

A WINERY ON CALIFORNIA'S CENTRAL COAST

by

RICHARD JOHN FURBACHER

B.Sc., McGill University, 1972

B.F.A., Concordia University, 1974

M.F.A., Concordia University, 1978

A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF

THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE

in

THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

School of Architecture

We accept this thesis as conforming to the required standard

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

May 1998

© Richard John Furbacher, 1998

In presenting this thesis in partial fulfilment of the requirements for an advanced degree at the University of British Columbia, I agree that the Library shall make it freely available for reference and study. I further agree that permission for extensive copying of this thesis for scholarly purposes may be granted by the head of my department or by his or her representatives. It is understood that copying or publication of this thesis for financial gain shall not be allowed without my written permission.

School
Department of Architecture

The University of British Columbia
Vancouver, Canada

Date April 30, 1998

ABSTRACT

The design process is both highly personal and in many respects subconscious in nature. It follows that form-making is a difficult and elusive subject to explicate. This project hypothesized a mechanism for beginning to understand the design process and then attempted to illustrate the proposed mechanism by undertaking a design project which tested its presumptions. The hypothesis took the form of a directed study in which the architectural detail was proposed to be the instrument which might facilitate the translation of ideas into material, space and connections, i.e., the parts which would eventually become the whole. The notions and implications described in this study were then explored and tested by means of their pragmatic application to a design project, that is, the design of a winery for a site in Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County, California. It was anticipated that the architecture itself would either prove the worth of the argument or expose its flaws.

The project addressed notions of a winery at multiple scales by developing an understanding of grape growing, of the landscape of viticulture, of the process of winemaking and of the culture of wine. The characteristics of these themes became the starting point and continual frame of reference within which design ideas were evaluated as the project progressed. Whereas it was expected that both architectural details and details of wine, wine culture and winemaking would inform the design as it evolved, this did not occur in a particularly balanced fashion. Instead, the form of the building developed not only from details of grape growing and winemaking but also details which made those processes visible to visitors of the winery. Architectural details per se were much less generative of the form than the directed study seemed to anticipate. Instead, architectural details were principally generated in the resolution and service of experiential aspects of the winery's design.

The parti of the building is a rectangular box surrounded by "clipped" on programmatic elements. The central rectangular volume accommodates the sectional production of wine employing gravity alone as the force which moves the wine between stations. The interior can be understood as a whole from which three-dimensional cuts have removed anything not essential. The resulting interior landscape is a series of interconnected planes, each of which functions as a datum that acts in relation to both interior and exterior elements. Within the interior landscape, both wine and visitors move along linked, downward leading paths which culminate in the barrel room imbedded deep in the earth. Multiple opportunities for both public and private wine tasting are afforded along the visitors' path.

Important spaces not part of the winery's central volume include the primary tasting room, the manager's office, a kitchen and light wells. The latter bring differing quantities of light into the barrel room depending on the adjacent grade. Numerous details of both interior and exterior spaces of the building are intended to be read as reflecting various aspects of the processes taking place both on the land surrounding the building and within the space of the winery itself.

From the exterior, controlled views of the interior have been designed to suggest the nature of the processes taking place within while limiting the amount of light which is permitted to enter. Numerous details of both interior and exterior spaces of the building are intended to be read as reflecting various aspects of the processes taking place both on the land surrounding the building and within the space of the winery itself.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

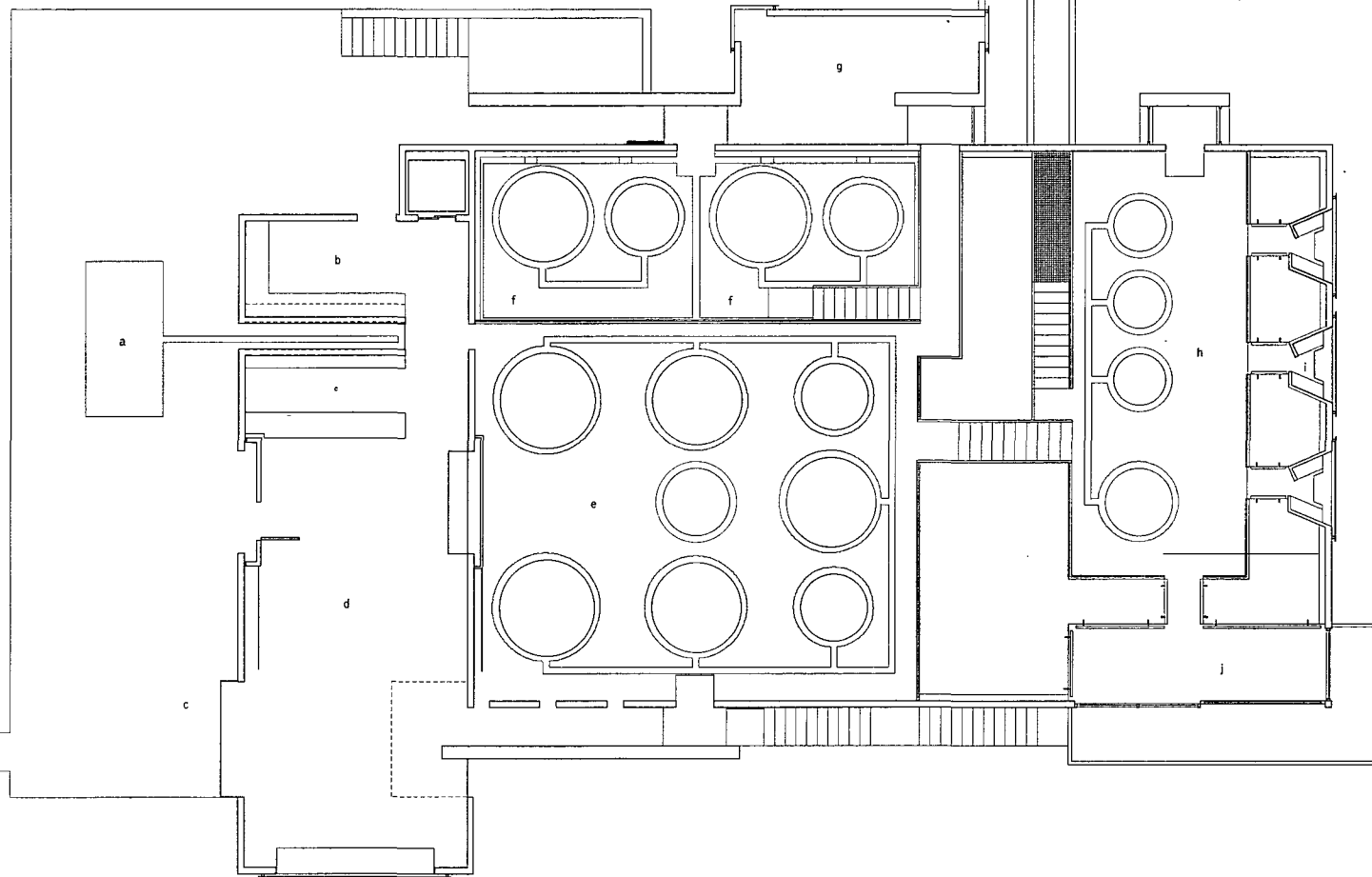
	Page
Abstract	ii
Table Of Contents	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Main Floor Plan	1
Barrel Room Floor Plan	2
North/South Section	3
East/West Section	4
Elevations	5
Site Drawing	6
Early Concept Drawing	7
Concept Drawing Of Private Tasting Area Seen From Racking Level	8
Concept Drawing Of Private Tasting Area	9
Ramps Between Racking Level And Barrel Room From Landing	10
Small Scale Site Model – Two Views	11
Model In Site	12
View Of Entrance From Parking	13
South-East View	14
North-East View	15
North-West View	16
South-West View	17
Entrance View In Landscape	18
North-West View In Landscape	19
South-West View In Landscape Showing Freight Entrance	20
Overhead View From South-east – Roof Removed	21
Overhead View – Roof Removed	22
Overhead View Of Interior	23
View Of Barrel Room	24
Cut-Away Showing Barrel Room	25
View Of Entrance With Existing Oak	26
Icy Dawn At The Winery	27

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to thank my committee, Elaine Didyk, Sherry McKay and my chair, Patricia Patkau for their constructive and enlightened critique during the development of this project. Any shortcomings in either the design concepts or in the execution of the drawings and model must be attributed solely to me. Of the many people who lent their support during my work at UBC, another trio of people deserves special mention: Graham Elvidge and the walleyed music for encouragement and practical assistance without which this project would not have been completed; John Ivor Smith, for his humor, his grace under pressure, his practical expertise and for being my alter ego when things appeared most bleak; and my wife, Sheila Furbacher, without whose generous, selfless and total support I would definitely not now be in a position to take the next steps towards becoming an architect.

