

ARCHITECTURE



S W I T Z E R L A N D

Theo Hotz, Zürich

1979–81

District jail in Zürich

Dialogue between epochs

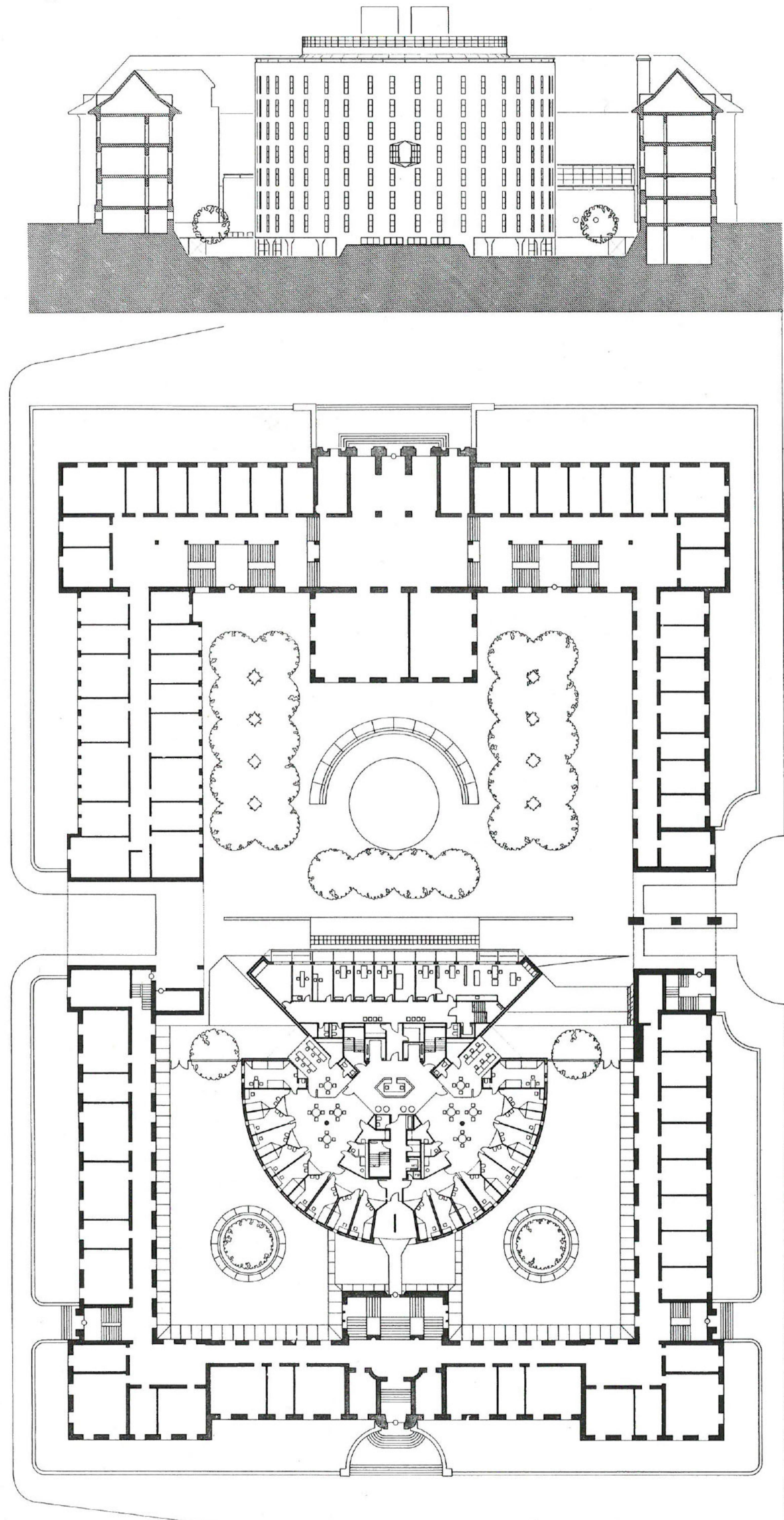
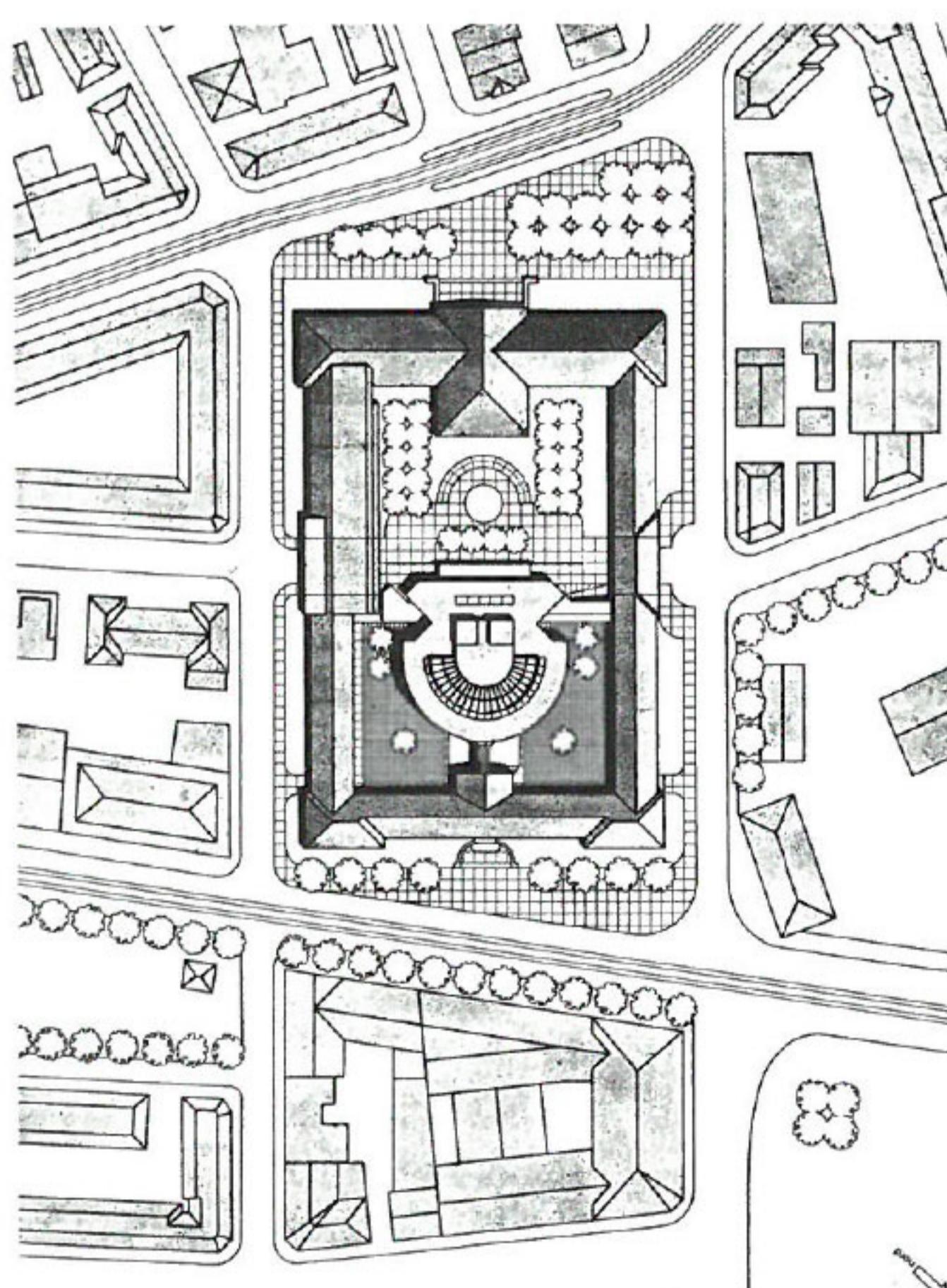
The basic idea of the project of upgrading an existing courtyard by inserting a geometric formal element in the place of awkward structures set within a rectangular area built up on four sides is achieved by detaching the new building from the surrounding old parts. In this way the more generous dimensions of the inner court can once again be experienced. A dialogue of antithetical contrasts is engendered between buildings each of which sturdily proclaims the architecture of its era and its primary forms — the cube and the cylinder.

