

*figure 4--23 the eastern entrance and lobby on the ground floor*





*figure 4--24 the southern entrance and lobby*



*figure 4--25 staircase study*



*figure 4--26 skylight around the courtrooms*

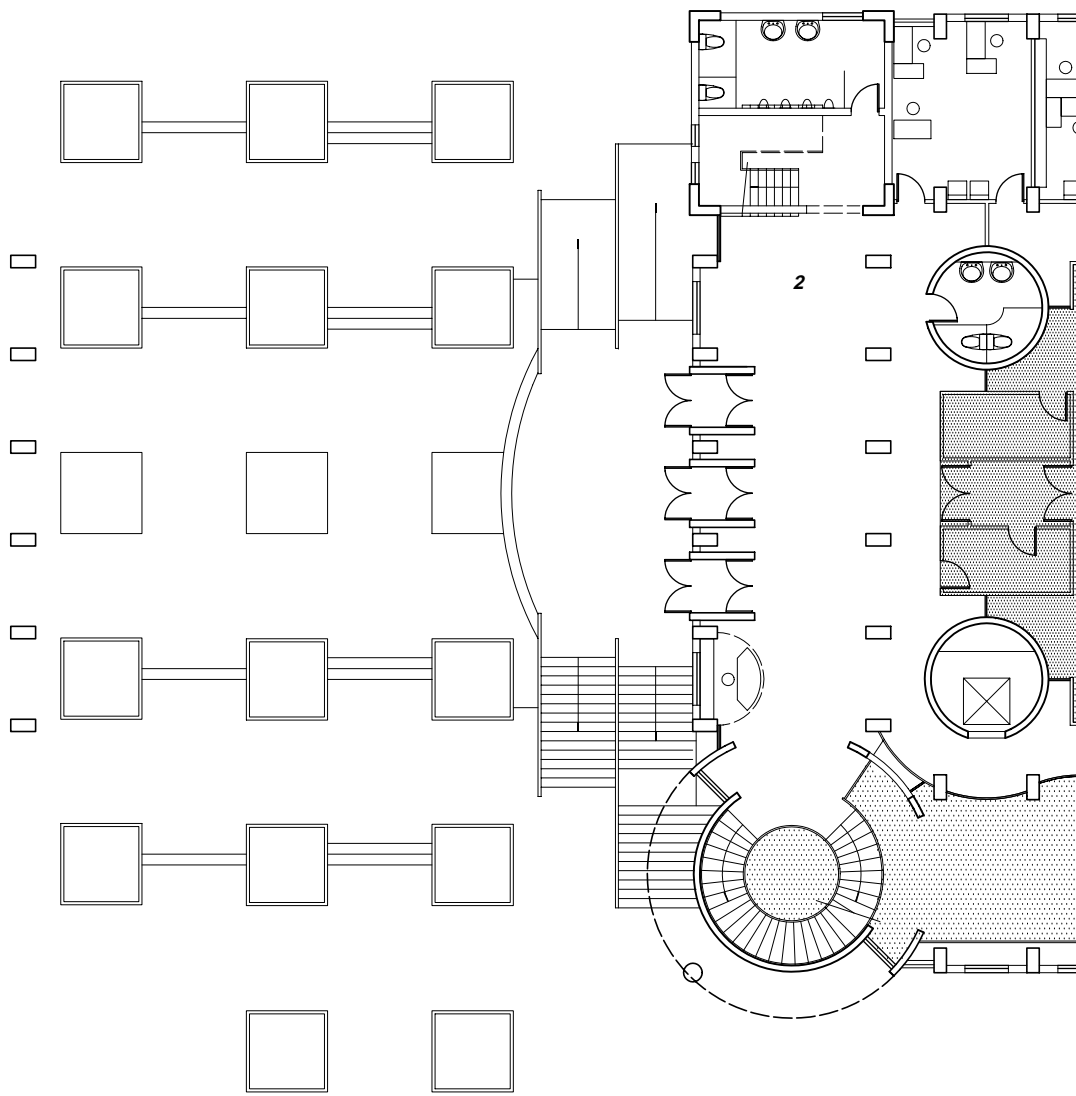


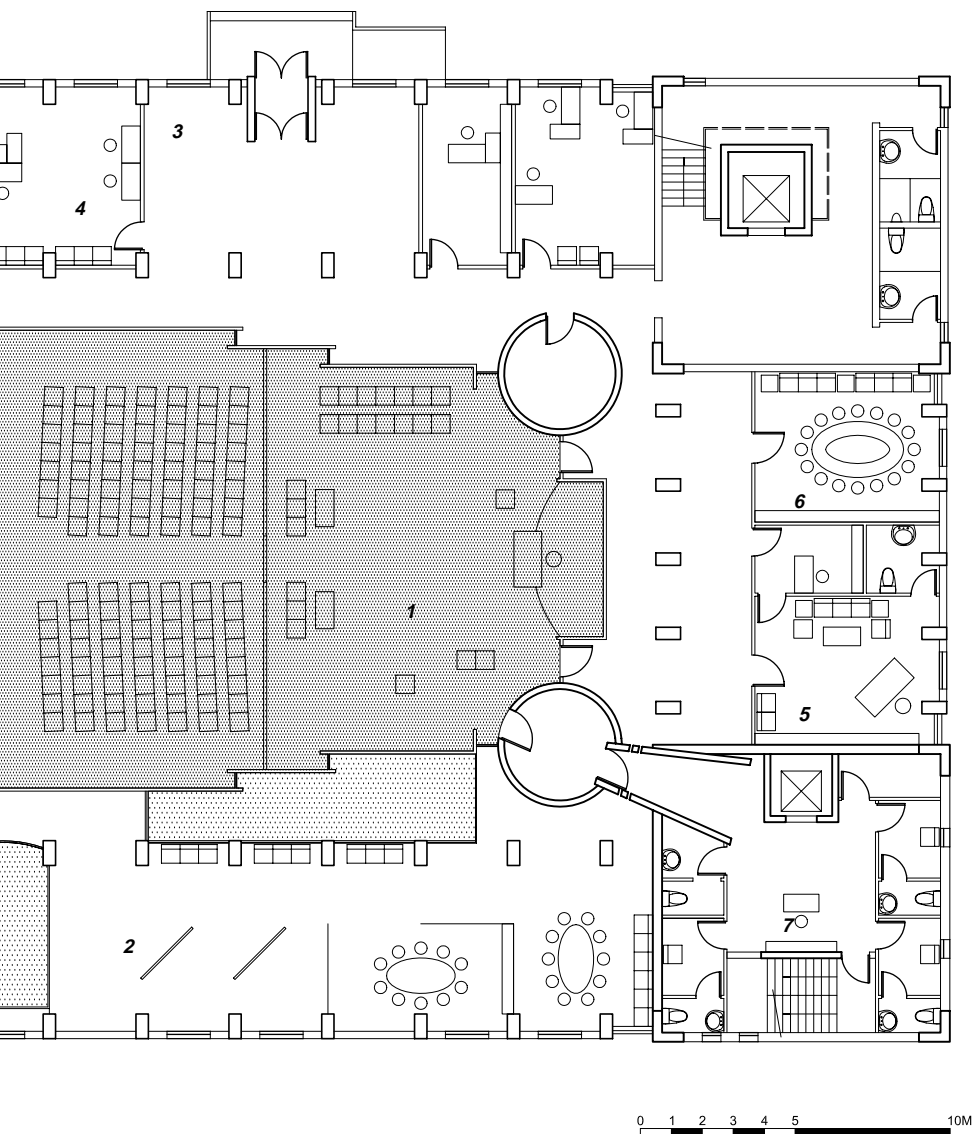
*figure 4--27 southern lobby*





*figure 4--28 second floor public waiting area*





- 1. courtroom
- 2. public waiting
- 3. lobby for the judges and staff
- 4. security
- 5. judge's chamber
- 6. jury deliberation room
- 7. detention facilities

