

AN ADDITION TO THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN WASHINGTON,
BELLINGHAM

by

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ABSTRACT

The project chosen for this thesis is an addition to the existing Performing Arts Center at the University of Western Washington in Bellingham. It includes a series of additional solo practice rooms and classrooms; a music library and a cafe. Within the project there are also two larger 'residual' spaces.

The Campus is made up of connected squares/plazas designed for the pedestrian. Performing Arts is located on High Street at the edge of the campus overlooking a neighbourhood. Originally, High Street bisected the campus acting as an artery into Bellingham. The original Music Building was added to in 1971 creating the renamed Performing Arts Centre. The central intention was to refront the centre creating a new pedestrian plaza thus encouraging the universities masterplan to convert High Street into a pedestrian mall. At the east end of the plaza there is an area with several ground plains, connections, and programs: At the uppermost level there is a bridge between a foodcourt and the plaza and below, there are two corridors letting out into a lane, delivery access, motor cycle parking, a pedestrian connection between south hill and the campus, and an entrance to a Taco Bell which is located in the adjacent student union building.

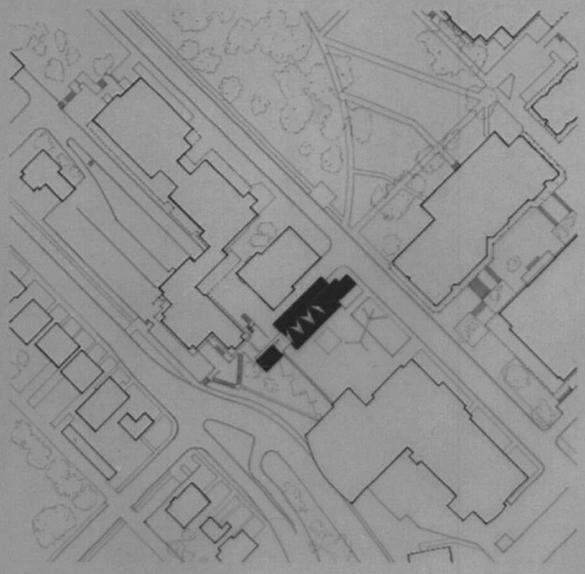
The author of this thesis imagined circumstances where the user of a space enjoys the experience of determining how that space could be understood and used. The intention was to see the existing conditions as possibilities to inform both the location and the conceptual diagram of a new addition in a way that would facilitate such experiences.

In the final scheme, the lane is bisected lengthwise by a thick wall of new practice rooms to create a sectional rift between it and the existing building that harbours redirected pedestrian traffic, a completed circuit for the existing circulation, the cafe, and the main entrance. The north end is closed off using two existing exterior connections (the loading bay below and the bridge above) and the south end with a large circulation tower. The motorcycle parking is inserted into the base of the thick wall puncturing the mass of practice rooms and the end wall of an existing coral rehearsal hall was replaced with an articulated glass wall containing a new entry.

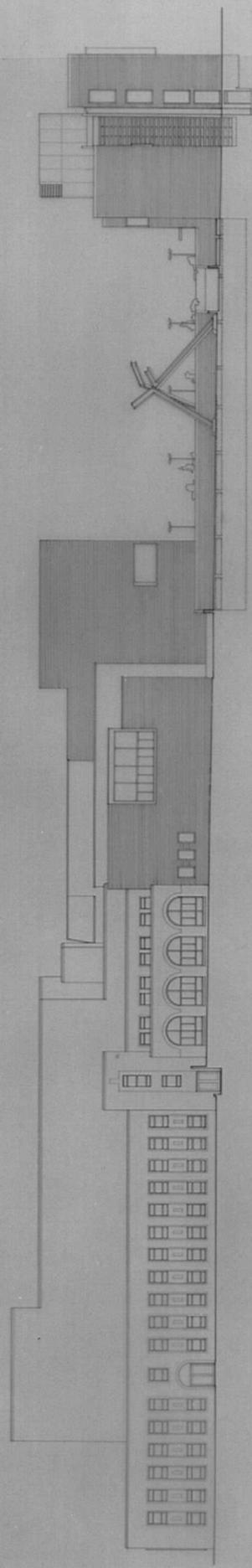
Conceptually, the spaces of the rift are the focus of the possibilities presented by the site, and as such, can be understood and used as part of the city (as a kind of indoor street connecting the neighbourhood of south hill with the campus), as part of the performing arts center (as the completion of an internal circulation system), as foyer to the addition and the coral rehearsal hall, and as autonomous places for receptions and gatherings. Both as part of the existing and on their own these spaces have a kind of spacial and programatic ambiguity that allows each recipient the opportunity to discover different ways of understanding and using them.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract	ii
Table of Contents	iii
Site Plan, South Elevation	1
Section through South Hill and Campus, West Elevation	2
East Elevation, North Elevation	3
View from the Circulation Desk, Section BB	4
Section CC, Section EE, Section DD	5
View of Lower 'Room', Section AA	6
Plan of Plaza Level, Structural Diagram	7
Plan: 3 below Plaza, Circulation Diagram	8
Plans: 1 & 2 below Plaza, 1 & 2 above Plaza	9
Model: View of North Elevation	10
Model: View of East Elevation	11
Model: View of South Elevation	12
Model: View of West Elevation	13



