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JUST ADD WATER

RETHINKING THE URBAN BATH HOUSE FOR CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

JUST ADD WATER



J U S T A D D W A T E R

RETHINKING THE URBAN BATH HOUSE FOR CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

RESEARCH DOCUMENT AS
PREPARATION FOR THE DESIGN
THESIS IN ARCHITECTURE

ADVISORS: **RICHARD ROSA**
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SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

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B.ARCH
DECEMBER 2011



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The cult of the bath reflects the attitudes that the bathers held toward their bodies, sin, nudity relaxation, and religion. While most societies developed different ways of creating physical contact with water, incorporating the philosophy and temperament of their people and their environment, they always seemed to have the same elements in common -

*s p i r i t u a l ,
h y g i e n i c ,
t h e r a p e u t i c ,
a n d s o c i a l .*



SYNOPSIS

The history of bathing and the bath is incredibly rich, diverse, and complex. While most societies developed different ways of creating physical contact with water, incorporating the philosophy and temperament of their people and their environment, they always seemed to have the same elements in common - spiritual, hygienic, therapeutic, and social. They were institutions that reflected a holistic conception of health. The cult of the bath reflects the attitudes that the bathers held toward their bodies, sin, nudity, relaxation, and religion. The bath as we know it in contemporary culture, is therefore a great impoverishment upon this legacy. Bath culture was transformed and transgressed to a Spa culture, a leisure and passive experience from a once active experience.

This contrast between passive and active calls for thinking of the bathhouse as a programmatic mash-up or a hybrid organization which can lend itself to more than a place for bathing. Programmatic hybridity is key to understanding the spectacle and richness of bathhouse cultures; it was customary to have libraries, lecture halls, reading rooms, barbers, galleries and promenades. Such programmatic hybridity created not only complex spatial organizations but made the bathhouses truly public institutions of the time.

While the bathhouse in antiquity represented the collective, political and social aspirations of a people, they were also intensely personal, sensorial and physical. A bathhouse is experienced not just through the sense of vision but also through the senses of touch, smell, taste and sound.

As a result of globalization, our cities have become locus points for the production of ideas. Central to the success and the production of the city is proximity. The internet is no substitute for face-to-face interaction, when we interact with each other we communicate with more than just words; we can read oral, visual, and olfactory clues given off by our fellow humans.



THESIS STATEMENT

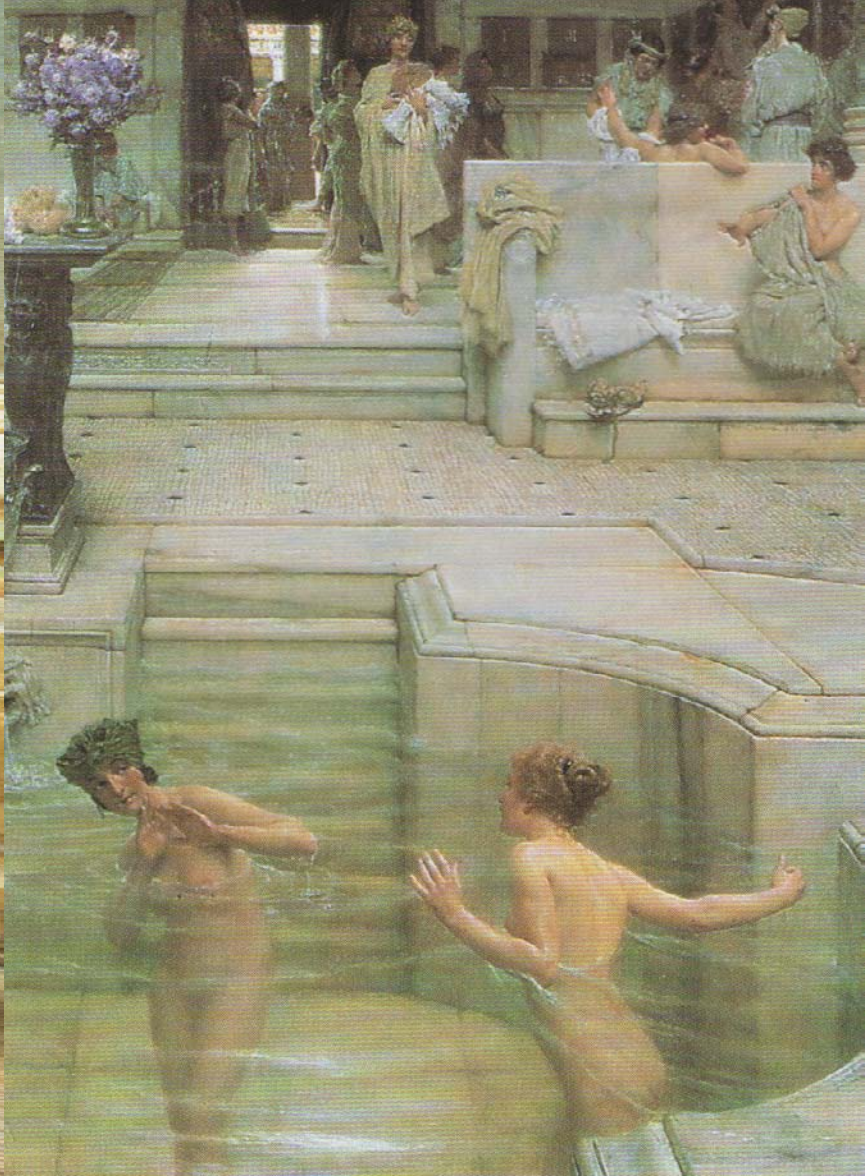
There is a need, and an opportunity now to rethink and reintroduce the public bathhouse in the contemporary urban city, and bathhouse is a ripe typology for invention and interpretation when considered against with the trend of exclusive spas . I content that a new conception of urban public bathhouse can initiate new social dynamics, new social opportunities, and new public behavior.



EVERYTHING BATHS AND BATHING

"I must go have a bath. Yes, it's time. I leave; I get myself some towels and follow my servant. I run and catch up with the others who are going to the baths and I say to them one and all, 'How are you? Have a good bath! Have a good supper!'"

These beguiling words taken from the pages of a schoolboy's exercise book, used roughly 1,800 years ago, vividly express the importance of bathing in Roman civilization.



THE ELEMENT WATER

Water always played an important role in civilization, not just as element of survival, but in culture as well; “water has always been celebrated as a source of energy - physical and metaphysical”.¹ It has manifested itself in myths and legends in the form of creatures, deities, heroes, and people. “While most societies developed different ways of creating physical contact with water, incorporating the philosophy and temperament of the people and their environment, they always seemed to have the same elements in common - spiritual, hygienic, therapeutic, and social”.²

GRECIAN BATHS

The Greeks were among the first to create public baths in the effort to provide water for the masses and promote cleanliness. The baths were part of the gymnasium centers which promoted sport and education; after strenuous exercise in the gymnasium it was essential to bath before entering the discussion halls.

THERMAE ET BALNEA

It is in Rome that we see bathing at its highest point of splendor. It could be said that this level of grandeur and importance for bathing has not been surpassed since, they “...deserve the credit for combining the spiritual, social, and therapeutic values of bathing and exalting it to an art”.³ They had a holistic understanding of health that encompassed the physical and the social. These bathing facilities, called *thermae* and *balnea*, were developed around the 4th or 5th to 1st century BC, and they were an integral part of urban life that



offered relaxation, social gathering, and worship. For many it developed into a daily regimen after work; it was easy to spend several hours at the bath.

SEQUENCE

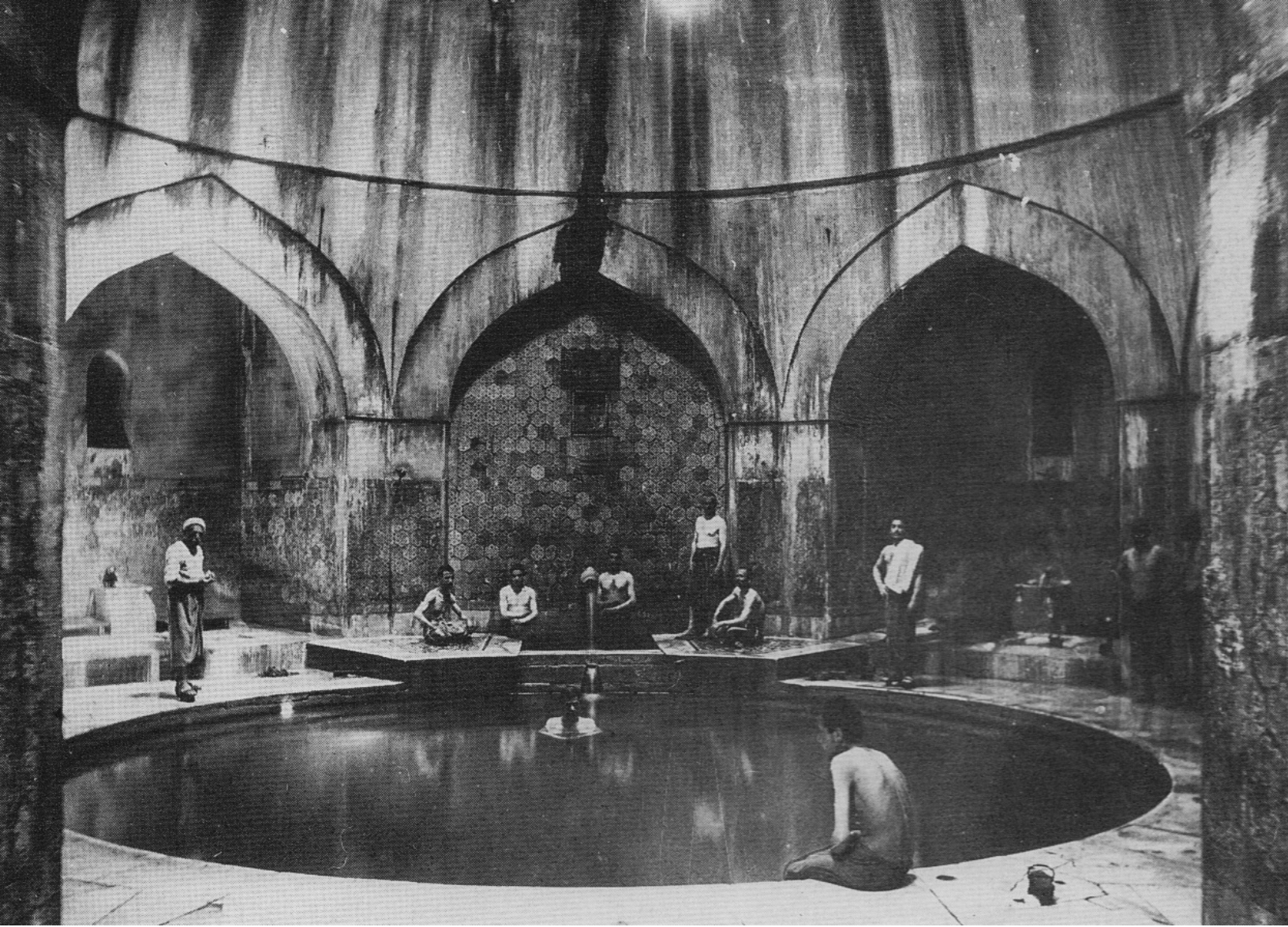
“when the inward heart had been cooled to refreshment they stepped into the bathtubs smooth-polished, and bathed here, and after they had bathed and anointed themselves with olive oil they sat down to dine”.⁴

The public baths were built around three principle rooms: the caldarium (hot bath), the tepidarium (warm bath) and the frigidarium (cold bath). Some of the baths also featured a sudatorium (moist steam bath) and a laconicum (dry steam bath). The baths generally opened around 1:00 PM announced by the ringing of a bell. The first stop in the bath would have been the dressing room where they could undress and leave their clothes (much like our contemporary locker room). After undressing bathers would move into the tepidarium as a way to acclimate and prepare their bodies before entering the caldarium. If there was a laconicum this would have been the next stage of the sequence where they would have sweated as much as possible. After the caldarium or laconicum bathers would take a plunge in the frigidarium which closed the pores and rejuvenated the body.

Once the bathing process was complete and the bathers felt relaxed they could socialize in the other facilities of the complex.

BATH COMPLEX

Adopted from the Greek palaestra, or gymnasium where sports took place, and connected to the baths, the Roman bath developed into



a multifunctional complex incorporating libraries for studying, meeting rooms for lectures, poetry and music, and gardens for promenading.

“It was no accident that bathing was often regarded as a function as vital as eating, drinking, making love and laughing”.⁵

The ancient Roman baths might be compared to our contemporary community centers that include library, art gallery, mall, restaurant, gym and spa.

THE NUDE FIGURE

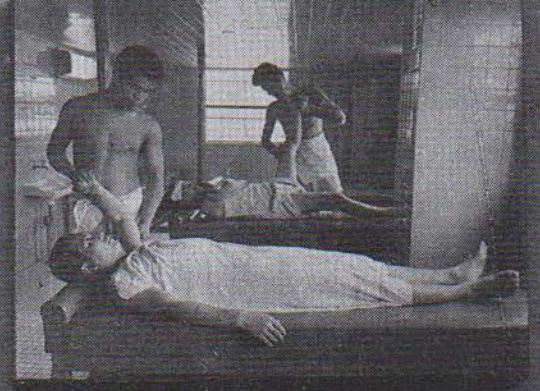
Originally men and women bathed separately, but soon it was acceptable for men and women to bath together. There were still separate facilities for people who preferred to bath in private but for the most part people preferred mixed bathing. One bather remarked “Baths, wine, and women corrupt our bodies, but these things make life itself”.⁶ Considering the evident popularity in Roman sculpture and the arts, which considered the human form an ideal, this “...indicates peoples who celebrated a healthy and beautiful body just as much as they honored a quick and agile mind”.⁷ With the introduction of Christianity nudity and flesh were seen as a sin and the culture of bathing was lost until later on in history. Even today the reaction to nudity is mixed reaction around the world.

HAMAMS

In Turkey the baths are called Hamams which in Arabic means “spreader of warmth”. The Hamam is very closely related to the ancient Greek and Roman bath practices; it too was a place for both physical and spiritual purification and utilized a sequence of hot and cold



サウナ
砂時計で時間を計る



強カマツサーシ
元力士の受けもつ正しい格調



温冷浴
西式健康法に準拠した自動運転装置



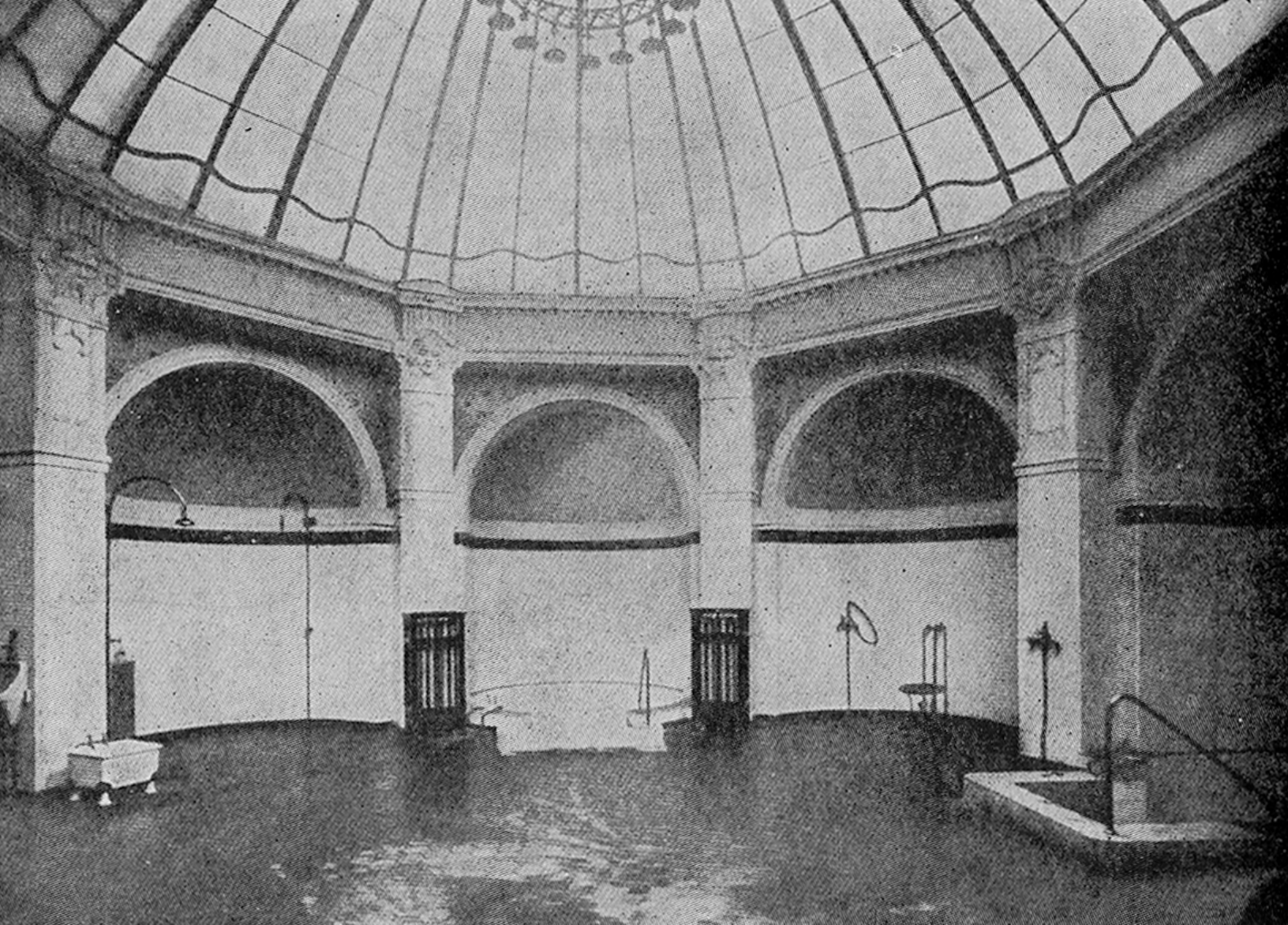
ミストルコのフッサージ
これは行居いたたのしい風情

baths. Islamic culture believed "...rejuvenation was a spiritual process requiring repose and solitude".⁸ There were some adaptations: the gymnasium was replaced by massage and the exedrae by music and contemplation. If the thermae were a place of bustling activity and bathing, the Hamam was essentially a place of non-activity. There were separate facilities for men and women; for men the hamam was "...a special place of collective masculinity devoid of aggression..." and for women "...going to the hamam was the most important social and religious activity".⁹ Today the Hamams are still in operation and are very much a part of the social culture of Turkey.

JAPANESE BATHS

"Hadaka to hadaka no tsukiai (bathing buddies are the best of friends)".¹⁰

Japan's location on a volcanic island has resulted in an abundance of natural springs all over the country, regarded as sacred gifts from the gods and from the earth. The bathhouse as an integral part of social life started around the 17th century. They quickly became places for the working classes who wanted a place where they could shed problems and connect with friends. Originally men and women bathed together and families would bath together with their children; there was no shame in nudity. The acceptance of men and women bathing together naked did change and vary over time. In the Roman thermae the bath was an activity that occurred after exercise and refreshed the bather before socializing; "for the Japanese the bath, generally taken at night, heals the wounds incurred during the day and relaxes the bather for sleep".¹¹ Today communal bathing is still an important part of Japanese culture and the hot springs of Japan have become a major attraction for both the Japanese and tourists who come to heal themselves in their waters.



INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Baths continuously appeared and disappeared over time in Europe for various reasons. Perhaps most influential to the introduction of baths in America was the movement to bring back the bath in England and Germany which occurred in the 1820s due to some of the negative effects of the industrial revolution; "...expanding urban populations, the growth of urban slums, a series of cholera epidemics beginning in the 1830s, and rising middle-class standards of personal cleanliness...".¹²

St. George's Bath in Liverpool was the first indoor public bath, constructed in 1828. While the bath was paid for with public funds it did still require a fee to use the baths. The bath included two large swimming pools, two small plunge baths (smaller pools), eleven private tub baths, one vapor (steam) bath, and one shower bath. In 1846 "An Act to Encourage the Establishment of Public Baths and Washhouses" was passed in England which promoted the creation of more public baths at public expense and still maintained that a fee could be charged for admittance.

The Stuttgart Bathhouse was structured much like the baths in England and contained two swimming pools, one for men and one for women, three hundred dressing rooms, one hundred and two tub baths, two Russian-Roman baths for men and women, two cold water cure sections for men and women, a sun bath, and even a bath for dogs.

CLASSIFYING A BATH

- medium in which the body is immersed, or which is applied to the body
- temperature of the medium

Why did we put our heads together?

TO SAVE MONEY!



- object of the bath
- form of the bathing appliance, the manner of application and the parts bathed
- location of the baths

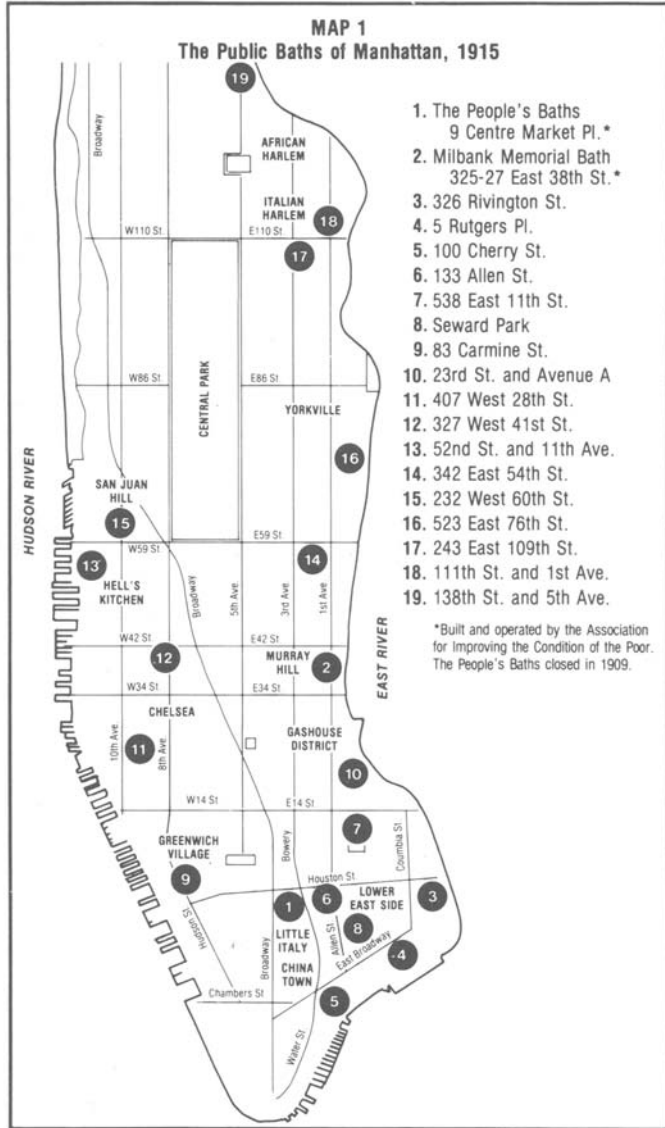
RAIN BATH

The waterfall was man's very first shower.