- a. stemming/crushing area
- b. kitchen
- c. bar
- d. entry/tasting area
- e. fermenting floor
- f. primary racking floors
- g. office
- h. secondary racking floor
- i. private tasting area
- j. public tasting area

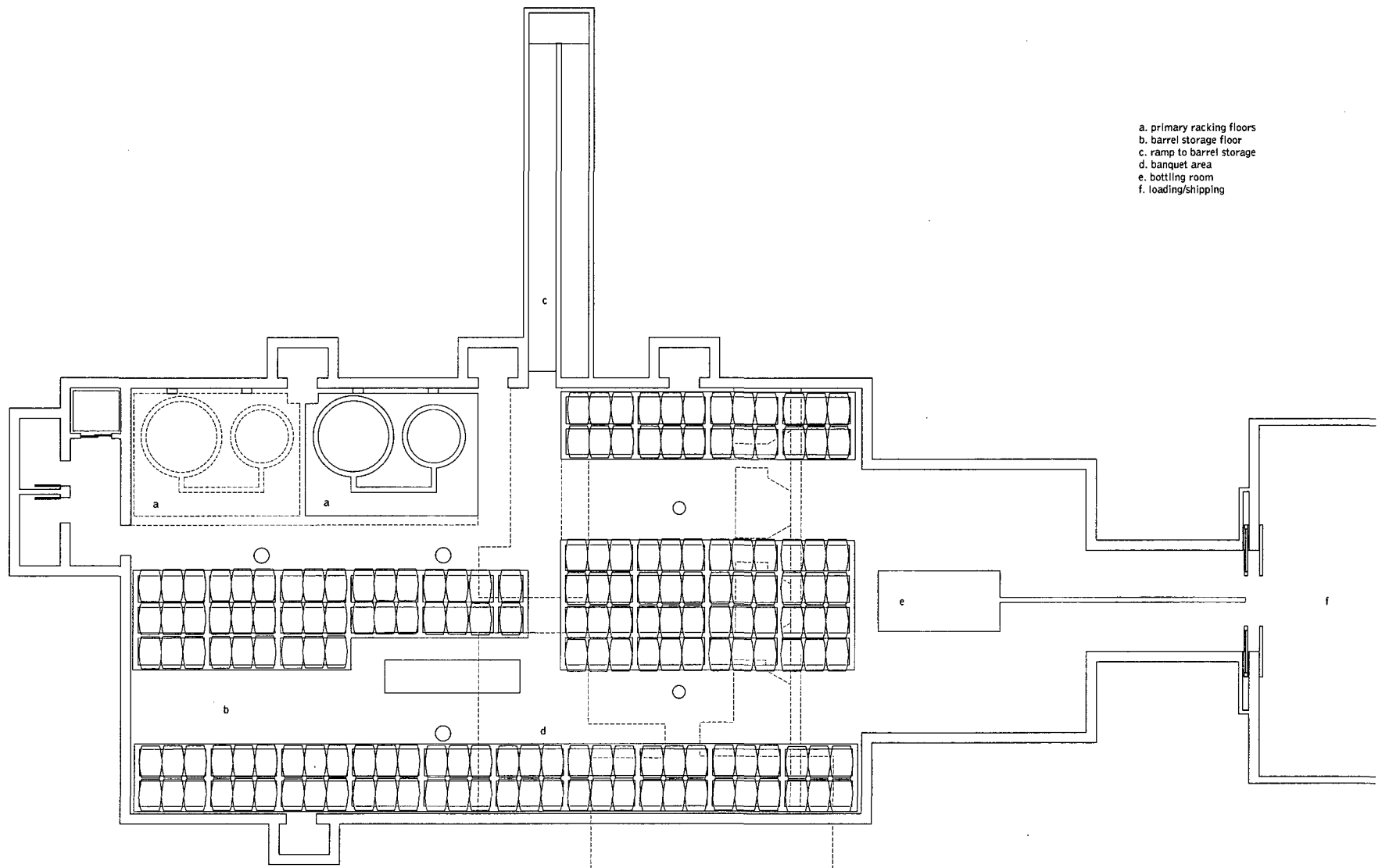
→ from parking

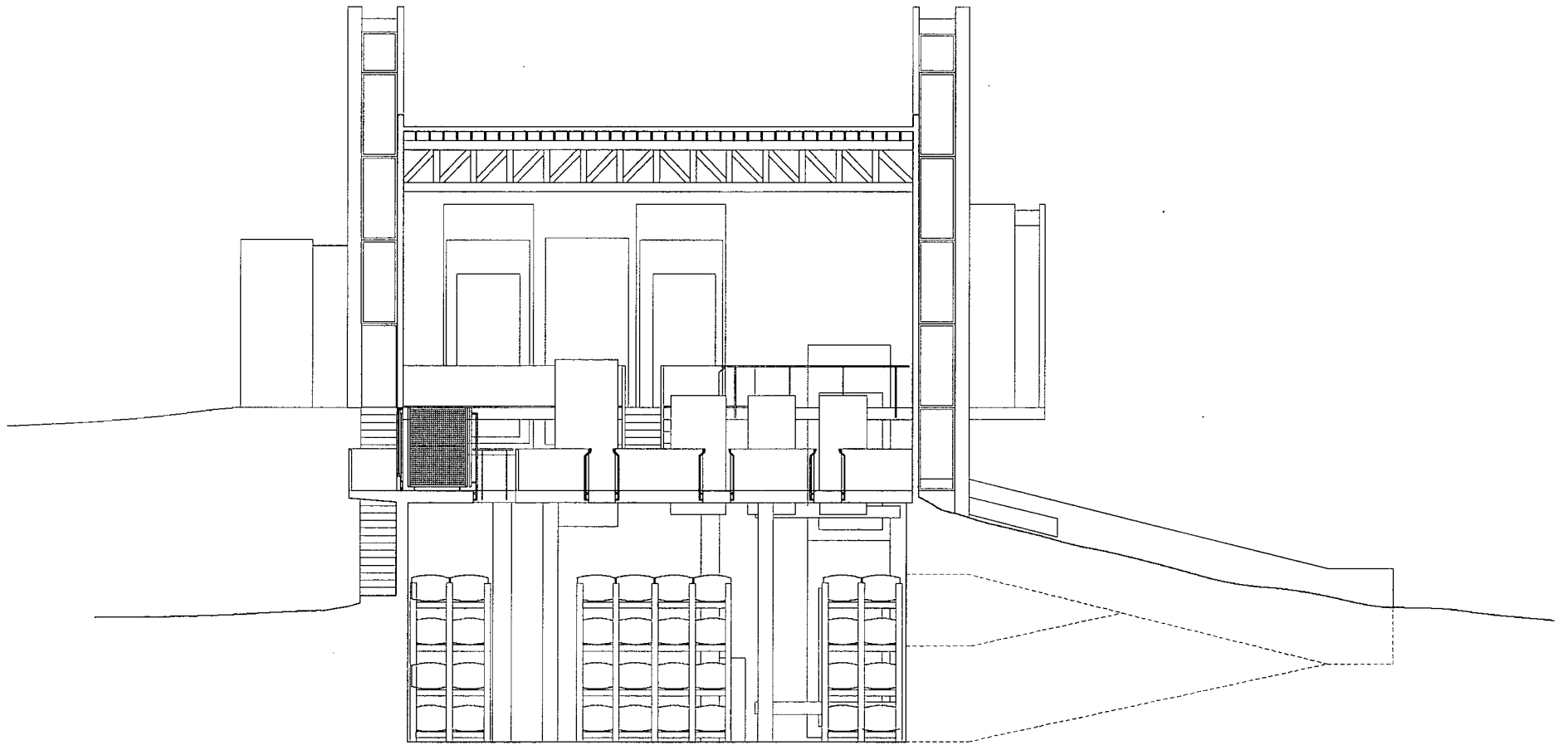