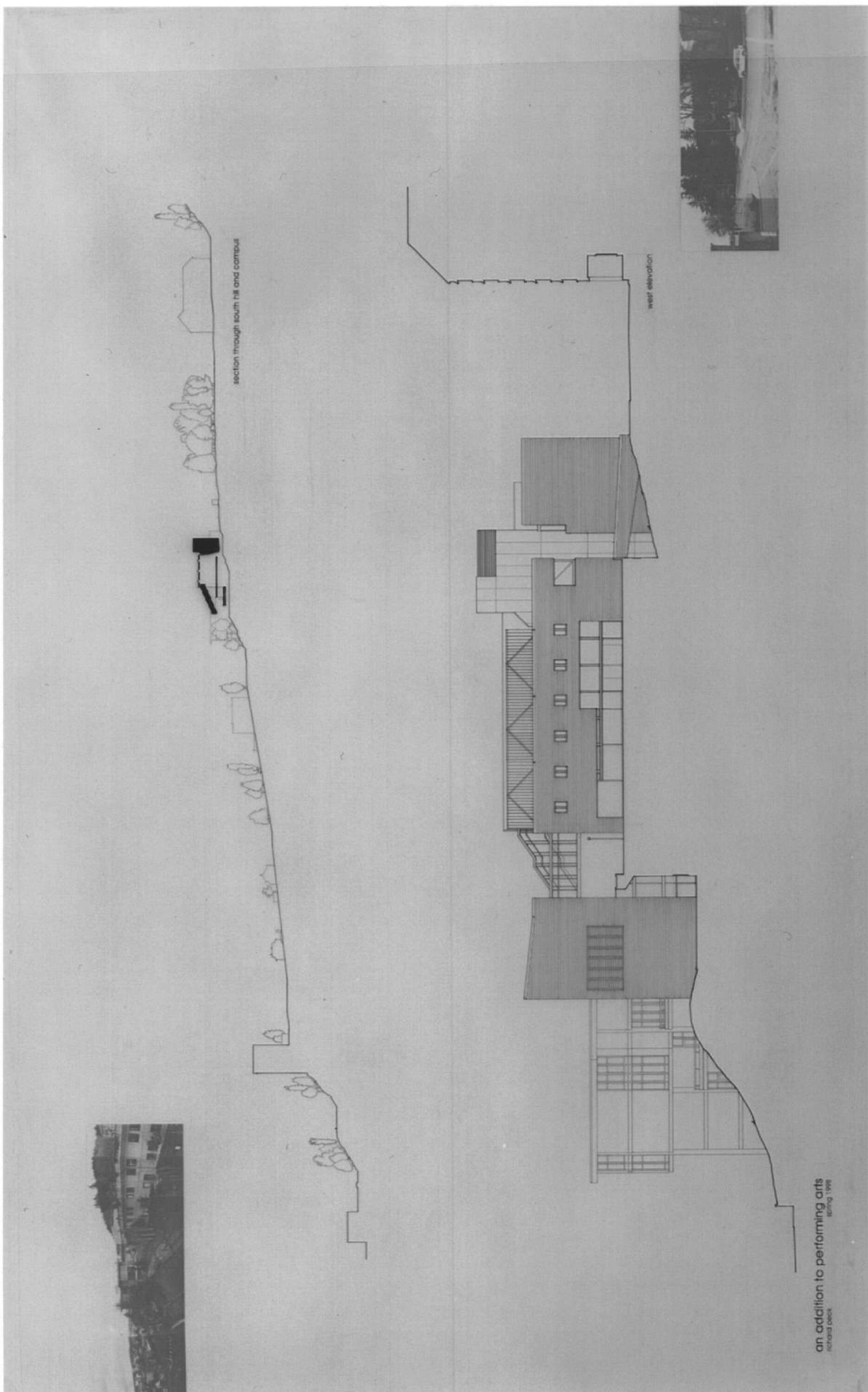
site plan



south elevation

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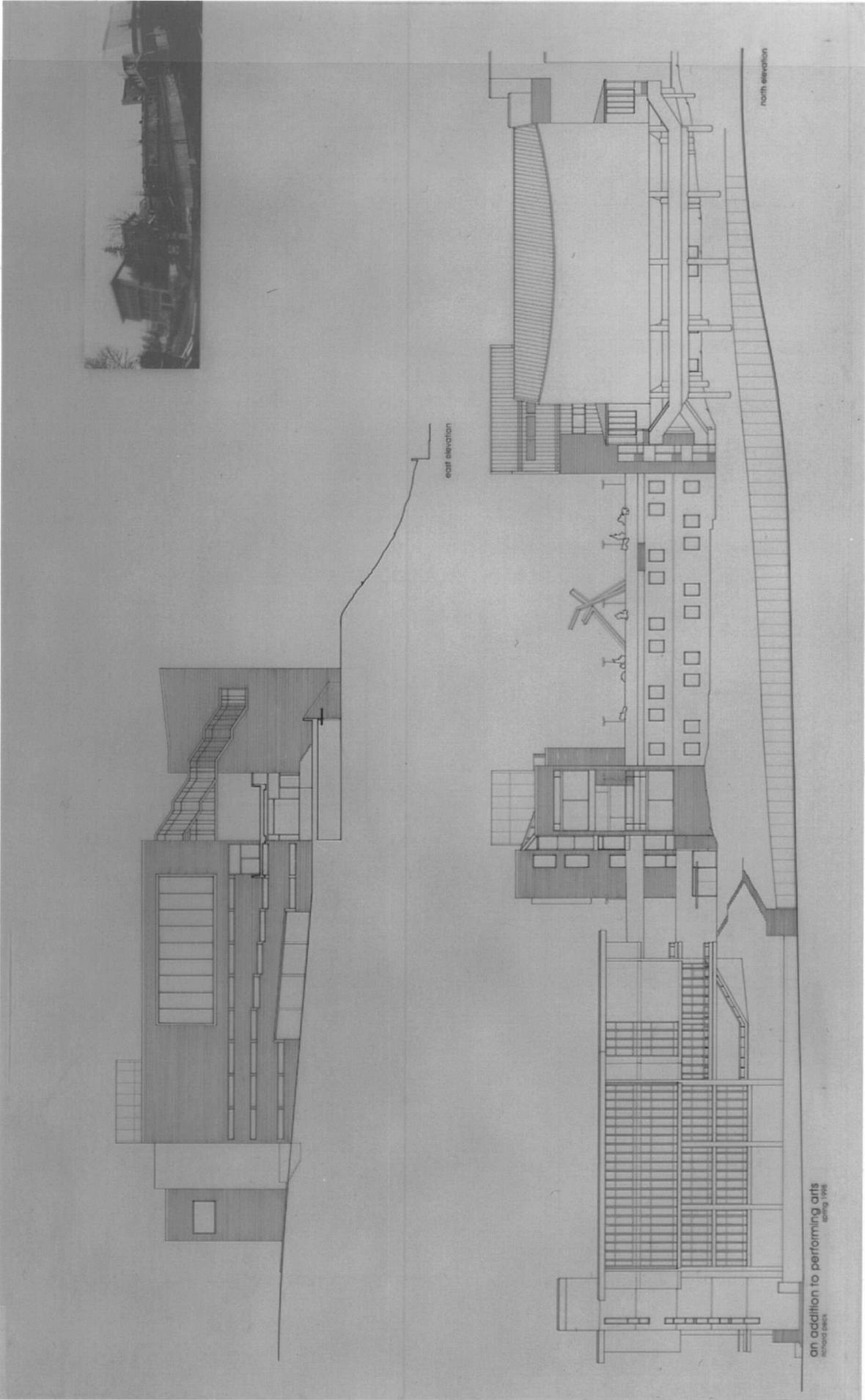


section through south hill and campus

