



# A Quiet Architecture

Runfeng He

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

Master of Architecture

Hans Rott\_\_\_\_\_

Hunter Pittman\_\_\_\_\_

Frank Weiner\_\_\_\_\_

July 7th, 2015  
Blacksburg, VA



## Acknowledgements

Thank you to my professors, their committed teaching and correction to me is always precise and enlightening. Especially my committee, their profound knowledge and career experience give me great help and set the standard for me.

Thank you to my studio mates, their kindness and joyful spirits is memorable and invaluable to me.

Thank you to my parents, their endless support and understanding give me the courage to live now and plan the future.

Special thanks to Professor Hunter Pittman, thank you for taking excellent care of us during the Europe travel study.





### Abstract

I believe architecture is a product of construction and will. The building either conforms to the environment or is set against it. Architecture manifests its existence from the differentiation between the environment it creates and the one that exists. However it is not necessary to articulate the existence of architecture by intrusive acts. This thesis proposes a building of formal simplicity standing autonomously but not arrogantly amidst a larger setting. It is important to create spaces that evoke a quiet emotional response.

Programmatically the project is a public library located in Nanjing, China. It also serves as community space for the area. It is a place intended for people reading, meeting others, and various cultural activities.



## **Contents**

Chapter1: A quiet place

Chapter2: Space and light

Appendix: From beginning to end





## CHAPTER 1 A QUIET PLACE

Plan rationally to construct a quiet external condition.

### **Site analysis**

This site is located in one busy district, surrounding by three streets. The street mainly lying to the west of the site is the main street, where the main flow comes from the south to the north.

**Right** Topographic site drawing at 6ft interval



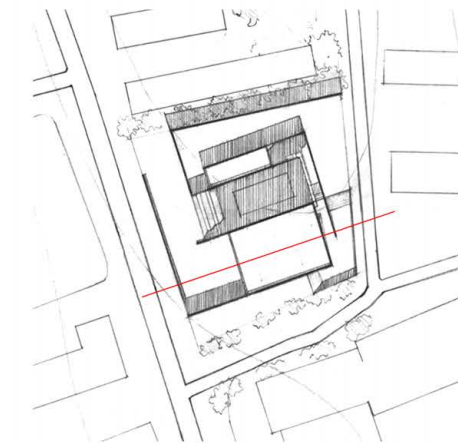
**Right** img1 Site planning analysis

The main idea of this scheme is to create a quiet and peaceful central courtyard by having barrier walls and buildings wrapping around as well as descending to it. The spaces created between walls are served as transitional zones connecting the less quiet outside space and quiet courtyard.

The site plan follows some basic techniques to reduce the noise.

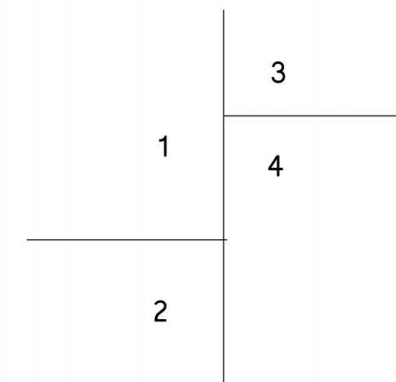
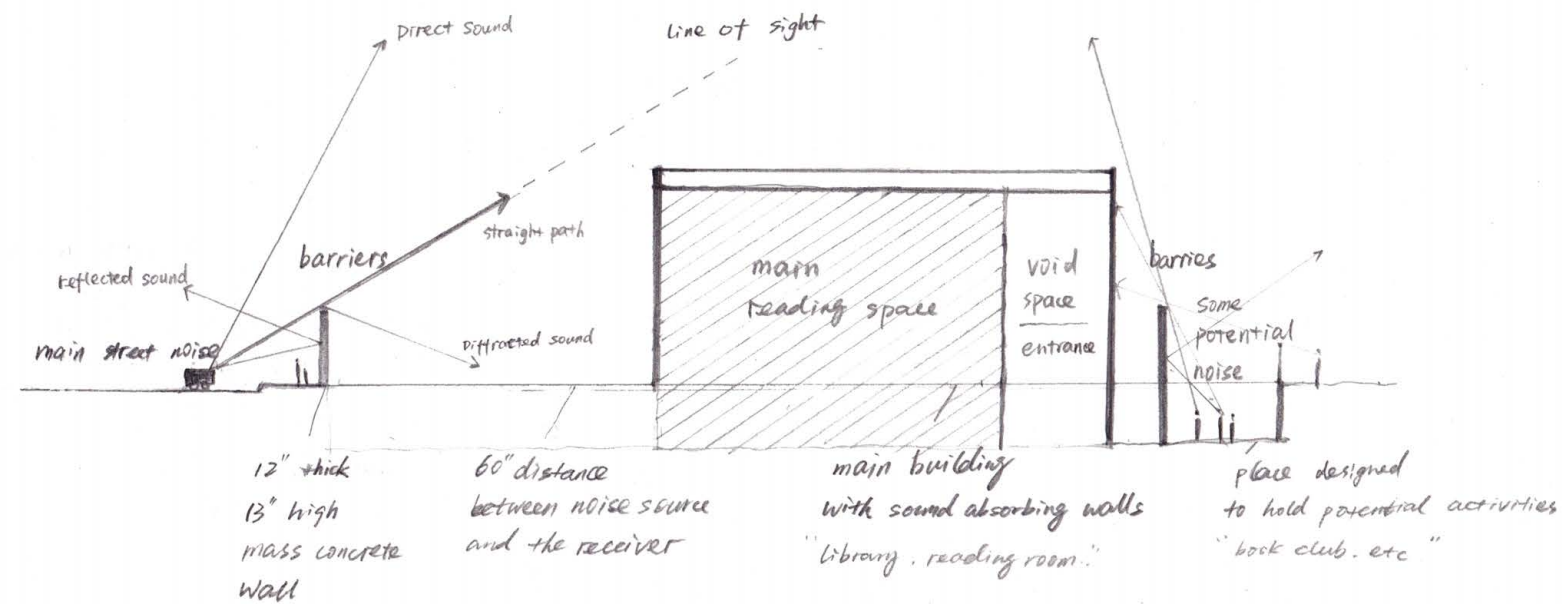
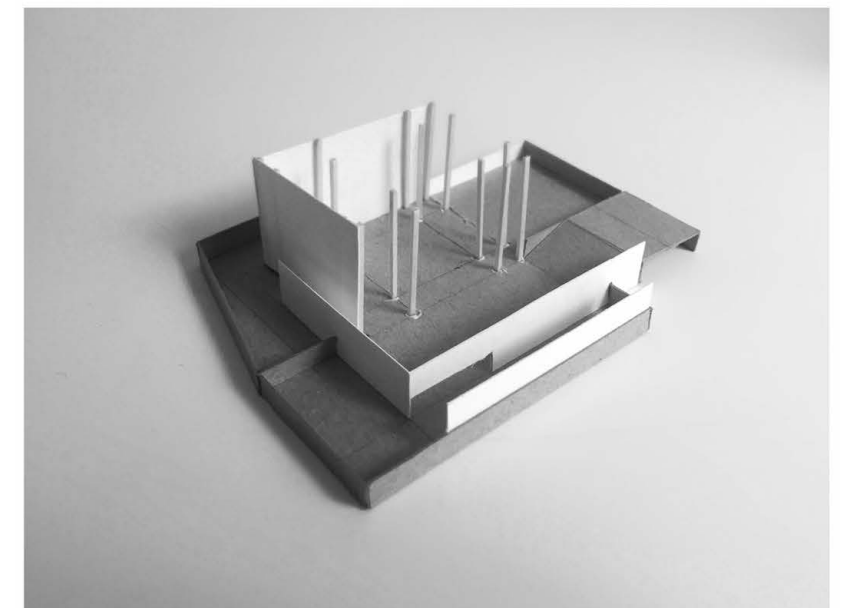
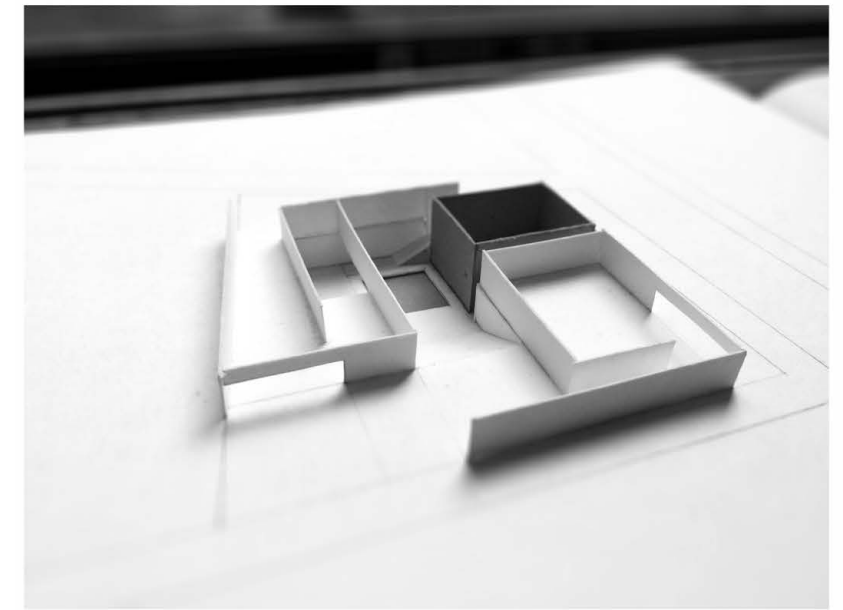
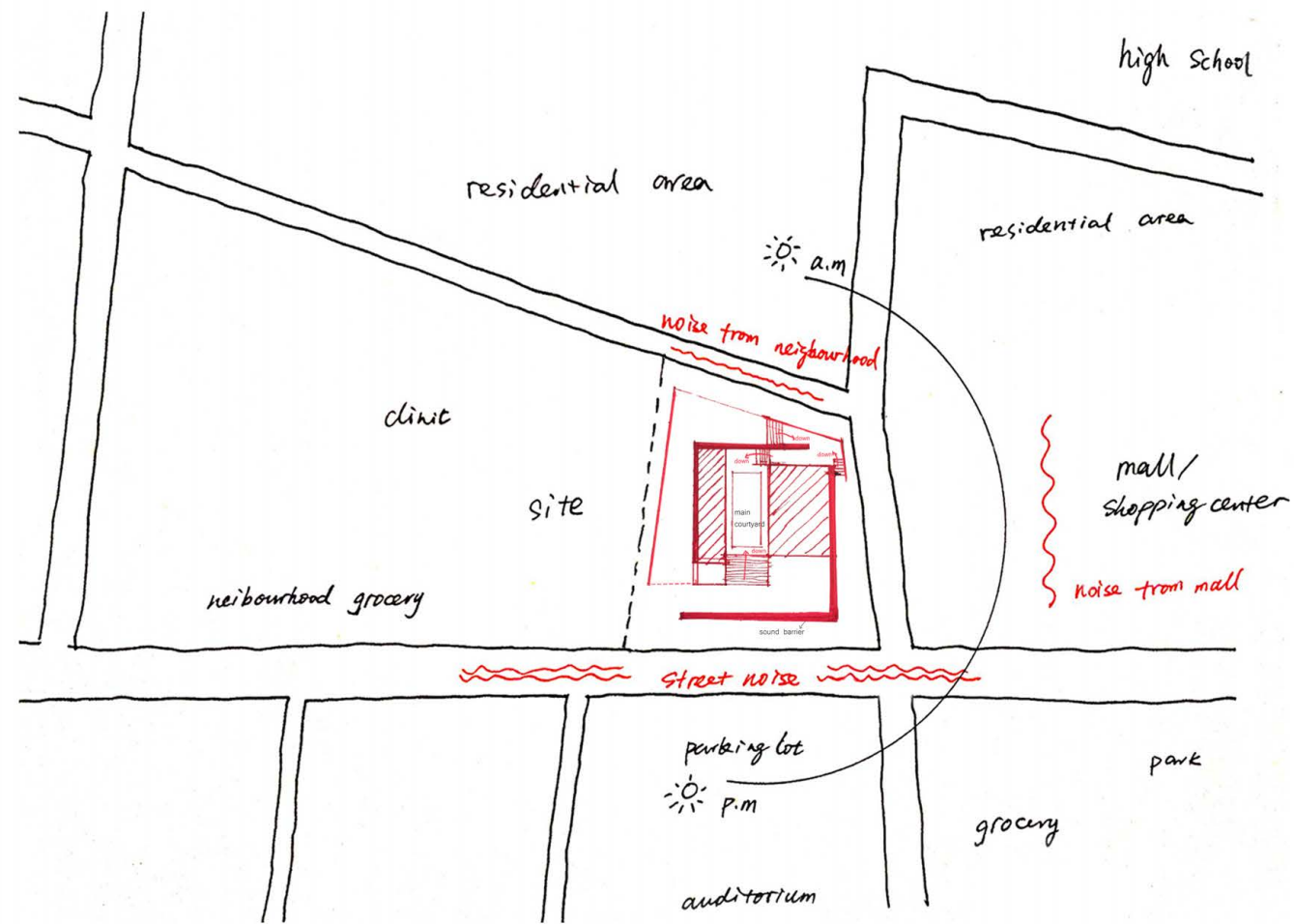
- a. Creating lands to increase the distance between street and building.
- b. Build sound-absorbing barrier wall/buildings parallel to the noise source and receiver.

