

BETWEEN THE EXPERIENTIAL AND INTELLECTUAL

by

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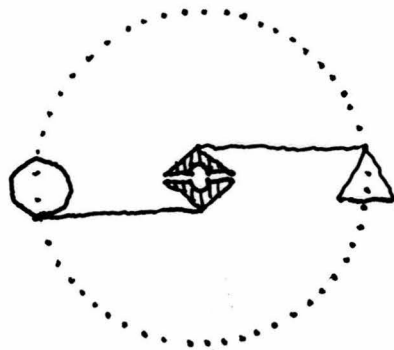
Great architecture exists by creating an equilibrium between the experiential world and the intellectual world. On one hand these two worlds operate at polar opposites, while on the other hand these two worlds are totally dependent on one another's existence. Through the conscious pursuit of reconciling these differences, the creation process is open to its fullest realm of possibilities and complexities. Le Corbusier used the intellectual world to gain the experiential. Although, in his later years, this process began to reverse itself. Alvaro Siza uses the experiential world to gain the intellectual. While these processes are pursued from opposite extremes, the final works reach a common goal. That goal being a complete fusion of the experiential and intellectual worlds which allows these works to procure a vital new spirit. One other case needs to be mentioned here. This being the case of Alvar Aalto. Aalto was pure genius in his understanding the significance and consequences of unifying the experiential and intellectual worlds. As a result, I believe Aalto's starting point was where the reconciliation of these two worlds occurs. By starting at this point, Aalto allowed himself the enormous freedom of reaching out simultaneously to both the experiential and intellectual worlds, extracting whatever components were necessary to create his wonderful works of art. A major objective for me is to simultaneously reconcile the experiential and intellectual worlds into a harmonious equilibrium. The moment this harmonious equilibrium occurs is the point where architecture is on the threshold of beauty.

For my parents who have
shown me the simple pleasures in life.

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A Synthesis of the Experiential and Intellectual



Every project should be an experiment. This entails undertaking a process in which anticipated truths are verified and new truths are discovered. If this process is ever undertaken with the end result known, the endeavor becomes useless as the discovery mechanism is eliminated which in turn deters any greater levels of complexity to develop. The following is an experiment in vertical housing in a city context.

Each and every city has a transformation process of physical growth and decay. Yet an order exists creating a permanent framework from which all alterations are recorded and judged. In the case of Kingsport, Tennessee an order was established in the initial design of this planned

industrial city in 1919. Kingsport uniqueness exists in the fact that its city plan not only has a very intelligent pragmatic solution but also beautifully diagrams the American ideology of economic prosperity united with spiritual fulfillment.



The main artery of Kingsport, known as Broad Street, begins at the city railroad station. The middle portion of Broad Street houses the central business district. The central business district extends about a quarter of a mile to a gently rising eminence. At this point is what is known as church circle. Church circle consists of four inter-denominational churches creating an end, both physically and spiritually, to Broad Street. Six streets

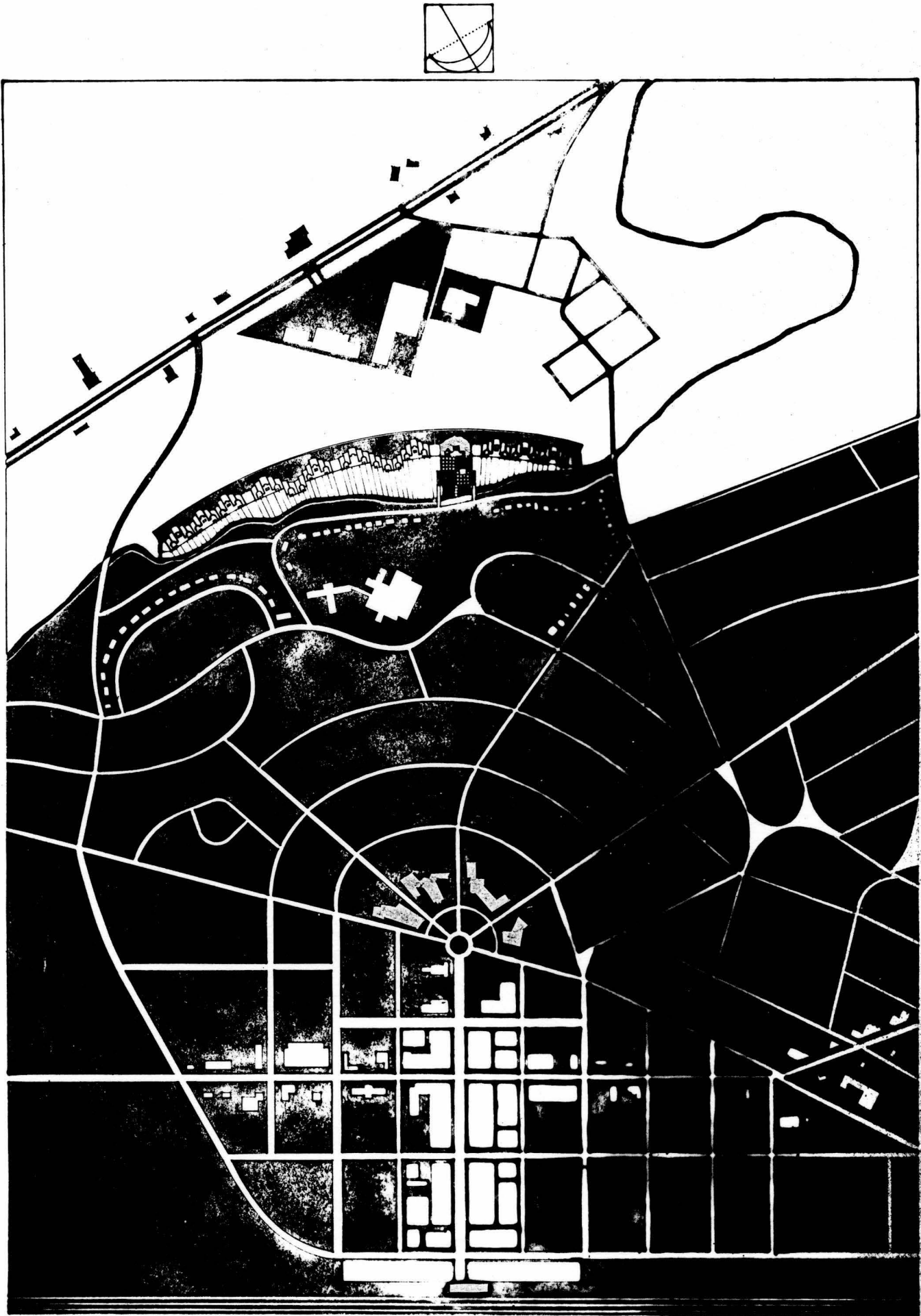
radiate from church circle conforming to the natural topography of a small mountain forming the residential neighborhoods of the city.

The last generation or so in Kingsport has required the expansion of new growth outside the original city plan. Unfortunately this new expansion has not taken place with the same sensitivity as the original city plan. As a result a very chaotic environment is developing which is

greatly detrimental to the original vision of the city's founders.

This project is intended to reunify, both physically and spiritually, the original city plan with the inevitable future expansion. This reunification is planned through the development of a new housing project on the outer boundary of the original city. The housing project consists of a 24 floor housing tower set on direct axis with Broad Street. Radiating out

from the tower are 3 story townhouses. The tower and lower level townhouses create a formal ending to the original city. This project will become the main focal point of new expansion while maintaining a continual reference back to the original city plan.

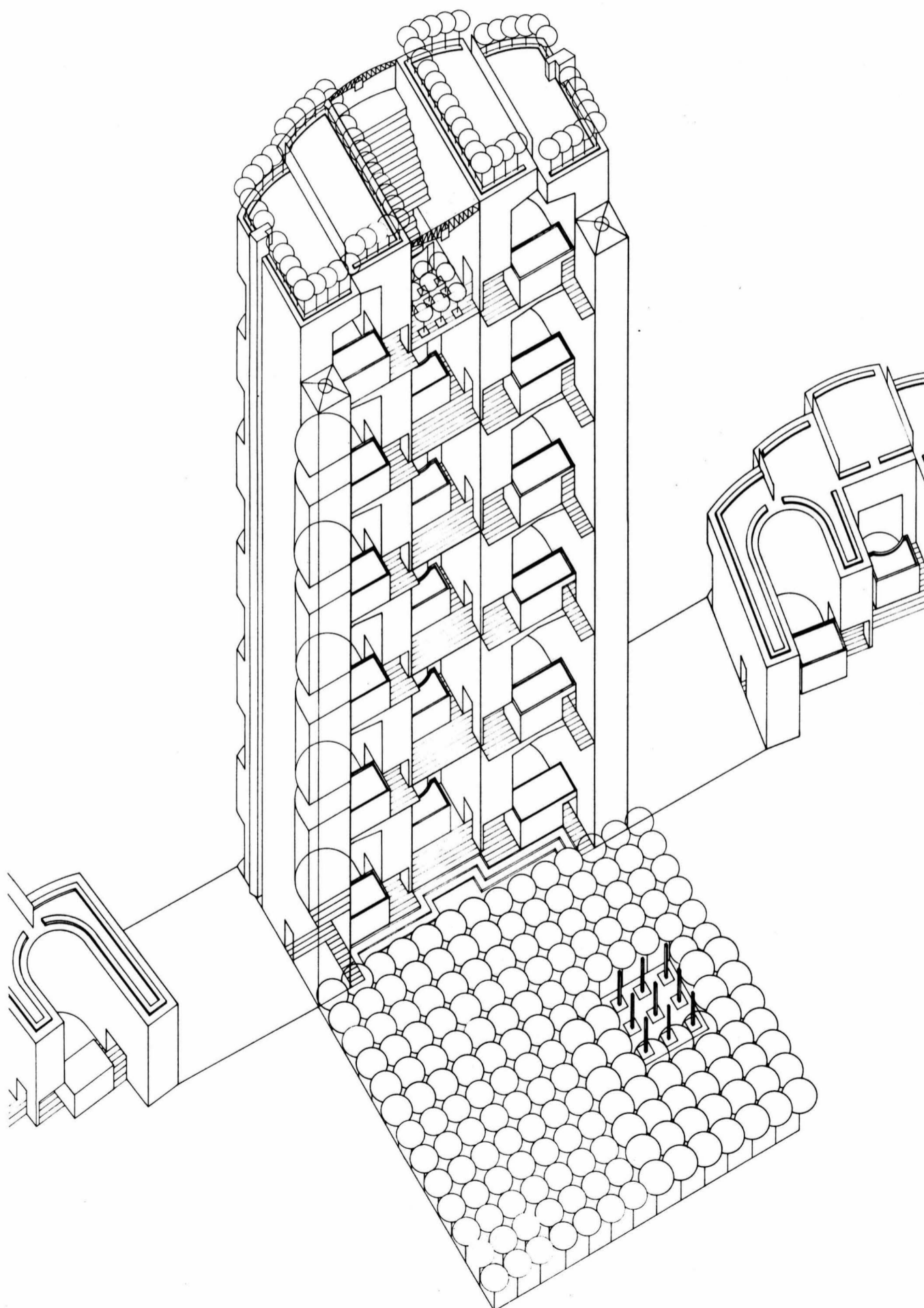
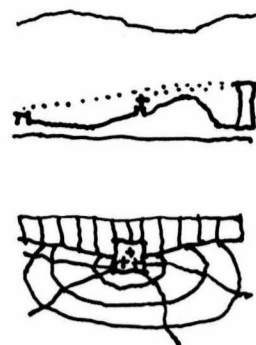


