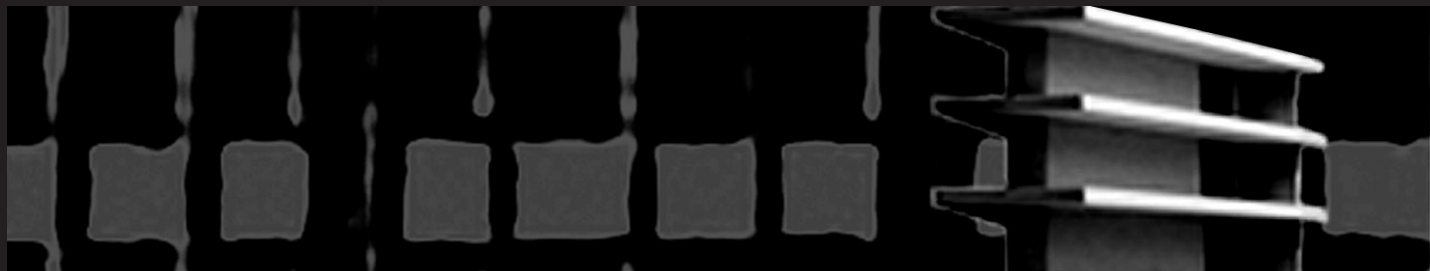


framing architecture : Pavia

European Studies 2001-2002
David EE Shirey

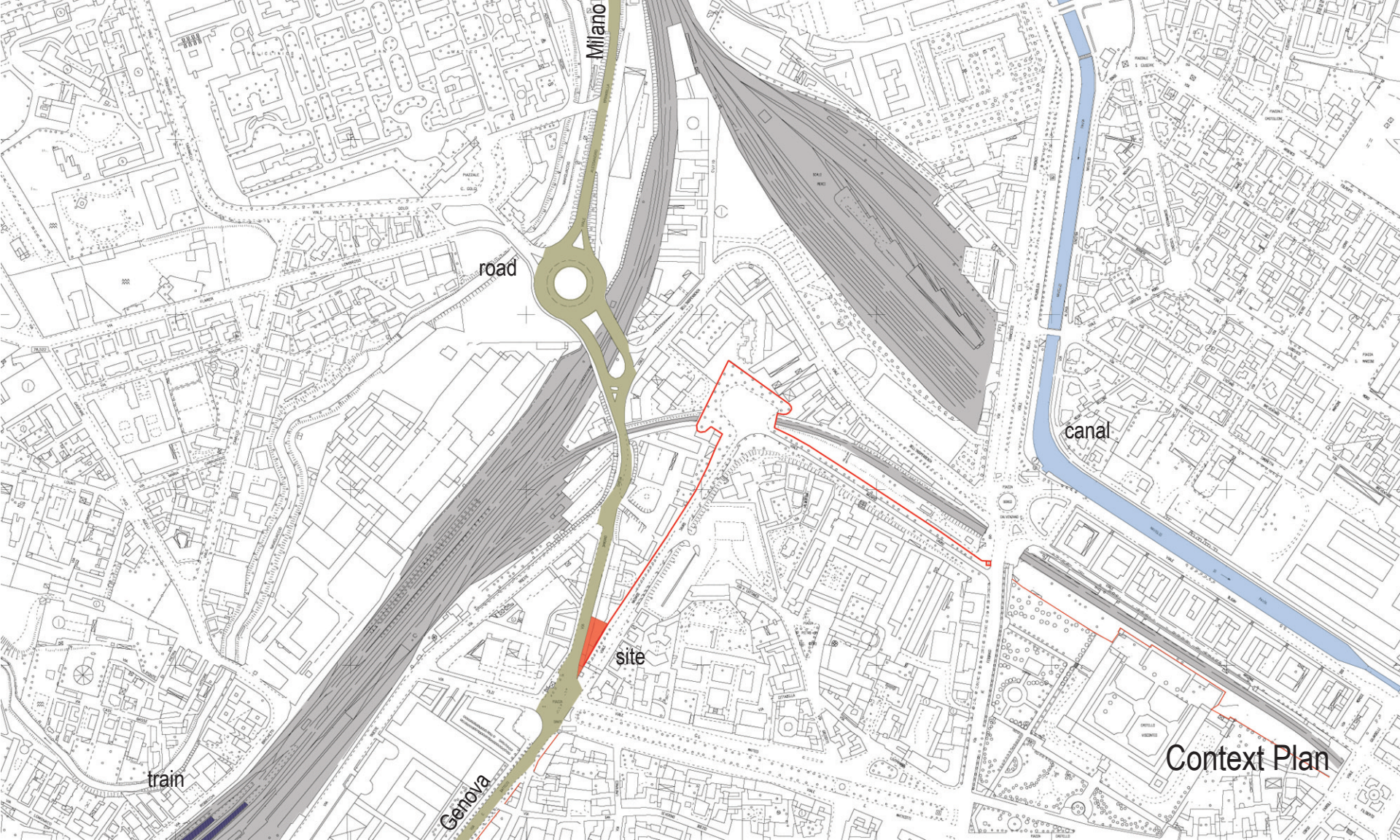


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In the Italian city of Pavia, located almost halfway between Milano and Genova, a project was developed calling for a mixed-use landmark tower, incorporating an edicola (newspaper vendor), fruit-ivendolo (fruit vendor), a 24 hour bar, office space, as well as apartments of varying sizes. The site is on Piazza Dante, near the northwestern parapet of the old city wall, at the boundry between the old and new citites.