**Right** img2 Accoustical site analysis



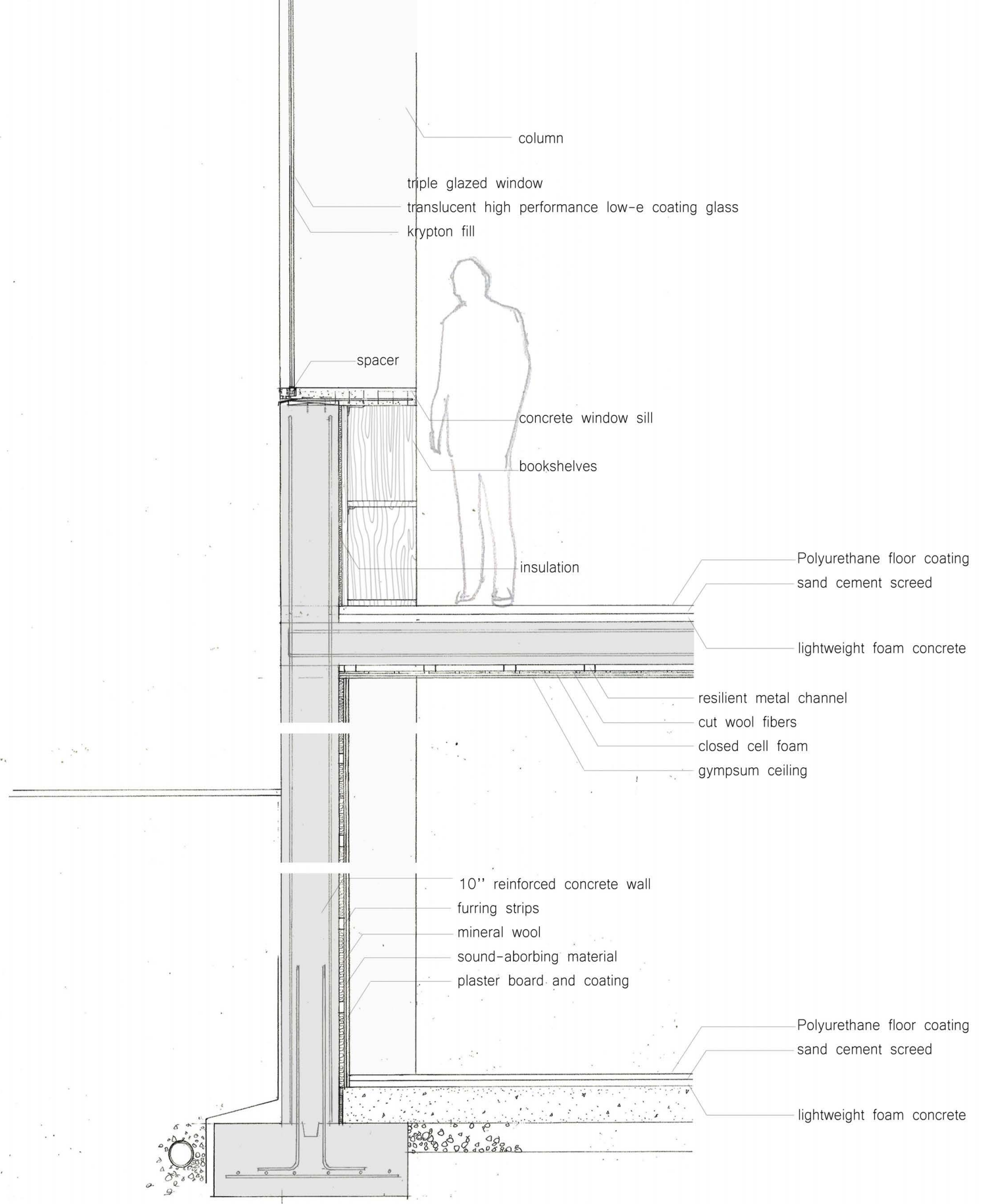
**Right** img3 Second scheme concept model

**Right** img4 Third scheme study model



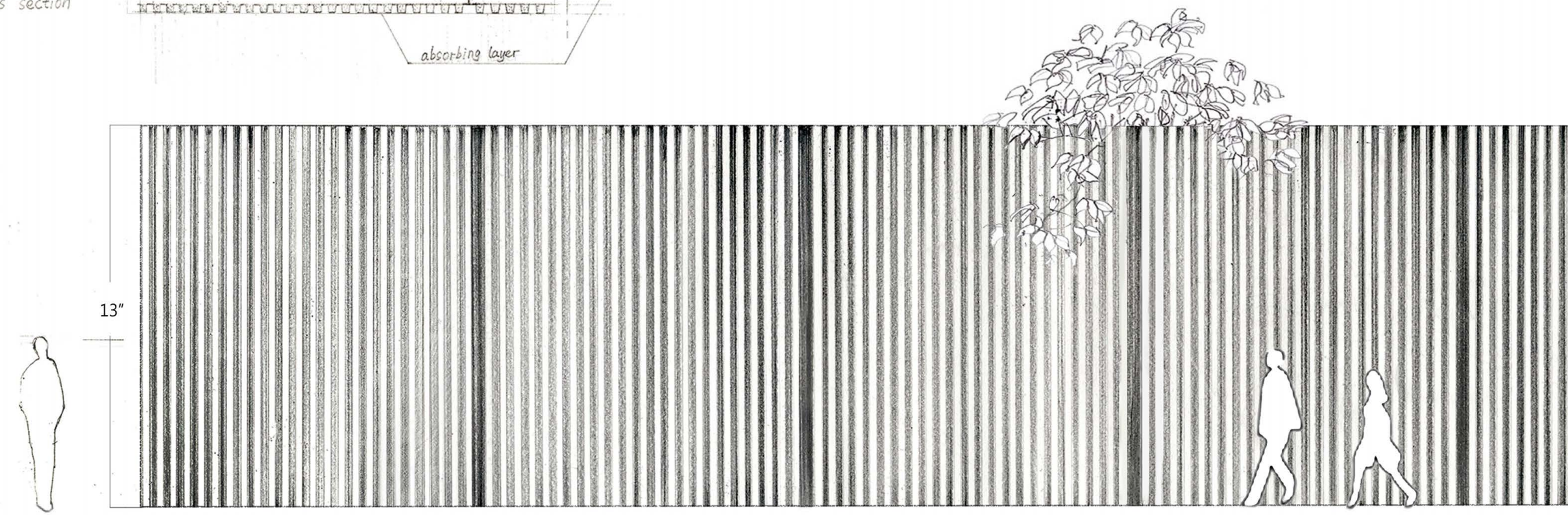
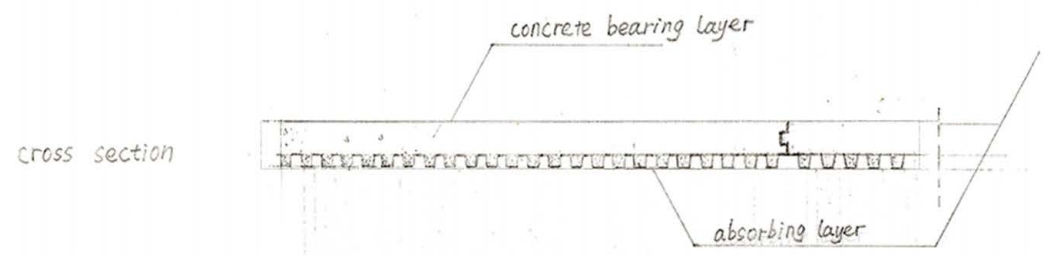
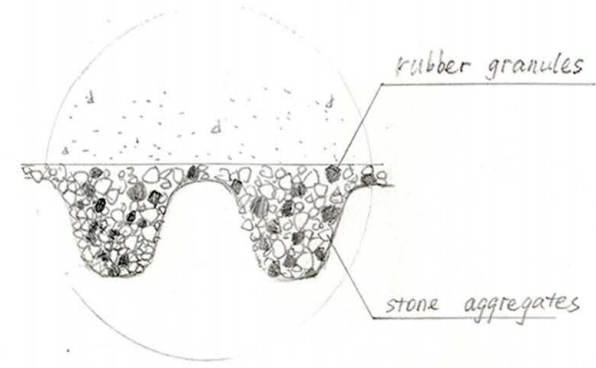
Constructional thought