A Winery on California's Central Coast

Main Floor Plans

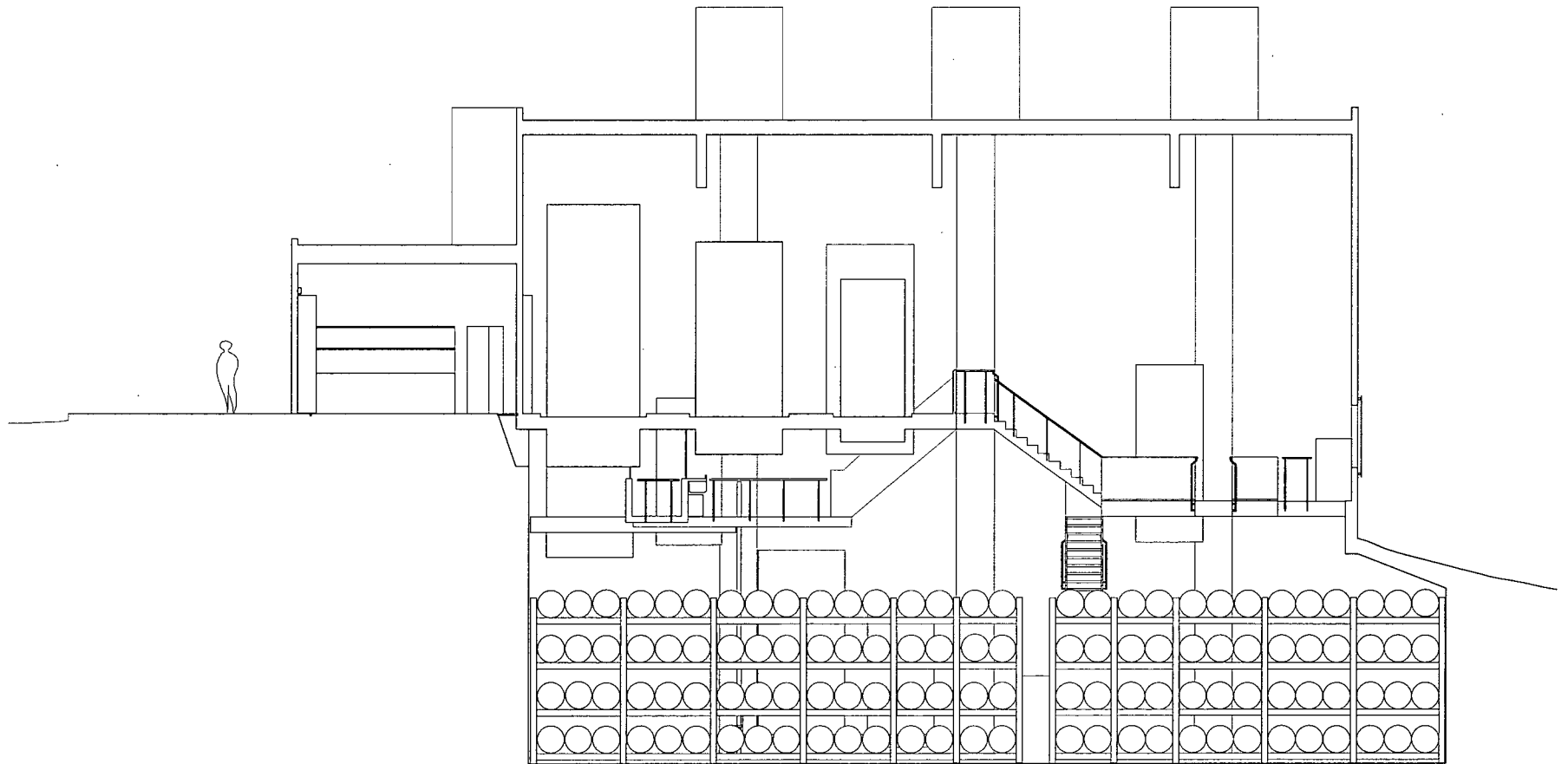






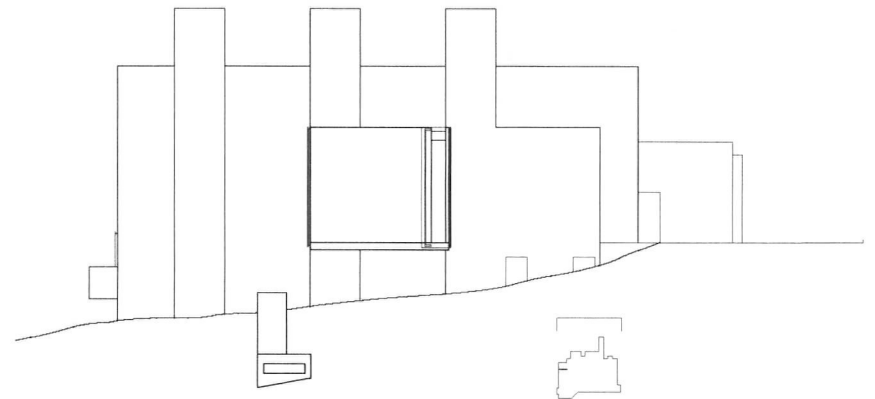
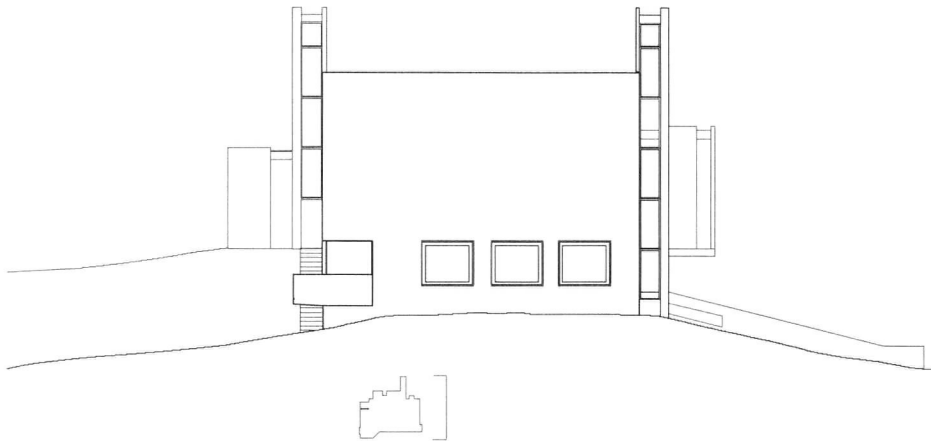
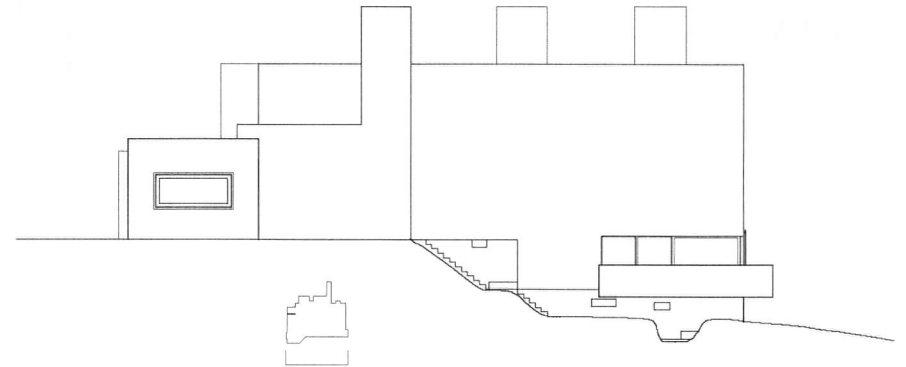
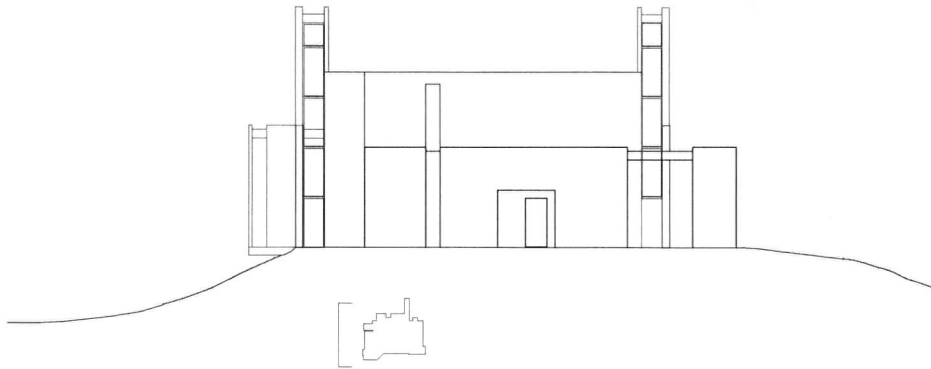
A Winery on California's Central Coast