Context Plan



Milano

road

canal

site

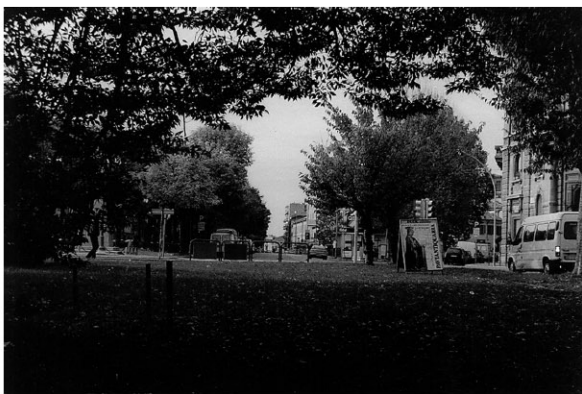
Genova

train

Context Plan



1 piazza Minerva to the south



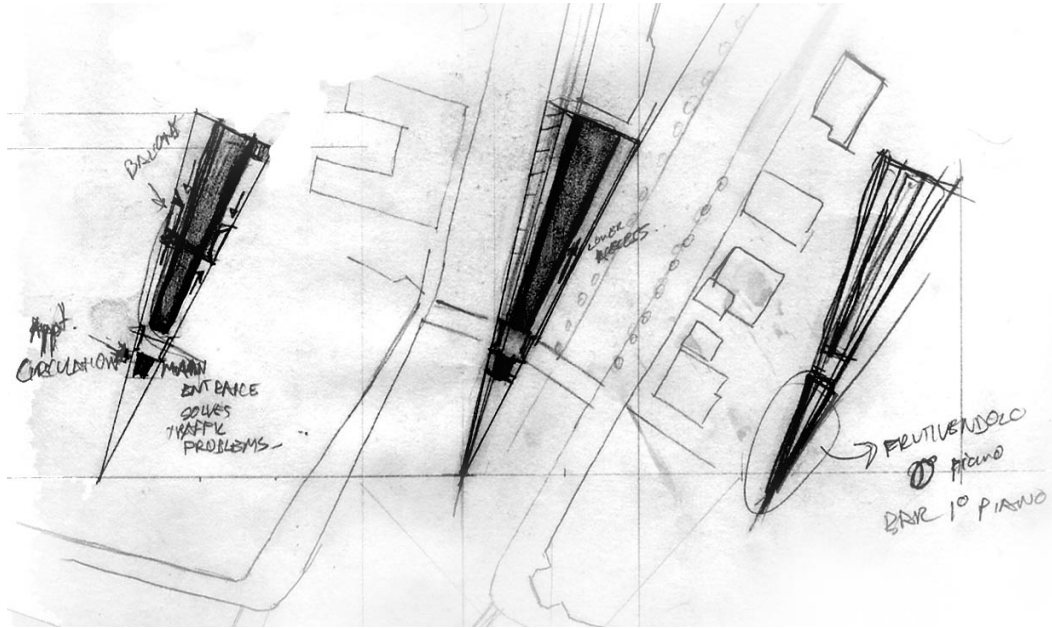
2 public park



3 entering Pavia



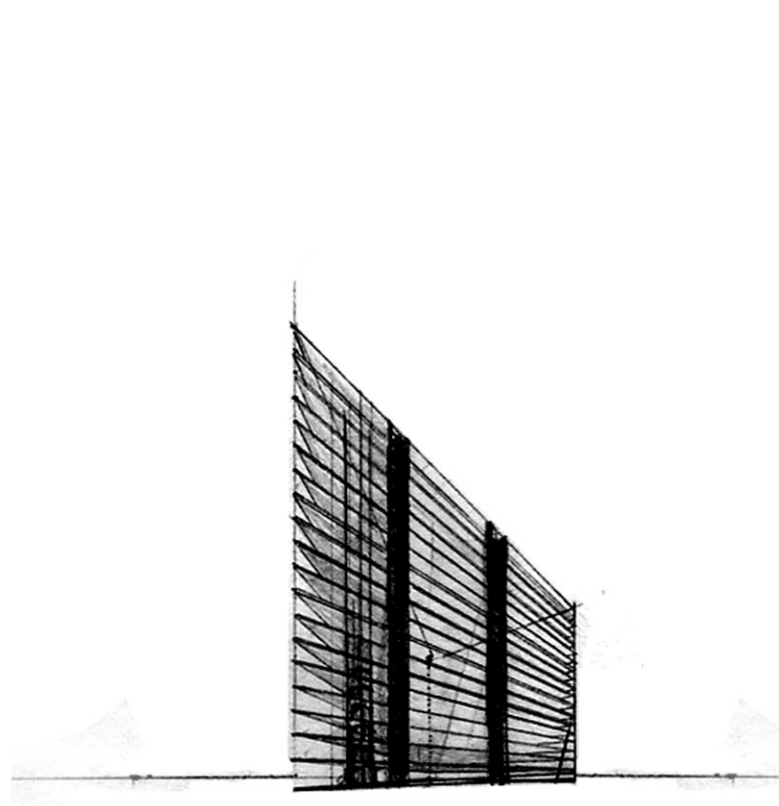
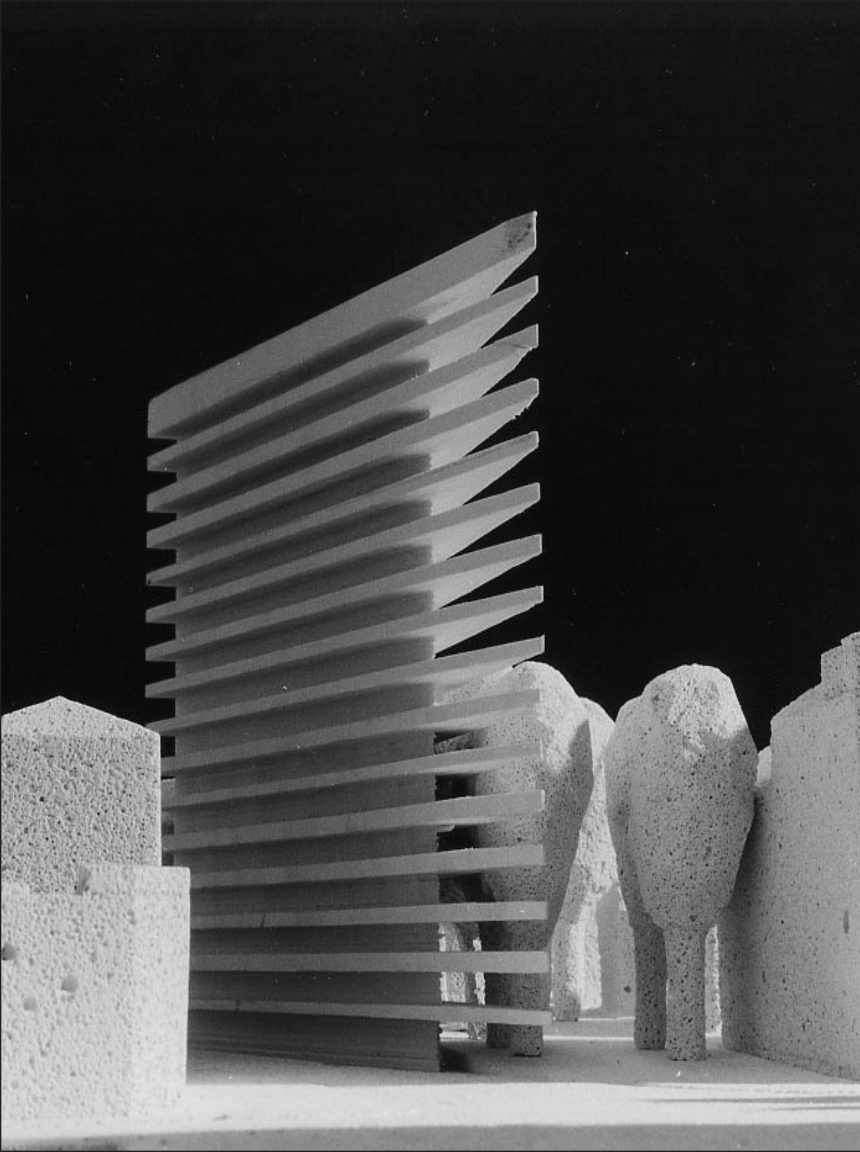
4 site with fog



