

A Line Demarcating

Greenwich Village

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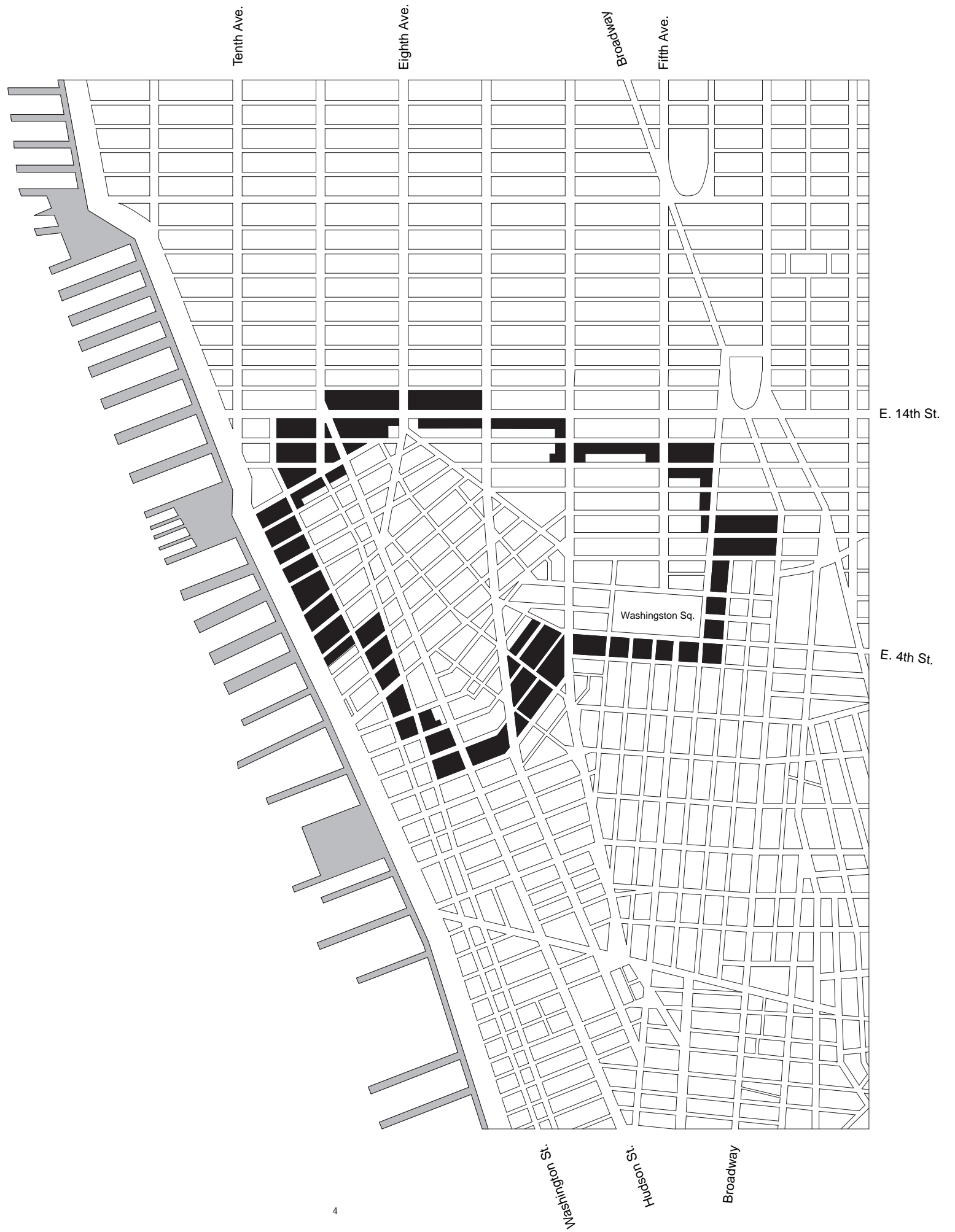
“How can man withdraw himself from the field....he will mark off a portion of this field by means of **walls.**”

abstract

The trail of the artifact is an anonymous line on a tourist map of Manhattan. It delimits the boundary, separates the inner and outer, and occupies space. This occupied space juxtaposing the edge of Greenwich Village is an invisible and a undetermined line in the city. Architecture is the result of thinking of object as act, as transformation, and as invention. The project searches, explores, and makes this line **present.**

"Intellectualism does not talk about the senses because for it sensations and senses appear only when I turn back to the concrete act of knowledge in order to analyze it. I then distinguish in it a contingent matter and a necessary form, but matter is an unreal phase and not a separate element of the total act. Therefore there are not the senses, but only consciousness."⁷

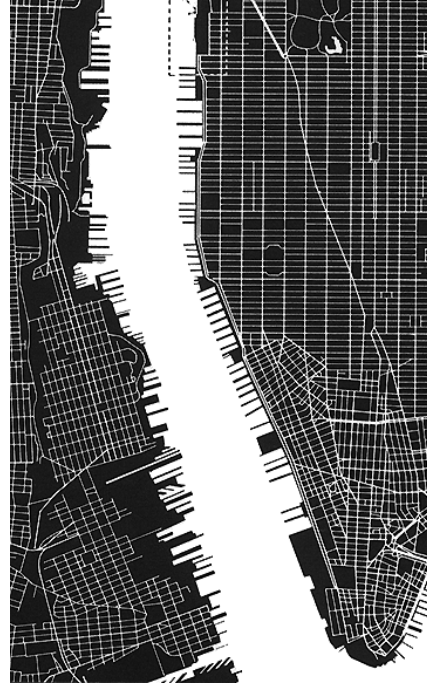
Greenwich Village
New York, 1996



"A city without walls is not a city", the city wall defines a particular place. It separates and connects the inside and outside, man and nature. It is the symbol of a city. During the development and the expansion of the city, the city wall eventually disappears in the urban fabric. One can only perceive it from the historical map. What we see is not what we think it was. It is essential for us to be aware of a wall's unique existence in space to develop a consciousness of perception.