north/south section



A Winery on California's Central Coast

east/west section



A Winery on California's Central Coast

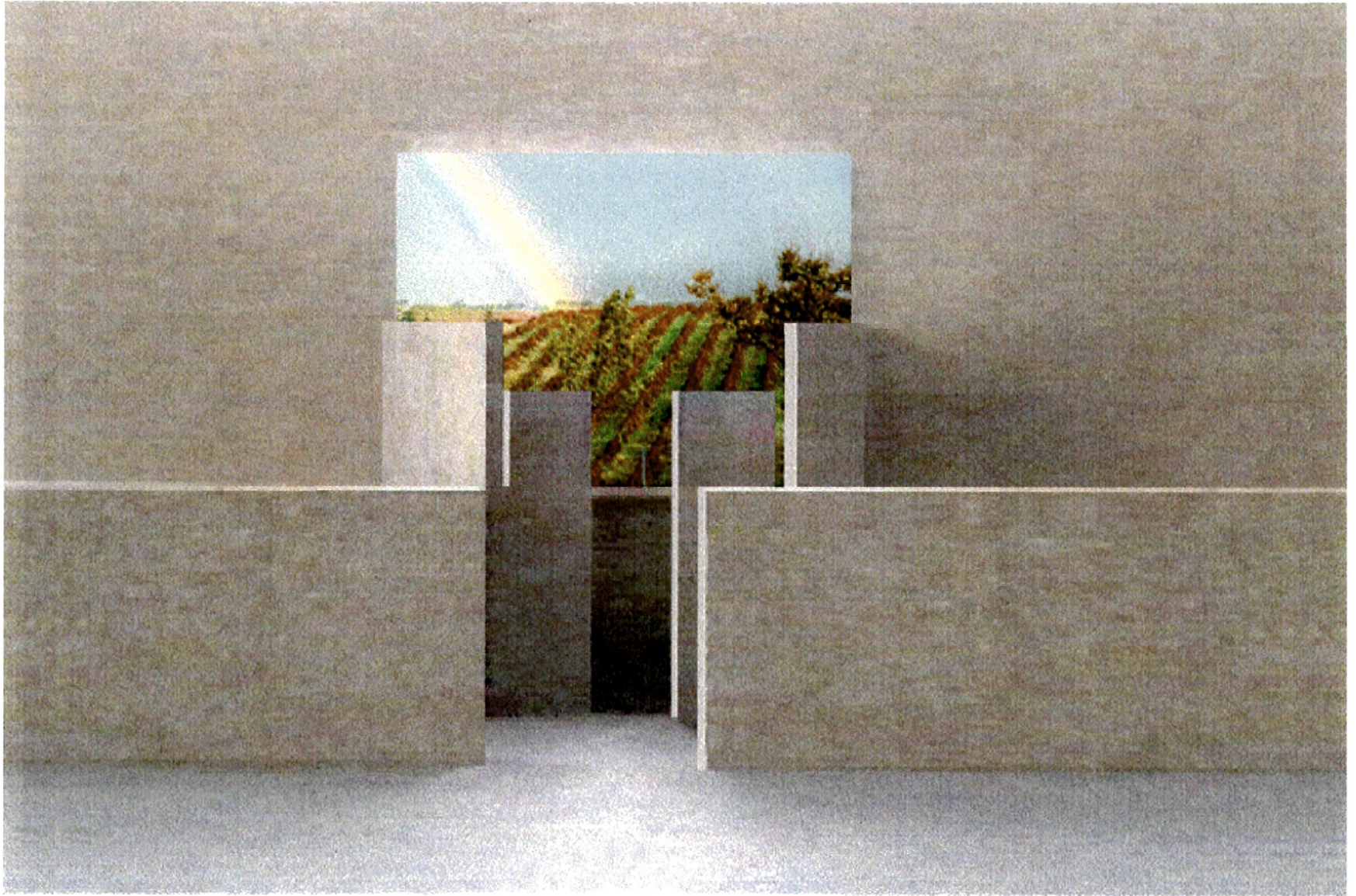
elevations



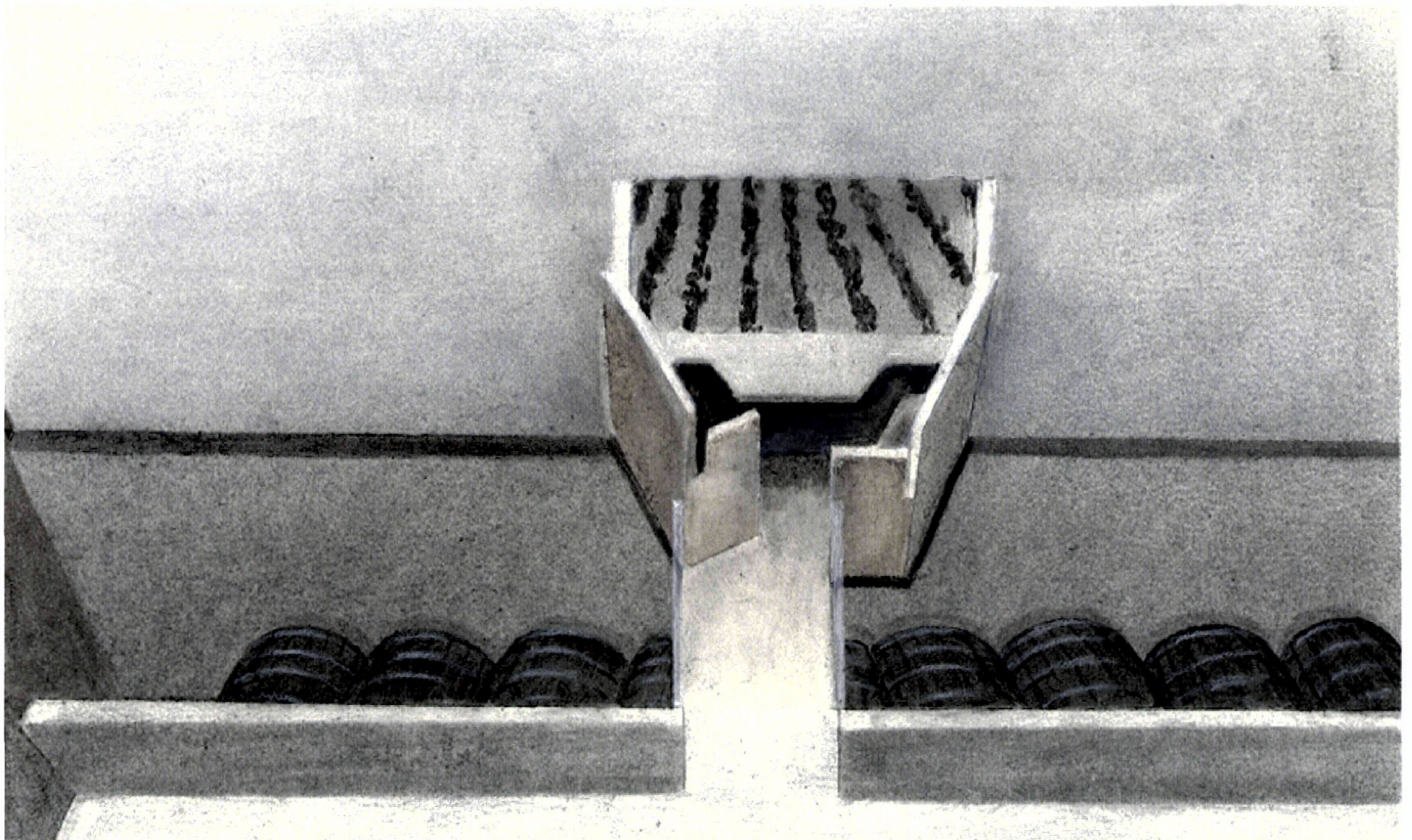
Site Drawing



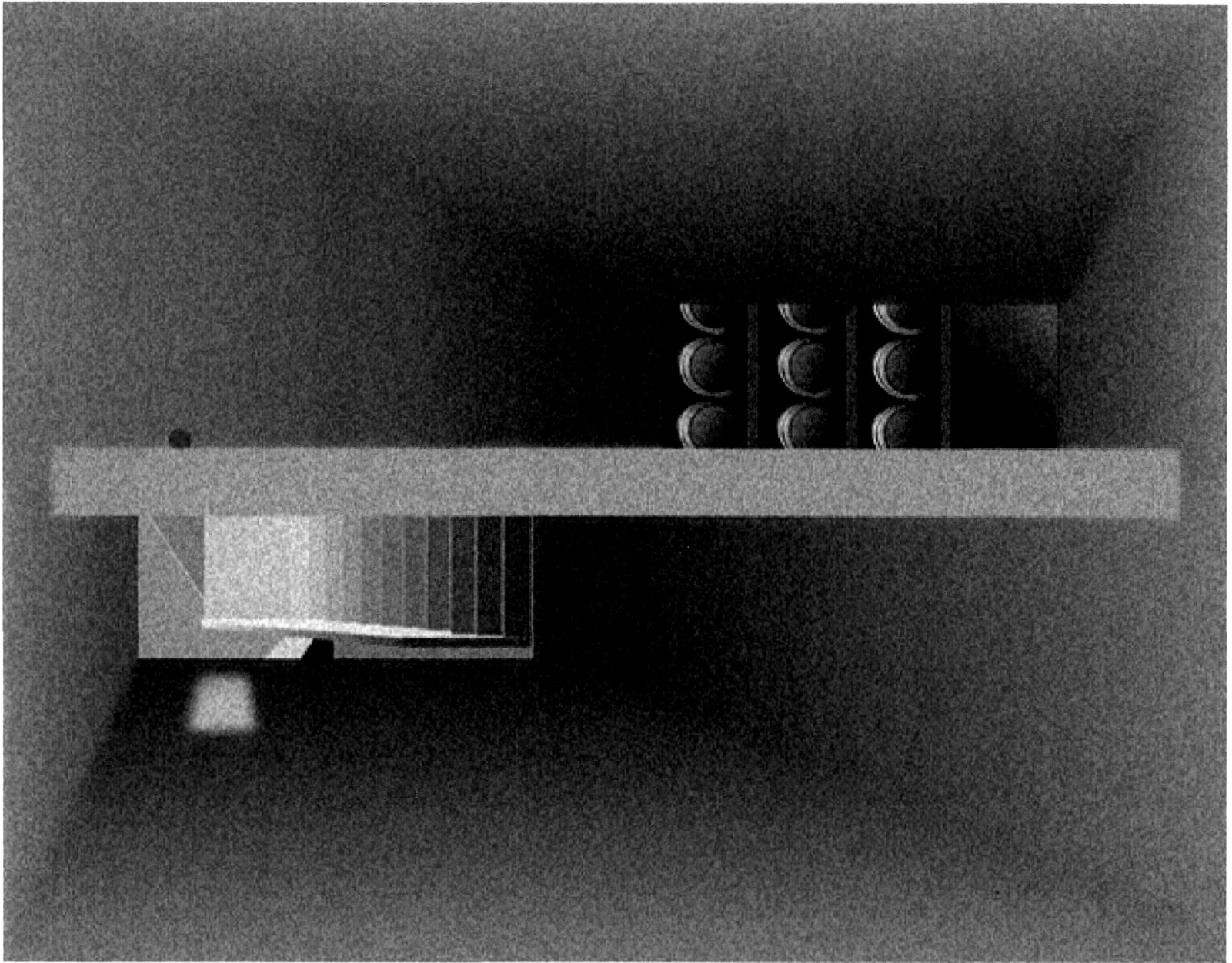
Early Concept Drawing



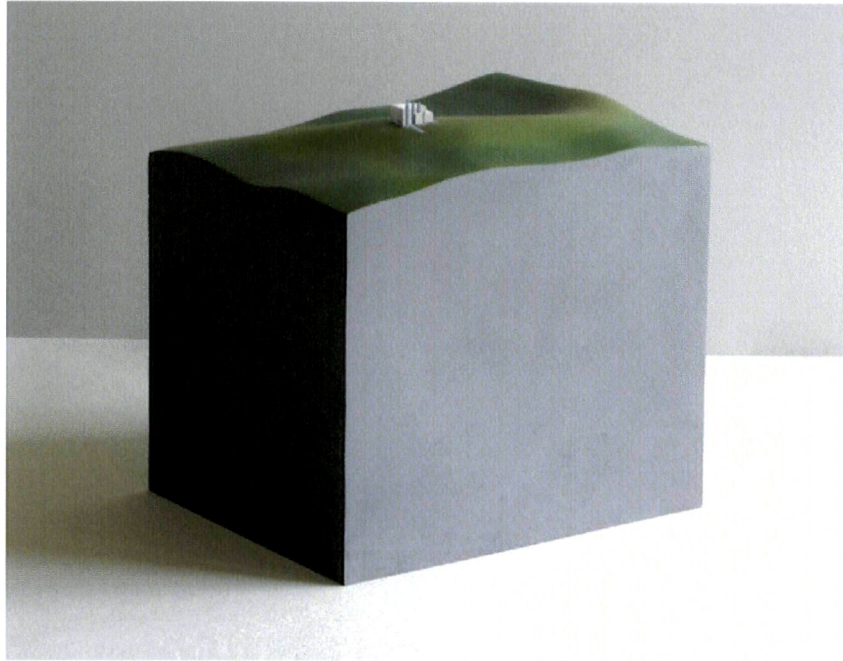
Concept Drawing Of Private Tasting Area Seen From Racking Level