Studies in maximizing the site

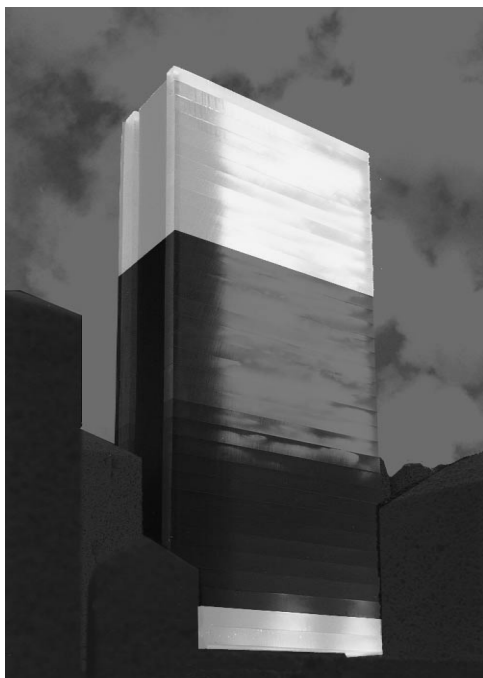
The wedge shaped site is set within a 14 degree angle and bounded by a convergence of roads. To the west, the old Milano-Genoa highway, to the south, one of the primary entrances into the old city and to the east a ring road around old Pavia, built along the old city wall. This confluence of intersections -automotive, spatial and historical- clearly defines the importance of both Piazza Dante and in particular, the site.

