

**Contrarchitecture**

Abbott John Adesso

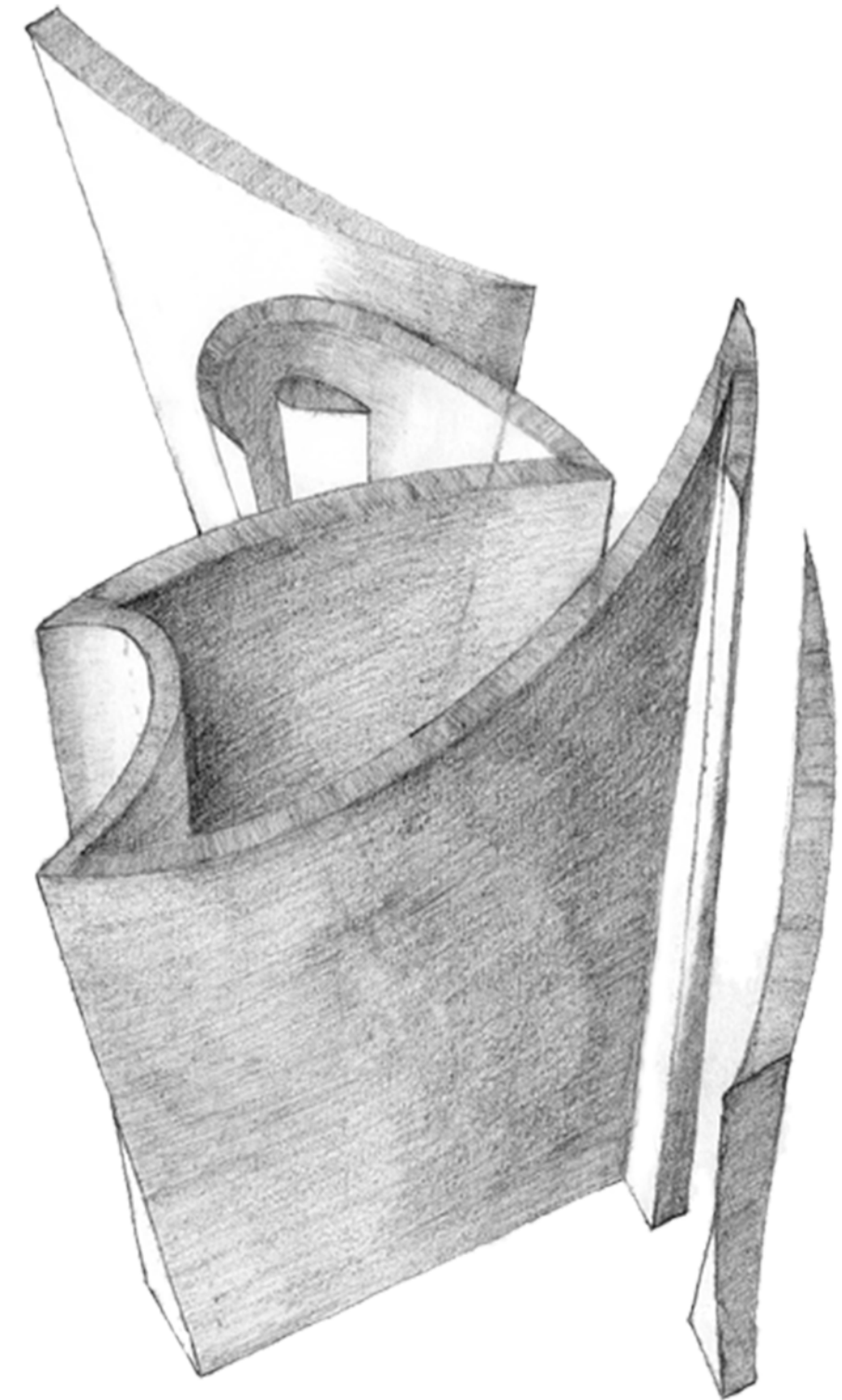
