BUILT CONTINUITIES
A Study of the Use of Variable Access Systems for Architectural Design

by
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Submitted to the Department of Architecture in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Degree of Master of Architecture at Massachusetts Institute of Technology

February 1984

Signature of author .....
Richard J. Furman, Department of Architecture January 18, 1984

Certified by .....
Maurice K. Smith, Professor of Architecture, Thesis Supervisor

Accepted by .....
Chester Sprague, Chairman Departmental Committee for Graduate Students

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this thesis is to develop an alternate process of architectural design based on a variety of schemes which respond to different aspects of any given project and site. The major focus of each exploration is the influence of pedestrian access on the building form. After the investigations are compiled a final projection will be synthesized as an assemblage of the strengths of each exploration. This method should enable the project to contain more than a strong design decision.

Thesis Supervisor: Maurice K. Smith
Title: Professor of Architecture

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Acknowledgements

to Maurice K. Smith -my friend / consultant without whose direction none of the questions would have been in focus.

to Shun Kanda -for Sushi, Sake and the beginning of my design awareness.

to Bob Slattery -for friendly, therapeutic fishing trips.

to Don Mills -for the jokes (I was blamed for), the influence of clarity, and the comraderie.

to Dennis Carlberg -for asking "What do you want to do that for?", the, "built" peanut butter sandwiches, and a sense of light and all that entails.

to Grace Napier -though she never knew it, with the love, understanding and friendship she helped my through the worst times.

to my parents Larry / Gloria Furman for their patience, unquestioning support and invaluable guidance through the longest process.

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Introduction

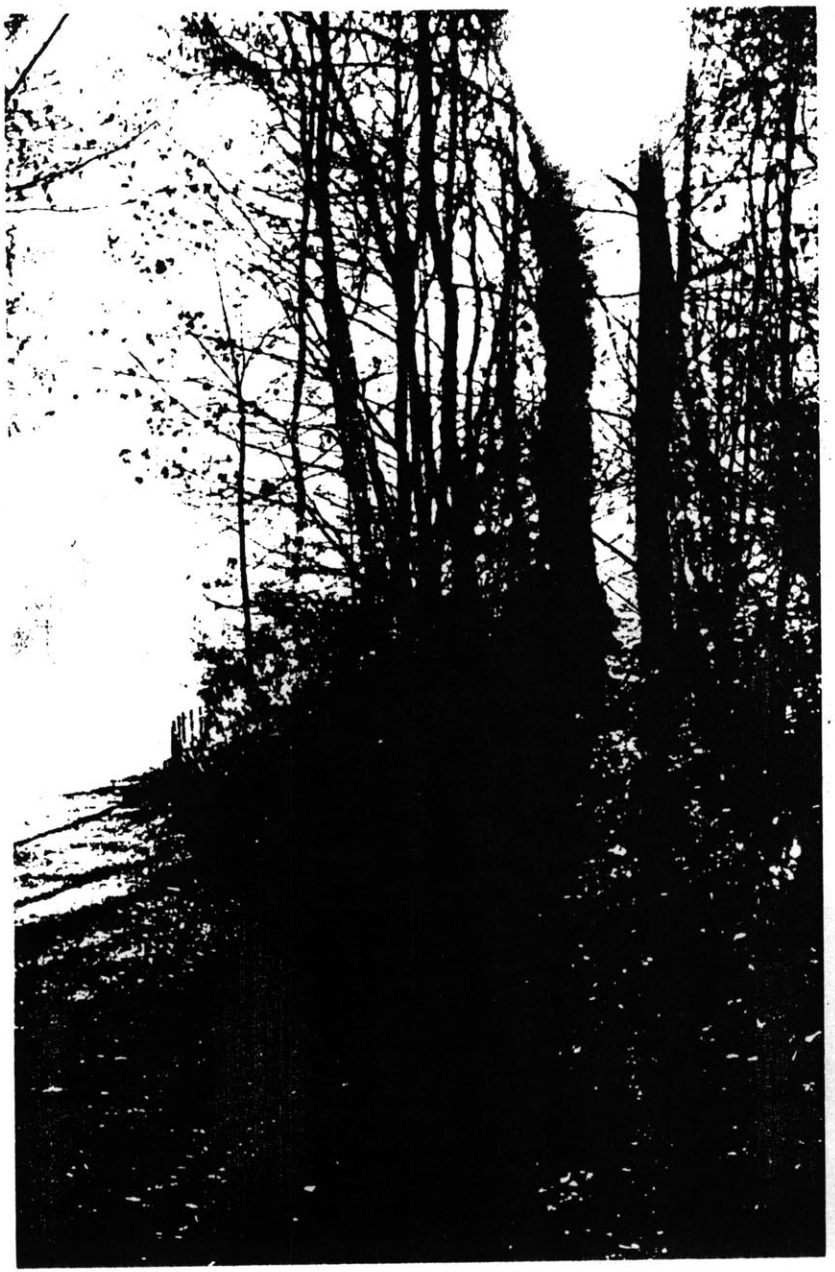
INTRODUCTION

Whether
- -walking down a busy street
- -hiking in the woods
- -navigating a raging river
- -trout fishing in a stream

the perception of our environment depends on our
- -location
- -sense of smell
  - taste
  - touch
  - hearing
  - sight
- -movement through that particular region

In fact, much of our time is spent moving
- -from place to place
- -past territories
- -through experiences

That may or may not be perceived.




NO
NO
Wursthaus
Cocktail
Lounge

Because of this our view
and understanding of the
environment is determined
by

-knowing how to get
somewhere
-where a particular place is
in relation to another

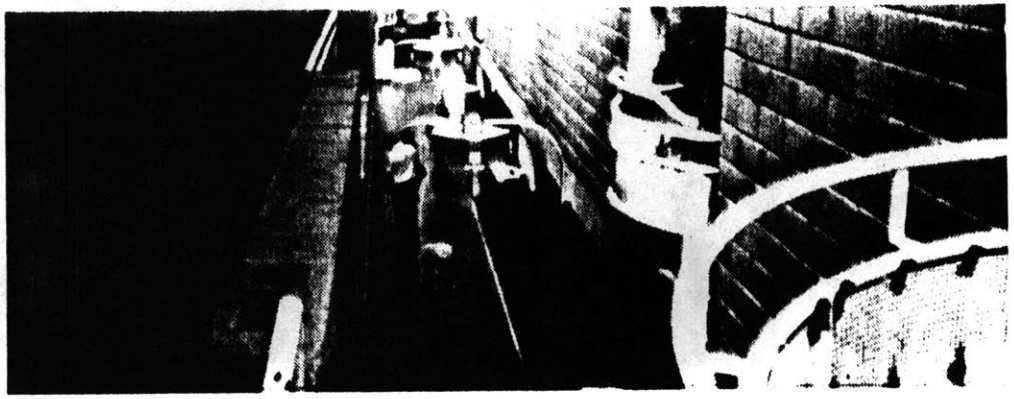
From Webster's Unabridged Dictionary

access - (ăk sĕs)

1. permission, liberty or ability to enter, approach, communicate with or to pass to and from.
2. freedom or ability to obtain or make use of.

This demonstration reaffirms
the $\frac{\text{suspicions}}{\text{beliefs}}$ that much of
the user's time is occupied
with the question,

"how can I $\frac{\text{use}}{\text{get to}}$...?"
$\frac{}{\text{enter}}$

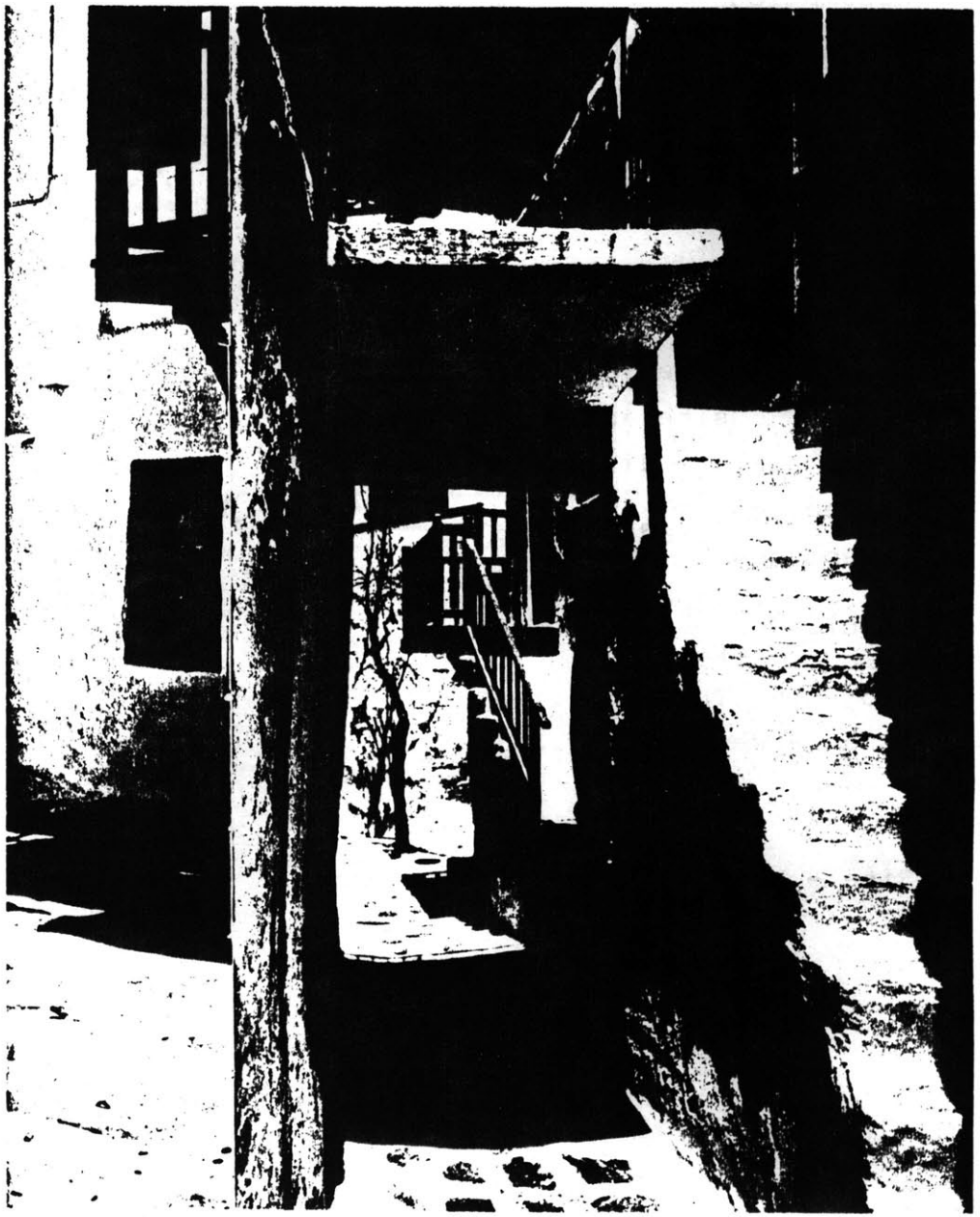


All of the issues of building organization are loaded into the word access.

Issues of

$$\frac{\text{public}}{\text{private}} \quad \frac{\text{light}}{\text{shadow}} \quad \frac{\text{screen}}{\text{wall}}$$

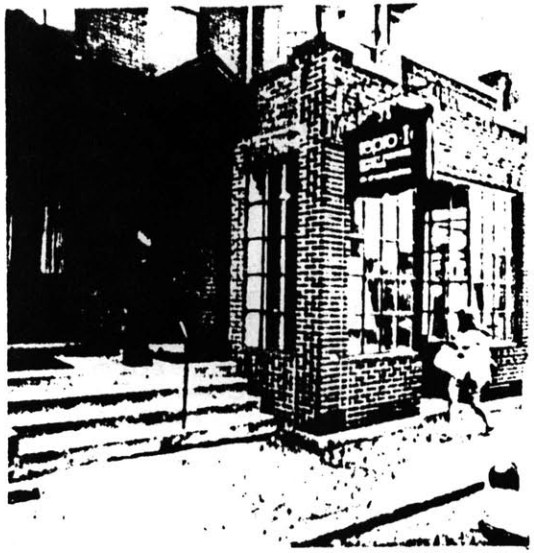
depend on the $\frac{\text{form}}{\text{location}}$ of the public realm; not simple adjacencies. For the most public place in many buildings is the access.



Assumption - the experience of movement

-is a strong influence on our perception of the environment

-should be a powerful means of designing the built world.



Method - (given a particular site and program)

is to explore different $\frac{\text{projections}}{\text{responses}}$ advocating a specific $\frac{\text{aspect}}{\text{criterion}}$ of the project. The final response is an assemblage of all.

Site - Harvard Sq. Cambridge, Mass.

is bordered by
- Mt. Auburn St.
- Holyoke Place
- Winthrop St.
- Boylston St.

dense urban fabric
strong pedestrian force
variety of users.


HOLYOKE STREET
DUNSTER STREET
WINTHROP STREET
HOLYOKE PLACE
BOYLSTON STREET
MOUNT AUBURN STREET
LINDEN STREET
HOLYOKE STREET
DUNSTER STREET
SITE PLAN

16

Program - retail/commercial
leasible office
space
Harvard University
office space
Harvard Student
Housing and
support
facilities.

When dealing with $\frac{\text{a multi-faceted program}}{\text{a complex site}}$

one can employ one of four methods of design:

1)	juxtaposition	or"fit the pieces" one works with all facets of the design until everything fits.
2)	juggling	keep every aspect up in the air until the optimal situation is found. One change can effect every decision.

3) selection

simply deal with a select number of influences and the others are either subservient to those or not addressed at all.

4) variable advocacies

work out three or more schemes reinforcing a different aspect each time to ascertain the use and position of each in the final projection.


HOLYOKE STREET
DUNSTER STREET
WINTHROP STREET
HOLYOKE PLACE
BOYLSTON STREET
MOUNT AUBURN STREET
LINDEN STREET
HOLYOKE STREET
DUNSTER STREET
EXISTING PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
SITE PLAN

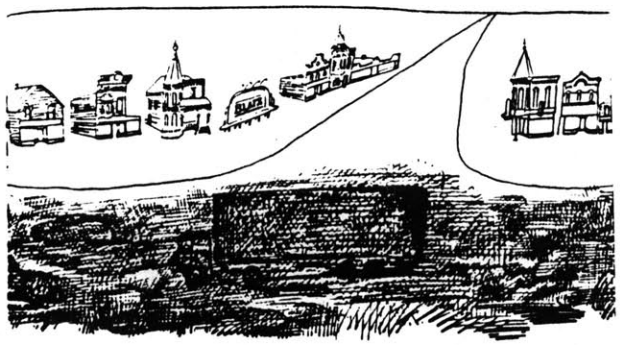
In Harvard Square the different pedestrian forces can support distinct parts of the program.

1) movement in the Mt. Auburn St. direction (A)

-promotes retail/ commercial development at ground
-reinforces the long dimension of the site
-provides more public contact with the site.

2) movement perpendicular to Mt. Auburn St. (B)

-Harvard students' path to/from class
-promotes student related facilities
-allows less public contact with site.

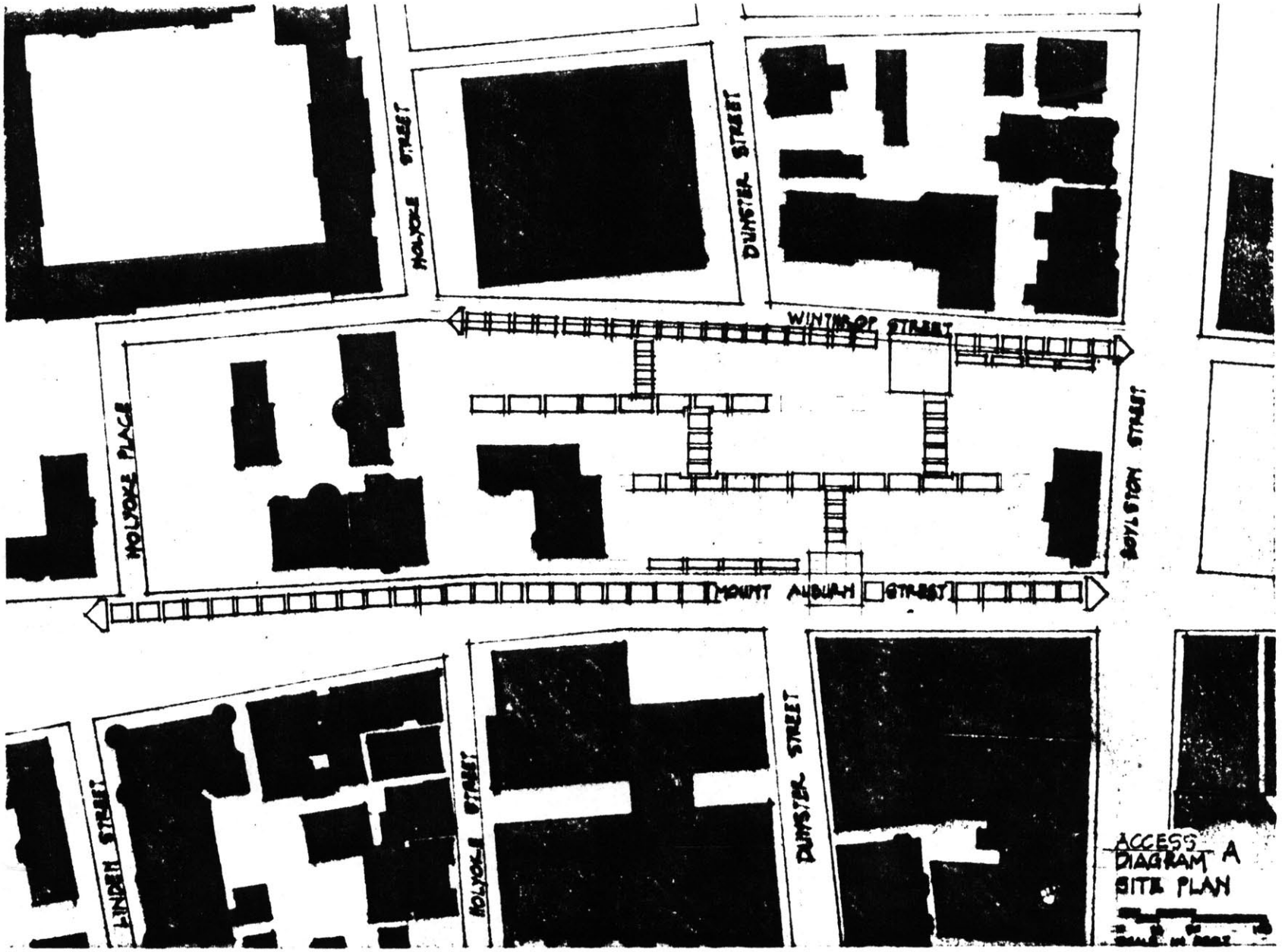


Drawing by Saul Steinberg, 1953.

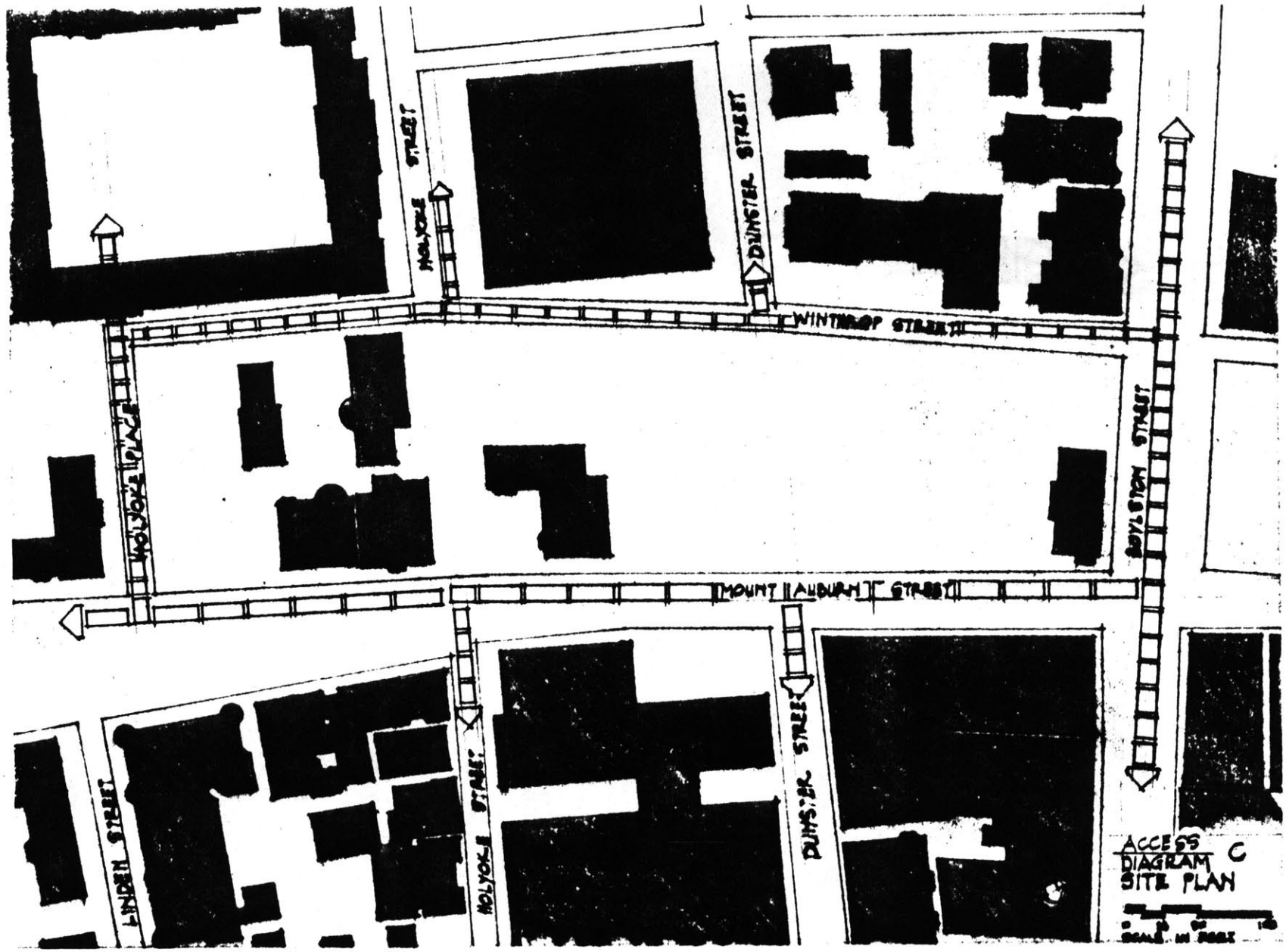
3) perimeter access (C)

-no site penetration of access
-public zone is always at street
-similar, in theory, to most block developments in the area

In addition each advocacy would require a slightly different method of designing. This attitude is expounded further along in this paper (see dimensional diagrams), however, initially it is crucial to exaggerate the differences among the three explorations in order to see each advocated aspect in its own light.


HOLYOKE STREET
DUNSTER STREET
WINTHROP STREET
HOLYOKE PLACE
BOYLSTON STREET
MOUNT AUBURN STREET
LINDEN STREET
HOLYOKE STREET
DUNSTER STREET
ACCESS DIAGRAM A
SITE PLAN


HOLYOKE STREET
DUNSTER STREET
WINTHROP STREET
HOLYOKE PLACE
BOYLSTON STREET
MOUNT AUBURN STREET
LINDEN STREET
HOLYOKE STREET
DUNSTER STREET
ACCESS
DIAGRAM B
SITE PLAN
SCALE IN FEET


HOLYOKE STREET
DUNSTER STREET
WINTHROP STREET
HOLYOKE PLACE
BOYLSTON STREET
MOUNT AUBURN STREET
LINDEN STREET
HOLYOKE STREET
DUNSTER STREET
ACCESS DIAGRAM C
SITE PLAN

General List of Illustrations

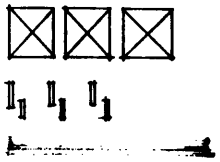
include:	to illustrate:
1) simple access diagrams (already shown)	-the underlying principle or generating force of the particular exploration.
2) diagrams of site organizations	-annotated systems used to build the diagram and the relationships among the various constituents
3) dimensional analyses of diagrams	-the dimensional correpondence at the site size, between the design and the context, and within the design -the working method of each exploration
4) design / assemblage / systems / vocabularies of building	-the differences in the physical definition of each projection.
5) dimensional analyses of building systems	-dimensional consistency within each system -relationships to other building methods.

The Explorations

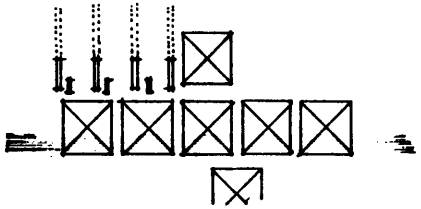
- projection A
- variable $\frac{\text{access}}{\text{use}}$
- projection B
- the courtyard system
- projection C

Site Diagram A

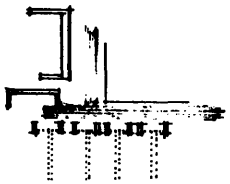
this shows the relationship among
-the square system
-the frame system
-the access system



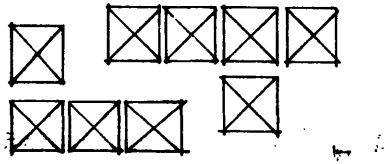
In general, the squares are present at the exchange between the use territory and the access zone.