Right Wall section details



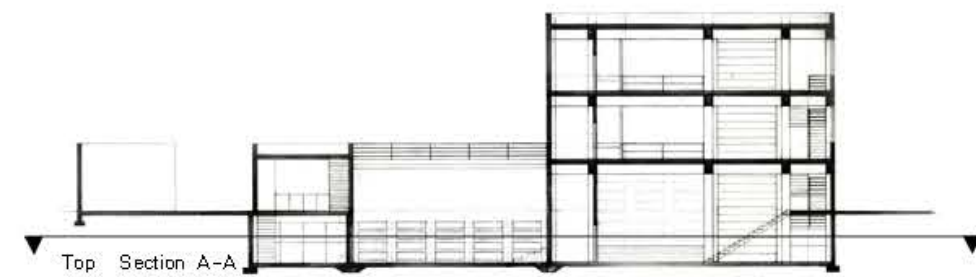


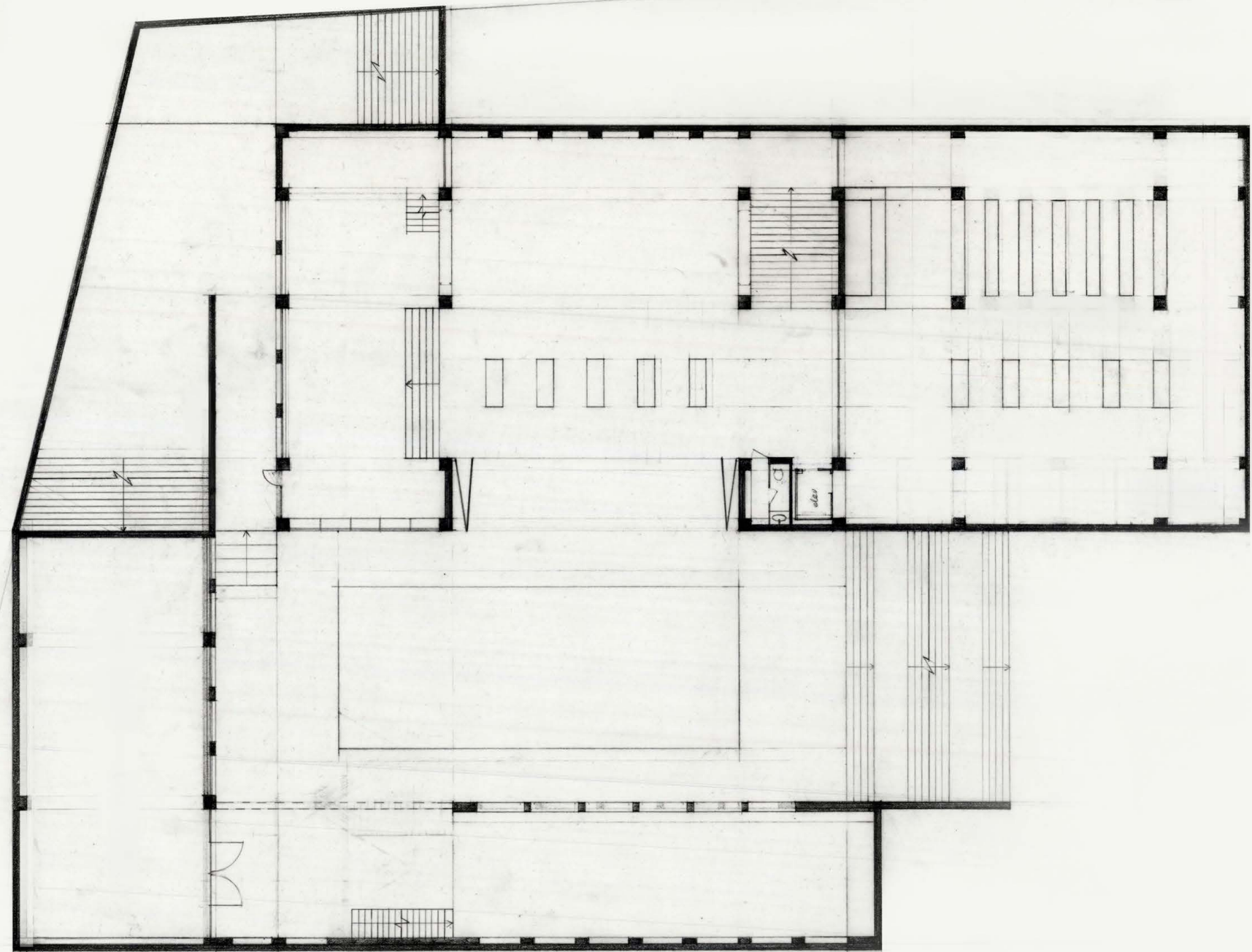
**Right** Sound barrier wall details



Plans

Right First floor plan



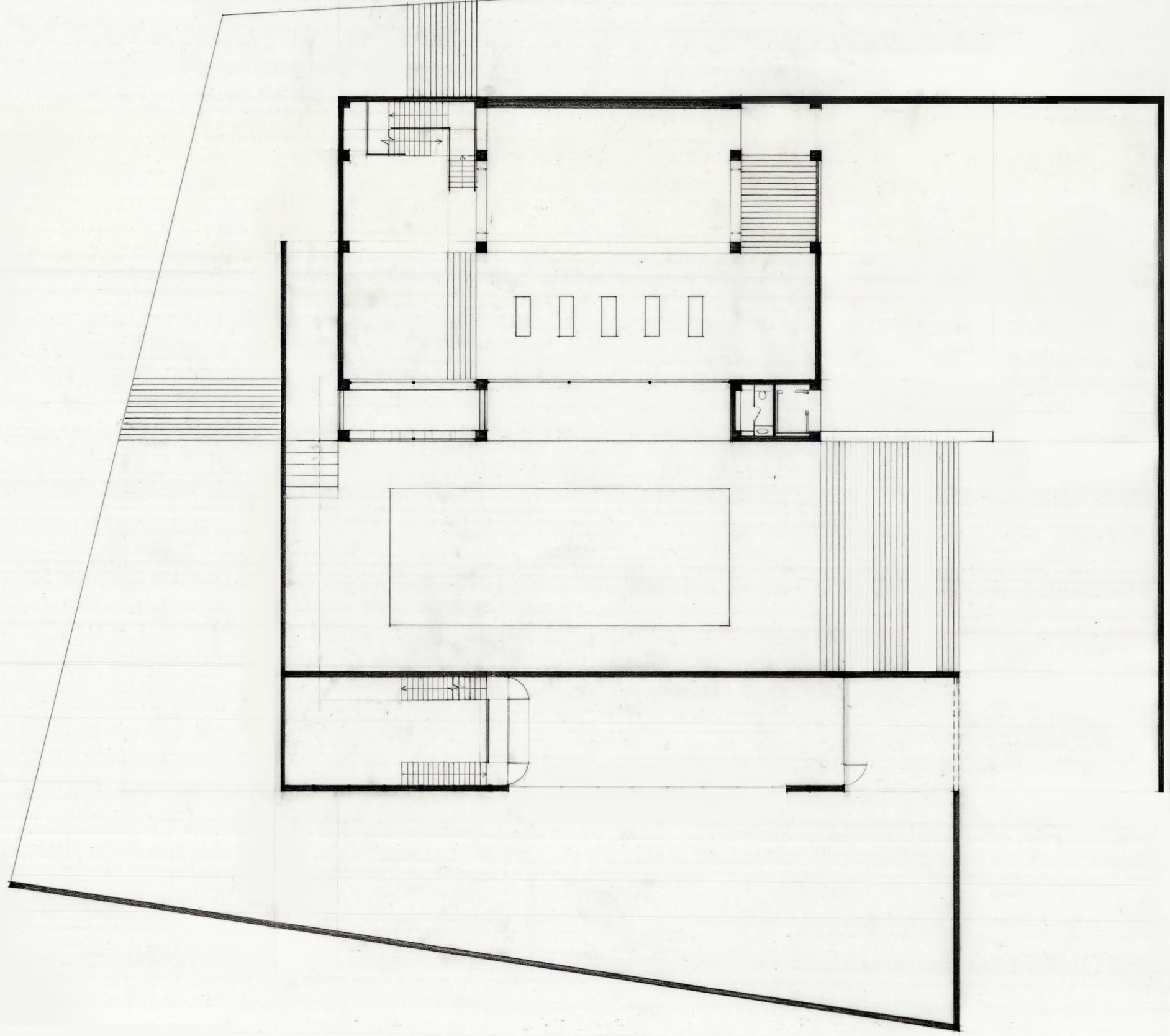


*Handwritten note:* 1st floor

0 2 5 15ft

Right Ground floor plan

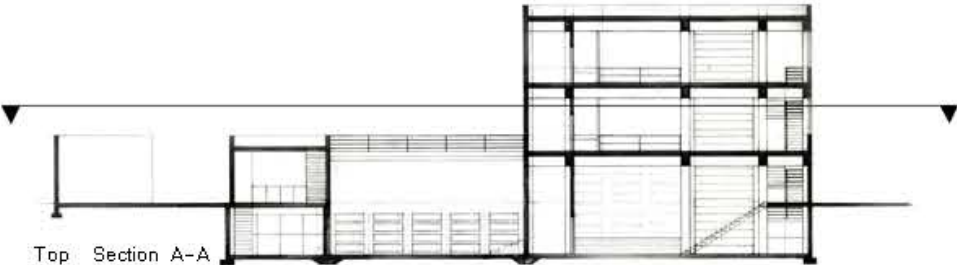


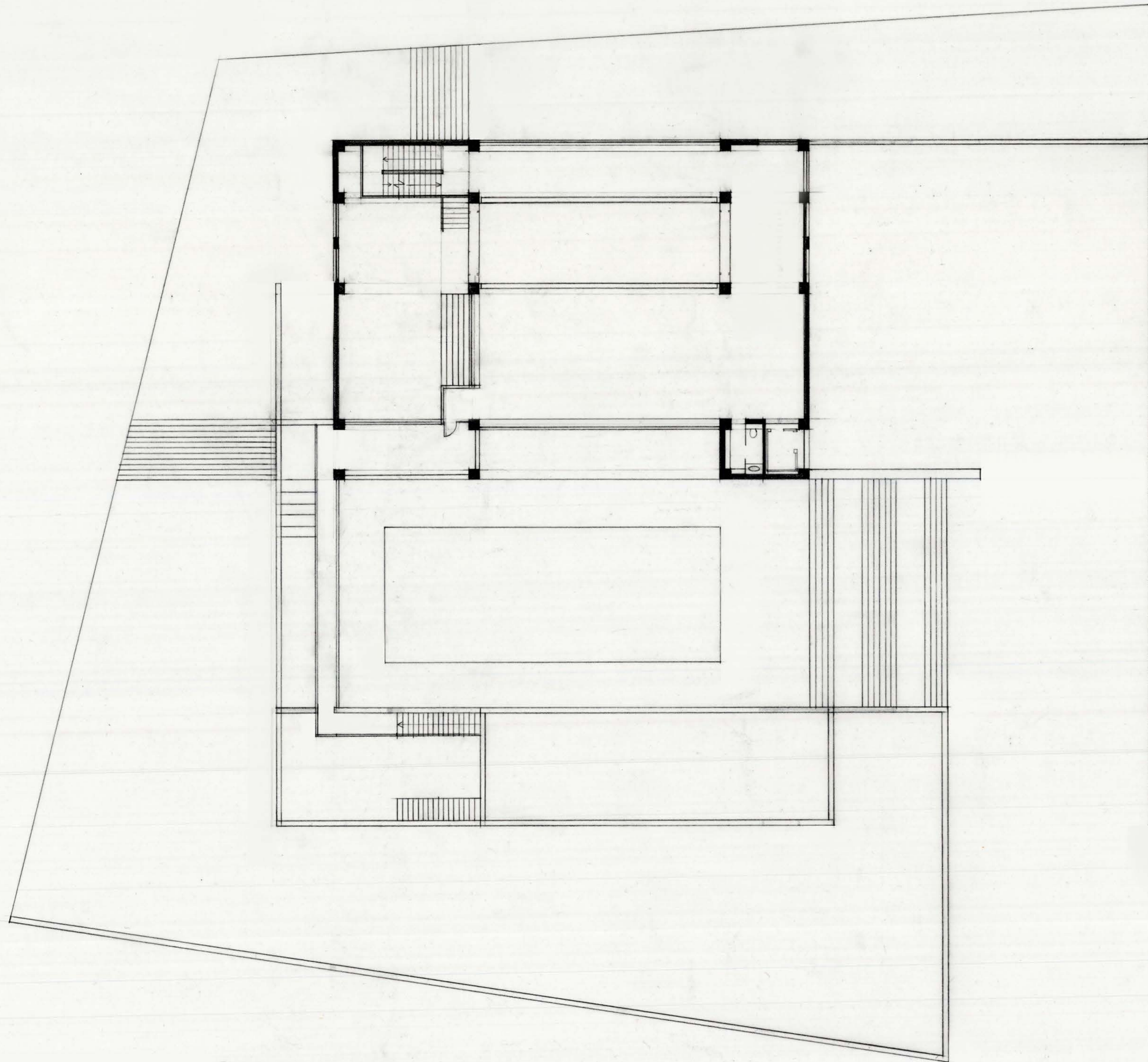


0 2 5 15ft

2/20

Right Second floor plan

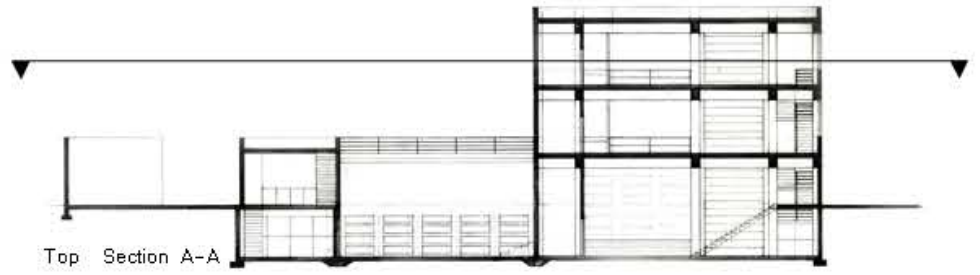


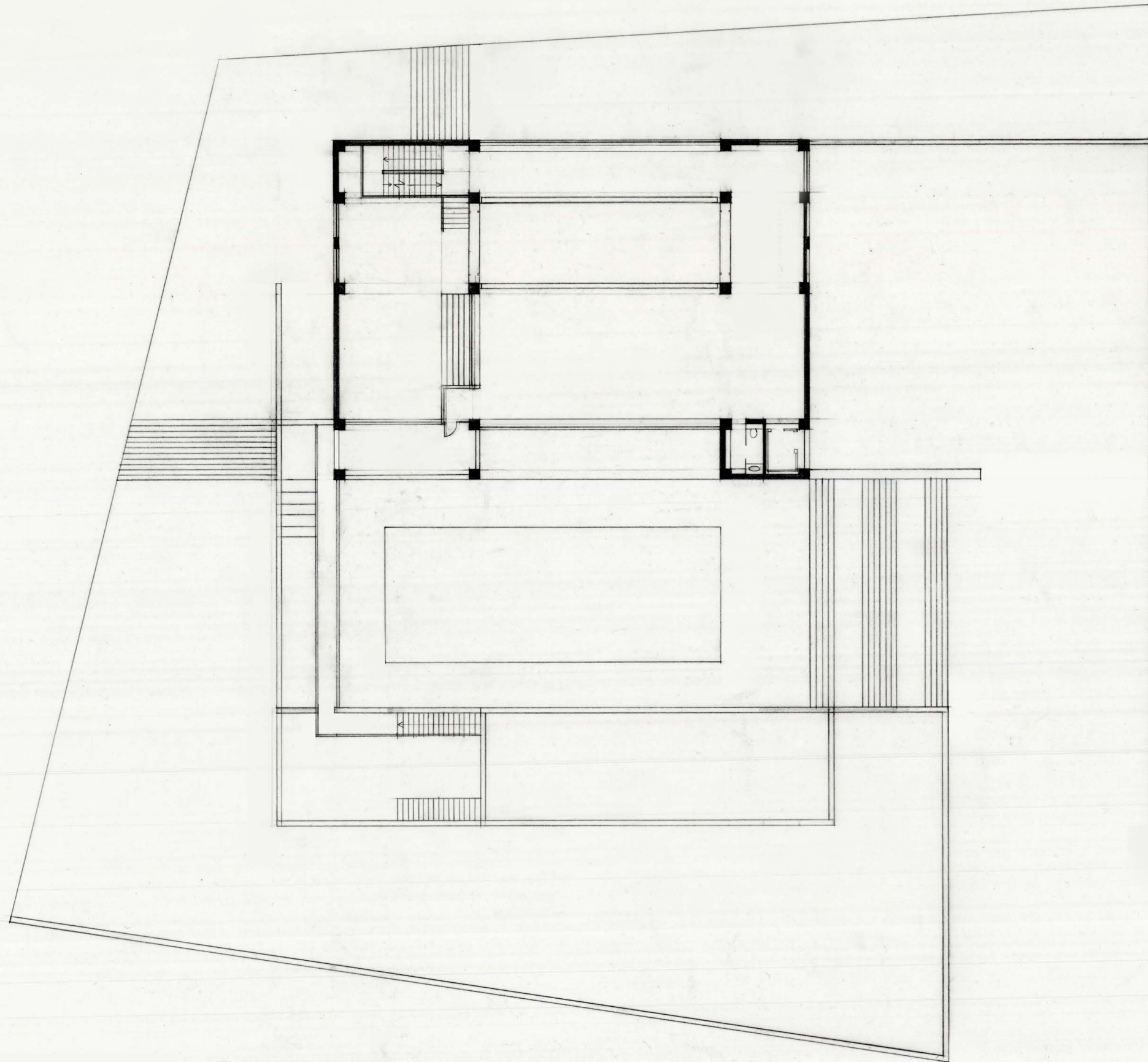


0 2 5 15ft



Right Third floor plan



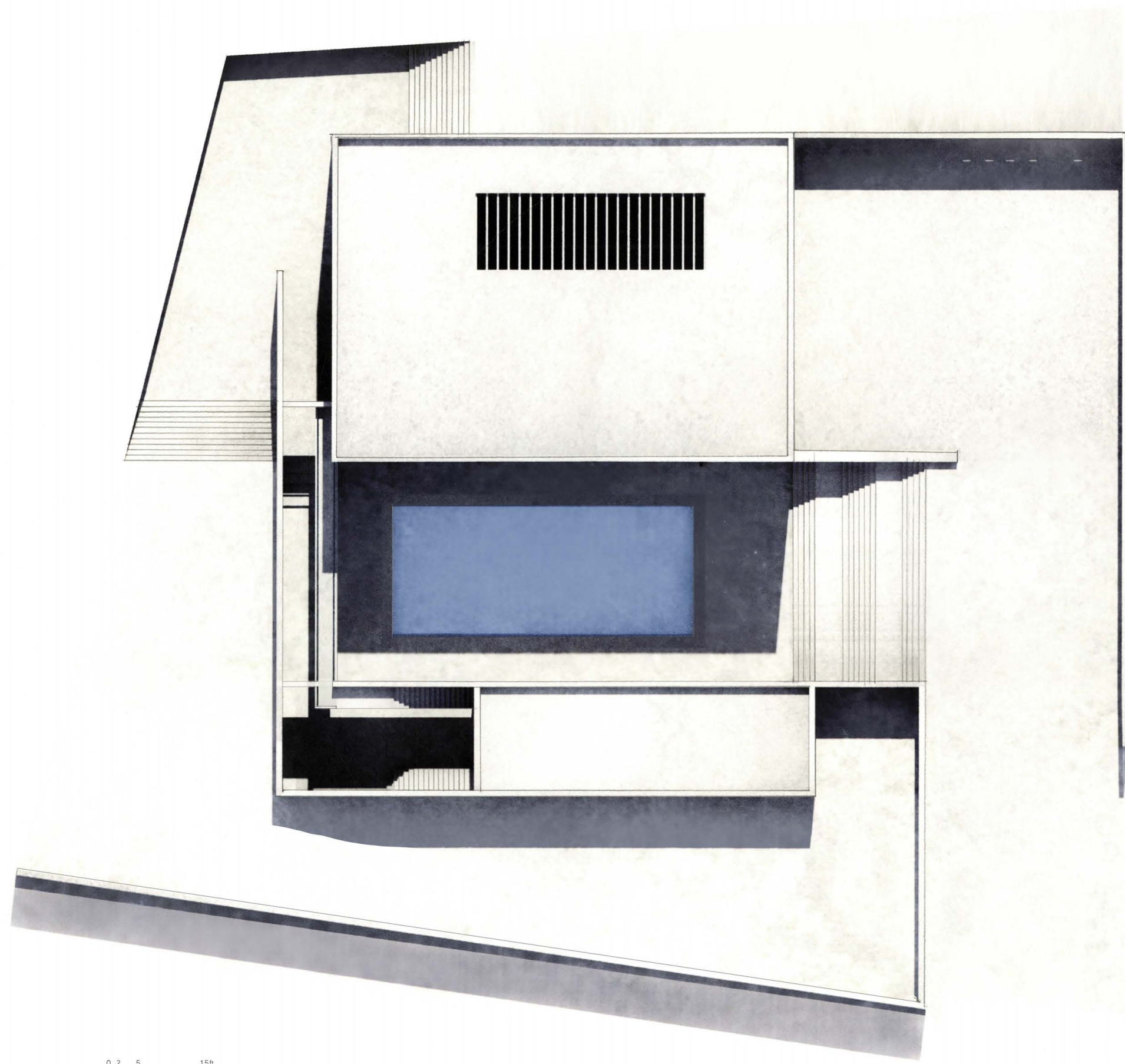


0 2 5 15ft

Plan

Right Top view

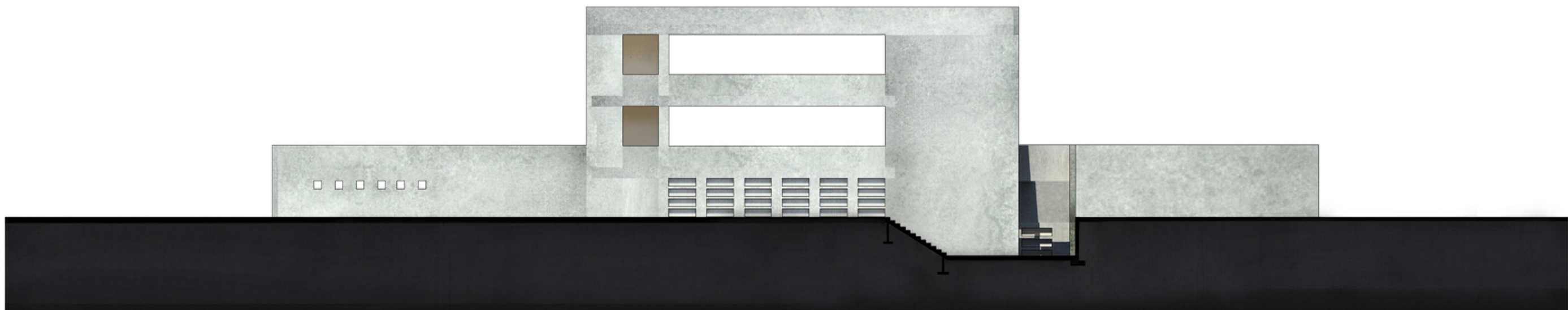




0 2 5 15ft

Right Southern elevation

