

A DESIGN FOR NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HALL AND LIBRARY

by

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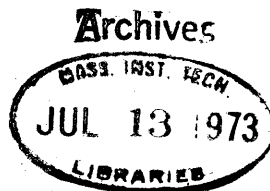
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ABSTRACTA DESIGN FOR NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HALL AND LIBRARY

LEE GARY JACOBSON
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Submitted to the Department of Architecture on May 11, 1973,
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of Master of Architecture

The major part of this thesis is the design submitted as an entry to a competition for the selection of a design for the new county hall and library in Northamptonshire, England. The design is accompanied by notes on the site, design approach and the direction of future design work.

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Without: Dean Lawrence B. Anderson
Sandy and M.J. Wilson,
Donlyn Lyndon,
Our parents,
and a little help from our friends

this thesis would not have materialized.
We sincerely thank them all.

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INTRODUCTION

The major part of this thesis is an entry to the architectural competition for the design of the proposed new county hall and library in Northamptonshire, England. This design section of the thesis was done with Colin St. John Wilson as principal advisor while the authors were living in London and working part-time in Mr. Wilson's office on another entry to the same competition. Working in London for the duration of the competition provided the opportunity for several site visits.

As well as the complete entry to the competition, several other sections have been included in the thesis. Following this introduction, which discusses the scope of the thesis, a section describes the objective considerations of site and program requirements. The competition entry is then included, followed by a discussion of the building, with an explanation of the attitudes from which many of the design decisions were made. Because this thesis is part of an ongoing process, the final section is a discussion, with examples, of the next stage in the design process.

Certain constraints follow from the conditions of the competition which helped define the limits and set the scope of the thesis. These constraints are of both an objective and a subjective nature.

An important consideration in this first category is the amount of accommodation required by the building program as it relates to the construction budget. Working with a £5,000,000 budget, 24,500 m² of required net area, and £140/m² as a low, but still reasonable, construction cost for this type of building, it was found that a total gross area of 32,500 m² was affordable. This took into consideration certain fixed sums which had

to be included and the cost of site work and preparation.

Almost 65% of the total accommodation required is office space for the fourteen county departments and their support facilities. The promoters of the competition generally intend to follow Burolandschaft office planning principles. At the same time they require a certain proportion of office space for closed accommodations (including conference rooms, interview rooms, laboratories and testing rooms, and storage space, as well as private offices). This is not considered strict Burolandschaft planning and in some departments the percentage of closed accommodation is as high as 50% of the total. The office planning and design is further complicated by the requirement that at some time in the unspecified future private offices might become Burolandschaft and vice versa. Departments must also be able to expand and contract. Of course the design is to lend itself effortlessly to such a future change in office planning.

As well as specifying the amount and type of accommodation the program specifies the nature and importance of the relations among county departments. Although, in general, every department relates to every other department, the departments can be classified according to their service functions. Social Services, Educations, Planning, Surveyors, and Road Safety provide direct service to the public and are supported by the Architects, Treasurers, District Audit, and Valuers. Caretakers, post and communications, medical, reprographics, etc., serve all departments.

It is apparent from the nature of the program that the county hall will be visited less by the general public than most town halls. The county hall does not include the usual public services such as tax and rate payment, registry, and licensing. However, the exact nature of public use

of the county hall is not clear. It is assumed that the public will either be attending council and committee meetings or consulting with the county departments on specific matters.

Because questions about the program were accepted only for the first month and a half of the competition, the competitors had to rely almost solely on the original program.

Aside from programmatic requirements, there are the more mundane requirements regarding submission date and the type, size, and content of the entry. Only a site plan at 1:1250 and floor plans, sections, and elevations at 1:500 were accepted. All drawings were required to be line drawings with conventional tone shadows accepted to "assist in the appreciation" of the design. Perspectives, models, and photographs were not accepted. Also required was a one thousand word report which explained the "design approach to the problem," the materials, construction, and finishes of the building and the form and logistics of a possible one-third expansion to the office accommodation.

The nature of a two-stage design competition raises certain issues regarding the allocation of design resources. The attitude which has been adopted is that certain issues can best be explored at certain scales and at certain stages in the design process. At a large scale it is possible to explore an attitude towards the basic site planning and the design of specific parts of the buildings. Explored in this general site planning is the location of the buildings on a relatively large site. This exploration includes consideration of the character and use of the non-built parts of the site, access and circulation to the site and buildings, and the relation of parking to the buildings. At the same time, general organization

of the buildings and the specific organization and characteristics of their parts can be considered.

Only at a larger scale can elevations, smaller scale definitions, furniture and graphics be adequately explored.

Within these parameters, this thesis explores the ways that the building program and its interpretation and the characteristics of the site can be used to make a more human working environment for the staff as well as serve the pragmatic and "symbolic" functions of a public building.

THE SITE

SEE: Map of "Expansion of Northampton as at 1970" p. 11
Site Map p. 12
Site Photographs p. 13ff
Building Program p. 53

BEFORE PROCEEDING

The site for the Northamptonshire county hall and library is located in a presently rural area which is within the "Designated Area for Northampton New Town." This designation indicates that the rural character of the site will quickly be changing to an exurban one with the building and development of housing, educational facilities and roads in the immediate future.

Natural landscape features divide the site into three distinct zones. Two plowed fields flank a central area which is planted with mature trees (oak, beech, horse chestnut, elm and birch) and inhabited at present by a herd of cows (species unknown). A double row of trees on the northern and western boundary line a road which circles this area. This road was once the grand "allee" leading from the village of Hardingstone to the manor house at Wootton Hall Park. Another row of trees to the west and parallel to the allee further separates this part of the site from the western part.

The western part of the site has a distinct slope and drops almost 12.0 m from the entrance on Mere Way to the southern site boundary. The slope ends in a marshy and heavily wooded ravine where water "issues forth" (hence the designation of this area as "issues"). From the line of trees a good view of the countryside to the west and south is possible.

The middle section of the site is uneven but relatively flat. In the southwest corner there is definite depression which is not shown in the topographic map.

The eastern section of the site, while having a definite slope, affords less of a view beyond the site boundaries.

Of the buildings adjacent to the site the ambulance station, police housing, and police station all face Mere Way or A508 with their backs to the central part of the site. Wootton Hall, though at the end of the allee of trees, is only partially visible, being obscured by a dip in the road. Originally the focus of the road, the architecture and function of the building do not command attention. This contradiction between the force of the allee of trees and the building at its end, especially when considered in relation to the size and importance of new facilities, was a major factor in the siting and design of those facilities.