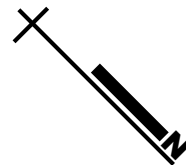
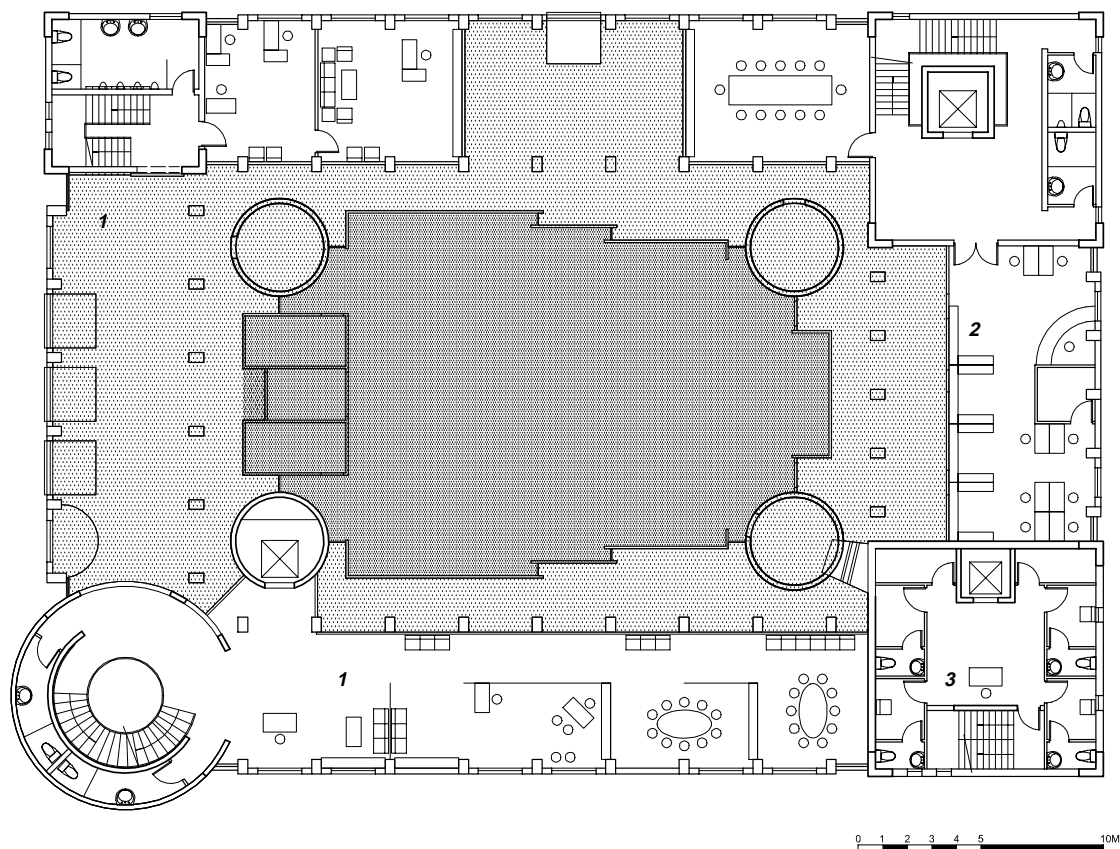