The ancient Greeks developed plumbing systems that allowed them to pump water in and out of buildings. From images depicted on pottery it appears that the Greeks had initiated an institution of communal showers. Athletes appear to be bathing under animal-headed spouts.

The first modern communal shower seems to have been constructed for a military barrack in 1857. While the shower could be found in private residences, it was primarily established for use in public baths, hospitals, military barracks, hospitals, and schools because of its ability to bath a large number of people quickly. In fact there were several advantages to showers over baths for bathing:

- cheaper construction and maintenance costs.
- less management required than the filling, cleaning, etc. of baths.
- takes less time than a bath, although larger numbers of people can bath at one time.
- requires less square footage.



- fresh water instead of soiled water, somewhat reduces risk of spreading diseases.
- slightly less water required than a tub.

Communal showers are not as common as they used to be but are still widely used where large numbers of people need to bathe at once, such as locker rooms, prisons, and army barracks.

PUBLIC BATHS ARRIVE IN AMERICA

The origins of the public bath movement began in the 1840's as the cultural standards for personal cleanliness became more and more important in America with the simultaneous growth of cities, immigration, and urban slums. Between the years of 1830 and 1840 New York City's population increased by 312,949 people. Many of the Irish immigrants fleeing from the famine settled in New York City, and other cities, creating new slums of incredible filth and crime, "...several hundred thousand people in the city [had] no proper facilities for keeping their bodies clean is a disgrace to the city and to the civilization of the nineteenth century".¹³ To deal with the problem, public baths were eventually constructed in America to improve the cleanliness of the poor which was considered essential to maintaining the existing fabric of society.

In 1870 the city's first free public floating baths were opened in the Hudson and East Rivers, by 1890 there were 15. The baths were 95 feet long and 60 feet wide, floating on eight pontoons. In the center of each bath was a pool divided into two parts, one for adults and one for children. The section for adults was 93 feet long, 34 feet wide, and 4.5 feet deep. The children's section was 70 feet long, 8 feet wide, and 2.5 feet deep. The baths were also equipped with 68 dressing rooms. During the 1920s, the environmental degrada-



tion of the city's rivers slowly caused the baths to close but they had paved the way for the demands for year-round baths in the city. The first bath opened in March of 1901 on Rivington Street and spurred the opening of sixteen more public baths in Manhattan, seven in Brooklyn, and one in the Bronx and one in Queens.

DECLINE OF THE BATH

With the lack of bathing facilities in tenements the bathhouses had offered people, especially in the slums, a place to get clean. However as bathing facilities in homes began to become more common, there was less reason for people to visit the bathhouses. Unlike the baths of antiquity which included various program and were organized around public space, these bathhouses had been built with the goal of washing as many people at one time. For this reason there was very little reason for people to continue to visit the baths, although they were still quite busy during the summer for people to keep cool. After World War II the baths were either demolished or converted for other uses such as public swimming pools and gymnasiums.

Wonder Sauna Hot Pants

SHORT

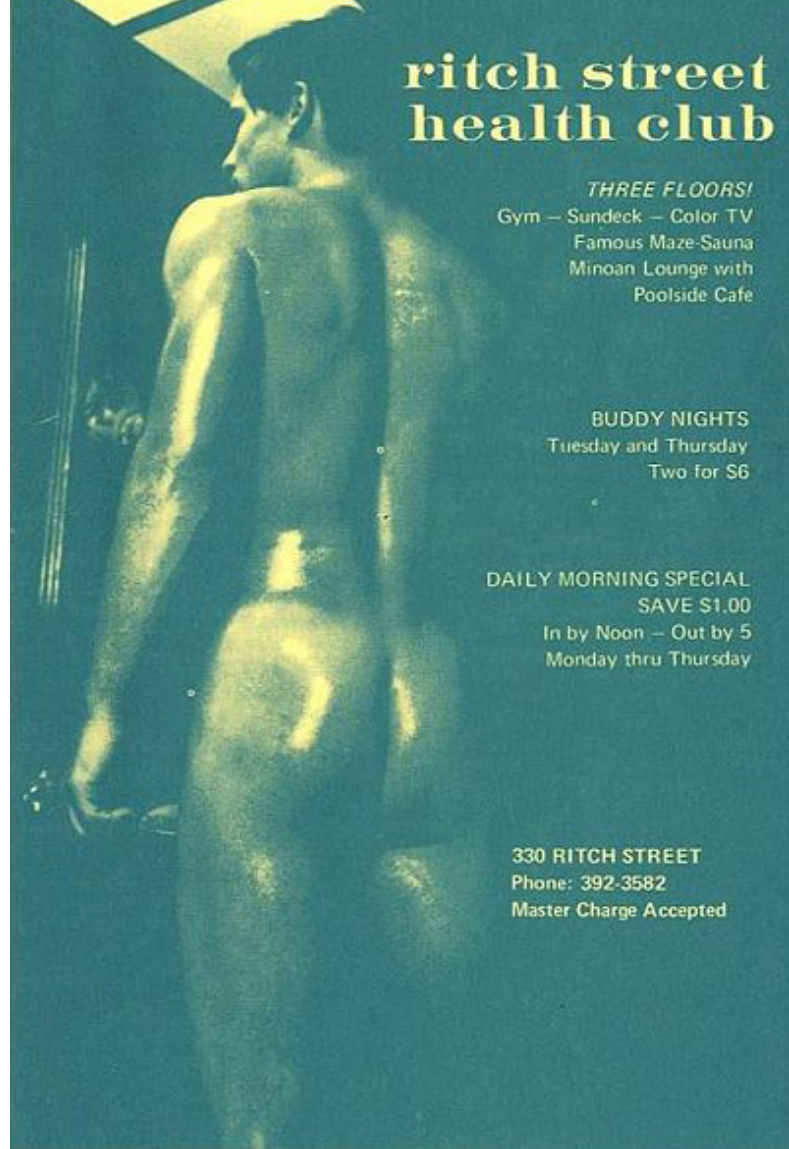
Health-Watchers of America
Look Better-Feel Better-Wake Up Your Body

FOR MEN AND WOMEN
SLENDERIZE EXACTLY WHERE YOU WANT
ONE SIZE FITS ALL — EASY TO INFLATE



SPA CULTURE

Bath culture was essentially replaced by Spa culture, a term that generally implies a space for relaxation and contemplation through interaction with water. Today the term has become overly generalized and can refer to all types of activities. Concern over environmental hazards. The water element of the spas was combined with the all different types of fitness options. Besides the healthful waters of the baths, one of the major reasons people visited the bath was for the glamorous social life, much like the Roman thermae. However, as spas continue to appear more and more they have become increasingly private. They are located in more remote locations and act as their own self-contained enclaves so that guests can forget about the real world and clear their mind. Perhaps the greatest difference between the spa culture of day and the bath culture of antiquity is that the thermae were free for all to enjoy, whereas the best spas today are available only for the well-to-do.



GAY BATHS

Gay bathhouses are commercial bathhouses for men to have sex with other men. Not all the men who visit the gay bathhouses consider themselves gay, regardless of their sexual behavior. Dating back to the 15th century there has been record of men meeting other men for sex in bathhouses. As a result of the laws against homosexual behavior during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, men resorted to meeting in public places like public parks, alleys, public restrooms, cheap hotel rooms, and bathhouses. There were bathhouses that had the reputation for being meeting place for gays and the owners either tried to prevent men from having sex or overlooked it in exchange for profits.

In the 1950's exclusively gay bathhouses began to open in the United States. They were an oasis for homosexual companionship and a place where it was safe to be gay. The gay bathhouses today still offer these functions but the community aspect as lessened as homosexuality becomes more accepted and gay men increasingly tend to come out.

New York State
Public Bath Law of 1892
Chapter 473

Section 1.

It shall be lawful for any city, village, or town to establish free public baths. Any city, village or town may load its credit or make appropriations of its funds for the purpose of establishing free public baths.

Section 2.

This act shall take effect immediately.

New York State
Public Bath Law of 1895
Chapter 351

Section 1.

All cities of the first and second class shall establish and maintain such number of public baths as the local Board of Health may determine to be necessary; each bath shall be kept open not less than fourteen hours for each day, and both hot and cold water shall be provided. The erection and maintenance of river and ocean baths shall not be deemed a compliance with the requirements of this section. Any city, village or town having less than 50,000 inhabitants may establish and maintain free public baths, and any city, village or town may loan its credit or may appropriate its funds for the purpose of establishing such free public baths.

Section 2.

This act shall take effect immediately.

New York State
Public Bath Law of 1896
Chapter 122

Section 1.

The Commissioner of the Public Works in the City of New York, with the consent and approval of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of said city, expressed as hereinafter provided, is hereby authorized and empowered to erect such and so many buildings for Free Public Baths, and such and so many structures for the promotion of public comfort within said City of New York as in the opinion of said commissioner of Public Works and said Board of Estimate and Apportionment shall be necessary and proper.

Section 2.

Before proceeding to erect or construct any building or structure as authorized by the last preceding section the said Commissioner of Public Works may, from time to time, present to the said Board of Estimate and Apportionment a statement from any work proposed to be done, with plans and specifications therefor, and an estimate of the proximate probable cost therefor, whereupon the said Board of Estimate and Apportionment may, by resolution authorize said work to be done wholly or in part, and may approve of the plans and specifications therefor, or may return the same to said Commissioner of Public Works for modification or alteration, whereupon said Commissioner of Public Works shall resubmit said plans and specifications, and after having modified or altered the same shall again submit them to said Board of Estimate and Apportionment, who may then approve the same or again return them to the said Commissioner of Public Works for further modification or alteration and said plans and specifications may be so returned to said Commissioner of Public Works and resubmitted to said Board of Estimate and Apportionment until the said Board of Estimate and Apportionment shall, by resolution, approve said plans and specifications and authorize the work to be proceeded with accordingly.

Section 3. When any work provided for by this act shall have been authorized and the plans and specifications therefor approved by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment the said Commissioner of Public Works shall proceed to execute and

carry out said work, which shall be done by contract, made at public letting to the lowest bidder, pursuant to the general provision of law and ordinances regulating and letting, execution and performance of public contracts in the City of New York. The Commissioner of Public Works, with the approval of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment first had and obtained, is hereby authorized and empowered, with the consent in writing of the contractor and his sureties, to alter any plans, and the terms and specifications of any contract entered into by the authority of this act, provided that such alteration shall in no case involve or require an increased expense greater than five per centum of the whole expenditure provided for in said contract.

Section 4. The Commissioner of Public Works is authorized and empowered with the consent and approval of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to locate any or all of the structures for the promotion of public comfort to be erected under the authority of this act to be so erected in any public park of the City of New York, and for that purpose the Commissioner of Public Parks shall permit the said Commissioner of Public Works, his officers and agents and the contractors to enter upon said park or parks and therein to perform the work so authorized. Any such structures which may be erected in any public park of said city shall, after its erection and completion, be under the care custody and control of the Department of Public Parks in said City, who are hereby authorized and empowered to make proper and necessary rules for the use and management thereof.

Section 5. For the purpose of carrying out the work authorized by this act, including compensation of any architect or architects employed by the said Commissioner of Public Works to prepare plans and specifications and to supervise the work done thereunder, and of any architect employed by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to examine any plans and specifications, and including also the cost of such furniture and fixtures for any building hereby authorized as shall be approved and consented to by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, the Comptroller of the City of New York is hereby directed, from time

to time, when thereto directed by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, to issue consolidated stock of the City of New York in the manner now provided by law to an amount not exceeding in the aggregate of the sum of two hundred thousand dollars.

Section 6. This act shall take effect immediately.



S I T E

Cities are the absence of physical space between people and companies. They are **proximity, density, closeness**. They enable us to work and play together, and their success depends on the demand for physical connection. During the middle years of the twentieth century, many cities, like New York, declined as improvements in transportation reduced the advantages of locating factories in dense urban areas. And during the last thirty years, some of these cities have come back, while others, newer cities have grown because technological change has increased and returns to the knowledge that is best produced by people in close proximity to other people.



The way it IS

TIMES SQUARE

Times Square is a major commercial intersection at the junction of Broadway and 7th Ave, stretching from West 42nd to West 47th Streets. Times Square is nicknamed “The Crossroads of the World” and “The Great White Way” and has become an iconic world landmark and a symbol of both New York City and the United States.

The land that is now Times Square was once owned by John Morin Scott, a general of the New York militia. The area was countryside used for farming and breeding horses. In the first half of the 19th century it came under the possession of John Jacob Astor, who made a fortune selling off lots to hotels and other real estate concerns as the city rapidly spread uptown.

In 1904 The New York Times relocated their headquarters to a newly erected skyscraper in Longacre Square on 42nd Street and the area was renamed Times Square on April 8, 1904. The first electrified advertisement appeared just three weeks later on the side of a bank.

As New York City continued to expand and grow, Times Square quickly became a cultural hub full of theaters, music halls, and upscale hotels.



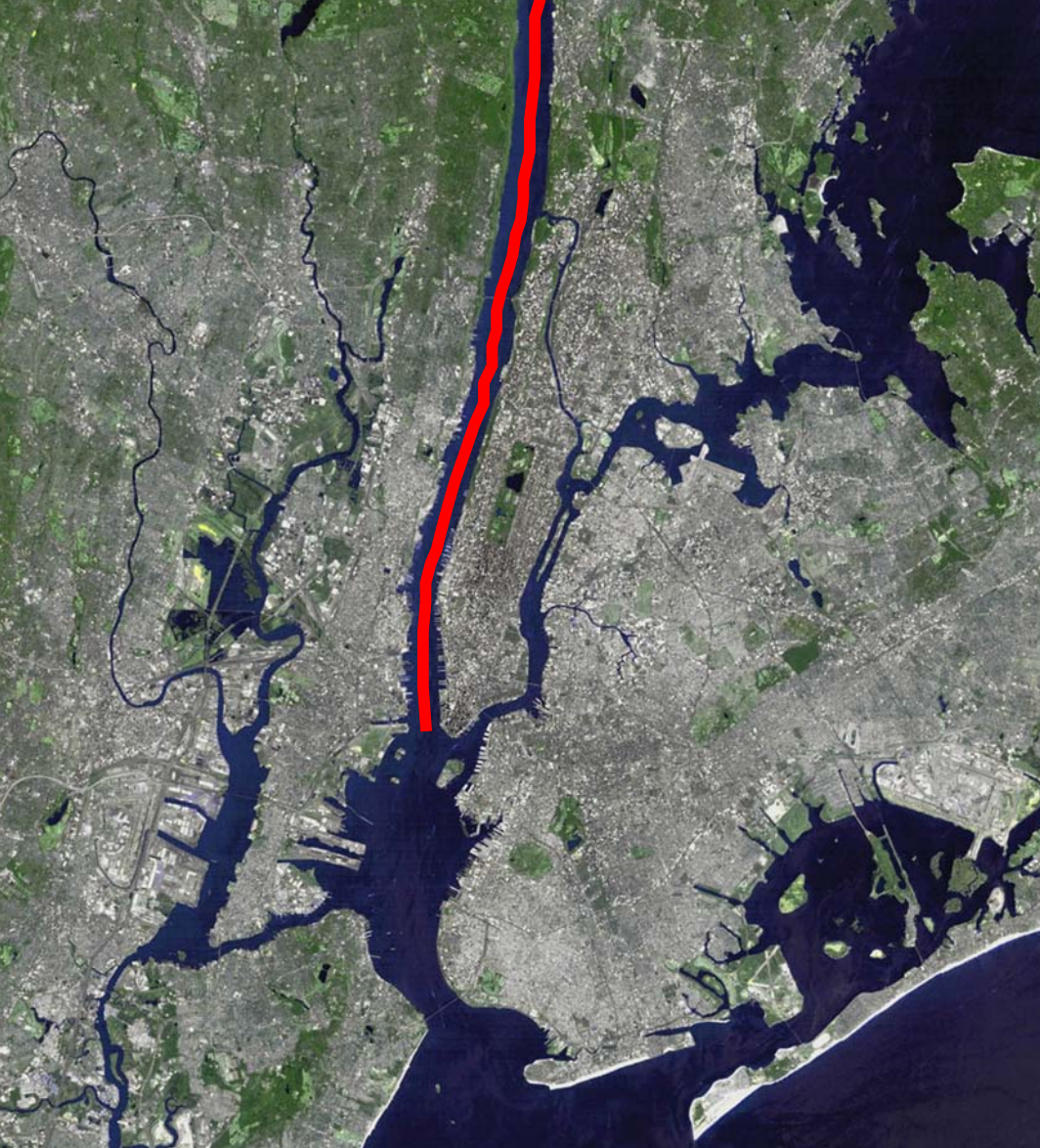
The way it WAS

“Times Square quickly became New York’s agora, a place to gather to await great tidings and to celebrate them, whether a World Series or a presidential election.”

- James Traub, *The Devil’s Playground, A Century of Pleasure and Profit in Times Square*

During the 1910s and 1920s the area was considered the most desirable location in Manhattan and was associated with several well known celebrities. However it was also afflicted with crime and corruption, taking the form of gambling and prostitution. The reputation of the neighborhood as a dangerous and sordid place continue through the 1960s to early 1990s with the presence of go-go bars, sex shops, and adult theaters.

In the mid-1990s Mayor Giuliani led an effort to “clean up” the area, increasing security, closing pornographic theaters, pressuring drug dealers to relocate, and opening more tourist-friendly attractions and upscale establishments. Since then the area safe and cleaner but has taken on a “Disneyfied” image. The theaters and density of animated neon signs have become an iconic image of New York and is countlessly featured in literature, on television, and in films. Times Square is also the site of the annual New Year’s Eve ball drop which brings hundreds of thousands of people to the area to watch the Waterford Crystal ball drop, marking the start of the new year.



Hudson River

HUDSON RIVER | NORTH RIVER

North River is an alternate name for the southernmost portion of the Hudson River located between Manhattan and New Jersey. The colonial name fell out of popular use in the early 1900s but is still used by local mariners and others, and can still be found on some nautical charts. The river's history is strongly connected to New York Harbor's shipping industry.

PIERS

The piers along the Hudson shore of Manhattan were formerly used for shipping and berthing of ocean-going ships. The piers were named as "Pier 14, North River". Since then most of the piers are in disuse or have been destroyed, and several have been adapted for new uses.

Pier 1-21: buried under landfill and turned into Battery Park City.

Pier 34: pair of narrow piers that connect to a ventilation building for the Holland Tunnel.

Pier 40: contains various playing fields and long-term parking.

Pier 51 and 84: house two water-themed playgrounds, part of the Hudson River Park project

Pier 59-62 (Chelsea Piers): entertainment complex.

Pier 66: public boathouse

Pier 79: West Midtown Ferry Terminal and connects to a Lincoln Tunnel vent shaft

Pier 83: Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises



Pier 83 | Circle Line Cruises

Pier 84: stop for New York Water Taxi and bicycle rental shop and other businesses serving primarily tourists

Pier 86: Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum and the aircraft carrier the USS Intrepid

Pier 88-92: New York Passenger Ship Terminal where modern cruise ships and ocean liners dock

Pier 94: "Unconvention Center", 2nd largest exhibition hall in NYC

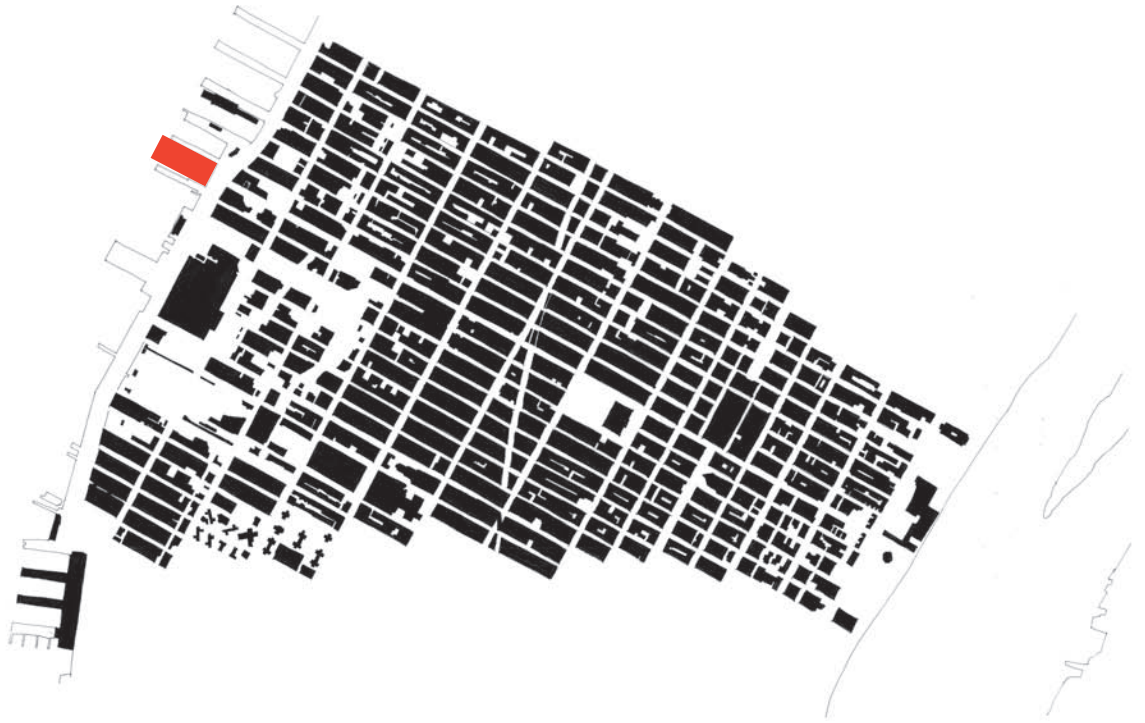
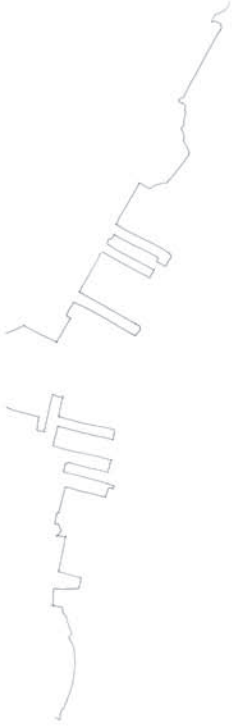
HUDSON RIVER PARK

In 1998 New York City and New York State commenced a project known as the Hudson River Park, stretching from 59th Street south to Battery Park. The 550-acre park is the biggest in Manhattan after Central park. The park is designed to accommodate various sport activities,, leisure activities, and activities of children. Amenities of the park include bicycle and pedestrian paths, sports fields, maritime related actives, grassy areas, and a dog run.

CROSSING THE HUDSON

Before the North River Tunnels and Hudson and Manhattan Railroad tubes were opened in the early 1900s, an expansive network of terminals, railyards, ferry slips, docks, barges, and carfloats were required to transport passengers and freight. From the mid 19th to mid 20th century there existed an expansive number of facilities for competing railroads. There are also a series of fixed crossing for the Hudson River, primarily Tubes or Tunnels, tunnels that carry traffic under the Hudson River. These include the:

Downtown Hudson Tubes, Holland Tunnel, Uptown Hudson Tubes, North River Tunnels, Lincoln Tunnel, and George Washington Bridge.