Concept Sketches

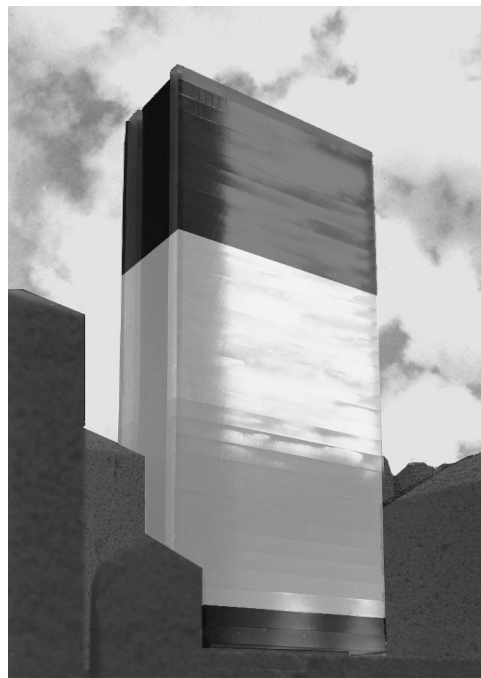


Initial concept sketch and structural model

Concept Studies



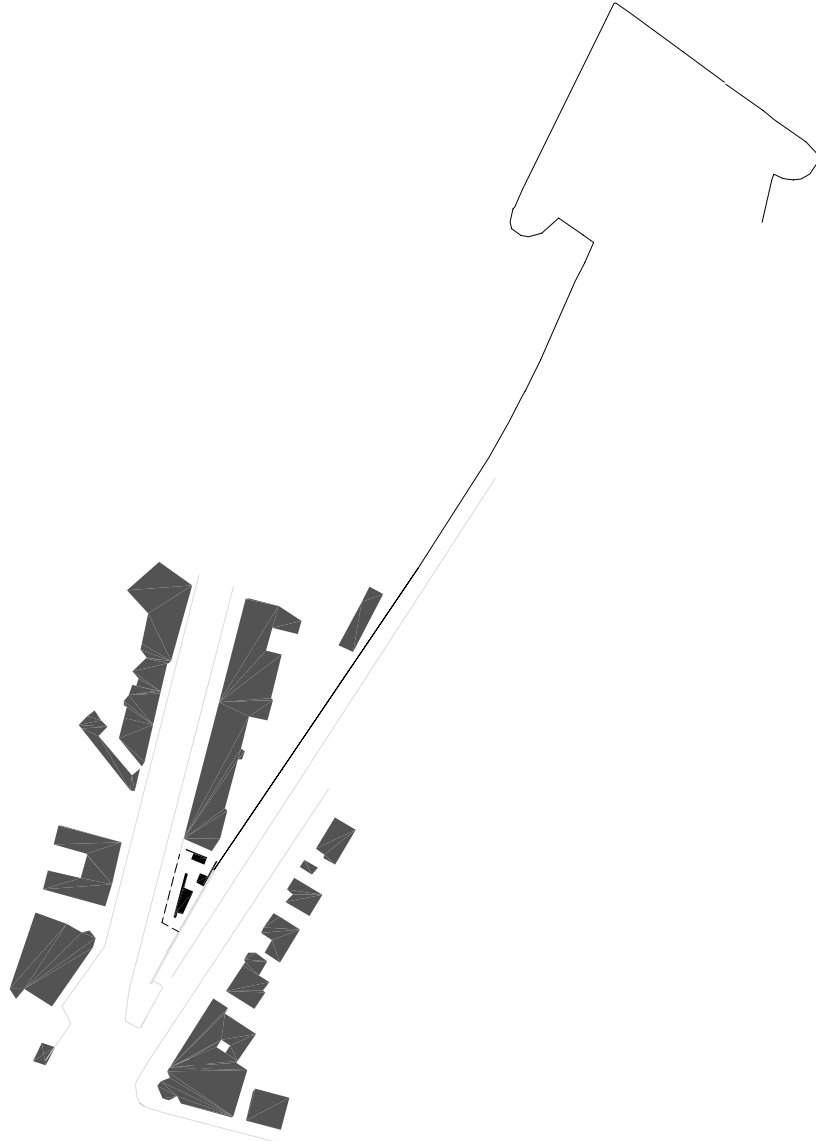
Night view



Day view

Given the nature of the site and of Pavia itself, a place with 5 months of fog per year and a moderate climate, the solution was to utilize a primarily glass façade for the building. Programatically, the building is striated by floor with the apartments on the uppermost floors above the office floors, and a bar/restaurant on the second floor elevated over two separate lobbies for the office and living above. This striation allows for a regular visual performance with the twice daily transition between the living spaces above and office below. The lights of the apartments and the bar open the early morning fog, making the tower a literal beacon for the entire area above, and a warm and inviting place for taking the morning café at the bar below. As the morning fog burns off, so does the duality in scale of light through the day, as the office floors are illuminated together, only to visually dissolve as the tower pursues its dual nature again at night.