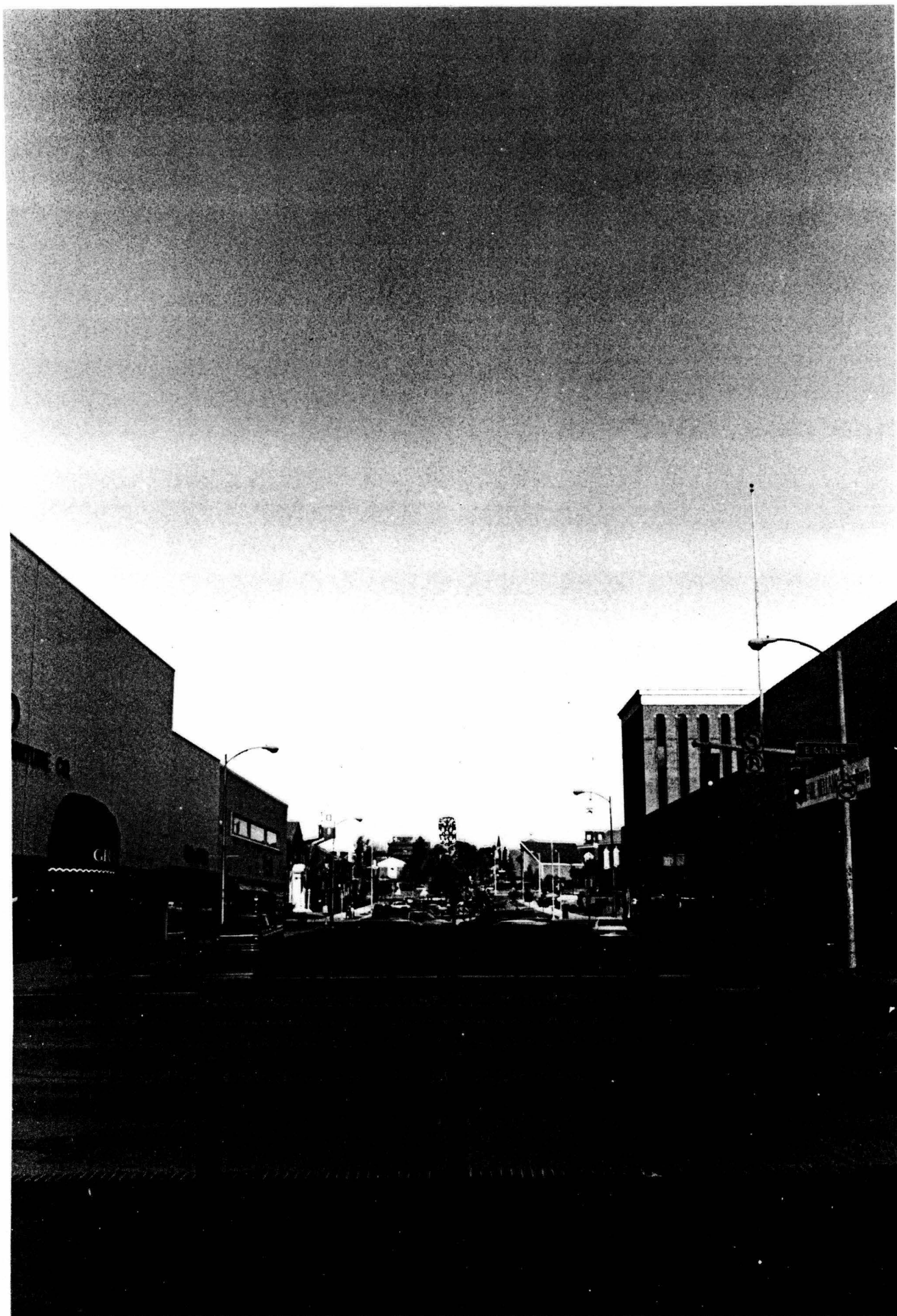
The housing project is intended to pay homage to and glorify the original city while simultaneously creating a precedence for any future development. The tower height is dictated by topographical conditions to allow a view from the top of the tower back to the city. A small mountain separates the central city from the new project site. Located on direct axis with the city's center and on the top level of the tower is a

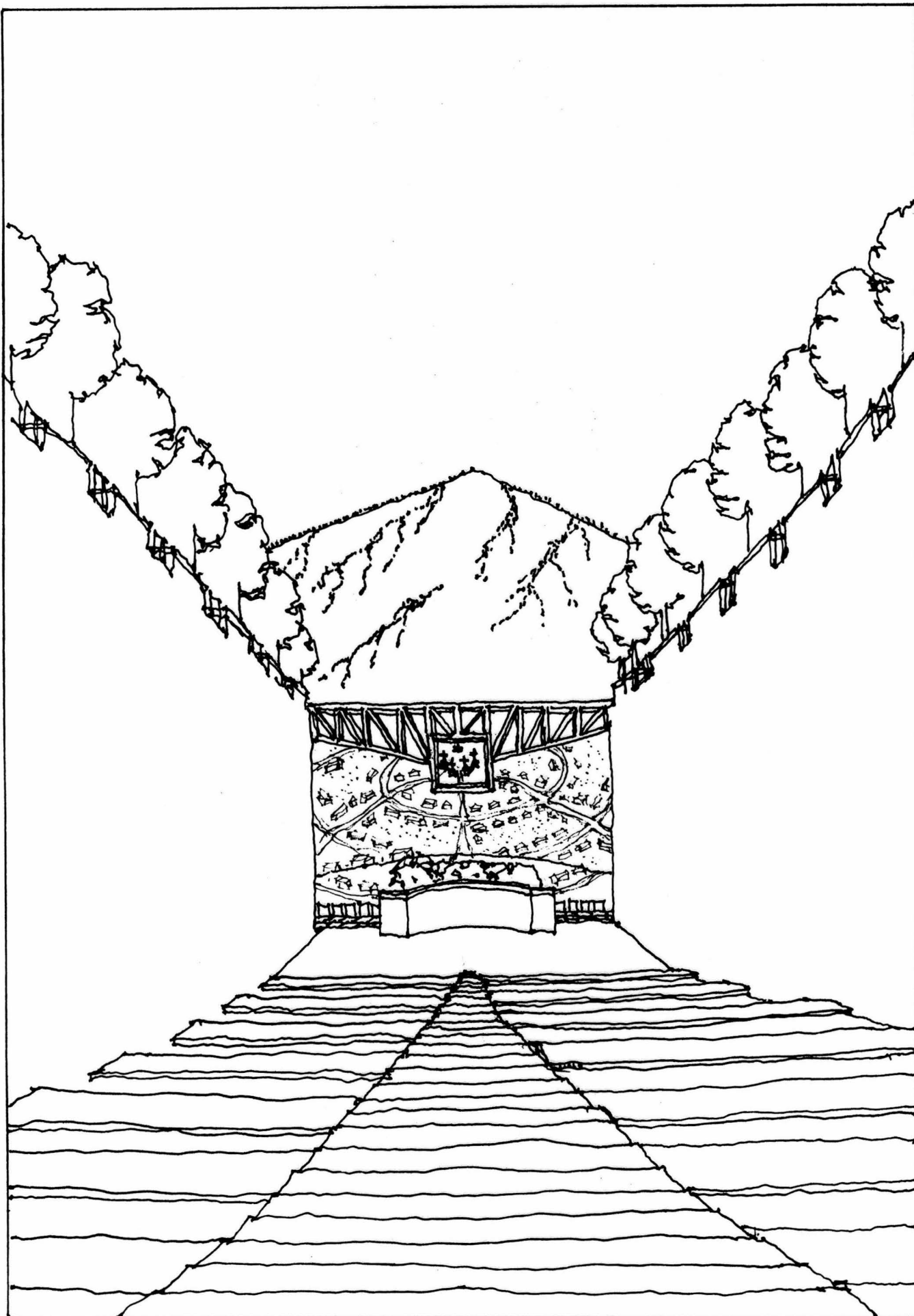
public open air theater. From the highest point of this theater one looks back and sees the city framed through a fabricated steel truss. This visual connection between the tower and the city is intended to implant a constant image of the city in the memory, which in turn creates the opportunity for the city to be extended outside its visual boundaries. Because of the tower's height it will be visible from most parts of Kingsport. When