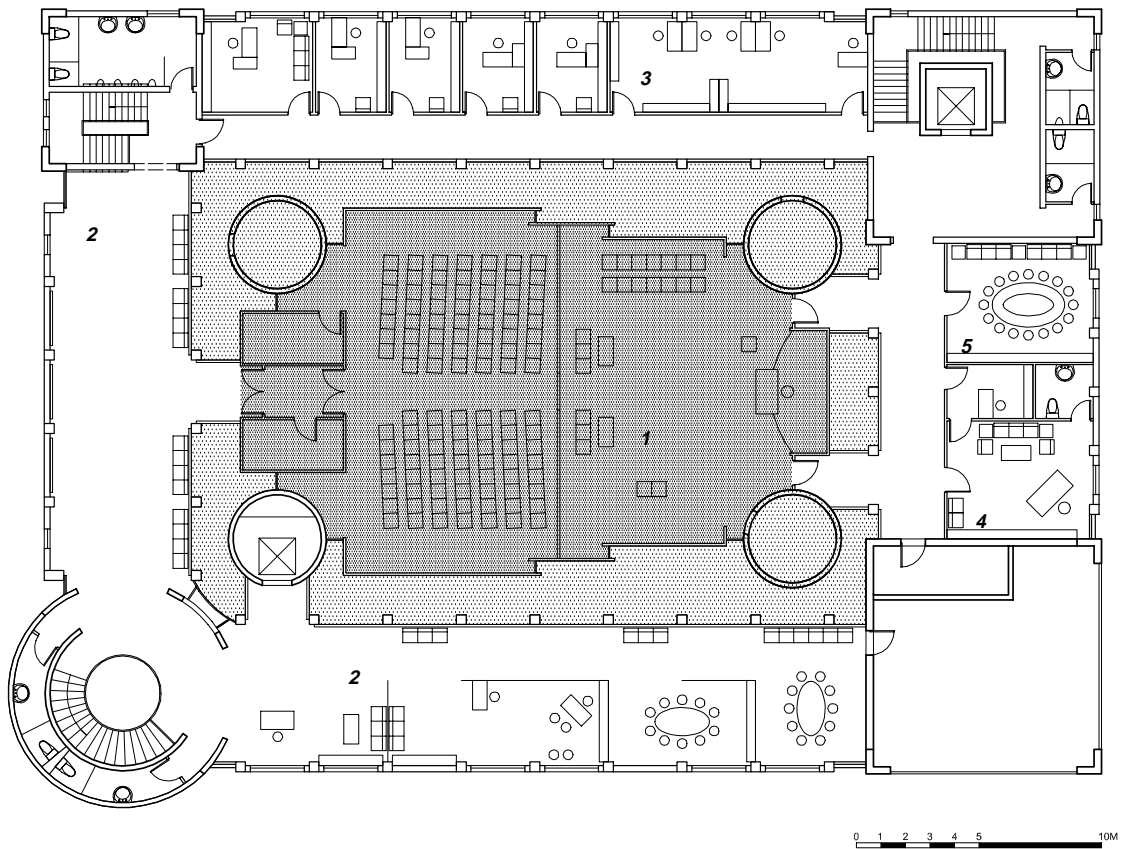
figure 4--29 first floor plan





- 1. public waiting
- 2. law library
- 3. detention facilities

figure 4--30 second floor plan

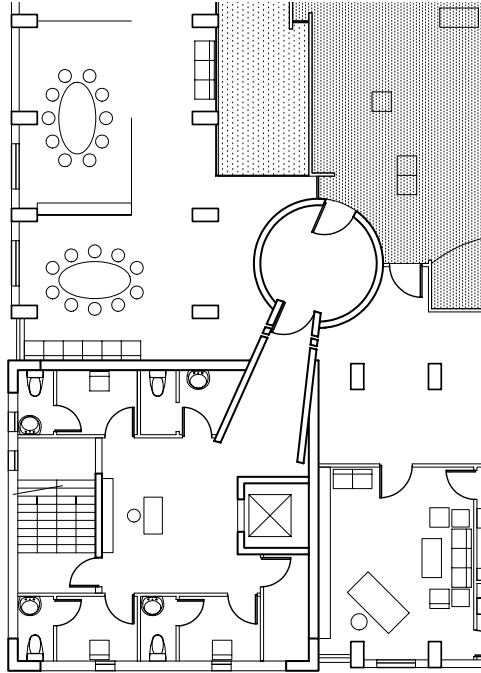


- 1. courtroom
- 2. public waiting
- 3. offices
- 4. judge's chamber
- 5. jury deliberation room

