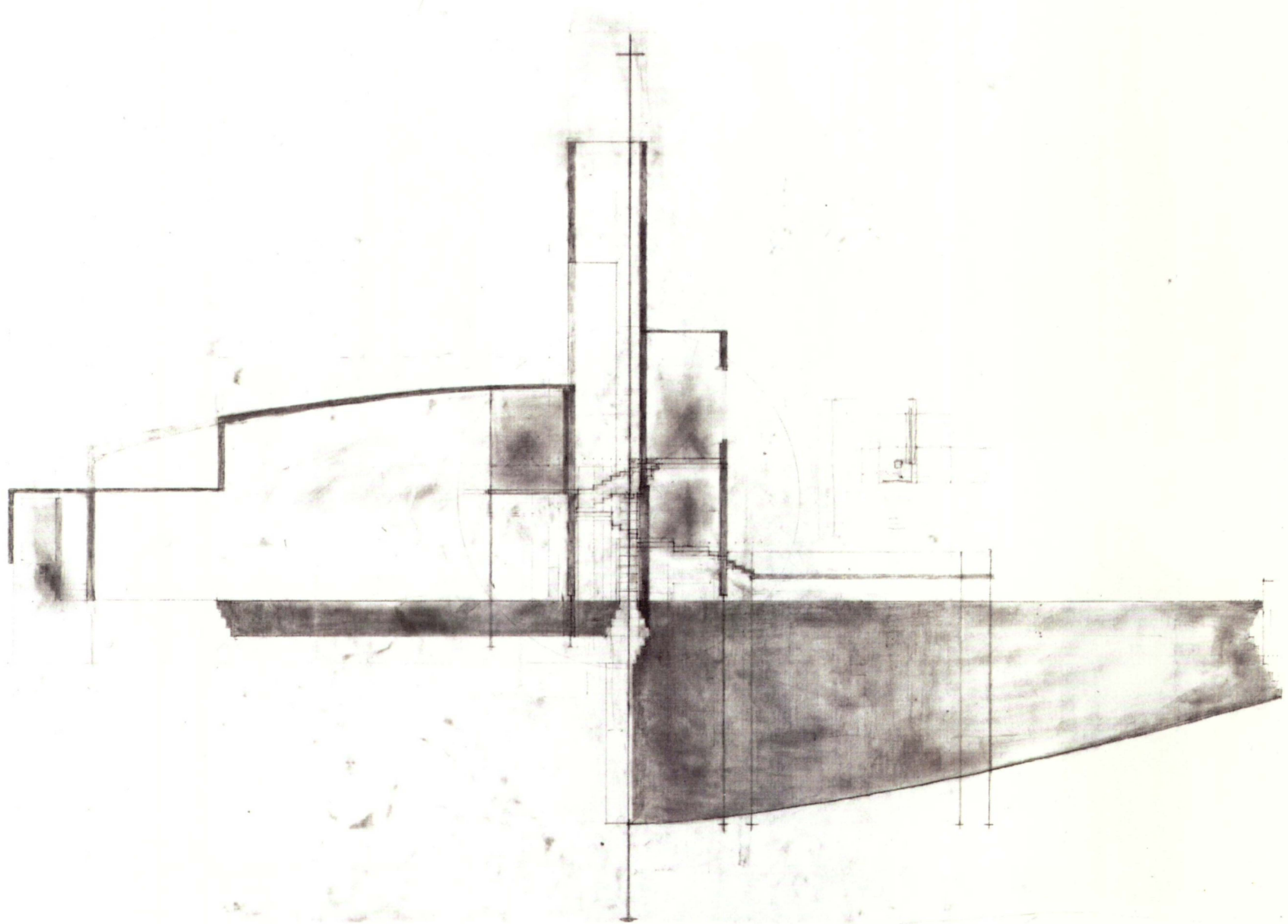


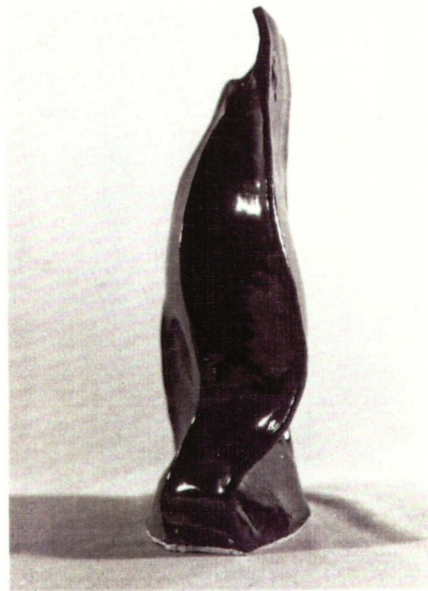