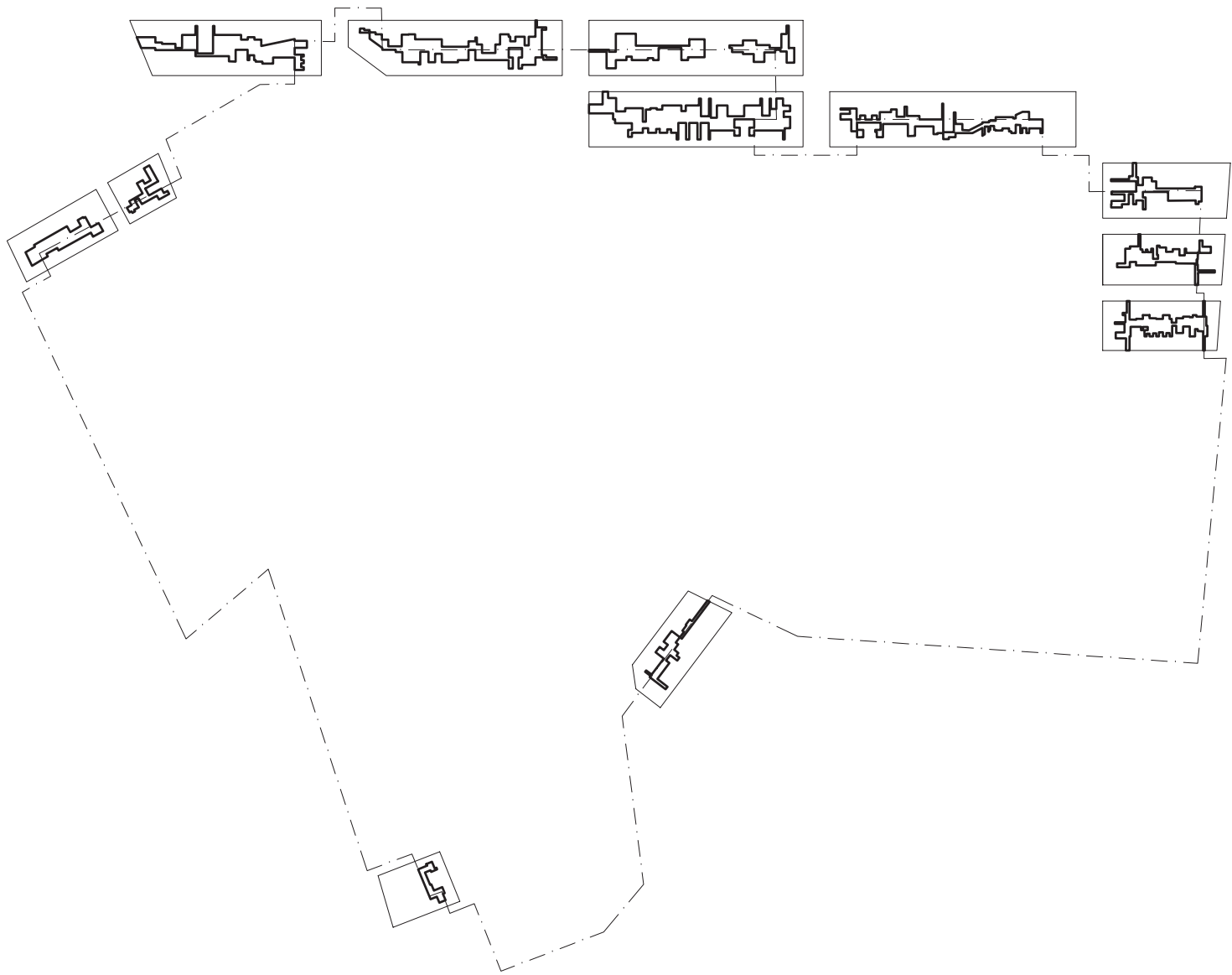
Changing phases of a city wall



"A map is made so we can find our way from one place to another whether in nature or in the mind... Maps record there visible and invisible paths which are created by various kinds of touching."¹

How can one sense the appearance of the wandering line in the city? It, just like the hunter, follows the trail of the animal in the woods. Only the mark can tell its existence.

The blocks hosting the line are the marks on the map, each one has been conditioned by the setting of building pattern and inner space of the city blocks. While the boundary separates them into two different parts, the inside one becomes the anchor of the line. One cannot exist without the other.