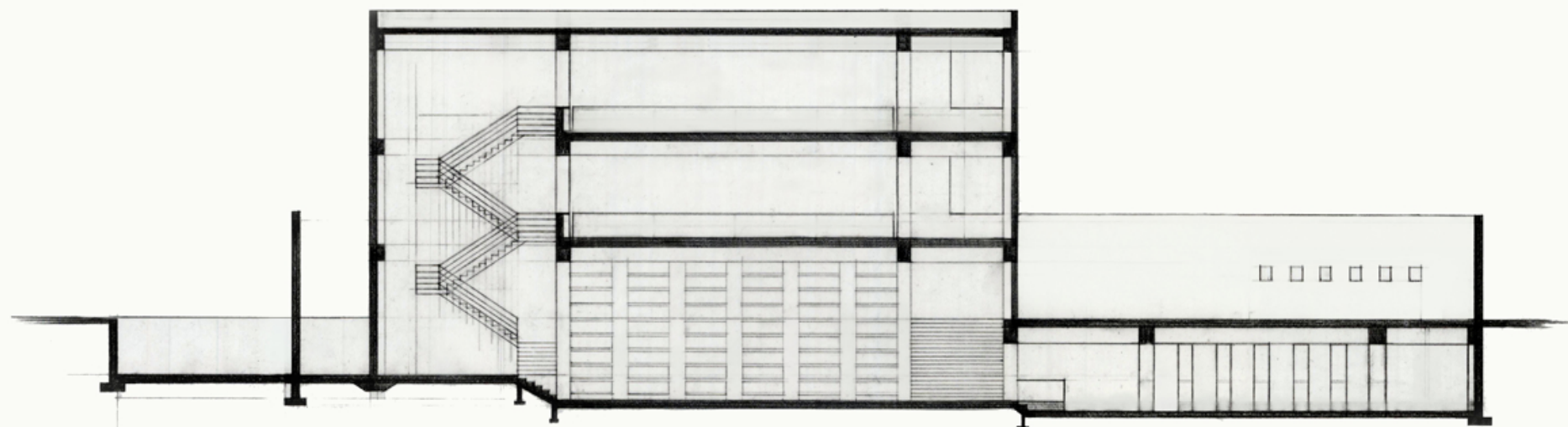




0 2 5 15ft

Right Long section D-D

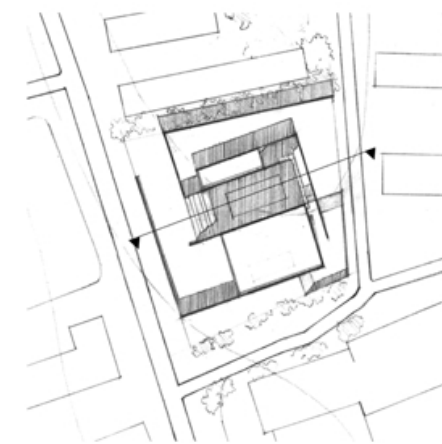


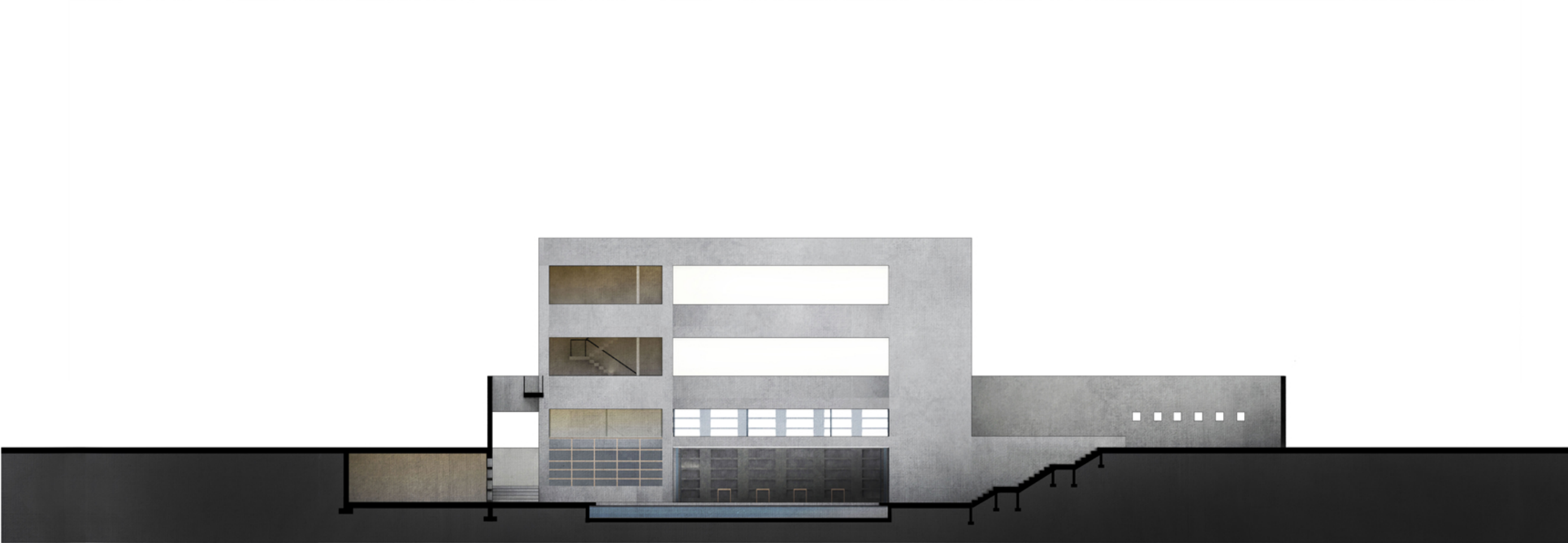


0 2 5 15ft



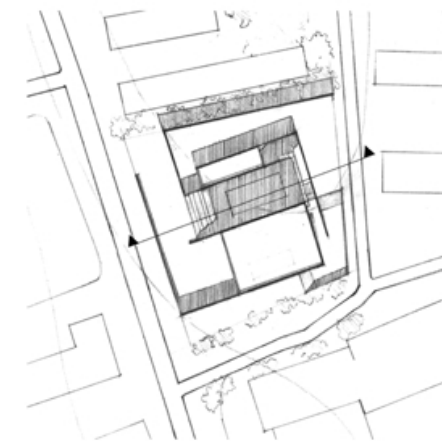
Right Southern facade of main courtyard

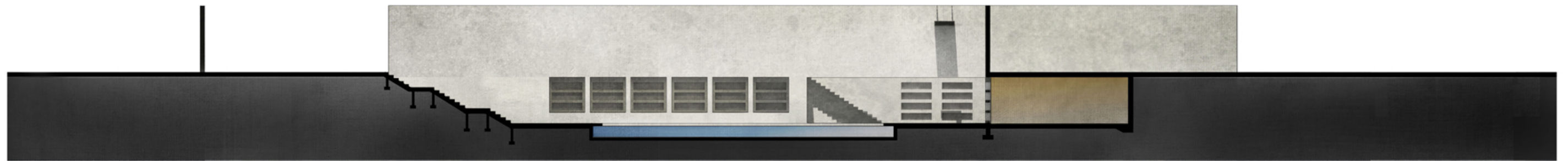




0 2 5 15ft

Right Northern facade of main courtyard

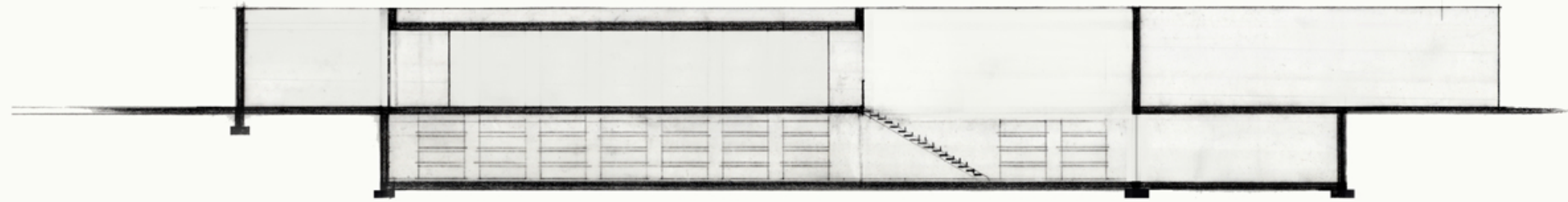




0 2 5 15ft

Right Long section E-E

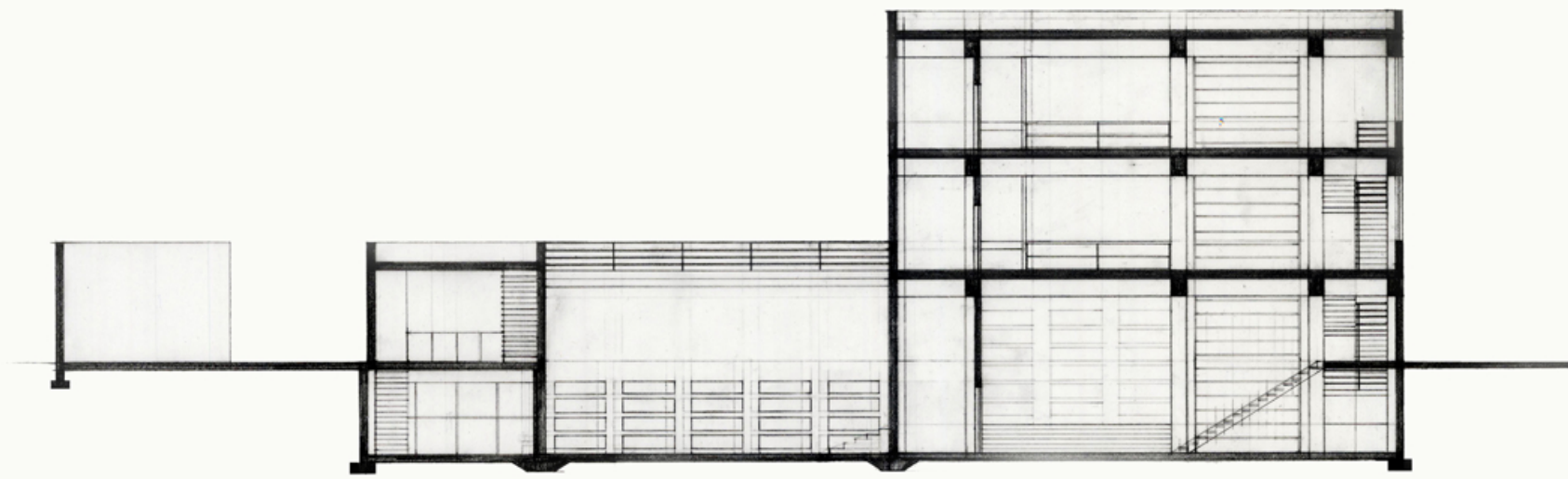




0 2 5 15ft

Right Short section A-A

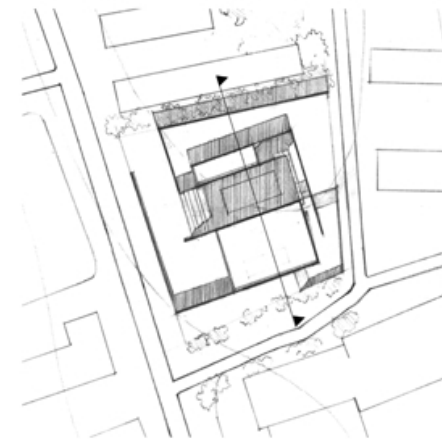


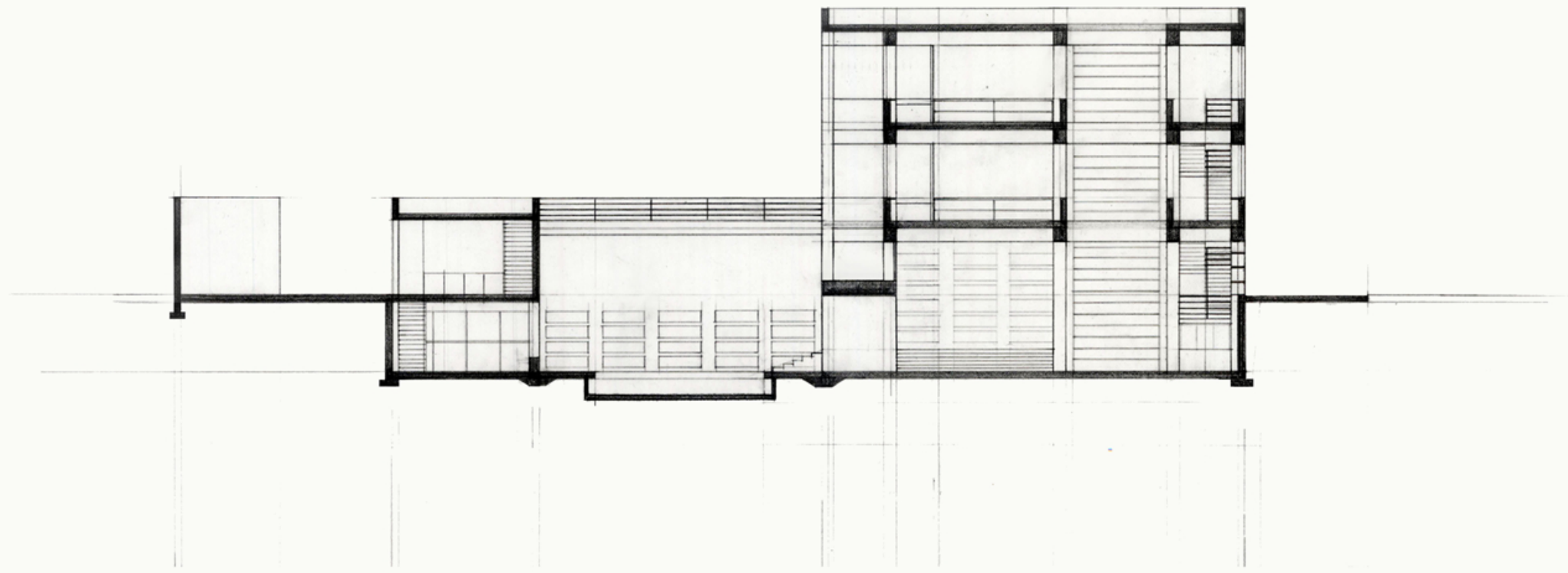


0 2 5 15ft



Right Short section B-B

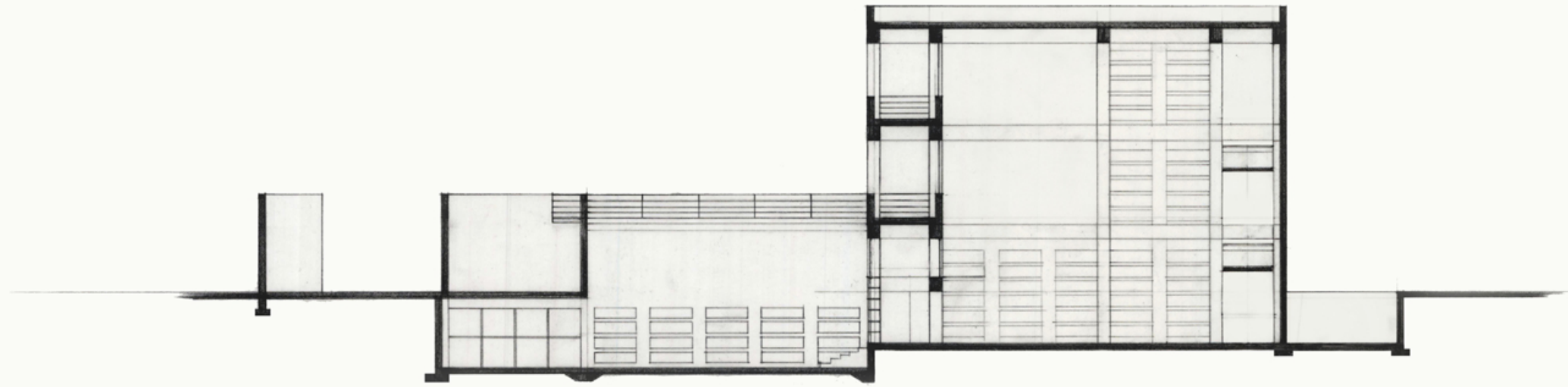




0 2 5 15ft

Right Short section C-C