Elevation and plan (execution)

1:1000

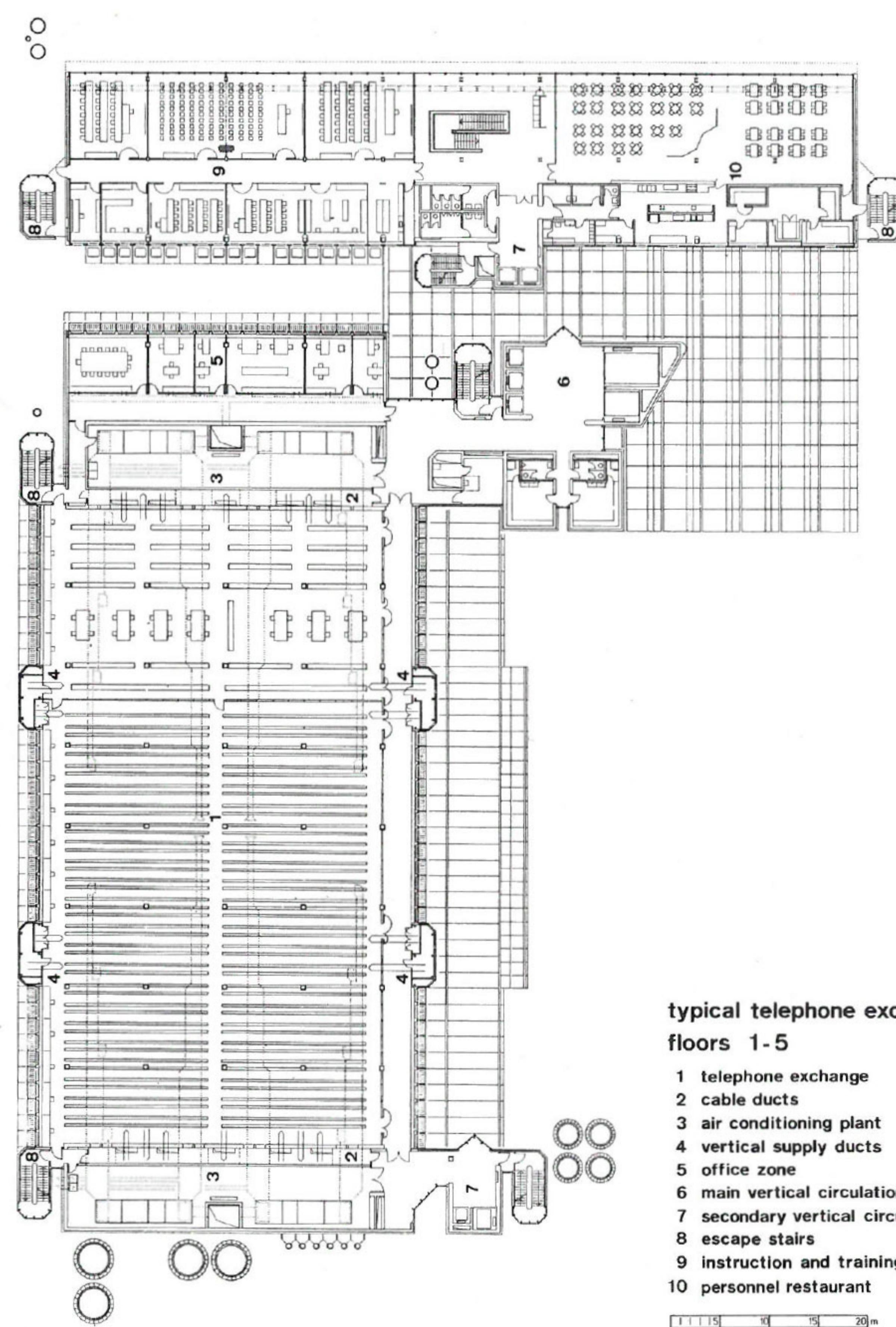