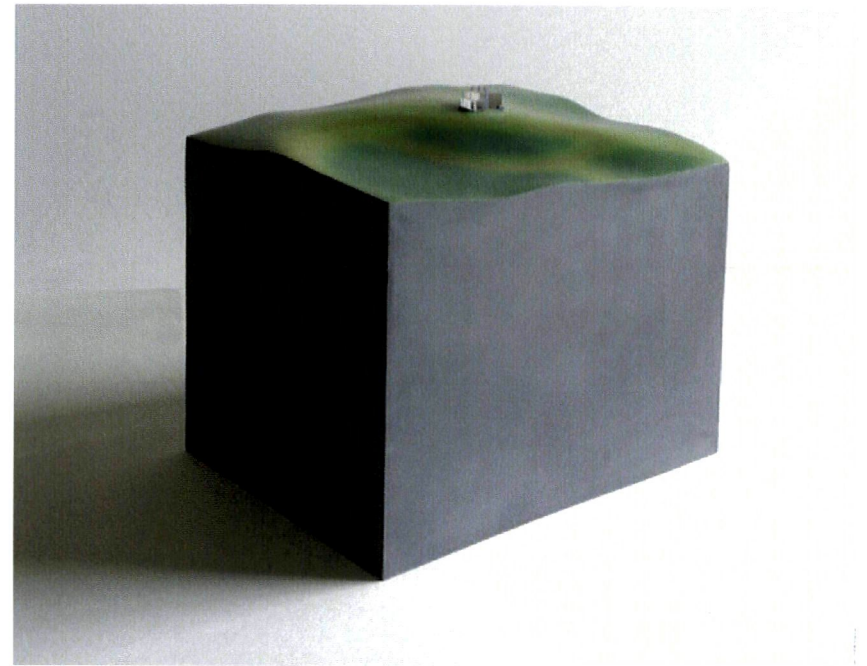
Concept Drawing Of Private Tasting Area



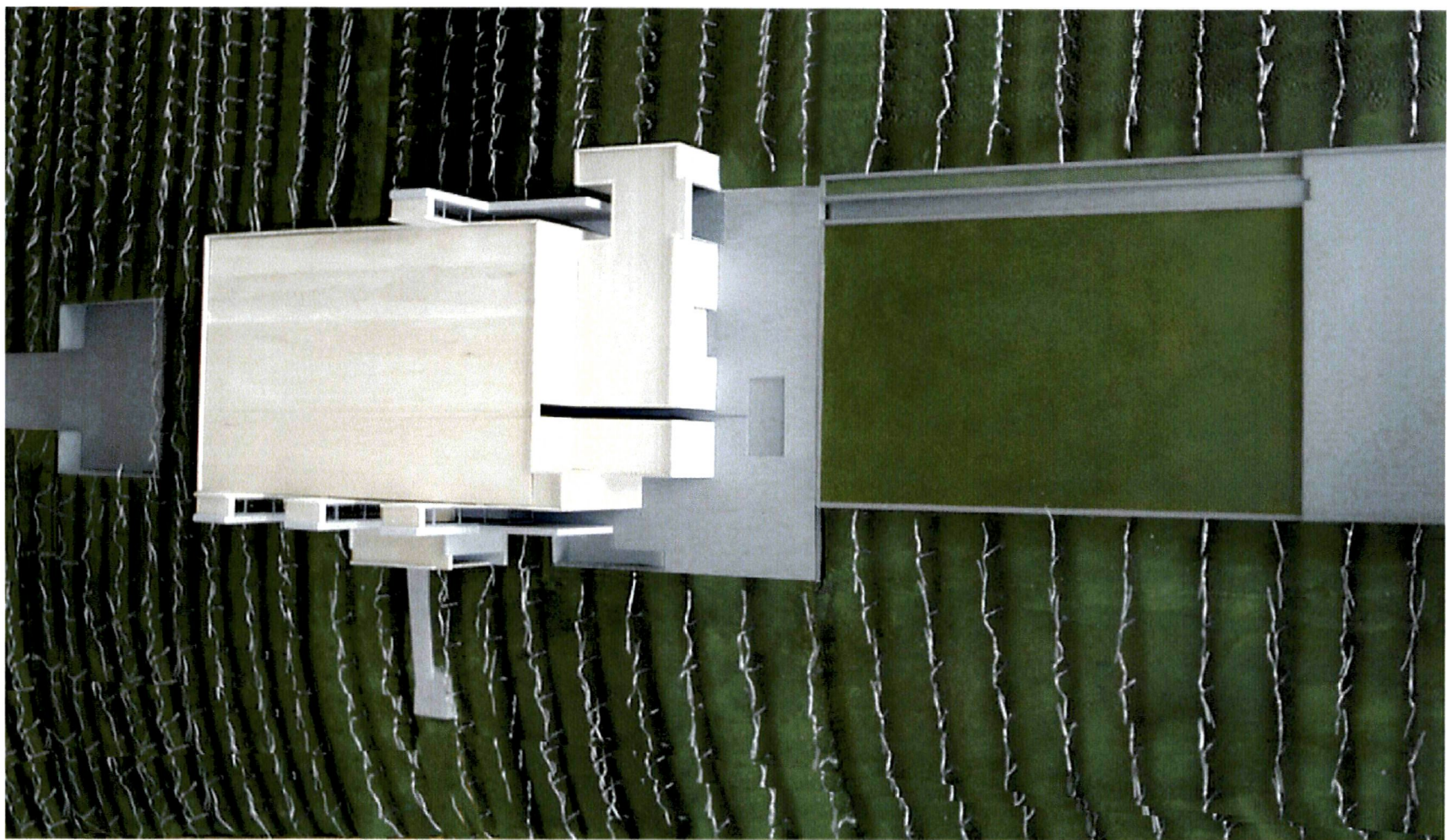
Ramps Between Racking Level And Barrel Room From Landing