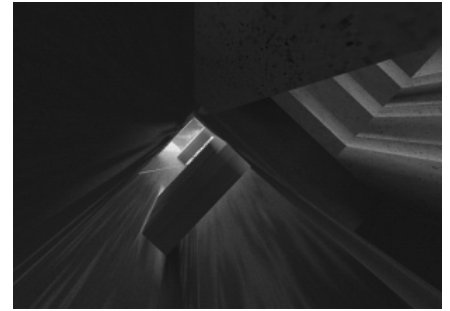
figure 4--31 third floor plan



*figure 4--32 from cells to the courtroom*



*figure 4--33 detail of the connection between cells and courtroom*

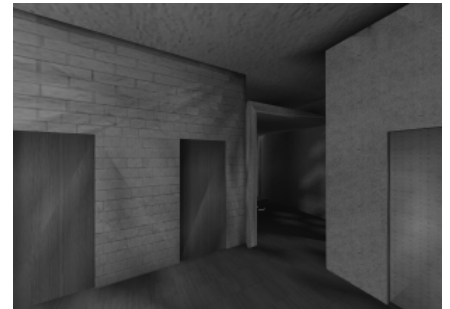


*figure 4--34 two concrete beams in the upper part of the circular room*



*figure 4--35 corridor to the courtroom*

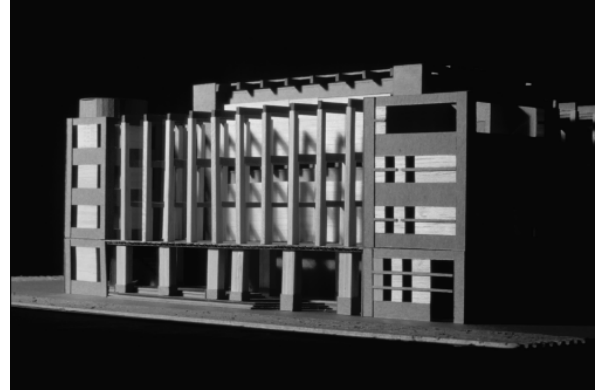
The dignity of the judicial system is also enhanced for the suspects involved in investigations when they approach the courtrooms. Cells holding suspects are symmetrically arranged on the sides of the northeast block of the building. Two diagonal concrete walls point the direction from the cells to the courtroom (figure 4--28,29). The corridor defined by these two non-parallel walls passes through one of the cylinder columns that support two courtrooms (figure 4--30-33). Inside the column, a tall cylindrical room, 4 meters in diameter and 13.6 meters in height, is lit from above and crossed by two major beams supporting the courtrooms.



*figure 4--36 the central part in the detention facilities*



*figure 4--37 steps on the courtyard of Saynatsalo Town Hall, 1953*



*figure 4--38 steps on the eastern entrance of the courthouse*



*figure 4--39 stair in the Municipal Library, Vyborg, USSR, 1927*



*figure 4--40 stair in the Benedictine College Library, Mount Angel, Oregon, 1965*

## Transition Place -- Staircases

*"Consider a stairway that goes from one level to another as being in a sense 'measured' by the agility of a boy with all his coordinating faculties who wants to run up the four flights in no time flat. In such a case, when an architect draws a plan that involves a stairway, he cannot exert enough accuracy. Where he can draw the walls with a certain abandon, the stair must be drawn as if he were making a ruler or a measuring stick. Such is the sense of importance that must be felt. And the stair must have a landing -- well -a number of landings. And the landing must be want to be a room really. The landing is quite a wonderful thing because the stair, the same stair, is used by a child, a young man and an old man. And when the old man ascends the stair with the young boy and reaches the landing there must be there a window, possibly a window seat, and maybe a bookcase. So as he ascends he says to the boy, 'you know I always wanted to read this book.'"*

Louis Kahn

Kahn's imagination on the transition place of stair suggests that architecture becomes an event and the stair should be a wonderful room in which the event will happen.

Alvar Aalto was also a master of using the stair inside the buildings as well as designing the terraces outside. The stair in the Pedagogical University (figure 4--41), the steps on the courtyard of Saynatsalo Town Hall (figure 4--37), the stair in the Municipal Library, Vyborg, USSR (figure 4--39), and the stair in the Mount Angel Benedictine College Library (figure 4--40) are excellent examples of such a transition of the space.

In the courthouse, although three elevators are set in three separated circulations, staircases, as the other vertical transition places, are functionally designed as well as impressively expressed the architectural elements. The most important stair is the spiral one in the southeast cylinder block, connecting the eastern and southern lobbies (figure 4--42,43,44). It opens to both lobbies and all four floors in the public waiting area. With a skylight above, the concrete cylinder and direct natural light define the space of staircase, bathing the staircase and nearby lobbies in quiet brightness.