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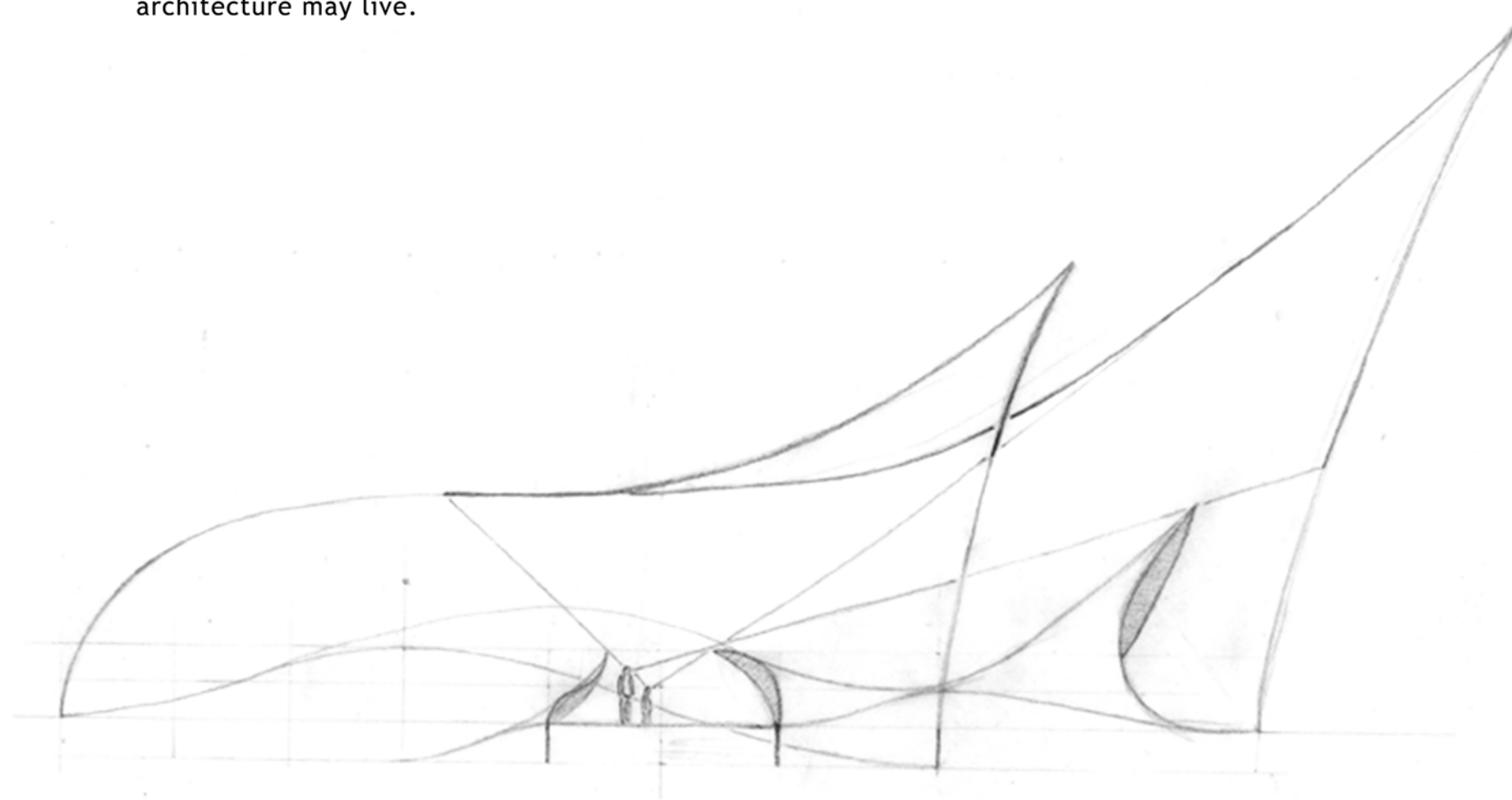