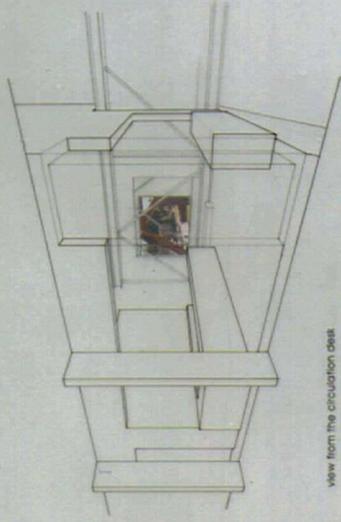
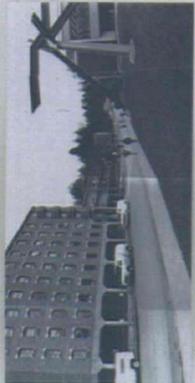
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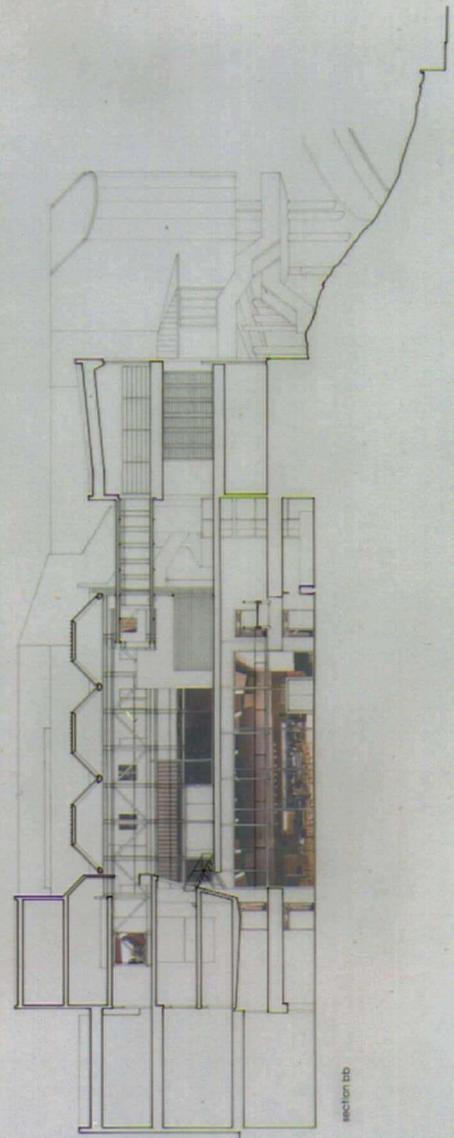