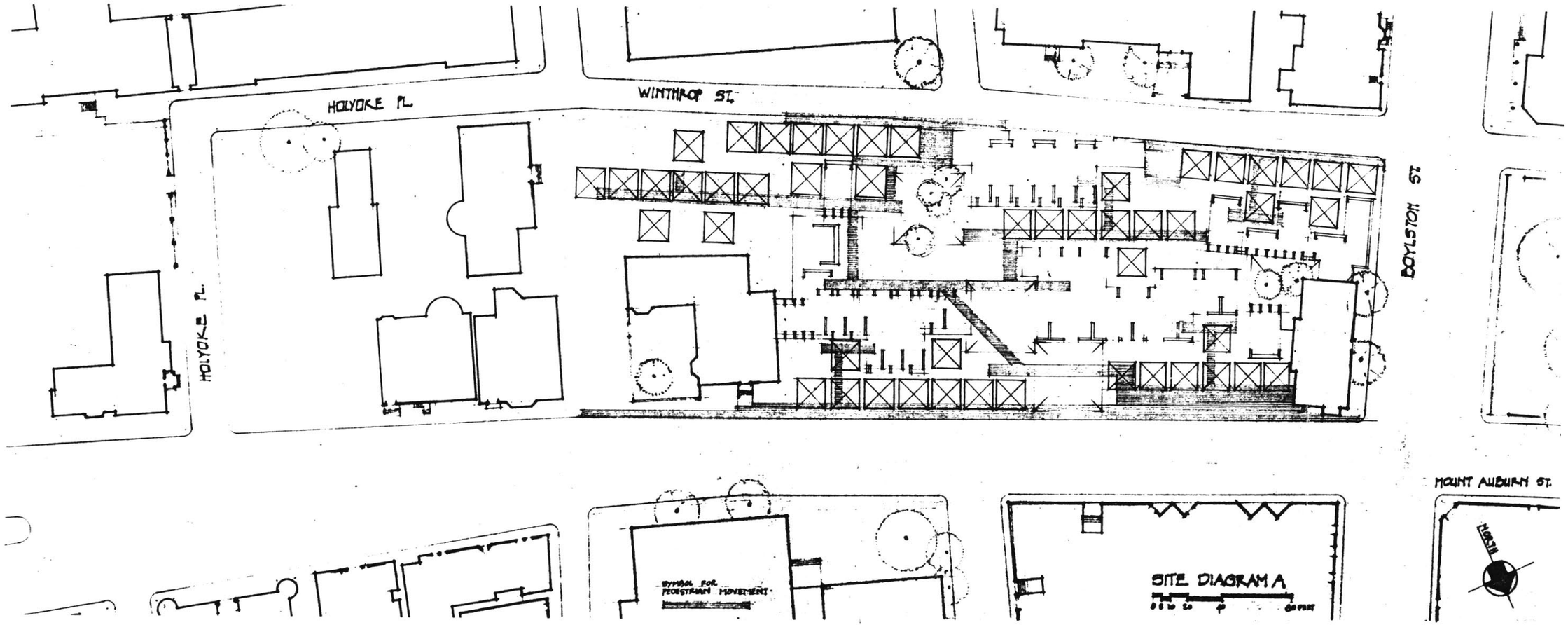


There are places where there is access without the presence of the squares...



...and conversely there is a region where the squares build the use territory.




HOLYOKE PL.
WINTHROP ST.
HOLYOKE PL.
BOYLSTON ST
SYMBOL FOR PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT
SITE DIAGRAM A
MOUNT AUBURN ST.
NORTH

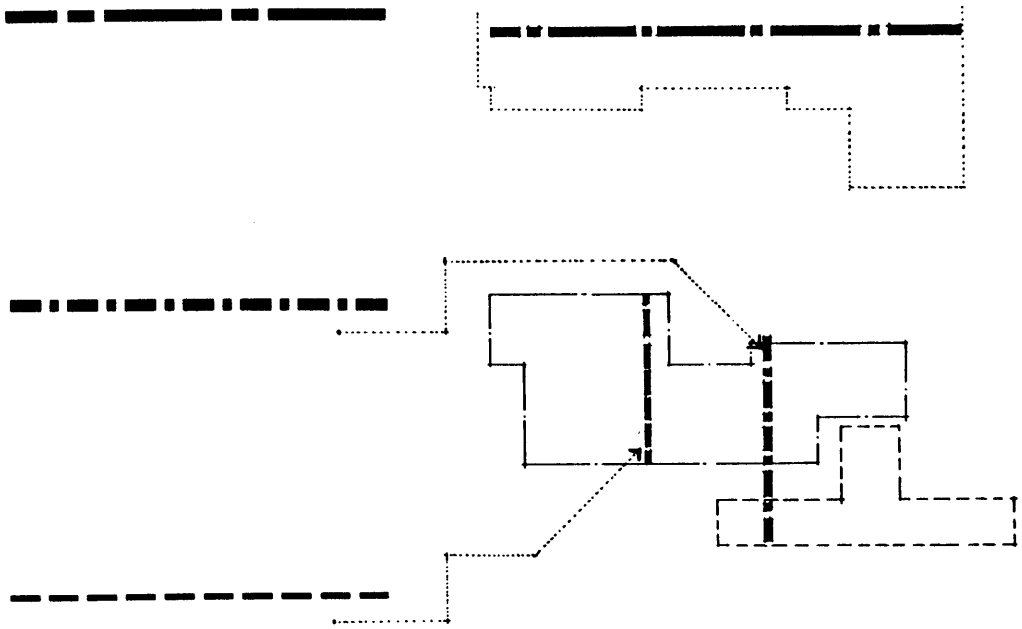
Dimensional Diagram of Organization A

Certain dimensions are used consistently to give a larger order to the three systems working together in this projection.

The longest straight dimension of access possible before entering a territory. Based on the length of the neighboring Lutheran Church.

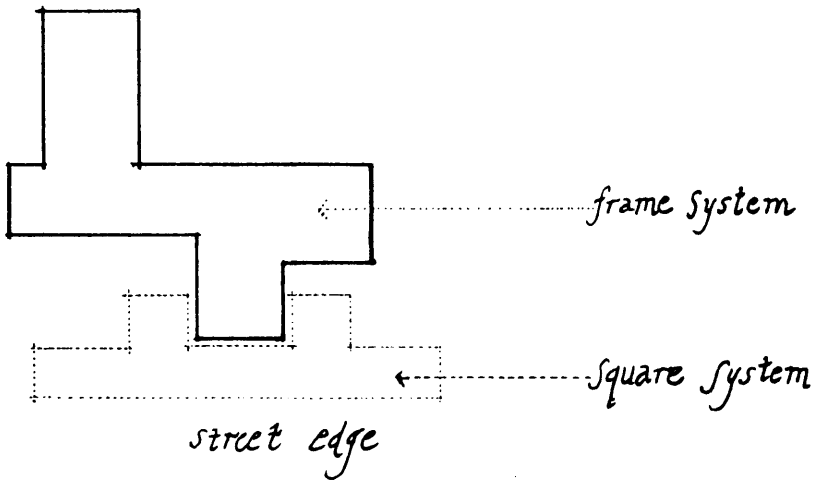
Length and/or depth of the two building systems together based on the depth of some of the buildings on the site.

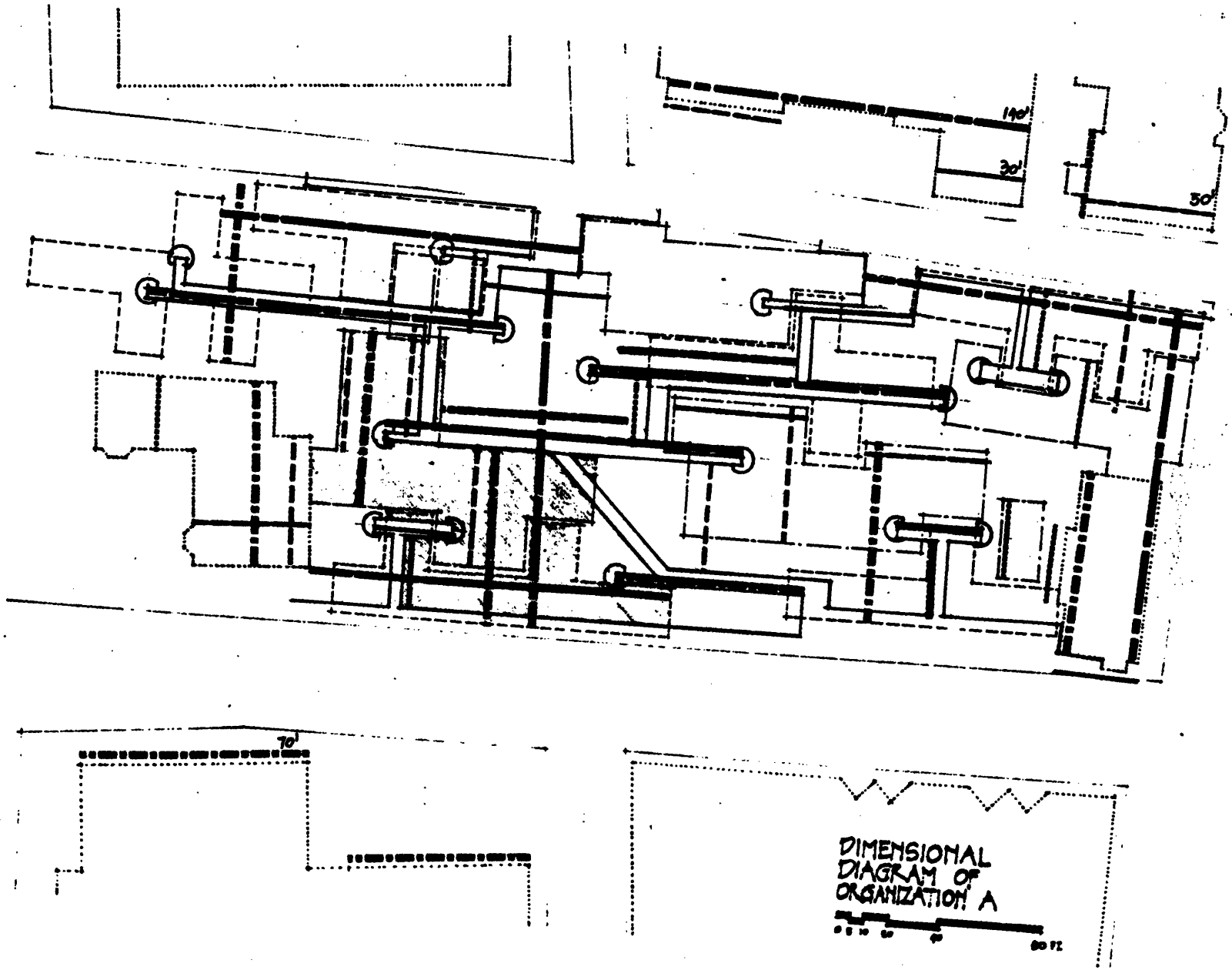
Depth of the built territory belonging to one system only. Also based on dimensions of buildings on the site.



The smallest building size dimension in the context used, primarily, as the usual displacement from the public access into a built territory.

The addition of the squares and the frame is assembled throughout the site as a surrogate street edge to bring the "street public" into the building.





DIMENSIONAL DIAGRAM OF ORGANIZATION A

Building System A Plans / Sections

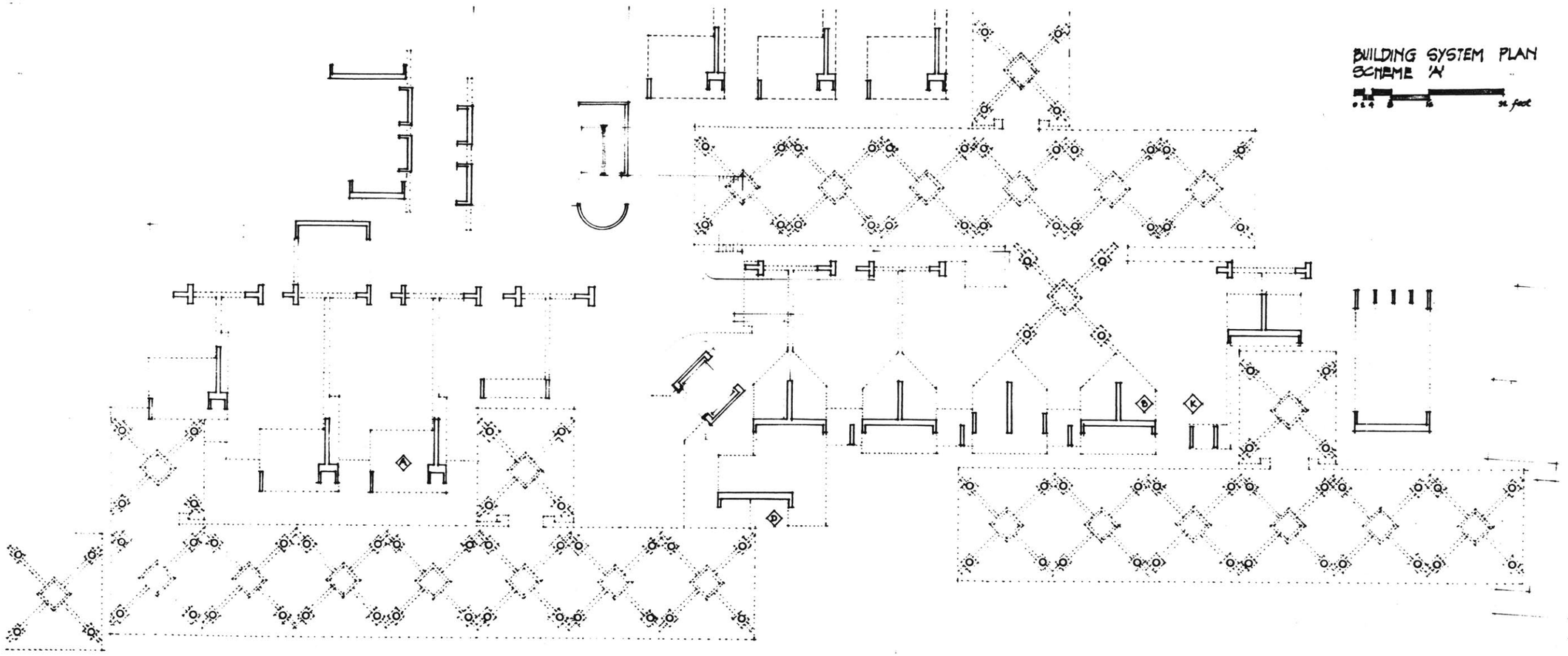
This system is designed to be open and frame-like because the users / tenants of a retail / commercial building may change frequently.

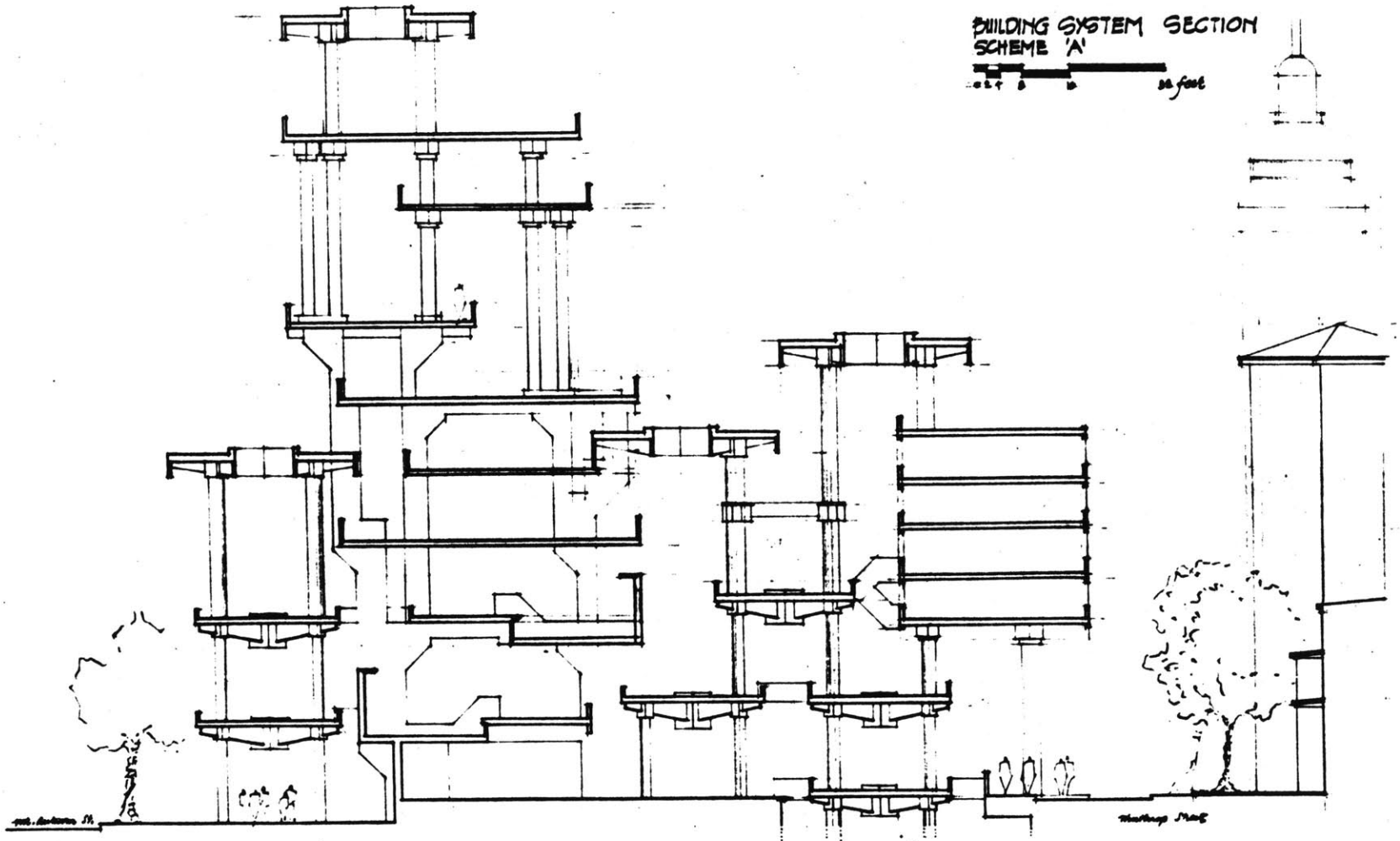
Therefore, it is

flexible -to accommodate frequent changes

not neutral -so the system can live with the secondary and tertiary inhabitations.

if the primary system is not strong enough the secondary and tertiary systems could take over.


BUILDING SYSTEM PLAN
SCHEME 'A'
32 feet


BUILDING SYSTEM SECTION
SCHEME 'A'
0 5 10 20 feet

Variable Access / Use

The preceeding drawings show possible variations of enclosure. The building system...

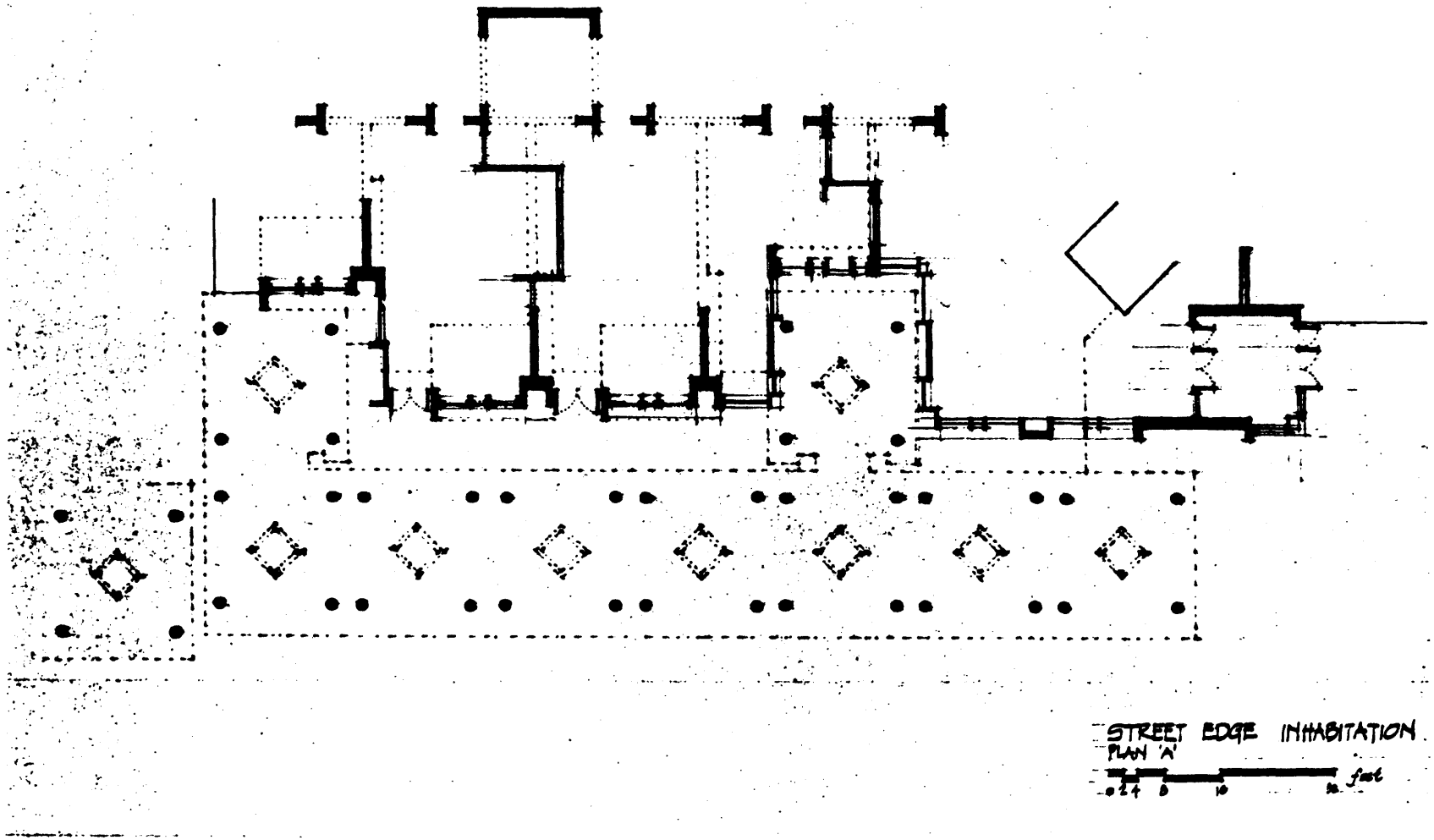
-street edge inhabitations A & B

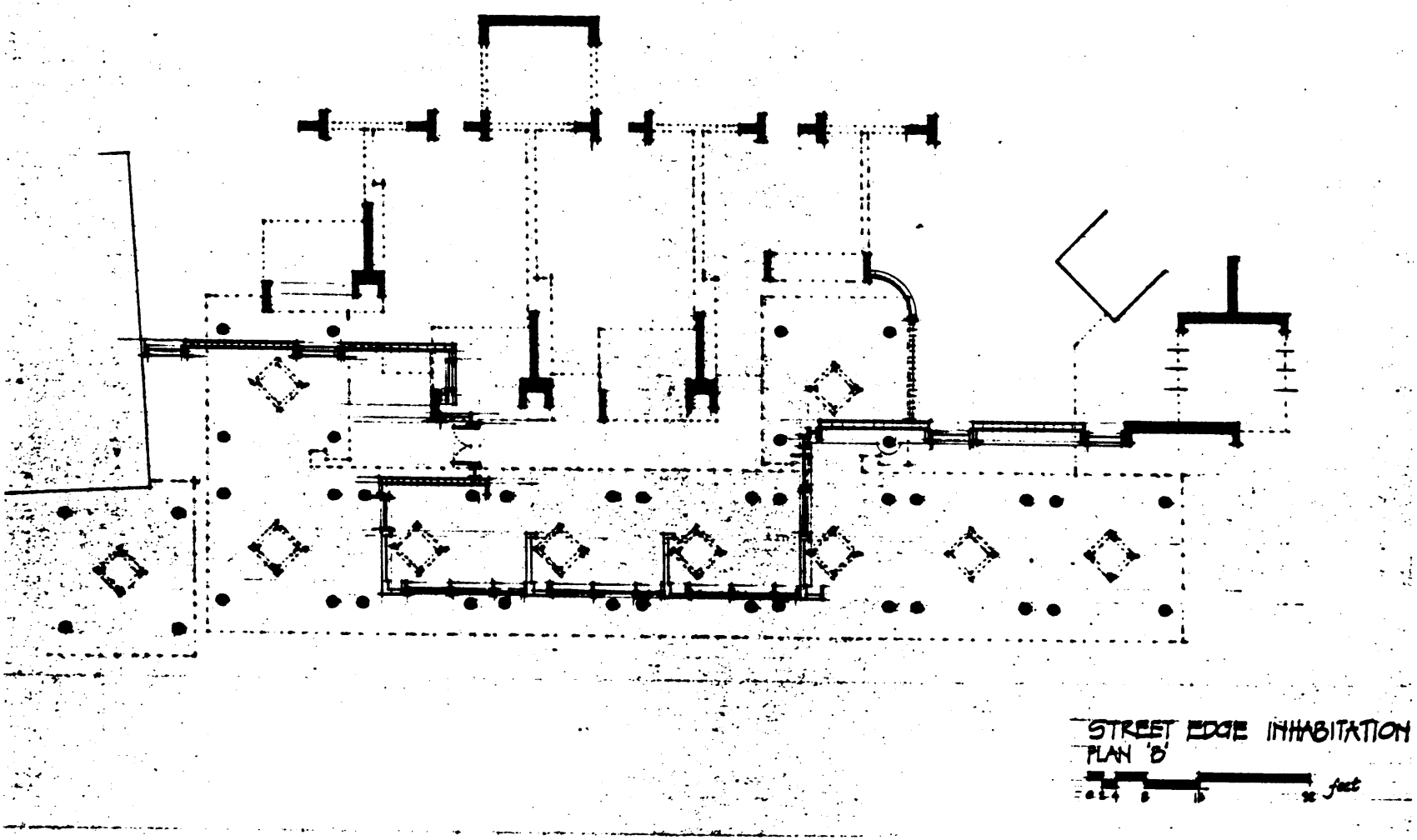
-open frame
-permits change within the defined territory

...when added to the propped slab system makes deep zone of exchange between the use territory and the access.