## Contrarchitecture

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### Abstract

A study of how contrasting architectural elements can create a sense of presence. Contrasts constitute movement, feeling, and energy and are what could be the basis of an architecture that illustrates these principles. The transition between extremes creates a balance. Through the use of contrasting elements such as rectilinear and curvilinear, light and shadow, density and sparsity, transparency and opacity, small and large, light and heavy, and compression and tension, there is a static pulse, where architecture may live.



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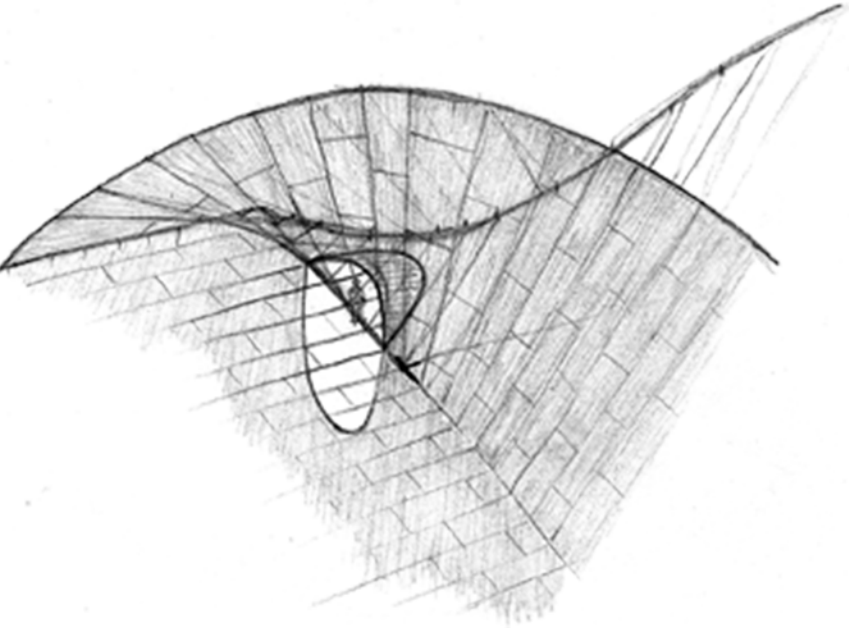
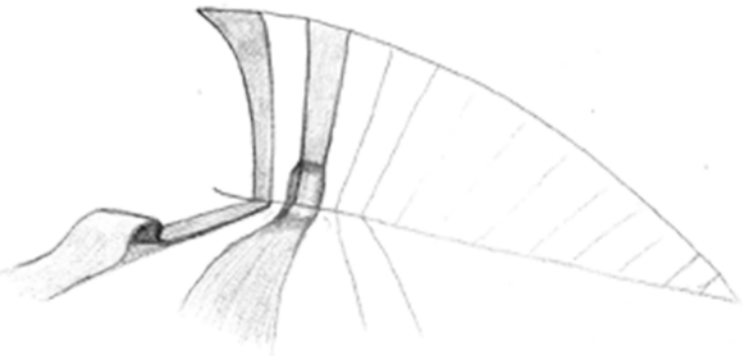
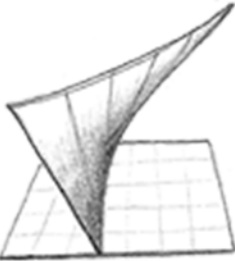
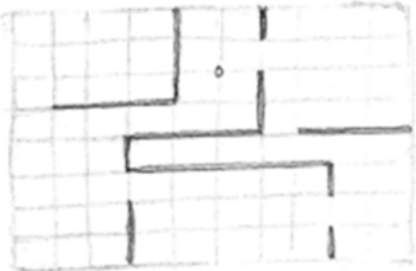
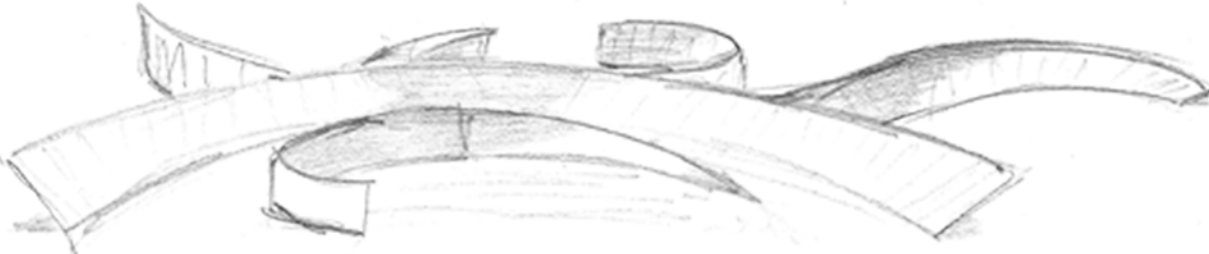
“The organ... not only wants to mirror the surrounding whole in itself, but also, as far as possible, to be itself the surrounding whole.