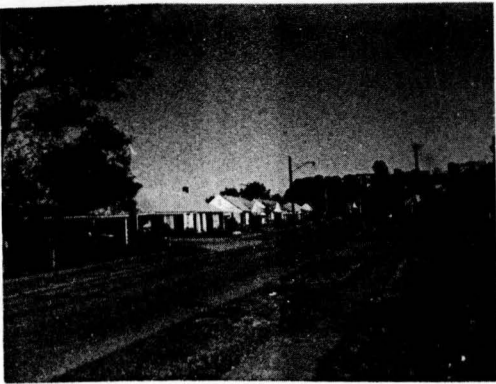
the tower is seen it will evoke the memory of the original city thus becoming a constant reference back to the original city. The reference is not only meant at a physical level but at a spiritual level as well. This spiritual level is envisioned in terms of the project setting a precedence for the quality of any future development. Although future development might not require quite as literal a reference back to the original city plan as this

housing project, it is imperative that any new growth must maintain the same vital spirit exhibited by the founding fathers to insure the continuation of a quality living environment.



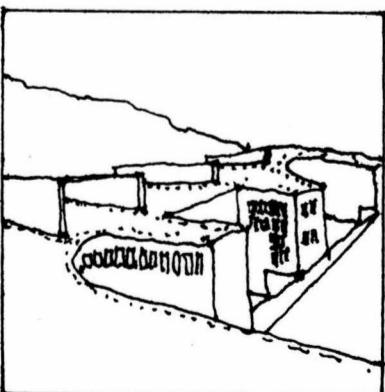
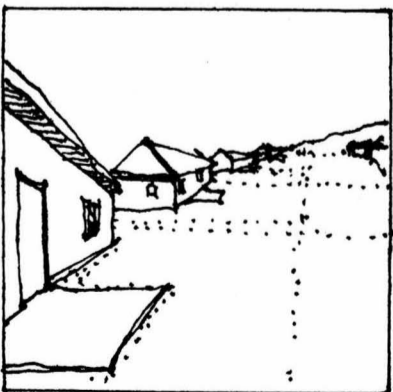
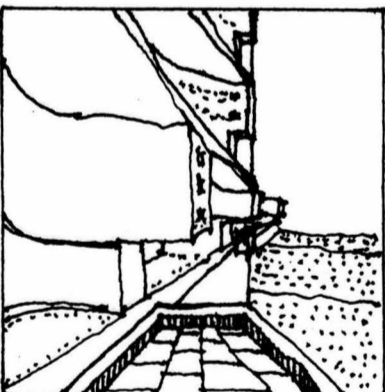
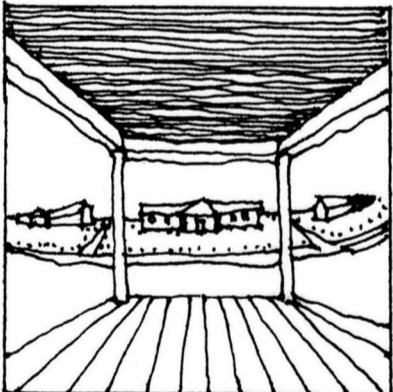
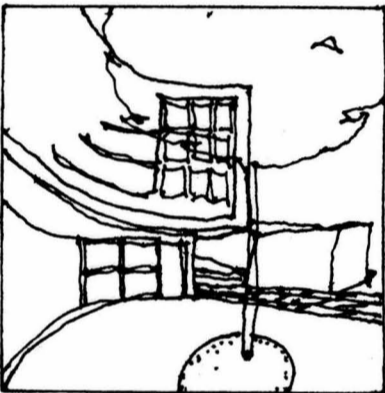
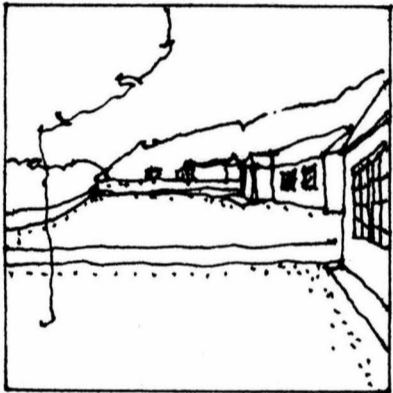
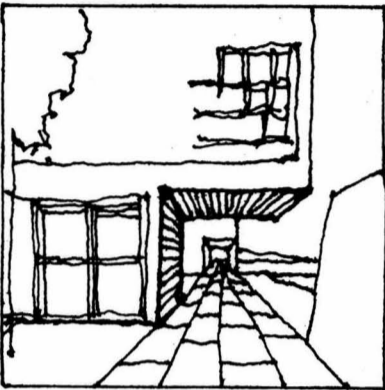
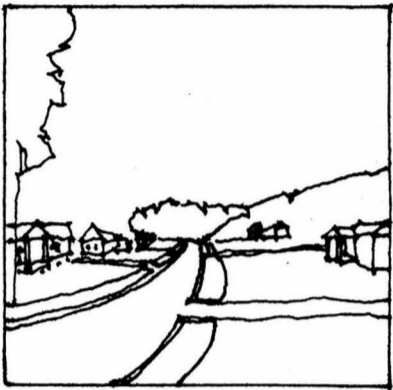
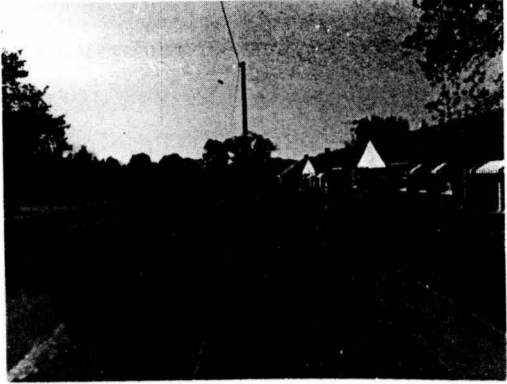






The housing project not only exists as an important element at the city scale but also acts as a entity within itself. The housing tower is modelled after the typical Kingsport suburban environment, then transformed into a vertical context. The thought was to design vertical housing maintaining the characteristics of a typical suburban home. These characteristics being the transitional spaces leading from the public street, to the front

yard, to the front porch, into the privacy of the home and finally out again to the semi-public space of the back yard. These elements are reinterpreted within the design to integrate these suburban components into a vertical situation.



Existing

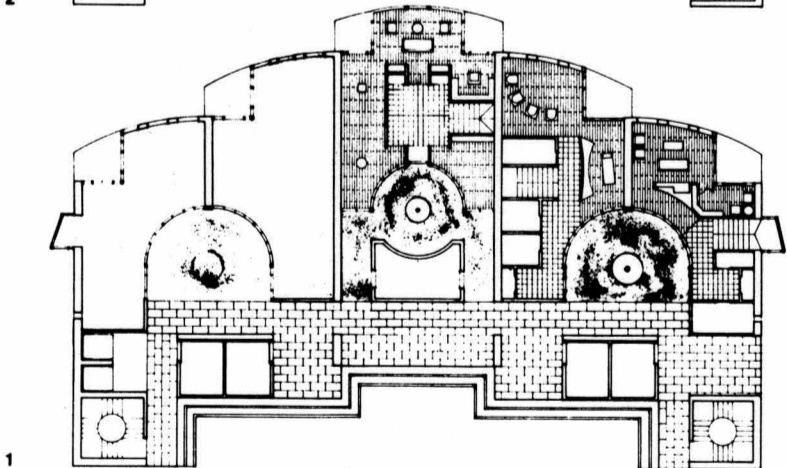
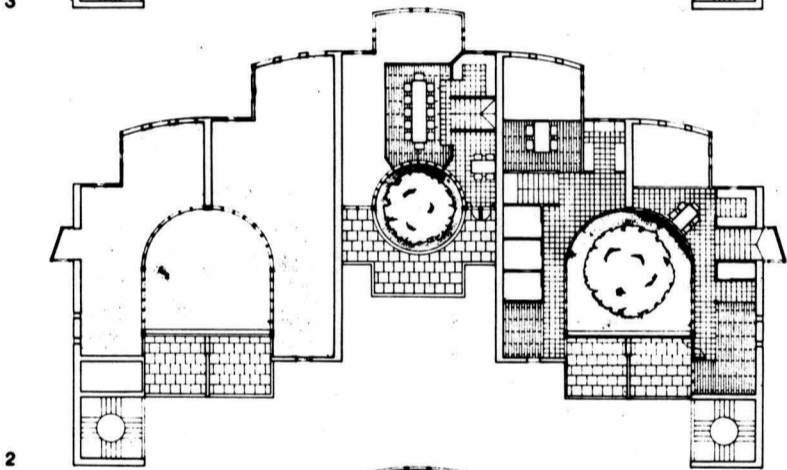
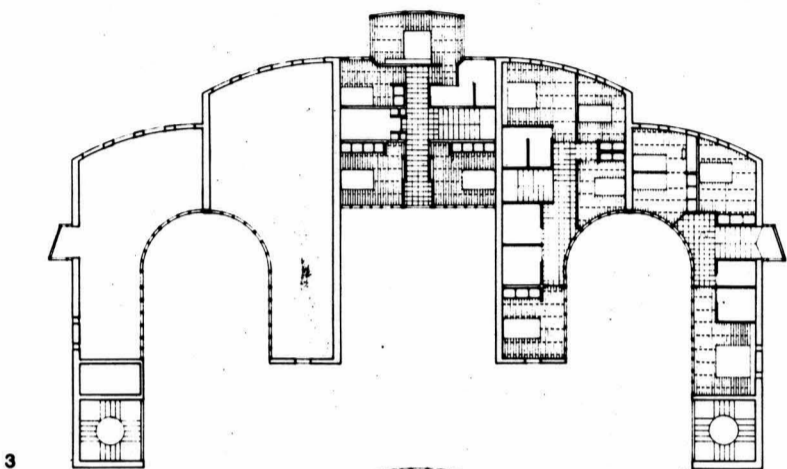
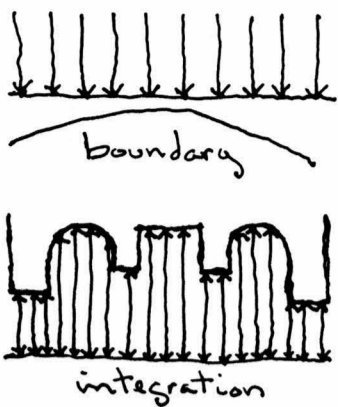
Proposed