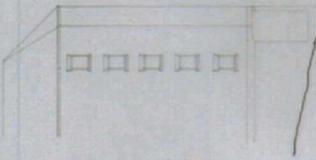
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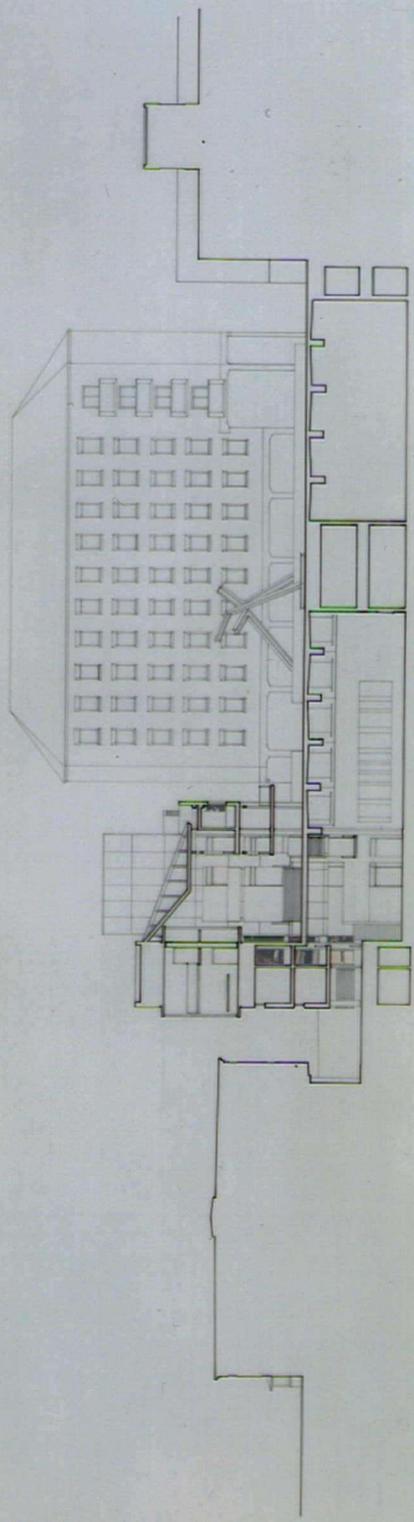
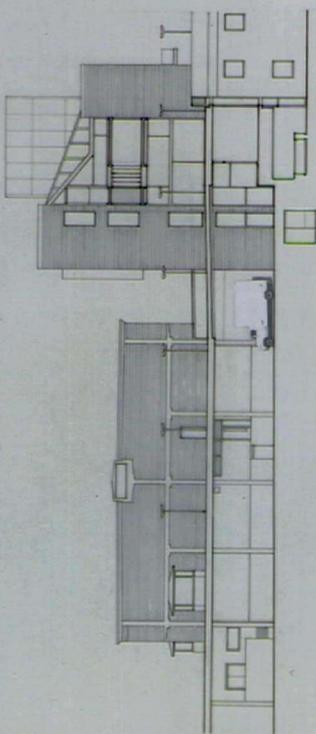
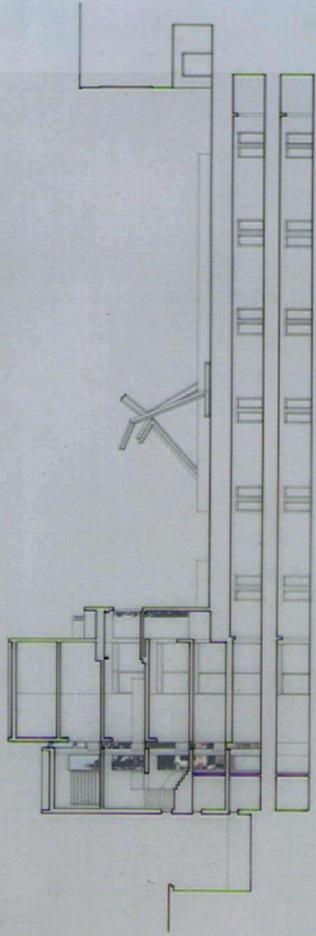
view from the circulation deck