FIG. 1



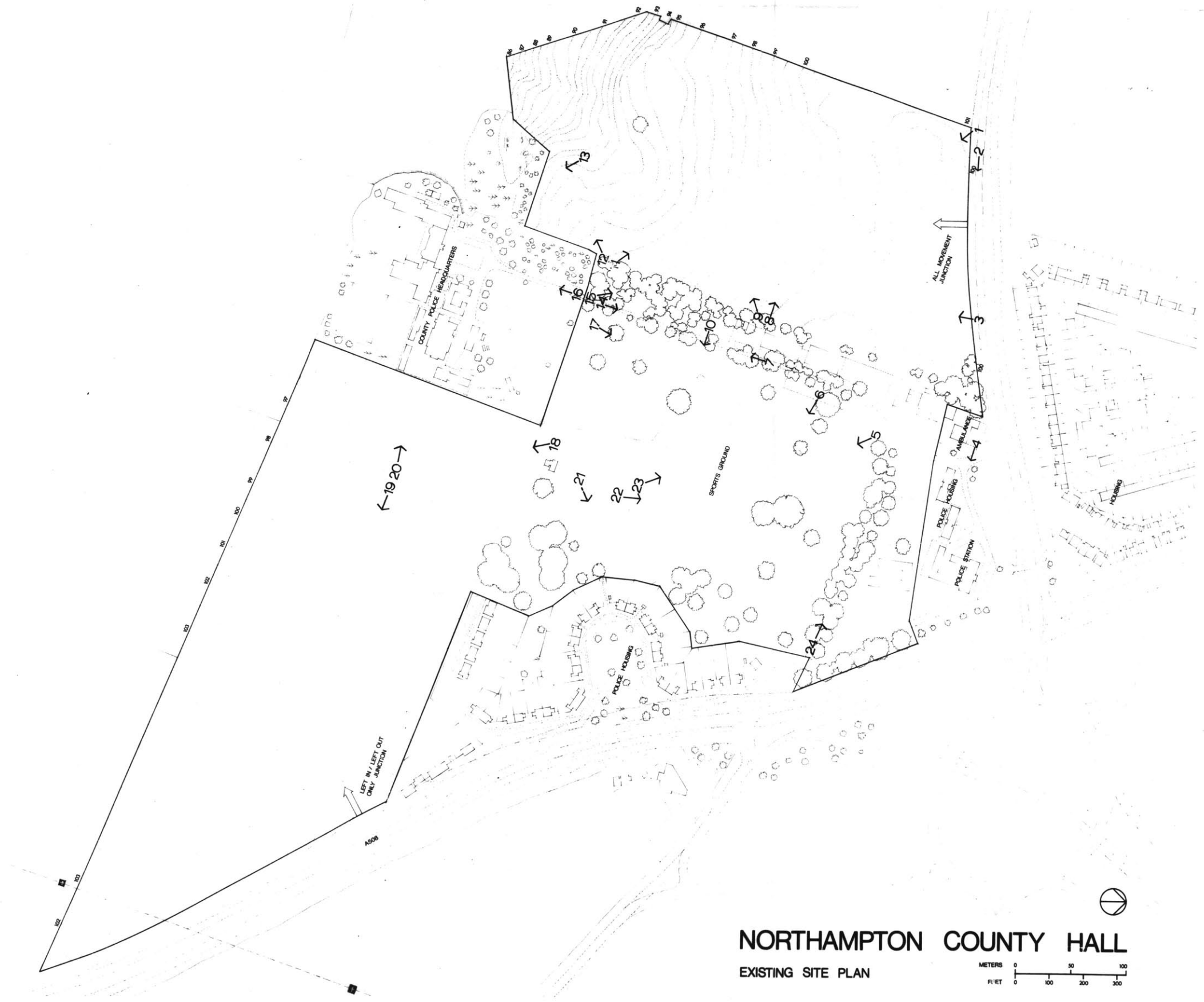
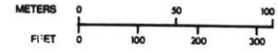


FIG. 2

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HALL
EXISTING SITE PLAN



1



FIG. 3

2

3



4



FIG. 4

5



6



FIG. 5



7



8

FIG. 6

9



10



FIG. 7

11



12



FIG. 8



13



FIG. 9

14

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FIG. 10

16



17



18

FIG. 11

19



20



FIG. 12

21



22



FIG. 13



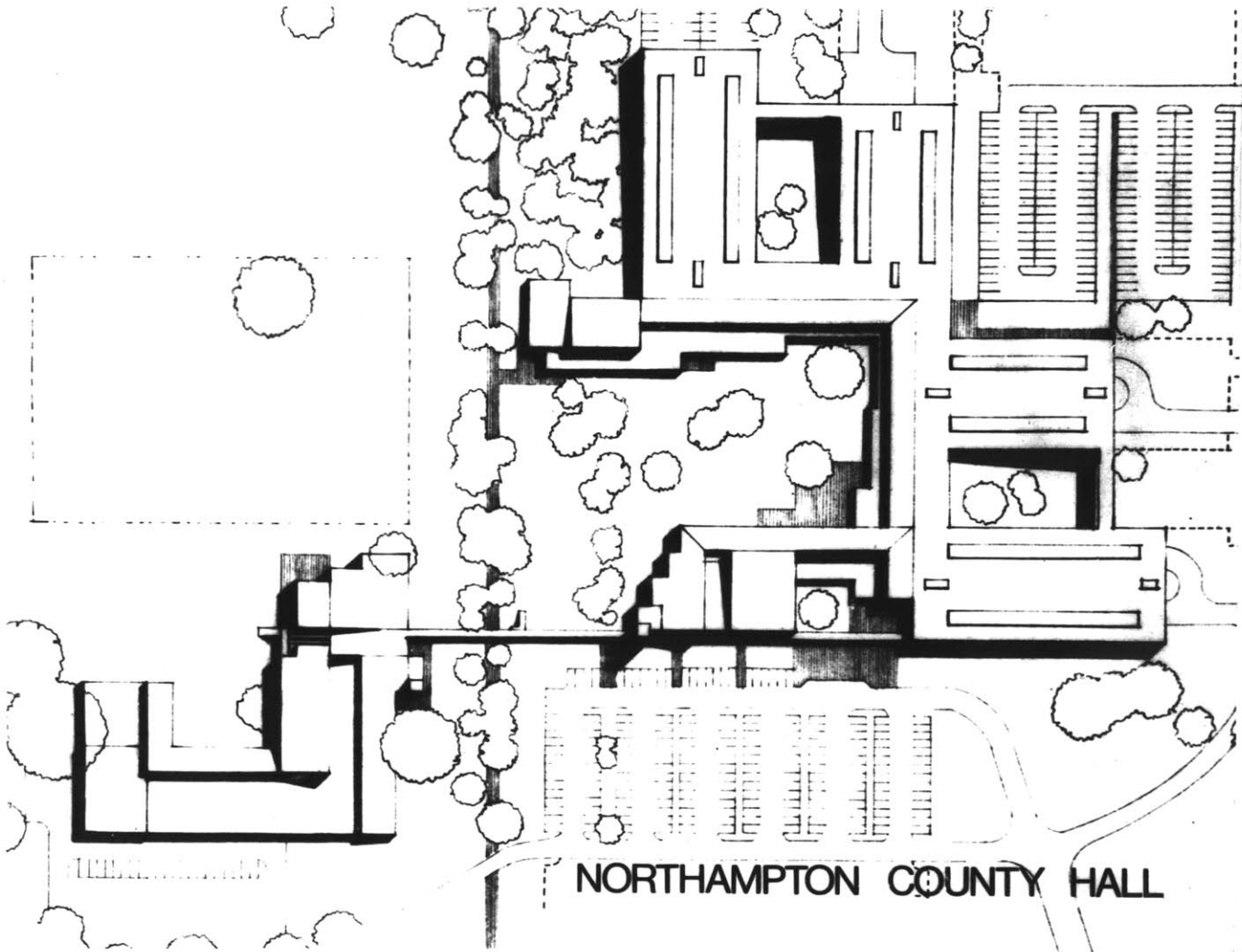
23



24

FIG. 14

COMPETITION ENTRY



NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HALL

FIG. 15

Design Approach to the Problem

The design for the Northampton County Hall and Library is based on the integration of two concerns. The first is a desire to understand and provide for the needs of the various "users" who will be coming at various times and for various purposes to the new County Hall and Library. These users include the council members, the staff of the county offices, the service staff, visitors to the departments, members of the community attending council or committee meetings, football and cricket players, families on outings and picnics and visitors to Northampton. Some use it every day while others visit only occasionally. Some use it during most of their waking hours while others spend only a short time there. Some have specific business while others may come to "have a look around." Some use only the buildings while others use only the other parts of the site. Each of these users has different requirements and needs which should be met by the new facilities.

The second concern of the design approach is to preserve and utilize the existing natural qualities of the site for the various users. Already rich in a range of terrain, the open spaces on the site will increase in value as the area around the County Hall becomes more developed.

In order to preserve the existing park in the center of the site and to provide easy visual and vehicular access, the council chamber and office suites are placed on the western part of the site. The Library, with its smaller scale is linked to the County Hall but placed at the edge of the central portion of the site also near the entrance. The staff common rooms and cafeteria are also links between the different areas of the site. In order

to eliminate the obstruction of views to the west and south, as much parking as possible is placed under the building.

The main link between the site and the users of the buildings is the concourse. An extension of the concourse and reception area requested in the brief, it also links the council accommodations with all county departments; it links the office staff with its common services (cafeteria, restaurant and shops); it provides easy access for the visiting public to the reception areas at the entrance to each office suite. The concourse is a lounge, exhibition area and meeting place for the users of the buildings with smaller areas along its length for planting, sitting and mounting exhibits. And, it links the entire population of the County Hall with the observation tower, library, museum, park and sport facilities by two upper level walkways. Made almost entirely of solar control glass, sliding doors permit it to open on to the courtyard and park which are available for outdoor eating, reading, performances, sunbathing and recreation by staff as well as visitors to the site. Since there are defined and controlled office reception areas, the concourse may remain open during non-office hours for exhibitions and other public and staff functions. The museum might be housed in the concourse before moving to its own facility.