Thesis Site

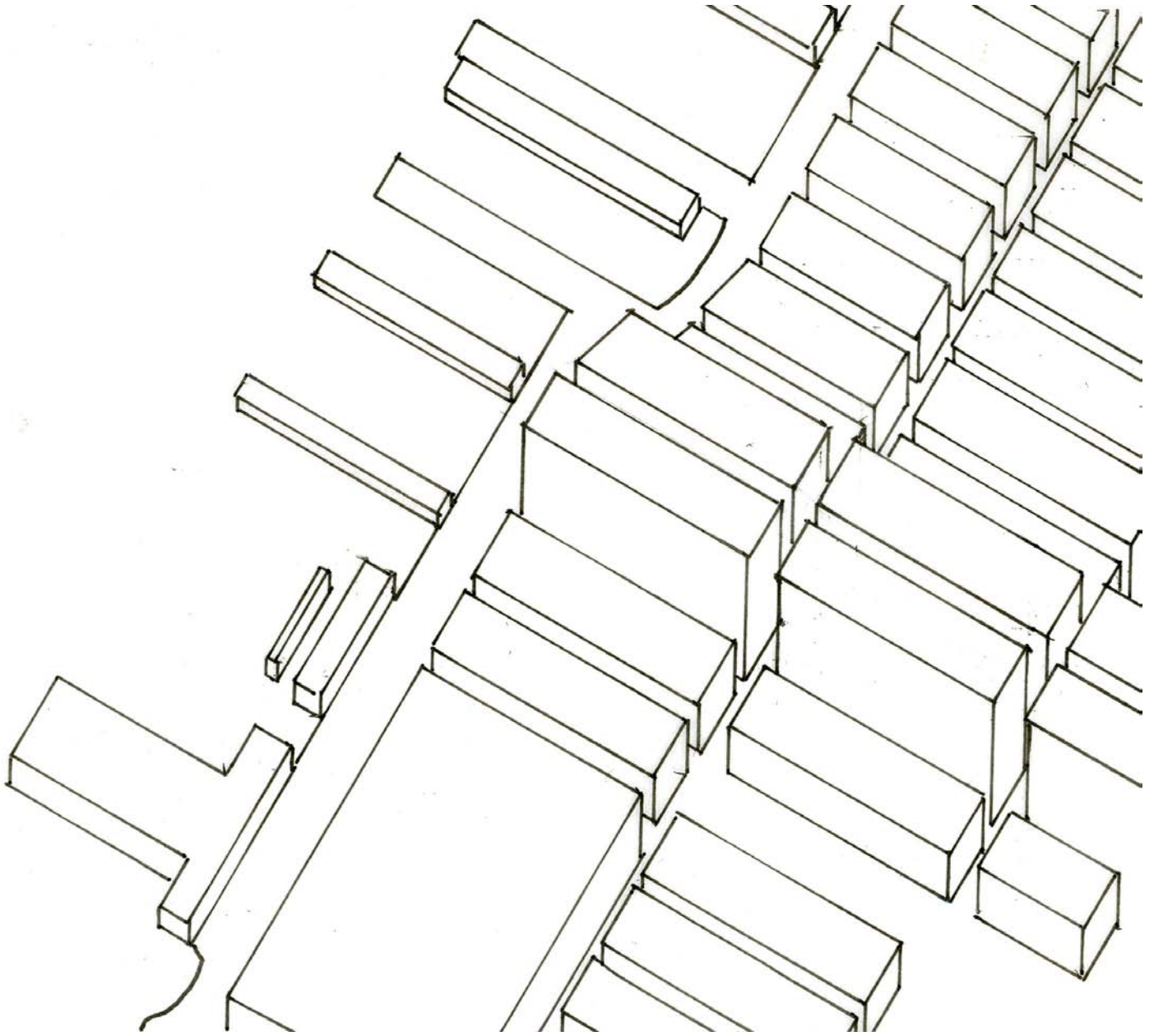


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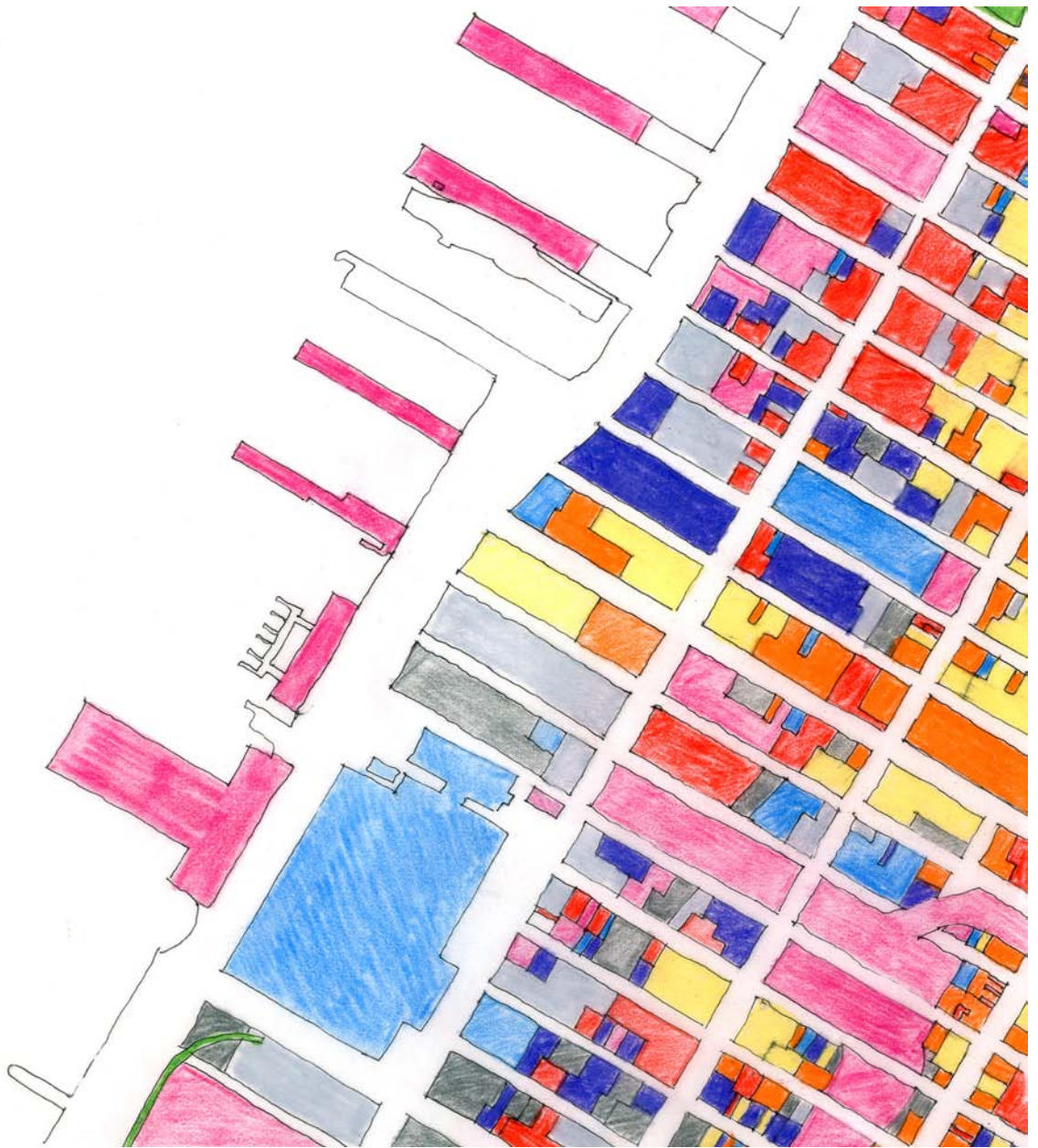




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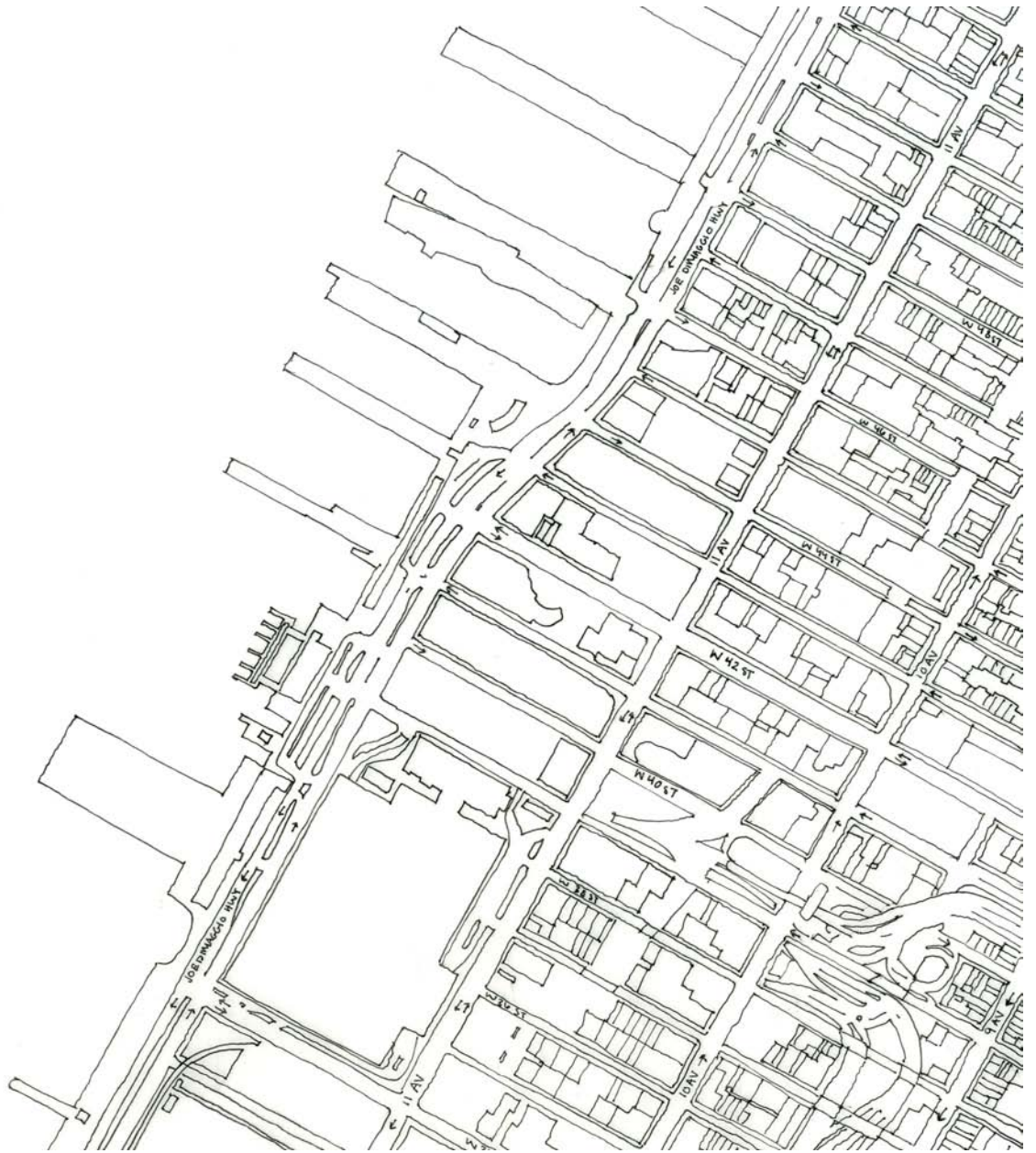


Massing Axon



Land Use

- Residence
- Mixed Residential & Commercial
- Commercial Use
- Industrial / Manufacturing
- Transportation / Utility
- Public Facilities and Institutions
- Open Space & Recreation
- Parking
- Vacant Land



Streets and Buildings



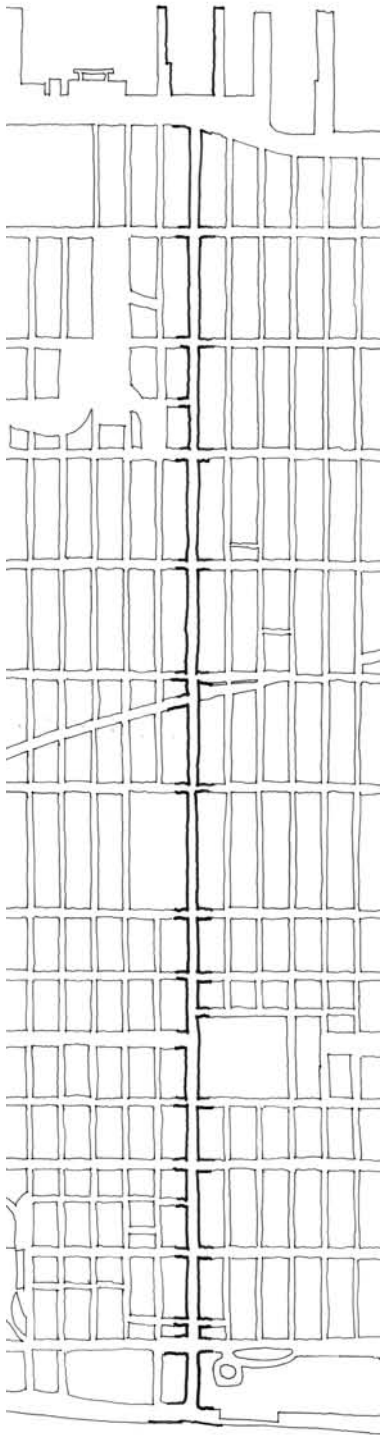
Land Use

Green Space

Pools

Fitness Centers

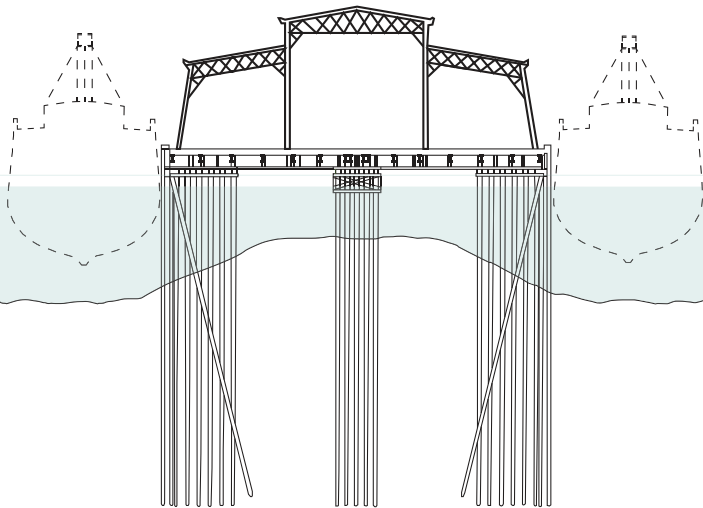
Spas



View Down 42nd Street



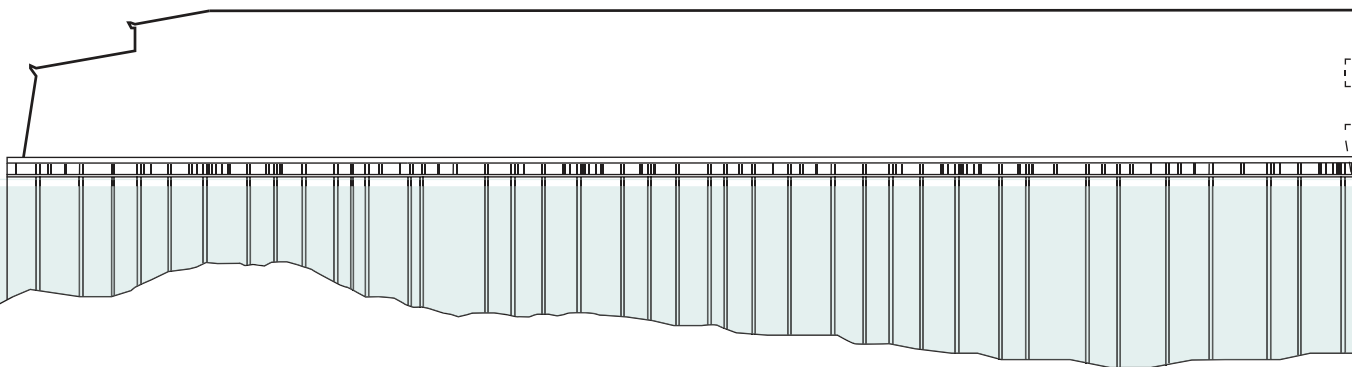
← 80' * 380' →



Site Section A

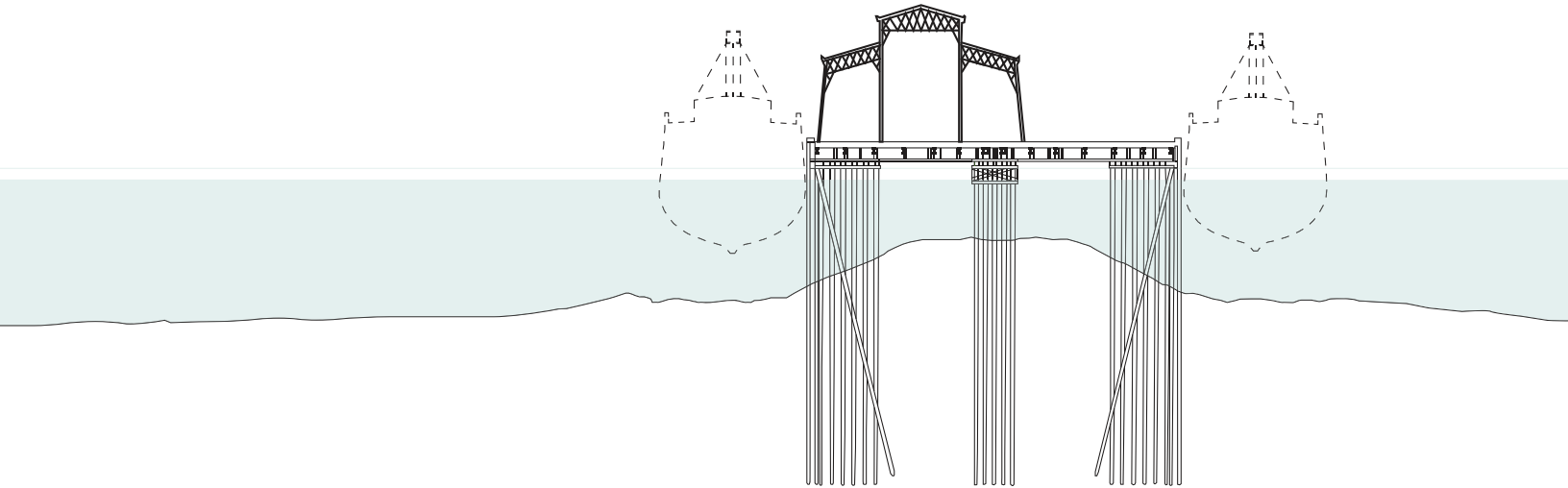
← New Jersey

← 720' →



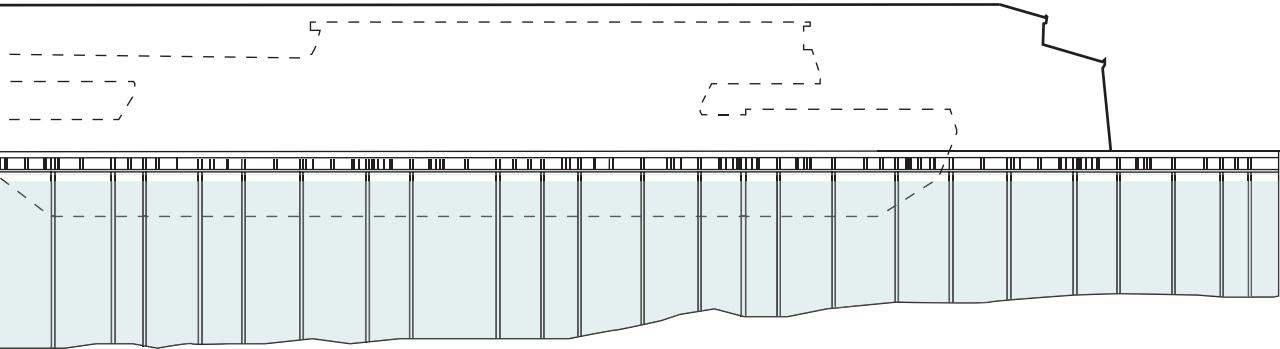
Site Section B

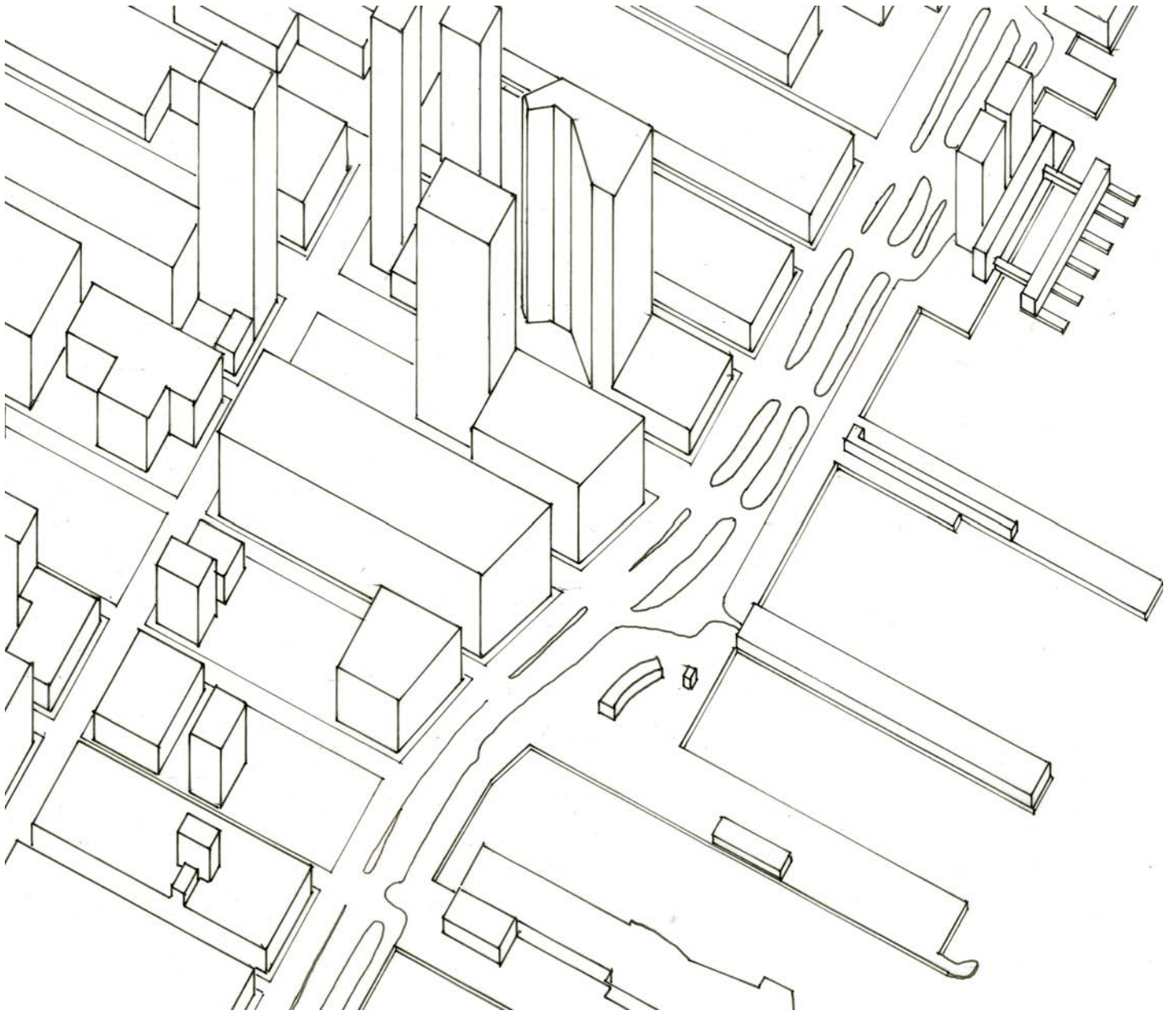
80'



42nd Street →

→





Context Axon



Manhattan

Site





Views Down 42nd Street





Views of Site in the Water



View from the Ferry



Thesis Site



From 42nd Street



From Ferry



From New Jersey



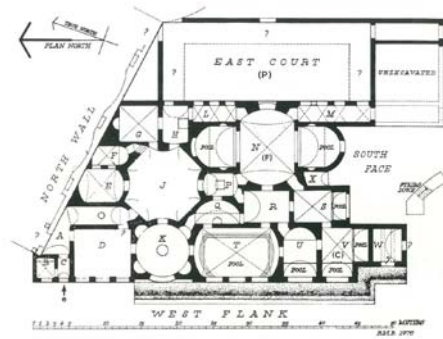


C A T A L O Q U E

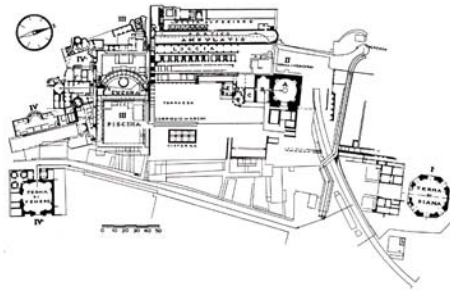
The role that bathing plays within a culture reveals the culture's attitude towards human relaxation. It is a measure of how far individual well-being is regarded as an indispensable part of community life.