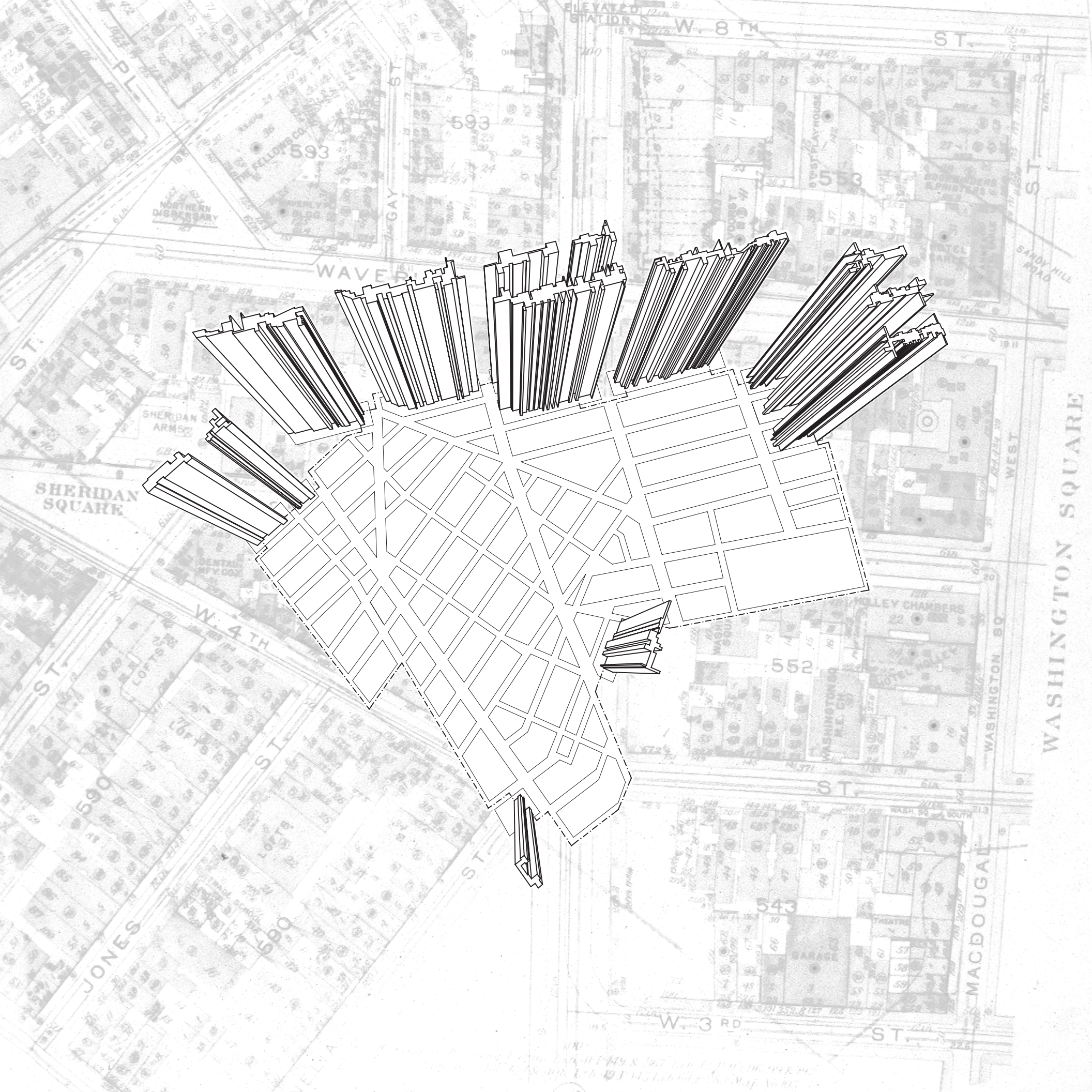
void

If the cavern attracts one's adventure, the odd shape of the inner court reminds one of the mystery of the unknown.



Extrusion of the inner court

If we examine things in different ways, we will understand more than what is just on the surface. The invisible line superimposes on the city and carves out a slot of the background. The void is the evidence of its existence and the whole as a negative makes a positive image.