This allows

-the enclosure to define / claim territory outside of the frame system
-some of the public access to move easily into the zone of the frame system.

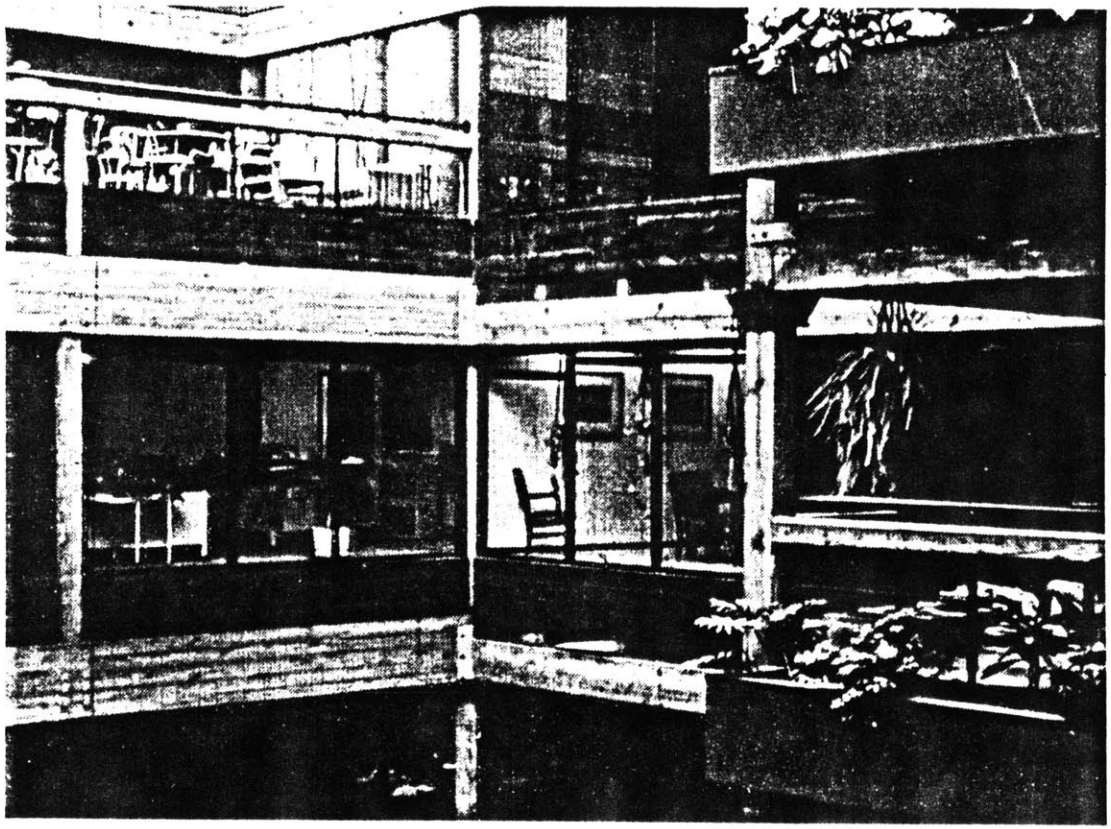

STREET EDGE INHABITATION
PLAN 'A'
feet


STREET EDGE INHABITATION
PLAN 'B'
feet

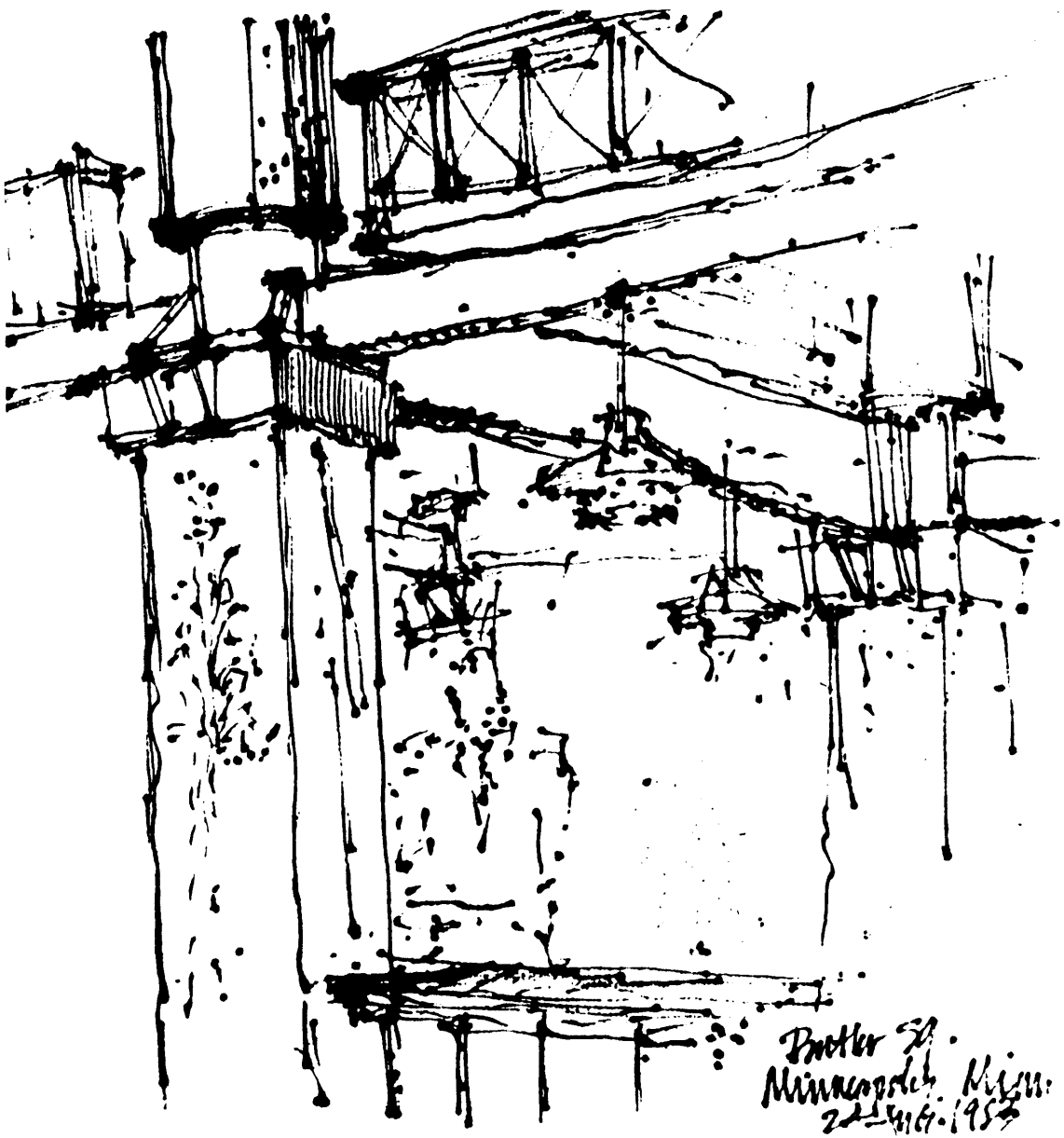
The illustration of Butler Square shows the static relationship between an existing building system and the office enclosures. This is a one to one relationship between primary system and enclosure.

-heavy timber construction

The street, where there is a lot of public life, is no place for such predetermined hierarchies. If that sort of design were to be insisted upon at the public interface, the result would be minimal relationship between the inside / semi-public and outside / public.



The usual relationship in these cases is visual connection through a planar, tempered glass storefront and maybe a depressed entrance.
This system is against that kind of apathetic response. If the building is to be part of the street it should take part in the street activity.



SITE DIAGRAM B

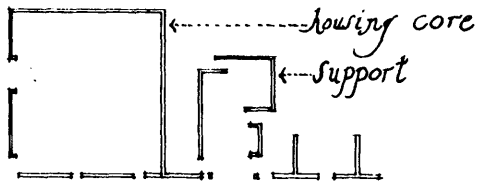
In this scheme access

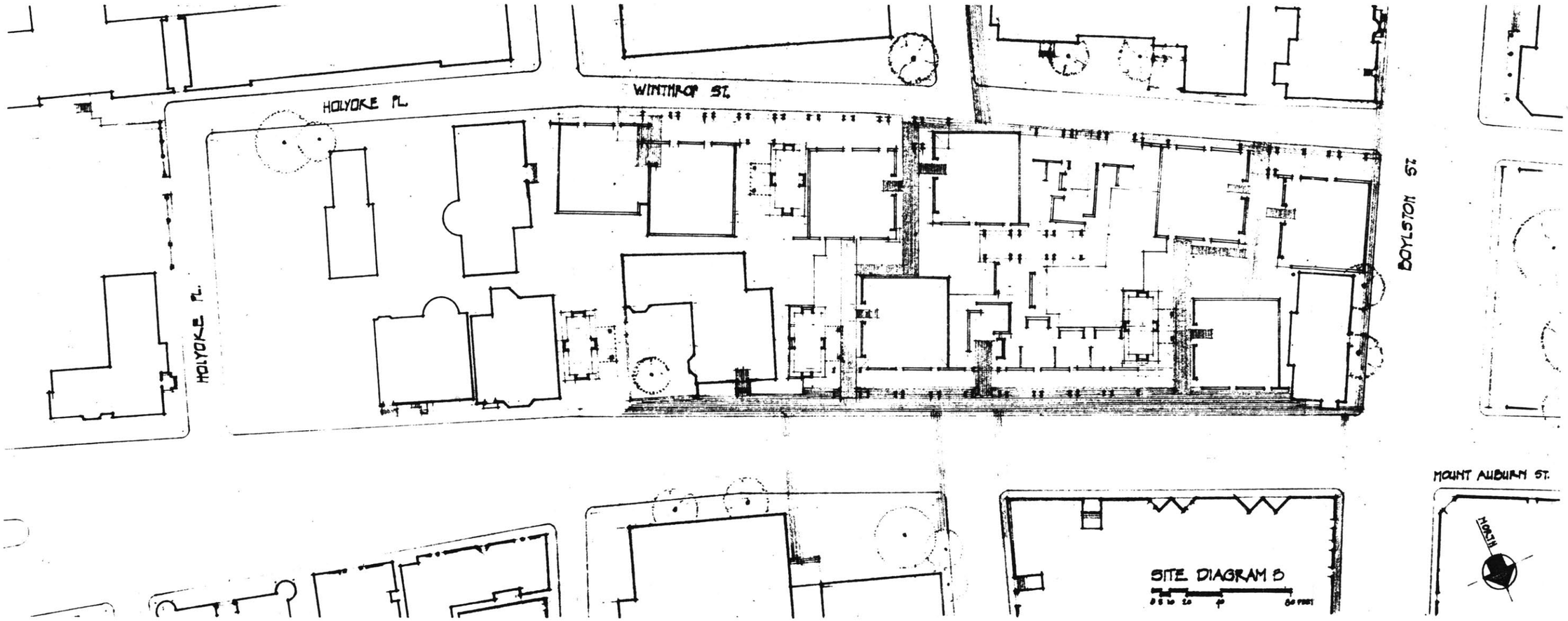
- -is perpendicular to Mt. Auburn Street
- -accommodates the Harvard student flow to and from class
- -promotes student-related uses

The student-related use referred to is a development of student housing and some support facilities.

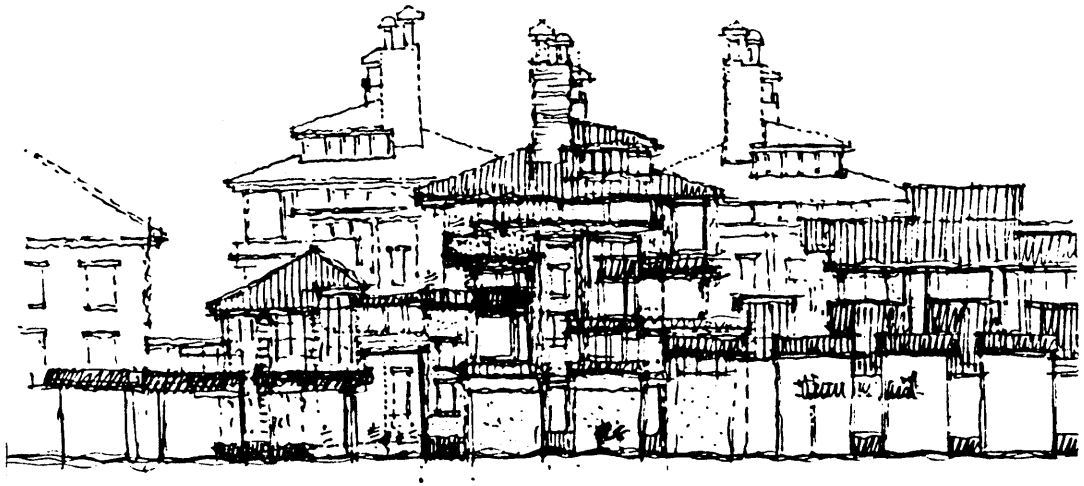
The housing will be

- -"object-like" (in form)
- -similar to neighboring private clubs
- -very "wall-like" and solid




HOLYOKE PL.
WINTHROP ST.
HOLYOKE PL.
BOYLSTON ST
MOUNT AUBURN ST.
NORTH
SITE DIAGRAM 5

In this diagram the housing cores are shown as 50' X 50' squares. The "field" of support facilities in which the objects live is less complete but more "wall-like" than Scheme A.



the "field"

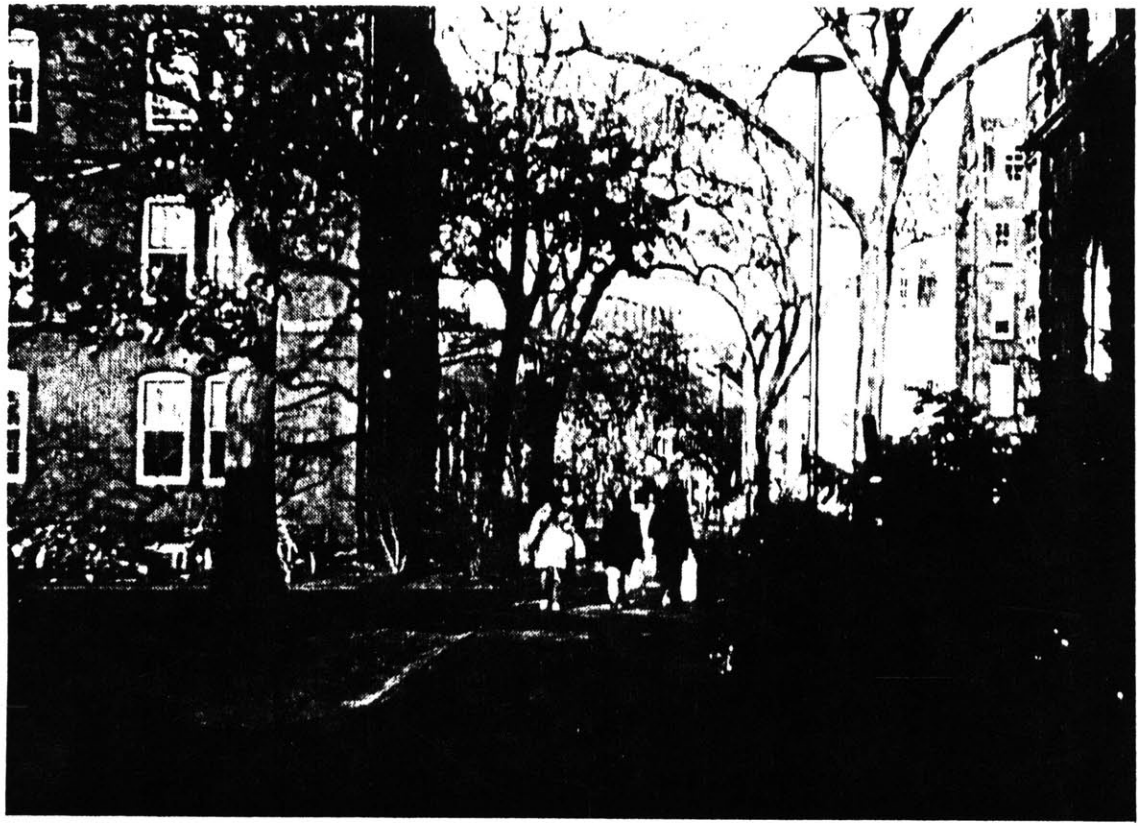
-helps to reinforce the strength of the Mt. Auburn Street direction.
-channels the movement into the site at specific points
-provides some protection from the street to the inner most zone of the site.

The general site organization -reinforces the understanding of the interior private zone

-by making a plaza or stopping place claimed by the buildings

-is a courtyard system

-which clues movement from the lighted street to a lighted court-yard through a dark region

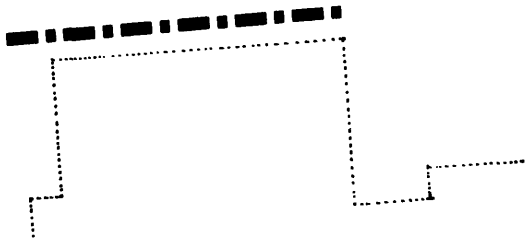


a larger courtyard may have several smaller defined courtyards inside it.

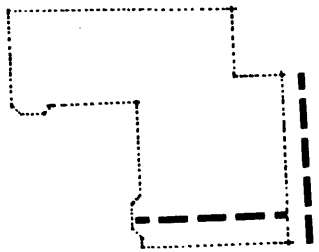
Dimensional Diagram of Organization B

-the dimensions of a block which has been displaced in this projection. It is the distance between the two entries to the site.

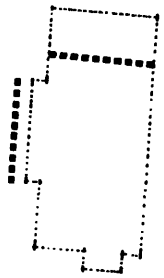
-appears here as the longest distance from the site entry to a building entry. This is taken from the Holyoke Center where the dimension is from the street to the building entry.



-taken from the small buildings in the context this becomes the dimension of the housing core as well as some "designed" open space



-taken from the context this is the smallest significant dimension at the "site" size (smaller dimensions depend upon the building system for their existence)

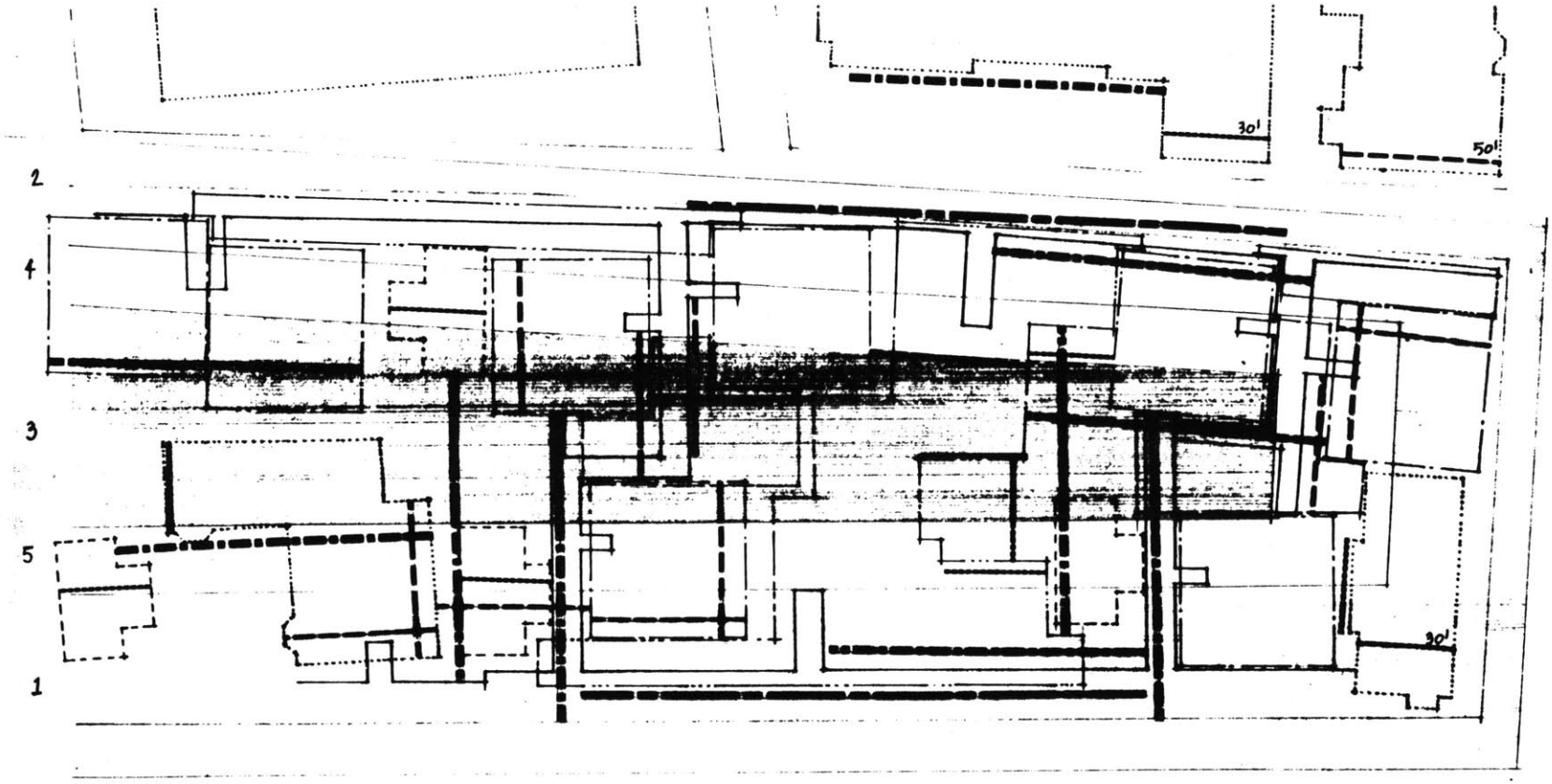


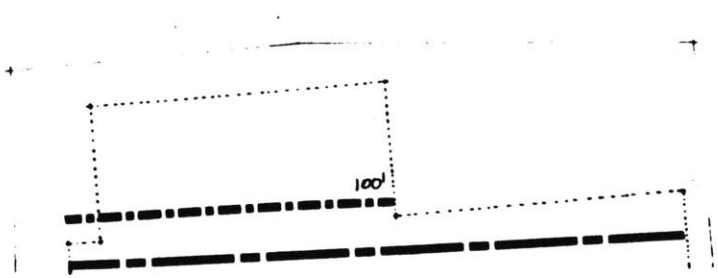
in addition the site is comprised of five zones

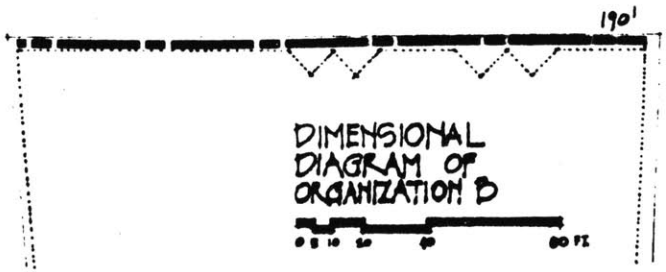
1) Mt. Auburn St. -Cambridge public edge
2) Winthrop St. -Harvard public edge
3) Interior private -private open space landscape
4) Margin between Winthrop and Interior
5) Margin between Mt. Auburn and Interior

-most building entries are in these zones

changes in paving as well as light can clue the different degrees of privacy

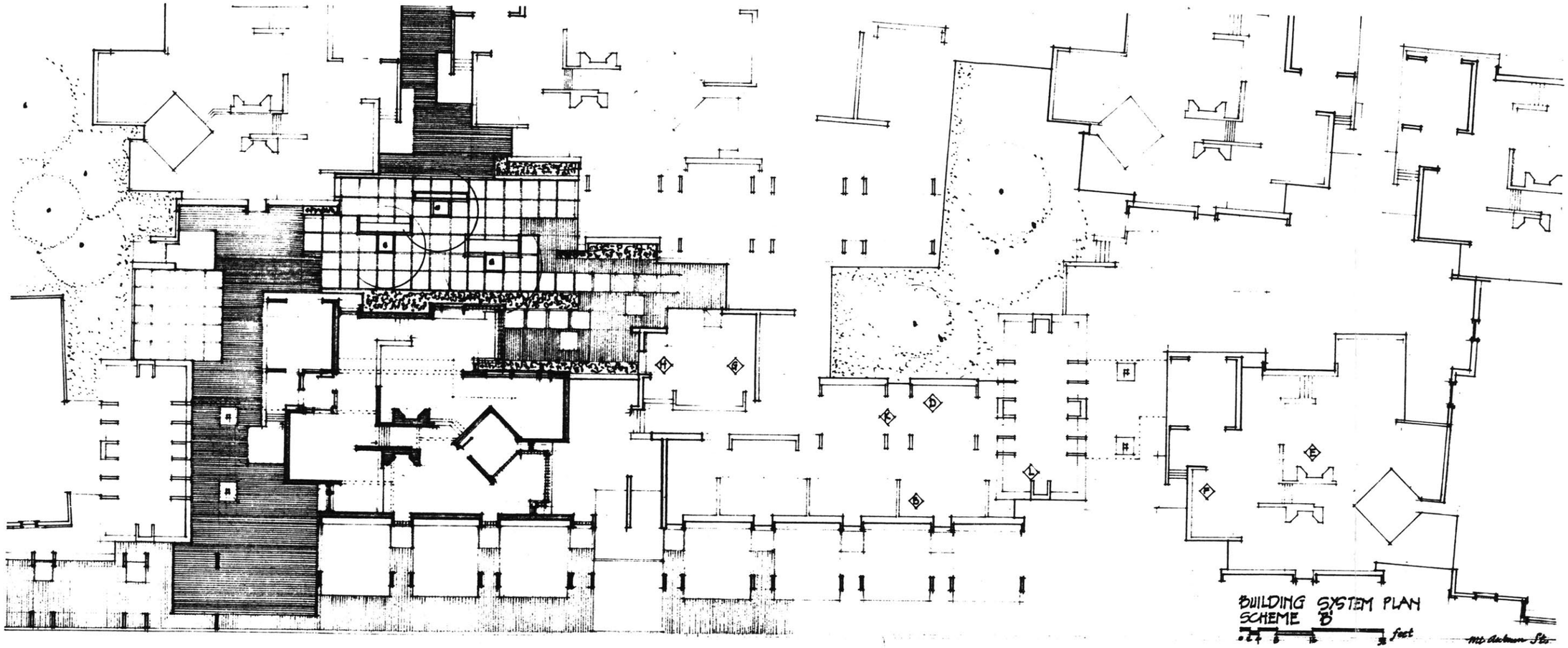

30'
50'
2
4
3
5
1
90'


100'

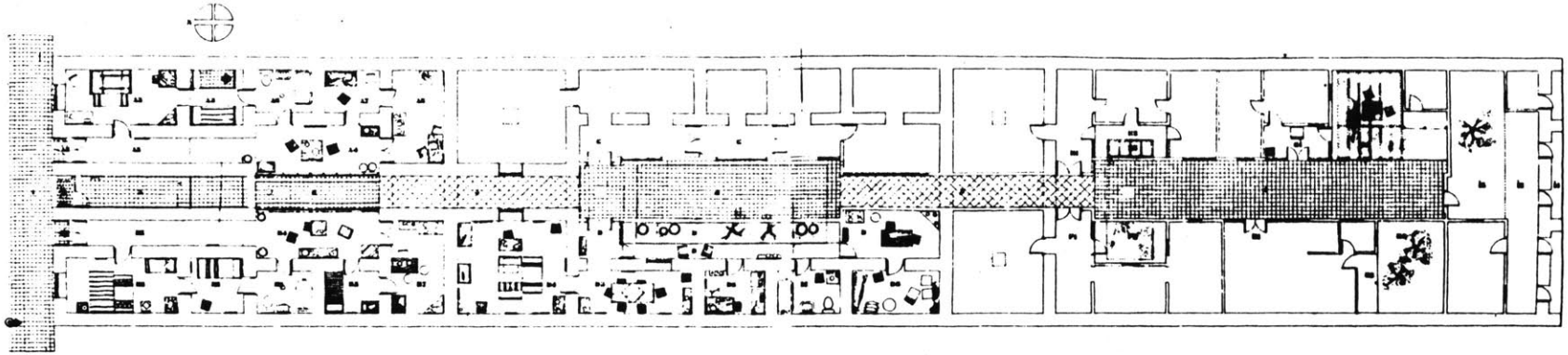

190'
DIMENSIONAL
DIAGRAM OF
ORGANIZATION B

Building System $\frac{\text{Plan}}{\text{Elevation}}$ B

The housing has	-less variable design than Scheme A	-because of the more private and less changeable nature of the use.
	-reference to existing morphology	-while not direct copies of any particular building, they do share some material and dimensional relationships
This plan shows	-system of building -deployment of housing -building of access through the site.	
	Therefore, an exhibition of all of the factors which work together to acknowledge the different zones in the site.	