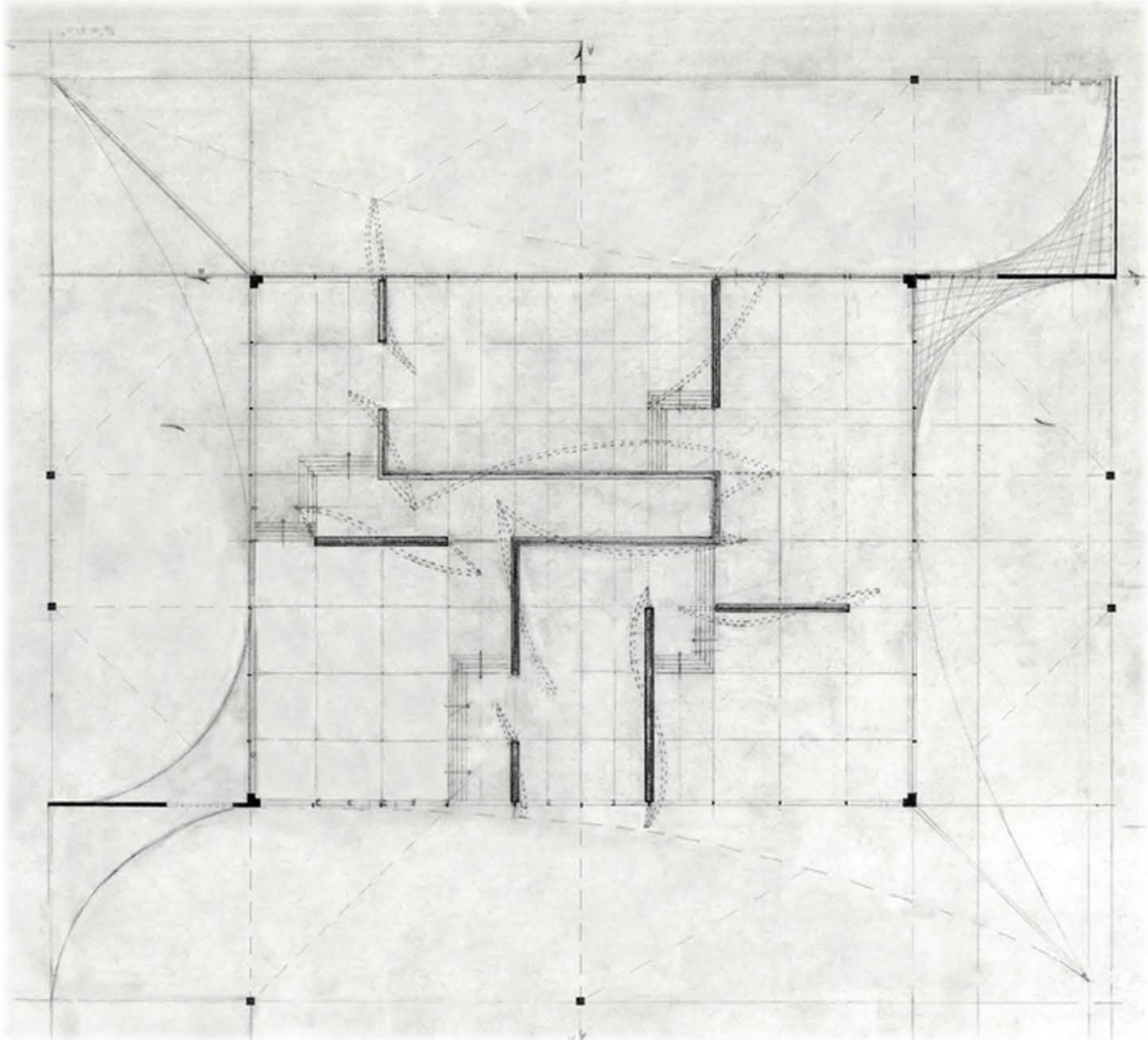
Therefore, every higher organic structure, by its nature, seizes the one subordinate to it and absorbs this in to its being. The plant absorbs inorganic material by means of mere formation and growth; the animal absorbs the plant through formation, growth, and enjoyment; the human being not only converts animal and plant in to his inner substance through formation, growth, and enjoyment, but simultaneously, by means of that mirroring surface of his being which is the most highly polished of them all, takes everything into the sphere of his existence that is subordinate to his organic structure and depicts it outside of himself again, beautified, if his organ is being creatively perfected within him.”