The form of the plan reflects its orientation within the site and also its responsibility to the city. The project sits in a valley with picturesque views in all directions. The north side of the building has each unit stepping back, allowing for the east side units to be washed with the light of the rising sun, while the west side units become washed with the light of the setting sun. The north walls are very planar in form symbolizing its existence as

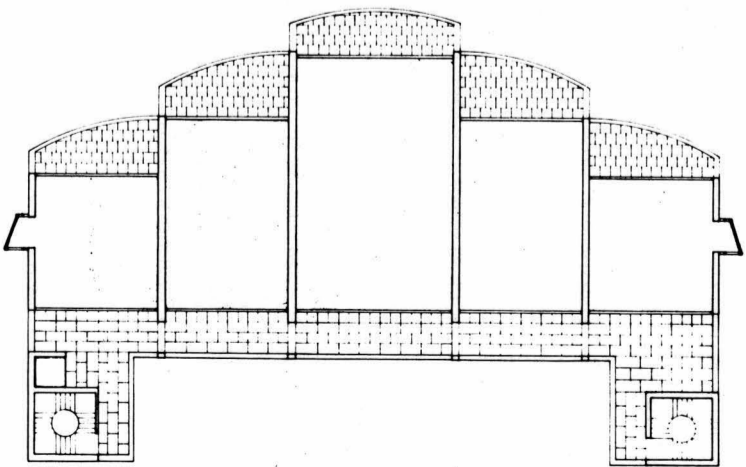
a boundary to the city. The south side of the building is where the main portion of outside activities occur. This south face is sculptured out in form symbolizing its integration with the original city plan.

It is intended that each individual unit would originally be constructed as open shells, allowing them to be designed in accordance with the specific desires of the individual owner. Some constraints

would be required to insure the strong formal qualities of the plan would remain intact.