BUILDING SYSTEM PLAN
SCHEME B
feet


MOUNT ALBURY ST.
ELEVATION - SCHEME 'B'
0 2 4 8 16 32 feet



The Courtyard System

The courtyard system is a spatial structure that allows larger open plazas / spaces to have separation and privacy from other places. The process of moving from a lighted area through a darker passage back into the light brings one through various degrees of privacy. This enables one to design a collective place that is away from the street and

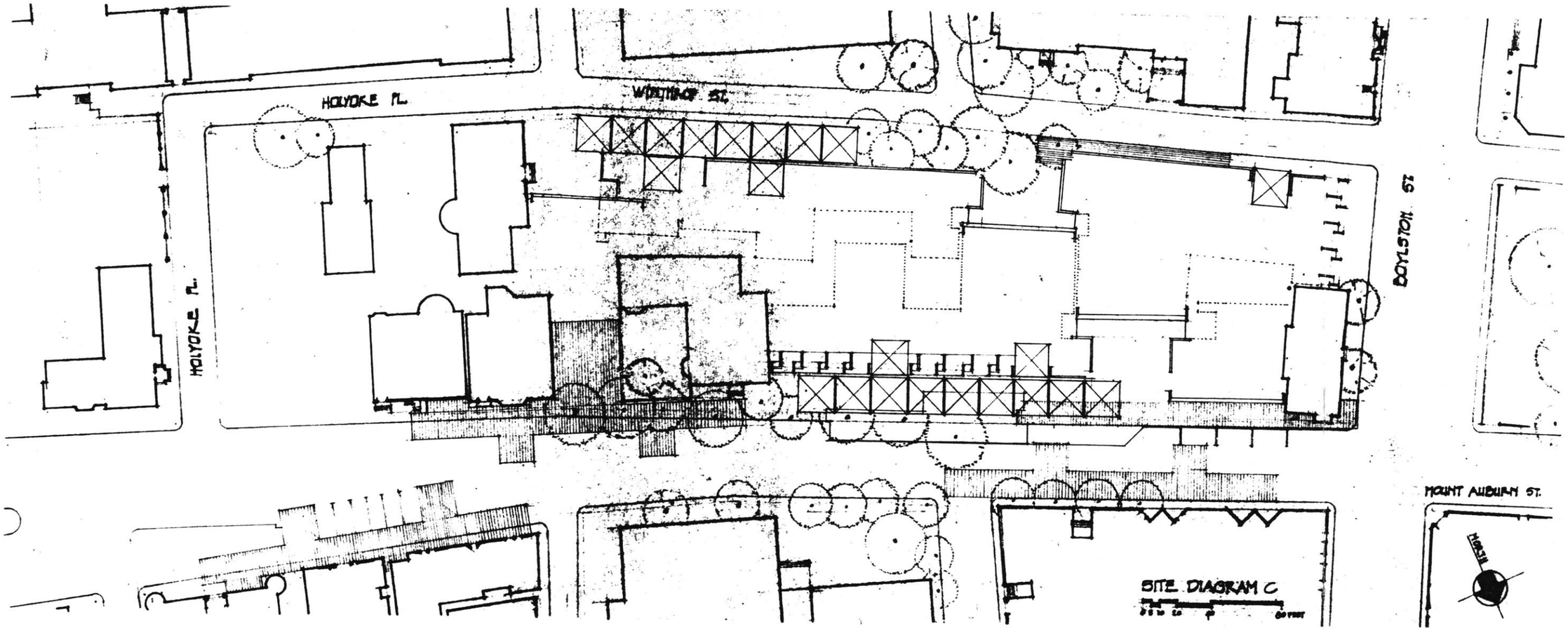
define it as such. One example of this is Ciudad Knossos in Santiago, Chile. The plan shown here (drawn by Fernando Domeyko as part of his compiled research of Santiago, Chile) illustrates this principle at work. The plazas are collective/public places off of which every house has an entry. They are linked by dark "streets" which serve as connections to the main street but also define the plazas as discrete territories. There is one difference between this system and the system used in Scheme B. Here the street is private and all entries are on the plaza. In Scheme B all entries are in the dark street. That leaves more territory in the plaza for use.

Site Diagram C

The public access never permeates the site in this exploration. Therefore, this exploration is concerned with

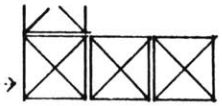
- -the building and modulation of the street zone
- -relationship between the built street zone and the surrounding context
- -the understanding of the street zone as building

-building the street zone is a major step in realizing the space around a building is as important as the building itself.

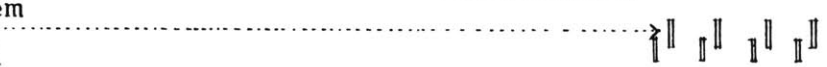

HOLYOKE PL.
WINTHROP ST.
HOLYOKE PL.
BOYLSTON ST
MOUNT AUBURN ST.
HARVARD
SITE DIAGRAM C

The elements used in this scheme are

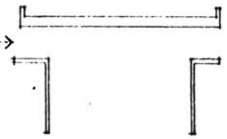
-the propped up slab system



-frame system

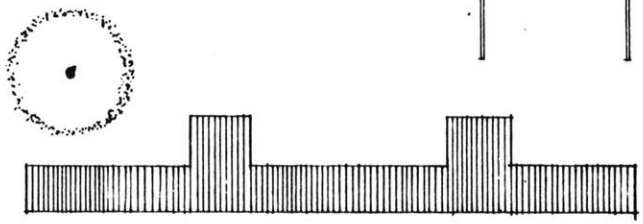


- wall system
continuous surface



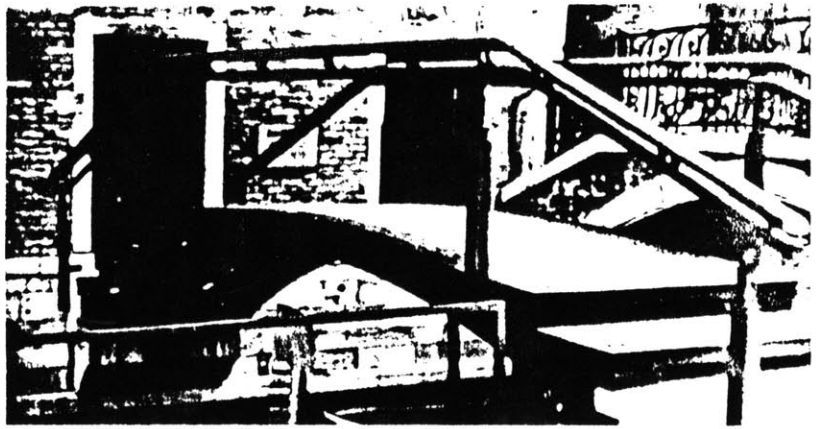
as well as

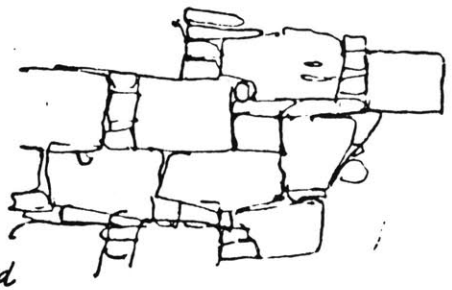
trees and paving



The trees and paving are the only building elements that can be controlled outside of the immediate site. They

-extend the zone of the site
-support relationships present in the context.





some surfaces may be paved while others may support weight in other ways. (for example: the canals of Venice.)

Dimensional Diagram of Organization C

This diagram shows the

-dimensional relationships between the building and context

-effort to support / reinforce them

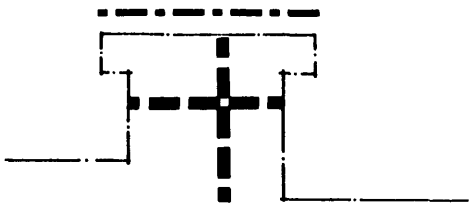
-a common large building dimension in this context

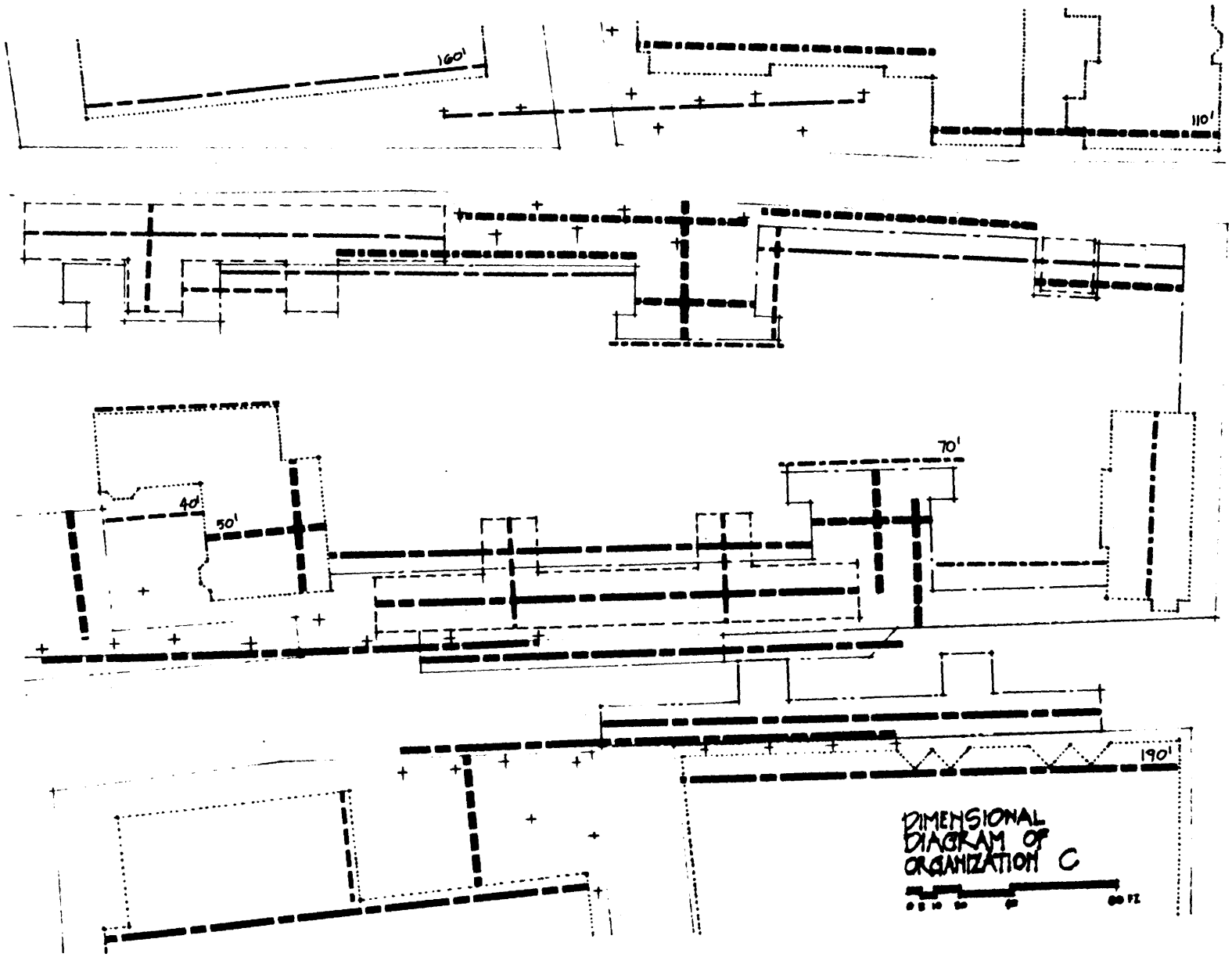
-largest building size
-reinforced by trees and paving to show from where it originates.

-next largest building size used to illustrate the relationship between the Lutheran Church and the site.

-small building size used as the largest wall dimension.

-small building size used to dimension the open public plazas and access zones.




160'
110'
40'
50'
70'
190'
DIMENSIONAL DIAGRAM OF ORGANIZATION C

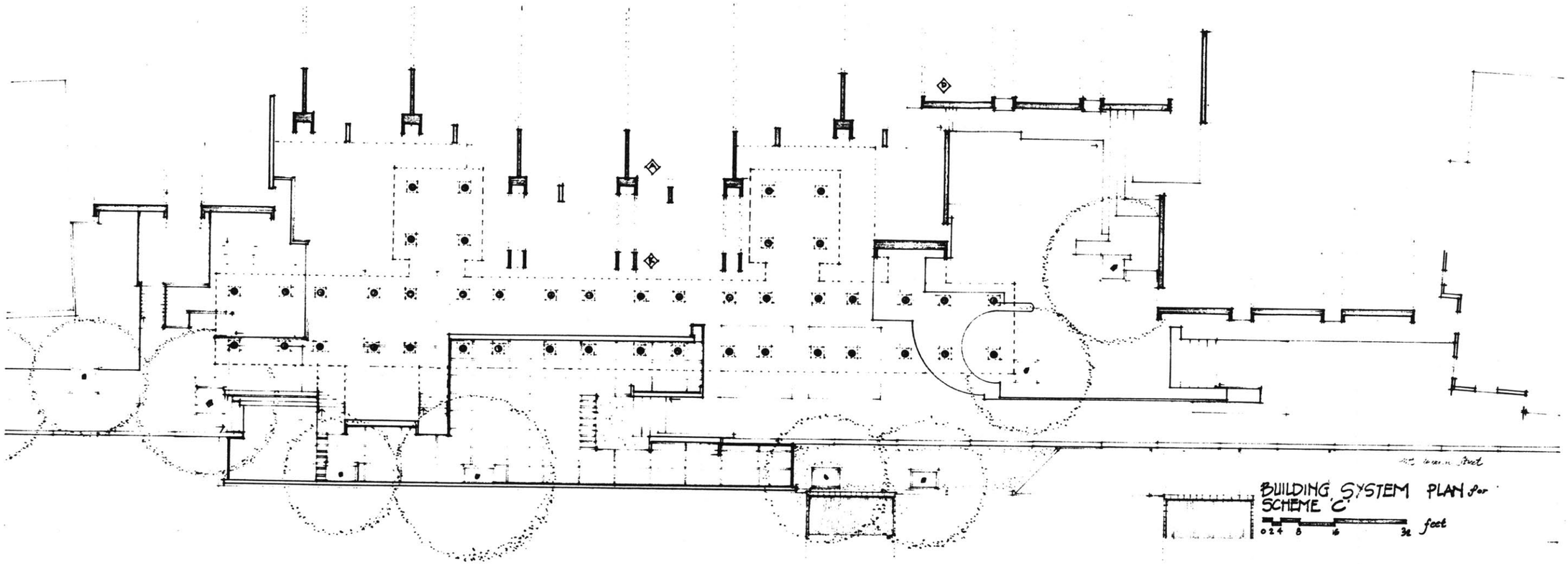
Building System Plan C

These systems

-are similar to those used in Scheme A.
-contain wall-like characteristics to prevent penetration through the site.
-when added together allow for a street zone that is more than 40' deep.

This drawing also explores some of the various ways territorial entries can be designed / defined

(i.e. with level / material / direction change)


BUILDING SYSTEM PLAN for SCHEME 'C'
0 2 4 8 16 feet

The Working Method

- dimensional analysis of building systems
- information about the working process
- on dimensional diagrams and other systems
- on generating vocabulary
- on the "built" access

A

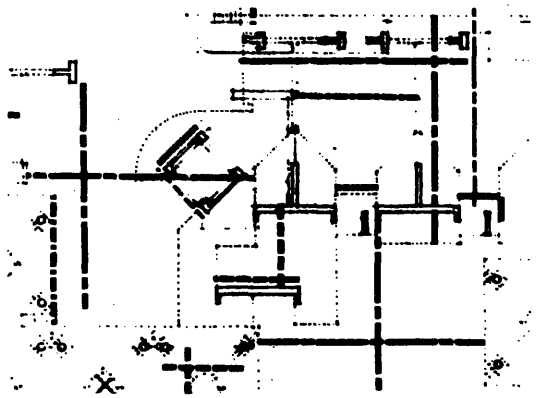
Dimensional Analysis of Building Systems B

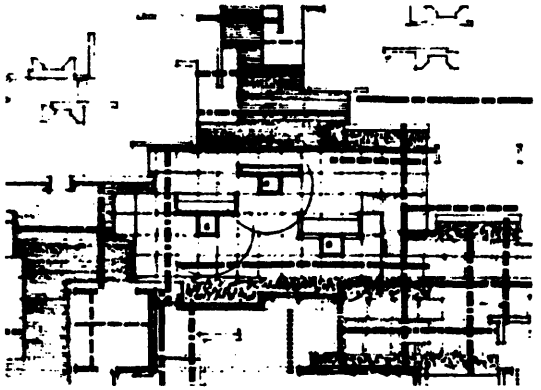
C

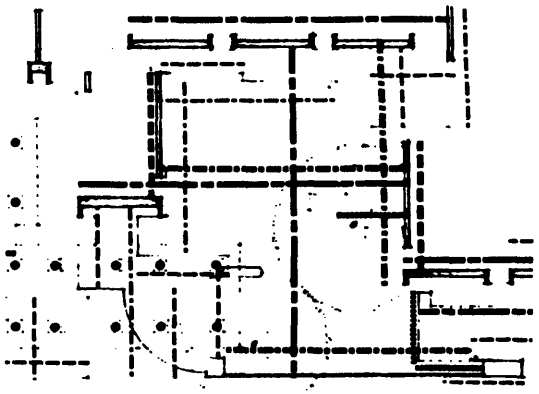
these drawings show
- -the dimensional system being used
- -correspondences with the other explorations
- -more information about the working process.

4' -smallest dimension
private entry
light from above

8' -private access width
threshold between two territories
space between two systems







12' -standard room $\frac{\text{height}}{\text{size}}$

16' -public access width standard dimension of most elements in the building system.

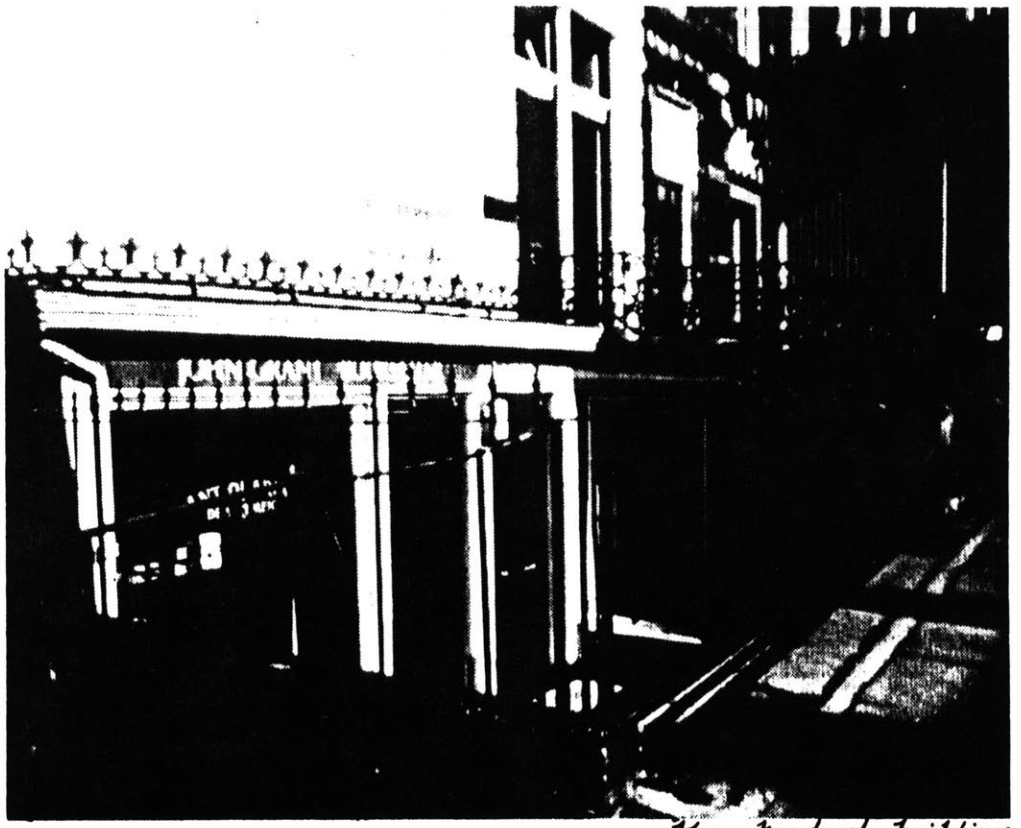
20' -usual bay size (frame system)

24' -small access related territories

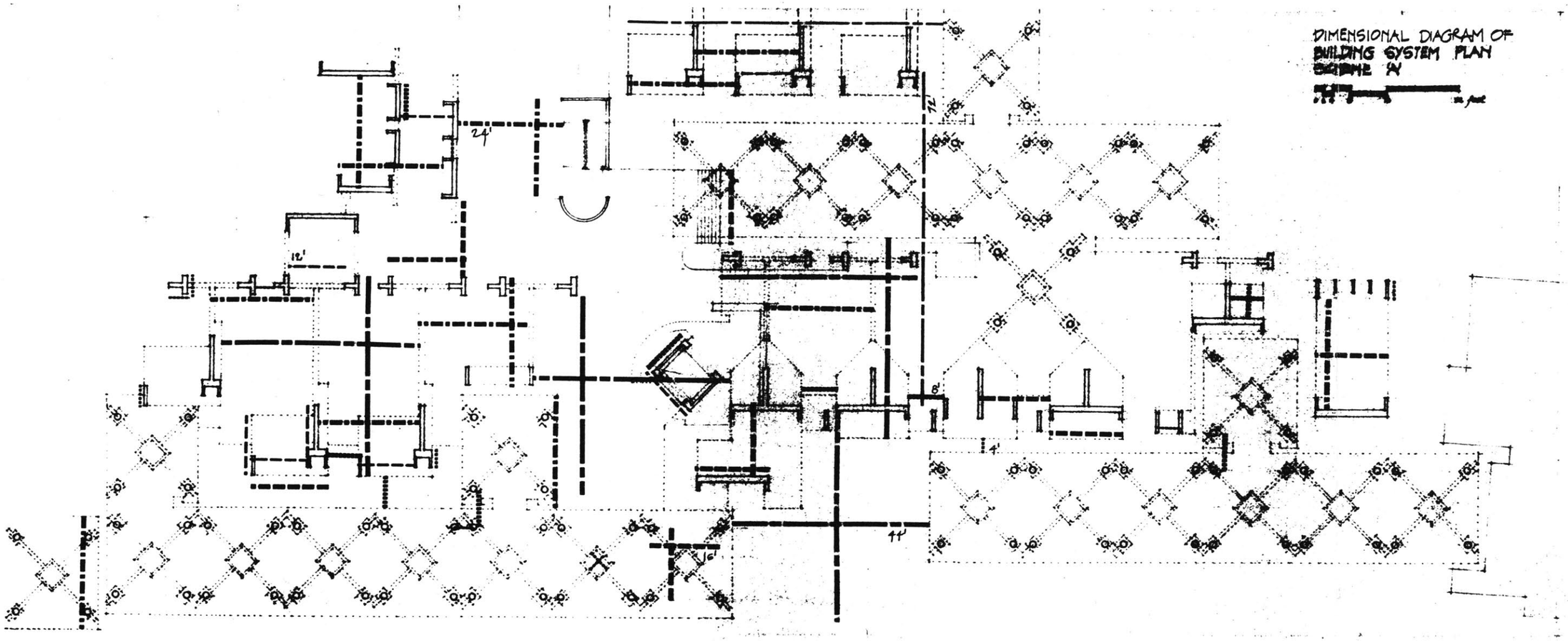
32' -the largest open public plaza territories