Small Scale Site Model North-East View



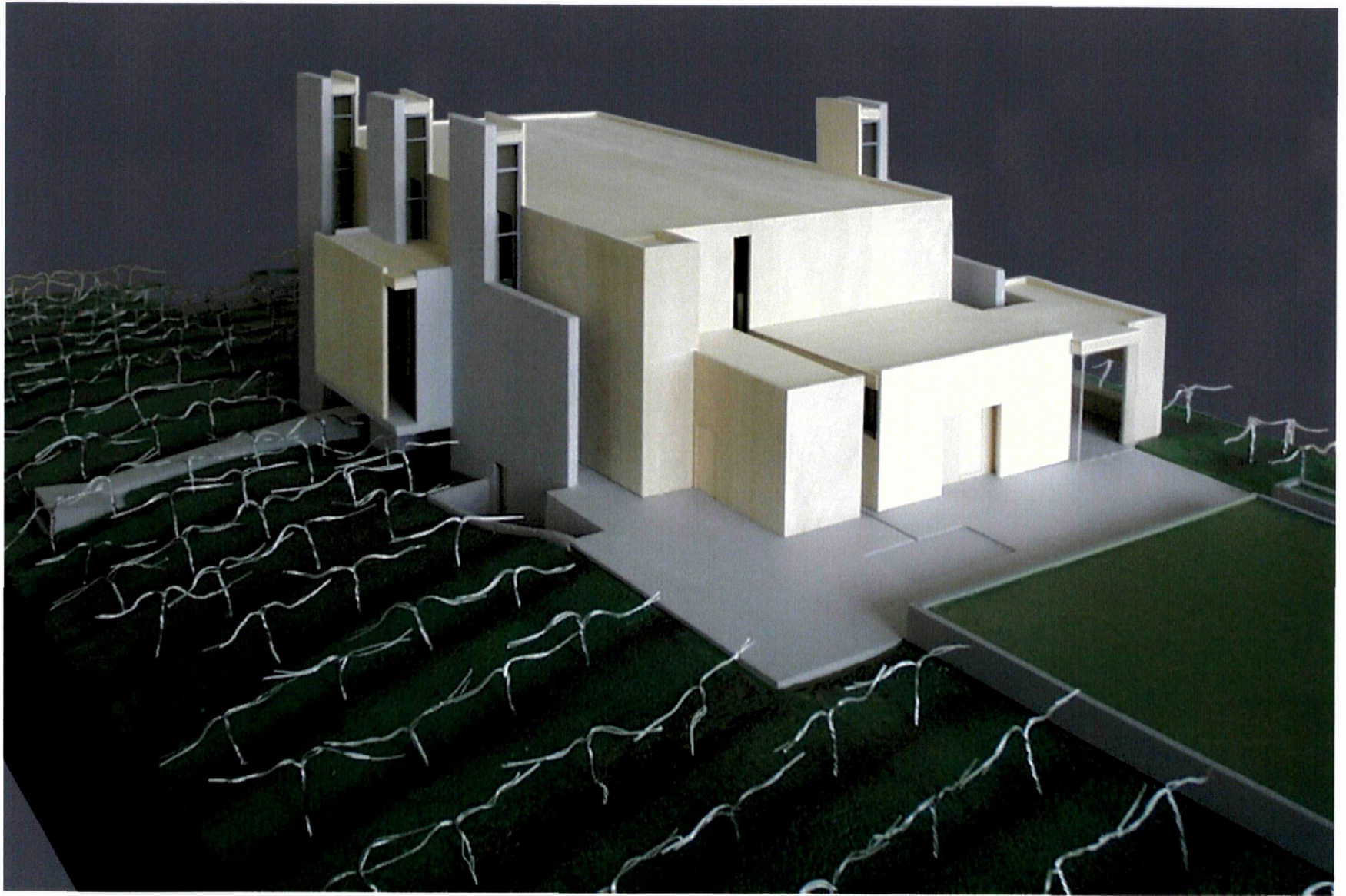
South-West View



Model In Site



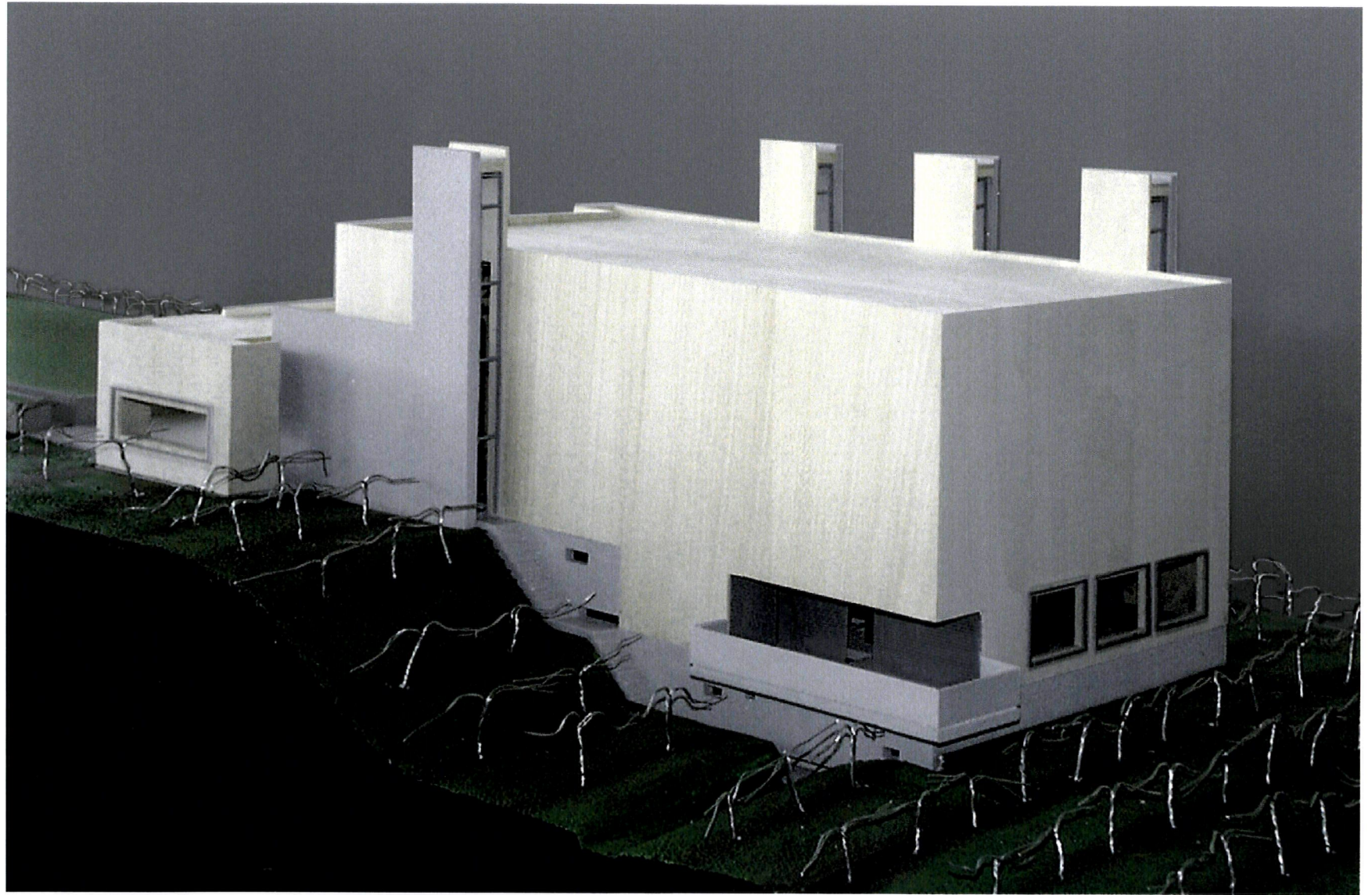
View Of Entrance From Parking



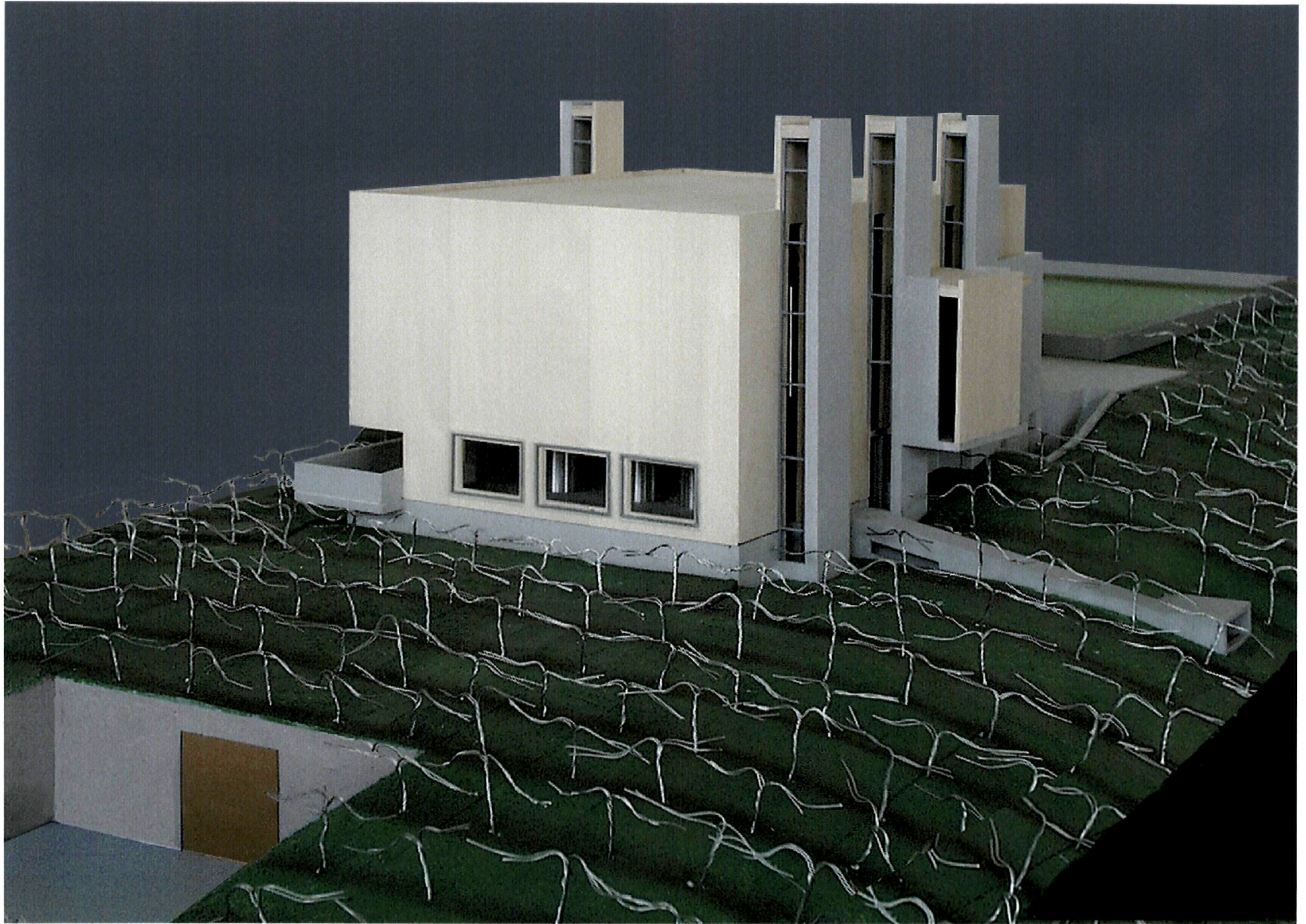
South-East View



North-East View