GREEK + ROMAN BATHHOUSES

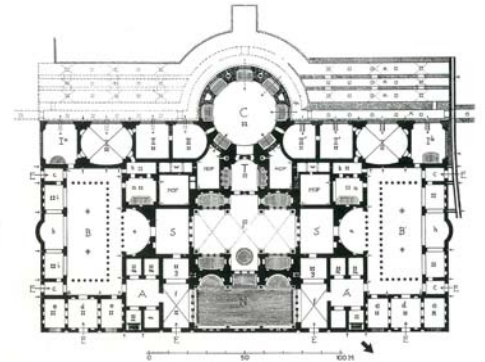
SMALL BATHS
Hadrian's Villa, Tivoli



THERMAE AT SOSANDRA
Baiae



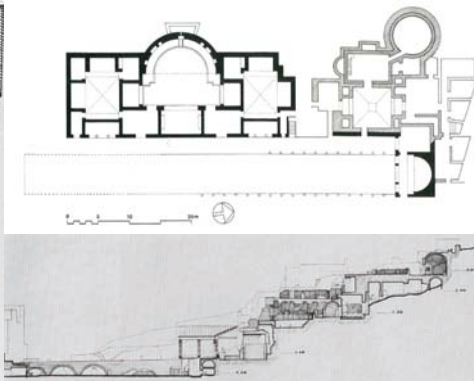
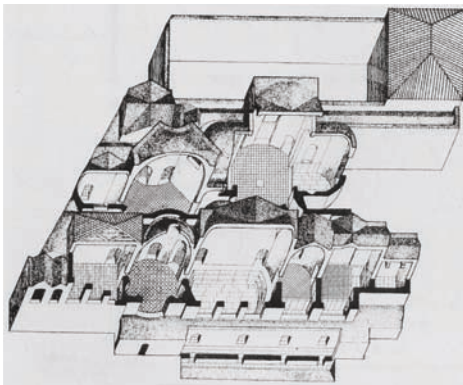
THERMAE OF CARACALLA
Rome



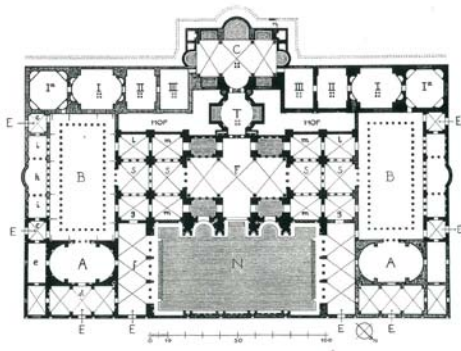
- The urge for experimentation and surprise seems to have reached a peak in the tightly composed, dynamic spatial units of the Small Baths
- Underlying this composition of creative variegation, there is a tight and deliberate geometry
- half-axial/intermediary category, with their bold use of curvilinear and octagonal elements, undulating frontage, and restless periphery, were more adaptable for novelty and variety

- "thermal city whose several plants utilized several thermo-mineral springs and vapor outlets. And the distribution of its various sectors followed the usual town-planning rules: the buildings, in large, detached rectangular blocks facing the gulf, housed either actual thermal halls or residential, resting and sight-seeing quarters" - Maiuri

- textbook example of the fully developed large imperial type in Rome
- though gigantic, their plans display greater fluidity and simplification than any of the thermae before it
- the thermae could seat 1,600 bathers at one time
- were these large spaces open to the sky or roofed by a timber structure?

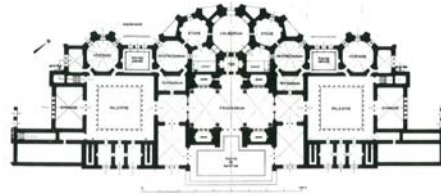


THERMAE OF DIOCLETIAN
Rome



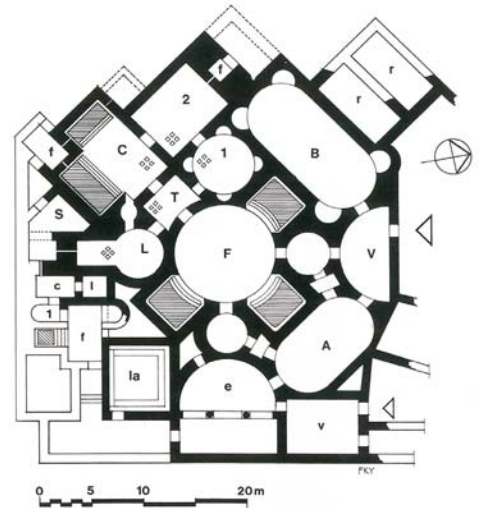
- The baths could accommodate some 3,000 people
- Composed of numerous individual and quite uniformly distributed elements - semicircular exedrae, rectangular and round halls
- The somewhat ambiguous relationship of secondary spaces around the frigidarium and the palaestrae if the latter was replaced by a strictly modular, cross-vaulted system of great lucidity

ANTONINE THERMAE
Carthage

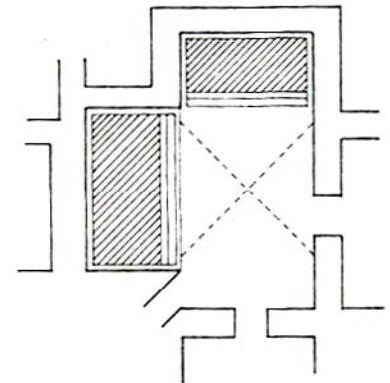
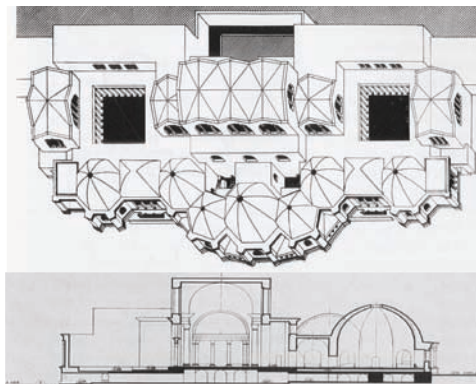
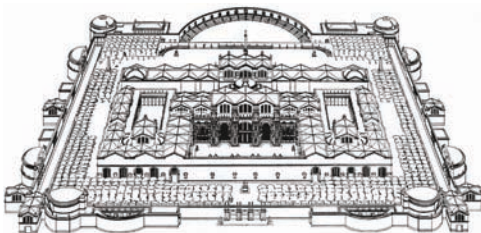


- closer in essence to high imperial planning by the conformity of the plan to fundamental conditions and characteristics of the imperial type
- vast in scale and lavish in decoration, the baths were truly a "prestige monument"
- the complex occupies a spectacular site on the edge of the sea

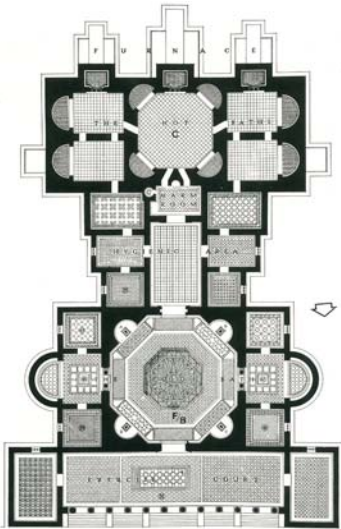
BATHS
Thenae



- The scheme can be viewed as a set of spaces organized in two concentric rings around a circular frigidarium with a dome
- This underlying orthogonal order is entirely formal and conceptual

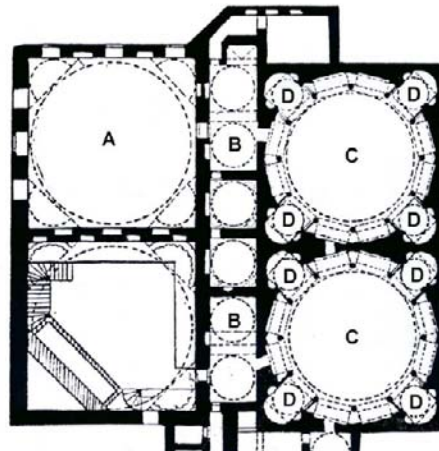


BATH C
Antioch



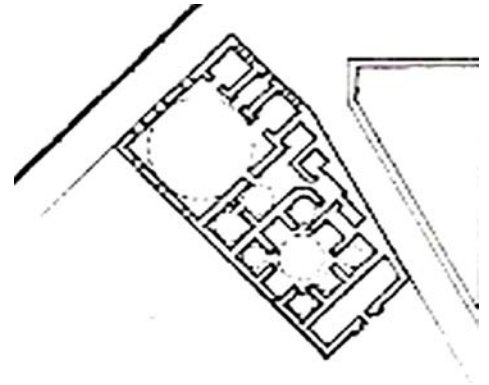
- Projects a sense of civic grandeur in a porticoed main entrance approached by a wide flight of steps leading from the street to a generously proportioned octagonal hall
- twenty vertically congruent spaces are grouped symmetrically about the main north-south axis, crossed by a pair of east-west axes
- clear and orderly juxtaposition of pure geometric shapes

CEMBERLISTAS BATH
Turkey

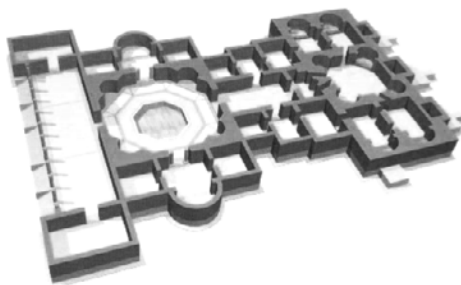


- Ideal to unwind after a long day of meetings (or sightseeing) for a bit over an hour
- There's a separated male and female section
- Main entrance hall holds a small cafe
- washer/masseur comes to you and he'll wash and massage you for the next 10 minutes

SULEYMANIYE HAMAM
Turkey
Sinan

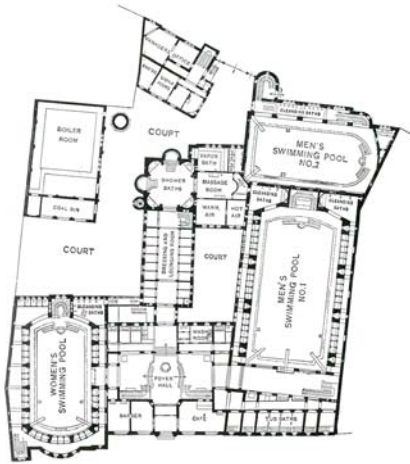


- The building is lavishly arched and domed, with elaborate marble inlay work on the walls.
- Traditional bathhouse consisting of three sections: cold, lukewarm and hot.
- It is the only hamam in Istanbul where men and women bathe together



WASH-HOUSES OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

PUBLIC BATH HOUSE
Hannover, Germany



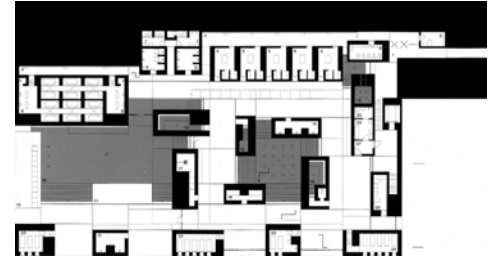
- These should be comfortable and clean but without any luxury
- Large public bathing establishments, in order to be complete, must contain all the different forms of baths mentioned heretofore
- They always contain one or several swimming baths, with the needed dressing compartments and preparatory cleansing baths in the form of showers and foot baths, and besides they embrace Turkish and hot-air baths, with dressing rooms, smoking and reading rooms, massage rooms, shampooing rooms, cooling and lounging rooms, and rooms for special electrical or hydrotherapeutic treatment
- The buildings require attractive entrances, ticket offices, large waiting rooms for the public, minor rooms for barber shop and chiropodist's offices, and sometimes a restaurant or buffet
- All of the above rooms should be provided in duplicate for men and women, and should be entirely separated for the two sexes

KARL MUELLER PUBLIC BATH HOUSE
Munich, Germany



CONTEMPORARY

THERMAE BATHS AT VALLS
Switzerland
Peter Zumthor

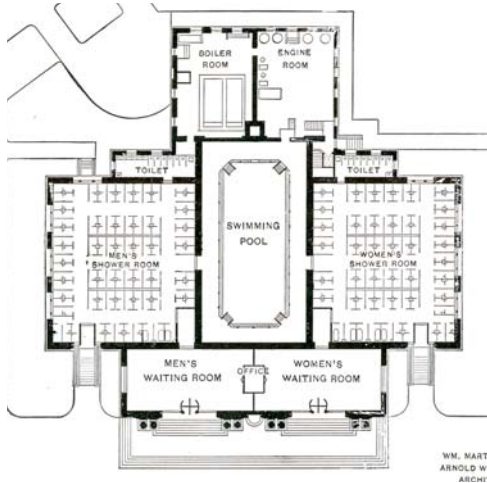


- Built over the only thermal springs in the Graubunden Canton in Switzerland, The Therme Vals is a hotel and spa in one which combines a complete sensory experience
- The idea was to create a form of cave or quarry like structure.
- "The meander, as we call it, is a designed negative space between the blocks, a space that connects everything as it flows throughout the entire building..." - Zumthor

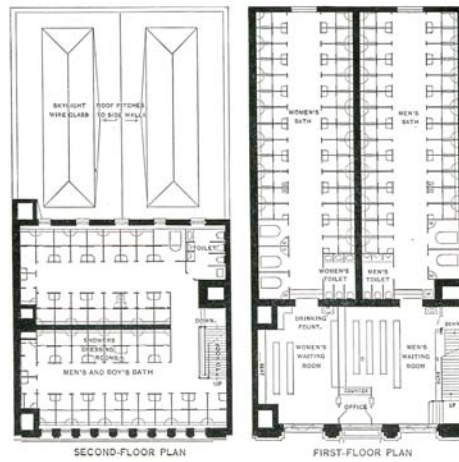


PUBLIC BATHS IN NEW YORK CITY

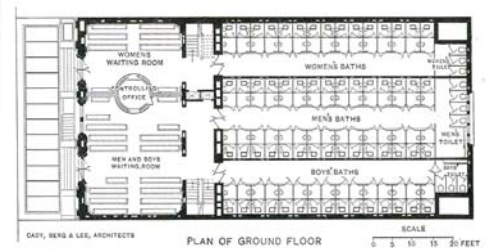
23RD ST PEOPLE'S BATH HOUSE NYC



PITKIN AVE PEOPLE'S BATHS Brooklyn, NY



LARGE PEOPLE'S BATH HOUSE NYC



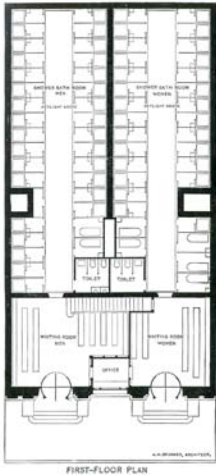
- It became more and more difficult to locate the floating summer baths along the river front of New York, chiefly owing to the increasing pollution of the water
- It was therefore decided to try the experiment of combining people's spray baths with public swimming pools

- Separate entrances for men and women
- Women's side contains 28 spray baths and 3 tub baths, the men's side 28 spray baths and 2 tubs, the boys' floor 38 spray baths and 1 tub

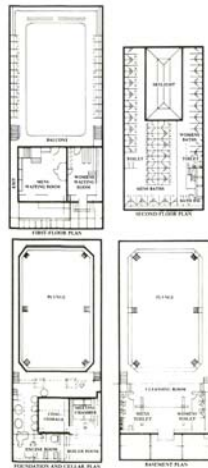
- Ground-floor plan of a larger people's bath house, designed by Cady, Berg & See, architects, with three divisions on the same floor, one for men, one for women and a third for boys. The men's baths are about twice as large as those for women, and contain double the number of spray baths. No tub baths are installed on this floor.



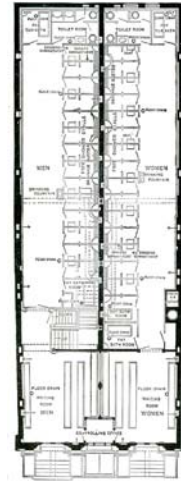
11TH ST PEOPLE'S BATH
NYC



WEST 60TH ST MUNICIPAL BATH
NYC



HICK'S ST PEOPLE'S BATHS
Brooklyn, NY



- People's bath houses should look and be clean

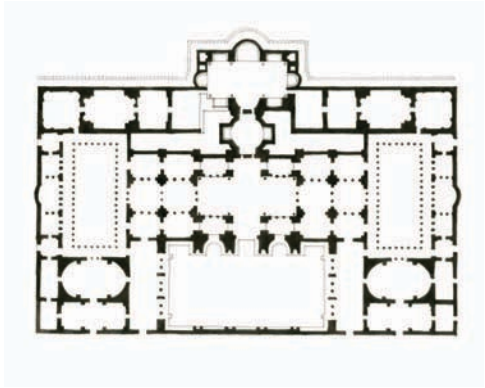
- NYC's public baths were located mostly in slum neighborhoods and customarily served one immigrant group
 - The proximity of the bath to the African-American neighborhoods called San Juan Hill caused clashes between Irish and black youths who used the bath

- There are separate entrances and waiting rooms for men and women, with one controlling office for the bath attendants in front
 - there are 14 spray baths and 2 tubs for men and 15 spray baths and 3 tub baths for women
 - wide corridor on which the doors of the spray bath compartments open
 - A large skylight serves to furnish daylight illumination and to ventilate the entire apartment

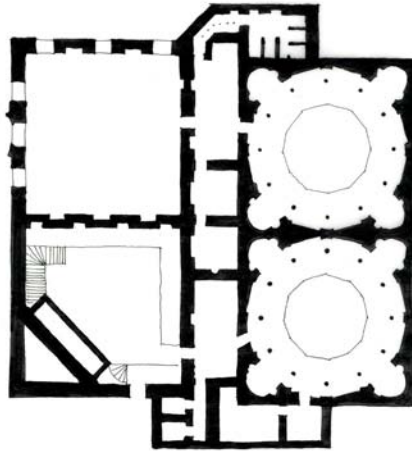


BATH COMPARISON

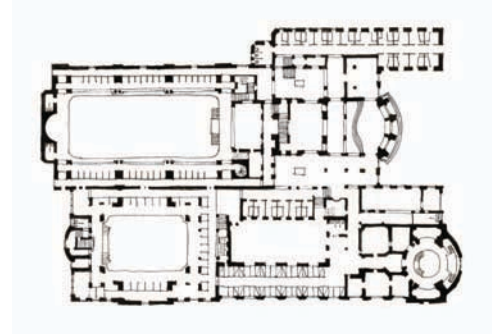
Thermae of Diocletian
Rome



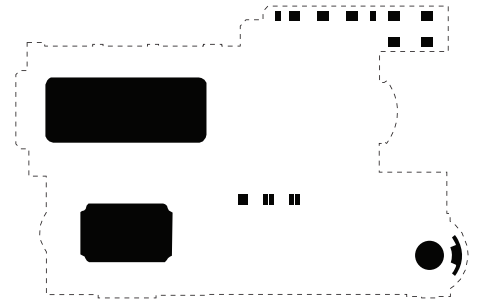
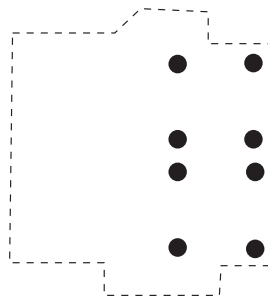
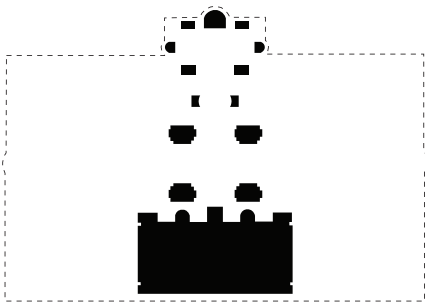
Cemberlitas Bath
Turkey



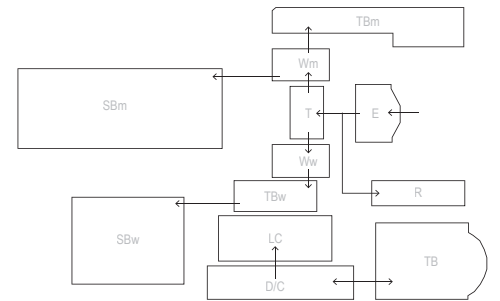
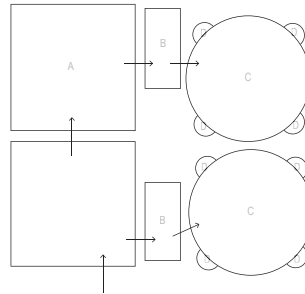
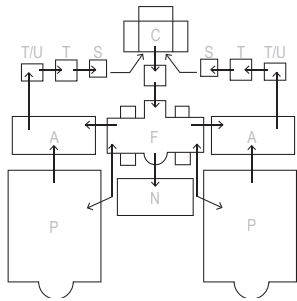
Karl Mueller Public Bath House
Munich, Germany