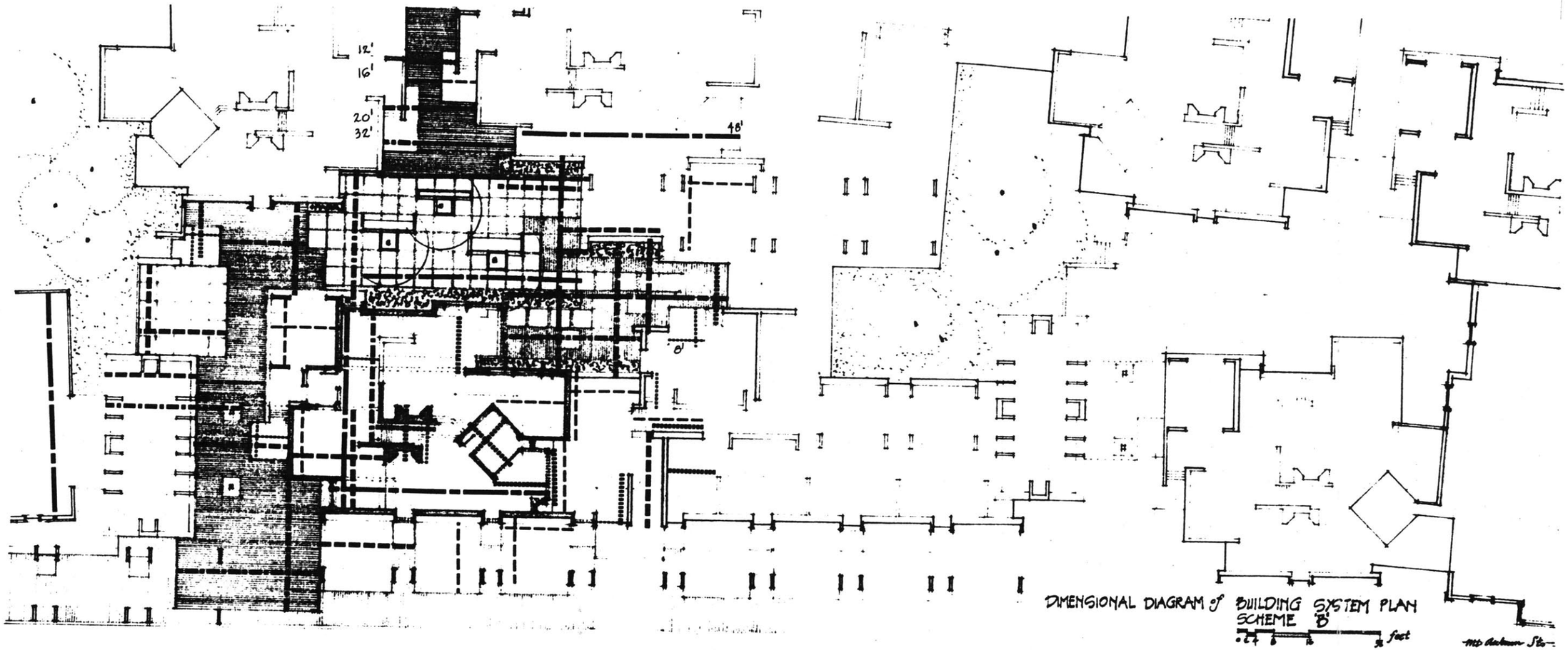
40' -clear height in public access territories

48' -deepest dimension of use territories before more top/sky light is admitted.



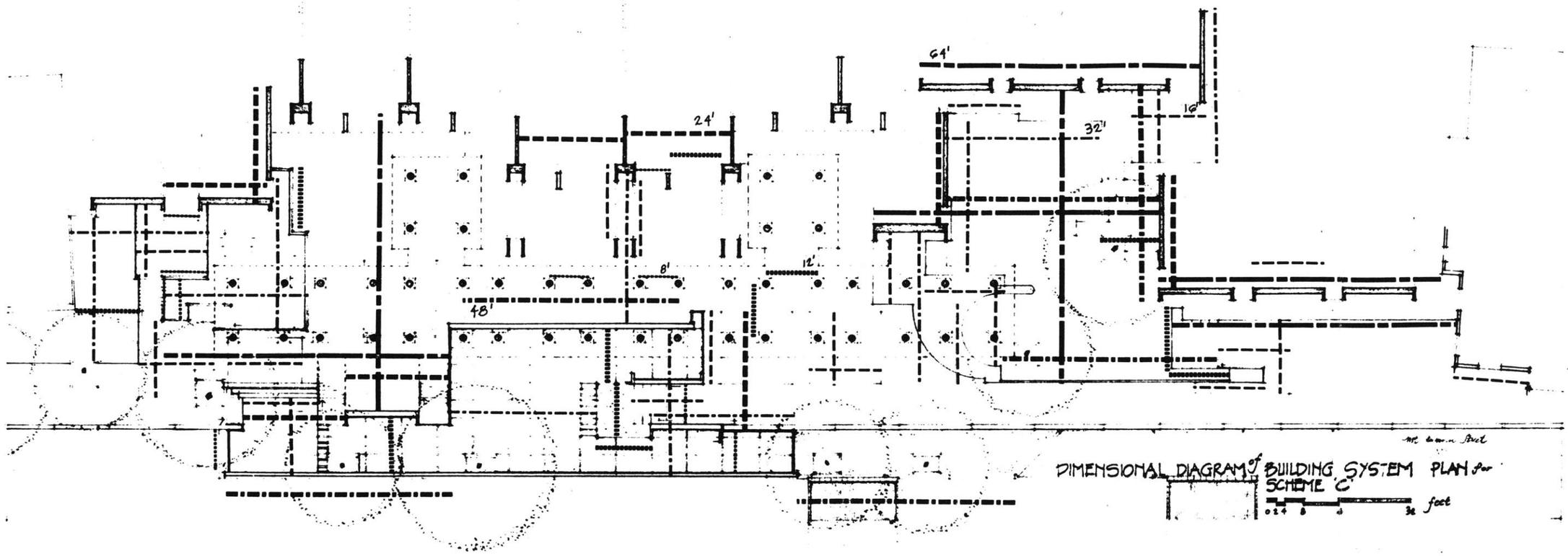
The standard building dimension is reflected here in the stair and lowered territory


DIMENSIONAL DIAGRAM OF
BUILDING SYSTEM PLAN
24'
12'
12'
6'
14'
44'



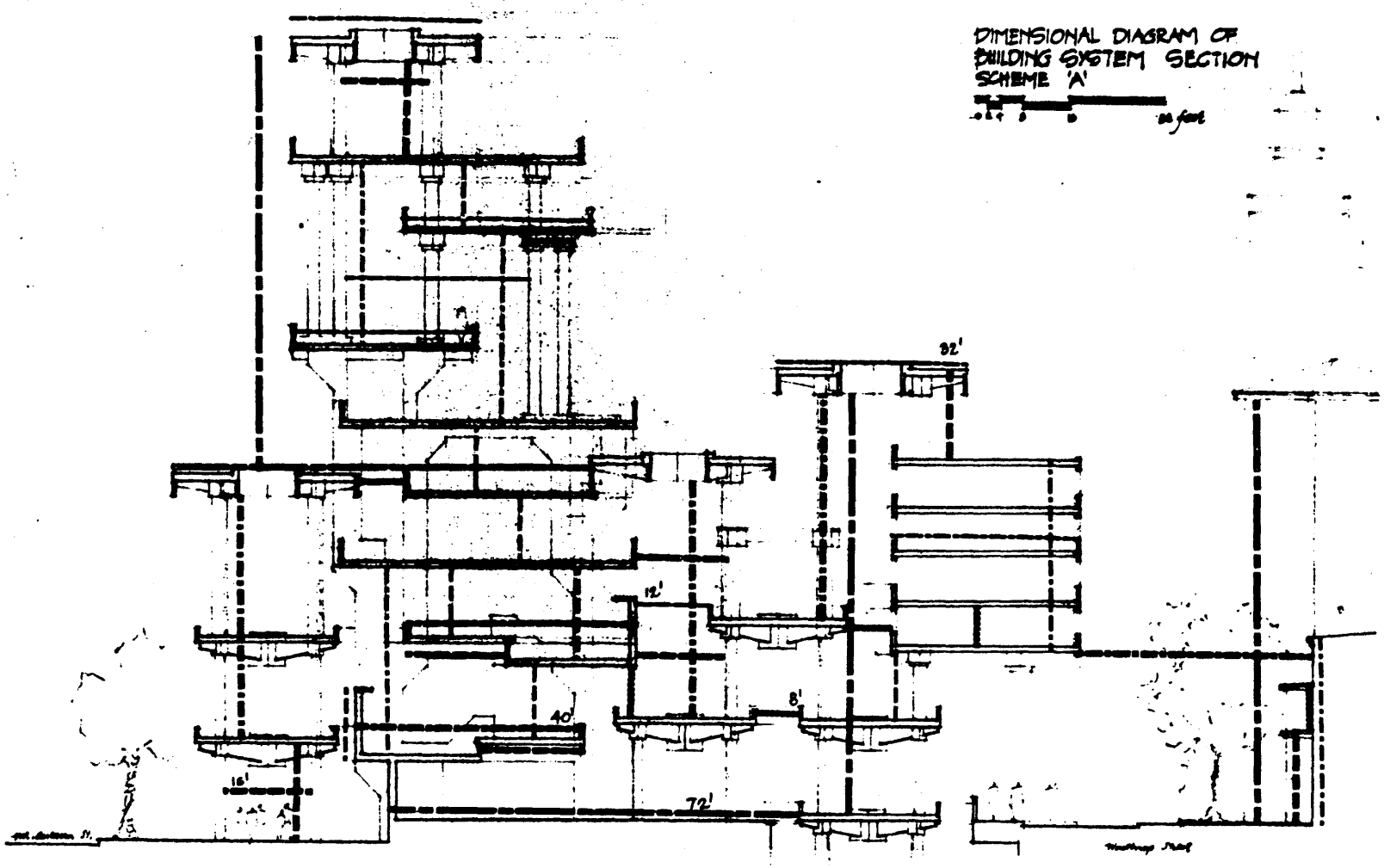
DIMENSIONAL DIAGRAM of BUILDING SYSTEM PLAN SCHEME B

0 4' 8' 16' 32' feet



DIMENSIONAL DIAGRAM of BUILDING SYSTEM PLAN for SCHEME 'C'

feet

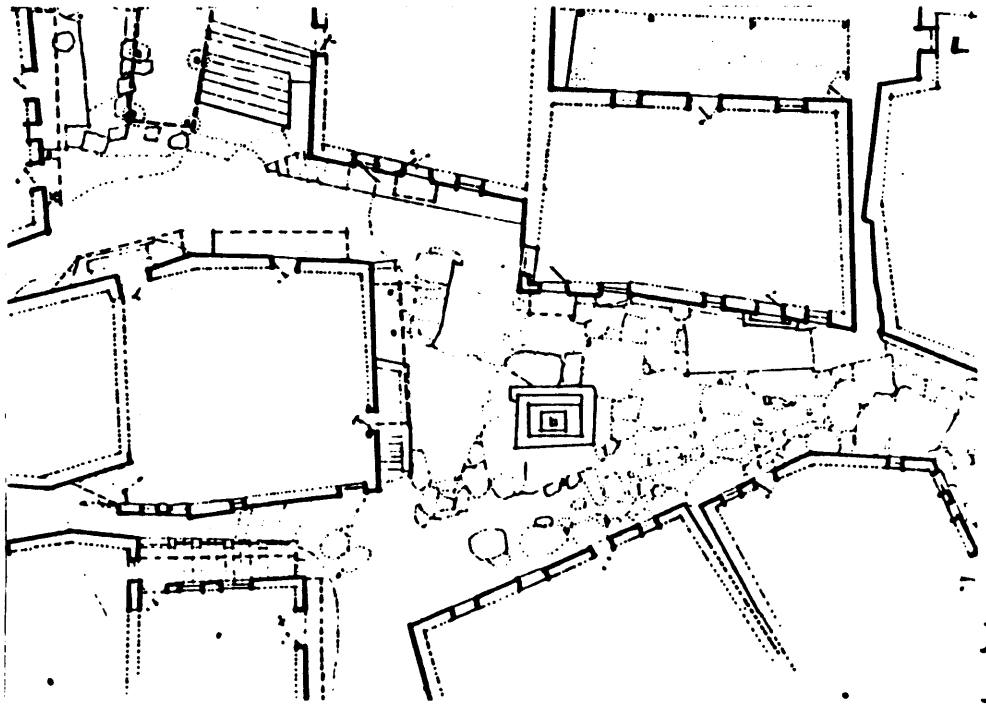

DIMENSIONAL DIAGRAM OF
BUILDING SYSTEM SECTION
SCHEME 'A'
32'
12'
8'
40'
72'

Information about the Working Process

There are three distinctions among the dimensional correspondences

- -leading decision
- -following decision
- -gift

- -initial systematic moves
- -next layer of adjustment
- -dimensions already present in the context
- -a result of specific deployment of systems but not previously considered.



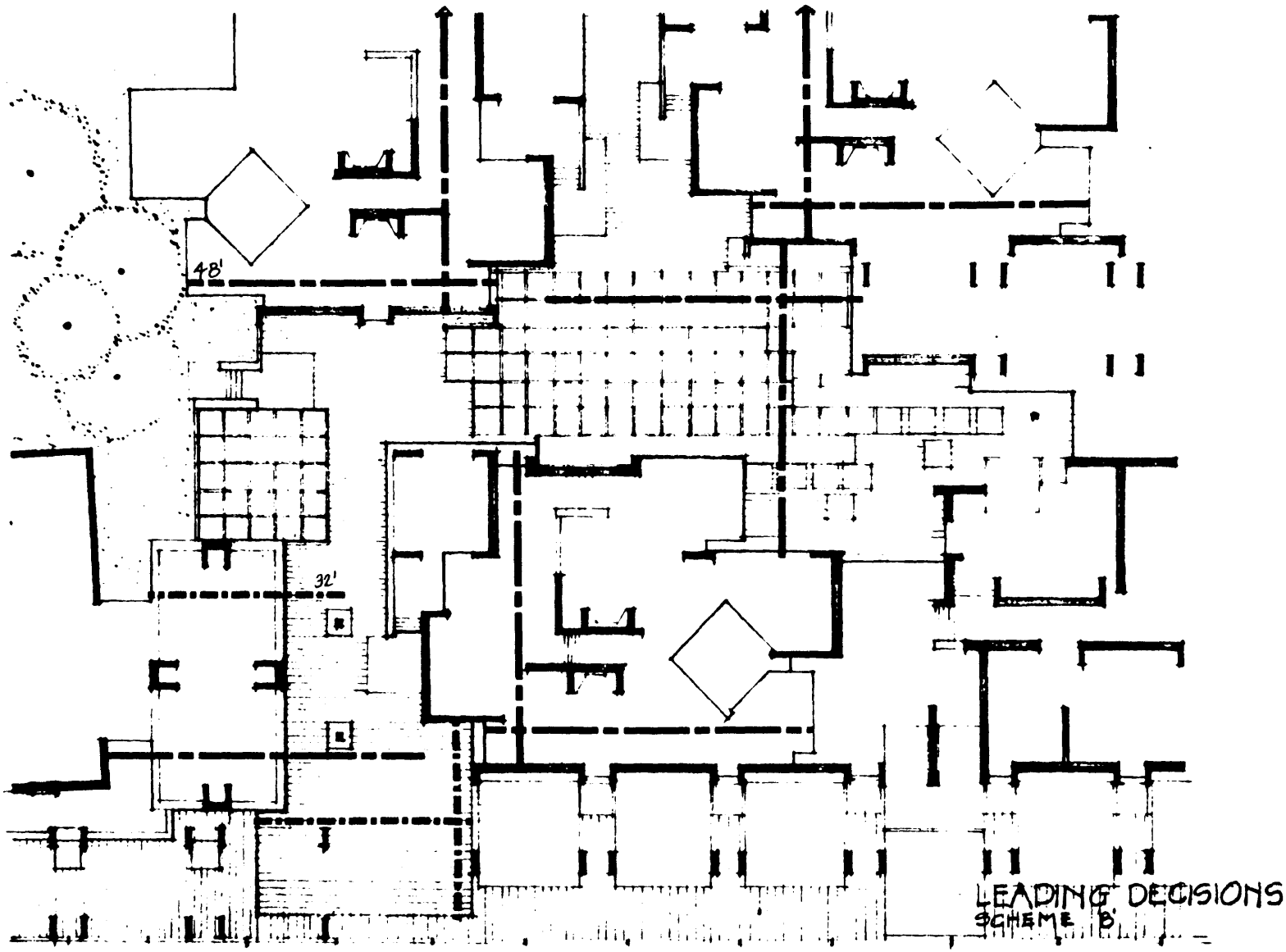
this shows the dimensional relationships between the built piece and the space it defines.

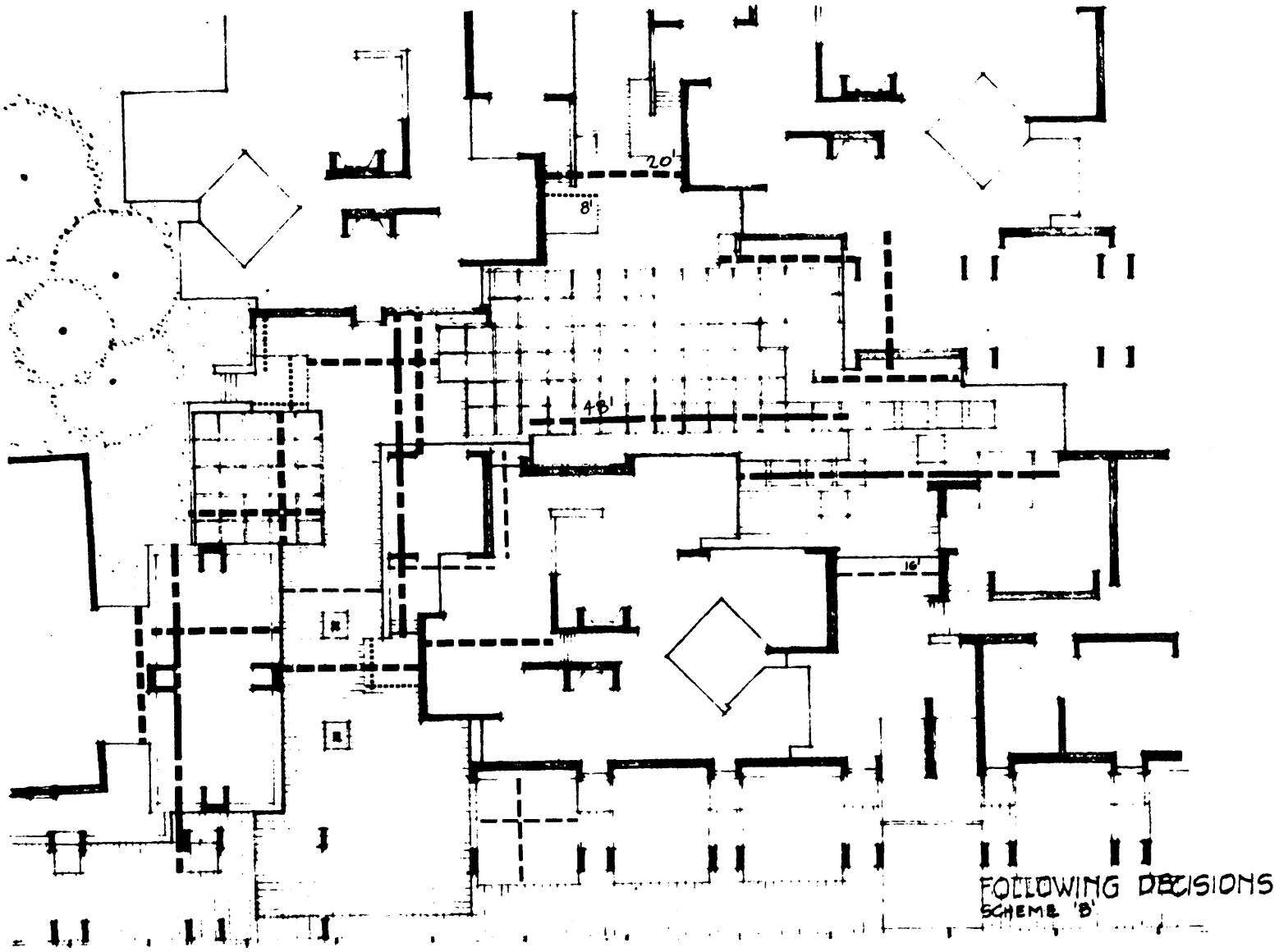
For Example

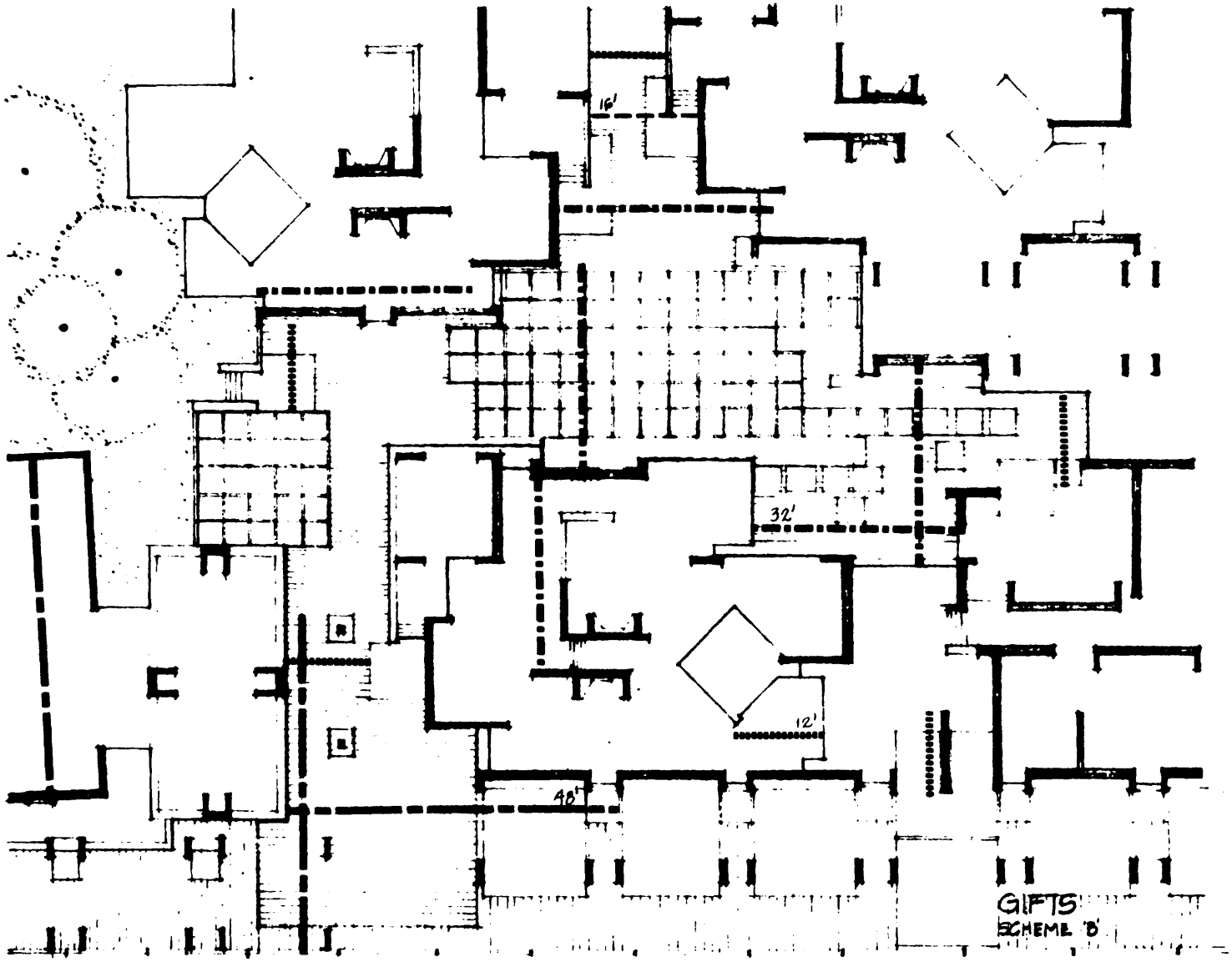
Scheme B -leading decisions -size of territory at streets and plaza
-space between housing units
-design of housing units

-following decisons -dimensions of territories between
-threshold dimension
-connection of plazas
-areas surrounding plazas.

-gifts -due to compulsive systematic dimensioning of the pieces and deployment in a systematic manner...
...there are more common dimensions created than actively designed.


48'
32'
LEADING DECISIONS
SCHEME B


20'
8'
48'
16'
FOLLOWING DECISIONS
SCHEME 'B'


16'
32'
12'
40'
GIFTS
SCHEME 'B'

On Dimensional Diagrams and Other Systems

The dimensional system is an understanding of the use of dimensions within a given territory. It is not a grid or insistant imposition on the site. These dimensional diagrams are simply a "check" and illustration of this understanding. In addition, the system should be developed to accept the presence of something very different from itself and should be relatively "self-stable" at a small size so that pieces of the system can be assembled in different ways.

This is so that one system does not necessarily control the whole site.

this entry is not dictated by a larger system.