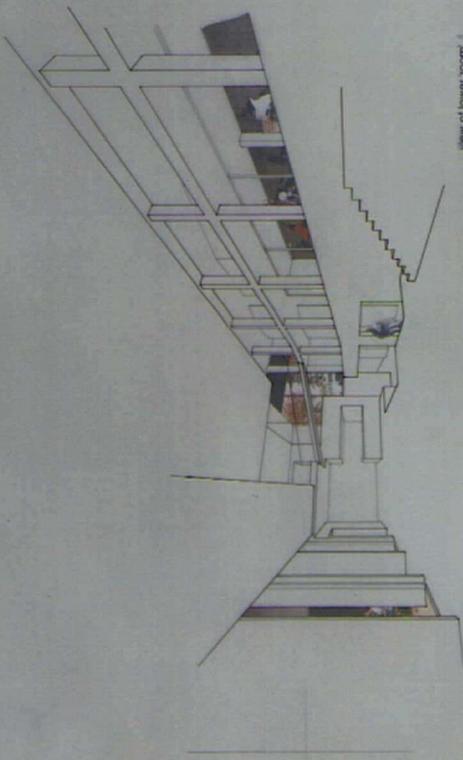
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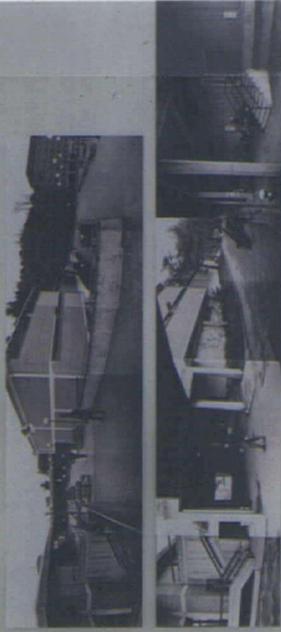
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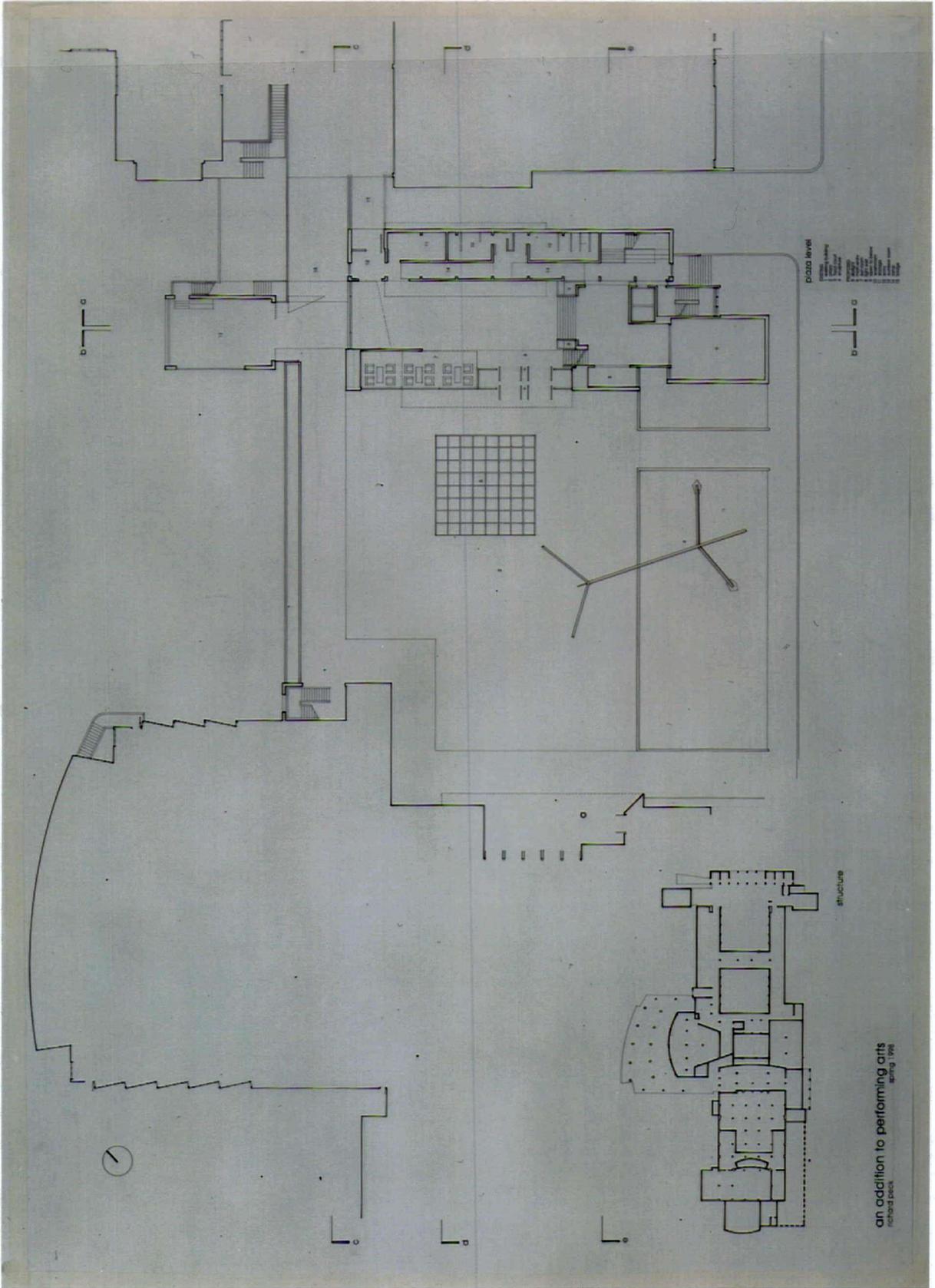