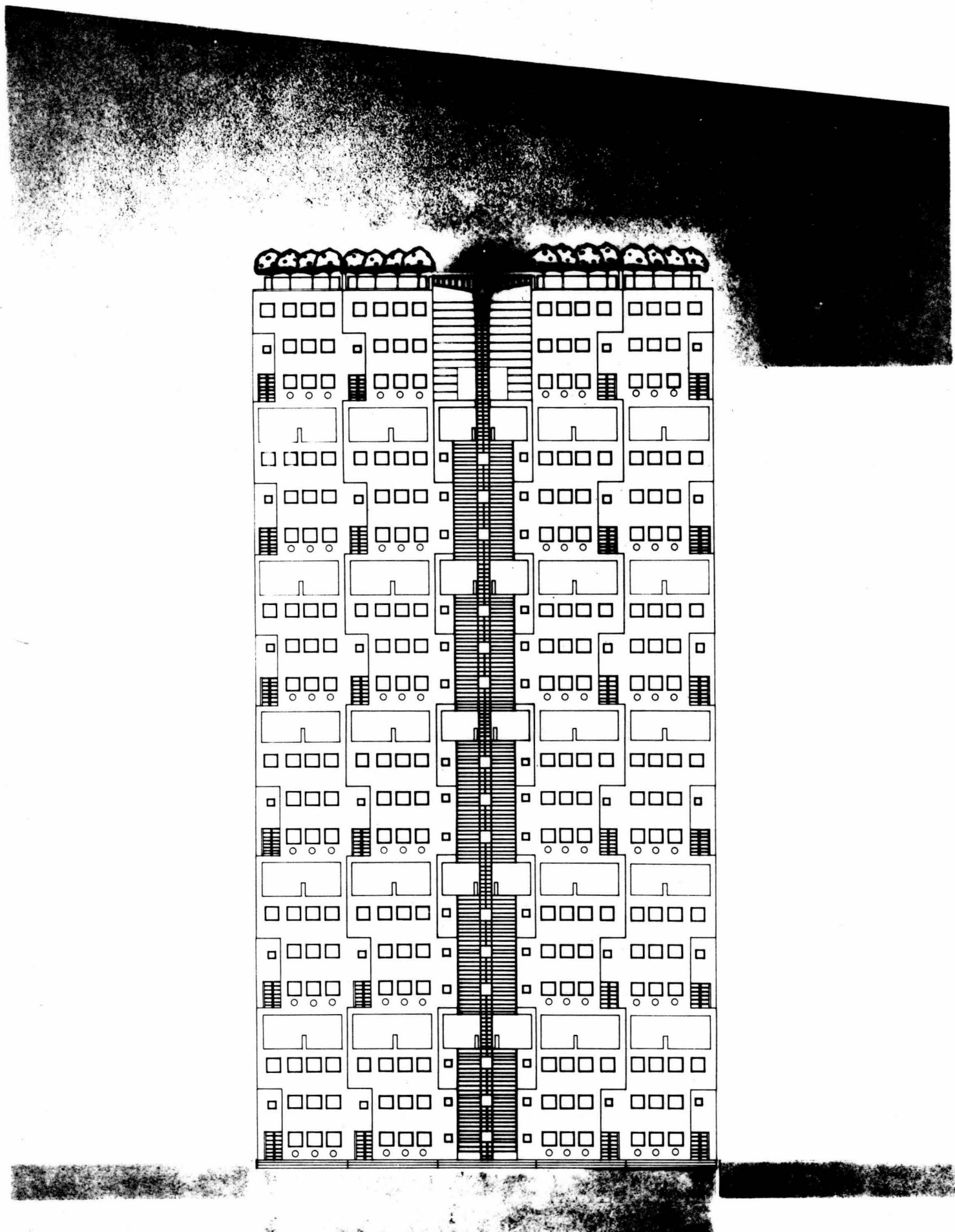


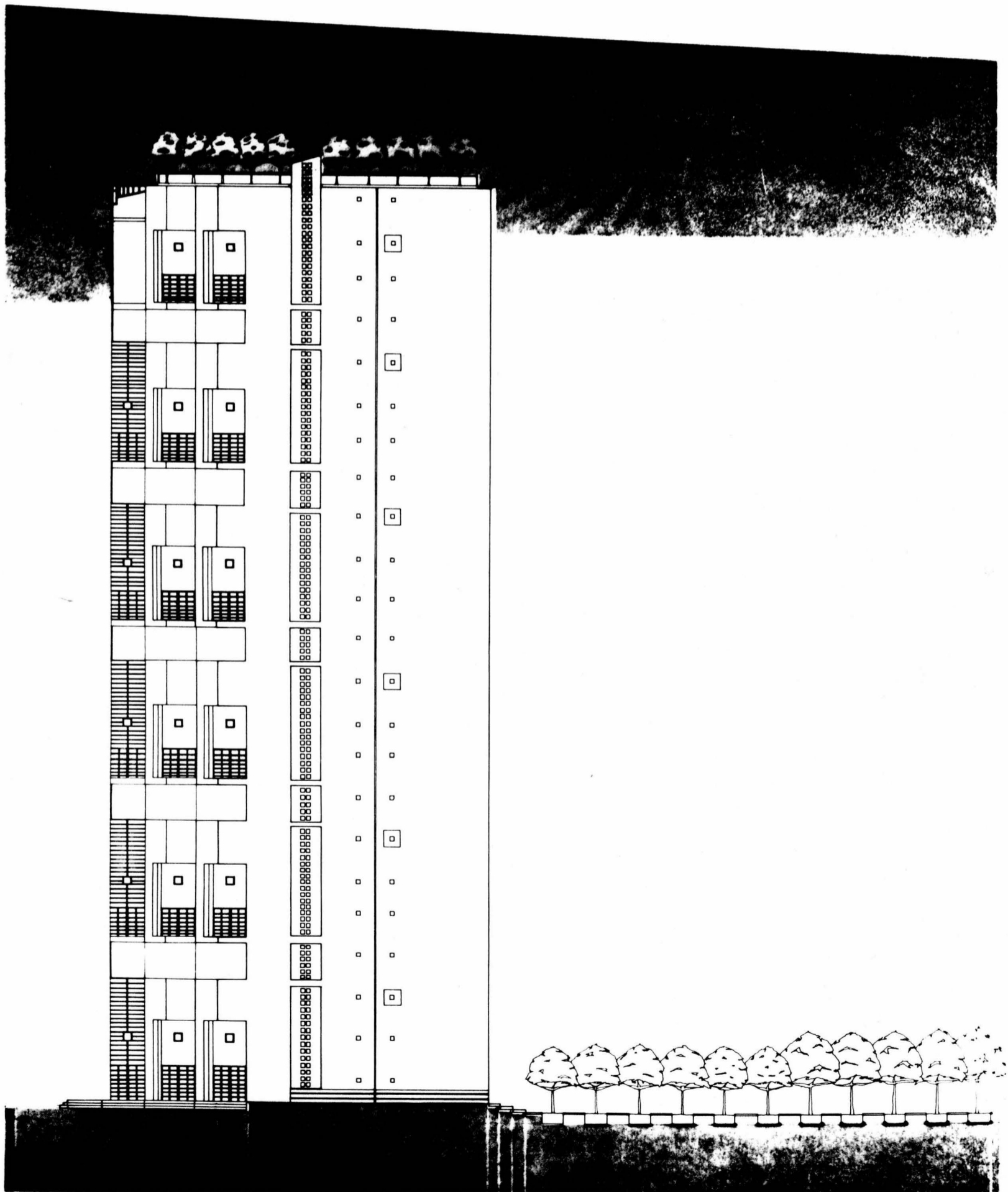
THREE LEVEL UNITS

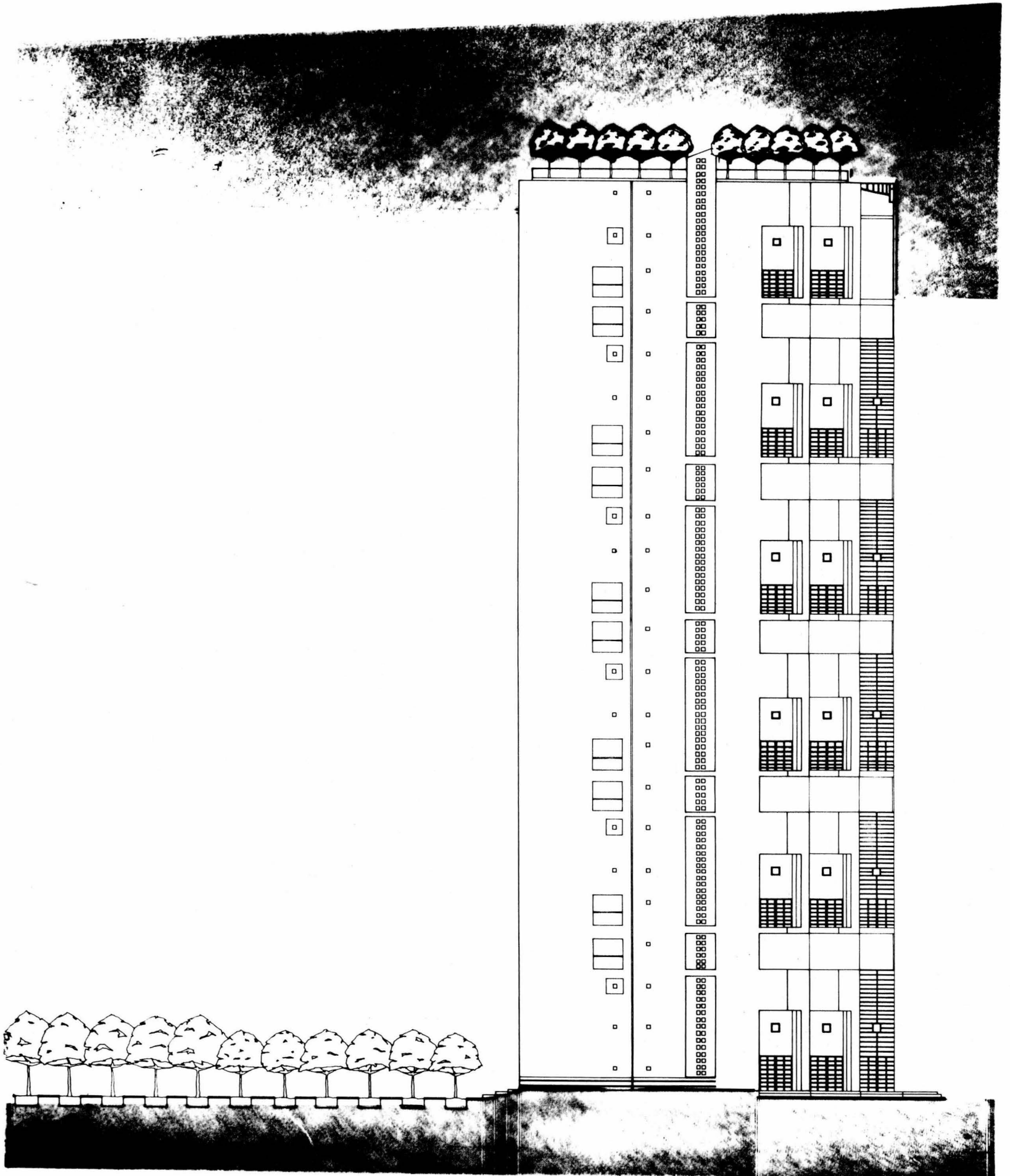


SINGLE FLOOR UNITS

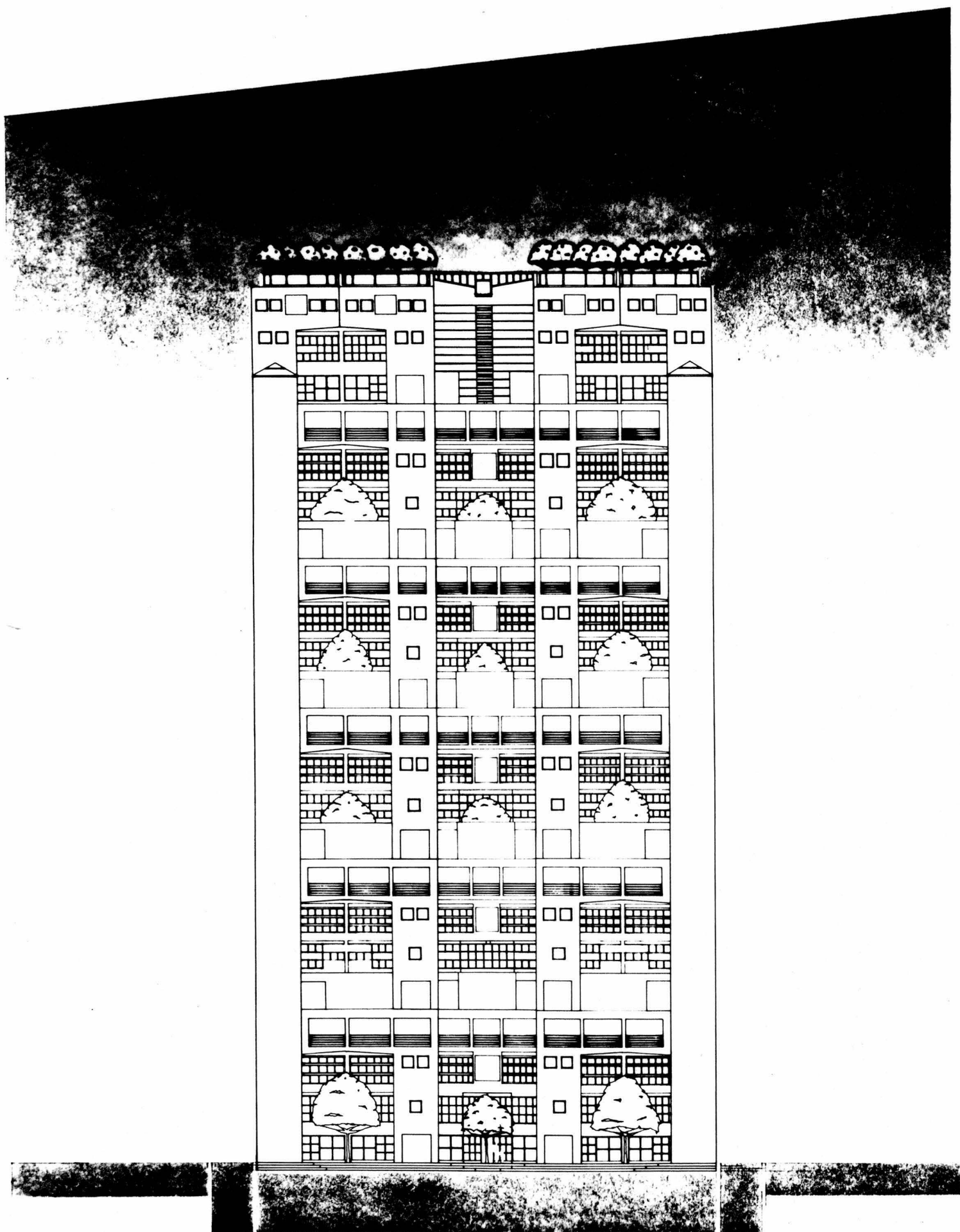
The north elevation is unarticulated, creating an autonomous texture reinforcing its purpose as a boundary to the city. Because the building is situated on a flat site in the valley, trees would be planted on the roof gardens to create a visual integration of the tower into the surrounding mountain landscape.