On Generating Vocabulary

-For the purposes of compatability.

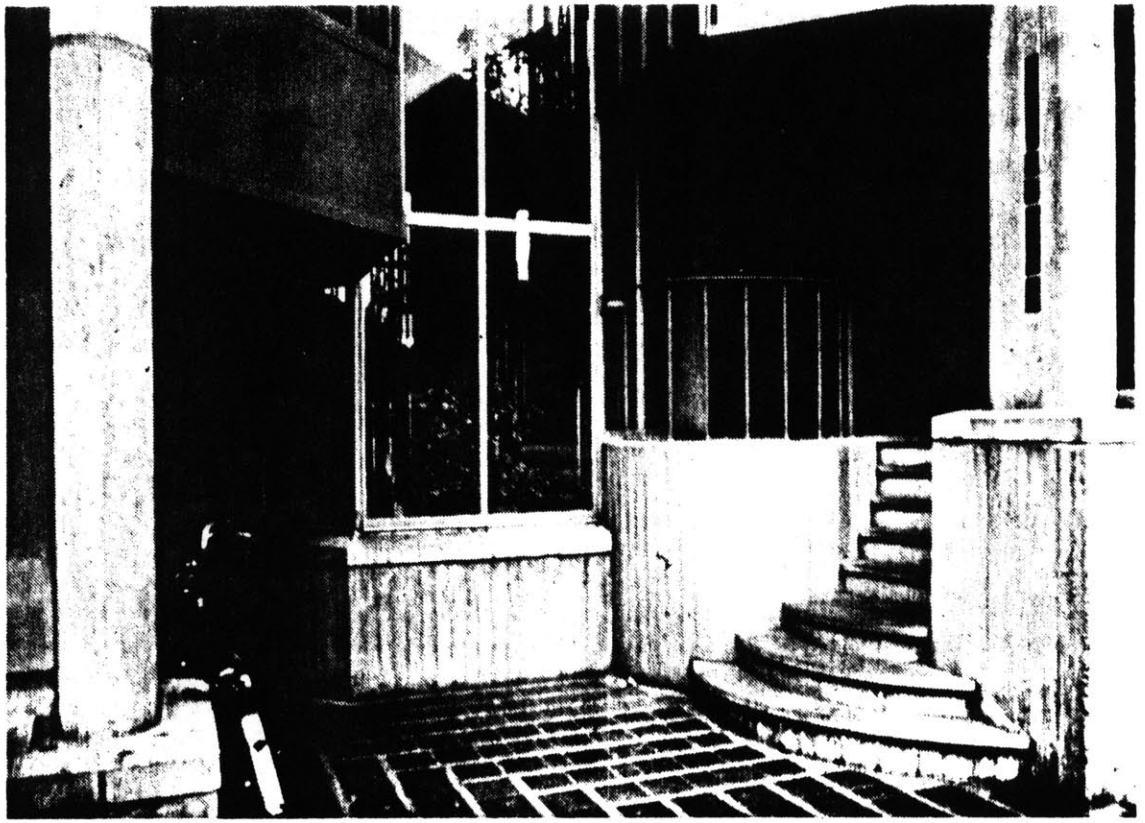
and

-Knowing the final projection is an assemblage of many different systems

The $\frac{\text{vocabulary}}{\text{pieces}}$ of each system come from a similar $\frac{\text{root}}{\text{background.}}$

The dimensional qualities of each system are similar to each other so they

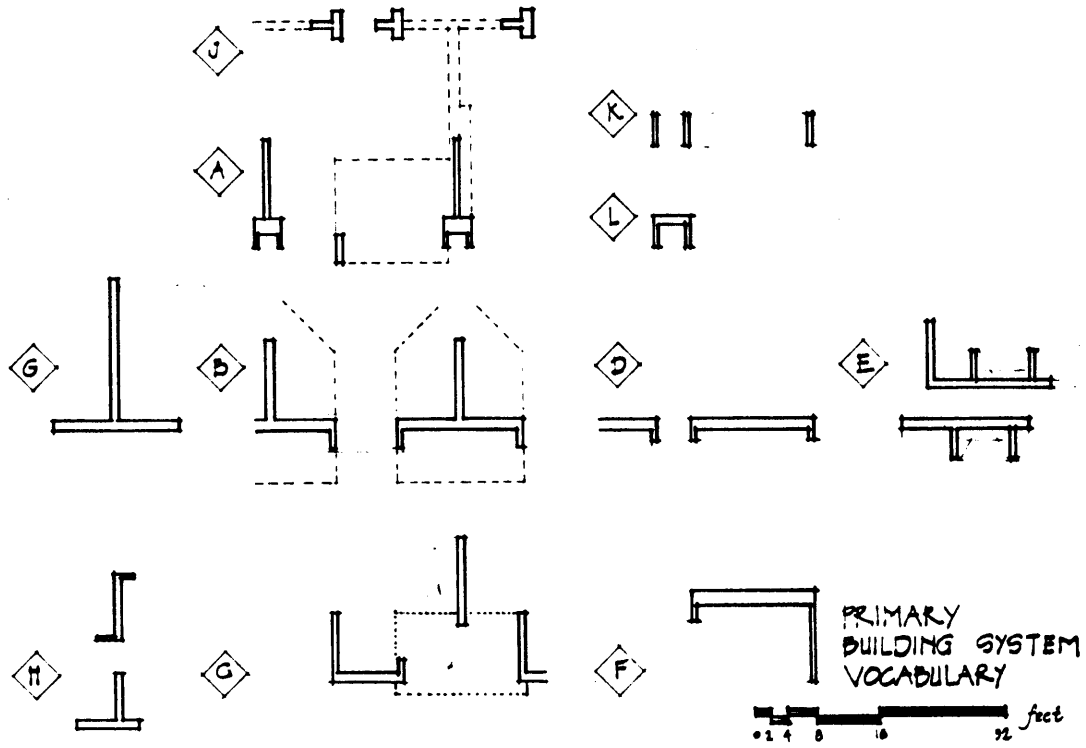
-can be exchanged at will
-do not have to be located on the site as the projections suggest.



This shows the compatability between the concrete and the glass systems.

In this way the synthesis will be an easier process of arrangement.

The vocabulary is derived from a simple frame piece (A) which when fattened (B) becomes a wall piece. The assemblage then can be reversed to get (C) which has much more screen and claims the same amount of territory as (B) . If the stem is removed from (B) the shallow "U" results (D) which can be altered in dimensions (F) or used as fireplaces (E) . The wall piece (B) may also be lengthened into a "T" (G) and that may be assembled with two pieces (H) . Along with the frame pieces come pieces (K) and (L) which are derived in dimension from A but can be used individually.



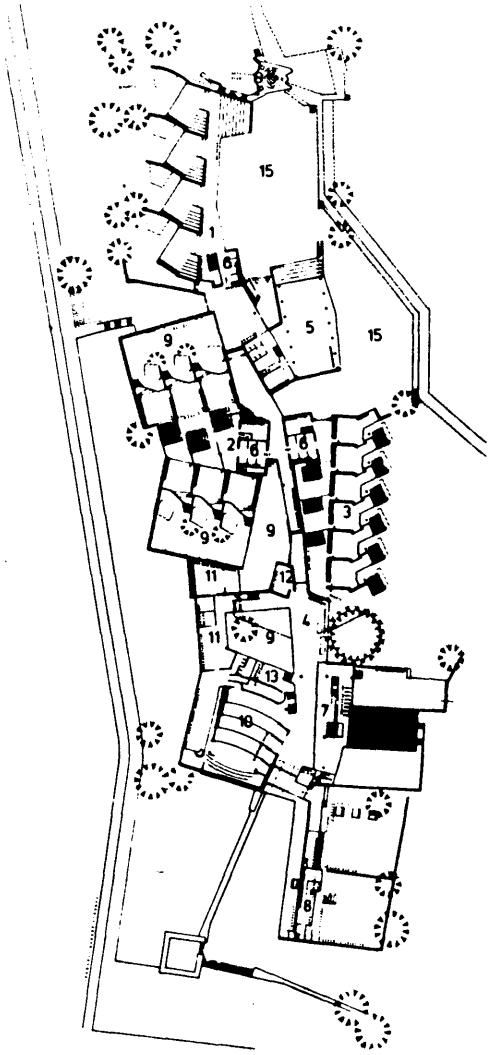
On the "Built" Access

There are three major ways of building the access:

1) building it directly -that is, whatever structural or spatial system being used defines only the access zone.

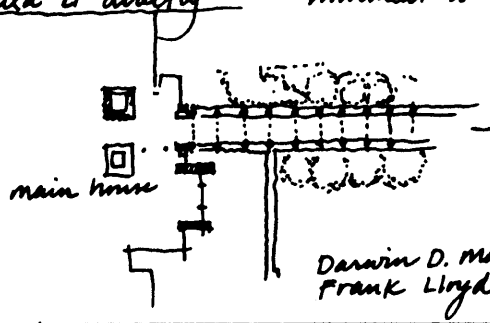
2) build it with the territories on either side -the access zone is defined as the slack region in between two or more built territoies.

3) build it optionally -that is, the access zone is built directly within the neighboring territories and allows for the use to claim some space.



access definition

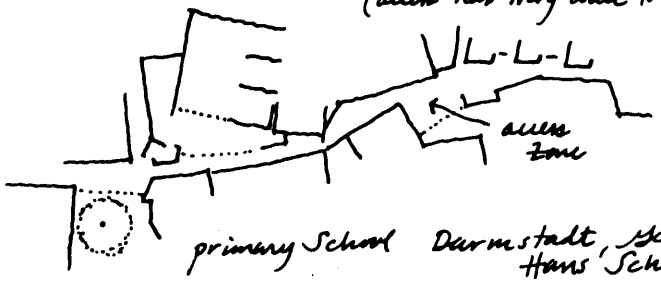
1) Build it directly — movement is controlled by the building system. (access is separate from use)



Darwin D. Martin House Buffalo N.Y.
Frank Lloyd Wright, Arch.

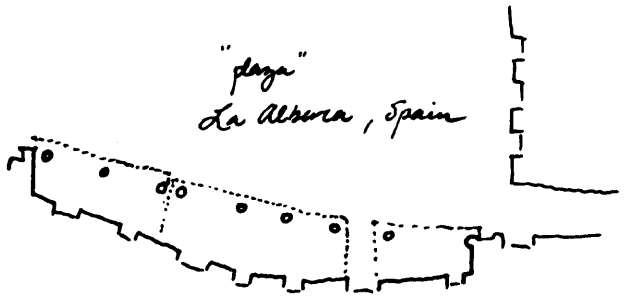
2) use space between built territories

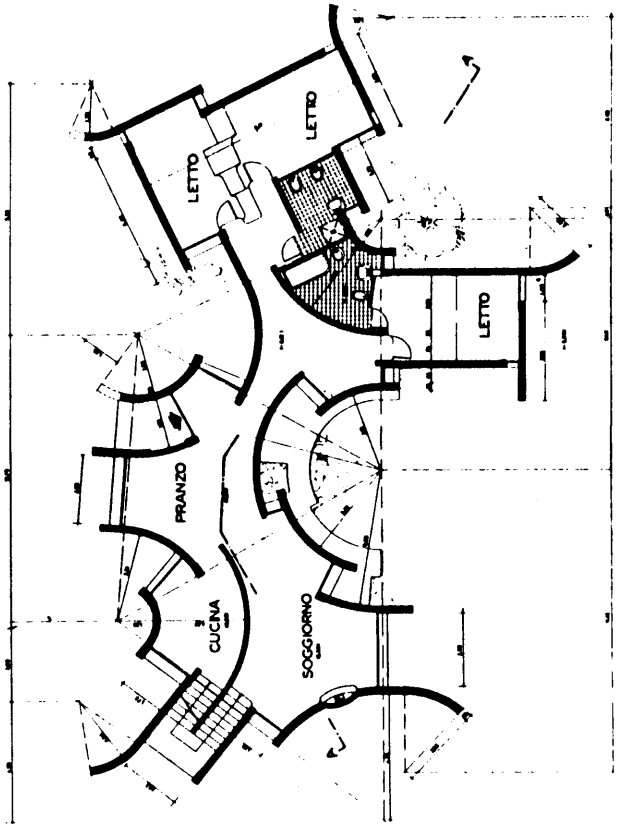
movement is in "slack" zone.
(access has very little to do with the use.)



primary School Darmstadt, Germany
Hans Scharoun, Arch.

3) adjacent built territories also build access zone
definition is optional (use or access)

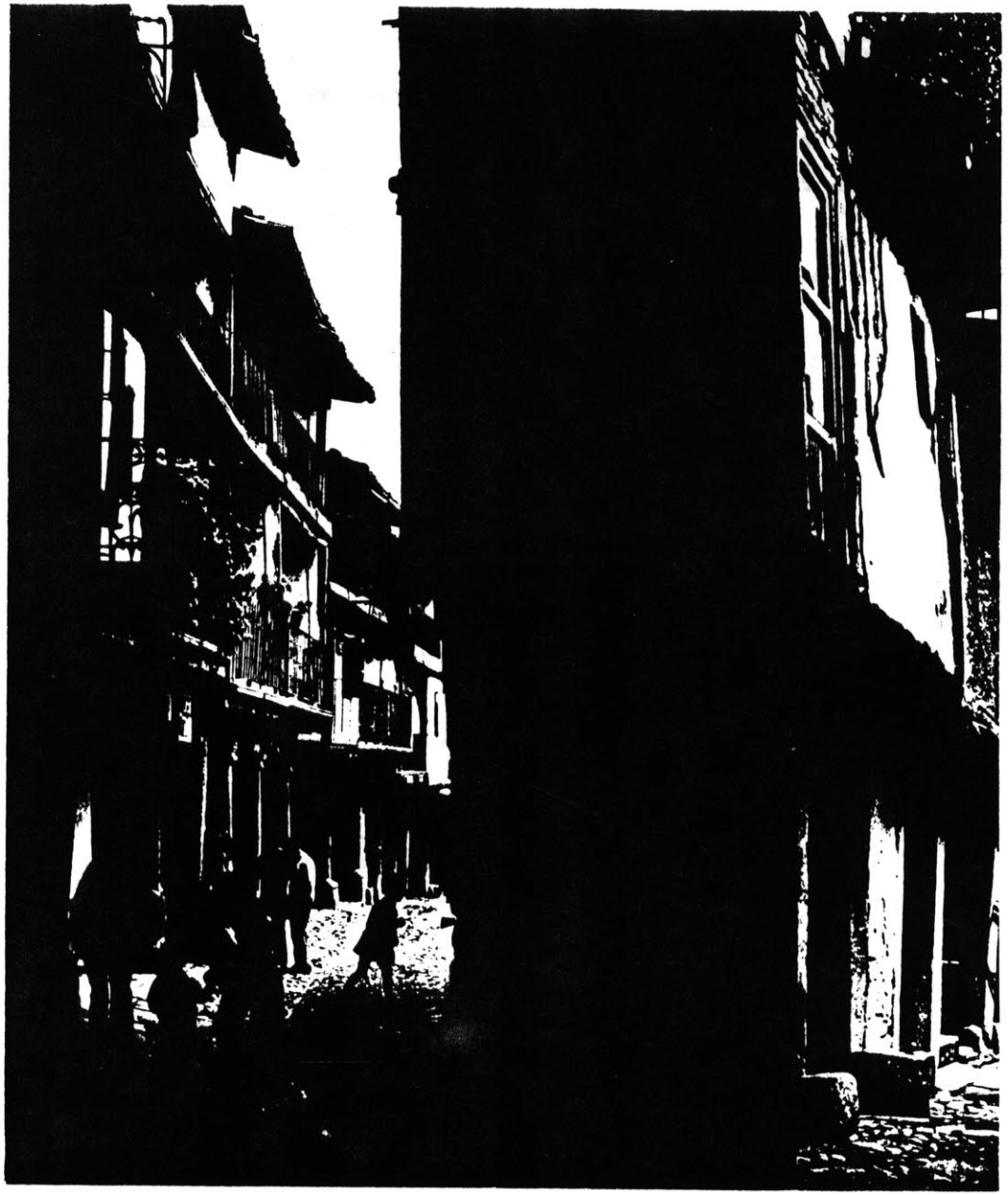


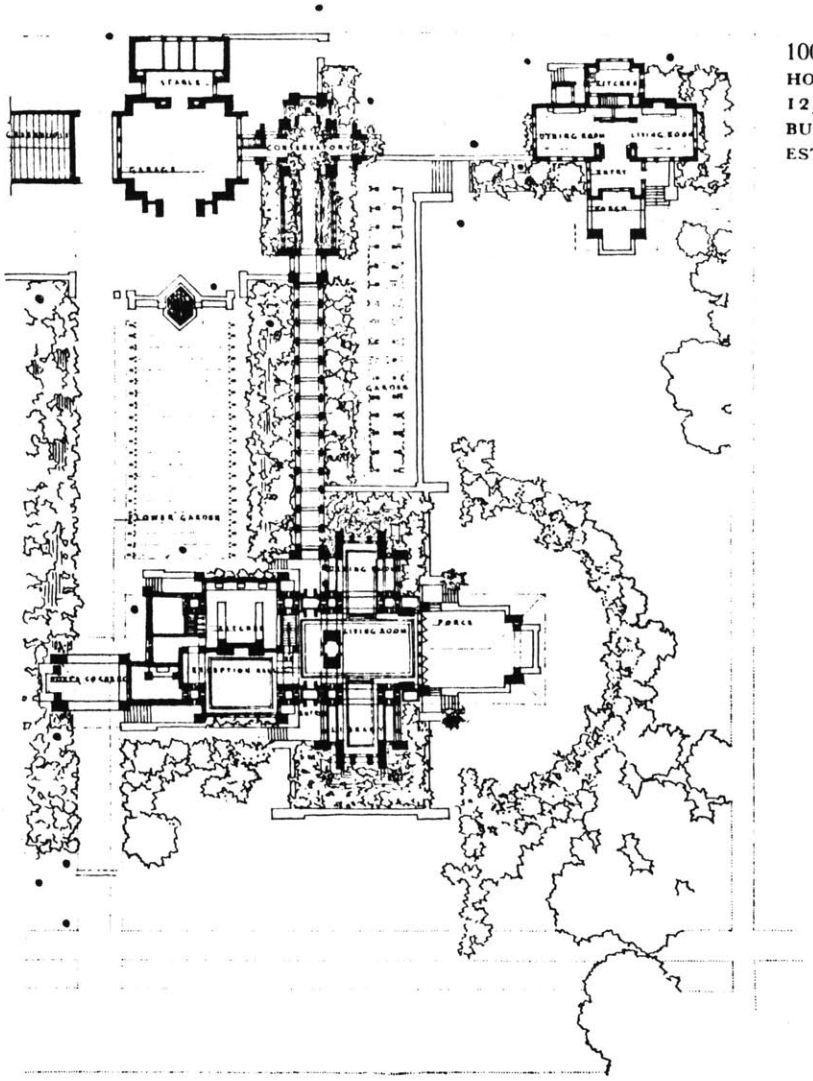


the access here is defined as the slack between the cylindrical rooms.

The first two methods are used where the access remains relatively separate from the territories on either side and essentially acts as service. The third method is most useful when there is desired contact and exchange between the access and the use.

the columns define both the access and/or additional territory to be claimed by the building





100. DARWIN D. MARTIN HOUSE AND ADJUNCTS, 125 JEWETT PKWAY, BUFFALO, N. Y. 1904. ESTATE PLAN.

in these cases the access is defined by columns or walls directly.

An Informed Beginning

- assimilation
- on "joining" systems
- what is not here...
- conclusions

Assimilation

The second part in this process has two facets

1) editting -the ability to evaluate/criticize each project in terms of their strengths/weaknesses.

2) assemblage -the usage of the strong characteristics of each design in conjunction with one another.

This is not a collision or super-imposition of the various design projections. "Assemblage" means the joining, arranging or adding of different pieces/systems. Each projection is made of a distinct system or set of pieces that can continue or not. Therefore, in whole or part, the system can be used independent of other influences.

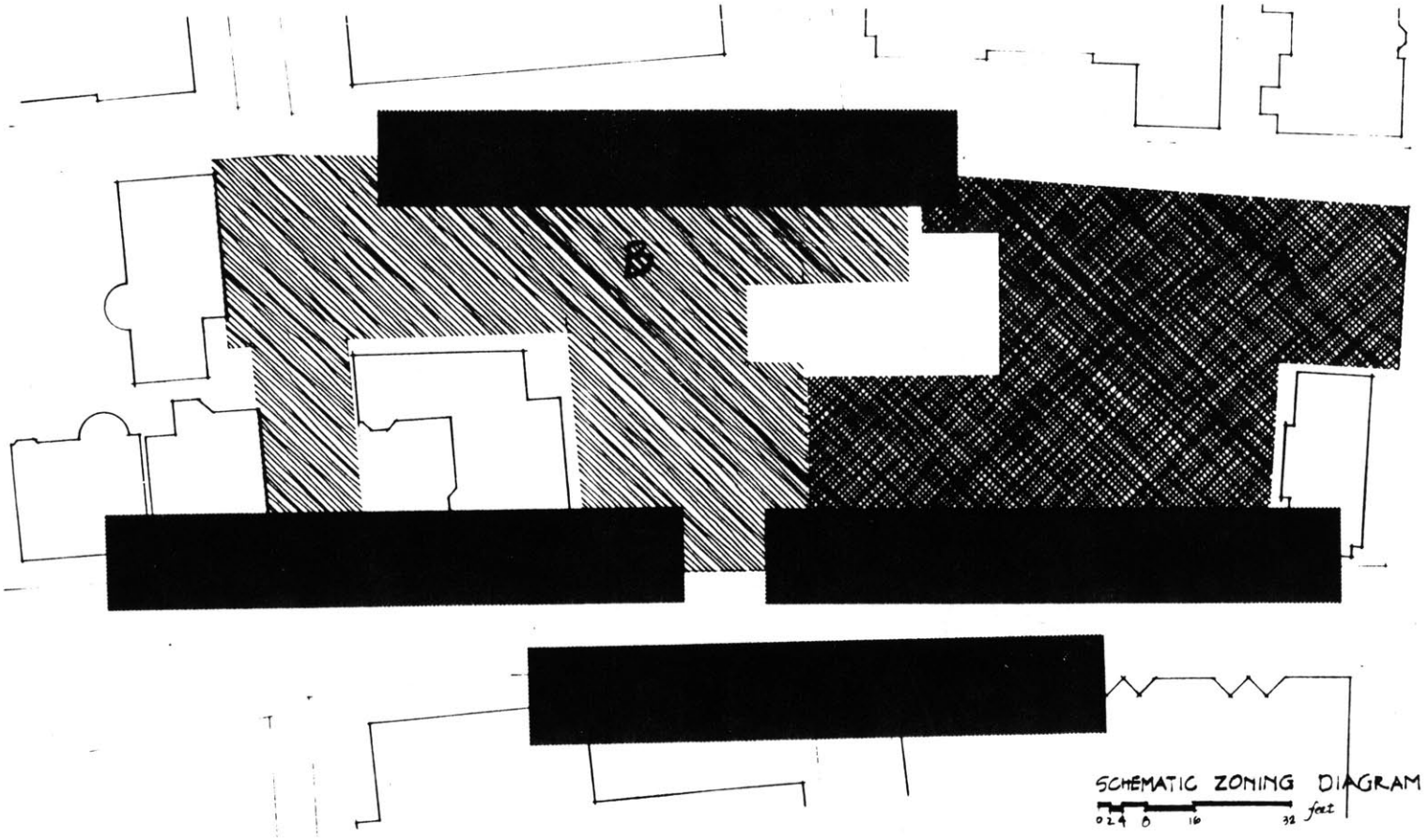

HOLYOKE STREET
DUNSTER STREET
WINTHROP STREET
HOLYOKE PLACE
BOYLSTON STREET
MOUNT AUBURN STREET
LINDEN STREET
HOLYOKE STREET
DUNSTER STREET
ACCESS
DIAGRAM (F.F.)
SITE PLAN

Schematic Zoning Diagram

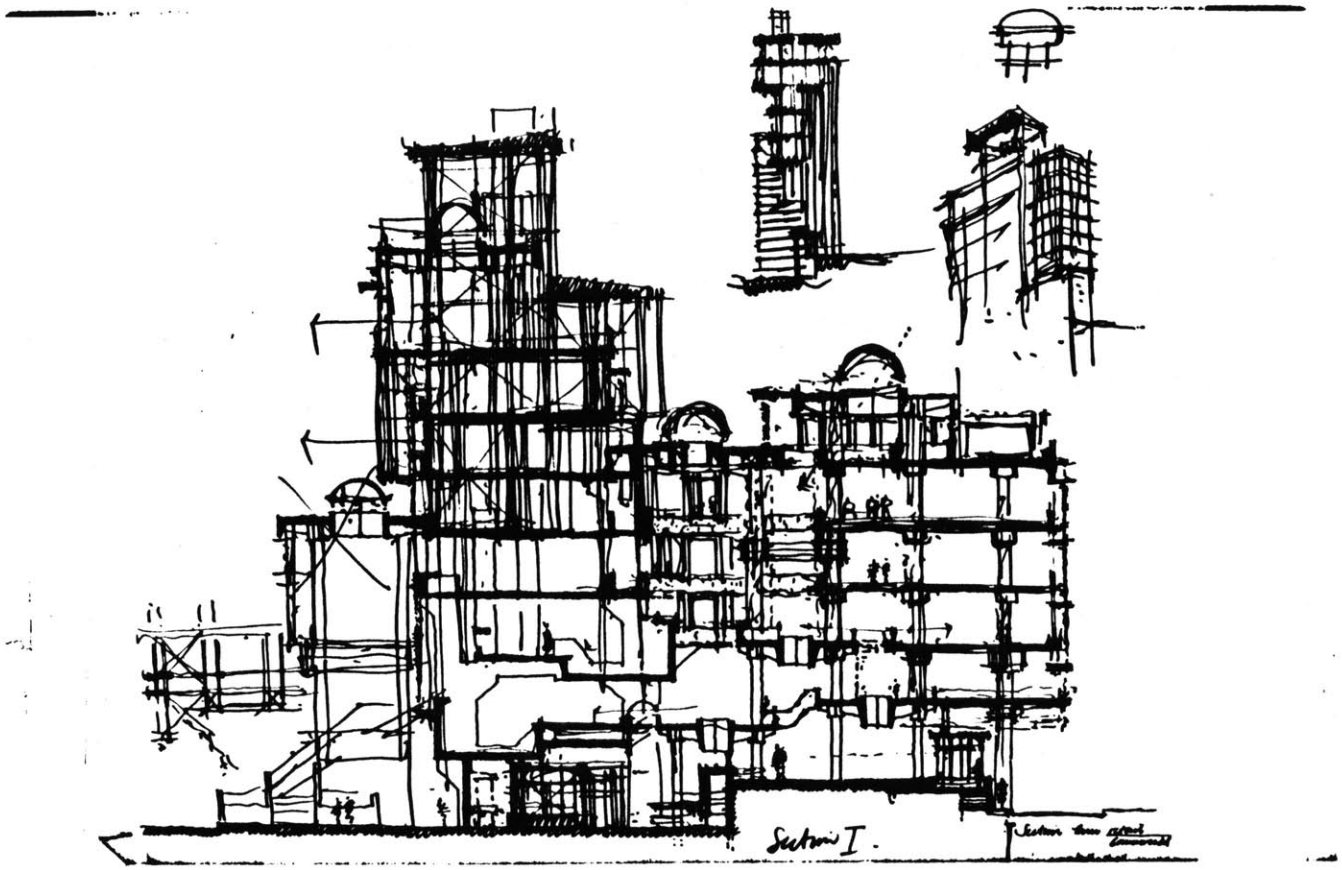
This diagram shows a possible assemblage of the three schemes.