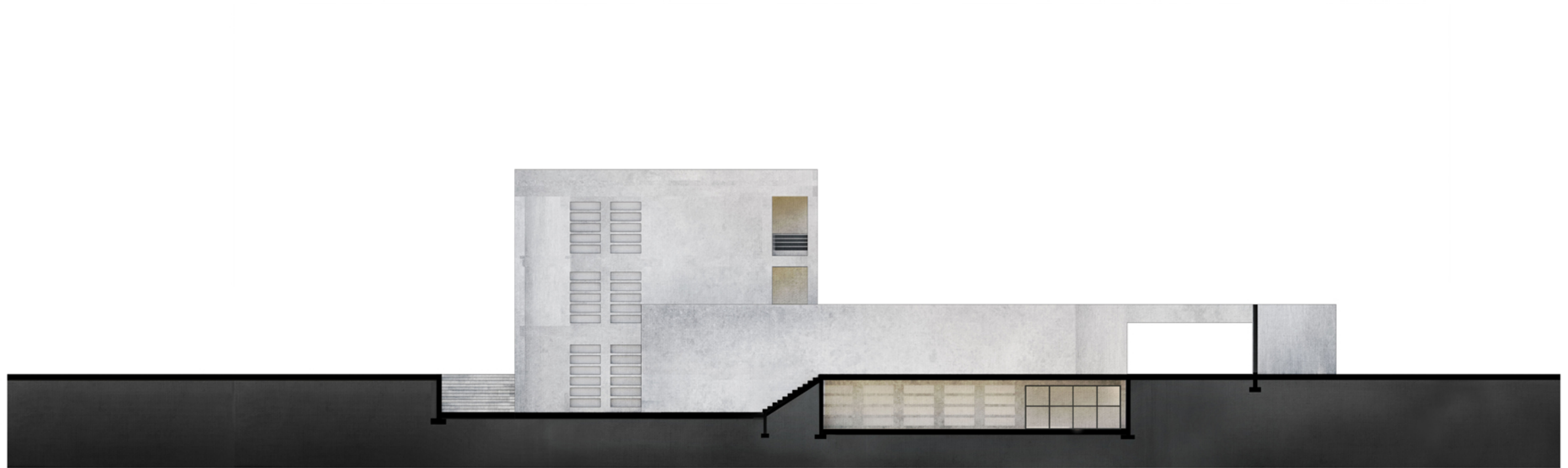




0 2 5 15ft

Right Back elevation





0 2 5 15ft



## CHAPTER 2 SPACE AND LIGHT

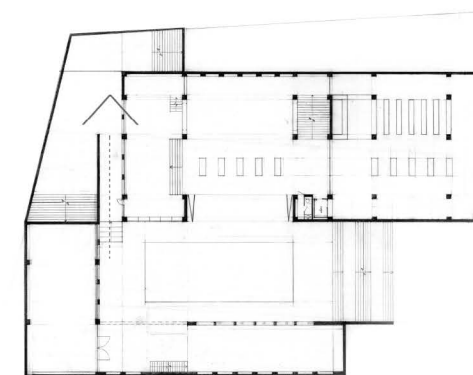
The room is the place of the mind. Louis I .Kahn



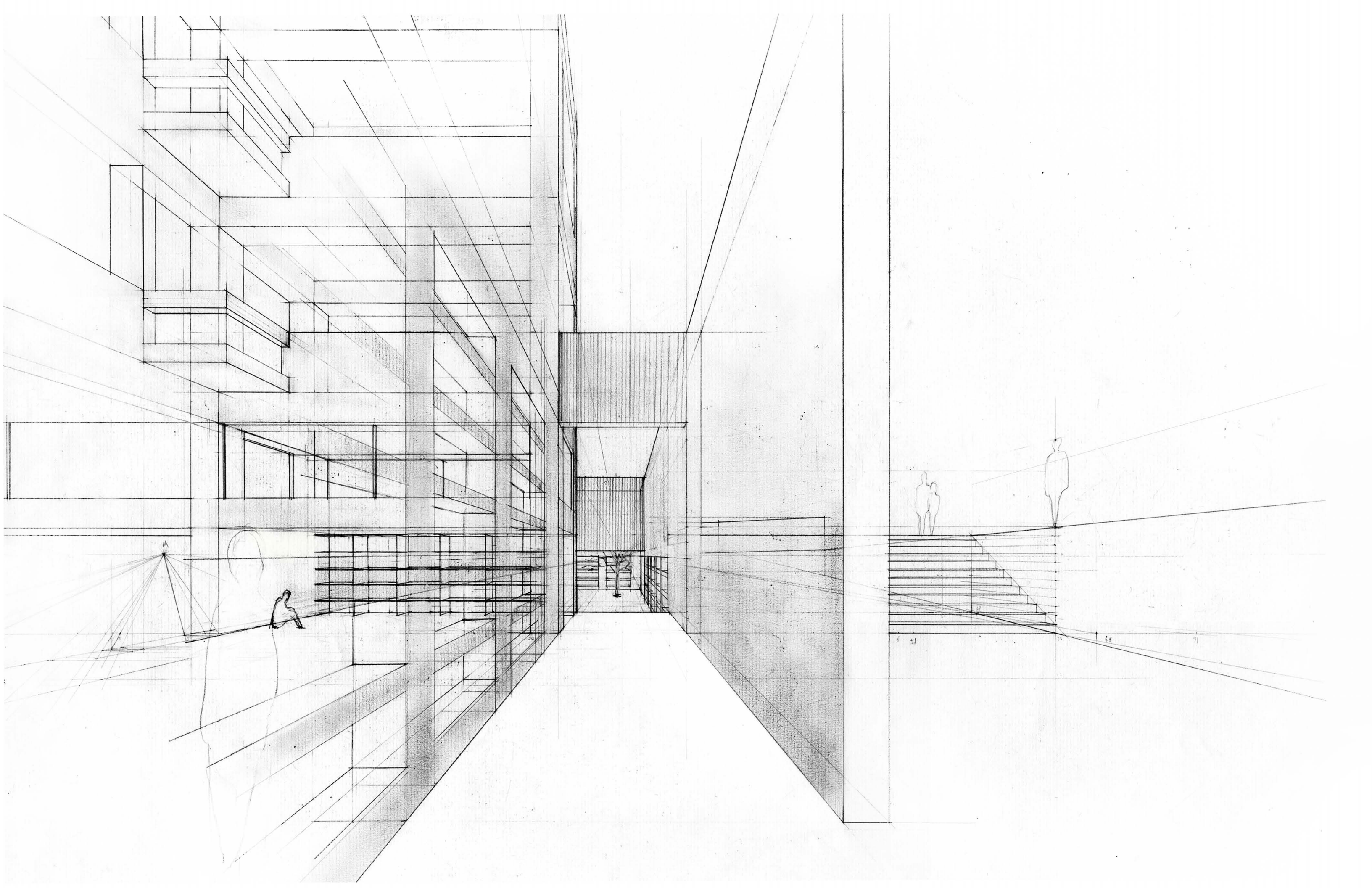
### The entrance

**Right** Perspective view of the back entrance to the courtyard.

The long walk to the back entrance quiets down and narrows the crowd coming from the secondary courtyard to the main courtyard.



Top First floor plan

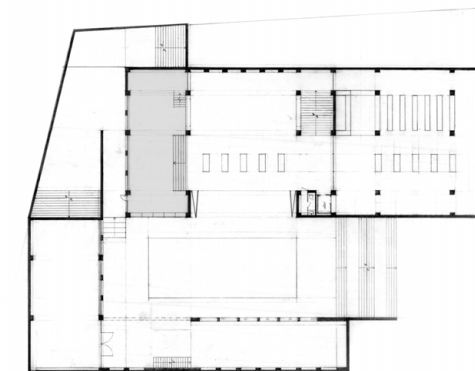


### The atrium

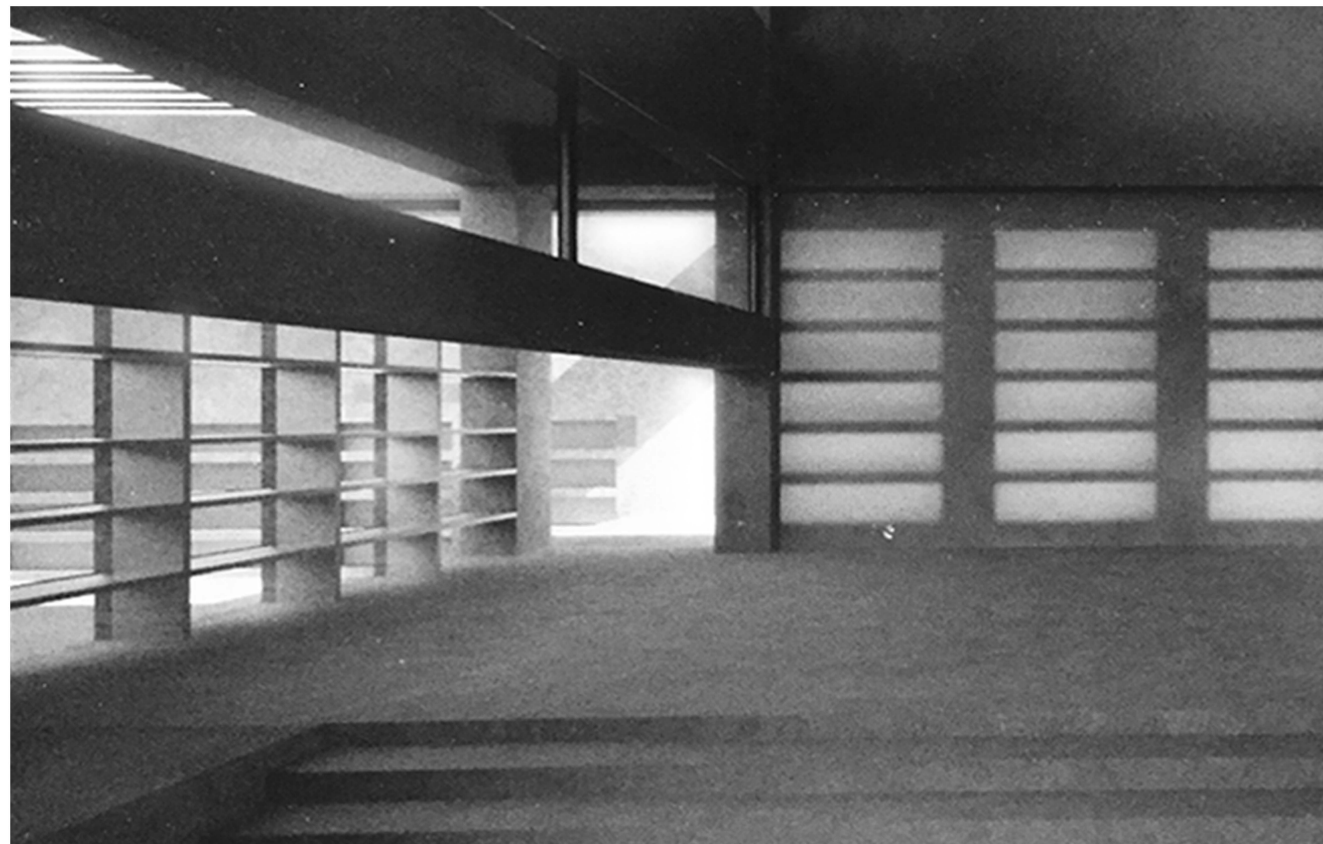
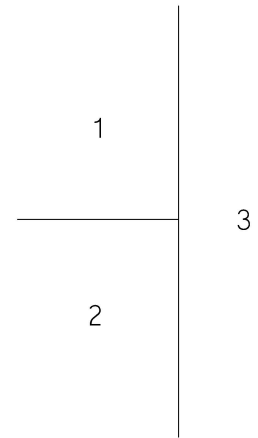
**Top Left** img1 Views taken from the back entrance of the main building. Photo, summer, cloudy.