Office accommodation is designed for flexibility in departmental arrangements. A large perimeter area and relatively open spaces designed to a 1.875m planning module permits the provision of even more private offices with exterior perimeter than required in the brief, while not sacrificing the exterior views from burolandschaft accommodation. Skylights on the first floor provide

another means of relating the office accommodations to the outside and giving various office areas individual character.

Thin glass bridges are provided on the first floor to aid interdepartmental communication between office suites without impeding the views out from the offices. The staff pantries and lounges are located at the ends of these links with outdoor terraces and means of descent to the courtyards between the offices, the parking and the southern and western parts of the site.

The concourse edge of the office accommodation controls and assists public access to the private offices, departmental conference rooms and burolandschaft stations. This public edge is flexible and can accommodate reception counters and interview rooms serving one or more departments.

Direct access from the county offices to the library administration and local government library is provided by the raised walkway. The design of the library is based on the dual nature of the functions in this facility. The first function is that of a branch library. This part of the library contains the reading, lending and reference areas, a periodical area, a childrens' library which is in fact a small building within the library building, the audio-visual departments, a lecture room and an exhibition area. The areas are designed as smaller, more intimate reading areas both indoors and outdoors. It is intended that the book stacks be used to help define reading areas. All these facilities are open to the public. The other function of the library is that of reception, collection, storage and cataloguing for the library system in Northamptonshire. For these functions, relatively large, flexible spaces are provided with clerestories to give

natural light to the staff working in the stacks. These are easily changed and permit the expansion and merging of the individual departments according to future requirements.

Expansion

Expansion to the office accommodation is by linear extension of the office suites over the car parking area. New service cores are built to serve the expanded accommodation. The nature of the proposed mechanical servicing (self-contained air handling, heating, air-conditioning and domestic hot water packages positioned on the roof) makes extension of ducts and pipes from a central plant unnecessary. The required expansion is shown on two of the office elements, leaving the loading facilities undisturbed.

Materials, Finishes and Construction

The buildings are concrete frames with light steel roofs. The exterior walls of the office accommodation are dark brick and glass with brick faced columns. Internal roller blinds provide individually adjustable sun control. The concourse walls and roofs are solar glass with the top-most roof being steel. These roofs are supported by the same blue painted steel which supports the roofs of the cafeteria/common room, reception area, council chamber, members' suites and library. The steel becomes the floor joists of the elevated walkway which is supported on dark brick columns. The tower is constructed of steel and glass. External walkways and terraces are brick paved as is the concourse, which also has small carpeted areas. The road surfaces are asphalt with aggregate.

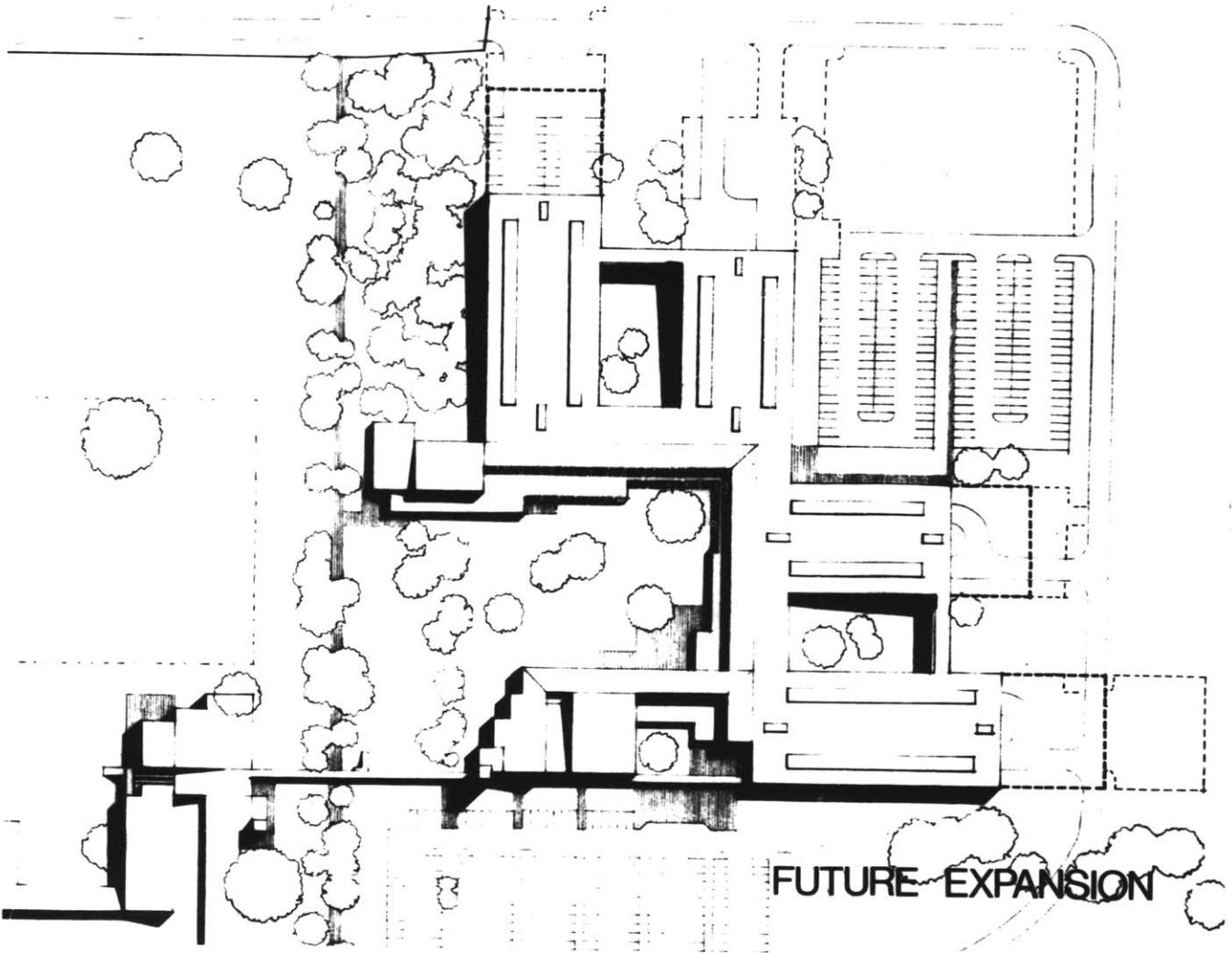


FIG. 16

Northamptonshire New County Hall Architectural Competition
County Council Estimate of cost

1 Cost of Buildings	Gross floor area	Rate per m ²	£
Description of building or accommodation	m ²	£	£
Air conditioned office space with carpets	16864	145	2,445,280
Elected Members accom- modation and Council	1659	145	240,555
Catering facilities	1167	130	151,710
Concourse and shops	3200	135	432,000
Library	4502	137	616,774
Plant	800	110	88,000
Air conditioned office space no carpets	3604	135	486,540
Civil Defence Room	400	100	40,000
Houses	360	90	32,400
P.C. sum for finishes, etc. Civil Defence Room			30,000
P.C. for fire detection system			25,000
Total estimated cost of buildings			= £4,588,259
<hr/>			
2 Cost of car parking			
Open parking	420	160	= 67,200
Covered parking	180	750	= 135,000
3 Cost of external works and services			= 209,541
Total estimated cost of Scheme			= £5,000,000

Northamptonshire County Council New County Hall Architectural Competition
Schedule of Floor Areas Provided

		Floor area m ²
1	Council Chamber, Committee Rooms, Members' Suite, etc.	1490
2	Departmental accommodation (Including cleaners' closets)	Architects Department 3112
	Civil Defence Department and Control Room	465
	Clerk's Department	1316
	Education Department	2585
	Planning Department	873
	Road Safety Department	156
	Social Services Department	1397
	Surveyor's Department	3933
	Treasurer's Department	1739
	District Audit	366
	Valuer's Department	274
	Weights and Measures Department	436
3	Library	3490
4	Lecture Theatre	270
5	Residences	360
6	General accommodation except where included in areas given above	Caretaking and cleaning 245
	Catering	540
	Staff common room(s)	432
	Common services, conference and interview rooms, general storage, etc.	<u>1637</u>
	Total net area of buildings	25116