Baths



Circulation | Program

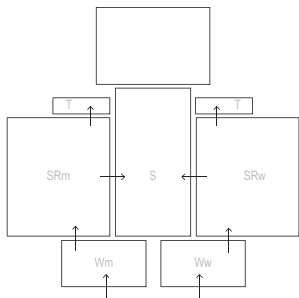
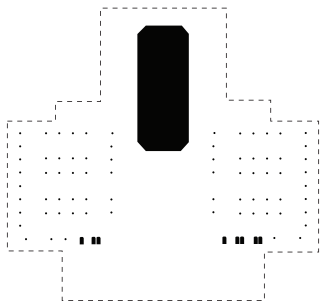
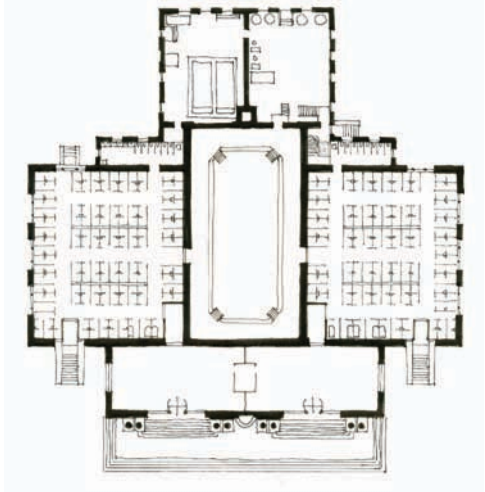


- A : apodyterium
- T : tempidarium
- U : unctorium
- S : sudatorium
- C : caldarium
- F : frigidarium
- N : natatio
- P : palaestra

- A : undressing room
- B : warm room/in winter used as dressing room
- C : hot room
- D : very small bathing cell

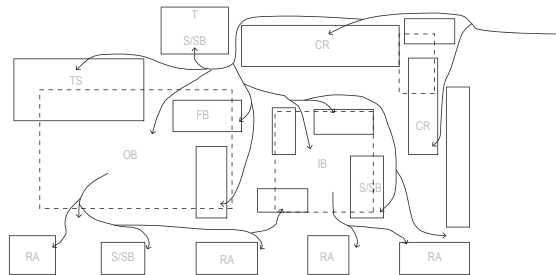
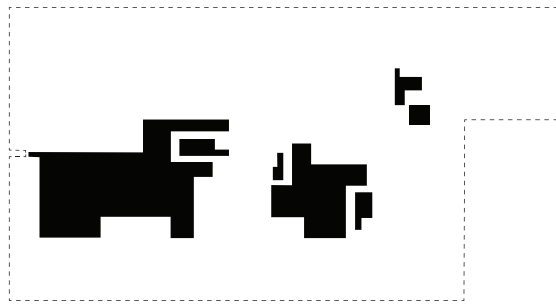
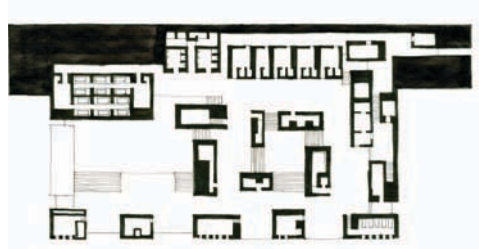
- E : entrance
- T : ticket office
- Wm/w : men/women's waiting room
- TBm/w : men/women's tub bath
- SBm/w : men/women's swimming bath
- D/C : dressing and cooling
- LC : light court
- TB : turkish bath
- R : restaurant

23RD ST PEOPLE'S BATH HOUSE
NYC



Wm/w : men/women's waiting room
SRm/w : men/women's shower room
S : swimming pool
T : toilets

THERMAE BATHS AT VALLS
Switzerland
Peter Zumthor



CR : changing rooms
S/SB : shower/special baths
T : toilets
TS : turkish shower/sweat stone
FB : fire bath
OB : outdoor bath
IB : indoor bath
RA : rest area

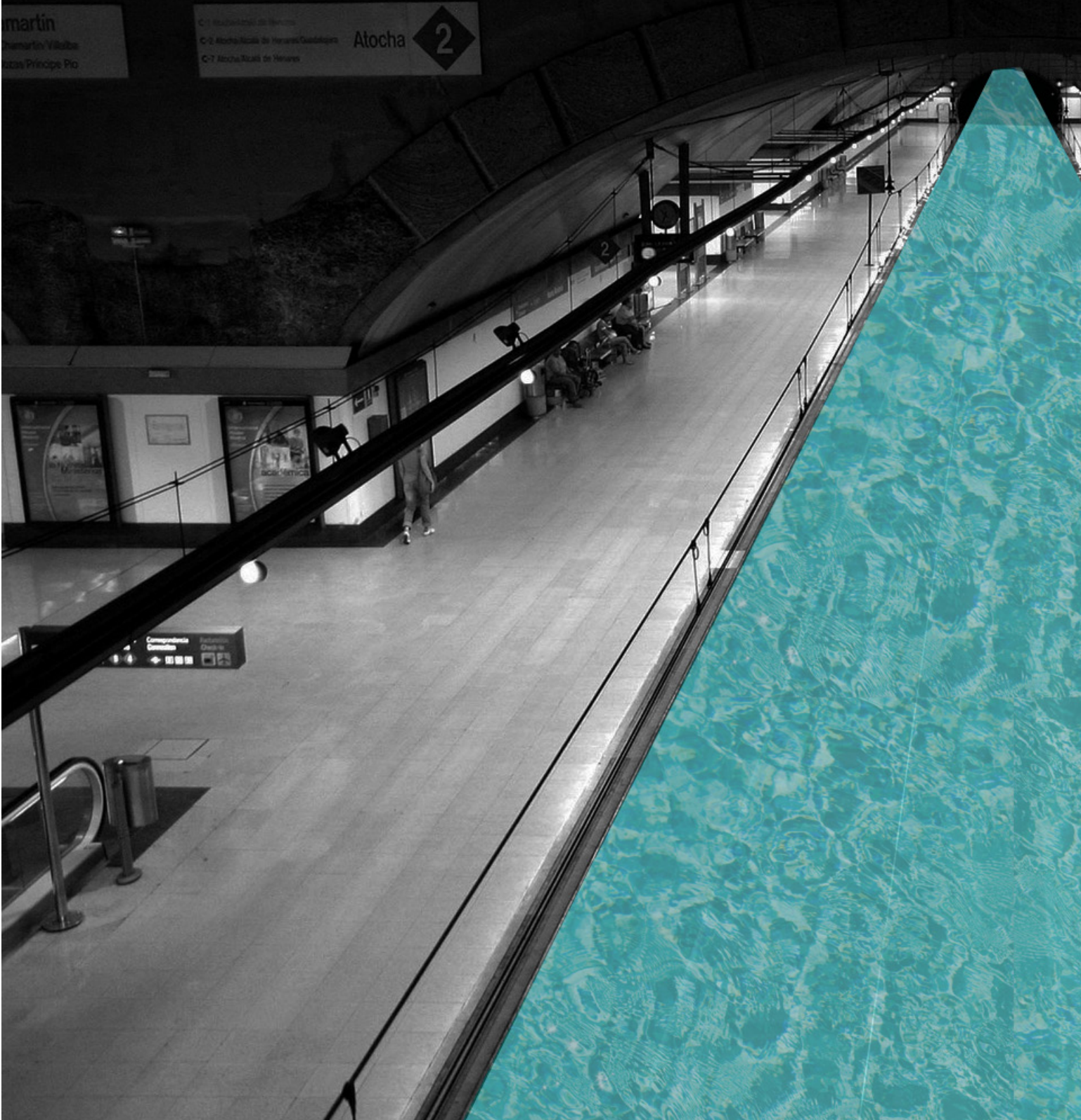


PROGRAM

...JUST ADD WATER

The heavy, dense, sulphurous vapour that filled the place almost suffocated me-the subdued laughter and whispered conversations of...mistresses murmuring along in an undercurrent of sound-the sight of nearly three hundred women, only partially dressed, and that in fine linen so perfectly saturated with vapour that it revealed the whole outline of the figure-the busy slaves passing and re-passing, naked from the waist upwards, and with their arms folded upon their bosoms, balancing on the heads piles of fringed and embroidered napkins-groups of lovely girls, laughing, chatting, and refreshing themselves with sweetmeats, sherbet, and lemonade-parties of playful children, apparently quite indifferent to the dense atmosphere which made me struggle to breath...all combined to form a picture like the illusory semblance of a phantasmagoria, almost leaving me in doubt whether that on which I looked were indeed reality, or the mere creation of a distempered dream.

WHAT IF YOU TAKE KNOWN SOCIAL CONDITIONS...



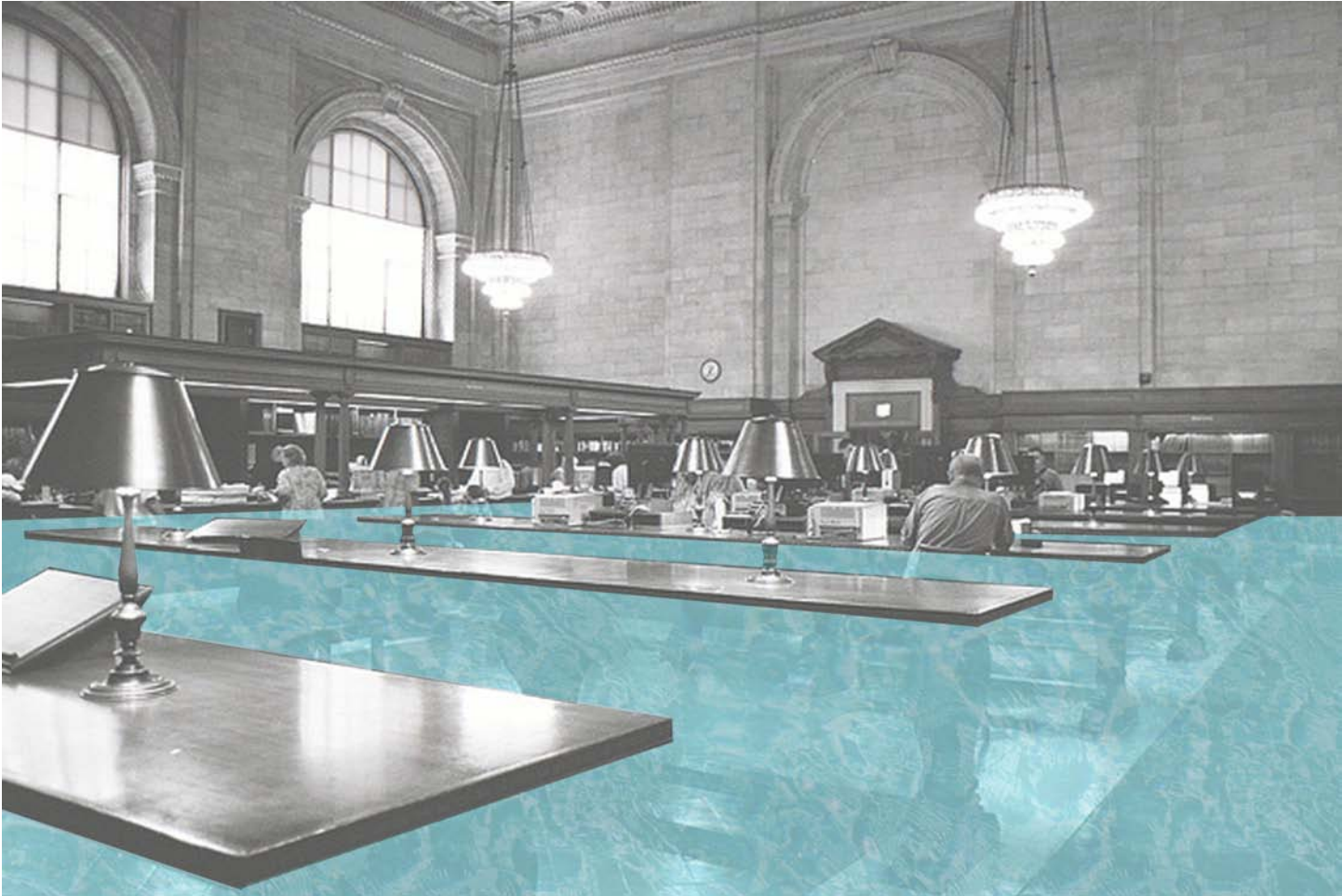
Subway



...AND JUST ADD WATER?



Gallery



Library



Museum



Work



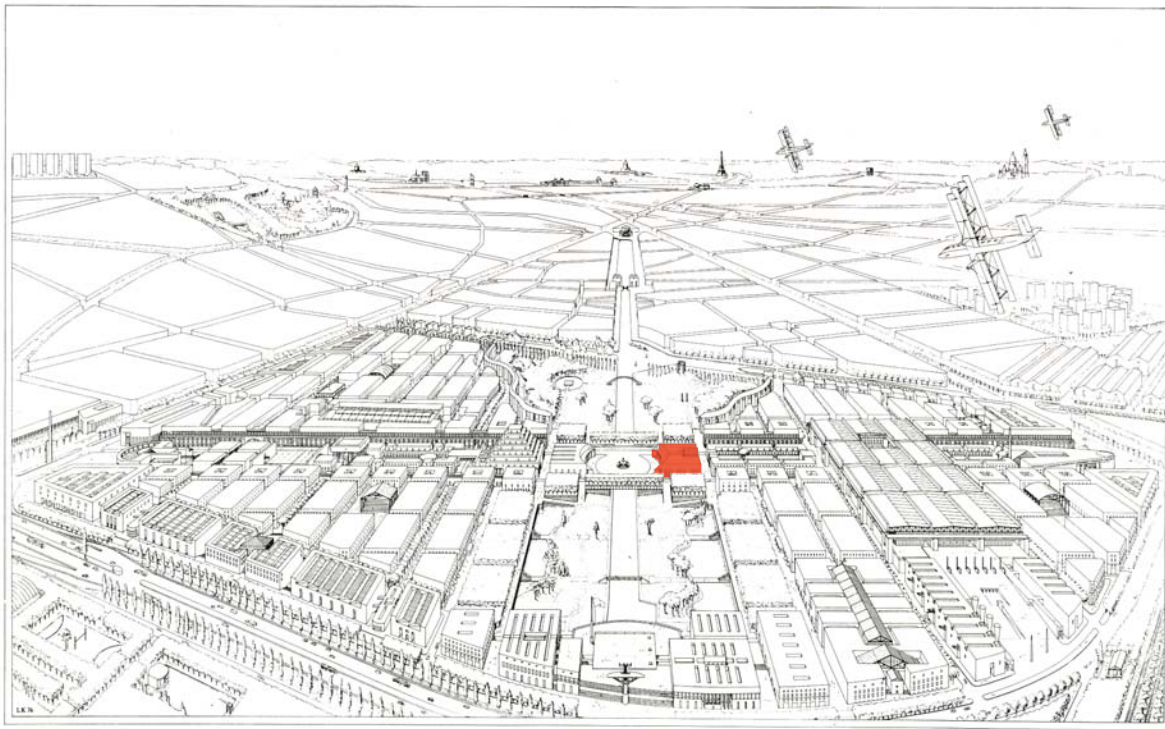
BATHING IN ART

We have moist imaginations. In them, water is the eye of the earth. A bright eye which in clear pools becomes a mirror, letting us see our own reflections, making each of us the center of a world. In deeper pools, it darkens and becomes somber and unfathomable, hinting instead of drowning and death.

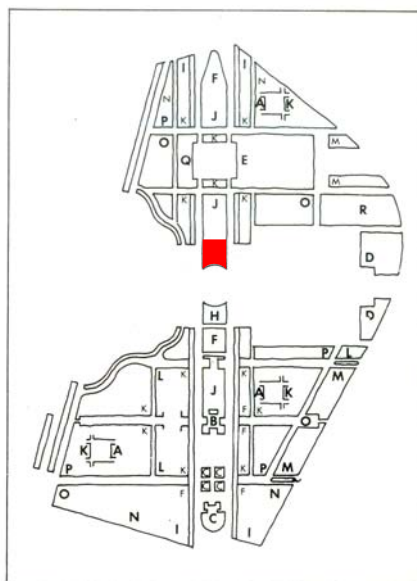


RELATED ISSUES

We are especially intrigued because antiquity has taken what is, to us, a basic and prosaic function and elevated it to the level of a cultural and recreational act, a civic institution for which there is no real counterpart in modern Western civilization. Consequently, we are invited to view and analyze Western society with a fresh and critical eye.



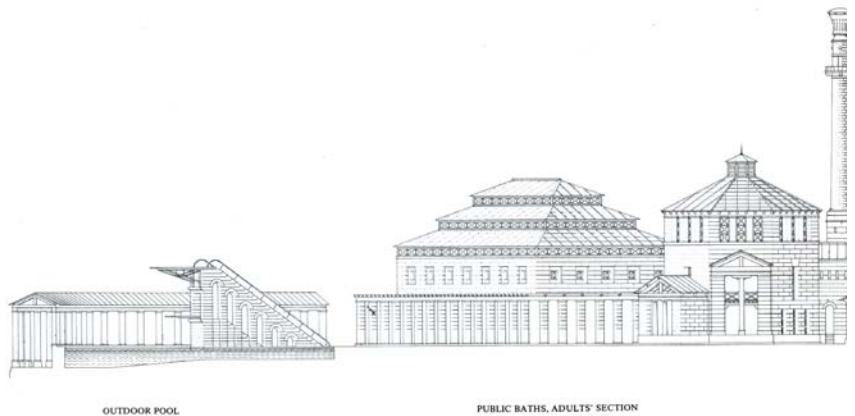
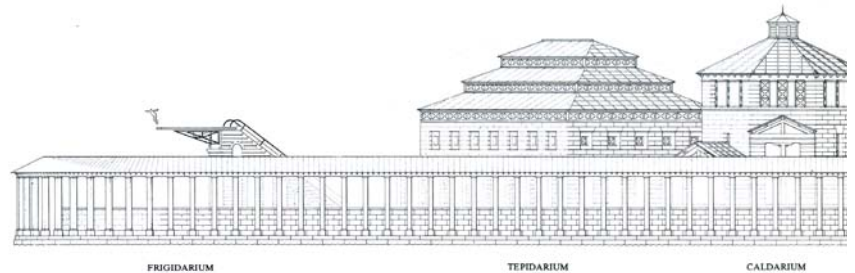
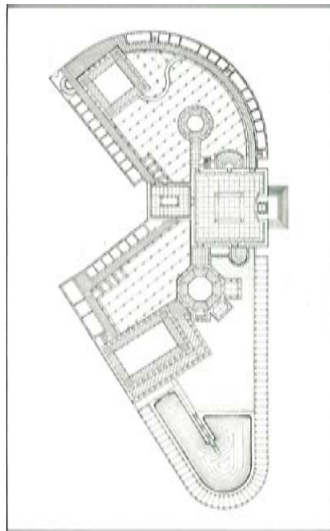
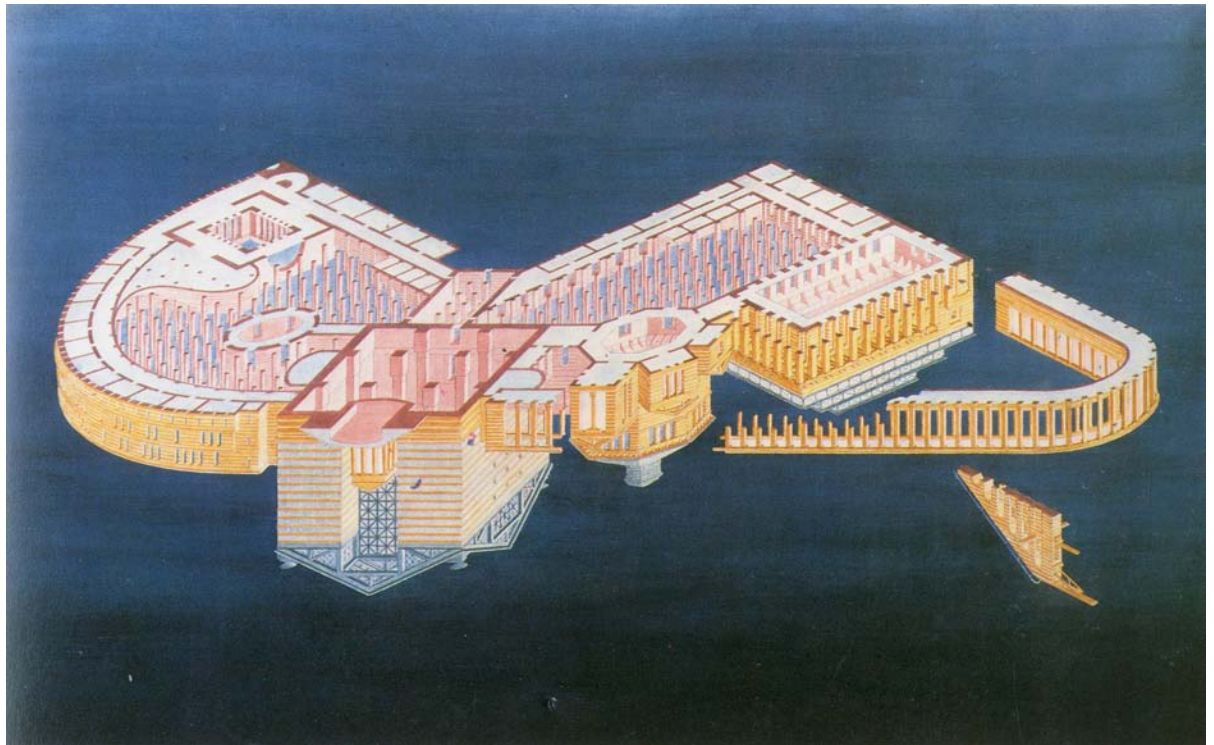
THE AREA BETWEEN THE BUTTES DE CHAUMONT AND MONTMARTRE



DISTRIBUTION OF MAIN USES

- A CENTRE DE QUARTIER B MAIRIE
- C CULTURAL CENTRE D MUSEUM
- E CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION CENTRE
- F HOTELS G BATHS H CASINO I MAJOR SHOP
- J STREET MARKET K OFFICES L ARTISANS
- M INDUSTRIAL N OFFICES O HIGH SCHOOL
- P CRECHE R HOSPITAL