North-West View



South-West View



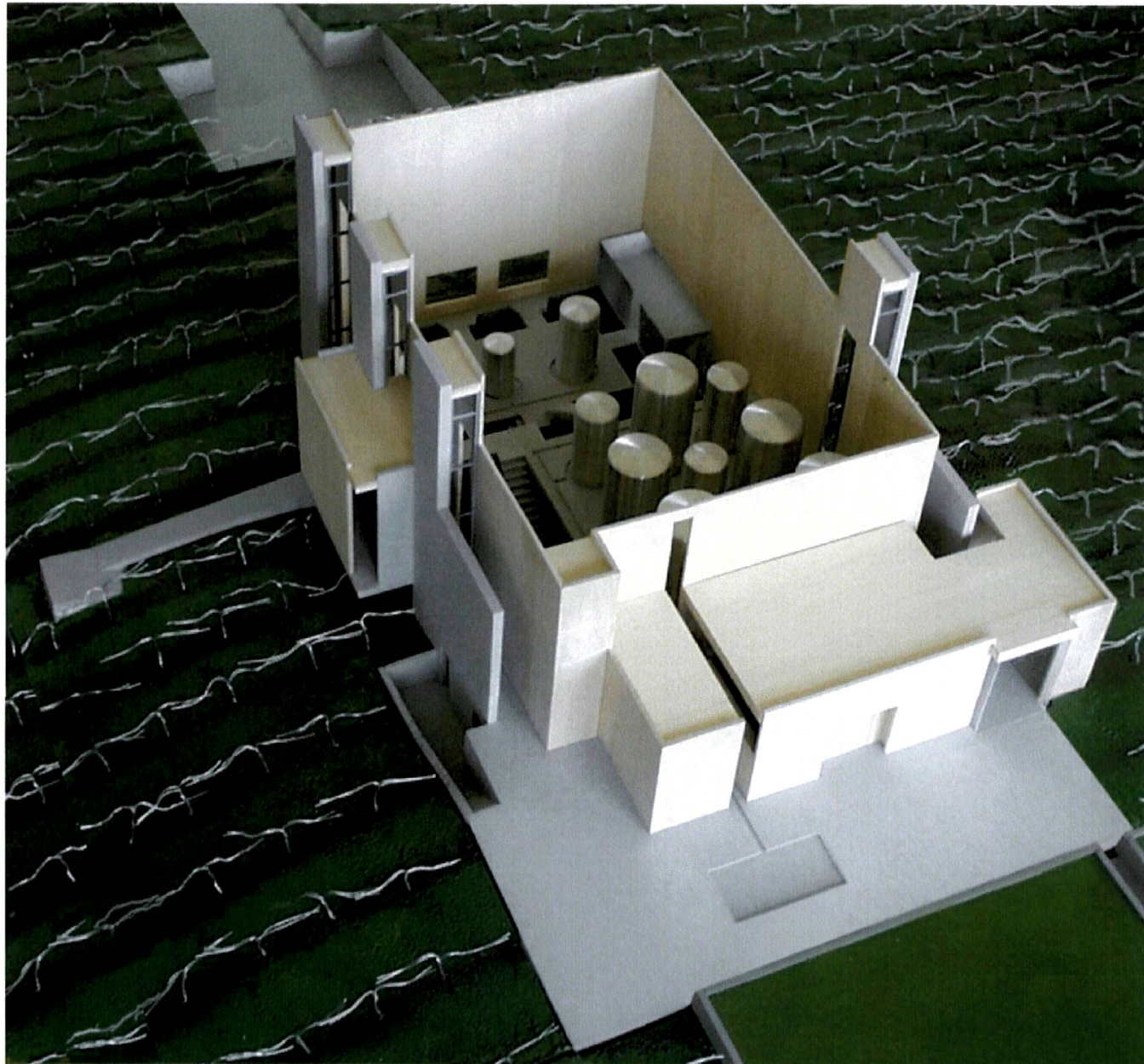
Entrance View In Landscape



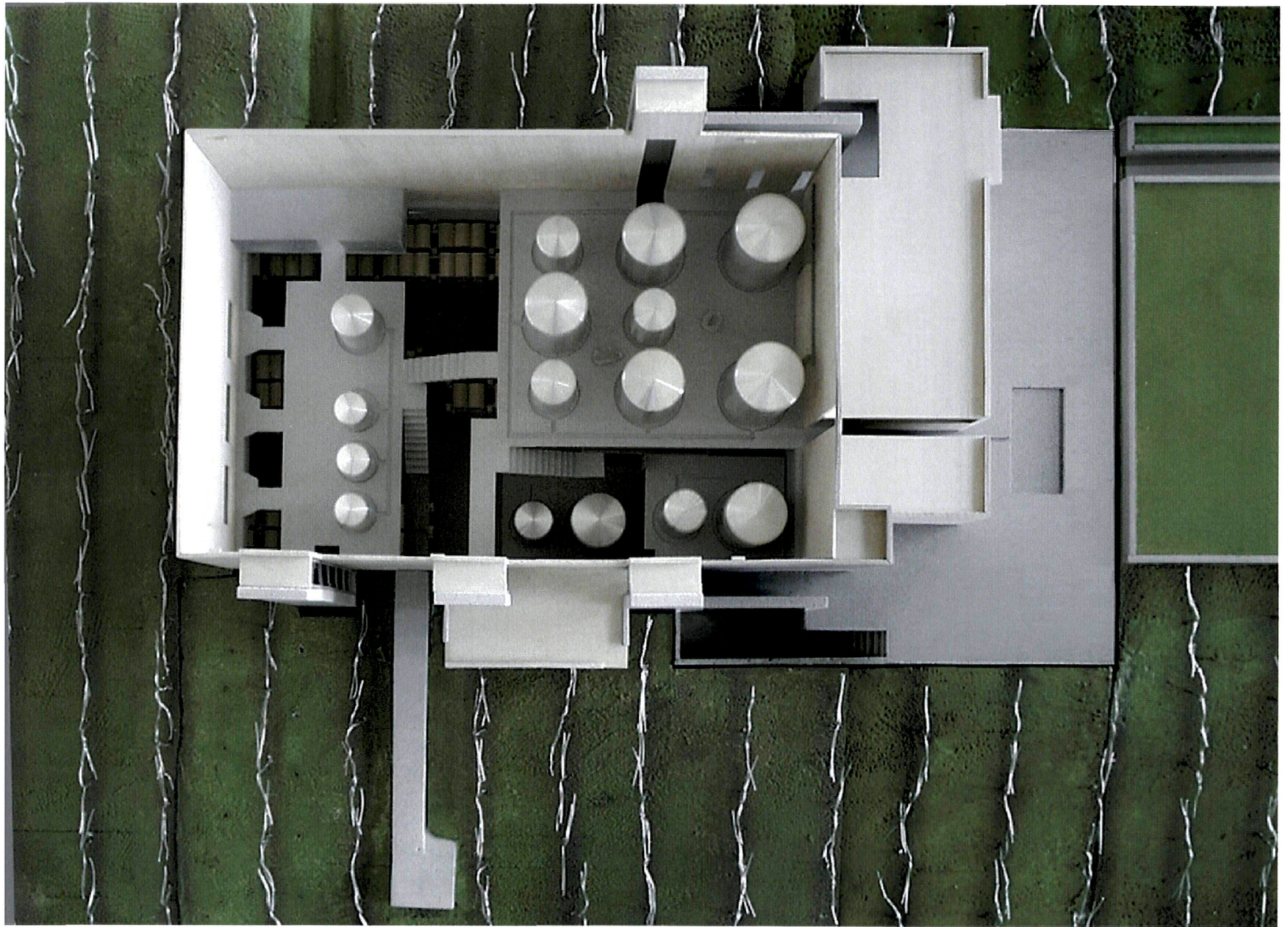
North-West View In Landscape



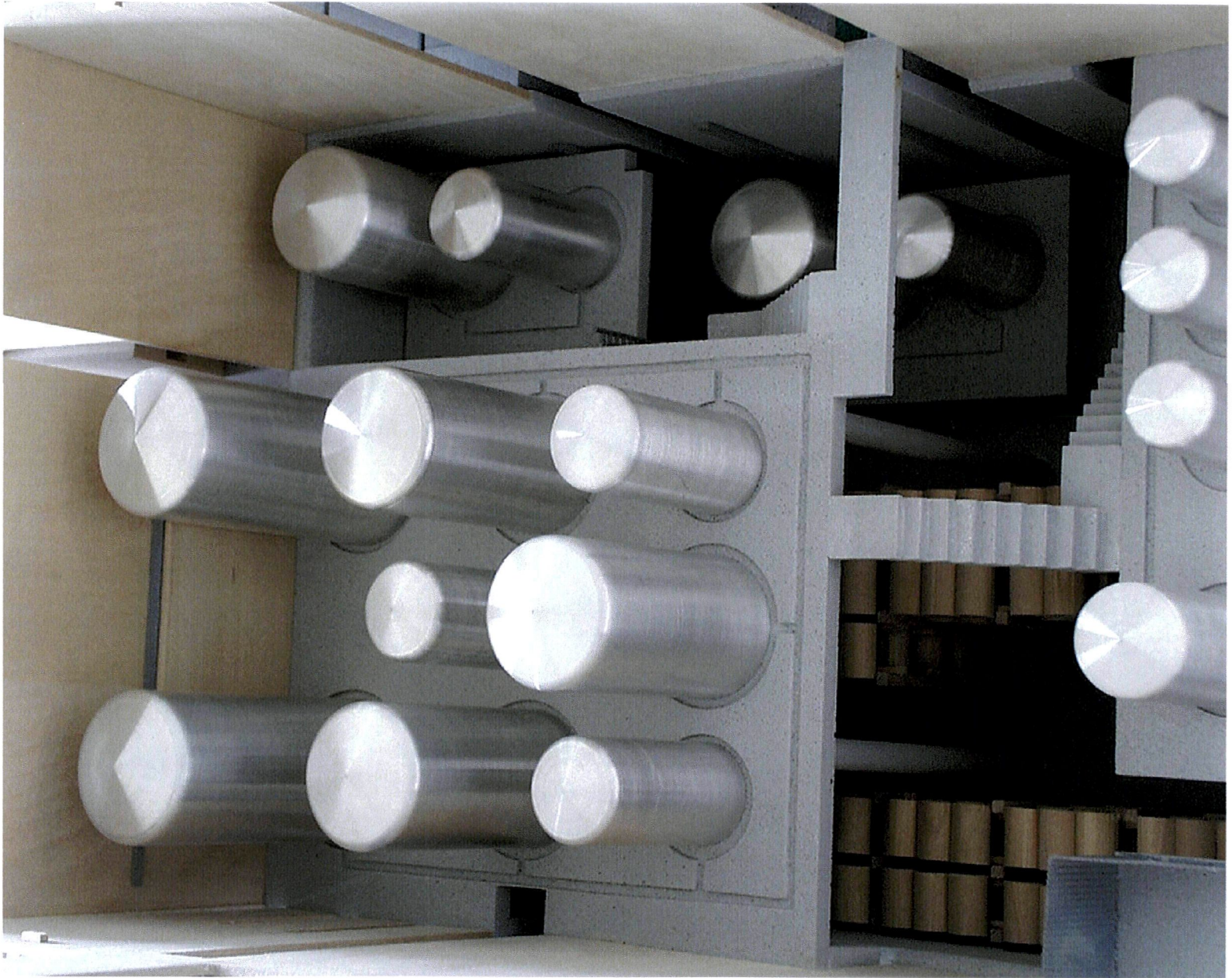
South-West View In Landscape Showing Freight Entrance