Northamptonshire County Council New County Hall Architectural Competition
 Schedule of floor areas provided
 (Continued)

7 Other areas	Lavatory accommodation, cloakrooms, etc	1100
	Circulation areas--recep- tion areas, lobbies, corridors, stairs, lifts, etc	5420
	Plant room areas--boiler house, calorifiers, plant and motor rooms, vertical ducts, etc	920
	Car parking within buildings (if any)	
		<hr/>
Total gross area of buildings		32556

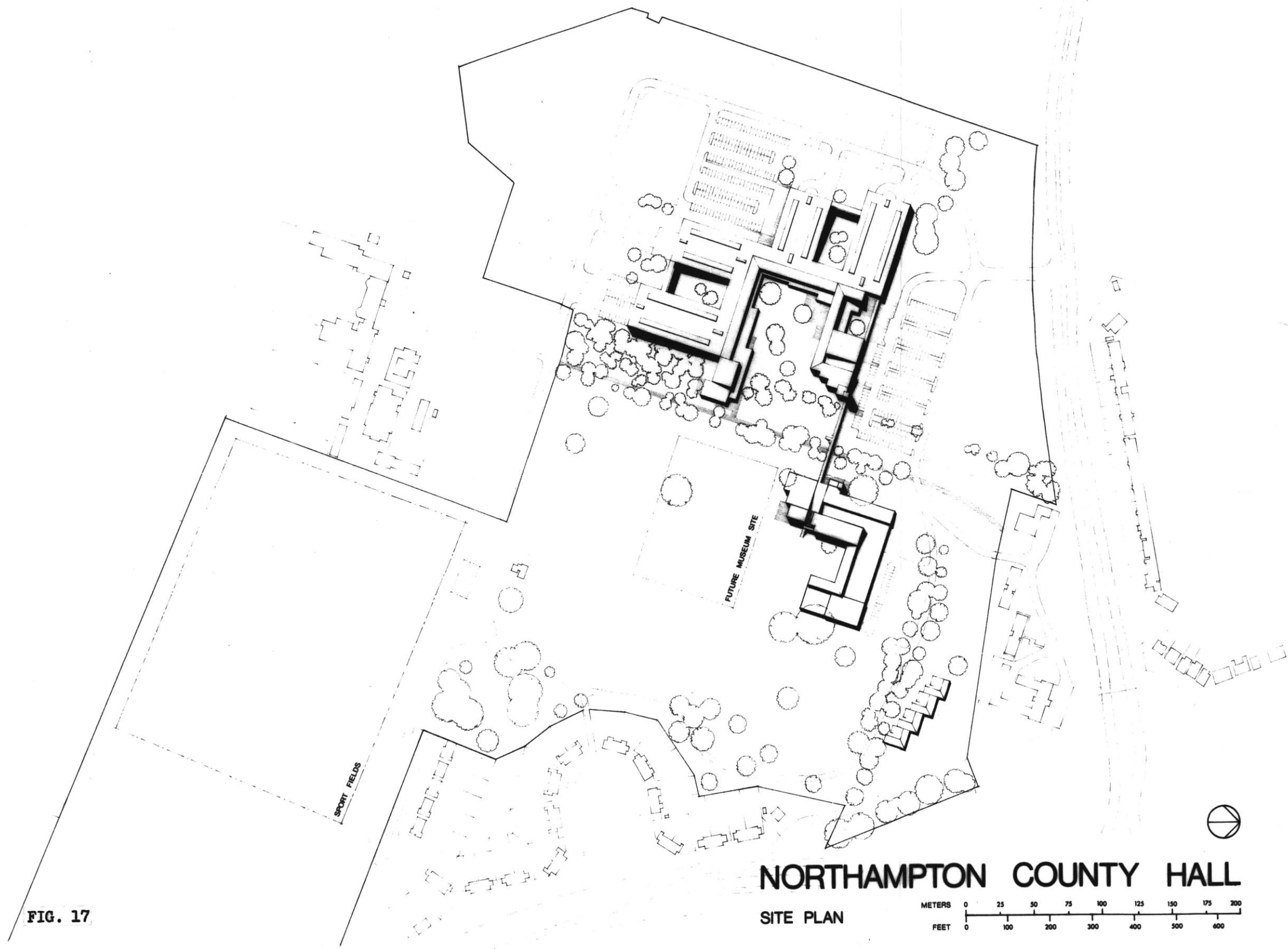
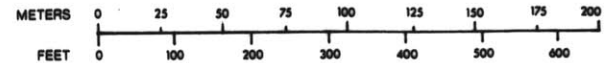


FIG. 17

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HALL

SITE PLAN



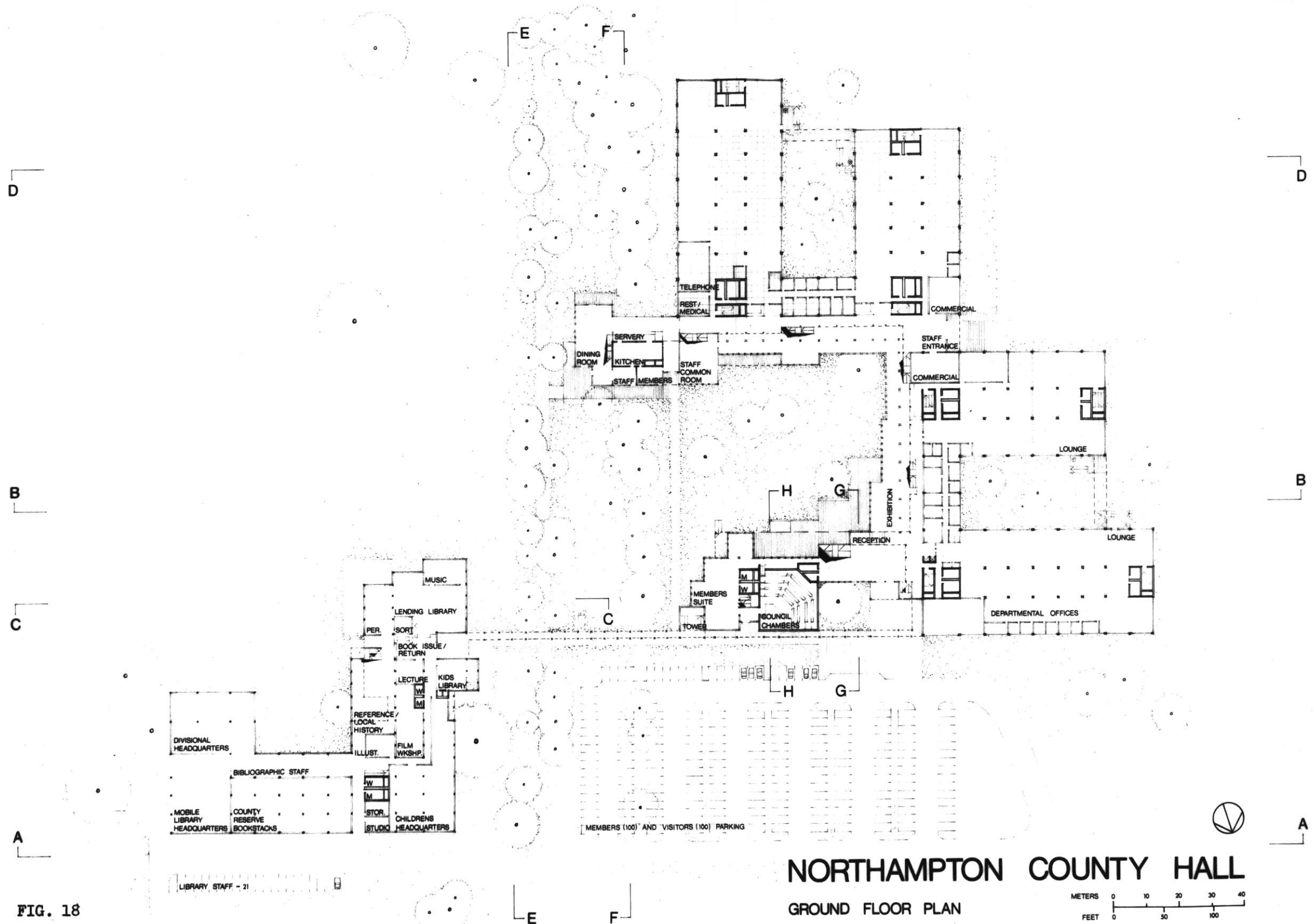
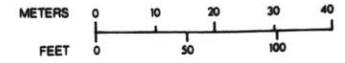