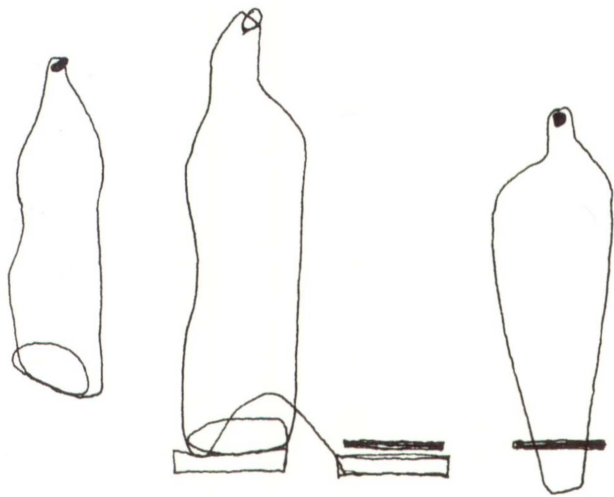
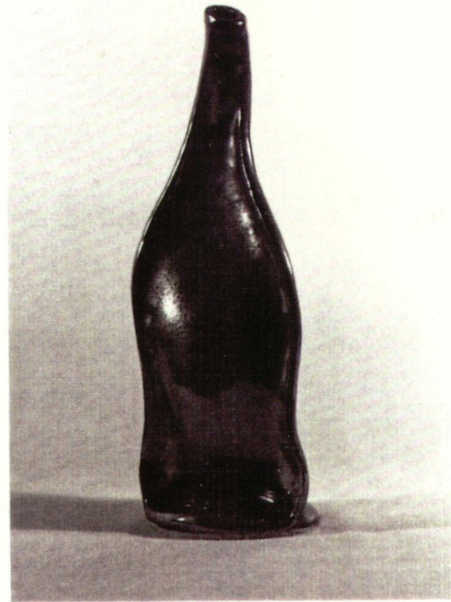








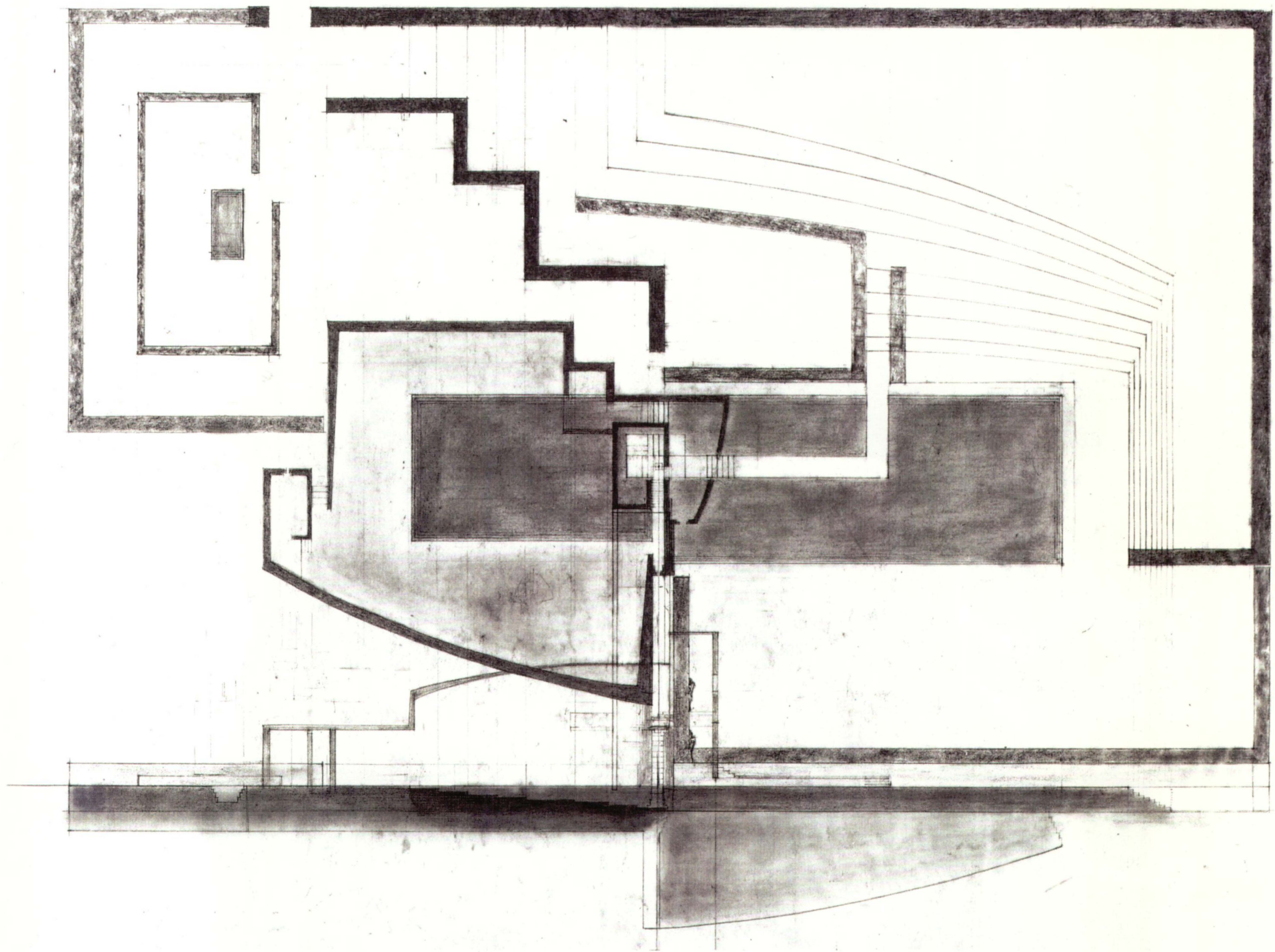