Scheme A) the strength of this scheme was its location nearest the Cambridge public edges, Boylston Street / Mt. Auburn Street but as it neared the Harvard student housing on Mt. Auburn the transition to that use and relationship to that section of Mt. Auburn Street became ambiguous.

Scheme B) the strength of this scheme was in its location near the other forms of student housing and activity. Therefore, the Winthrop Street edge of the site was most suitable. However, as it neared the most public edges its relationship with the street seemed brutal. The only housing core that does make it to Mt. Auburn does not enter directly off of the street.


SCHEMATIC ZONING DIAGRAM
0 2 4 8 16 32 feet

Scheme C) The kind of intensity of street zone design used in this scheme is most appropriate for the retail/commercial zone of this project. Therefore, the most definition is on Mt. Auburn in relation to the "Cambridge public" movement.



Site Diagram of Final Projection

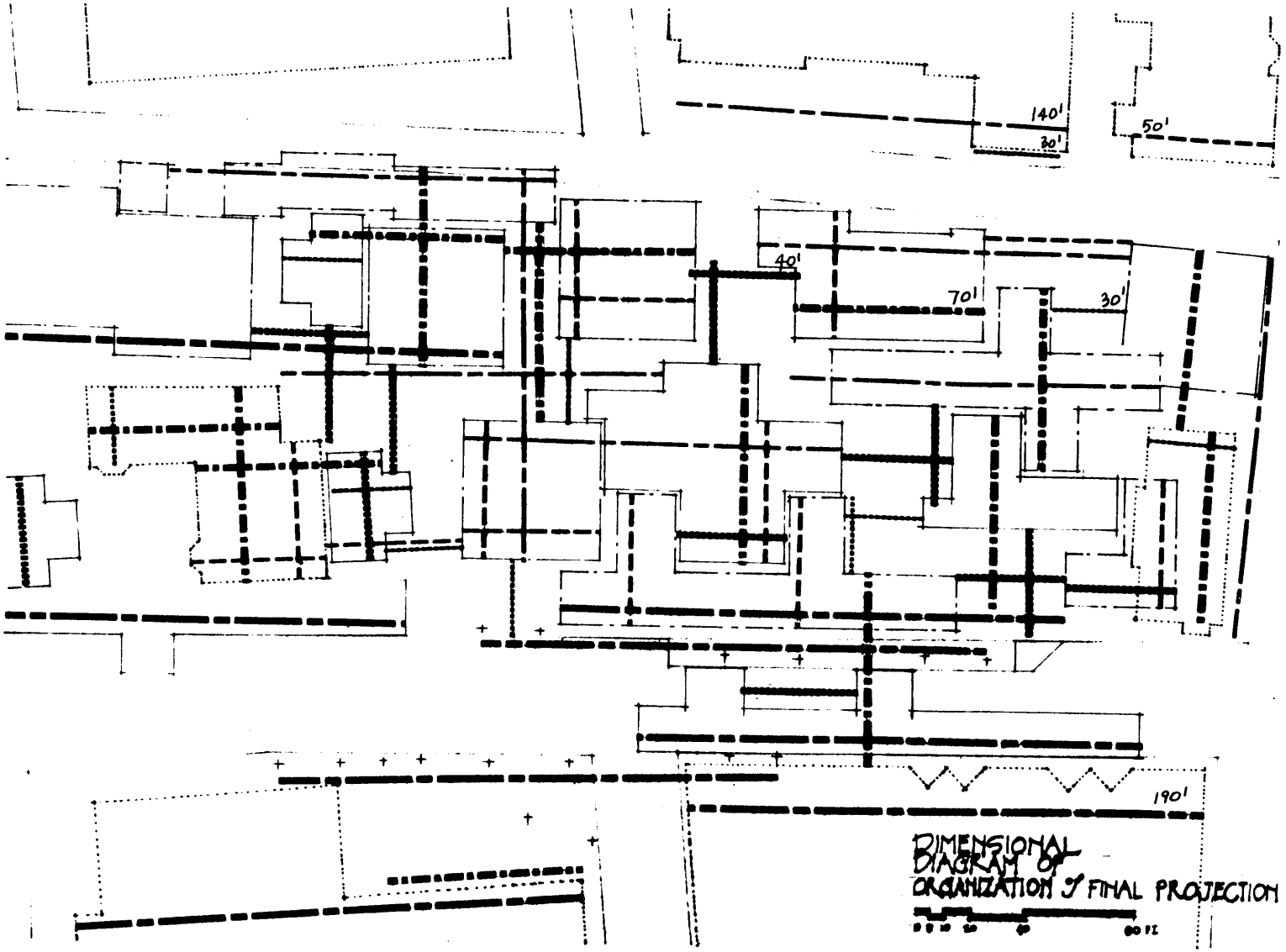
These diagrams illustrate the schematic zoning diagram. The same symbols are used here as in the previous three schemes and can be traced back to these projections.

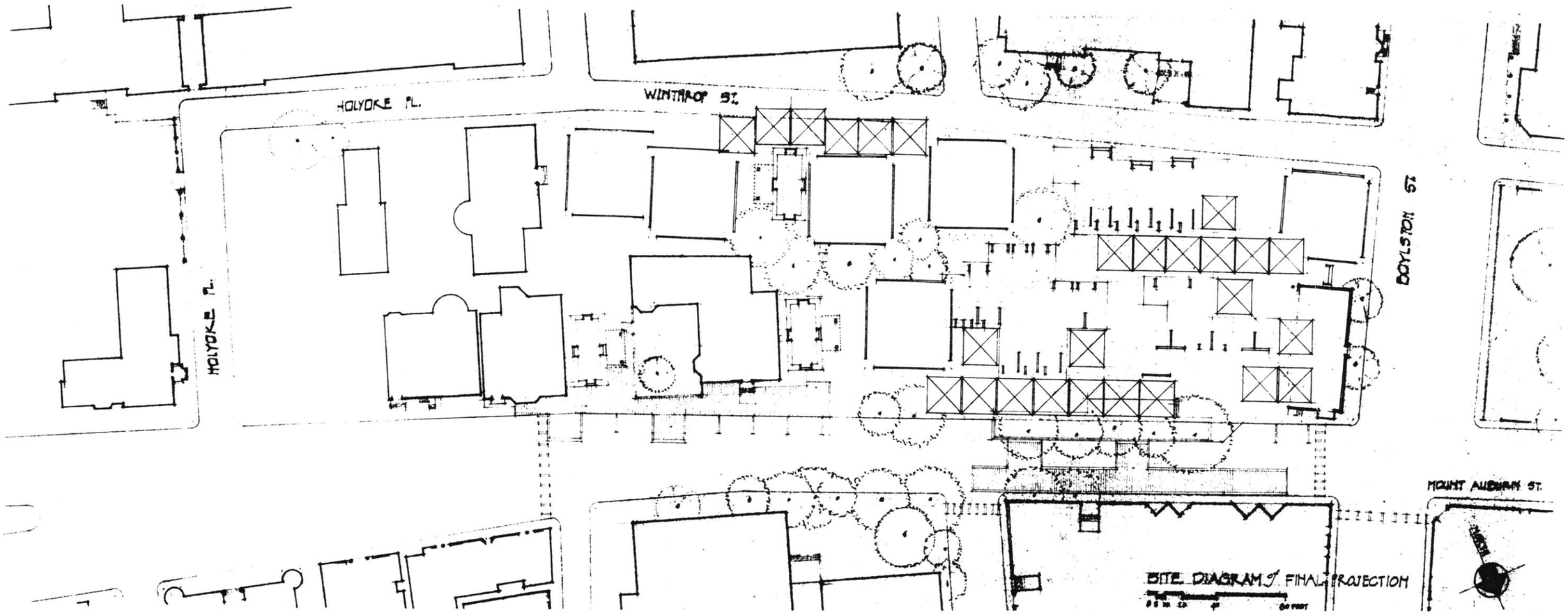
And Dimensional Diagram of Final Projection

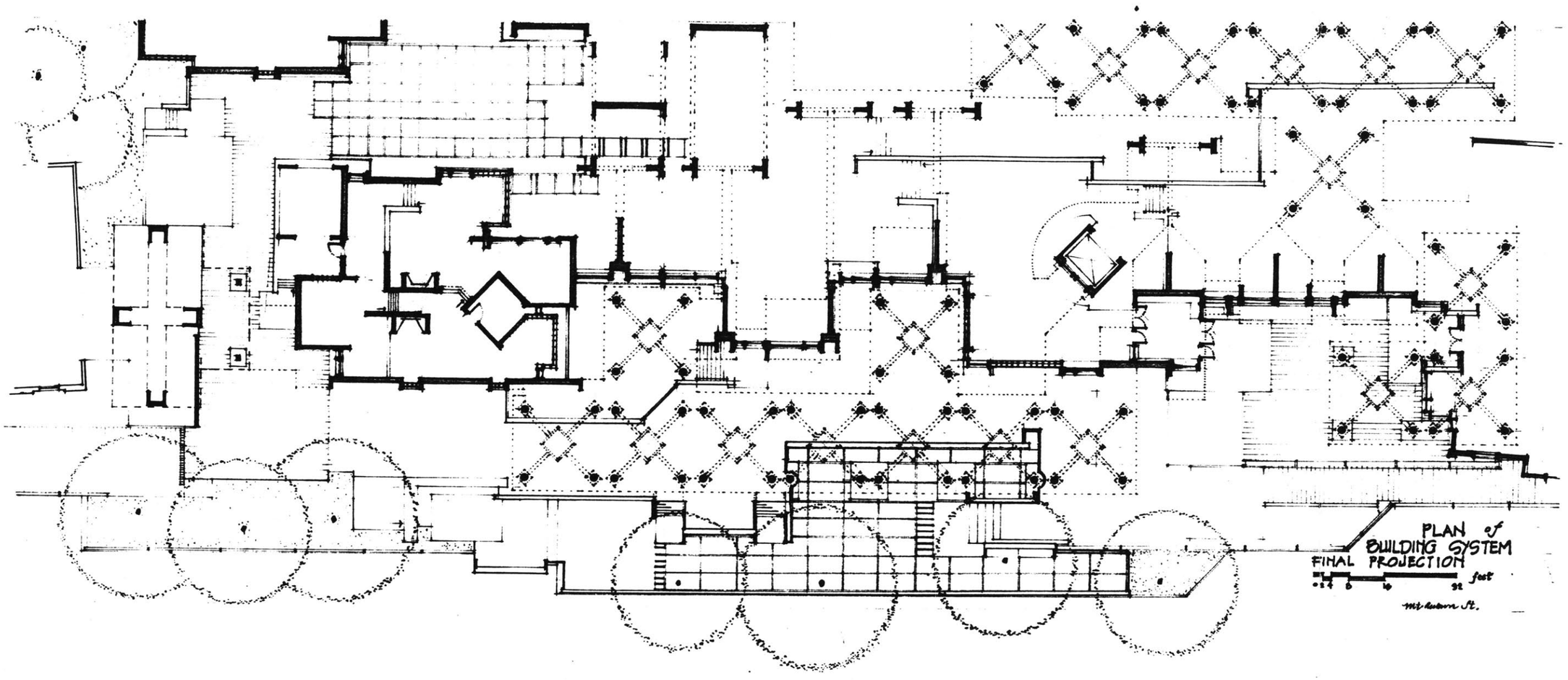
The dimensional diagram not only reiterates the the previous three schemes it also shows the dimensional consistencies among them.

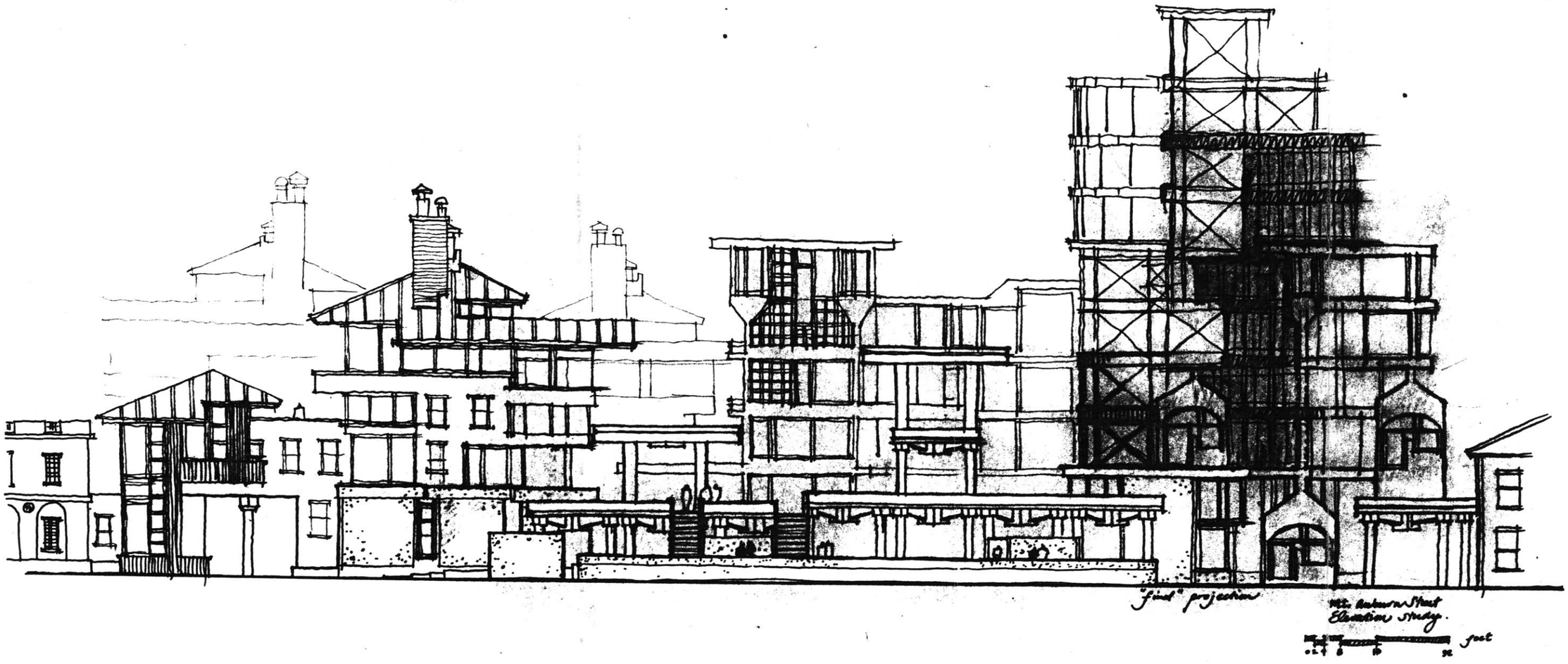
Building System Diagrams Plans Section Elevation

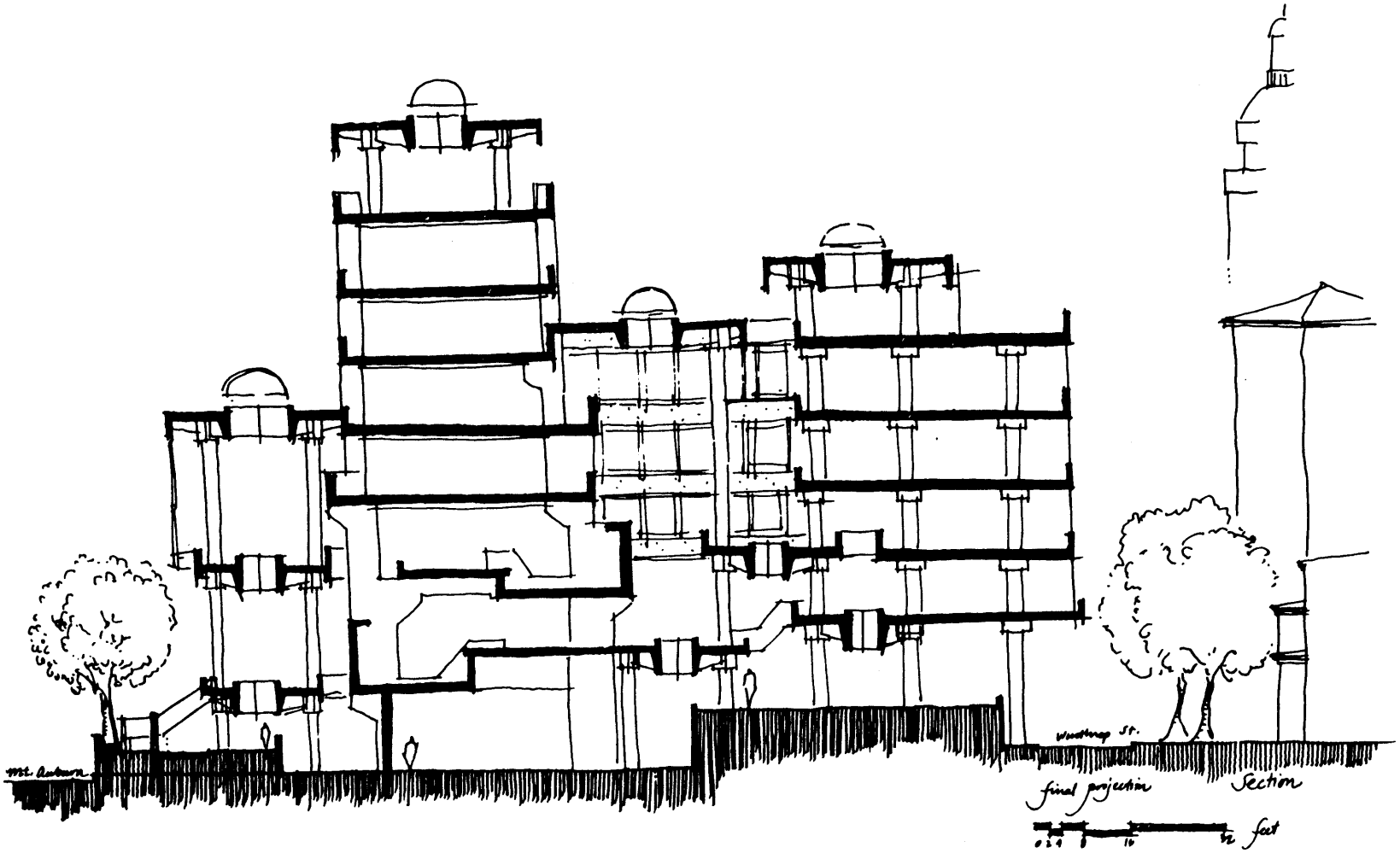
These diagrams show, in more detail, the joining of the three schemes. The first three levels of the sections and elevations is the only zone that has been worked out by this method.

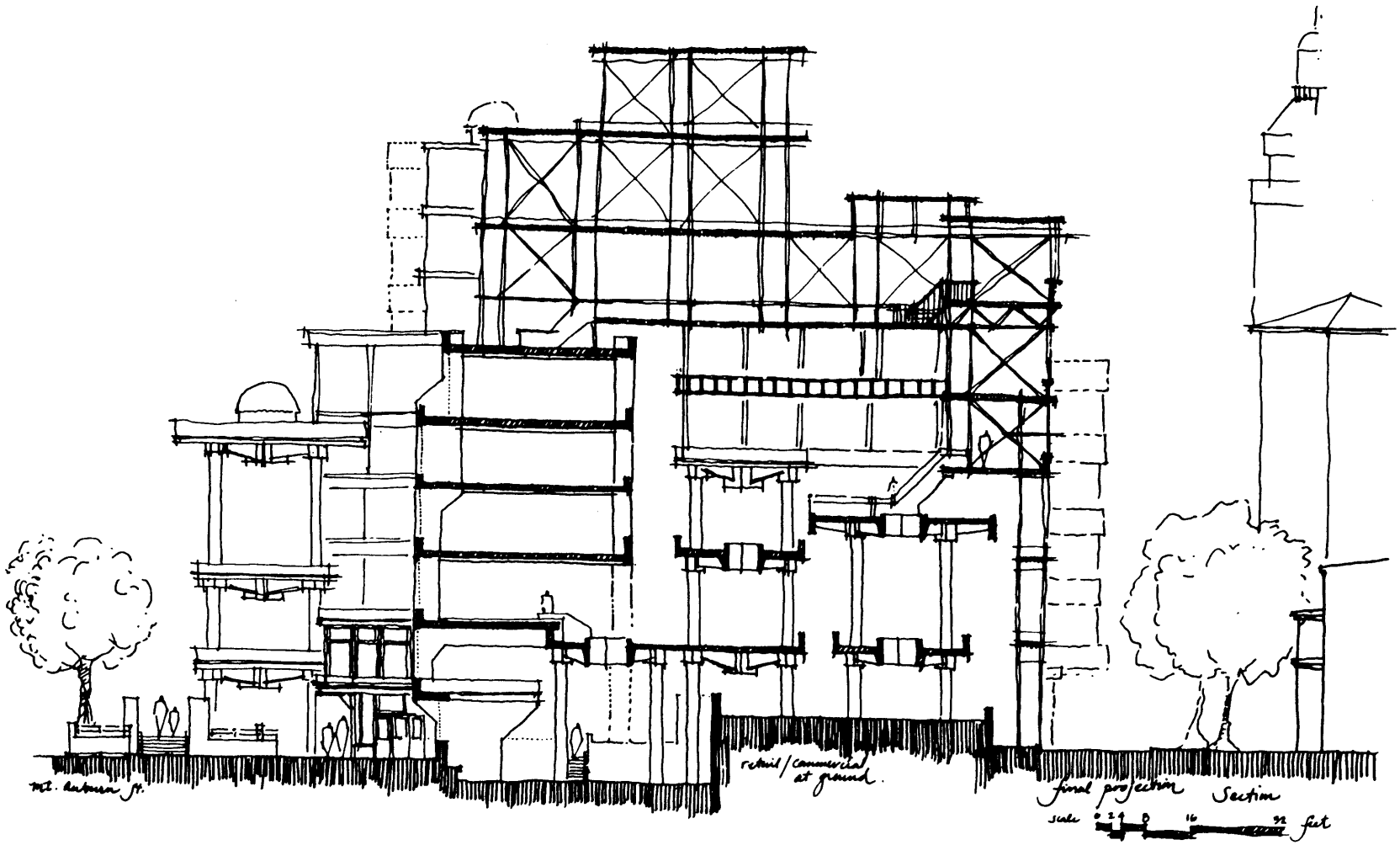

140'
30'
50'
40'
70'
30'
190'
DIMENSIONAL
DIAGRAM OF
ORGANIZATION & FINAL PROJECTION
80 FT


HOLYOKE PL.
WINTHROP ST.
HOLYOKE PL.
JOHN F. KENNEDY ST.
MOUNT AUBURN ST.
SITE DIAGRAM & FINAL PROJECTION


PLAN of
BUILDING SYSTEM
FINAL PROJECTION
feet


"final" projection
Mt. Auburn Street
Elevation Study.
feet

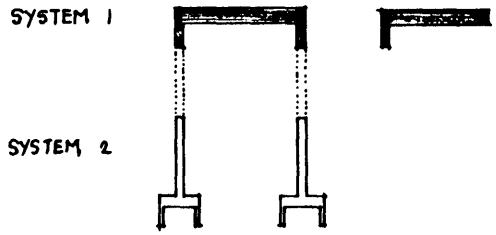

mt. auburn
winthrop st.
final projection
section
feet


retail/commercial at ground
final projection
Section
scale
feet

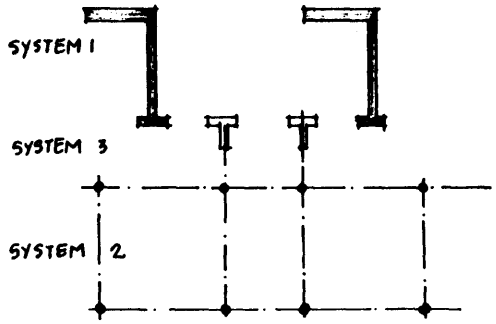
On "Joining" Systems

There are three methods of joining systems:

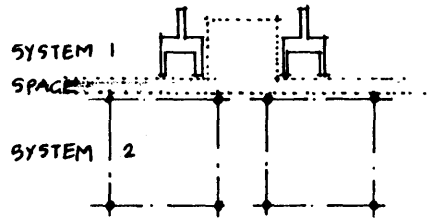
1) direct contact -that is, where there is no space between systems, one simply becomes the second either through juxtaposition or dimensional compatability.