Concept Diagrams

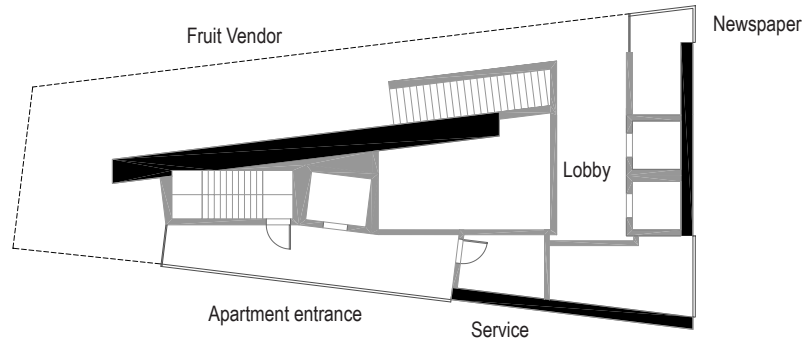


The height of the building at fourteen floors was determined by the line of sight from the train station, over other buildings, immediately upon exit from the station. Similarly, the height at which the floors are separated between office (3-10) and apartment (11-14) is determined by the natural viewing angle from the six-story apartment across from the site at piazza Dante. A glass curtain wall is then wrapped around this concrete superstructure composed of fourteen horizontal slabs and three solid vertical sheer walls. Of these three, two form parts of the exterior façade, acting as a partial blind to the north, and helping to frame views to the south and west of the cathedral and old castle of Pavia, respectively. The third acts as the spine of the building, delineating primary and secondary circulation paths, as well as internal and external spaces, relative to the old city wall.

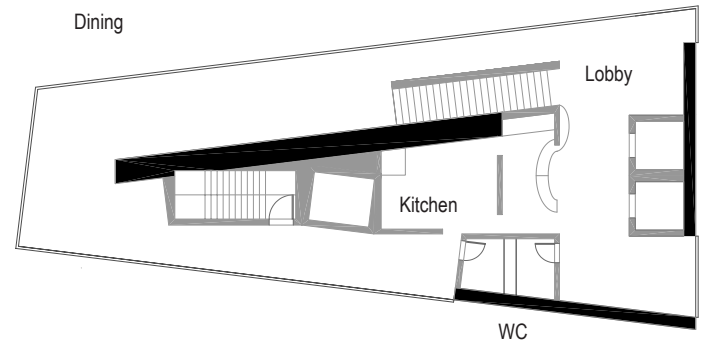
The concrete superstructure can also be seen as a product of the site, with the three structural walls as cognate constructions to the long stretch of the old city wall which terminates off axis at the site. Similarly, the structural walls of the tower are designed so as to accommodate ancillary functions off axis of the longitudinal end points of the plan view of these walls.

These functions are reserved primarily for the vertical circulation of both people and water. Thus, it is the elevator shafts, emergency stairs, and restrooms that form the termini of these walls, much in the same way the tower acts as the vertical terminus to the horizontal run of the old city wall adjacent to it.