**Bottom Left** img2 Back entrance seen from inside the building. Rendering.

**Right** img3 Translucent glass wall transmits light as well as shadows which brings interaction between interior and exterior. Photo, summer, cloudy.

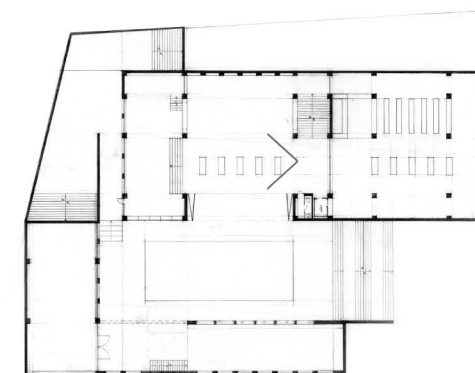


Top First floor plan



The first floor

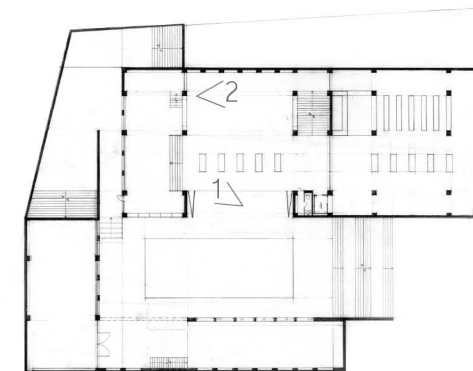
Right Perspective view of interior reading hall



Top First floor plan



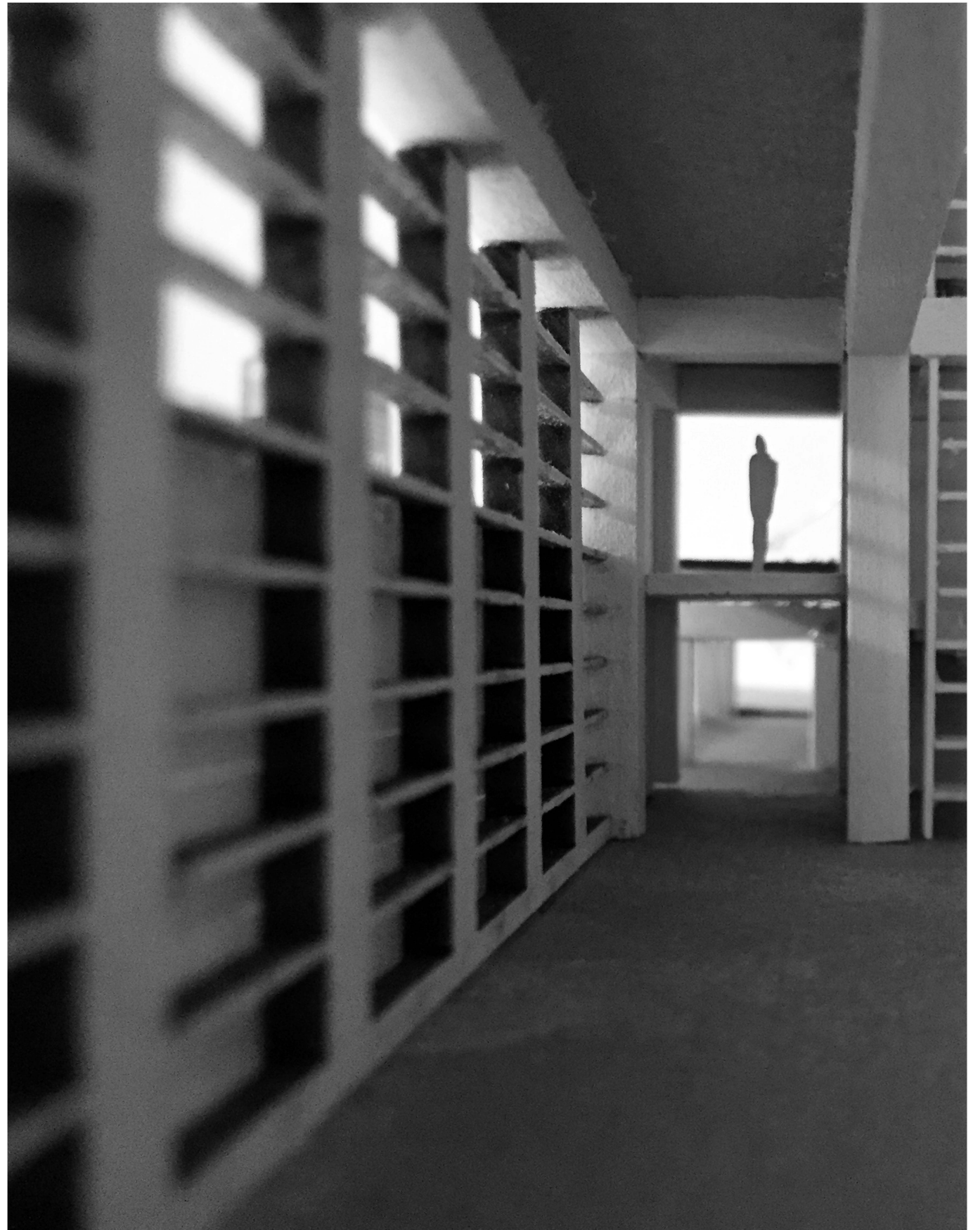
**Left** img1 Photo. Summer afternoon, sunny.  
**Right** img2 Photo. Summer morning, cloudy.



Top First floor plan

1

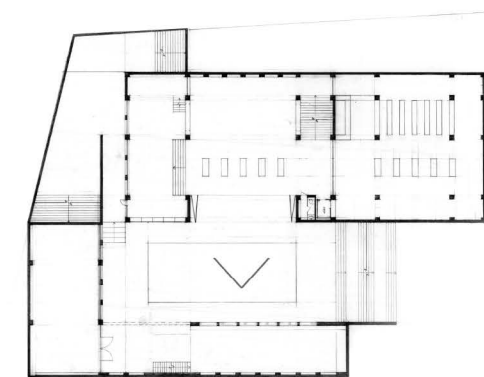
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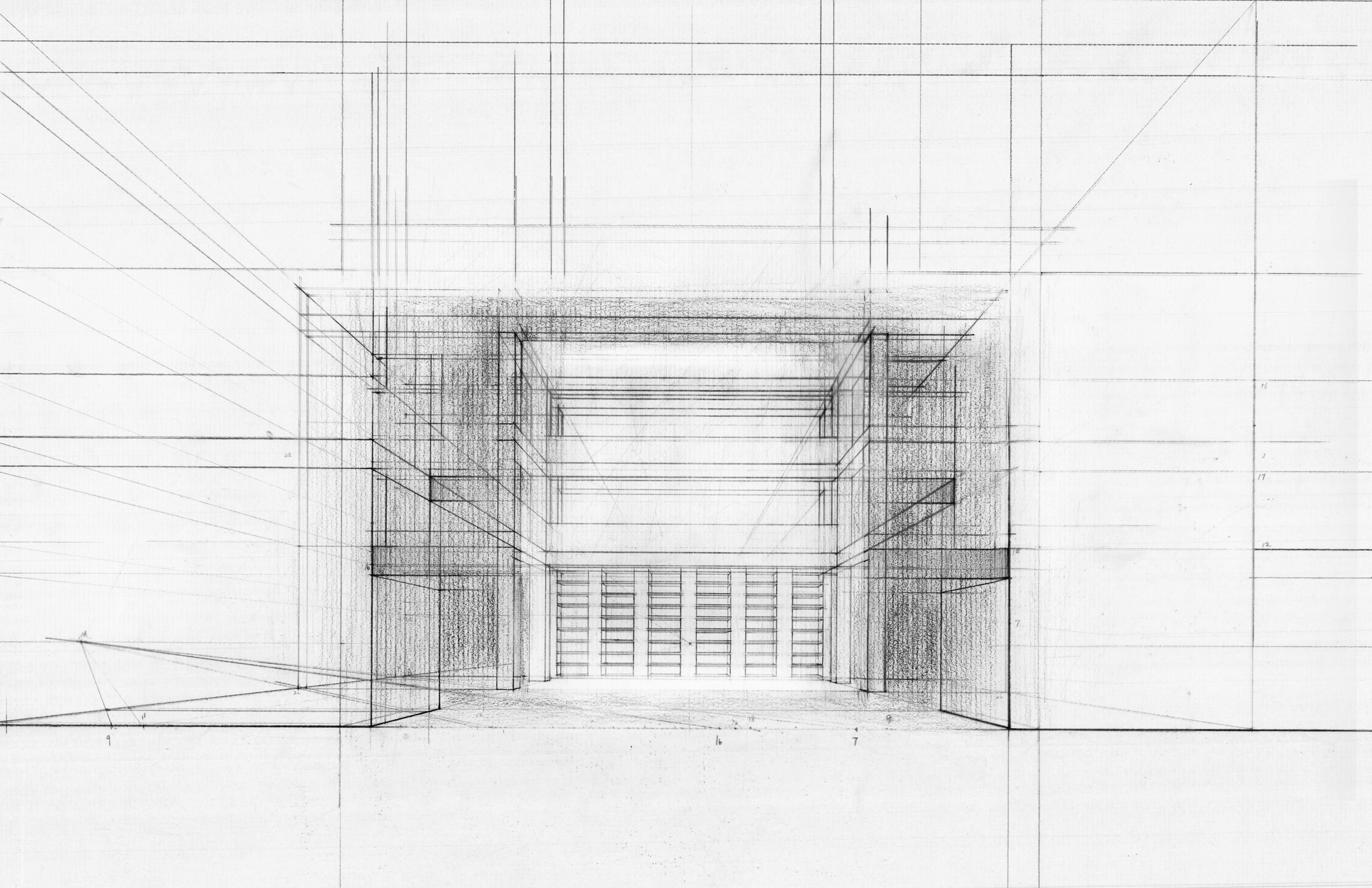


**The light well**

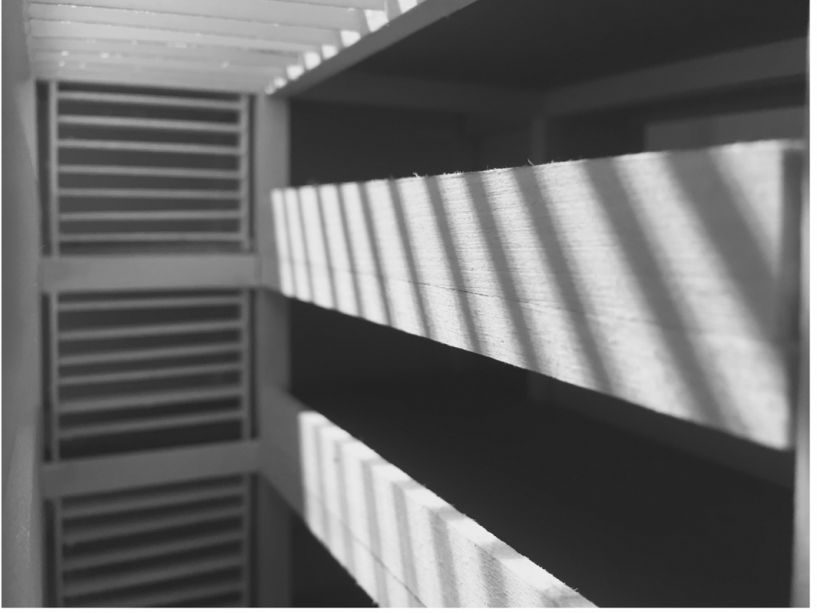
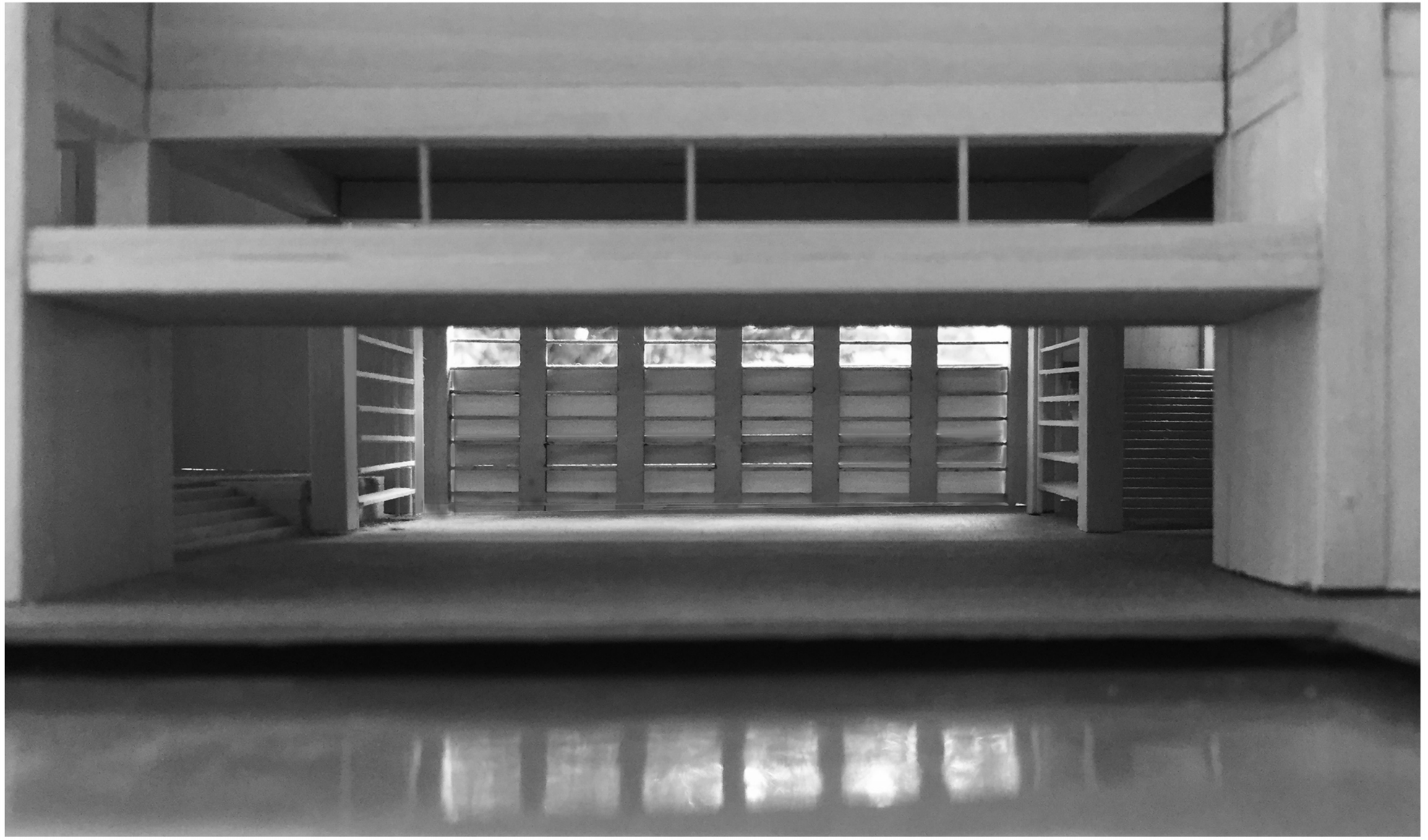
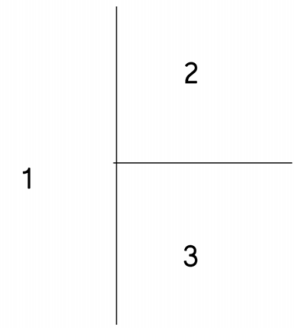
**Right** Perspective view of the reading hall illustrating a shear central light