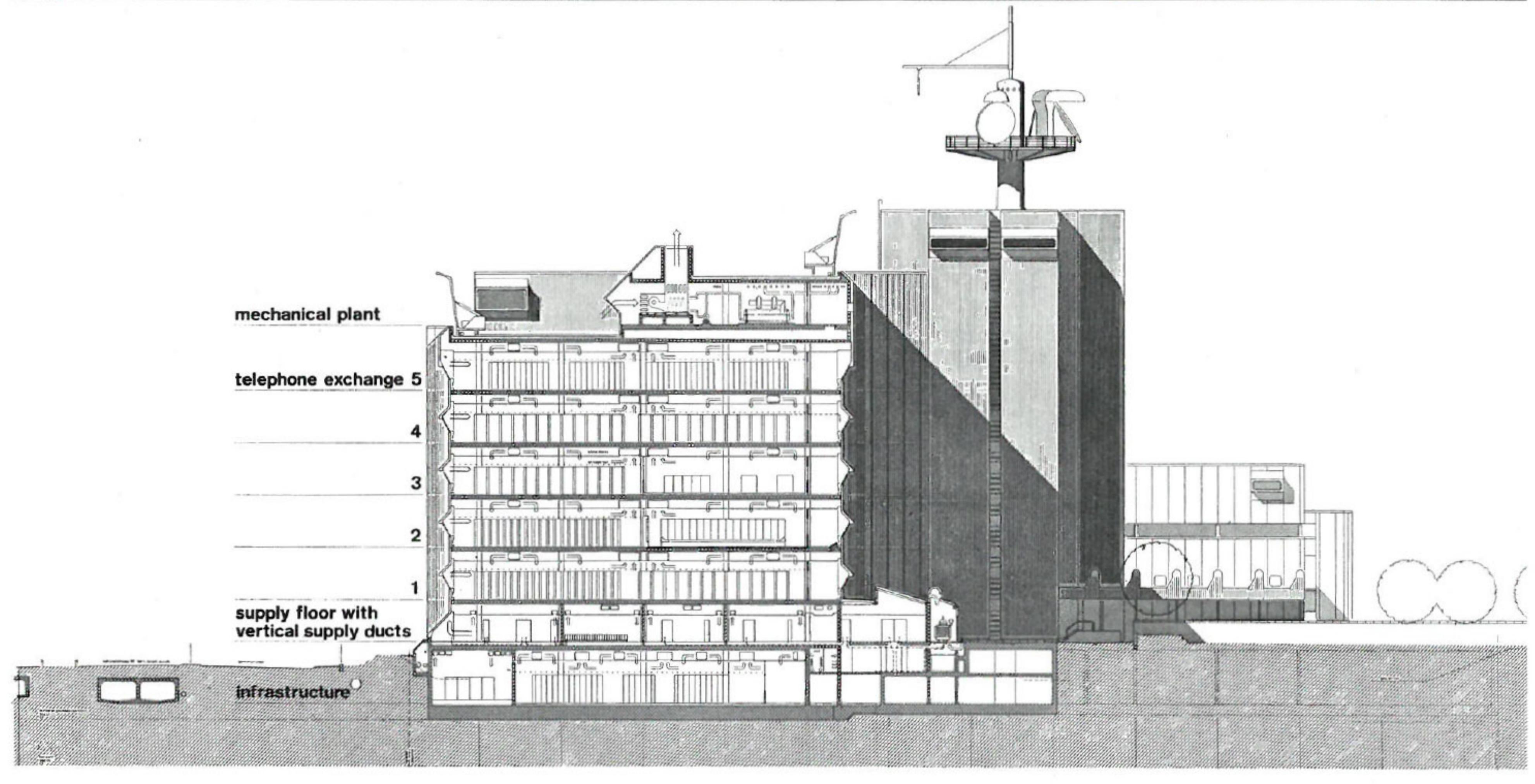
Situation (project)