FIG. 18

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HALL
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



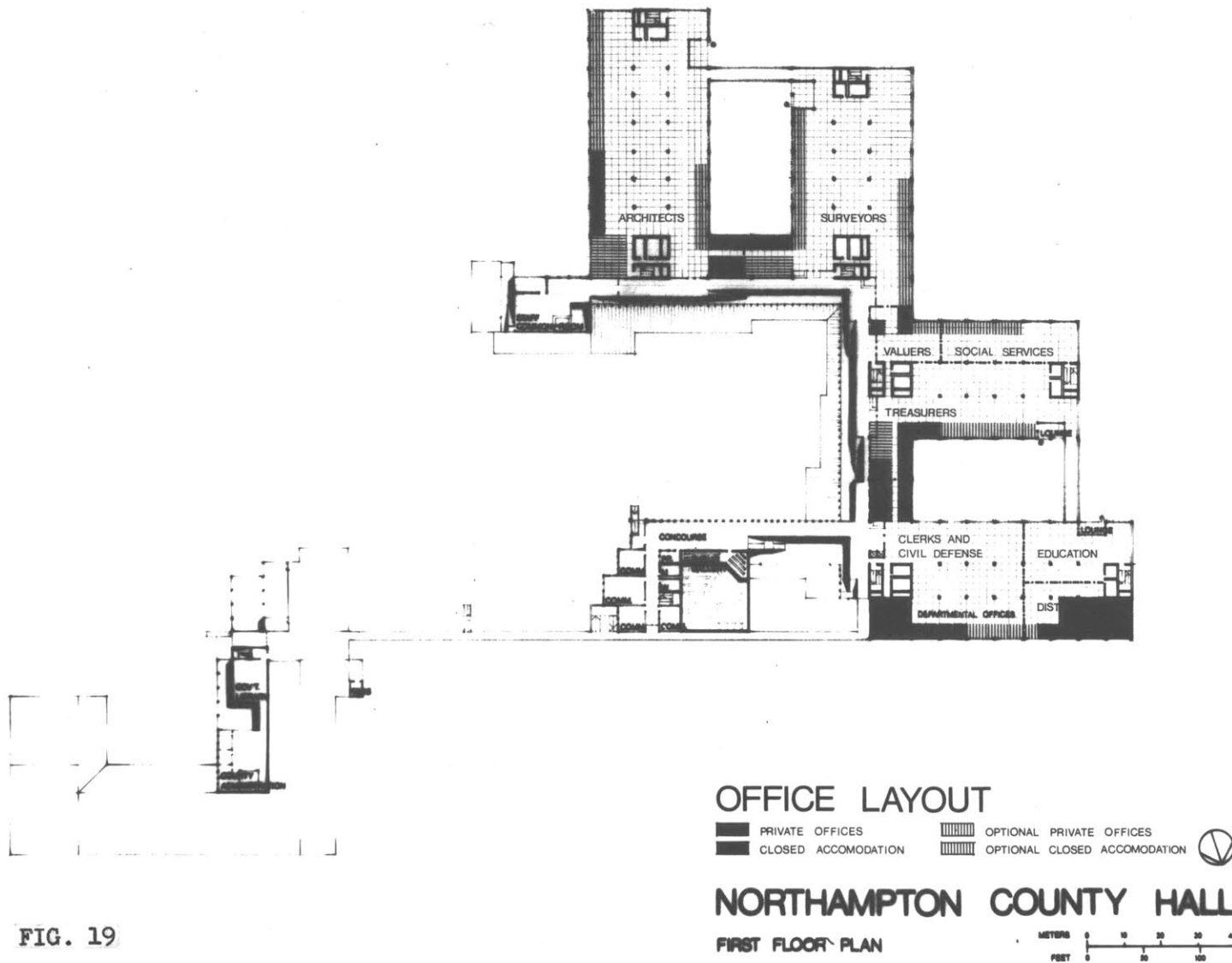


FIG. 19

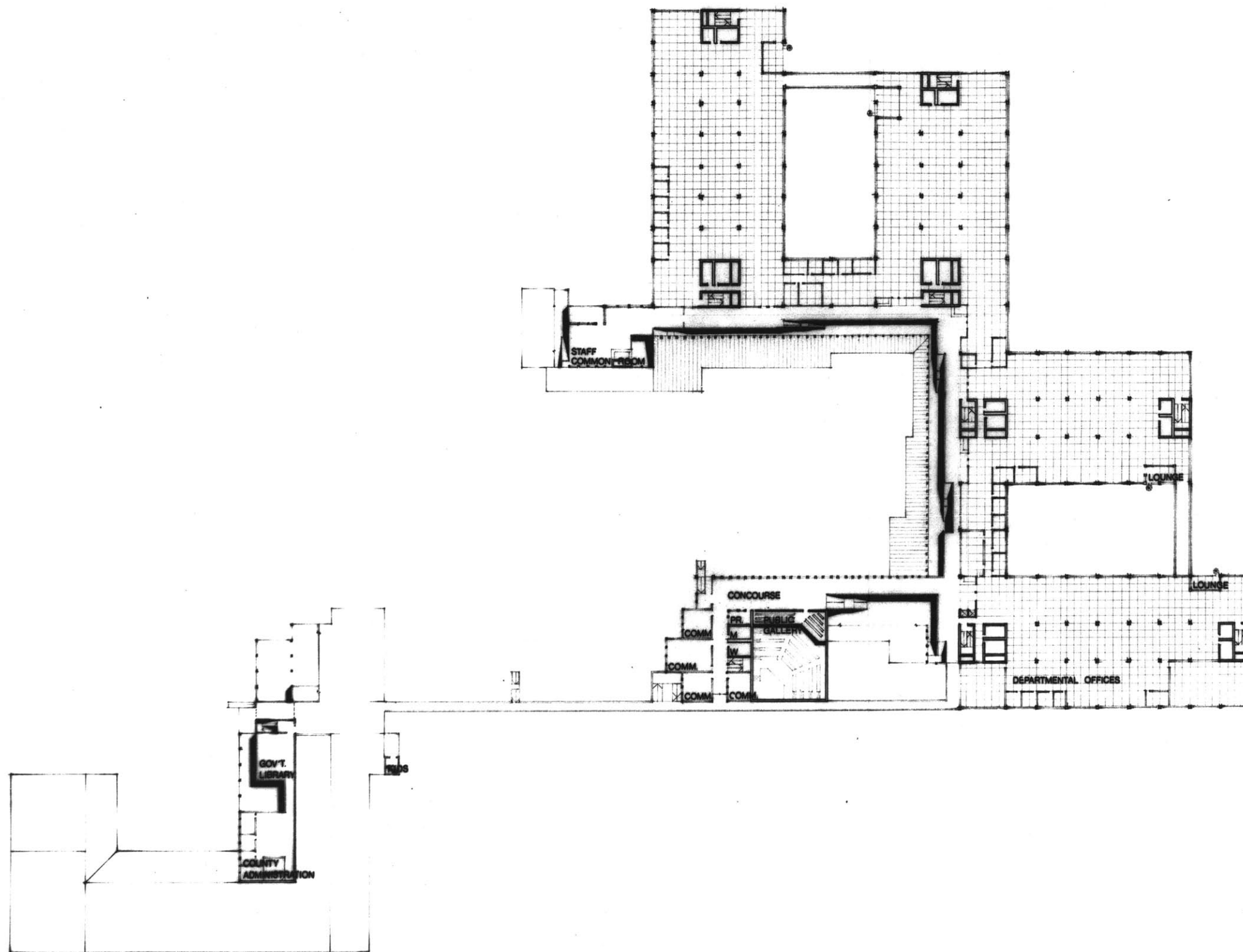
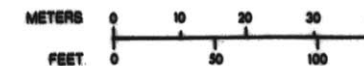