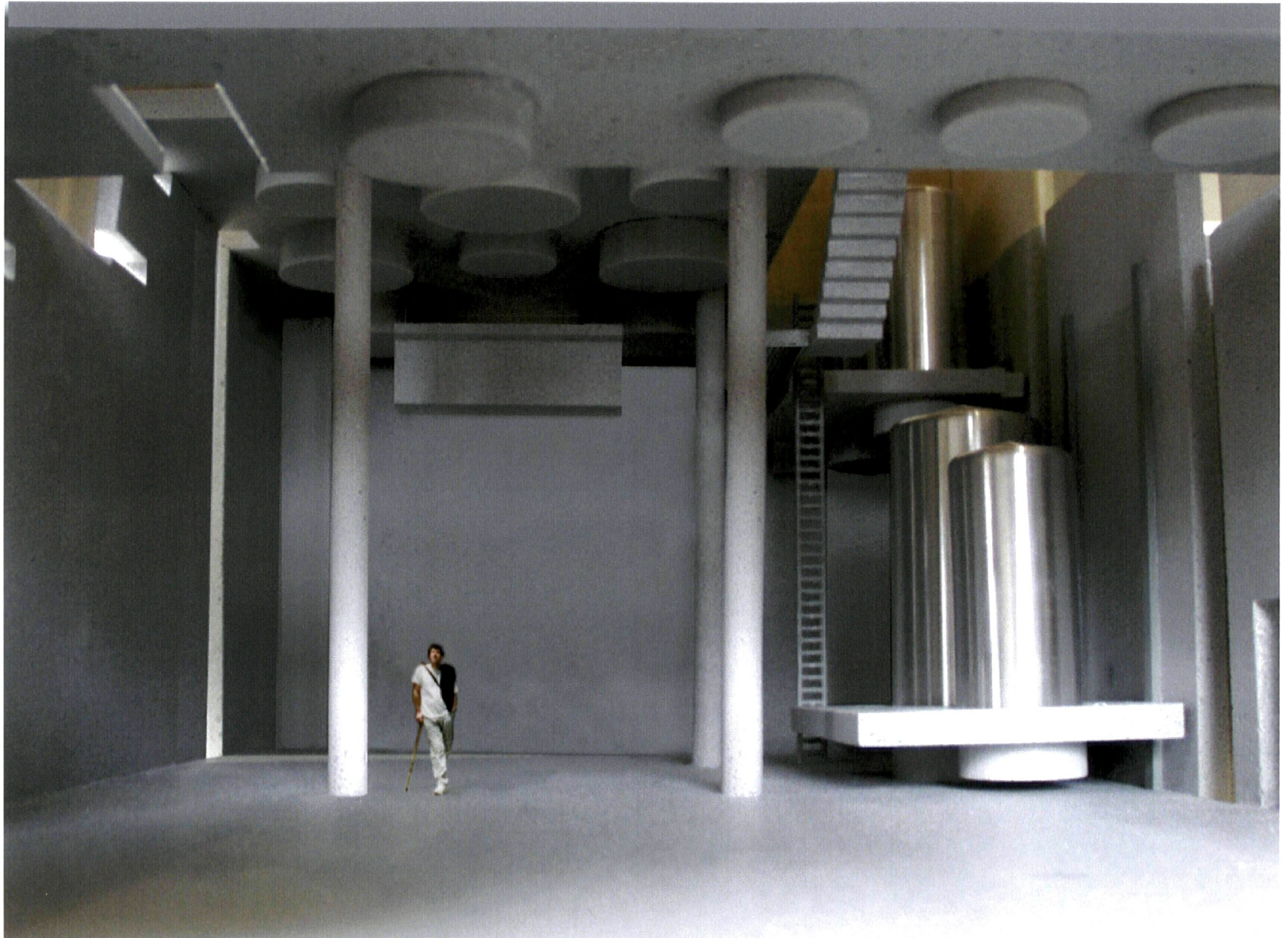
Overhead View From South-East - Roof Removed



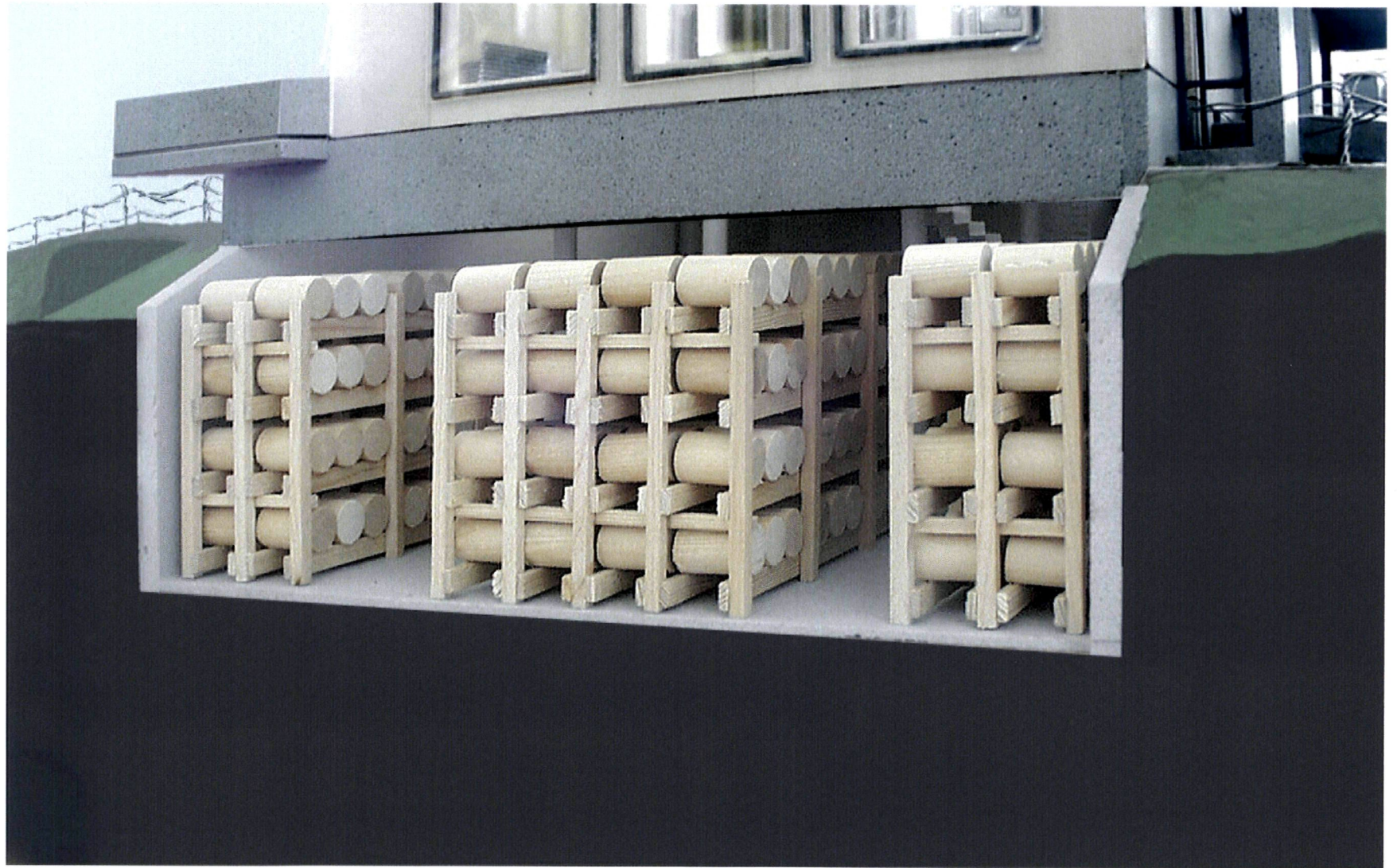
Overhead View - Roof Removed



Overhead View Of Interior



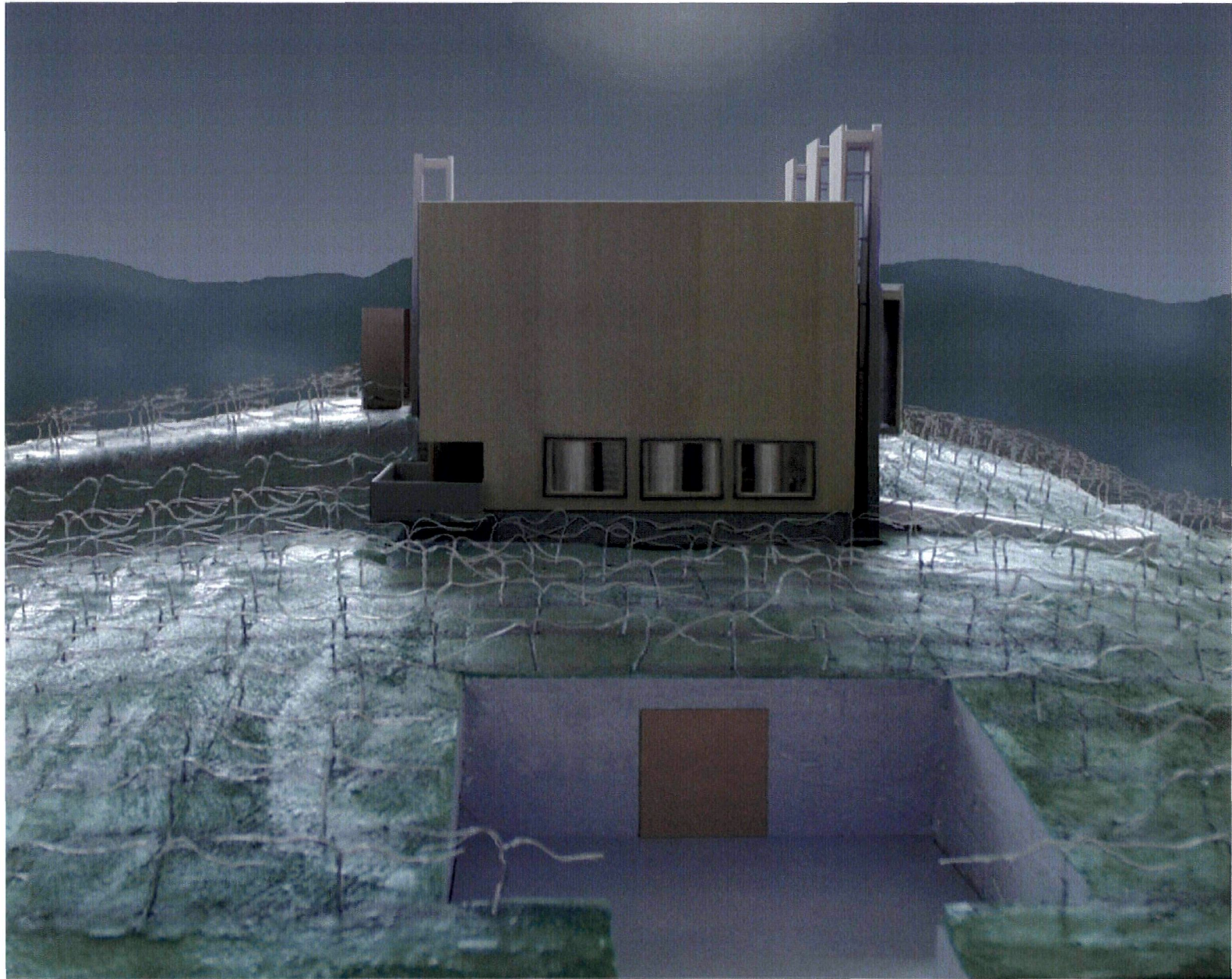
View Of Barrel Room



Cut-Away Showing Barrel Room



View Of Entrance With Existing Oak



Icy Dawn At The Winery