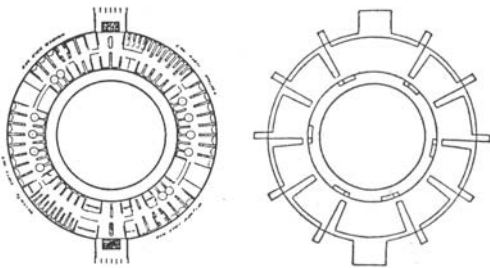
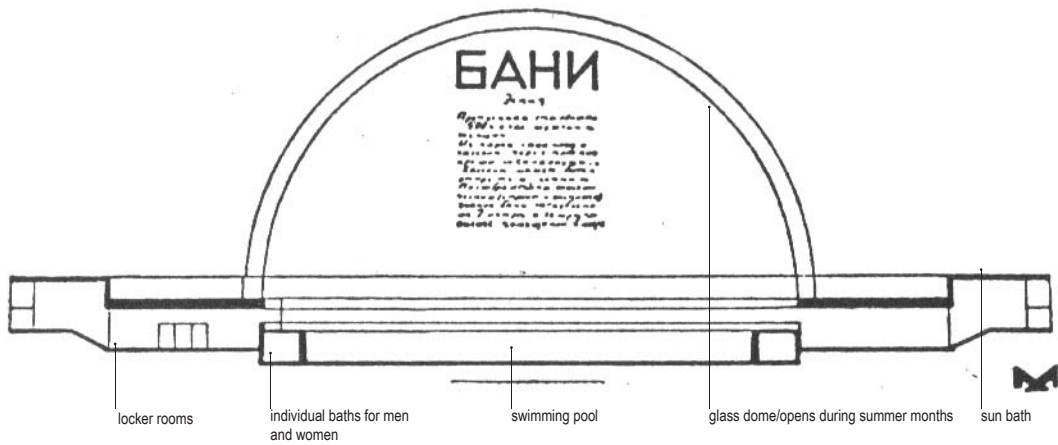
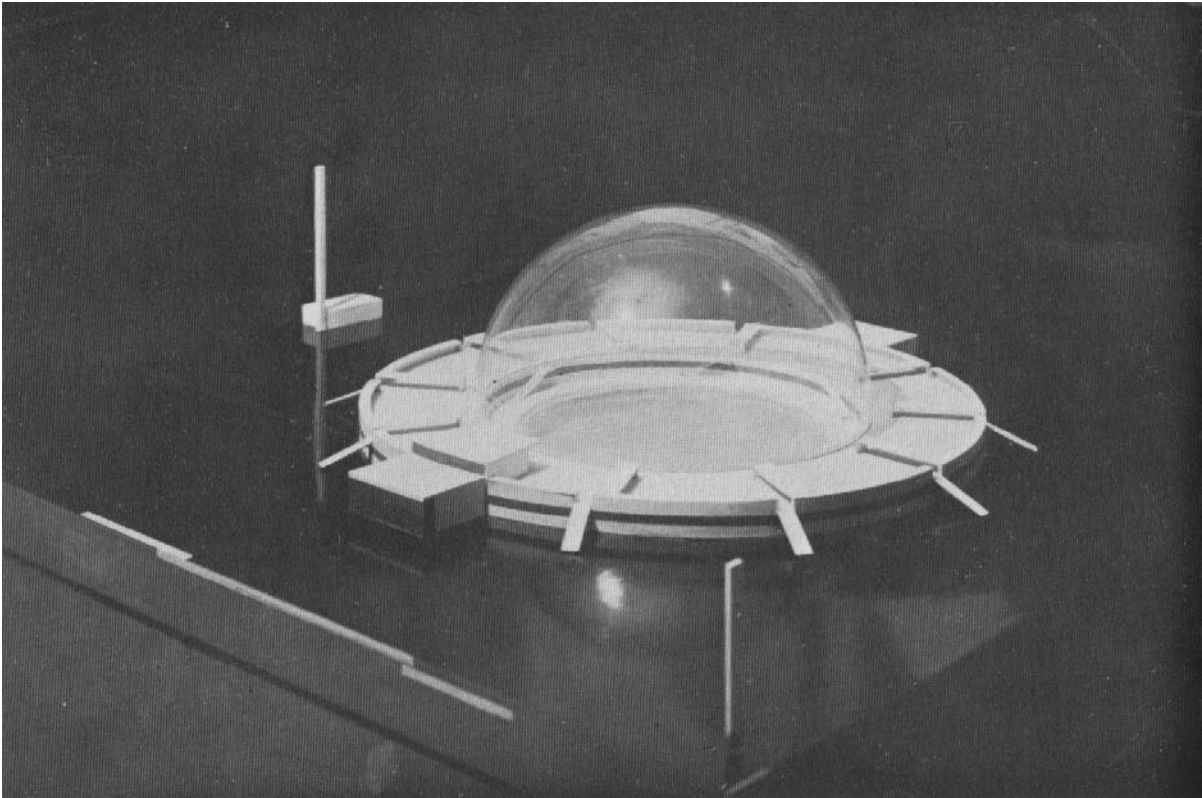
T Y P E Program / Building
 P R O J E C T Quartier De La Villette
 A R C H I T E C T Leon Krier
 L O C A T I O N / D A T E Paris / 1976



The buildings that emerge from such a design are basically those we have known and loved for centuries: the theatre, **the public baths**, the library, the grammar school.

- Krier

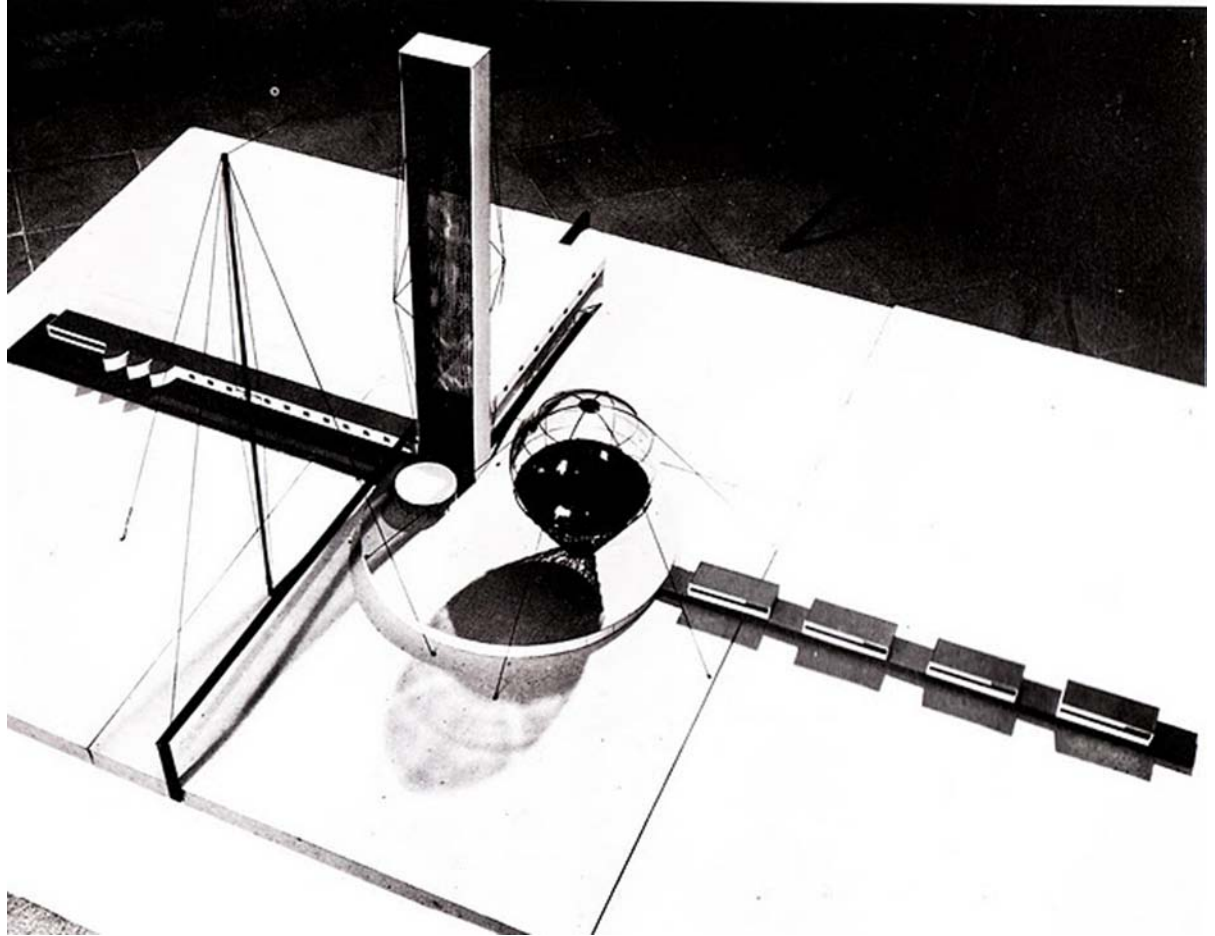
Program / Building T Y P E
 Berlin-Tegel, The Thermes P R O J E C T
 Leon Krier A R C H I T E C T
 Berlin / 1980-83 L O C A T I O N / D A T E



The circular layout is planned as a large **garden**.

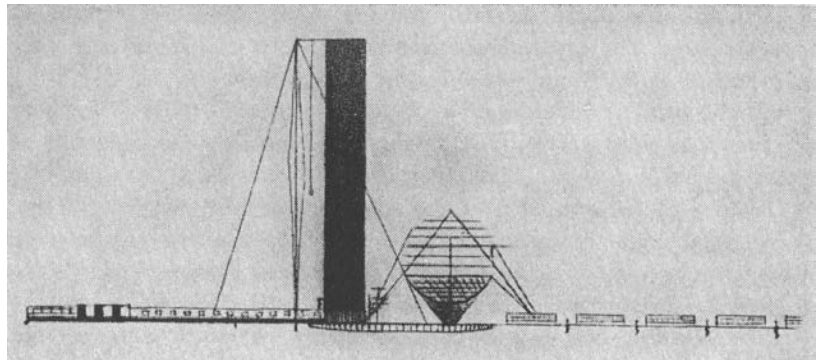
- EL LISSITZKY | Russia: An Architecture for World Revolution

T Y P E Program / Building, Formal / Spatial
 P R O J E C T Bathhouse for the city of Leningrad
 A R C H I T E C T Atelier A. Nikolski
 L O C A T I O N / D A T E Russia /

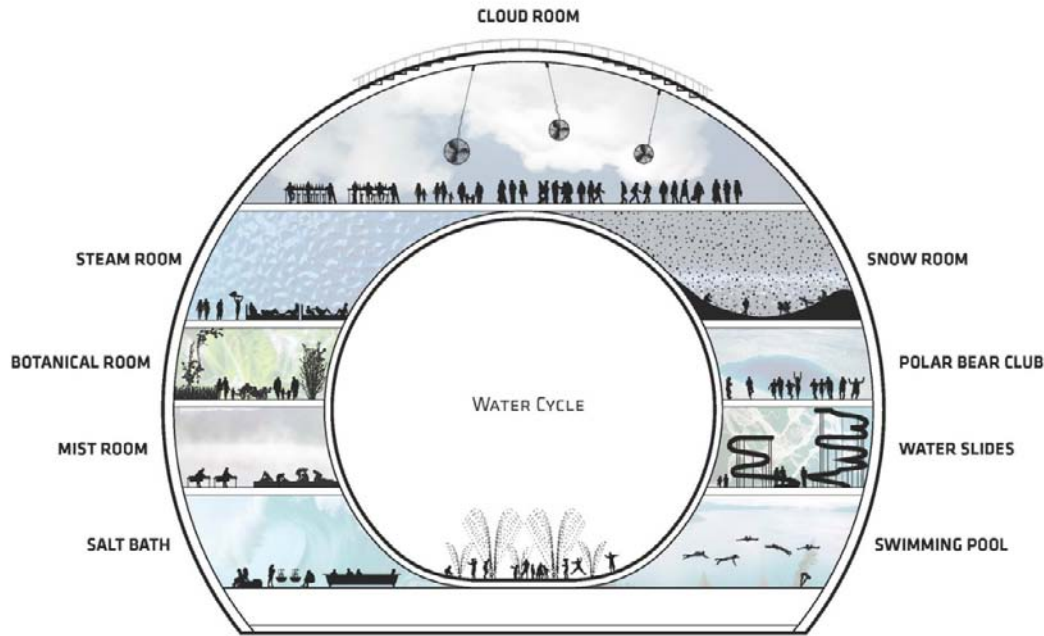


The design of the Lenin Institute on the Lenin Hills in Moscow is based on this idea. The building complex consists of a tower structure (library for 15 million volumes), low-story buildings with reading rooms and workrooms, and a spherical building (elevated in the air) containing a central reading room for 4,000 users.

- EL LISSITZKY | Russia: An Architecture for World Revolution

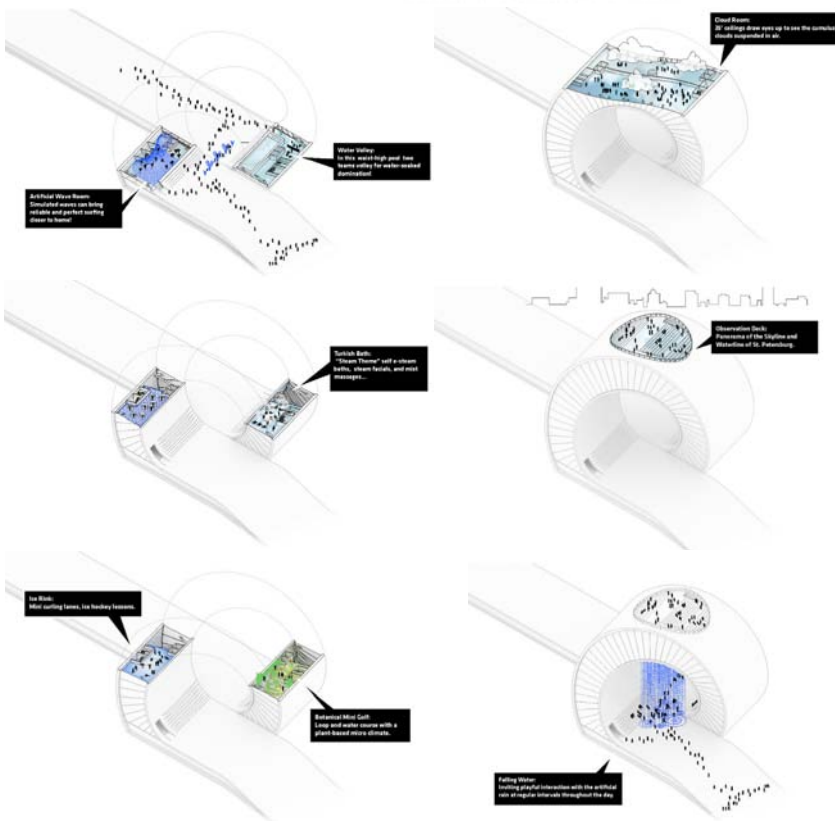


Program / Building, Formal / Spatial T Y P E
 Lenin Institute P R O J E C T
 I. Leonidov A R C H I T E C T
 Russia, 1927 L O C A T I O N / D A T E



The Water Cycle

The Wave is complete with leisure activities related to different states of water.



The Pier is integral to the identity of St. Petersburg - a landmark - or rather watermark - that is a point of reference and a gathering point for the people of the city. The Wave is conceived as a strong character on the skyline and waterline of St. Petersburg and Tampa Bay.

- BIG ARCHITECTS

T Y P E Program / Building, Formal / Spatial, Aesthetic / Image
 P R O J E C T Final Design Proposals for the St. Petersburg Pier Design Competition
 A R C H I T E C T BIG
 L O C A T I O N / D A T E St. Peterburg / 2011

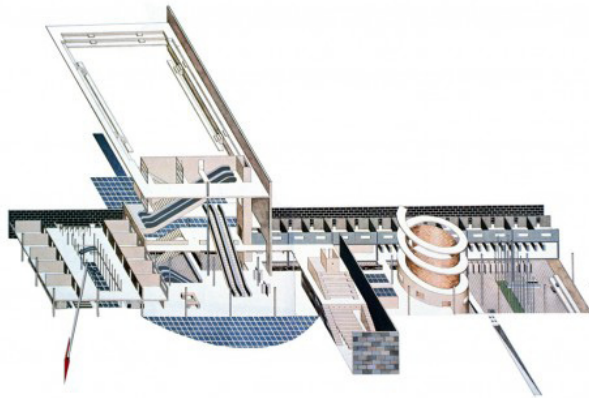
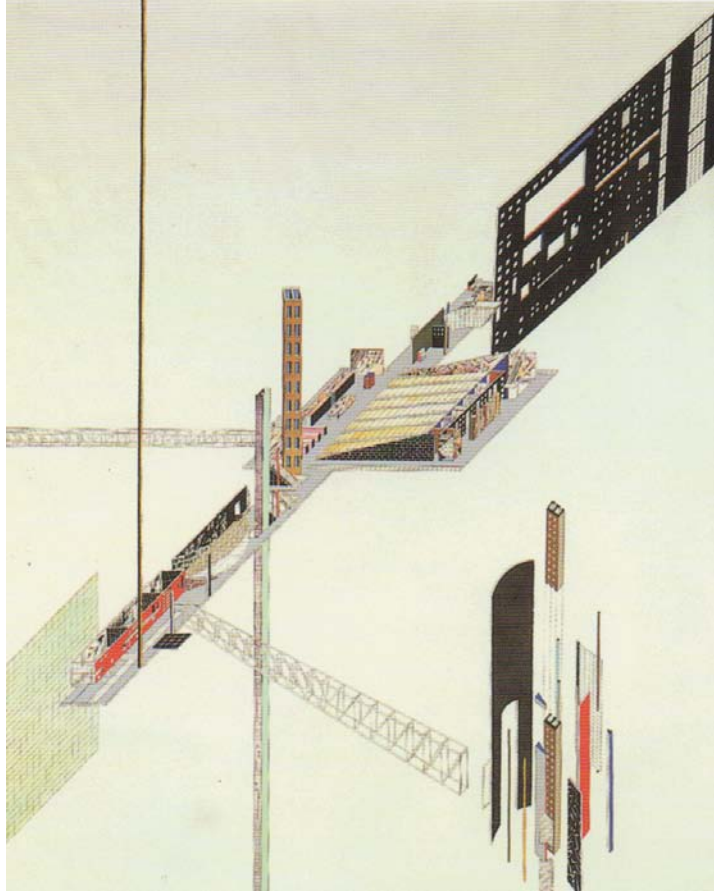
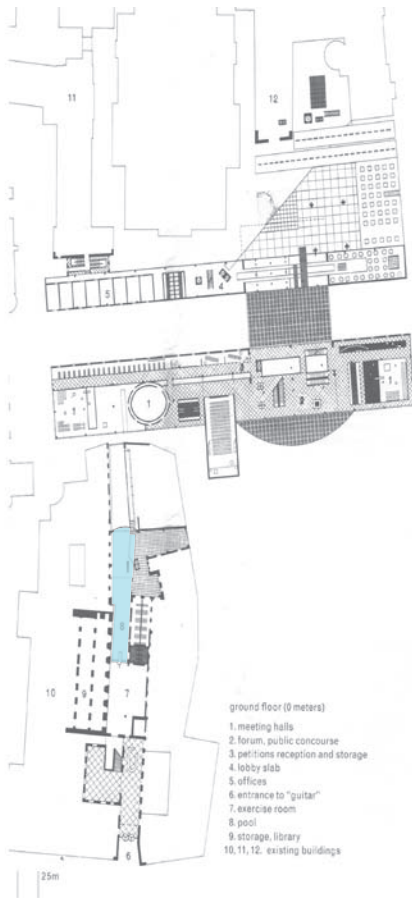


Simple geometric forms define the building. A complementary palette of traditional and contemporary materials gives the New Royal Bath its character which include high-performance glazing, stainless steel, concrete and golden Bath stone. A delicately designed glazed outer envelope follows the street line. Inside, a freestanding stone cube raised on columns contains the new spa facilities. The difference in levels between existing buildings has been resolved using split-level planning and the articulation of the connecting spaces with transparent bridges that open up vistas throughout the complex. Grimshaw's extensive use of frameless panelled glazing has a cohesive effect, creating a counterpoint between the old and new buildings. Thermae Bath Spa is the only functioning natural spa with hot spring water in the UK. It has pools at ground floor level and on the rooftop, providing views of the other baths and the surrounding hills.

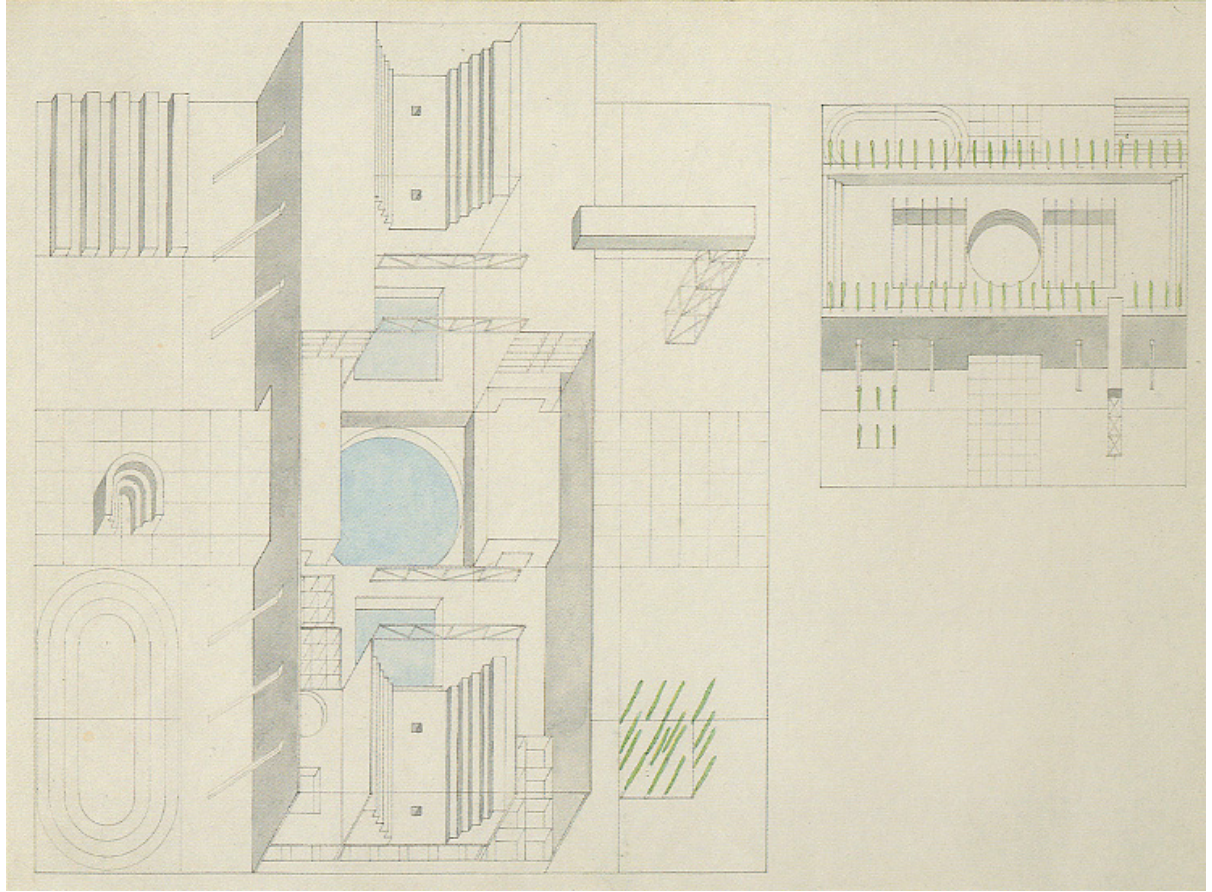
- GRIMSHAW ARCHITECTS



Material / Construction, Program / Building, Formal / Spatial T Y P E
 Thermae Bath Spa P R O J E C T
 Grimshaw Architects A R C H I T E C T
 Bath UK, 2006 LOCATION / DATE



T Y P E Program / Building, Formal / Spatial, Aesthetic / Image
P R O J E C T Extension of the Dutch Parliament
A R C H I T E C T Rem Koolhaas
L O C A T I O N / D A T E The Hague, Netherlands / 1978



The function of the baths is the creation and recycling of private and public fantasies, the transactions between them and the invention, testing, and possible introduction of new forms of behavior.

The building is a social condenser which brings hidden motivations, desires and impulses to the surface, to refine them for recognition, provocation and development.

Around the two square pools (warm and cold) and the circular main collector, the ground floor is an area of public action and display, a continuous parade of personalities and bodies, a stage where a cyclical dialectic between exhibitionism and spectatorship takes place.