Top First floor plan

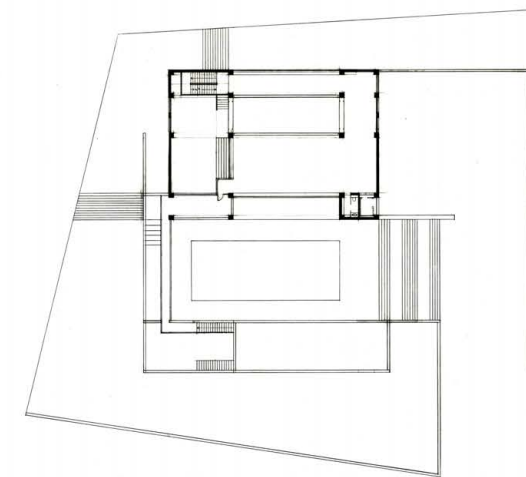


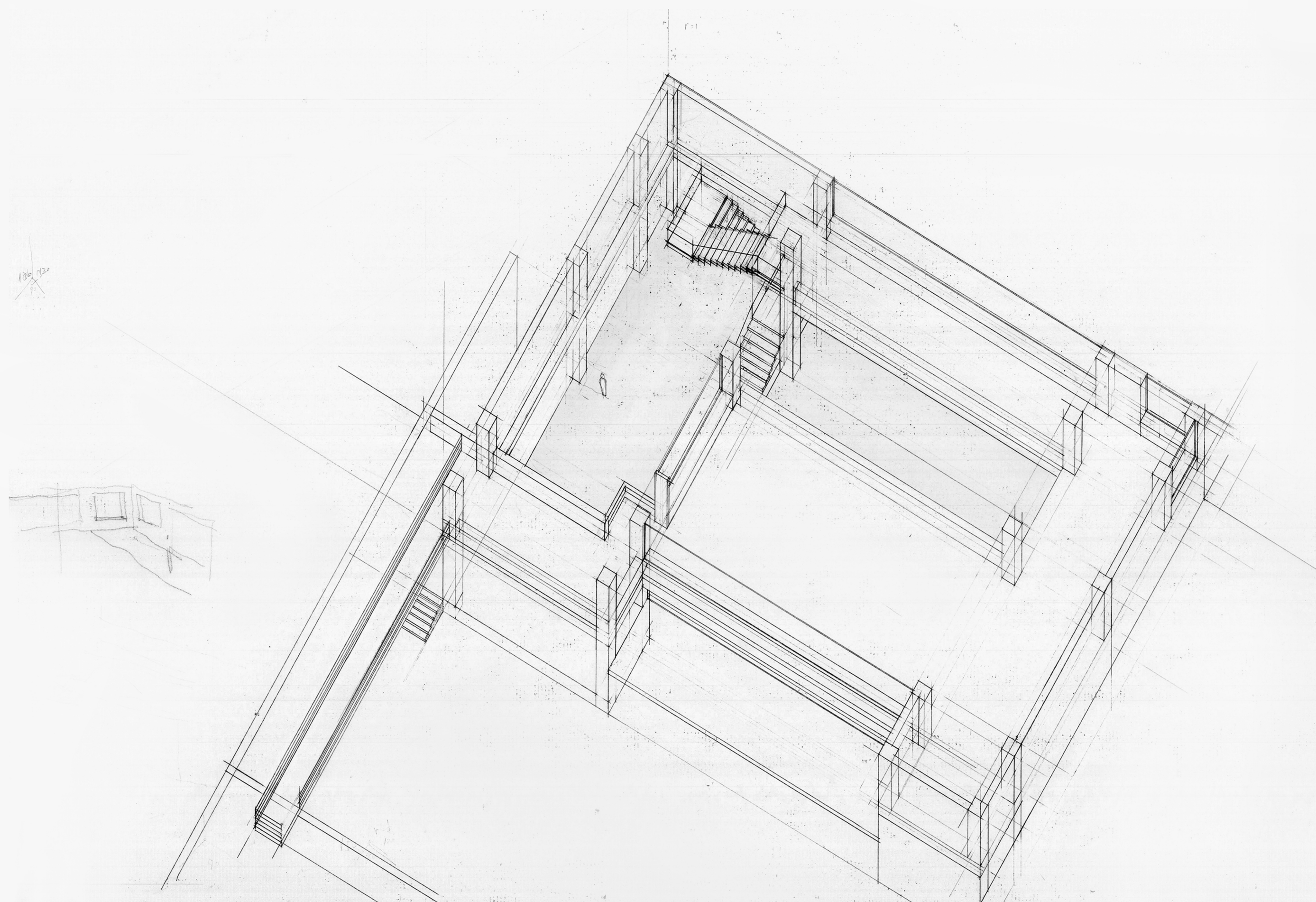
**Left** img1 Summer morning, cloudy.  
**Top Right** img2 Summer morning, sunny.  
**Bottom Right** img3 Summer afternoon, sunny.



The second/third floor

Right Perspective drawing of the second floor



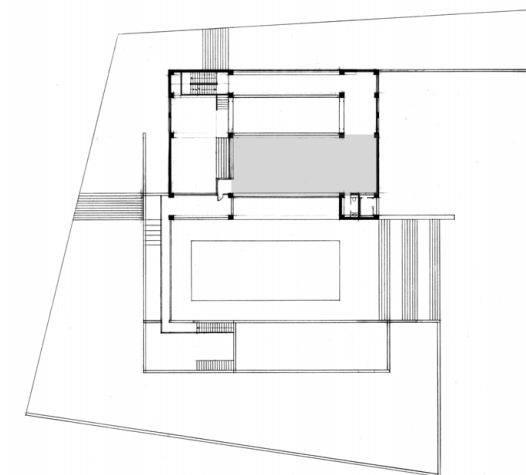


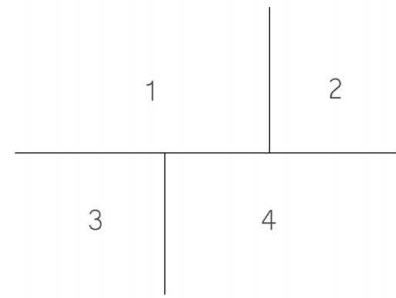
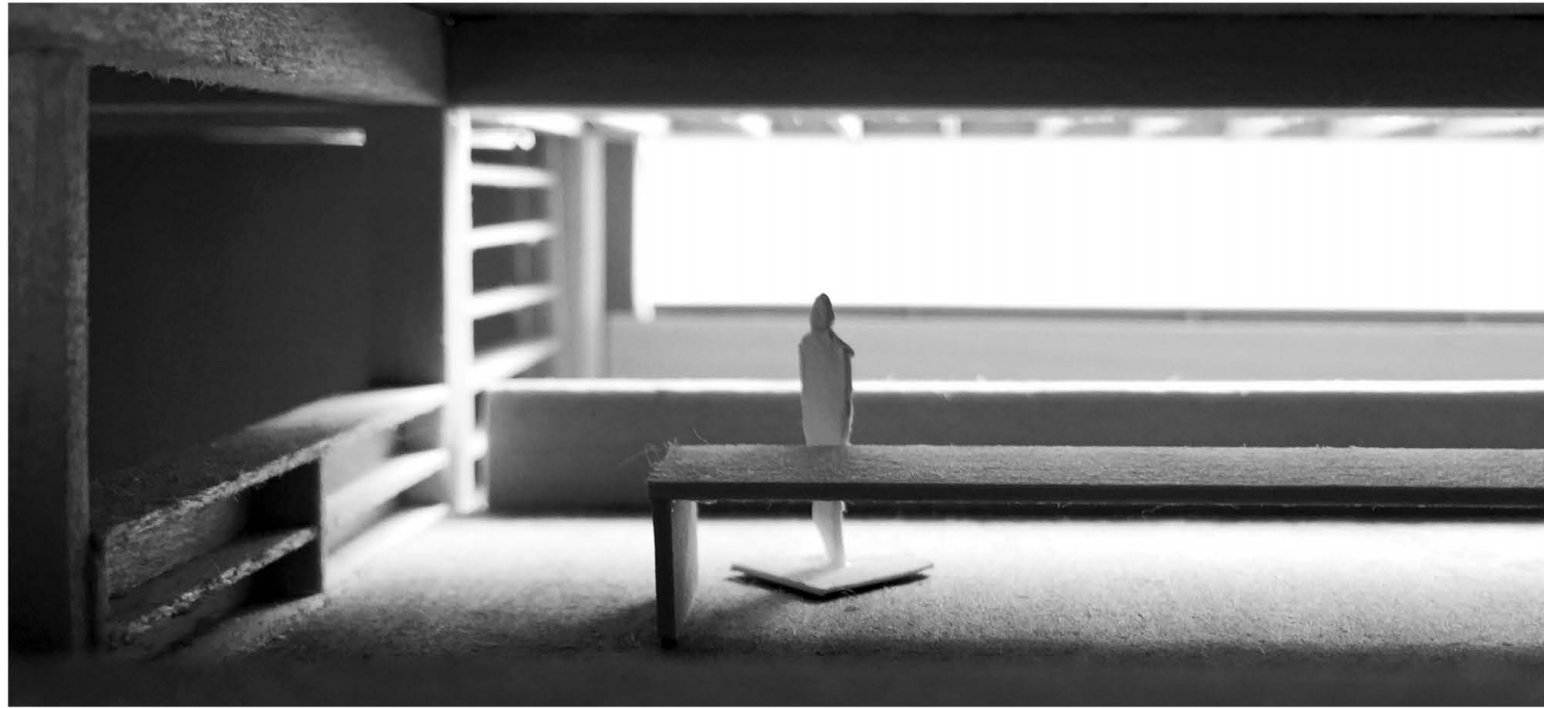
**Top Left** img1 Photo. Summer morning, cloudy.