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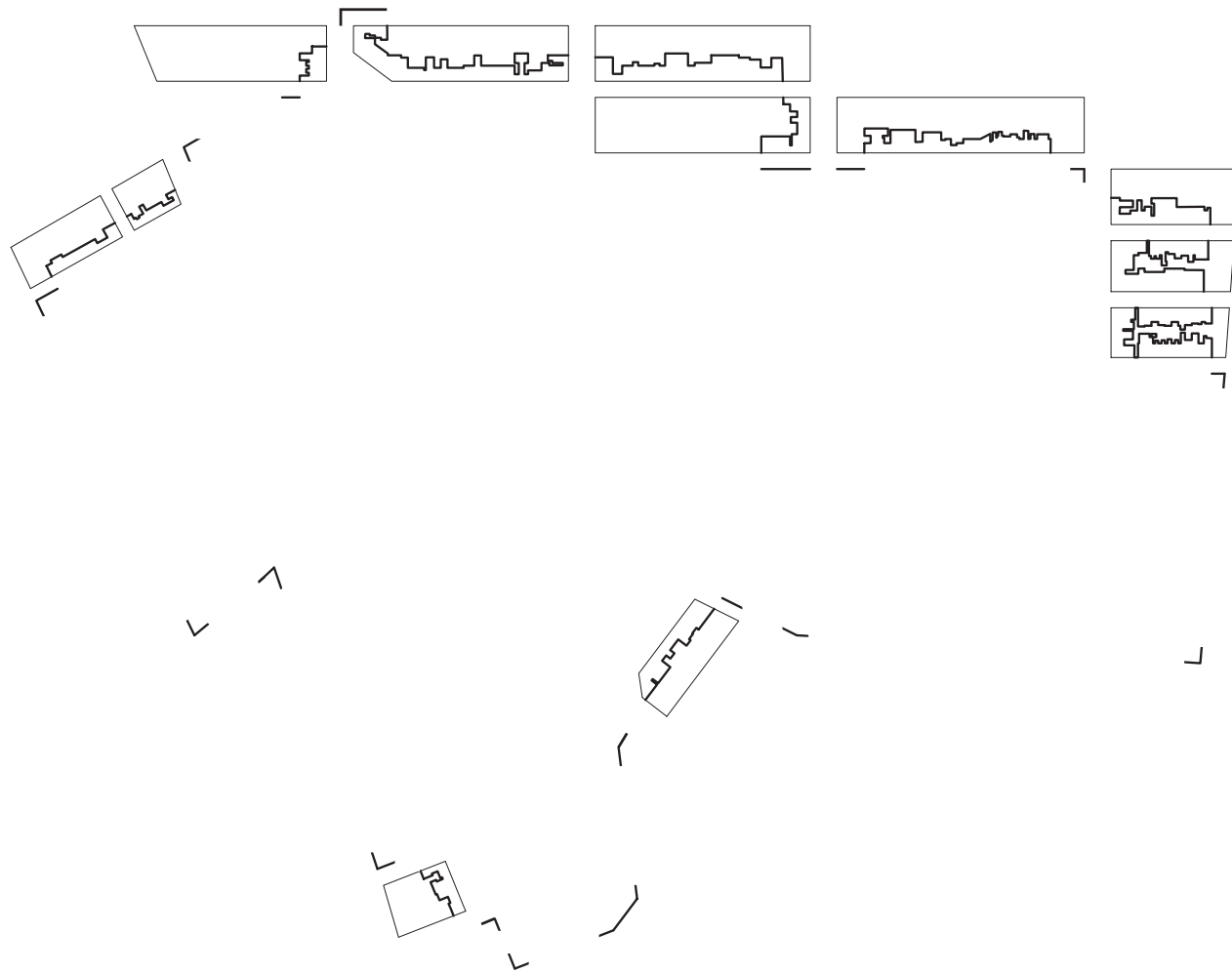
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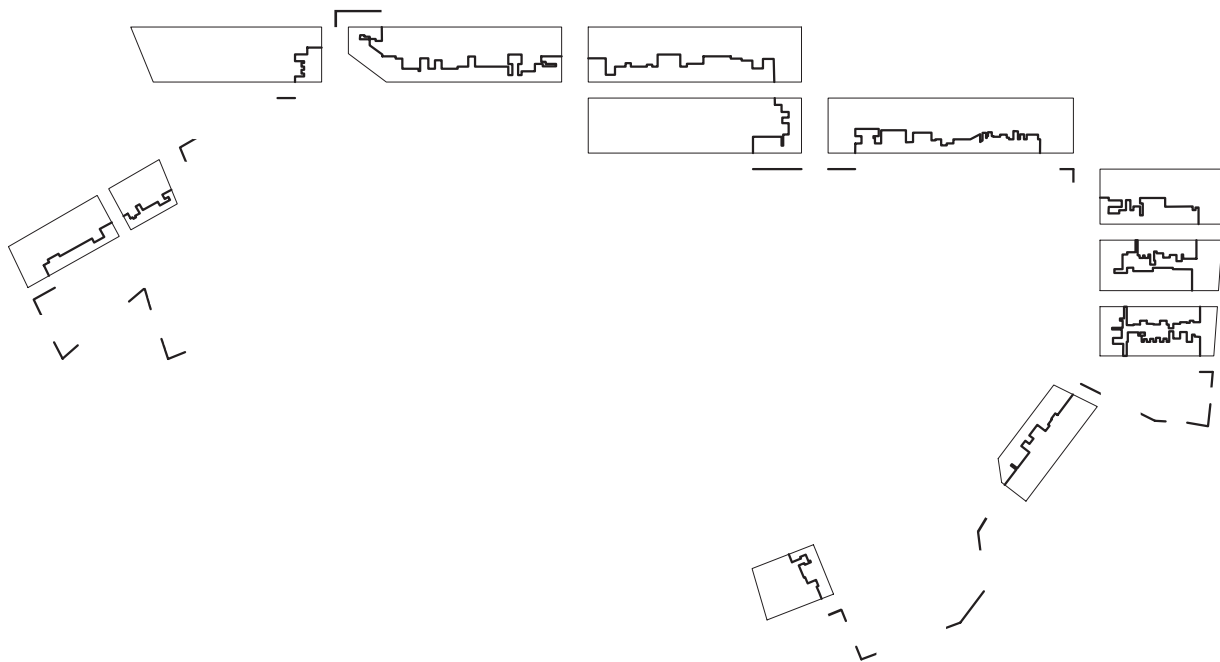
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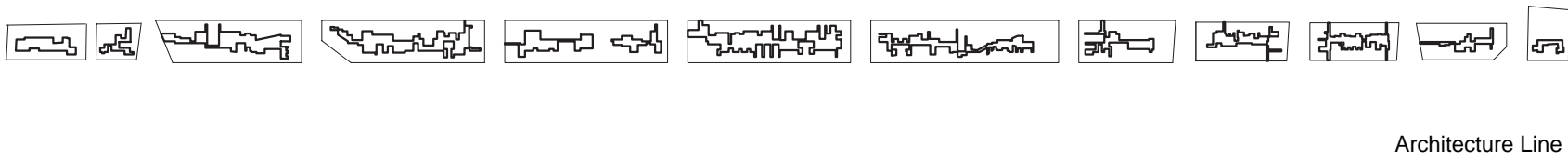
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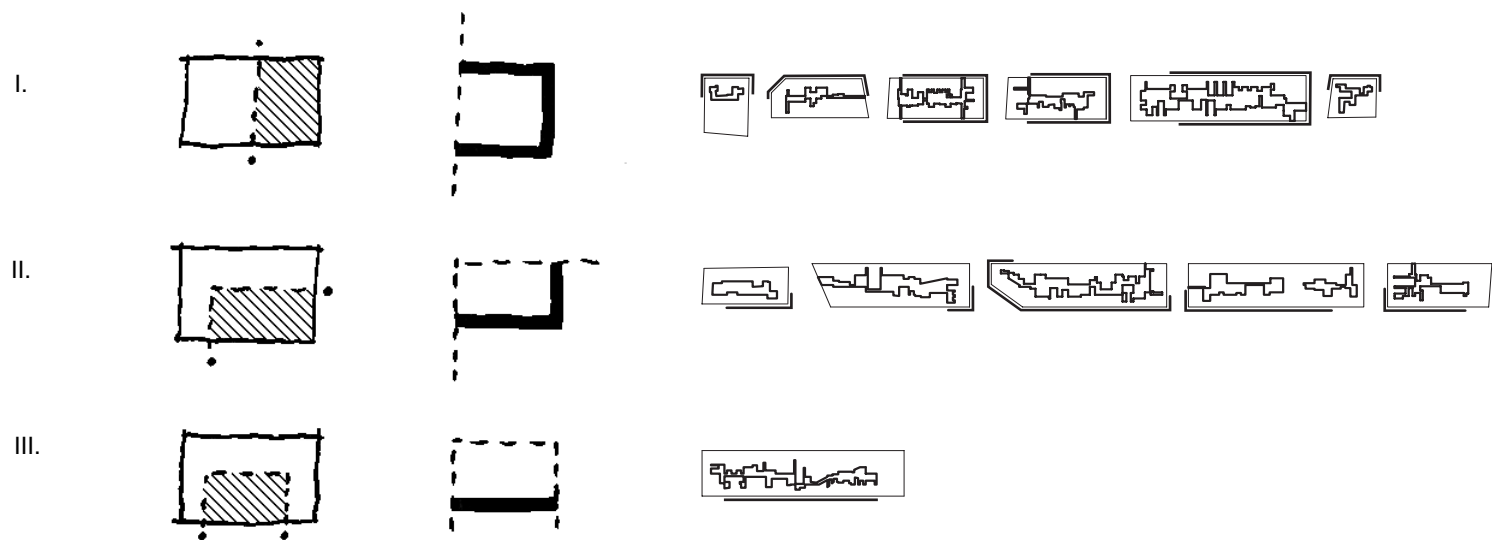