It is an area for the observation and possible seduction of partners who will be invited to actively participate in private fantasies and the pursuit of desires.

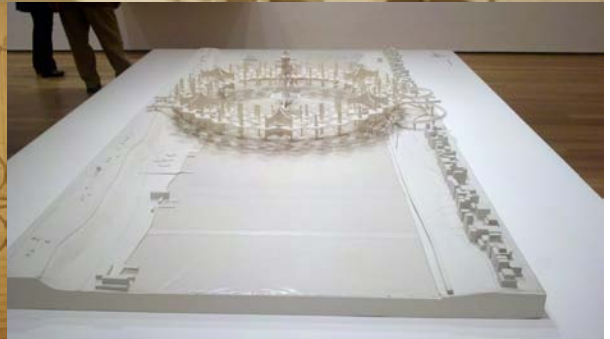
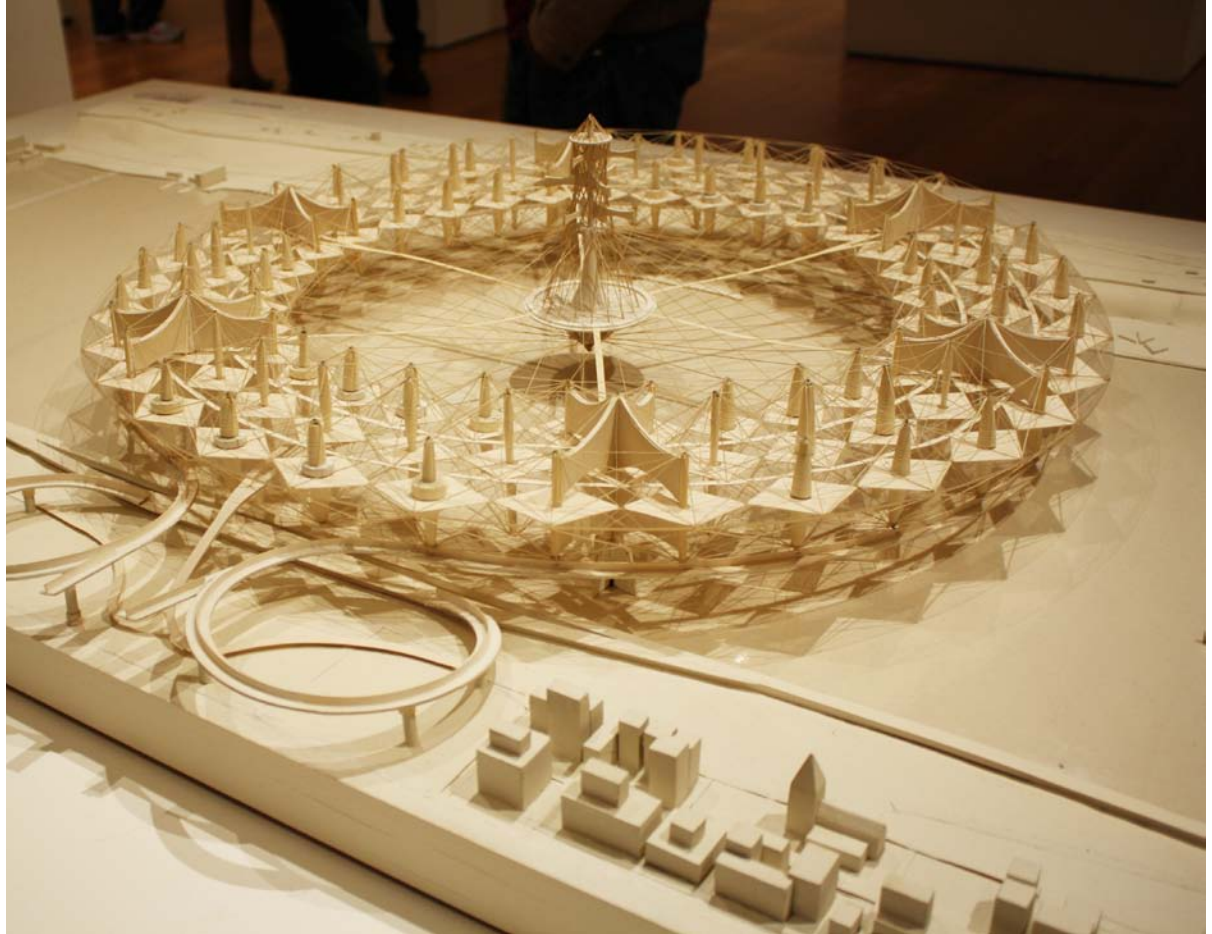
- REM KOOLHAAS



Aesthetic / Image, Program / Building, Formal / Spatial T Y P E
 Exodus, or the Voluntary Prisoners of Architecture, The Baths P R O J E C T
 Rem Koolhaas A R C H I T E C T
 NYC, 1972 LOCATION / DATE



T Y P E Program / Building, Aesthetic / Image
P R O J E C T Palmtree Island (Oasis)
A R C H I T E C T Haus-Rucker-Co
L O C A T I O N / D A T E NYC / 1971



This project envisions an elevated bridge complex spanning water or land areas and carrying tubular roads together with large scale apartment houses for 100,000 people. The model shows such a city spanning the Hudson River from 110th Street in Manhattan to the New Jersey shore at Fairview. The map shows ten related city units north and south of Secaucus. Six thousand feet in diameter, the Hudson River Bridge City spans 4,200 feet and is carried by two concrete piers on each shoreline. The structural system comprises three concentric rings of octahedral trusses held together by cables. Suspended within this framework are vertical cylinders and diamond-shaped decks which serve as gardens and recreation areas. The central suspended hub contains shopping areas, an auditorium, and office spaces.

- MOMA | 194X-9/11: American Architects and the City

Aesthetic / Image , Site / Context , Material / Construction, Program / Building, Formal / Spatial T Y P E
 Bridge City P R O J E C T
 James Fitzgibbon A R C H I T E C T
 NYC / 1960 LOCATION / DATE

ENDNOTES

6 The Great Bathers, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, 1884-7.

14 footnotes

1. Croutier, Alev Lytle. *Taking the Waters: Spirit, Art, Sensuality*. New York: Abbeville, 1992. Print. 13.

2. Ibid., 77.

3. Ibid., 81.

images

Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, The Baths of Caracalla, 1899.

Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, TA Favorite Custom, 1909.

15 footnotes: 4

4. Croutier, Alev Lytle. *Taking the Waters: Spirit, Art, Sensuality*. New York: Abbeville, 1992. Print. 81.

image

Edmond Paulin, Restitution of Diocletian Bath, ca. 1880.

16 footnotes

5. Nielsen, Inge. *Thermae et Balnea: The Architecture and Cultural History of Roman Public Baths*. Trans. Peter Crabb. 2 vols. Denmark: Aarhus University Press, 1990. Print. 2.

6. Croutier, Alev Lytle. *Taking the Waters: Spirit, Art, Sensuality*. New York: Abbeville, 1992. Print. 86.

7. Ibid., 86.

image

Men's Hamam, Istanbul.

17 footnotes

8. Croutier, Alev Lytle. *Taking the Waters: Spirit, Art, Sensuality*. New York: Abbeville, 1992. Print. 92.

9. Ibid., 93

10. Ibid., 103.

11. 104.

image

Advertisement for a Japanese bathhouse, Tokyo.

- 18 footnotes: 12
12. Croutier, Alev Lytle. *Taking the Waters: Spirit, Art, Sensuality*. New York: Abbeville, 1992. Print. 104.
image
View of Shower Baths and Plunge in Turkish Bath of Public Bath House, Hannover, Germany
- 19 Bradley Group Showers advertisement.
- 20 footnotes, 13
13. Williams, Marilyn T. *Washing “the Great Unwashed”: Public Baths in Urban America, 1840-1920*. Columbus: Ohio State UP, 1991. Print. 45.
image
Map of Public Baths of Manhattan, 1915
- 21 Floating bath in NYC on Hudson or East River.
- 22 Wonder Sauna Pants advertisement.
- 23 San Francisco gay bathhouse advertisement.
- 24-25 Williams, Marilyn T. *Washing “the Great Unwashed”: Public Baths in Urban America, 1840-1920*. Columbus: Ohio State UP, 1991. Print. 139-142.
- 74-83 All images are from the database ARTstor

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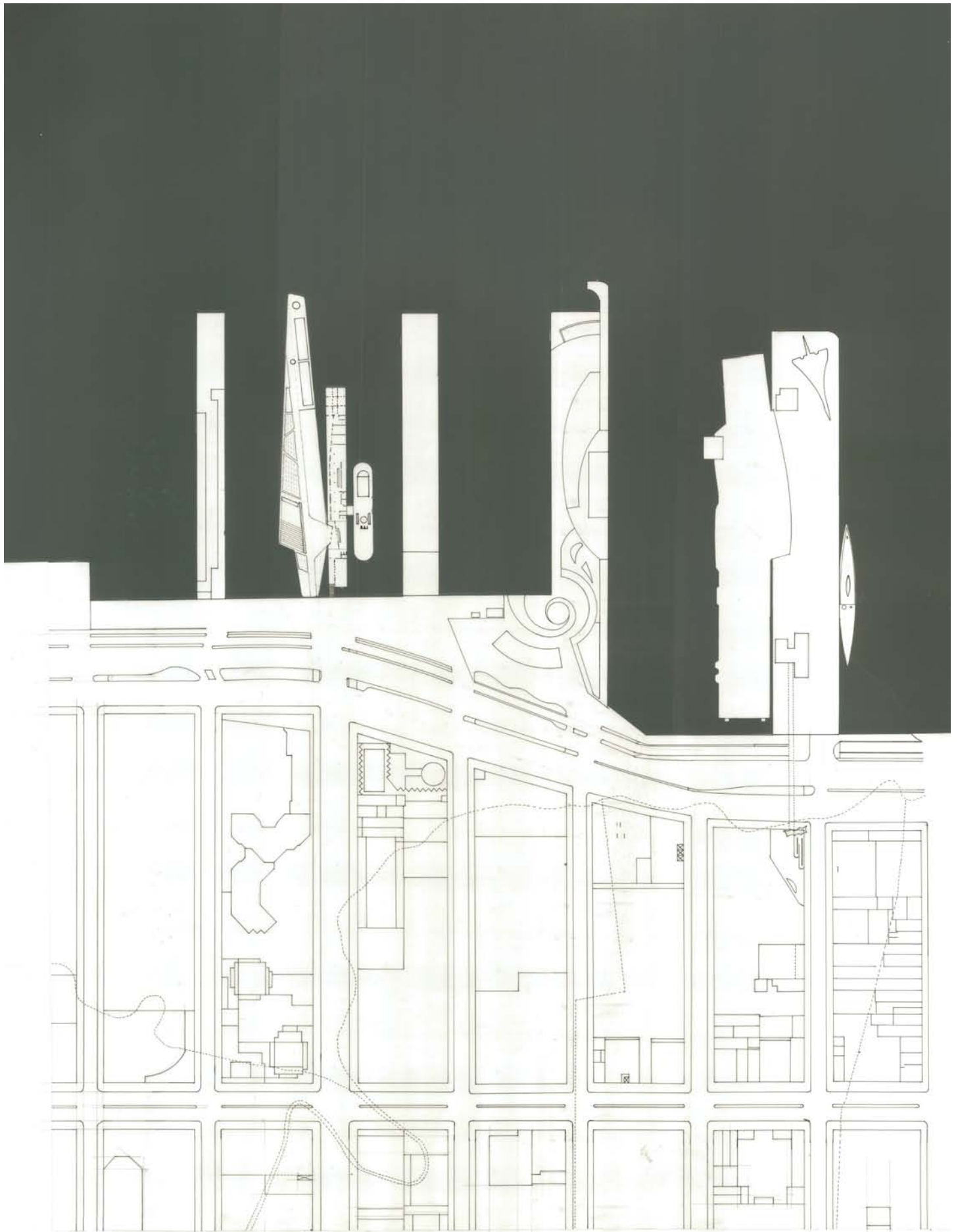
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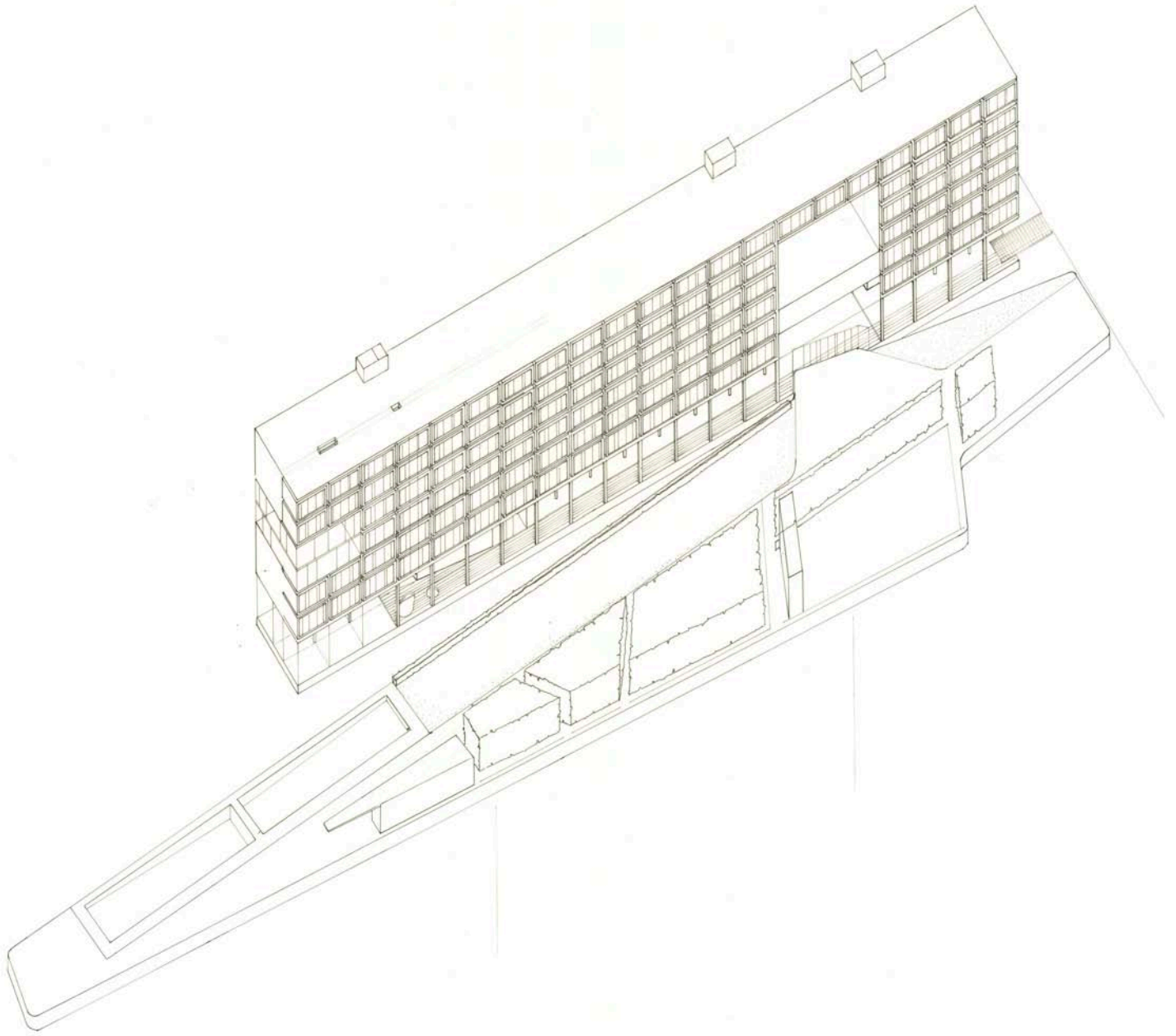
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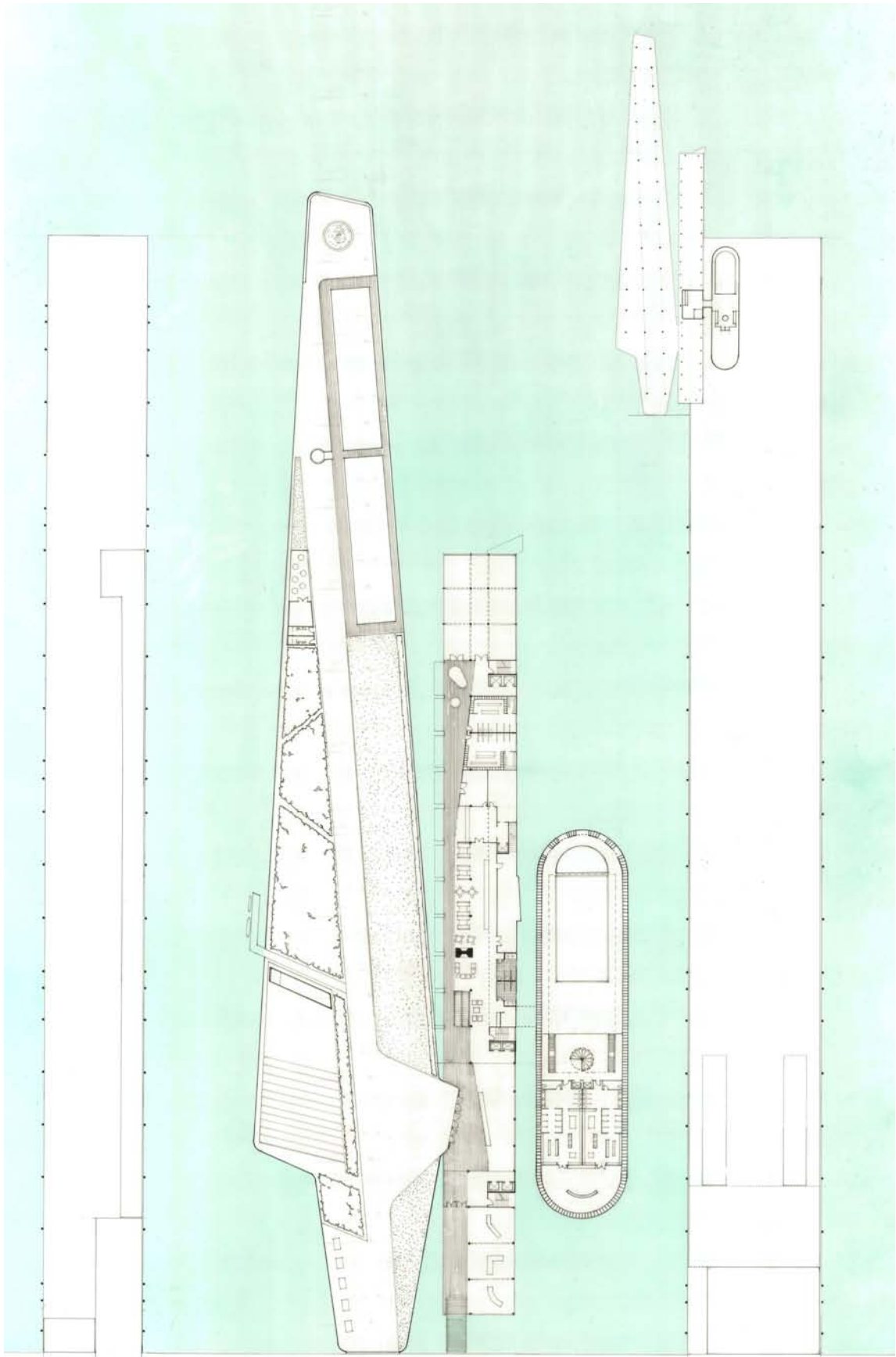
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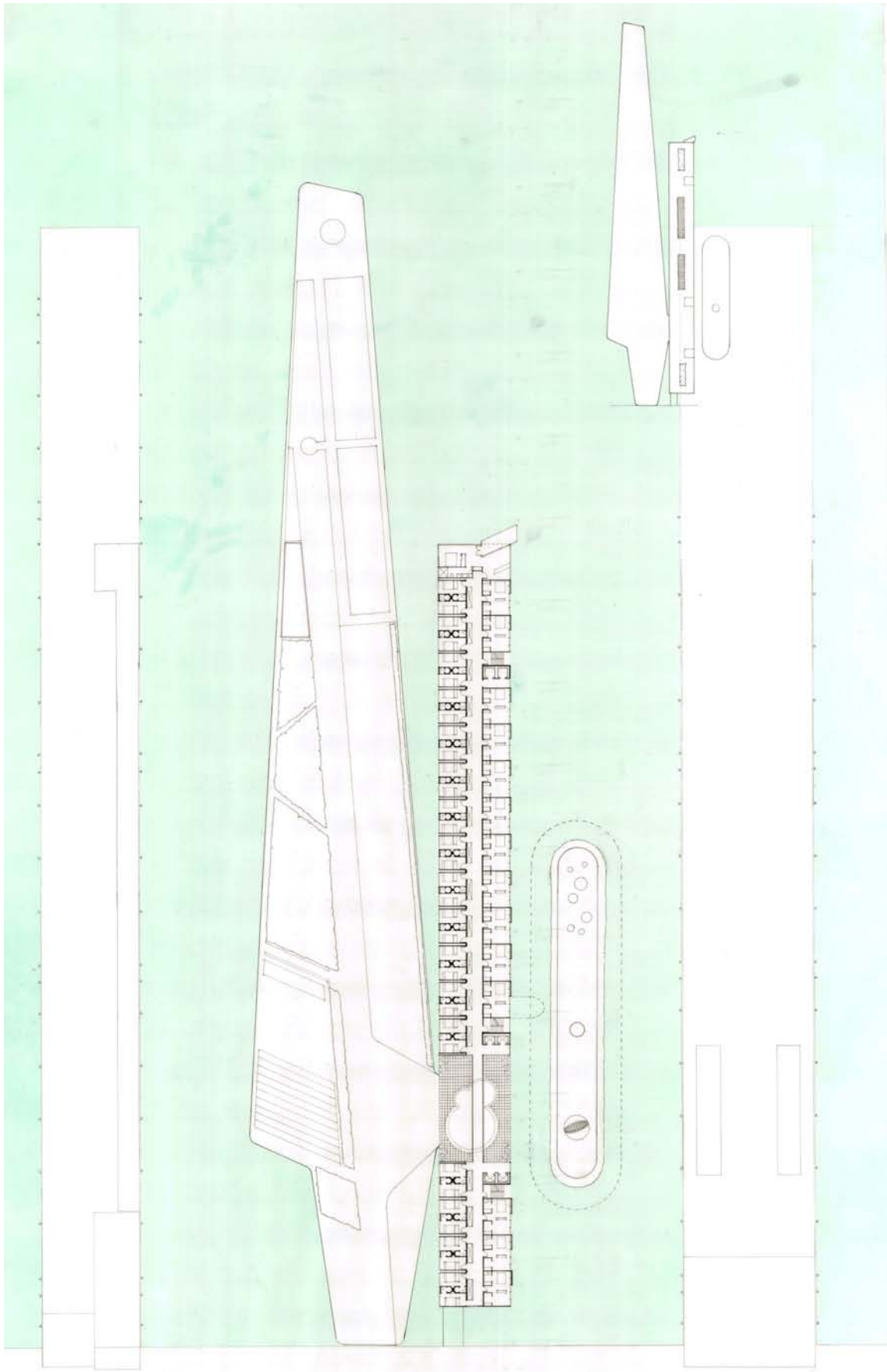