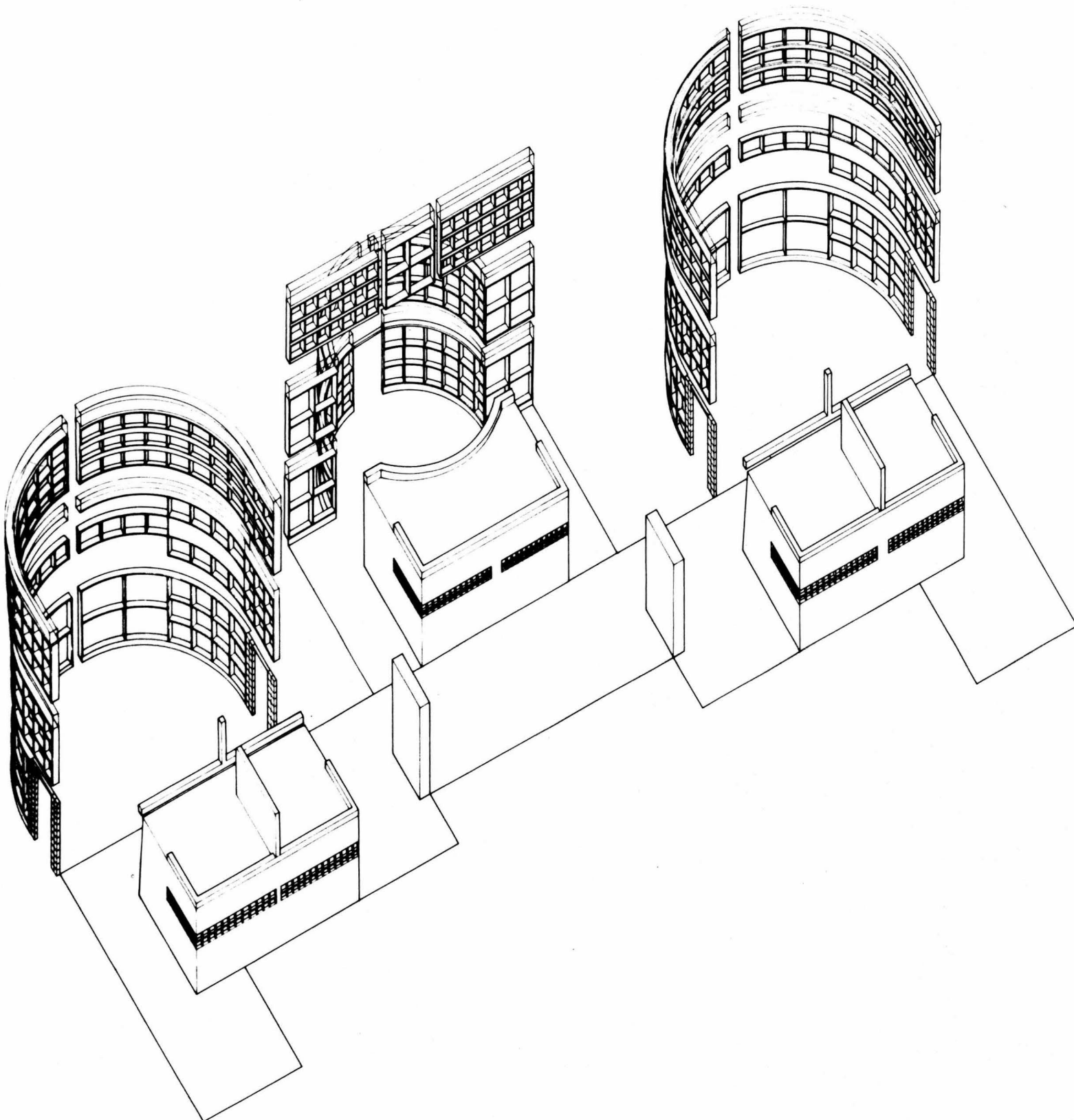
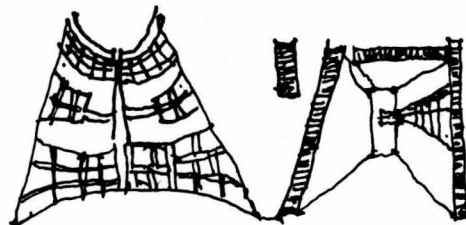
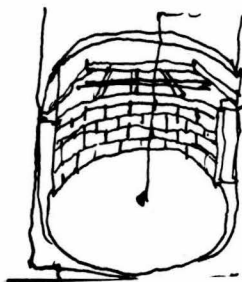


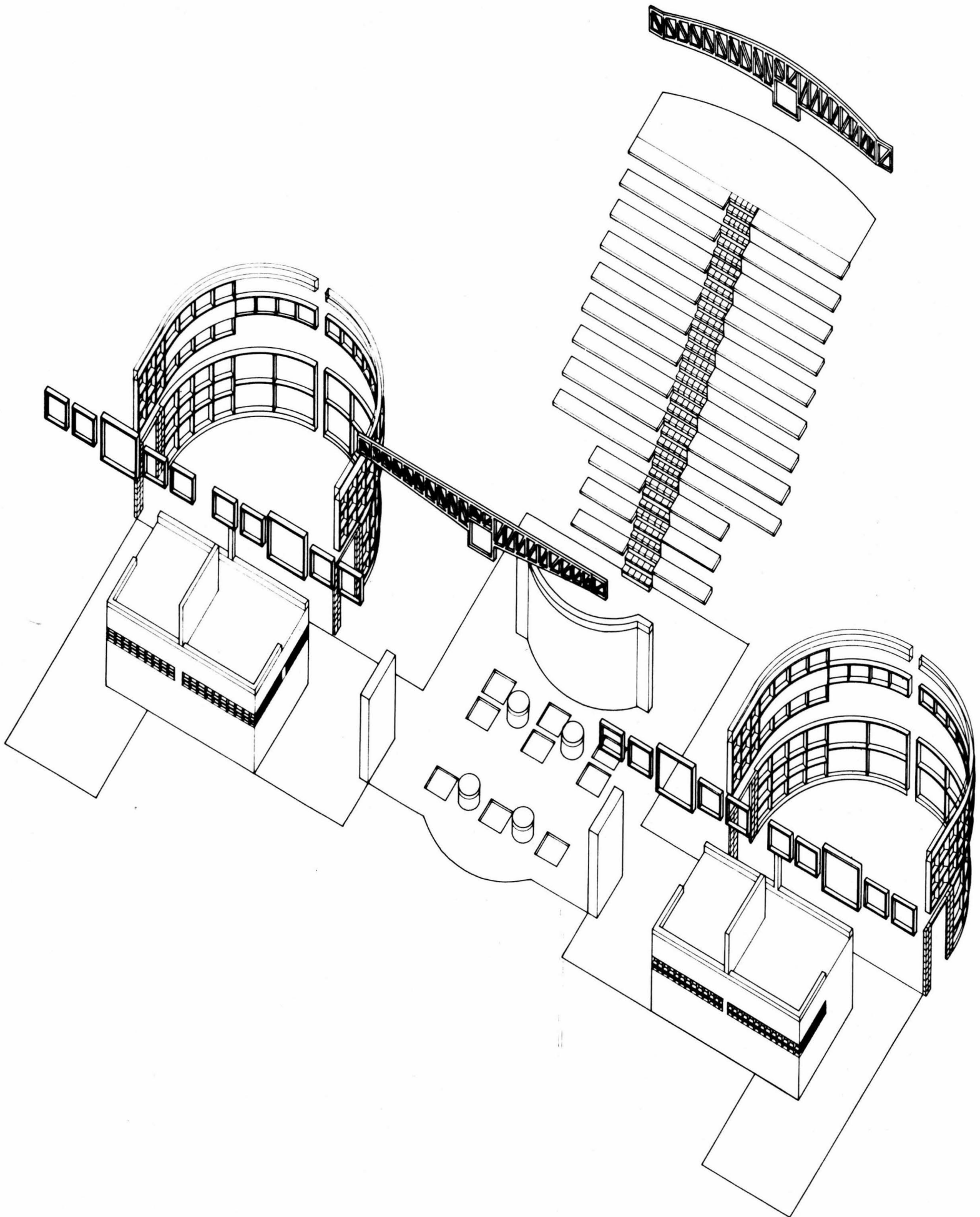
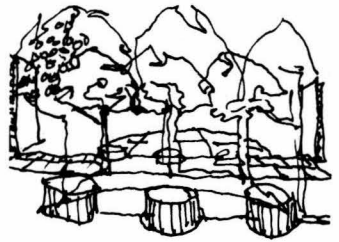
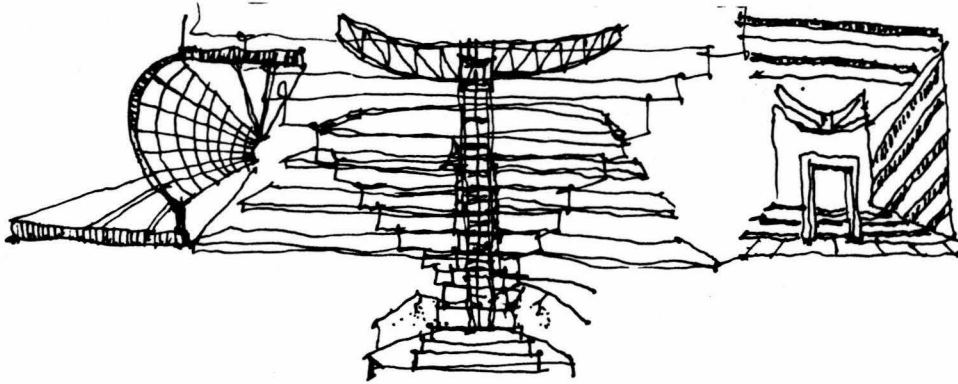