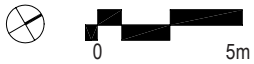
Plan Diagram



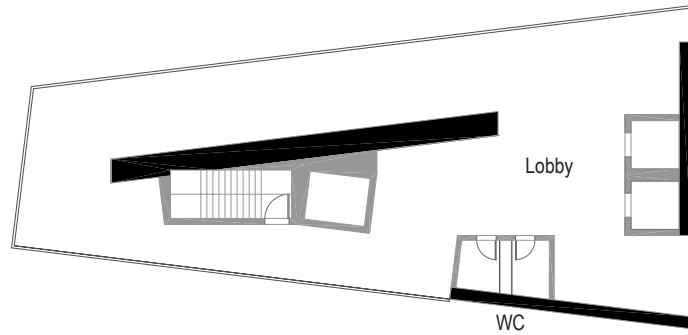
Ground Floor



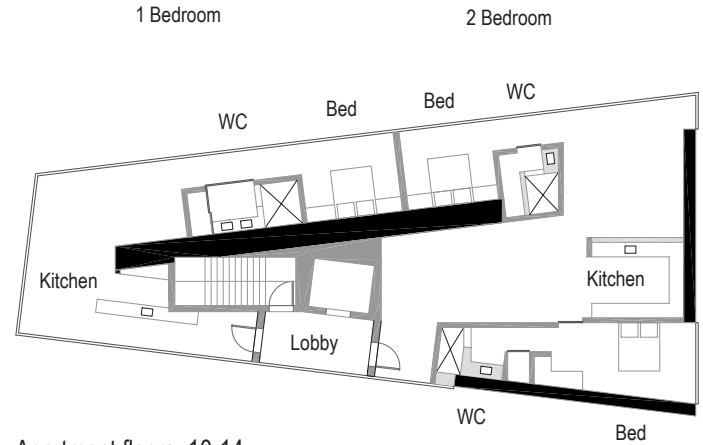
Restaraunt and 24 hour bar



Floor Plans



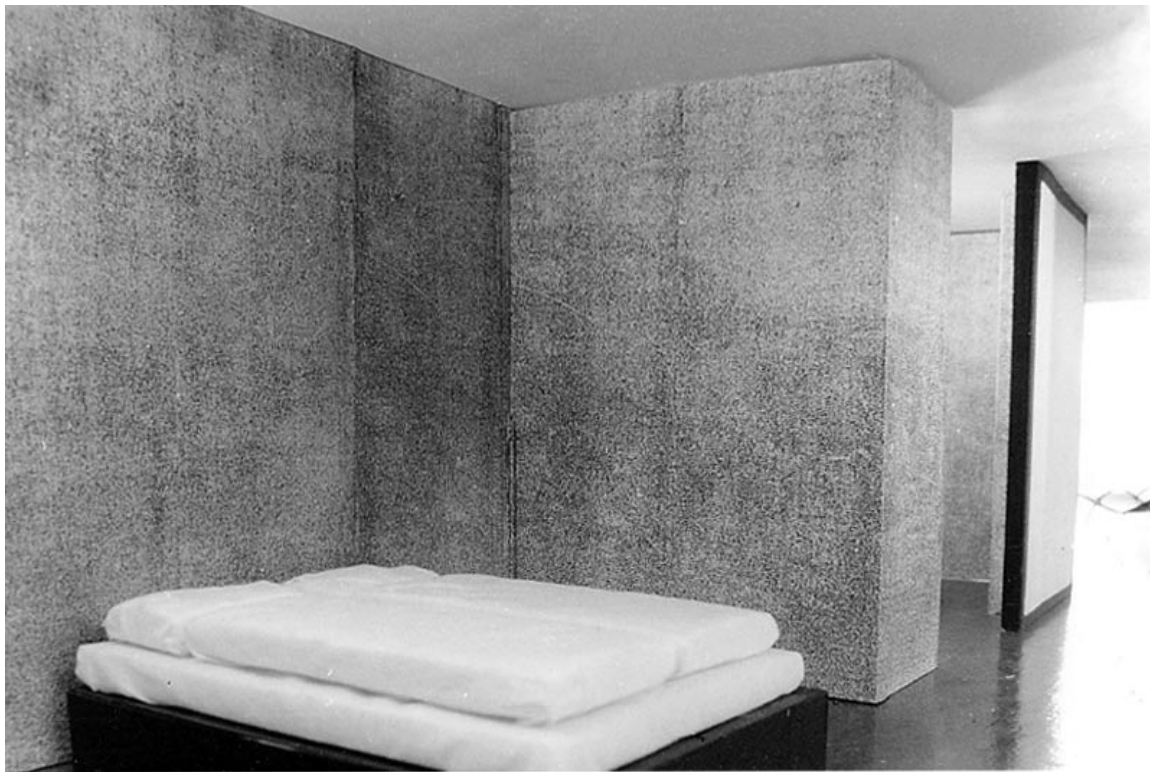
Office floors, 3-9



Apartment floors, 10-14



Floor Plans



Bedroom with view to Bathroom

Apartment Interior



Living-room, bathroom + bedroom beyond

Apartment Interior



Living-room + kitchen

Apartment Interior



Kitchen + entry hall

Apartment Interior



Photomontage