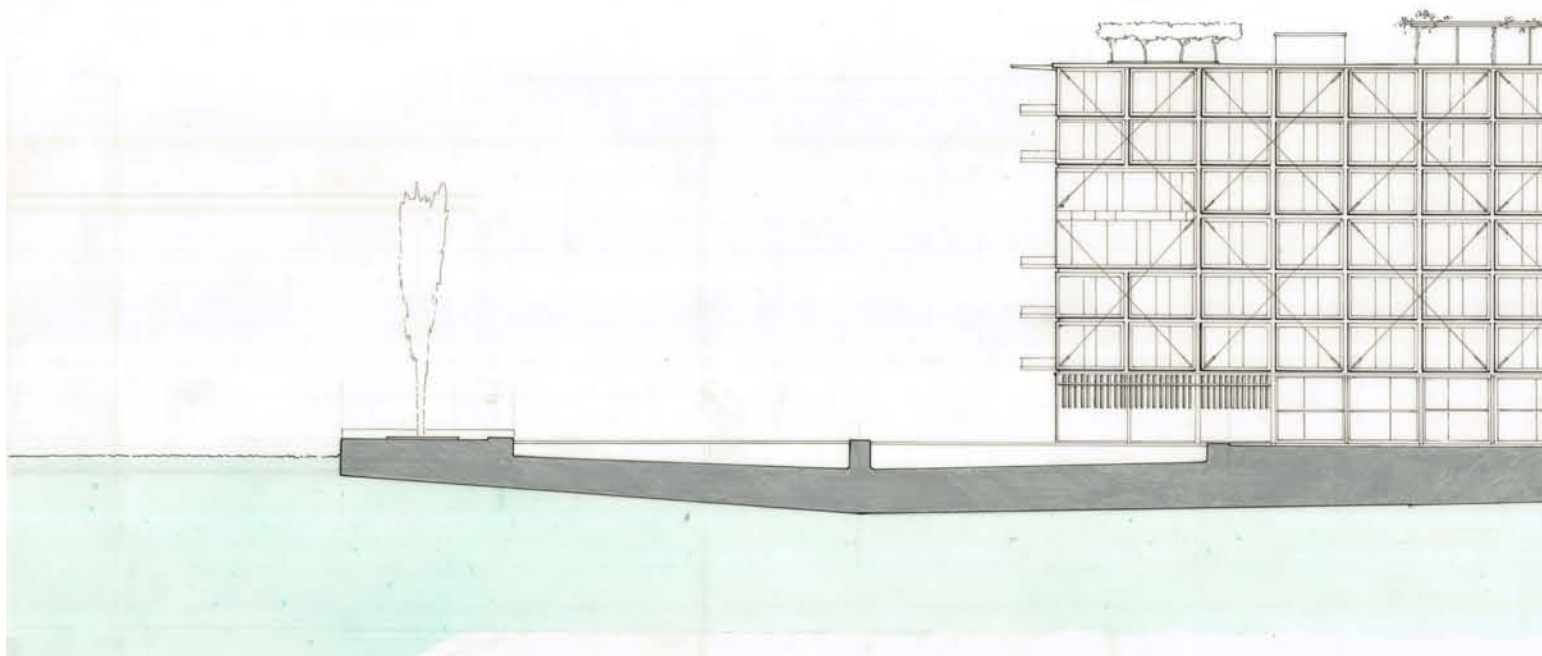
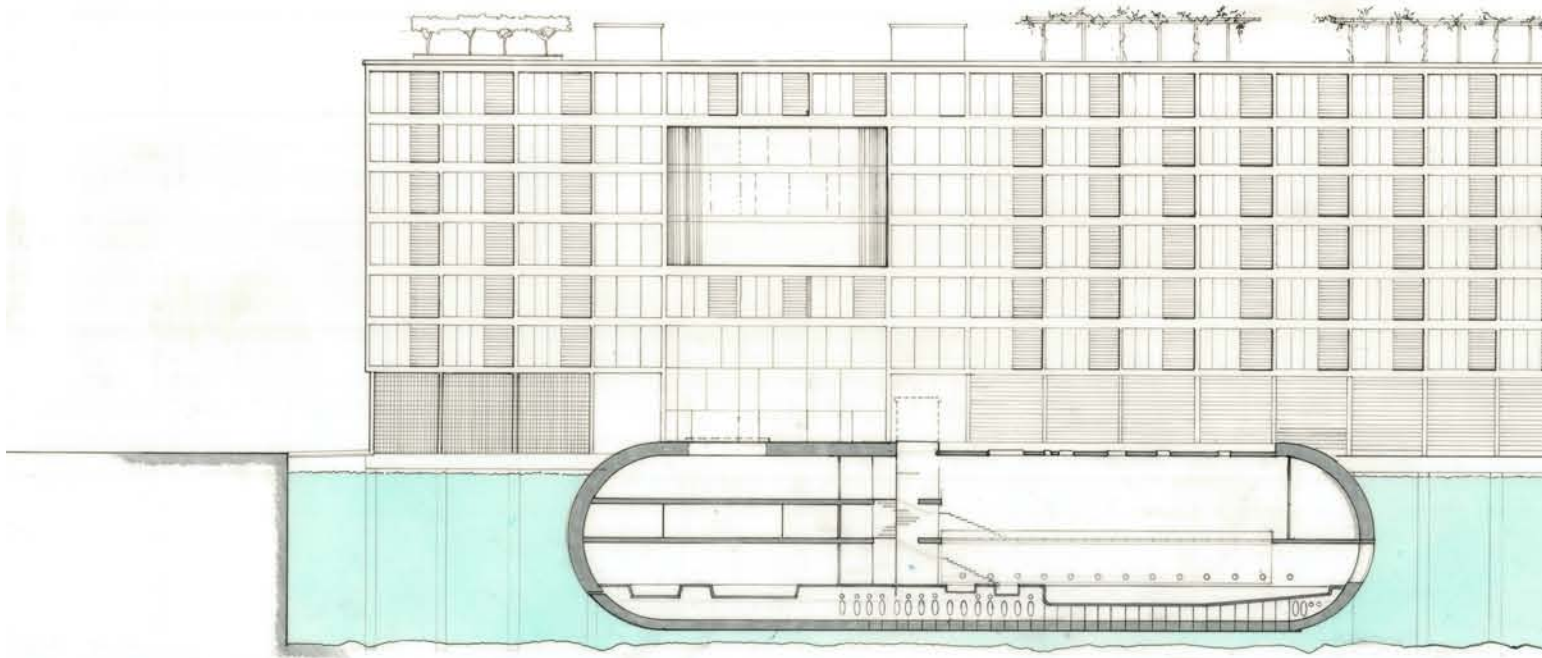


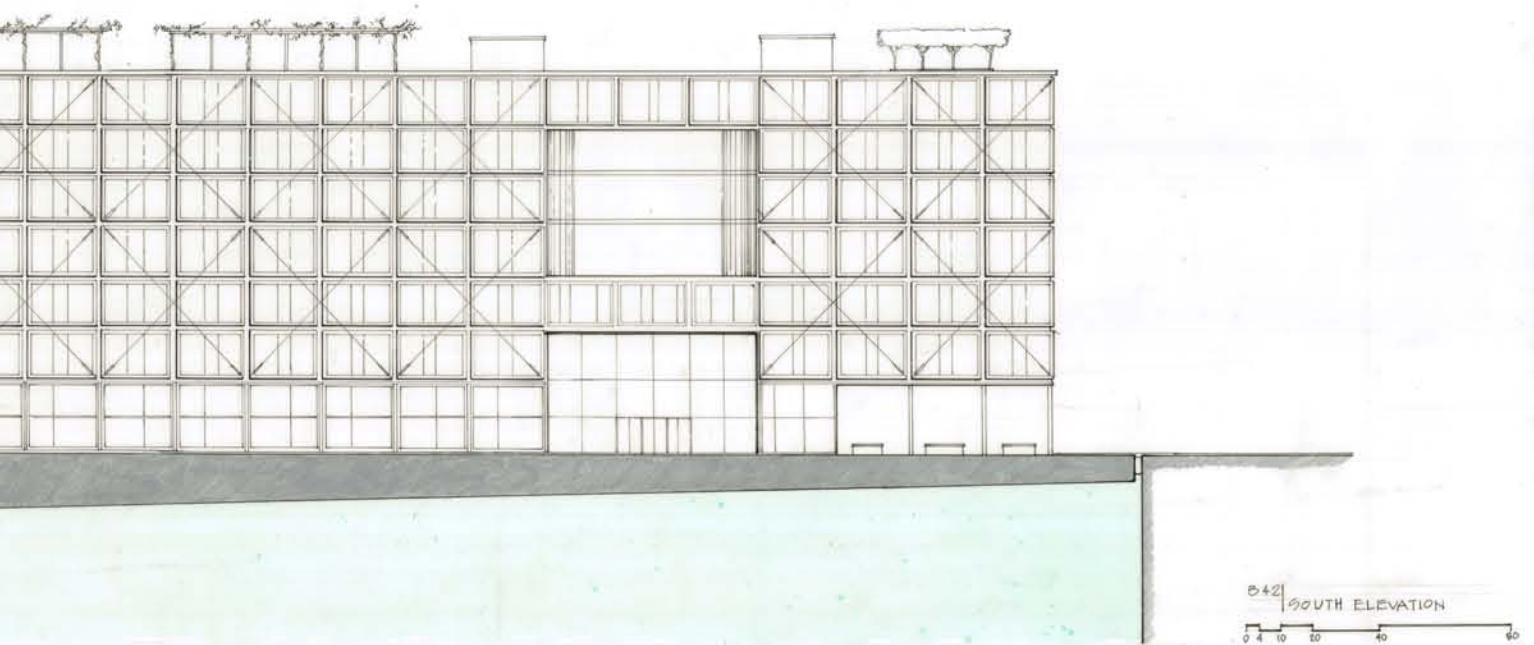
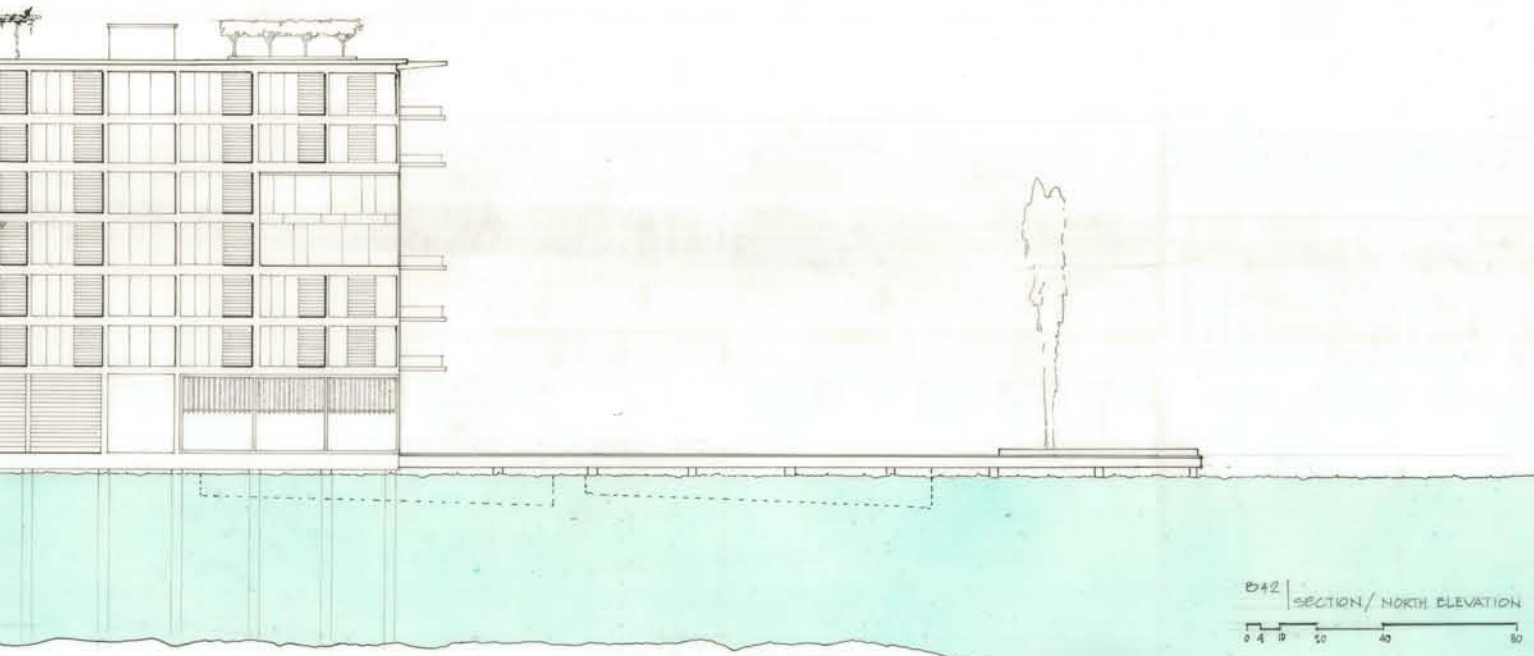


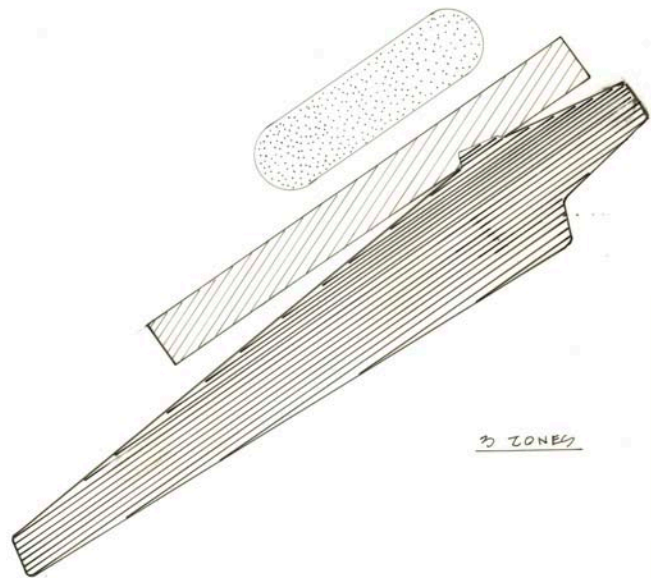
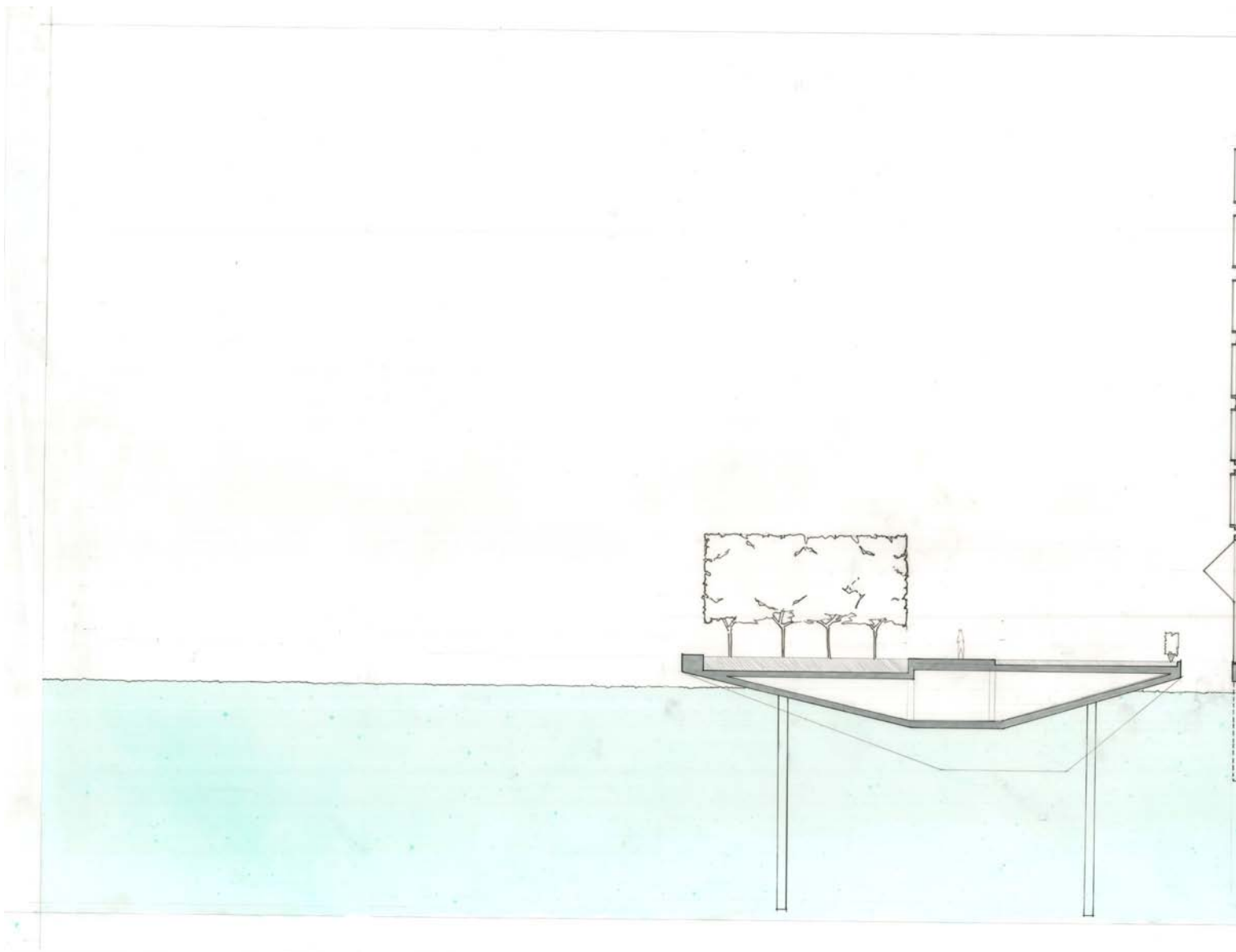
D12 | GROUND FLOOR



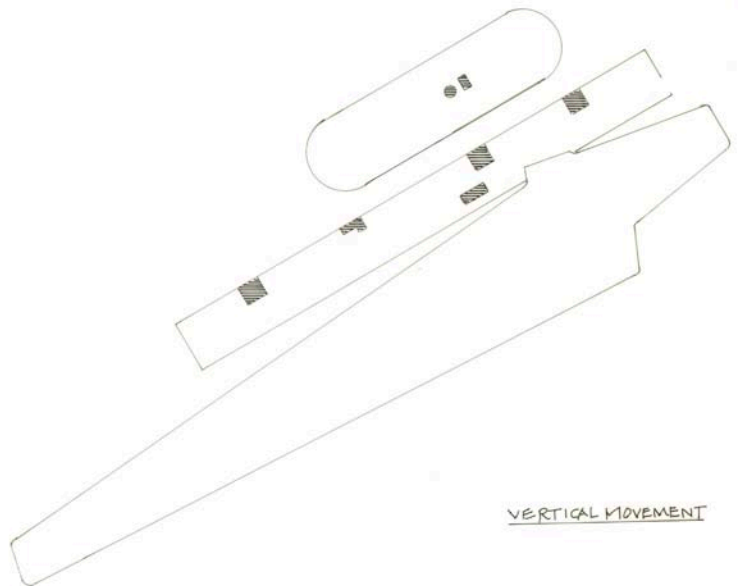




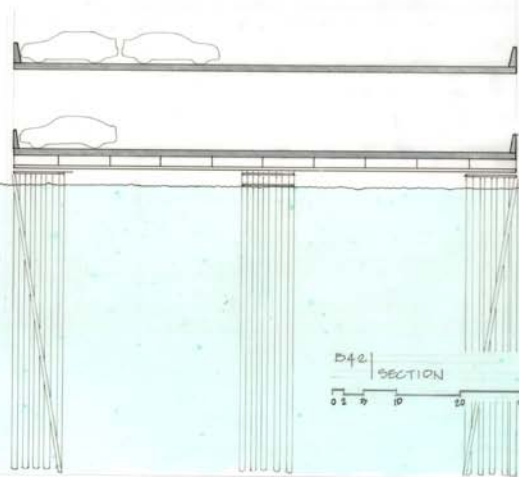
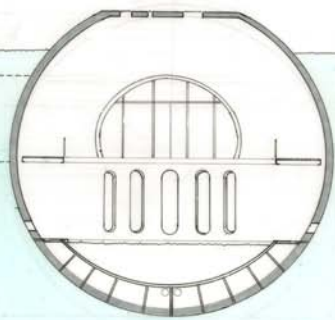
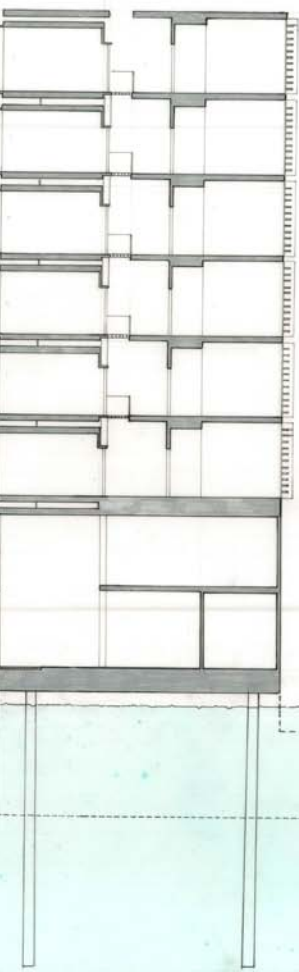




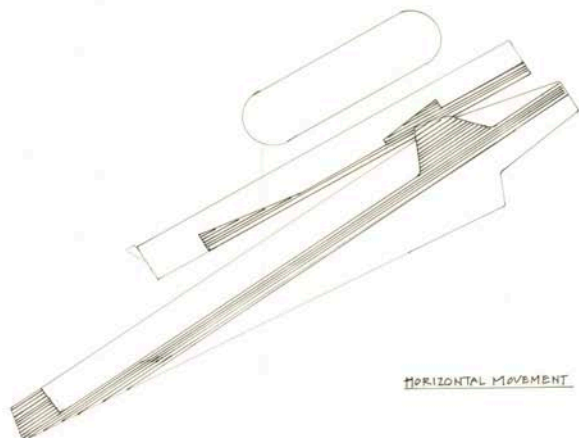
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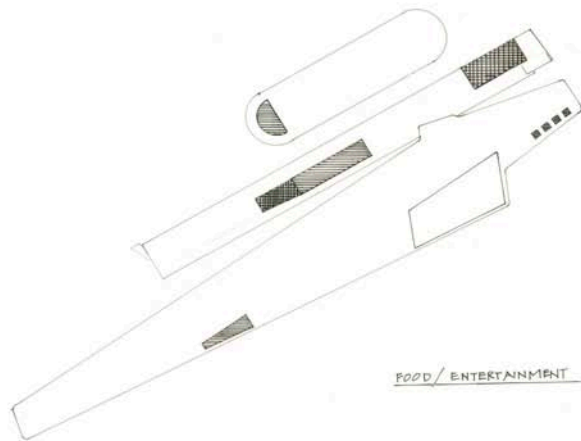
VERTICAL MOVEMENT



D42 SECTION
0 5 10 20 30



HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT



FOOD / ENTERTAINMENT