New Edge of Greenwich Village





The formation of the line varies in different contexts; it represents the conditions it holds. Each element shares a similar language, therefore it can be identified in a complex environment. One fragment of the line, as the trigger, recalls one of the others, consequently forming a perception of the continuity of the line.

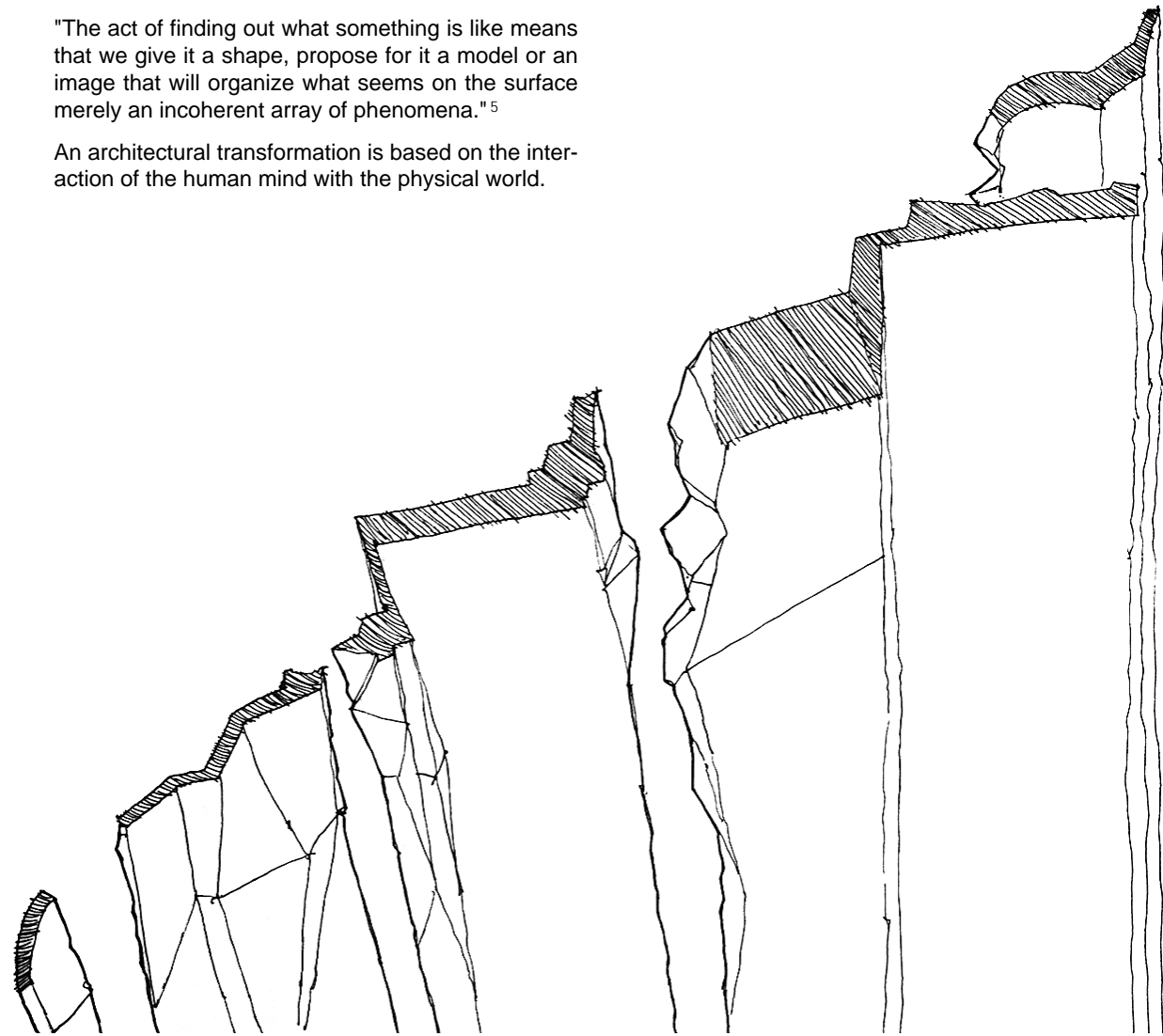


These diagrams indicate how the boundary interacts with each block. All three categories represent the total condition of the line. The bold line is the detour of the original boundary. It connects two critical points that form the gate to the block, and also provides the potential sites of this project.