FIG. 20

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HALL

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



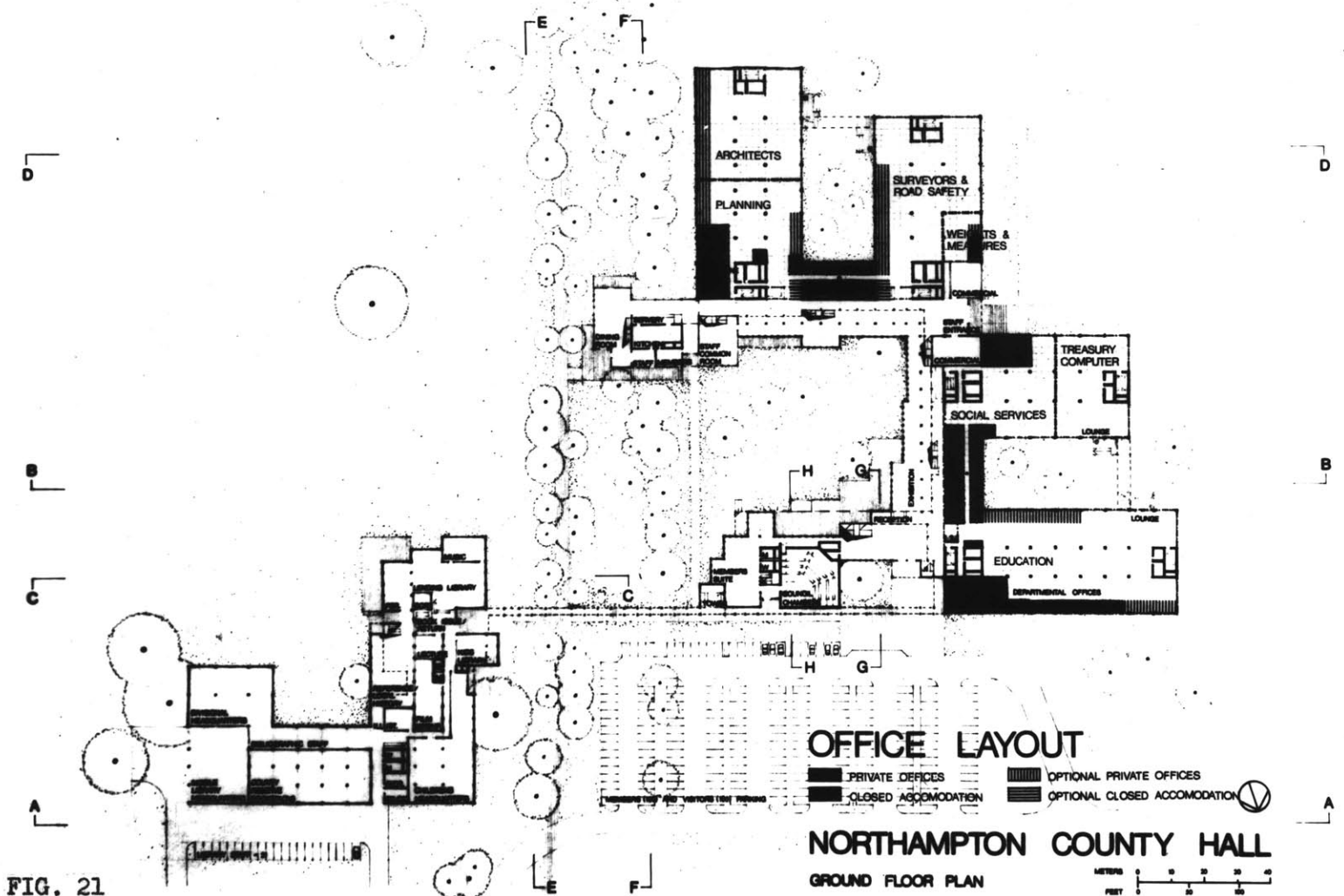


FIG. 21

OFFICE LAYOUT

■ PRIVATE OFFICES ▨ OPTIONAL PRIVATE OFFICES
 ▩ CLOSED ACCOMMODATION ▧ OPTIONAL CLOSED ACCOMMODATION

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HALL

GROUND FLOOR PLAN

METERS 0 10 20 30 40
 FEET 0 25 50 75 100

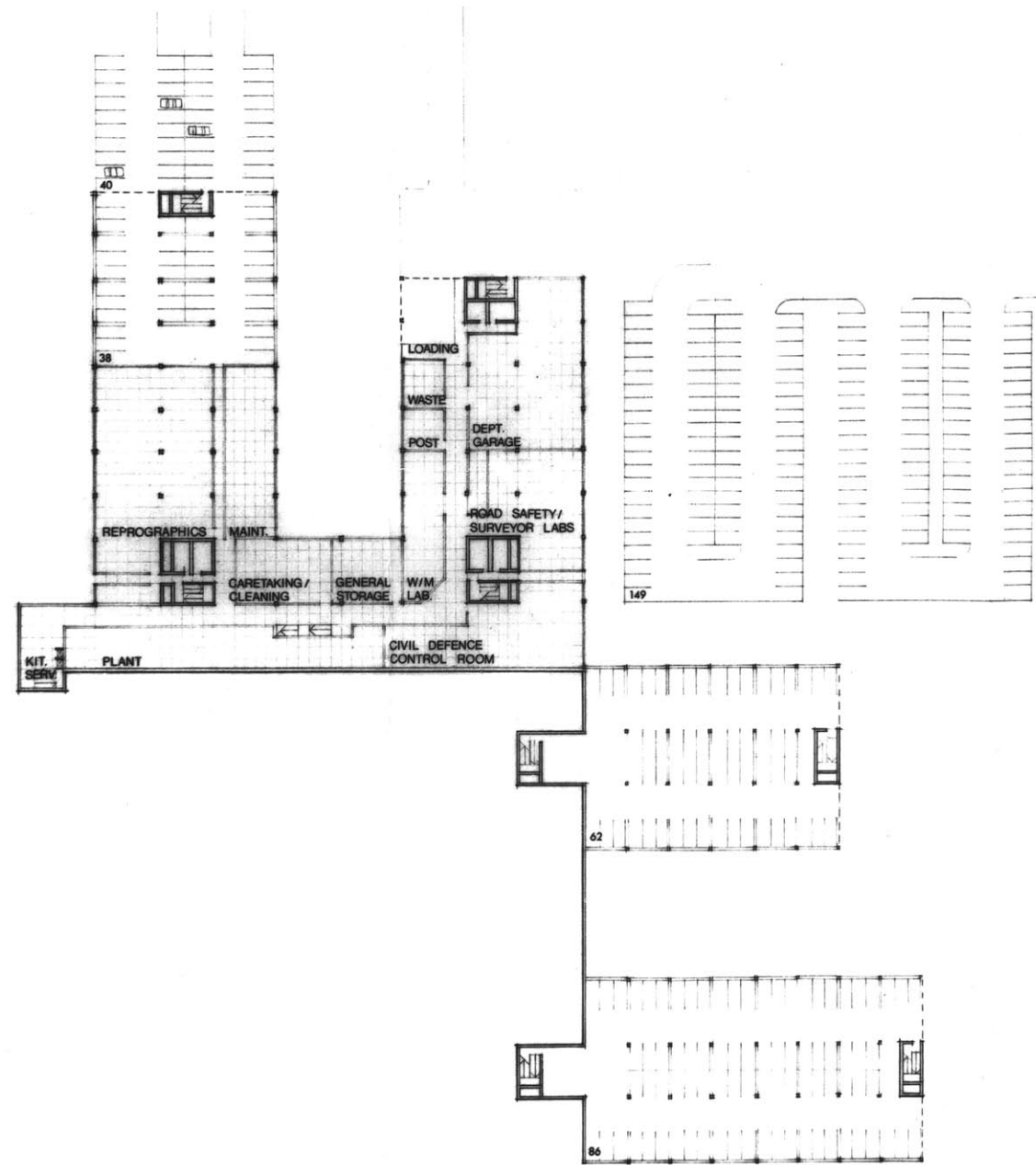
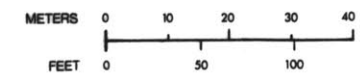
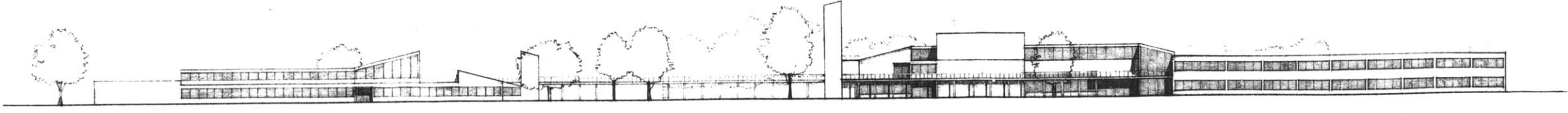