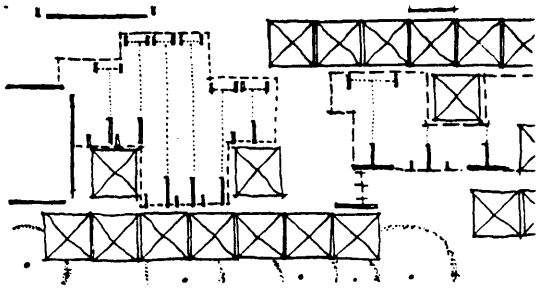
2) direct transformation -where a separate third system is designed (with attributes of the others) to intermediate between the two systems.



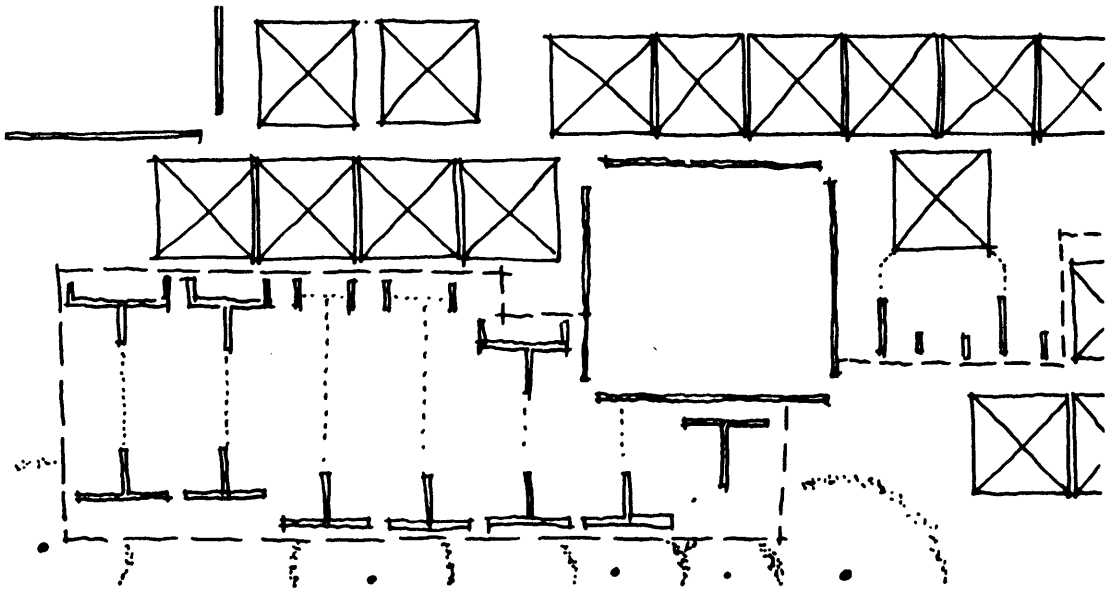
3) spatial assemblage -where the two systems do not come in direct contact with one another. Instead there is some space between that is $\frac{\text{shared}}{\text{claimed}}$ by both systems.



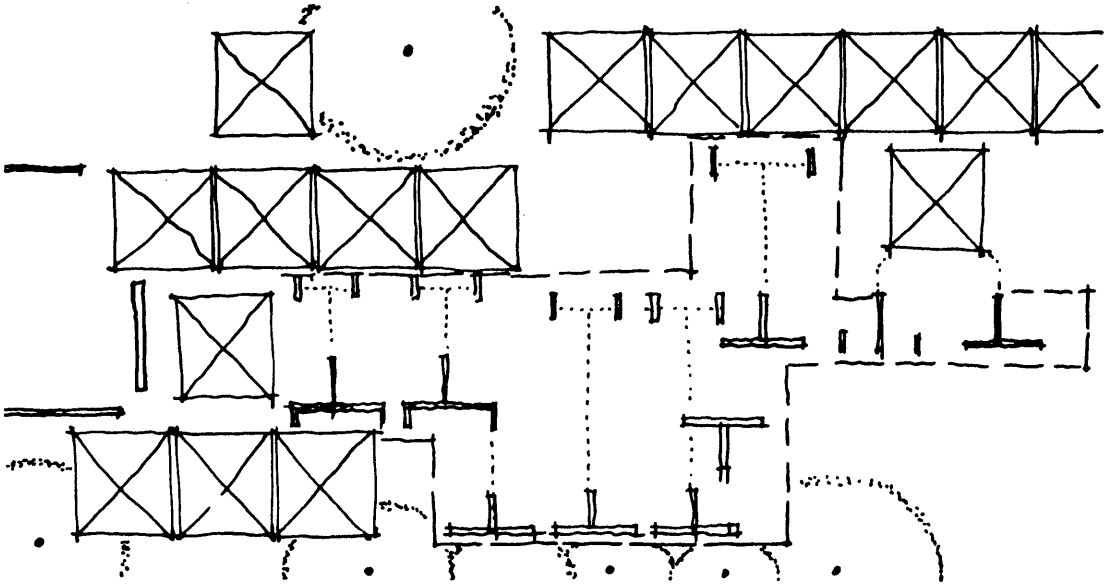
The method of conjugation used most frequently in this projection is that of direct contact. The systems (as stated earlier) are compatible because they share the same roots. In addition, the resulting projection / scheme could be quite different if it only relied on the influence of the building system and not the context or use.

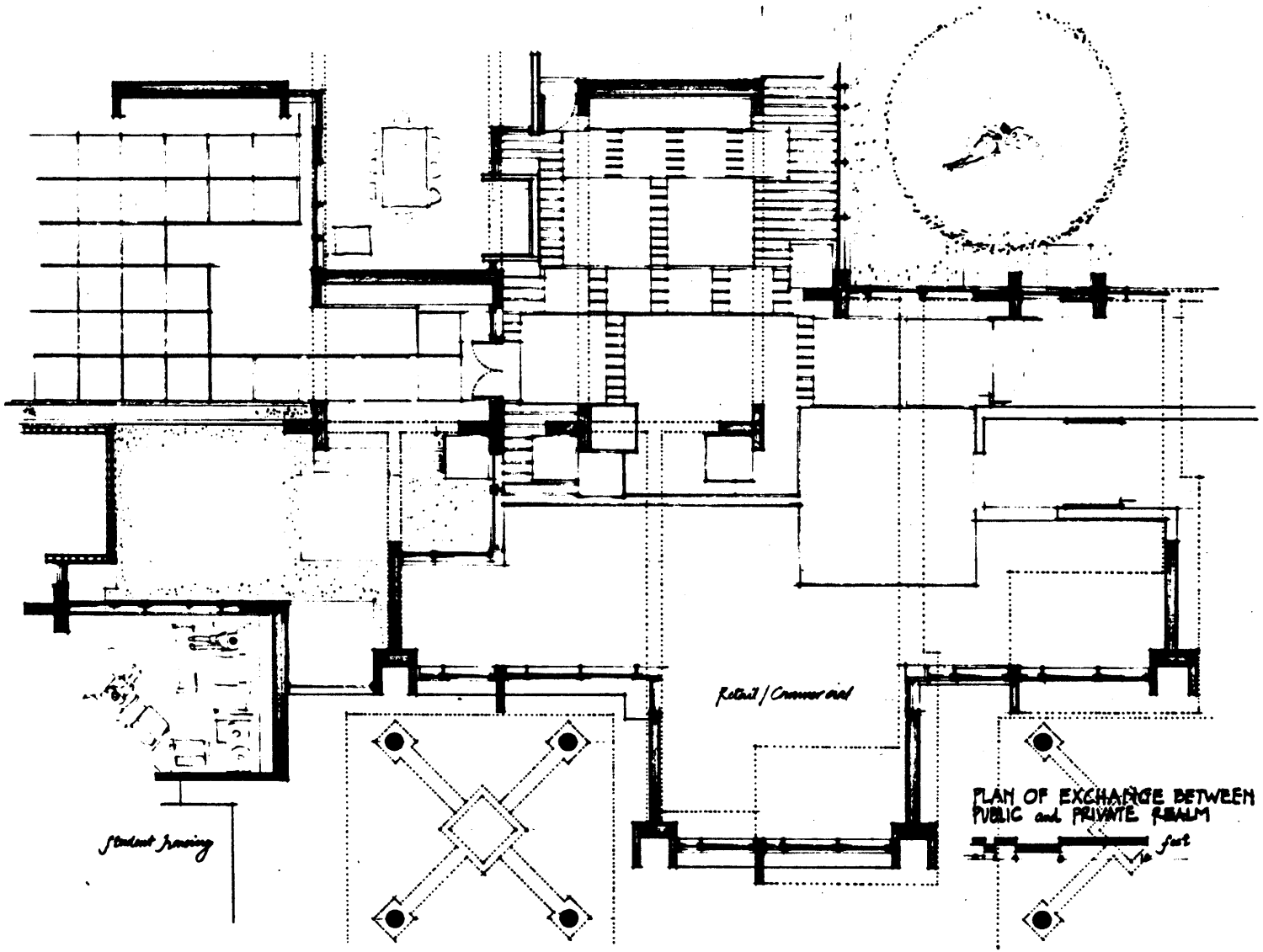


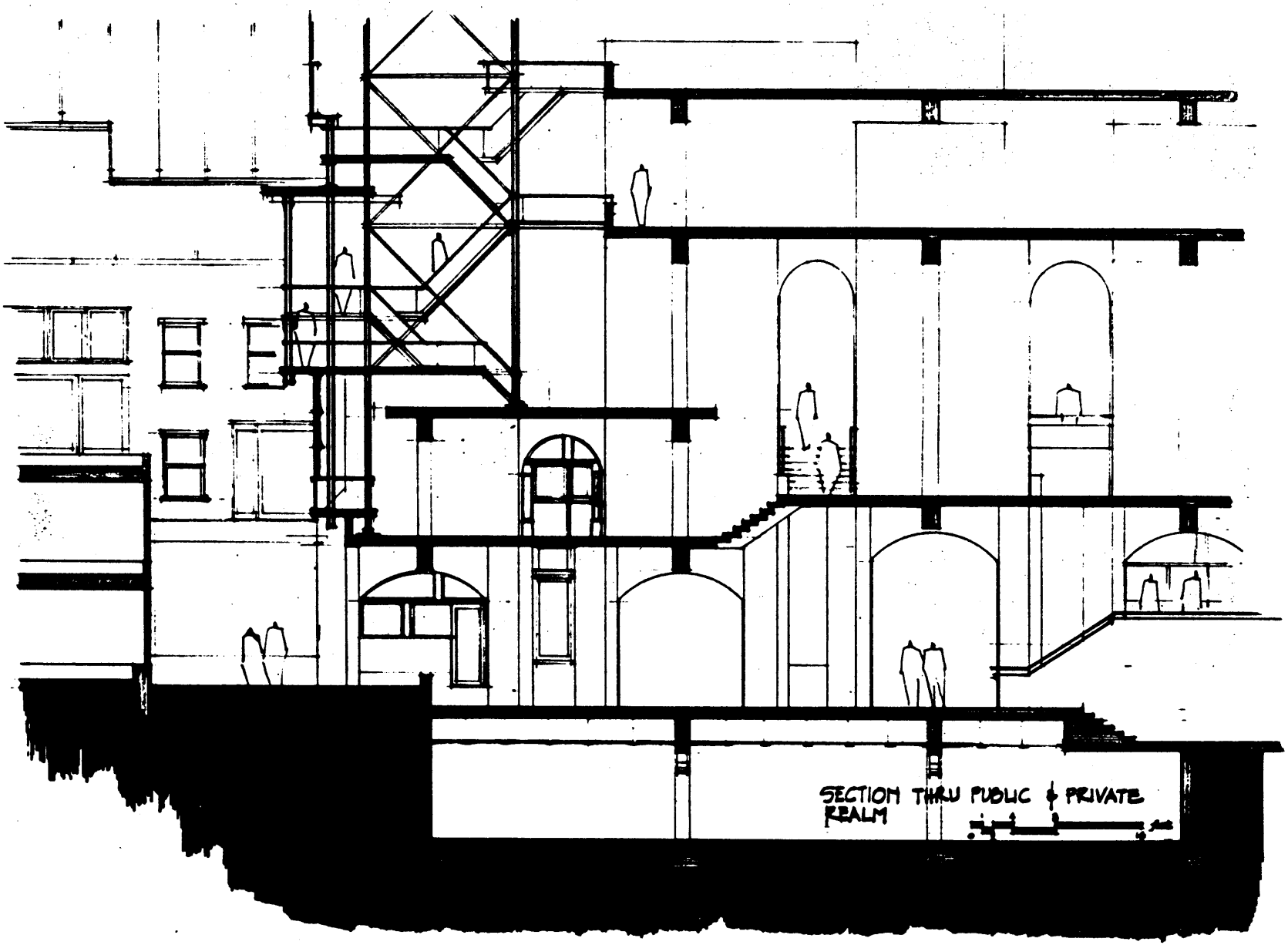
original diagram



possibilities




Retail / Commercial
Student housing
PLAN OF EXCHANGE BETWEEN
PUBLIC and PRIVATE REALM


SECTION THRU PUBLIC & PRIVATE
REALM

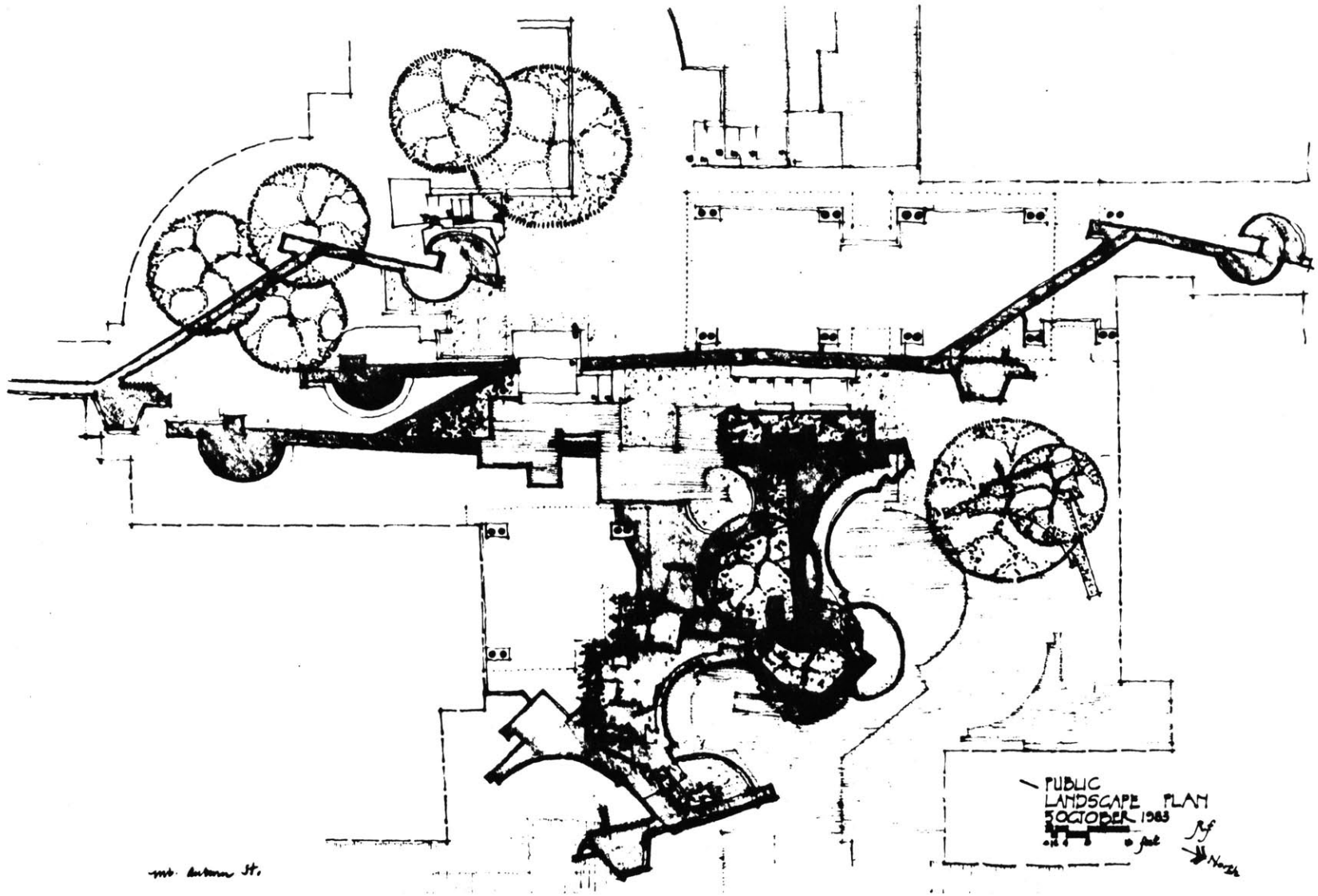
What Is Not Here

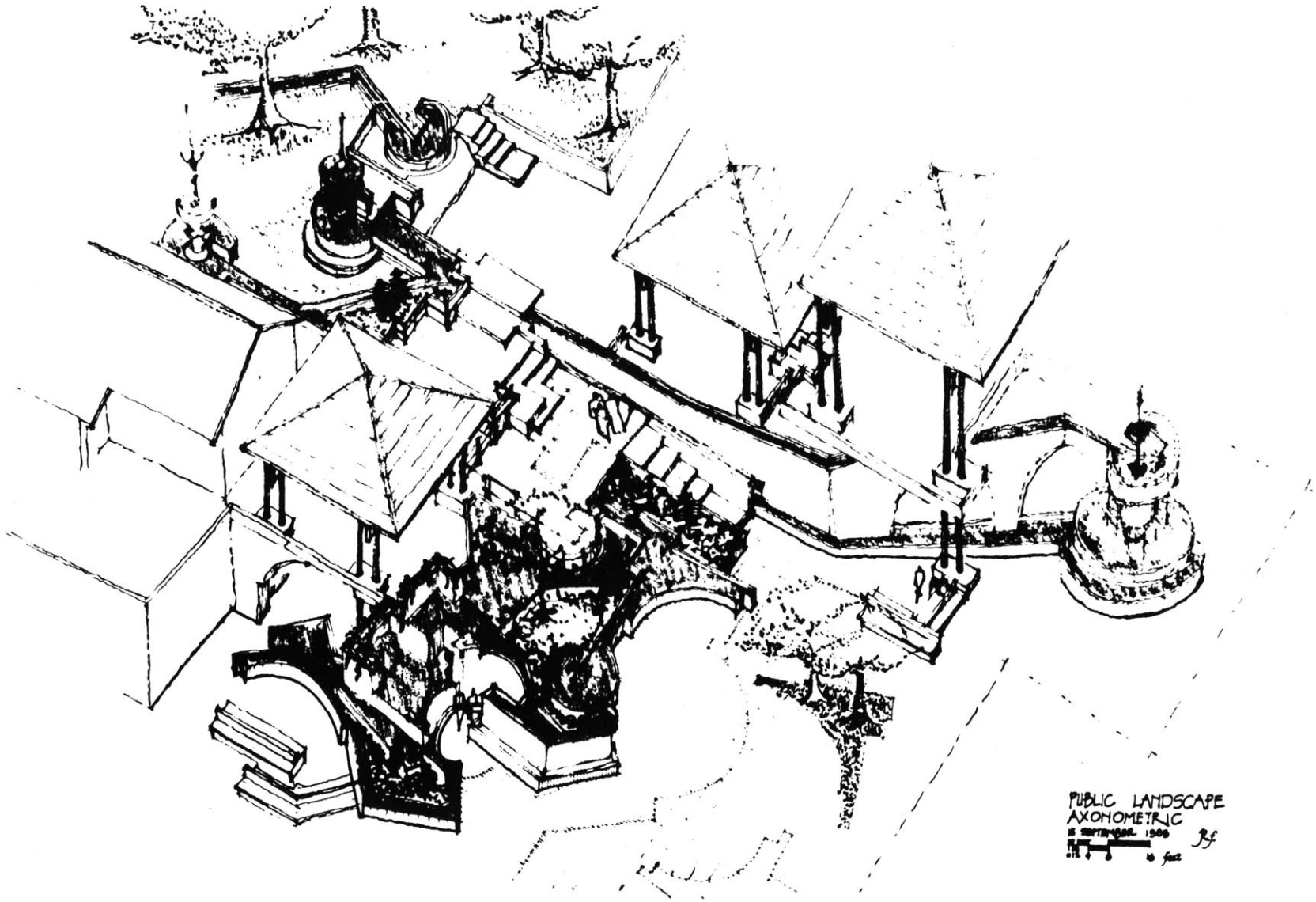
The result of this investigation is information about making / designing the public access zone in a project. What it is not is a building. While the issue of movement through a building drives many other aspects of the design, in general it only touches upon them in a tangential way. There are many more issues which should be advocated in the building design so they may be seen in their own light as well.

1) landscape
-both interior and exterior. To be developed as if it were the most important issue in the site development.

2) vertical access / highrise development
-as a possible formal result to the higher density of he the development. Some aspects of this could be used in the the final building.

3) alternate access systems
-how adaptable is the building to the reception of horizontal access at a raised level?
How will it change the building?


PUBLIC
LANDSCAPE PLAN
5 OCTOBER 1983
mt. auburn St.


PUBLIC LANDSCAPE
AXONOMETRIC

Conclusion

This thesis has been an illustration of a working method. No buildings have been designed, although any scheme could be taken to completion. What's more, the true value of this exploration lies in the development of an attitude toward working with various facts / constraints. Implicit in this process is the analysis and evaluation of the context site.

Initially, the game was to pick one aspect of the project and push that as far as one could.

-to find its strengths and weaknesses

Then, three such investigations were added together.

-Coincidentially, each one was strong where the others were less so.

However, a major benefit of this exploration / method was to develop dissimilar systems; each one intensifying the characteristics of the other.

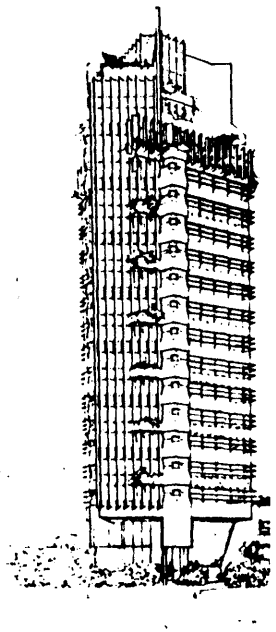
Therefore, one would work at more than one or two aspects of the design at a time.

-light could not be seen without shadow
-public open space would not read without closed, contained privacies.

In this project the programmatic difference between the needs of retail development and those of housing promoted a major difference within the design

-the development of a flexible building system that did allow some options but not all possibilities
-the development of privacies that had some aspects of the other systems but were extremely closed and contained few options.

This difference begins to promote a clear understanding of whether one is in a public or private territory.



Architecture—planning in general—breathes with great difficulty today. The breathing image epitomizes my conception of twinphenomena—we cannot breathe one way—either in or out. I am concerned with twinphenomena, with unity and diversity, part and whole, small and large, many and few, simplicity and complexity, change and constancy, order and chaos, individual and collective; with why they too are ignobly halved and the halves hollowed out; why they are withheld from opening the windows of the mind! As soon as they materialize into house or city their emptiness materializes into cruelty, for in such places everything is always too large and too small, too few and too many, too far and too near, too much and too little the same, too much and too little different. There is no question of right-size (by right-size I mean the right effect of size) and hence no question of human scale.

What has right-size is at the same time both large and small, few and many, near and far, simple and complex, open and closed; will furthermore always be both part and whole and embrace both unity and diversity. No, as conflicting polarities or false alternatives these abstract antonyms all carry the same evil: loss of identity and its attribute, monotony.
Right-size will flower as soon as the mild gears of reciprocity start working—in the climate of relatitivity; in the landscape of all twinphenomenon.

Van Eyck, 1959

from TEAM X PRIMER p. 5

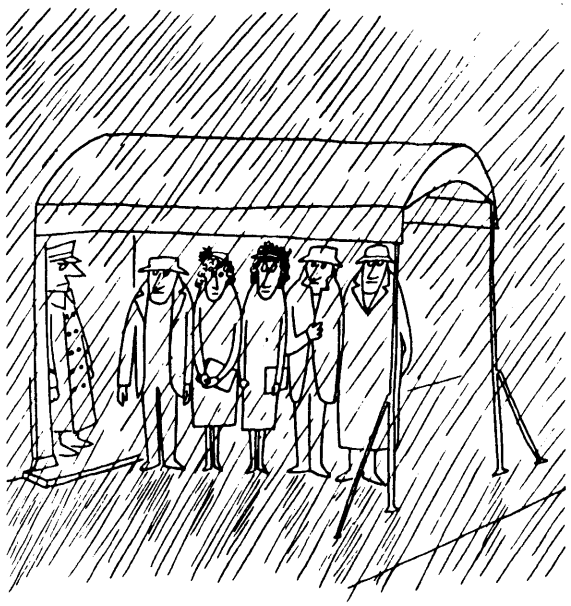
-the point is all of these

$$\text{distinct } \frac{\text{places}}{\text{forms}} \text{ should have}$$
$$\text{uses}$$

different characteristics
so they can be understood
as different.

-to be sure

-it is not clear how acurate
a sense of the environment
the average consumer has
-one does not know how much
form information needs to be
present to advise the user on
what to do, where to go, etc.



The poor man's portico.
Drawing by Saul Steinberg, 1947.
(Courtesy, The New Yorker)

The question remains, "can there be too much?" (too much $\frac{\text{information}}{\text{-change}}$ $\frac{}{\text{differences}}$

If, for instance, there was no signage in public buildings.....

...how much of the organization would be understandable to the user?

(How it would be understandable leads back to the issue of access.

-This paper is not against signs.

-It is for a clearer understanding of the built environment.

Perhaps one that is designed with a more $\frac{\text{optional}}{\text{variable}}$ method.

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