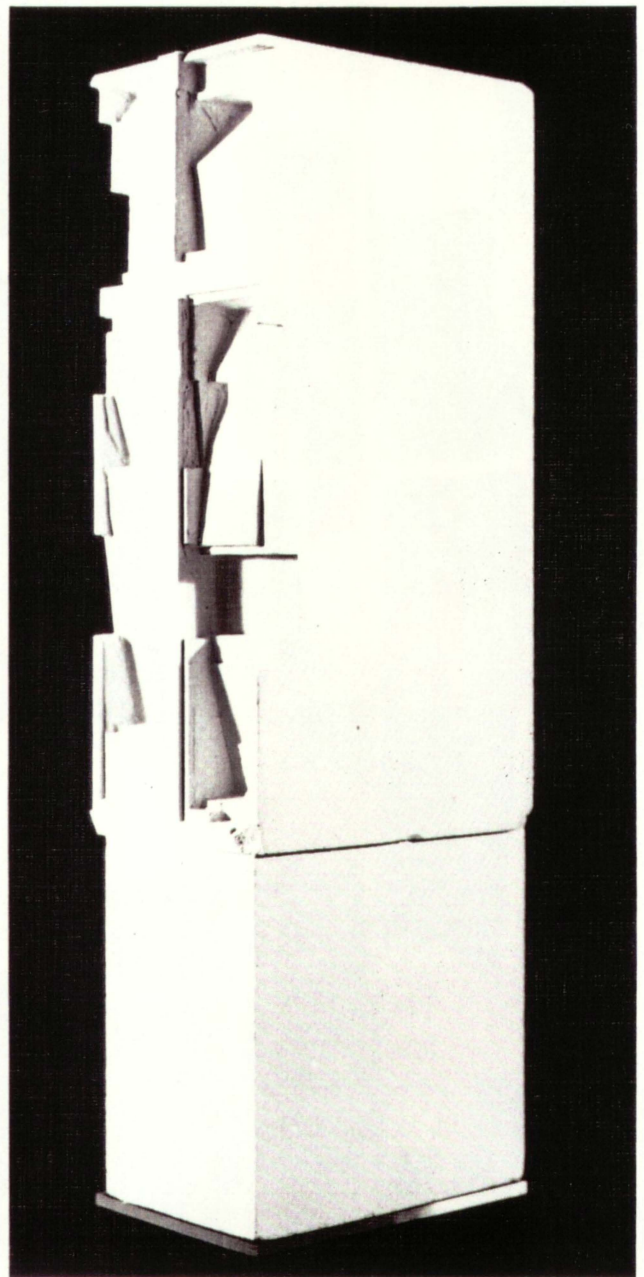
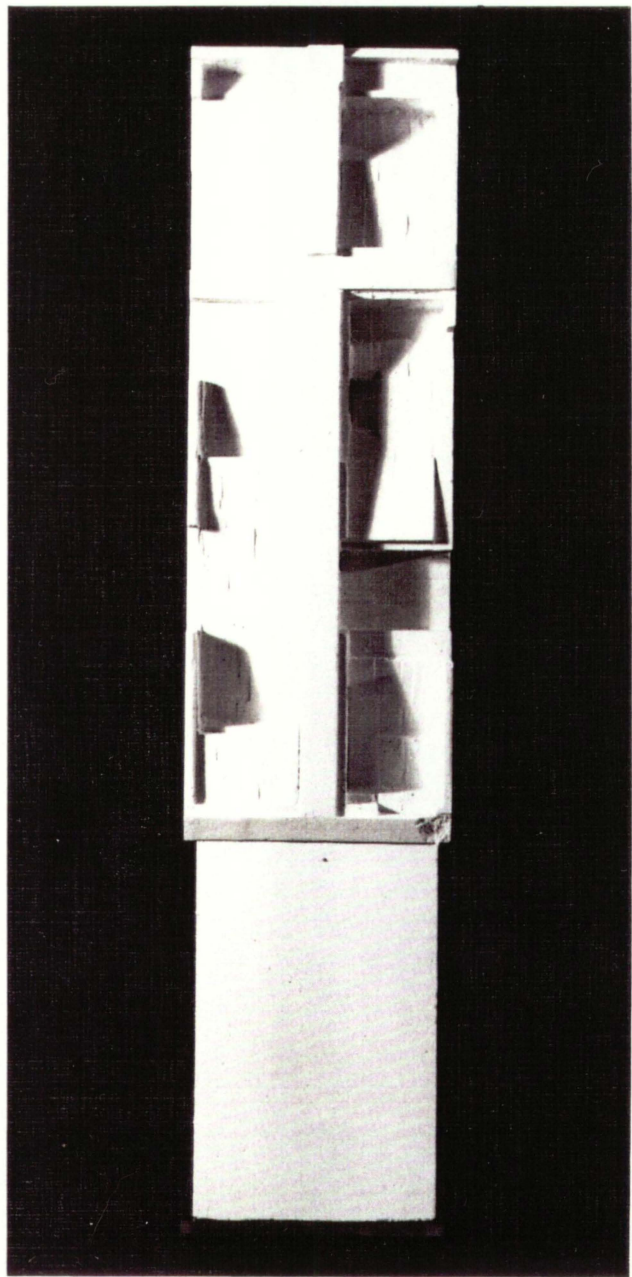