FIG. 22

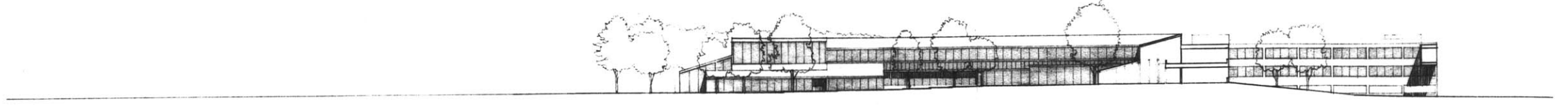
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HALL

BASEMENT PLAN





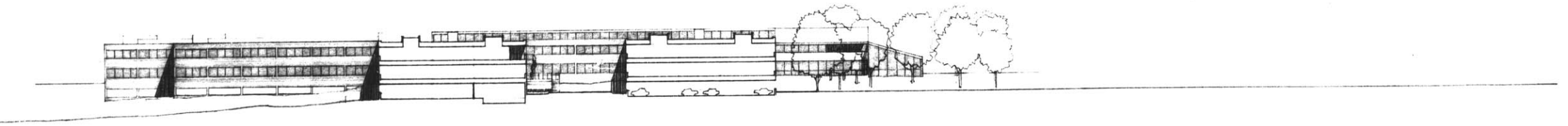
A-A



B-B



C-C

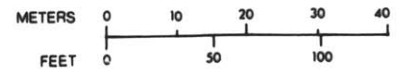


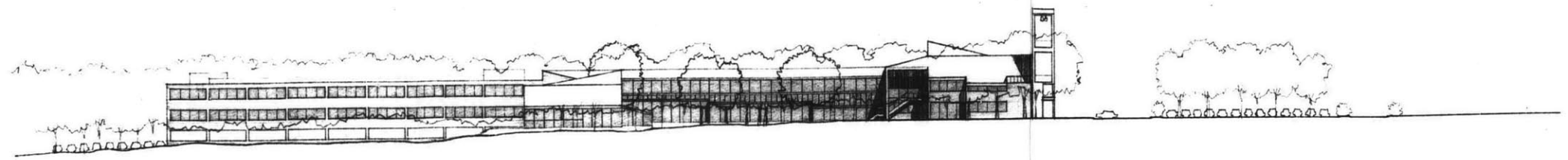
D-D

FIG. 23

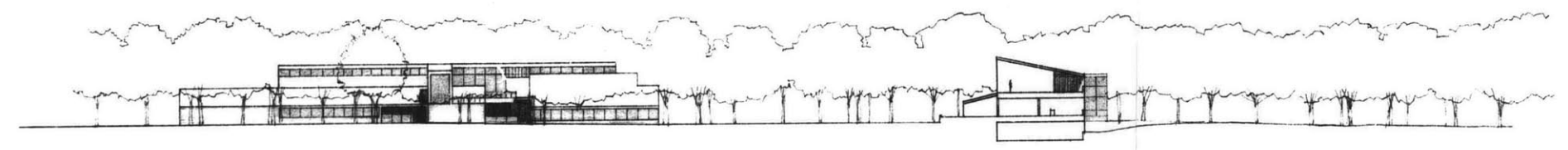
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HALL

SECTIONS AND ELEVATIONS

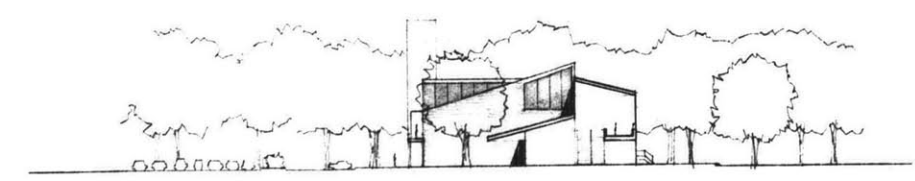




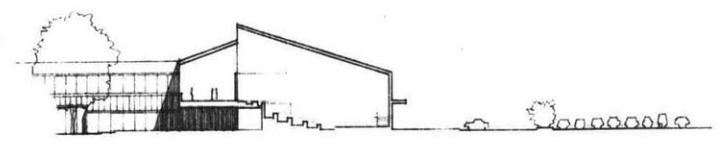
E-E



F-F



G-G



H-H

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HALL

SECTIONS AND ELEVATIONS

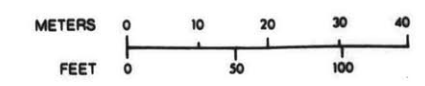


FIG. 24

DESIGN APPROACH

SEE: Building Program p. 53
The Site p. 9
Competition Entry p. 25

BEFORE PROCEEDING

Based on attitudes towards the site and the users of the site, the design approach attempts to integrate the natural landscape and the activity requirements of the program.

The Site

Trees, roads, slopes and ground cover distinguish one part of the site from another as well as defining smaller areas within the various parts. The allee of trees and the strong line of trees parallel to it on the west, the wooded and plowed fields, the densely overgrown issues, rises and ridges which afford views out from the site as well as depressions which hinder views, and artificially established entrances and exits all have distinct characteristics.

Users and Uses

Each group of users and each use of the building has distinct requirements. These requirements depend on both type and frequency of use.

Staff working in the county departments and library constitute a majority of the users and will spend the most time in the buildings. Some of the staff will perform the mundane and often dreary and dull work which is assumed to keep government bureaucracy moving. Other staff members deal directly with the public and with the creation and implementation of public policy. Though part of a large organization, staff members should see and

be seen as individuals often performing valuable work. There should be many places in the facility which allow the staff to engage in activities other than those strictly defined by their work assignments.

Visitors to the county hall will include those coming on official government business (this includes not only consultants to the departments but also the general public needing specific information or attending committee or council meetings) and those having no specific business other than visiting a place which they pay taxes to support and which governs part of their lives. Visitors in this last group will include those coming to use the other facilities on the site--library, sport fields, park, exhibition area, observation tower, etc. All these visitors will require clear visual and physical access to the site and the parts of the building they will be using.

Site Selection

The county hall is located on the western part of the site for several reasons. With its mature trees and cows (mature and immature) and general park atmosphere the central part of the site provides the beginning of a recreational area for the use of staff and visitors. This park will include sport fields in the central area and to the east as well as picnic areas, outdoor performing and exhibition areas.

The western part of the site is at present unplanted fields and placement of the county hall in this area will sponsor the creation of a new landscape.

The natural slope of this part of the site will allow near and distant views of the Northamptonshire countryside for staff in the county offices.

This slope is also used to minimize the effect of the parking (i.e., hide it).

Strict determination of entrances and exits to the site also favors the location of most of the facility in the west. The only "all movement junction" is from Mere Way with the entrances from A508 a "left-in/left-out" junction. Almost all traffic will use the Mere Way entrance. In order to facilitate immediate visual and physical access to the facilities the part of the site closest to the major entrance has been chosen. This location allows the building to be visible and then immediately accessible. Siting the building close to the road also means that it is seen by people who are not stopping but are on their way to other destinations.

Though the county library is included in the same program as the county hall, the relation of the two is not specified. The smaller scale and separate functions of the library seem to indicate that it possess a separate identity and claim its own place on the site. Also, because the site seems to divide itself naturally into three parts, an attempt is made to unify the site while still recognizing the inherent differences. Non-built areas are also part of the domain of the county hall and people are meant to have an image of both based on form as well as use. Placing the library on the edge of the middle part of the site helps connect this building section of the site by providing an invitation for staff and visitors to cross over into the park. The connection is accomplished by two level colonnade and walkway connecting the county hall and library. More than a link between the two buildings and two parts of the site, the colonnade marks the entrance to the buildings and to the site beyond.