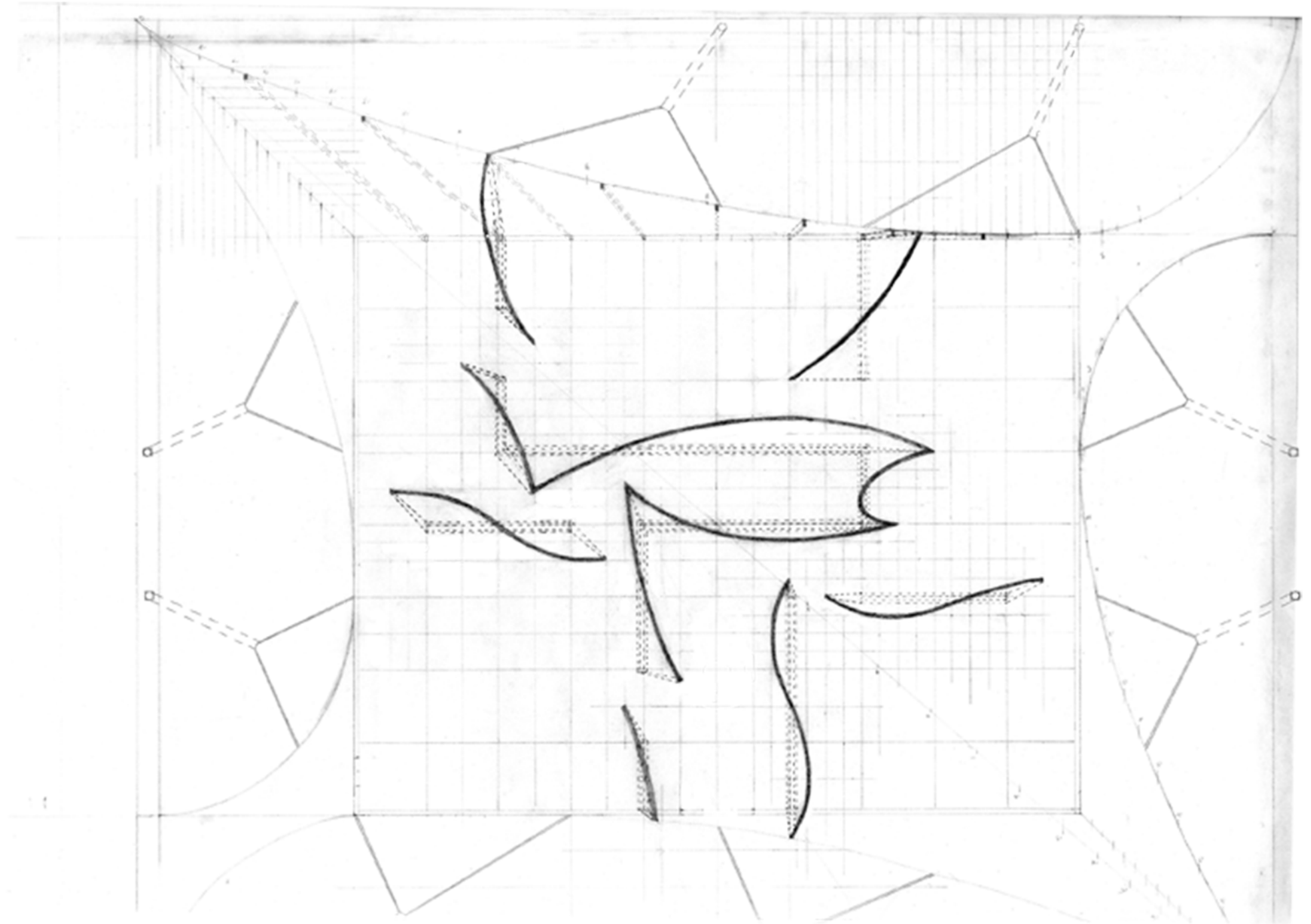
-Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

This began as an exploration of how to make architecture function more like a biological entity. The design of architecture relates to the design of any biological organism in that they both have structure and function. Purpose is arguable. Nature can inform many decisions of our own designs and achieve a greater quality of convergence in design aspects such as form and function.

Any living organism has to meet certain needs in order to live. It must also have certain characteristics to be considered living. An edifice has many demands it must achieve in order to function, many similar to the needs of a living organism. Ventilation, energy, thermodynamics, decay, et cetera. Aside from creating an entirely functioning architectural organism, this attempts to determine what characteristics of form might satisfy something greater than function. Studying the biology of organisms and the structures that they themselves create, the key design element that seems to define all living things is contradiction.







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