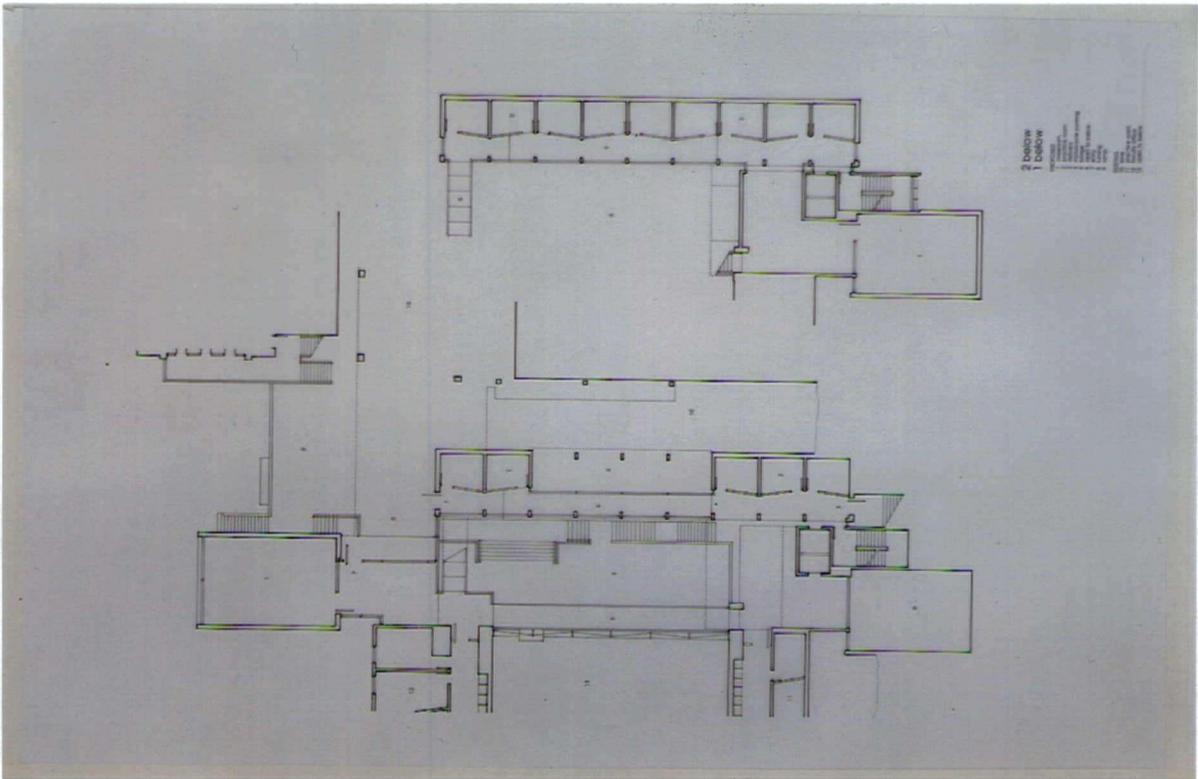
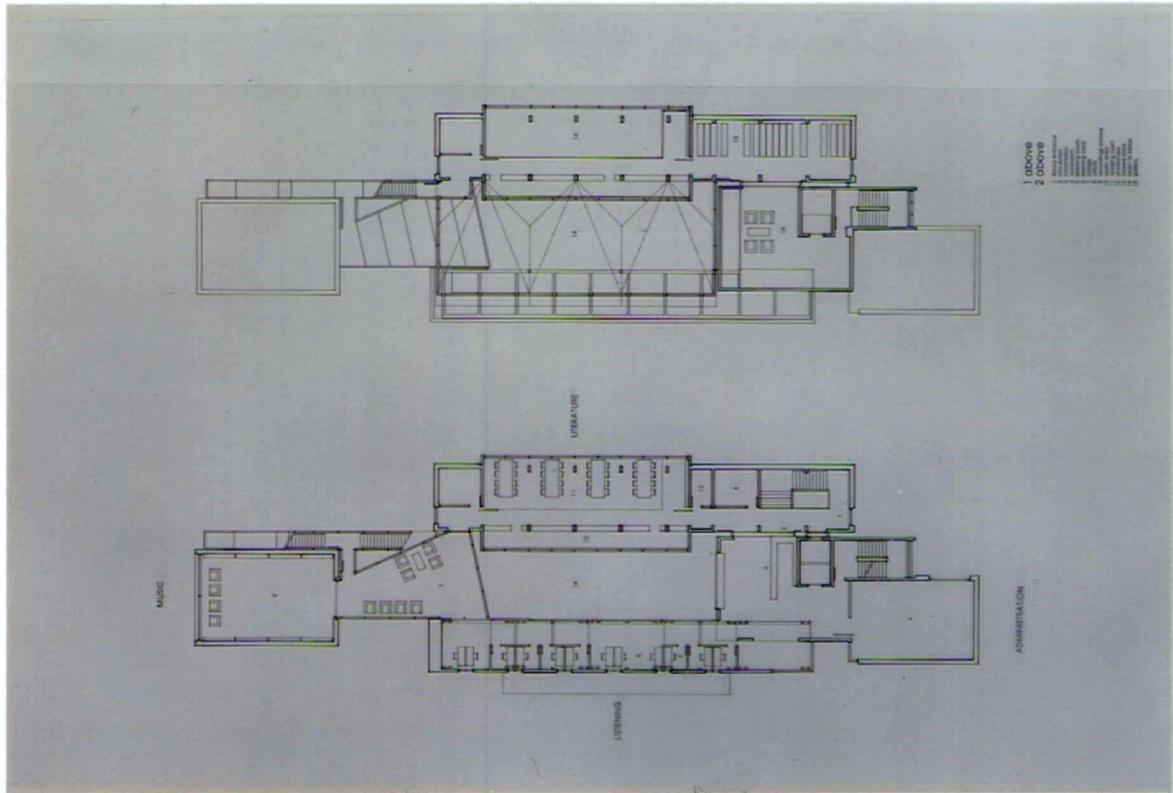
view of lower room