figure 4--41 stair in the Pedagogical University, Jyvaskyla, 1953







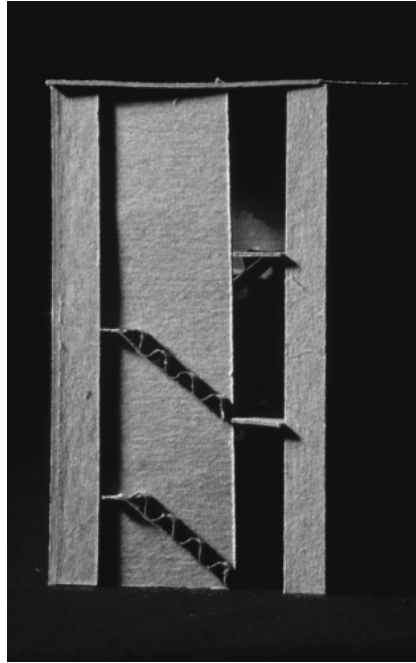
*figure 4--42 view from the public waiting area in the second floor*



*figure 4--43 view from the public waiting area in the second floor (early design)*



*figure 4--44 view from the eastern lobby (early design)*



*figure 4--45 model of the stair in the southwest block*

The stair in the southwest block that connects the public waiting area in the first and third floor uses the materials: brick and concrete again. Each single step is made of concrete cantilevered from the brick wall. The cantilever steps inside the staircase allow more natural light to penetrate; inside the lobby, the steps can be seen penetrating the wall as invitation to climb (figure 4--45,49,50).

The other quarter-turn stair in the northwest block also emphasizes the difference between materials and the expression of natural light. The stair is wrapped around the elevator. However, each step of the stair does not touch the central block that holds the elevator. Instead, it projects from the outer walls and leaves a 30 centimeter-wide space from the central block. The space between the stair and the elevator provide a buffer space for people not only to change the directions more conveniently, but also to experience natural light and shadow on the elevator block (figure 4--46,47,48).

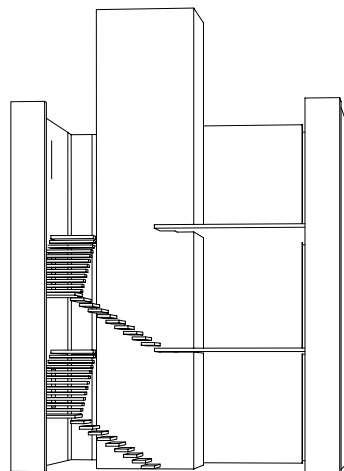
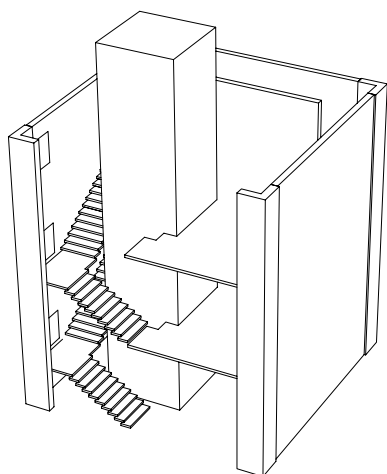


figure 4--46 the stair in the northwest block

figure 4--47 early model of the stair

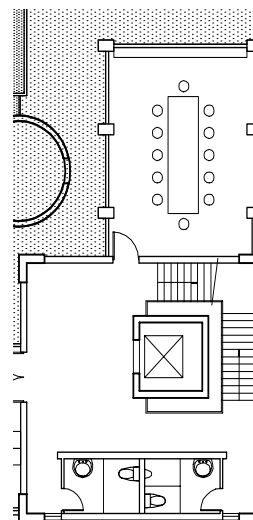
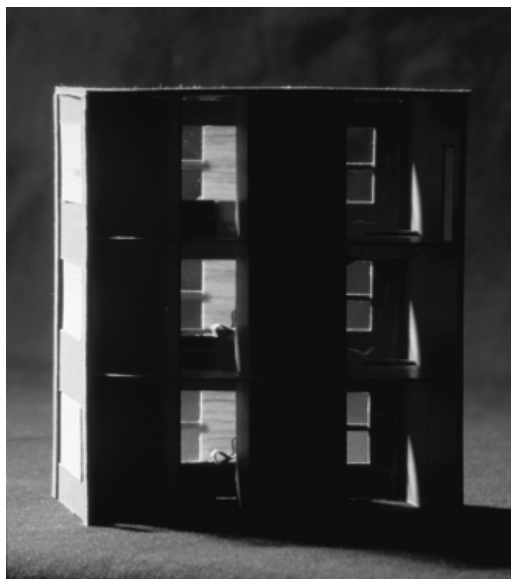


figure 4--48 the plan of the stair