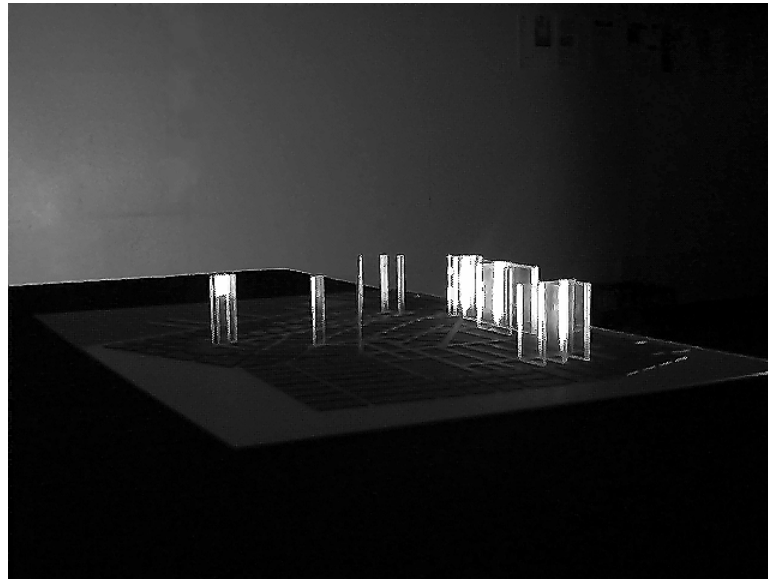


"The act of finding out what something is like means that we give it a shape, propose for it a model or an image that will organize what seems on the surface merely an incoherent array of phenomena."⁵

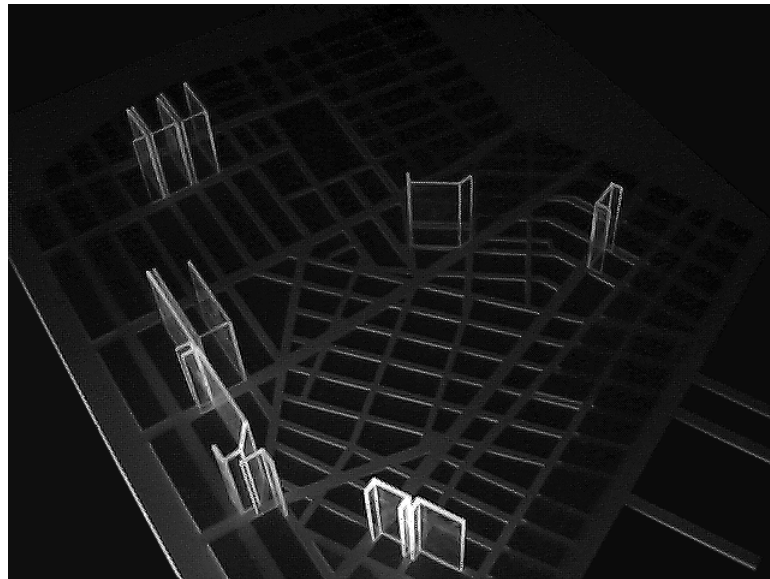
An architectural transformation is based on the interaction of the human mind with the physical world.



"Architects can propose a concept and then demonstrate it in the same way in which a mathematician can demonstrate a theorem, one must demonstrate that it is applicable. And the more general the theorem, the more influential it becomes."¹¹



The erect glass walls represent the place and make identification and orientation possible.



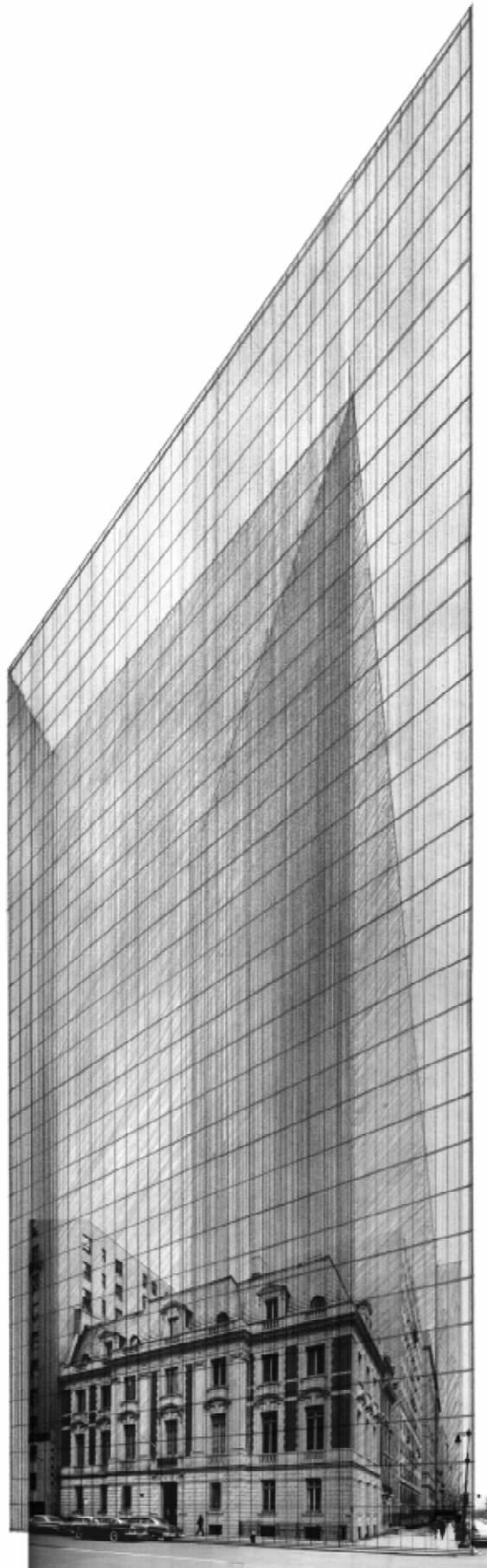
Glass walls act as the unifying link between inside and outside and express the fundamental quality of being within the city blocks.