1:5000



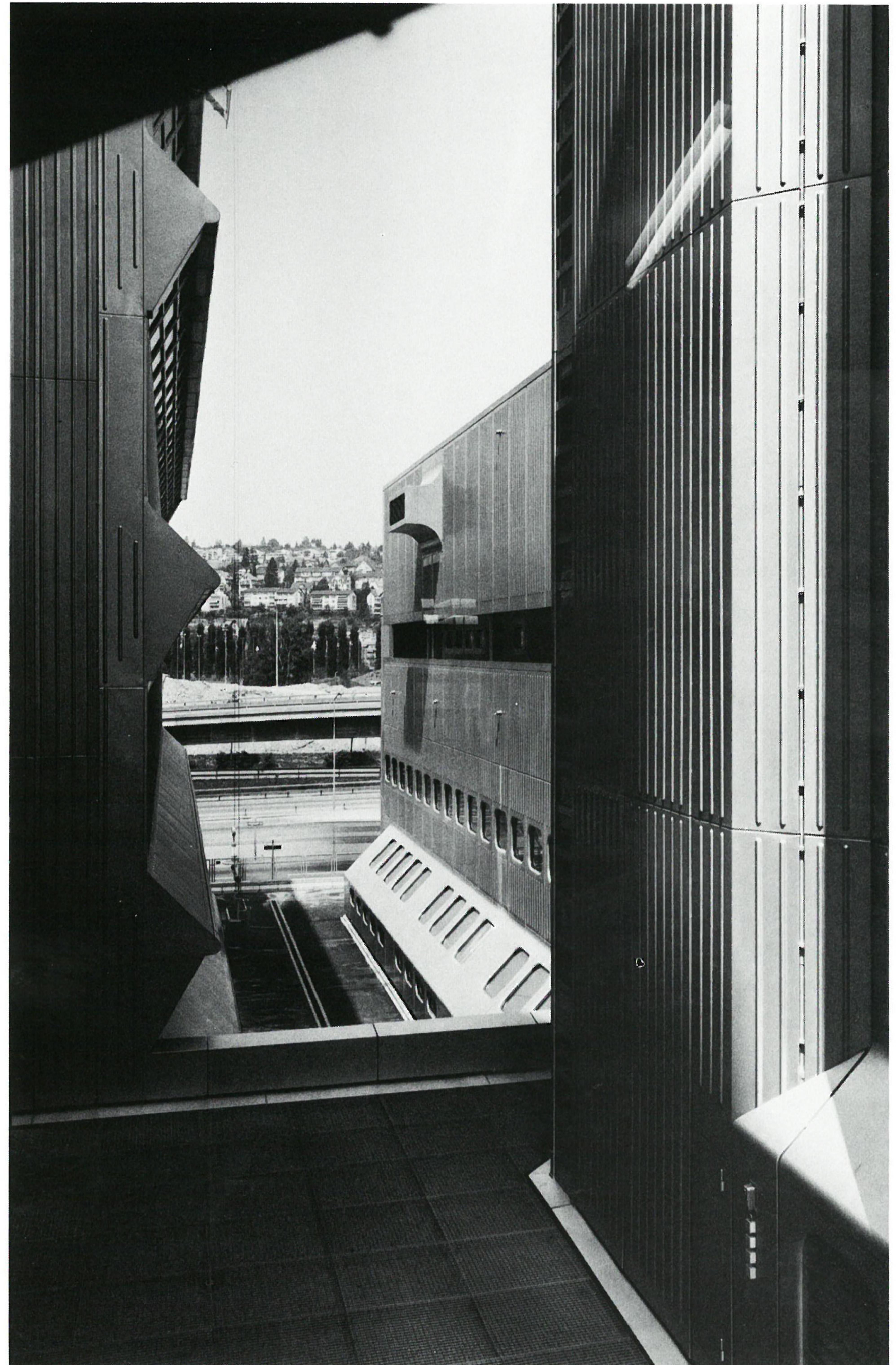
Structure and mass

The object was to create a 'cathedral of technology' to stand out in the monotony of its environs and to mark the edge of the city for road users. A dialogue is induced between sophisticated aesthetics and the infrastructure of the traffic moloch. Planning and design are both equally adequate to the task and succeed in unifying inner and outer space.



Elevation and section, plan (1st to 5th floors)





This building, with its metallic, mechanical technoid character (aluminium), received the R.S. Reynolds Memorial Award, Washington 1979