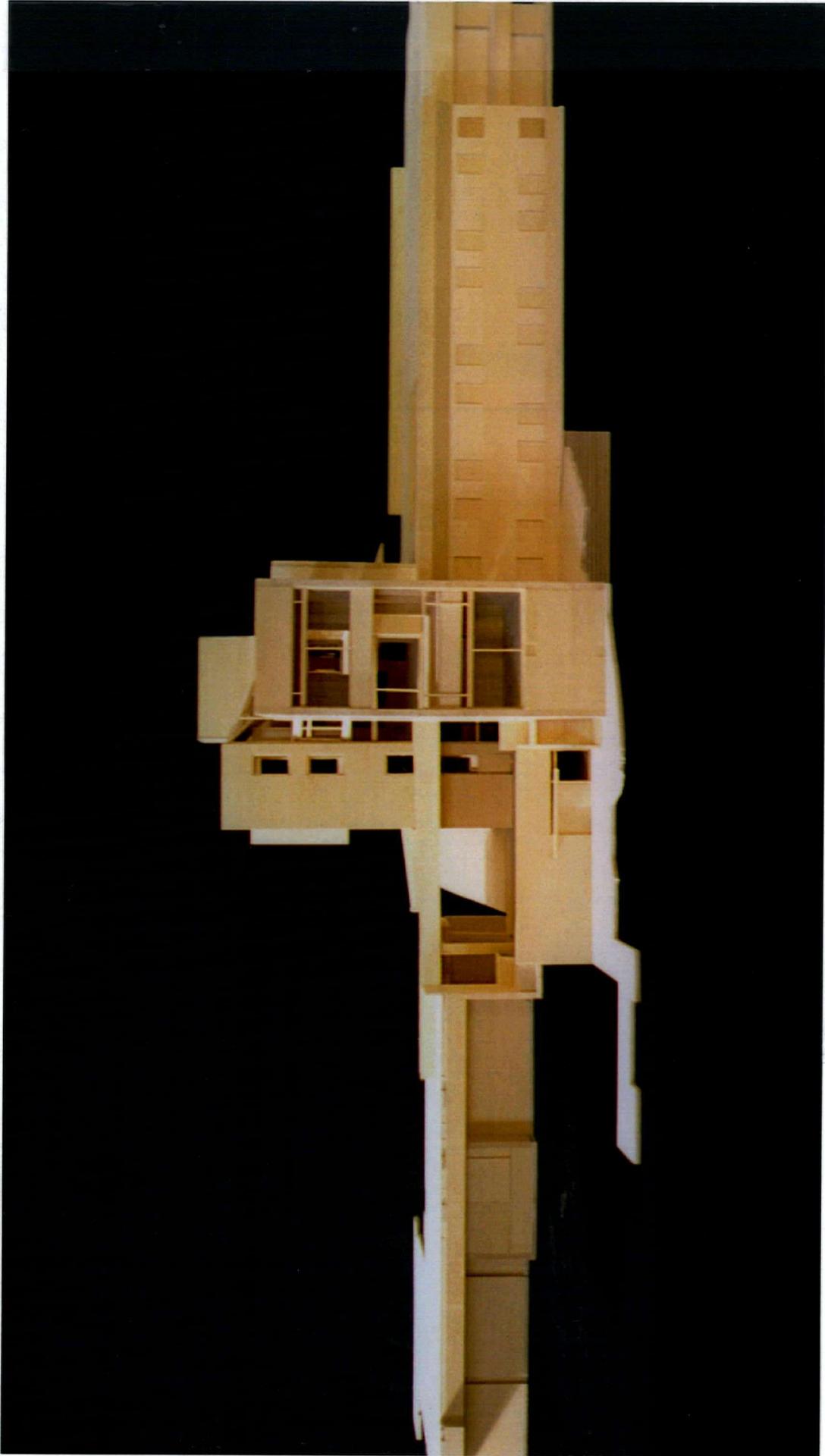


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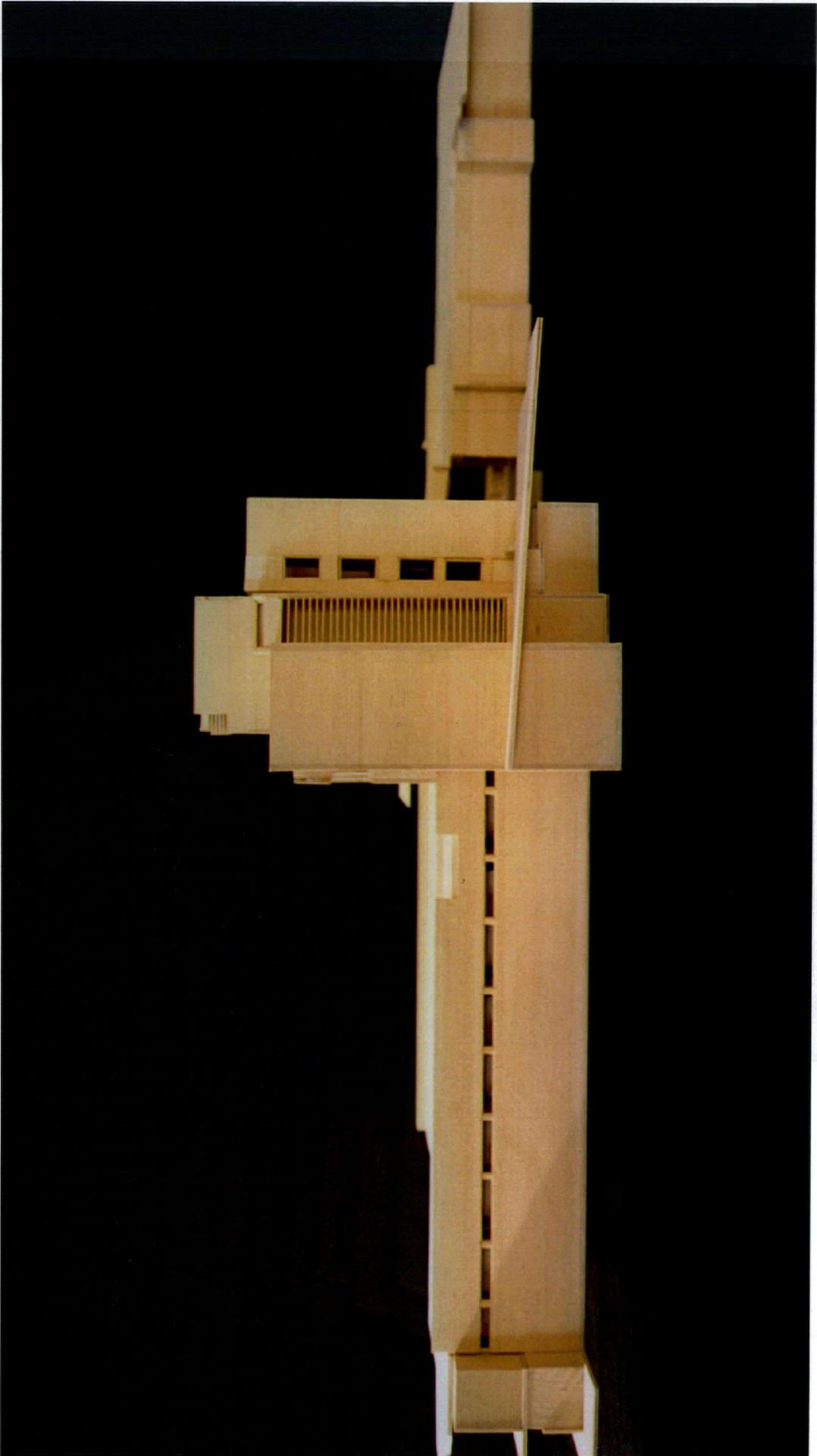




Model: View of North Elevation



Model: View of East Elevation



Model: View of South Elevation



Model: View of West Elevation