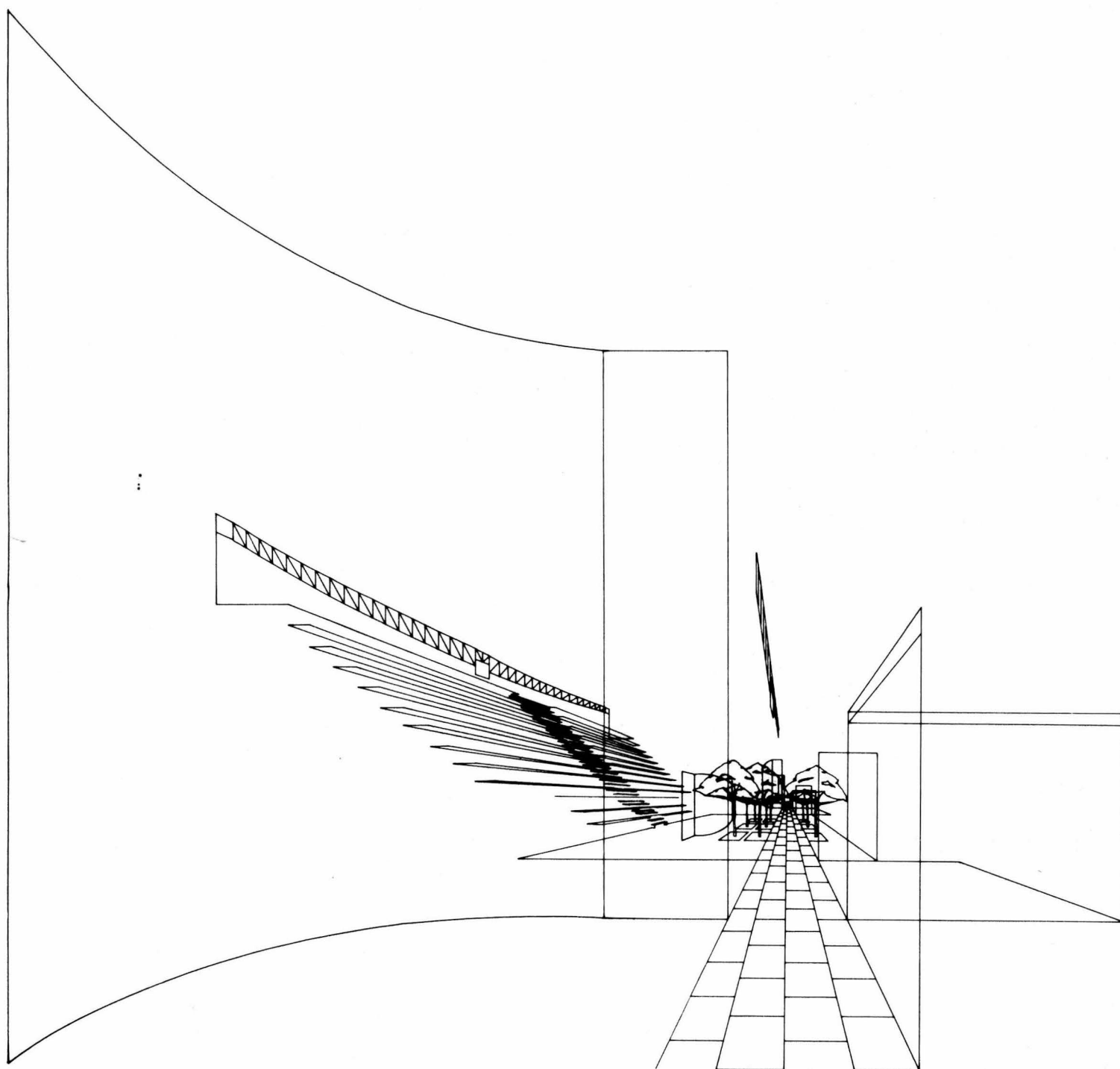
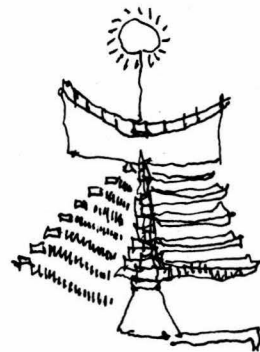


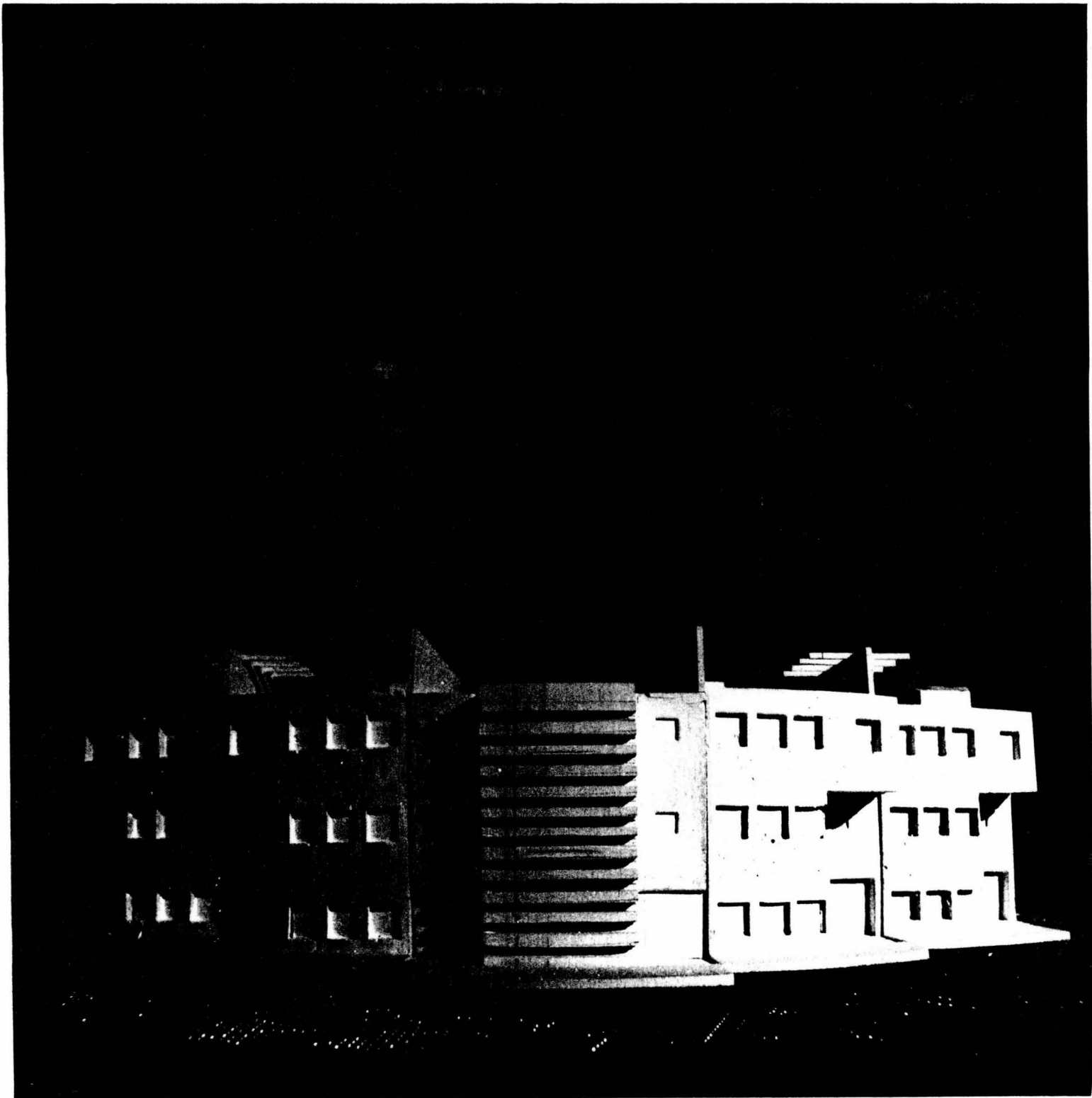
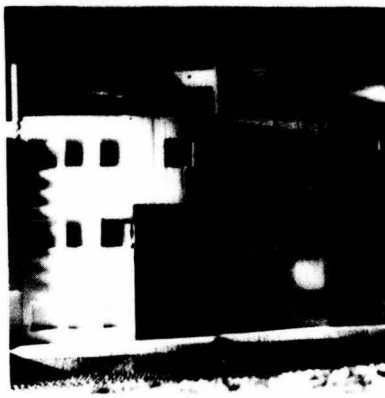
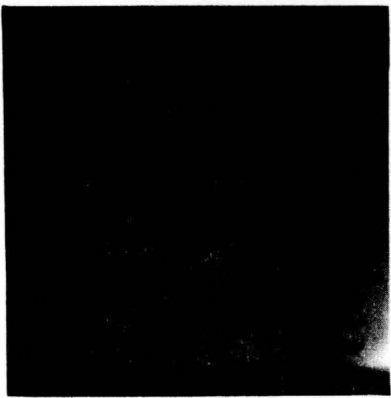
The south elevation is highly articulated, creating a highly differentiated texture to reinforce its existence as an integral part of the original city.