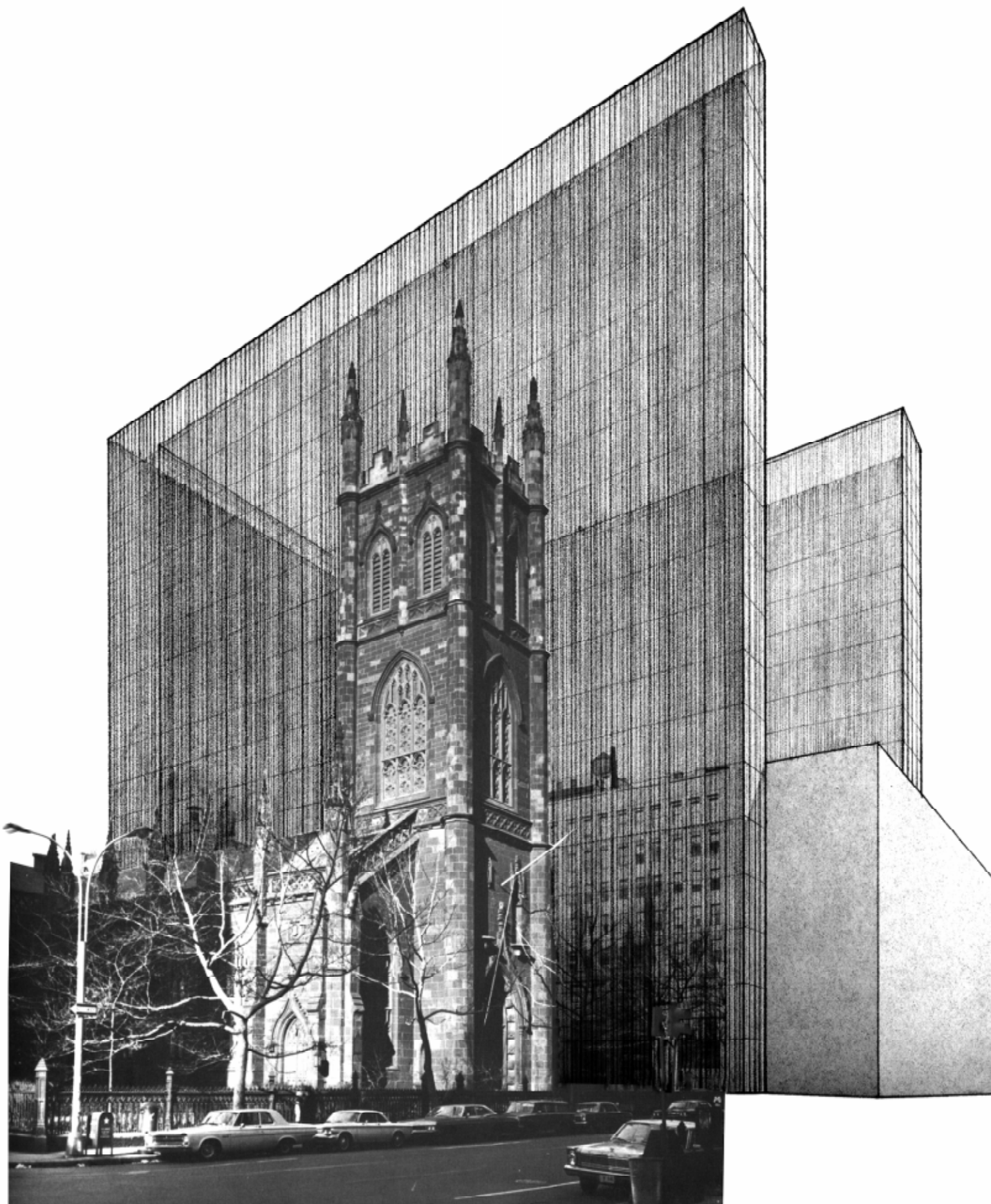




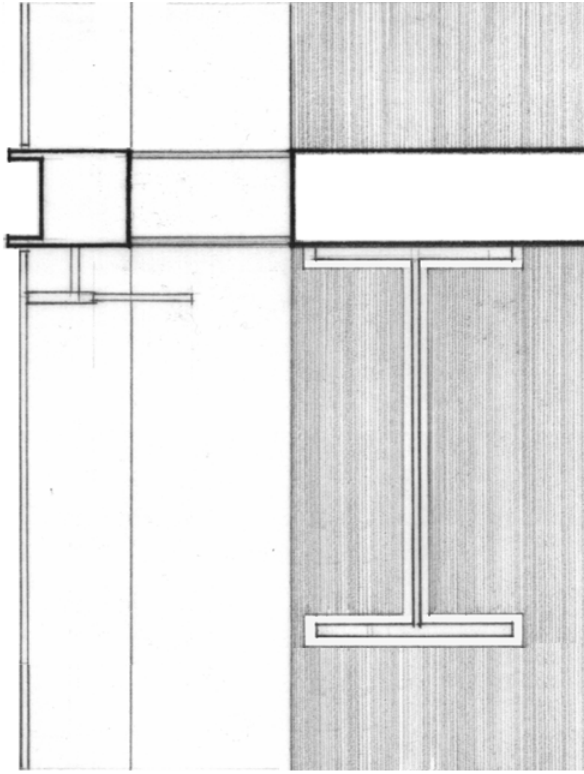
The act of inserting elements into a place does not simply separate space but defines space within these elements. At the same time, the infill objects indirectly delimit a line of Greenwich Village's boundary that brings orientation and locality to the city. Its discontinuity gives an identity to each individual part that associates it with its context. As Norberg-Schulz said, "identification and orientation are primary aspects of man's being-in-the-world."⁹ Furthermore, the transparency and reflection of the material recall what is in the past and in the future.