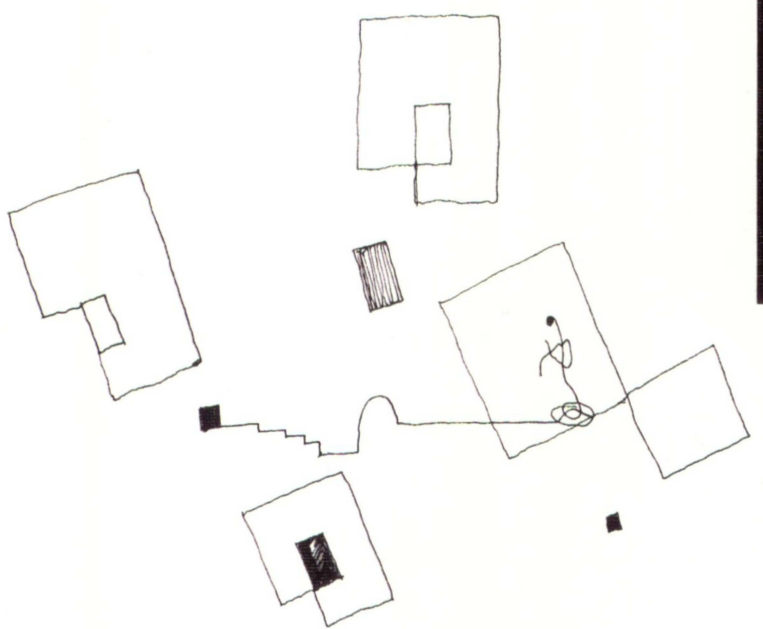




*photograph by Bruce Hlavin*

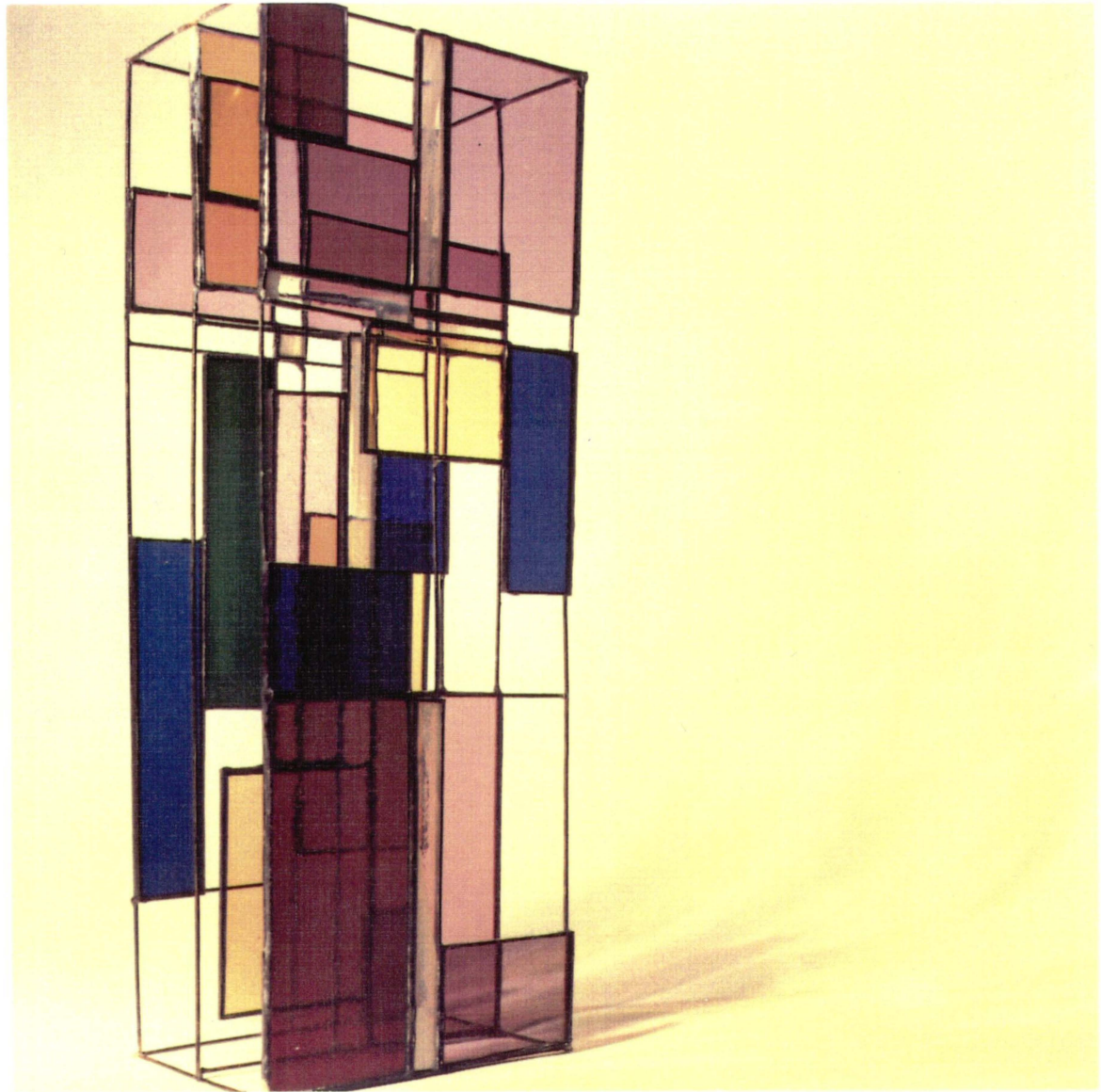
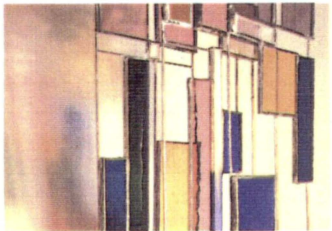












*photography by Chuck Bultman*