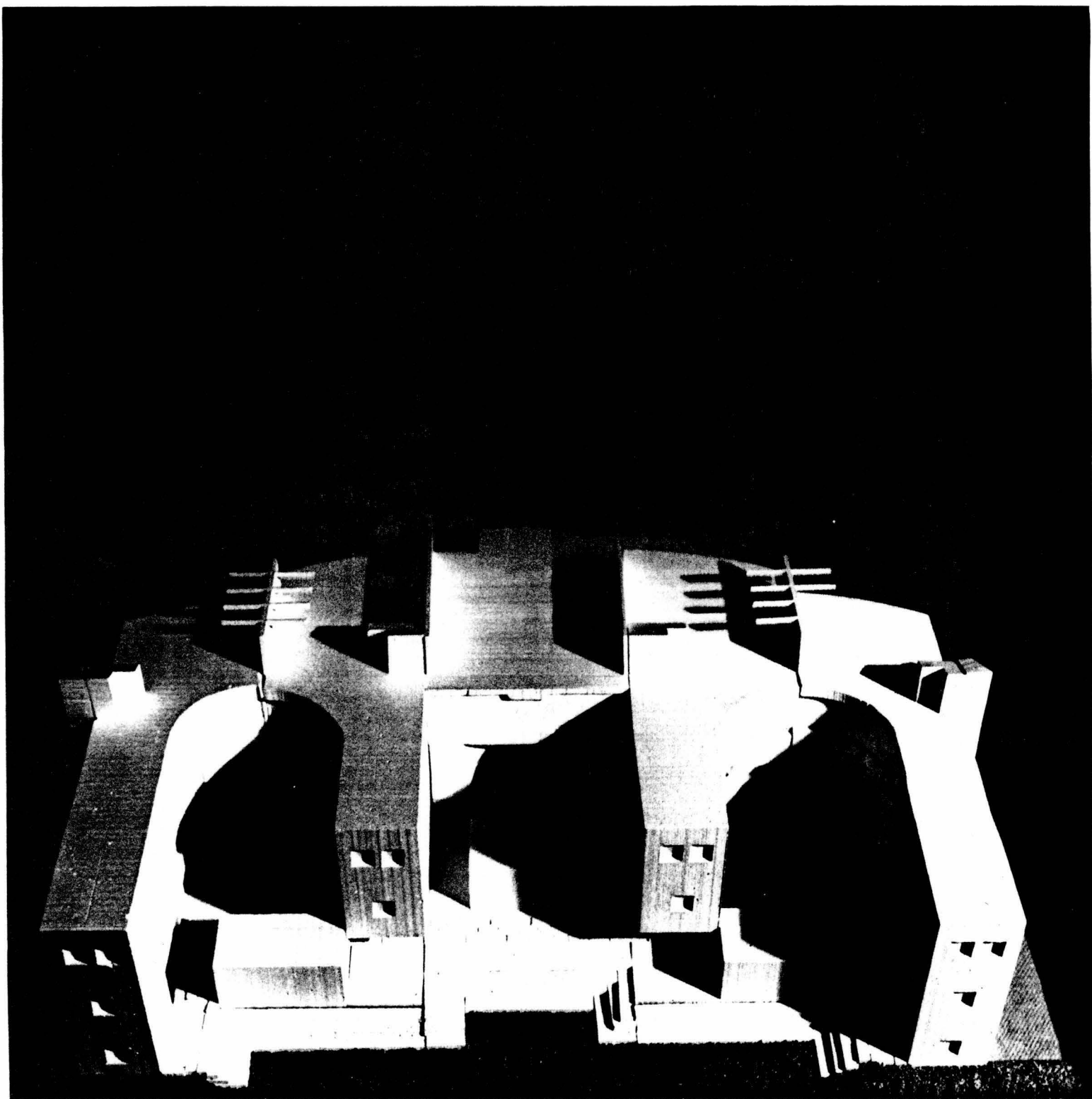
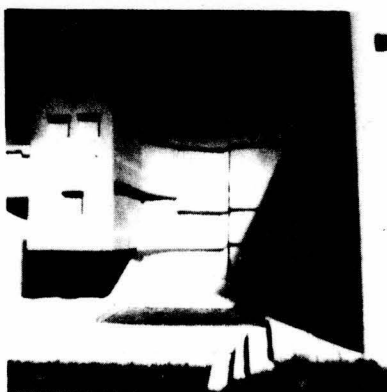
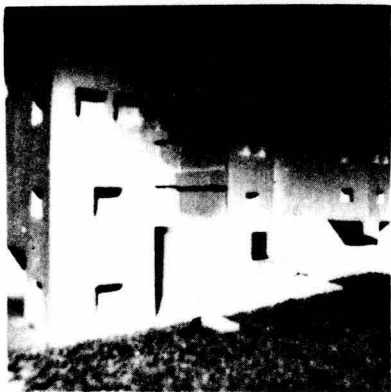


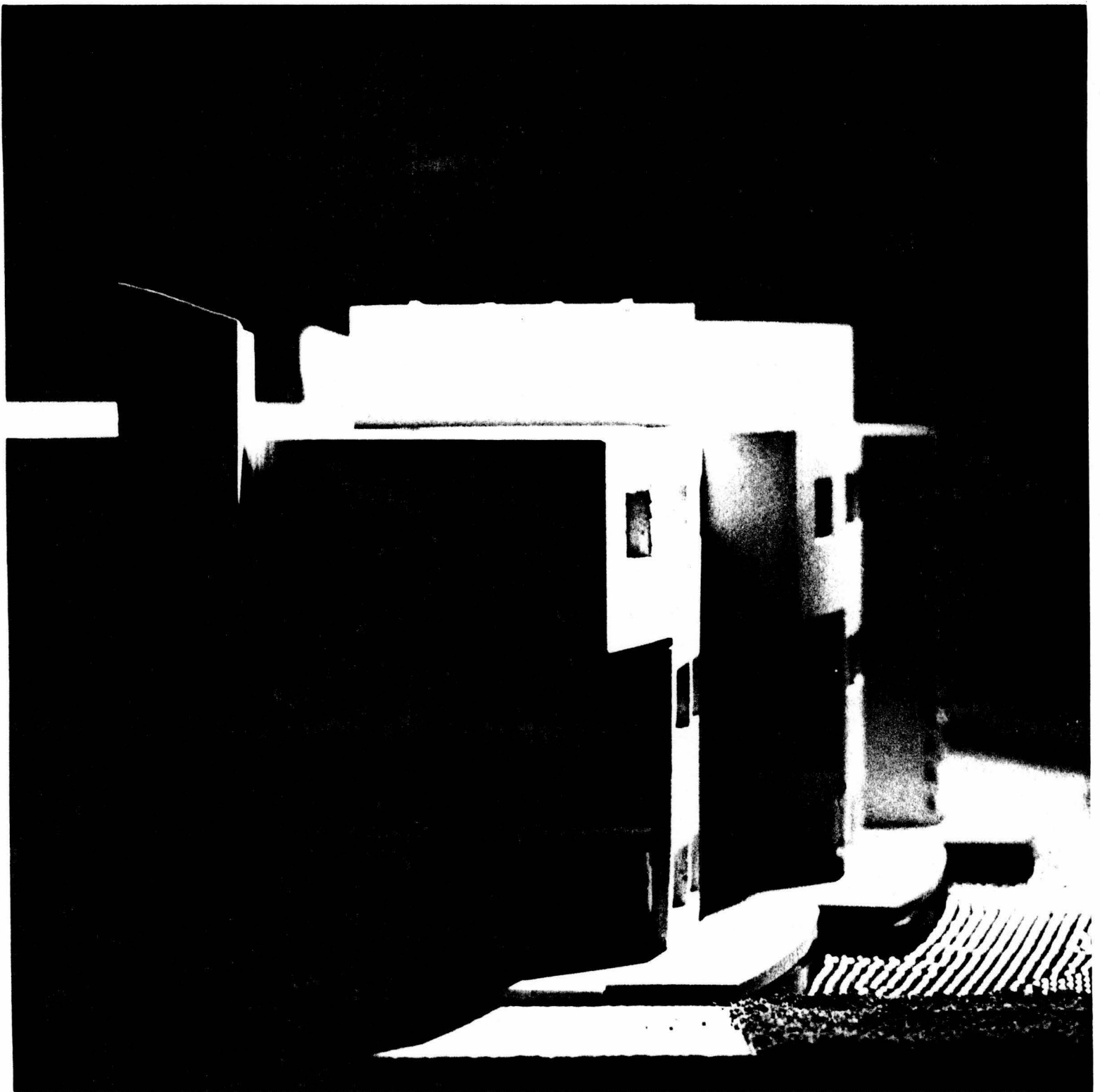
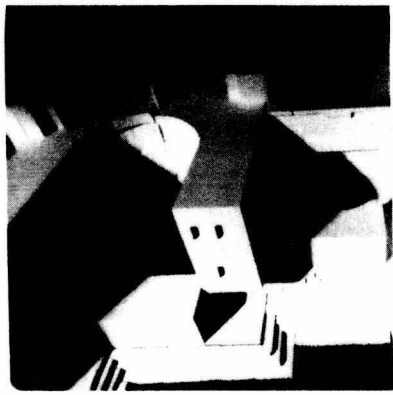
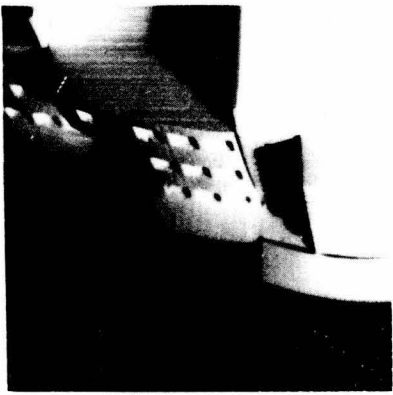


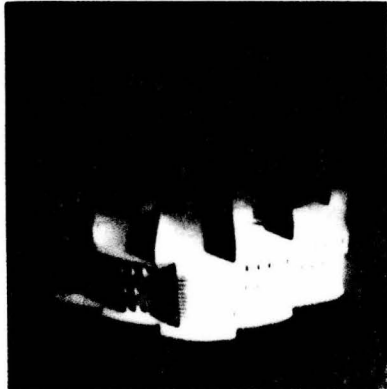
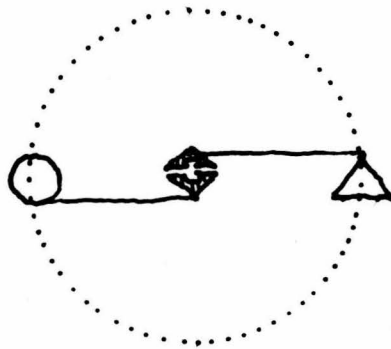












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