Glass wall on the corner

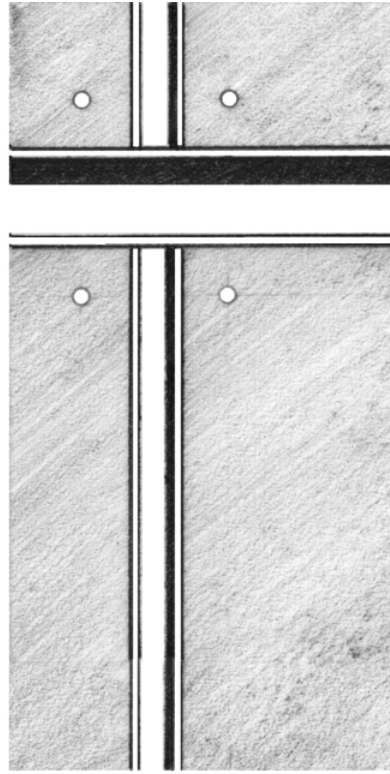




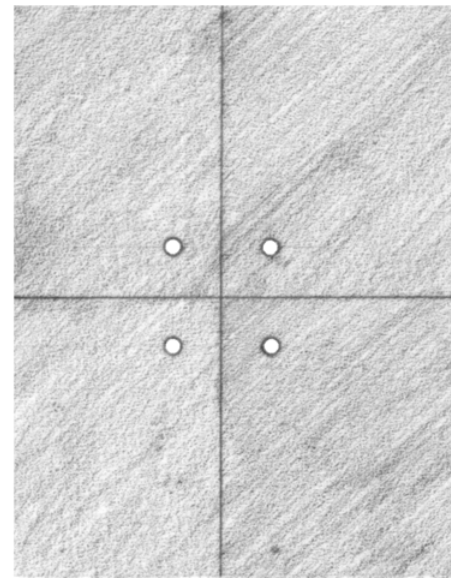
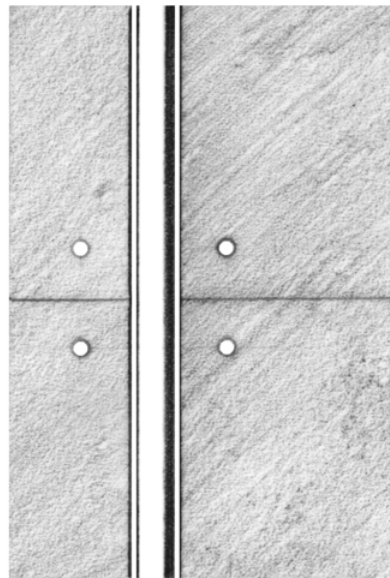
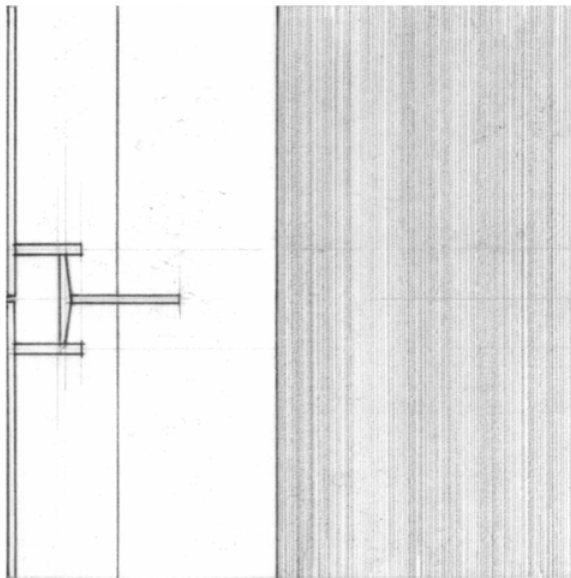
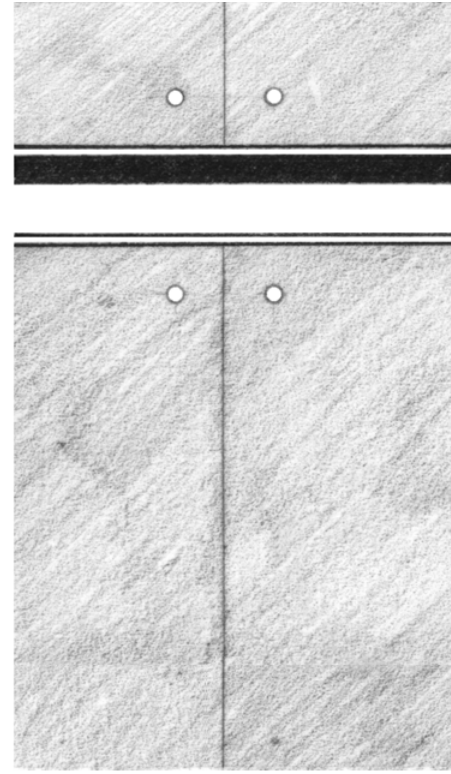
Glass wall within the block



Typical wall section



Typical wall detail





The conclusion of a project is an inevitable situation that formulates a notion of the self which exists only in a moment of externality.

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vitae

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