**Top Right** img2 Photo. Summer afternoon, sunny.

**Bottom Left** img3 Photo. Summer afternoon, sunny.

**Bottom Right** img4 Sketch drawing.





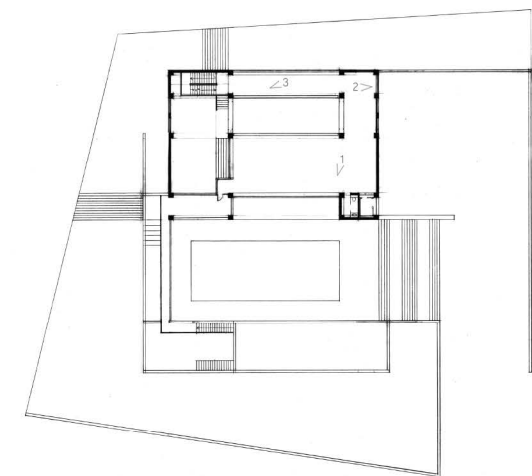


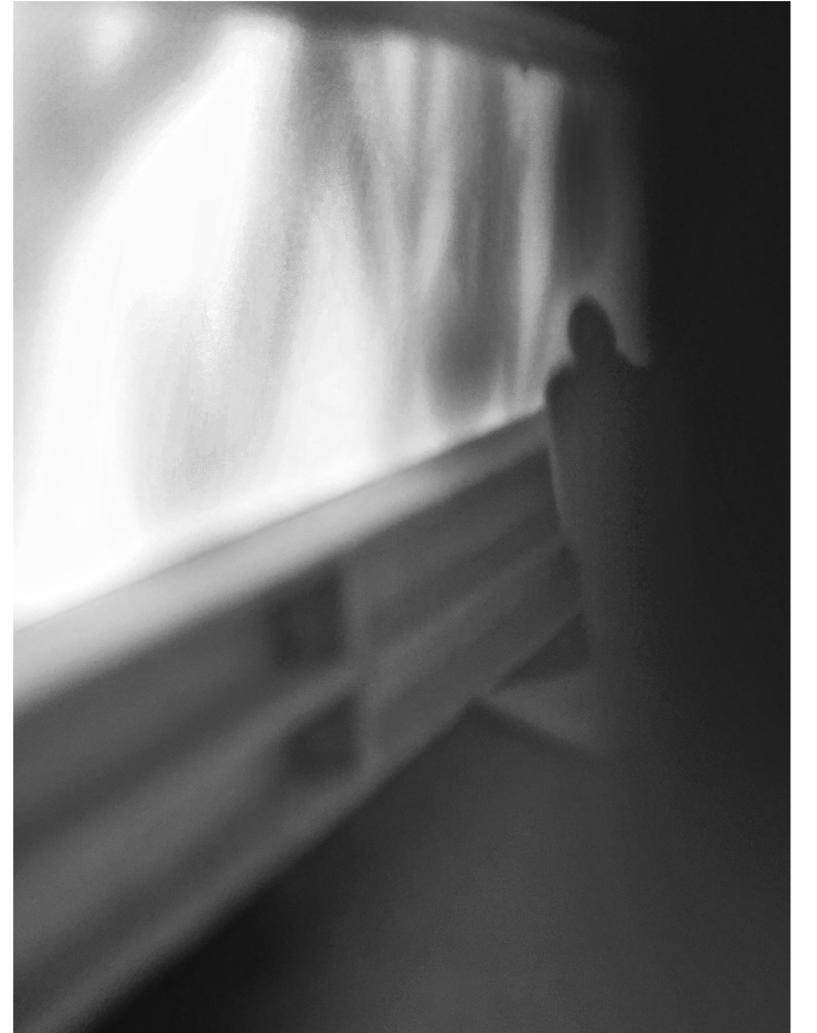
**From Left to Right**

Img1 Summer, Cloudy

Img2 Summer, Cloudy

img3 Summer, Sunny





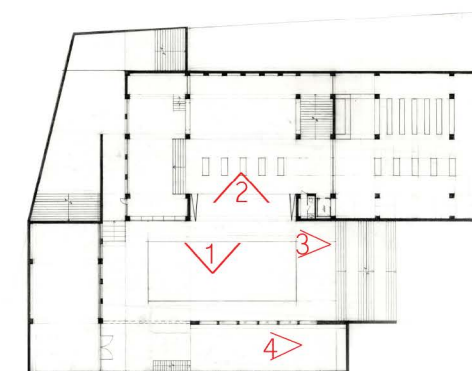
### The courtyard

**Top Left** img1 Photo, Summer afternoon, cloudy.

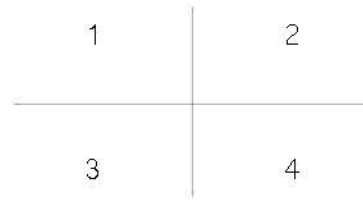
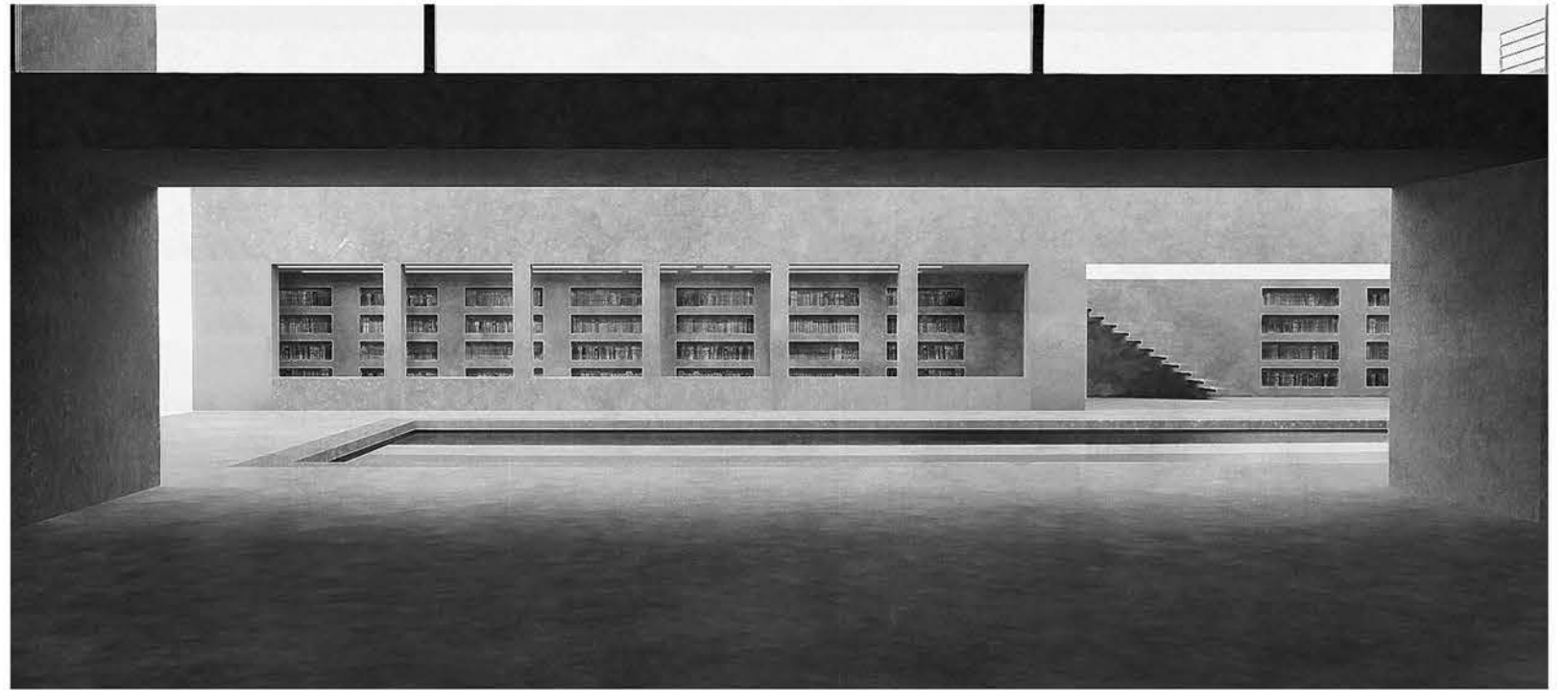
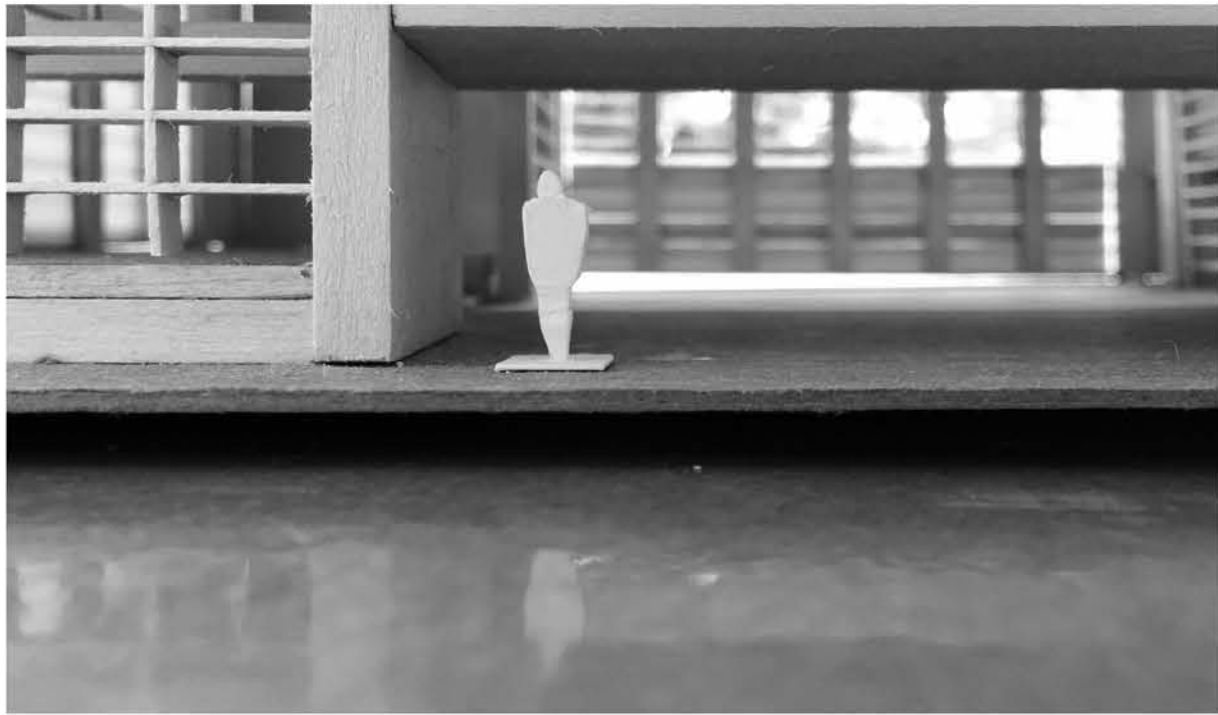
**Top Right** img2 Perspective view from the reading hall to courtyard. Rendering. Summer afternoon, sunny.

**Bottom Left** img3 Perspective view of the eastern corner. Rendering, Winter afternoon, sunny.

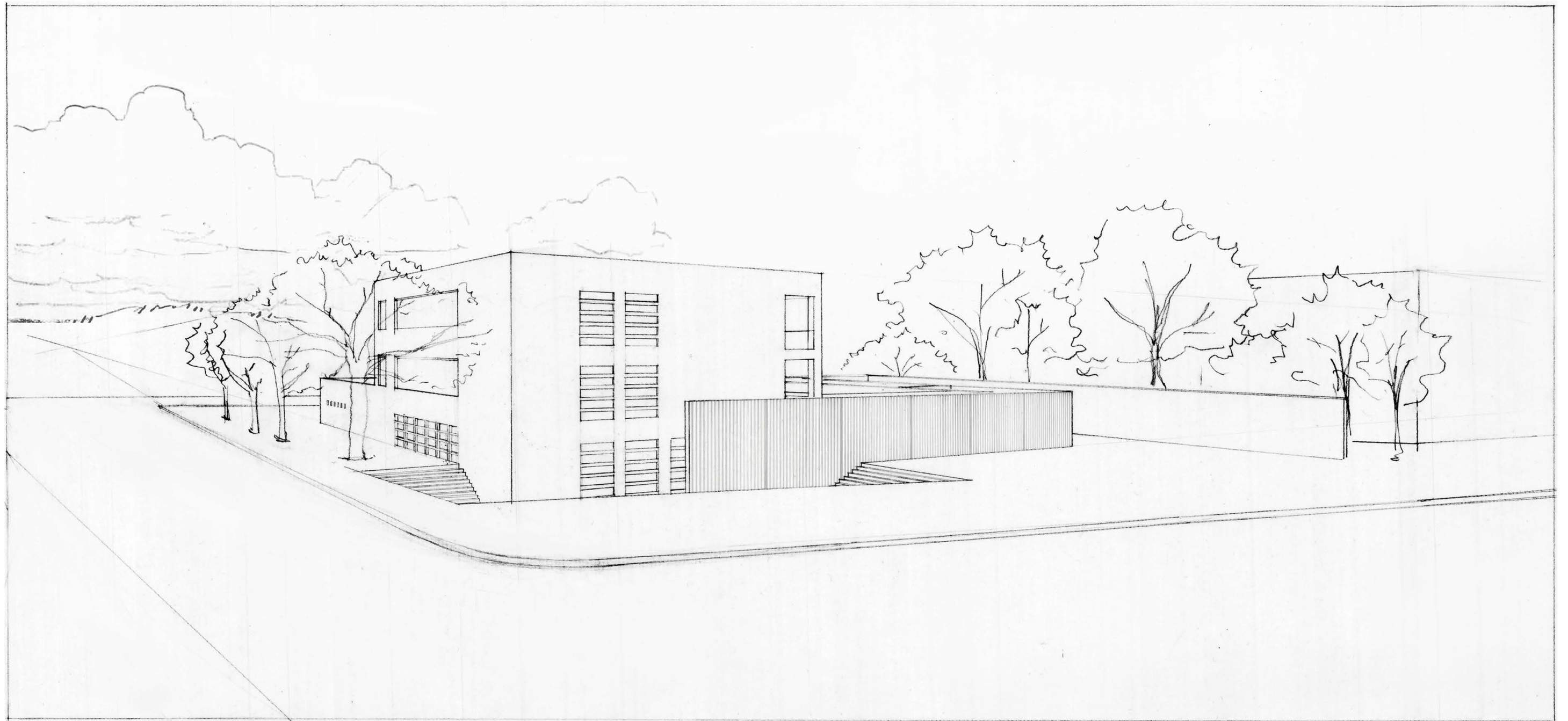
**Bottom Right** img4 Perspective view of the corridor. Rendering, Summer afternoon, sunny.



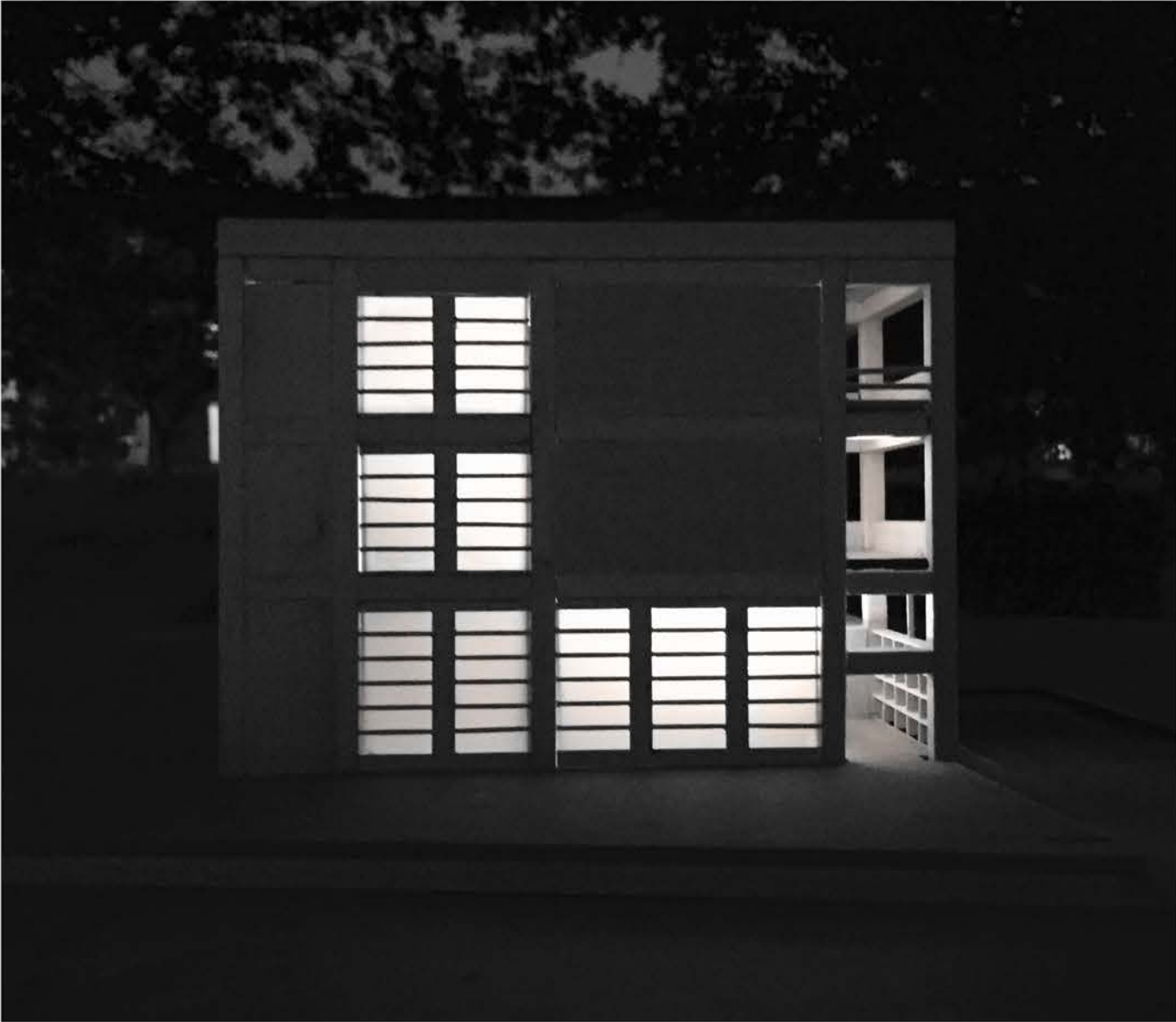
Top First floor plan







Right East facade of the main building at night







APPENDIX FROM BEGINNING TO END