Form and Organization of the Buildings

Although the location of the buildings provides views out to the landscape, a more active relation of users and site is intended. Natural and built elements have been used to create outside areas of differing sizes and for a variety of activities.

One of the strongest generators of the building's form is the need for a large amount of office space with direct access to public circulation. In order to avoid "straight shot" circulation and to create an exterior courtyard, the main distributor is bent. This minimizes the perceived length while at the same time making it possible to see the end of the concourse across the courtyard. The courtyard is defined on the fourth side by the row of trees and allee beyond. This line of trees is permeable and like the colonnade it both unites and differentiates various areas. The entire middle part of the site enters the domain of the county hall making the courtyard part of both the building and the landscape beyond. The courtyard is a smaller scale park for the office staff, council members and visitors. Protected on three sides by buildings it will be available for outdoor eating (the cafeteria with its terraces is at one end), sports, sunbathing, performances ("The Northampton Burolandschaft Jazz Band"), exhibitions (Early Pict Burial Mounds), and public celebrations (The Northampton County Council Inaugural Ball, Picnic and Cricket Match).

The edge of the courtyard and building is the "concourse". In the building program this originally referred to an area connecting council members with their accommodations. This area has been enlarged to make the members concourse only one element in a larger concourse which is the major

distributor within the building. The route begins with the entrance/reception/exhibition area and ends with the cafeteria which is located between two parts of the site in order to pull the concourse through the trees to the park beyond. Along the length of the concourse are shops, coffee bars, and office reception areas. A range of spaces is created by varying the roof height, floor level and glass line to create low spaces as well as high spaces, wide as well as narrow spaces. These areas will be used for exhibitions, lounges and small meeting areas all of which can continue out in the courtyard.

Rather than a barrier between inside and outside the concourse becomes the zone in which the building and the courtyard overlap. This is achieved in part by the construction of the concourse as a transparent shed with sliding glass walls which physically open it to the courtyard.

The majority of the visitors to the county hall will be coming to departmental offices. Their first encounter will take place in the main reception area adjacent to the council accommodations, committee rooms and council chamber. Each office suite also has a public reception area on the concourse somewhat like a shop front. These reception areas will serve one or more departments and provide information, forms, etc., to the public as well as directions to appropriate private or open offices.

Offices

Office areas are designed to provide a set of flexible and interconnected Burolandschaft areas and at the same time to provide sufficient external perimeter to accommodate private offices and to allow external windows for the Burolandschaft areas. In addition, private offices, whose occupants

are assumed to have a greater share of visitors, are grouped near the concourse and reception areas.

Areas further from the concourse are less public and more in the domain of the staff. This provides the staff with an area not subject to the distractions and interference of public circulation and creates distinct areas for certain types of staff activities--coffee breaks, use of W.C.s, interdepartmental trips, etc. For this reason each office suite has a small pantry for the use of the staff. Office accommodations are linked at the first floor to allow easy interdepartmental communication for the parts of the offices away from the concourse. These links are thin and transparent and do not obstruct the views out for people in the office. The staff lounges are located at the ends of these bridges. Associated with these staff areas are outdoor terraces providing immediate access from the parking and landscaped areas between the offices.

Parking

Office staff, library staff, council members and visitors each are provided with car parking adjacent to those facilities most often used by them. Visitors parking is adjacent to the main building and site entrance while the large proportion of staff parking is distributed adjacent to the office and library accommodation. Since the office accommodations are composed of four elements, placing parking adjacent to it meant dividing the total mass of 700 into smaller areas thus minimizing the amount of solid asphalt. The natural slope of the land is used to provide parking under the offices with natural ventilation.

UPWARD AND ONWARD

SEE: Everything

BEFORE PROCEEDING

Because this thesis is only part of an ongoing design process something should be included to indicate the nature of future work.

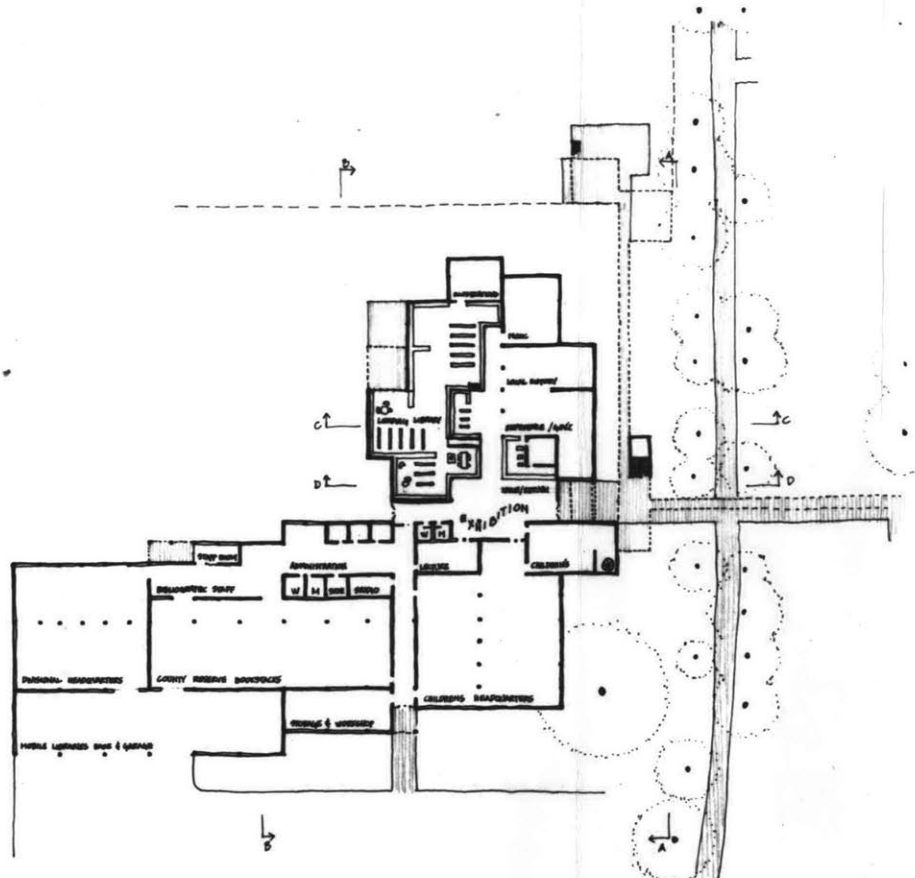
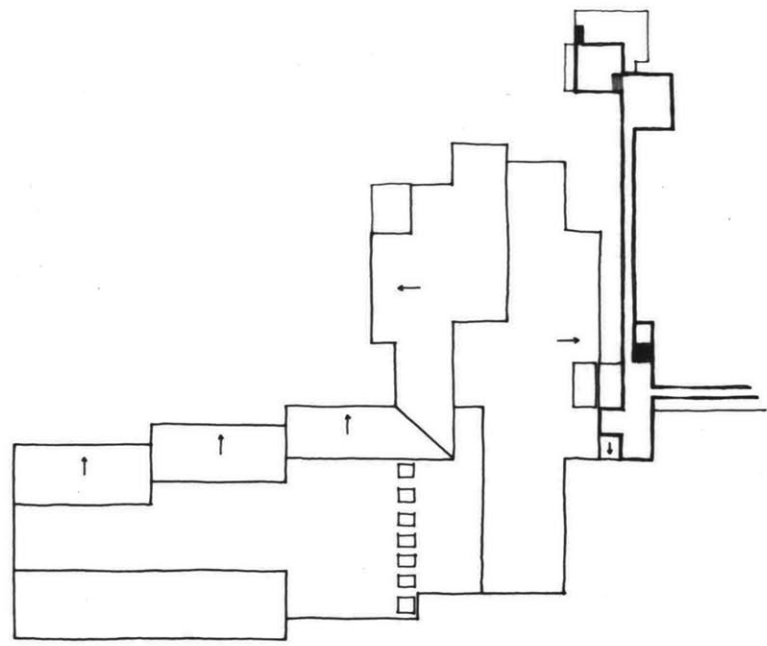
Further work does not mean that the issues in the first stage exploration were completely resolved. In fact, there are several areas in which the basic organization does not work satisfactorily. These areas include the library, the main staff entrance, at the corner of the concourse, and the relation of parking under the buildings to the main circulation.

A second direction of further work at this stage is further exploration at a larger scale to determine more exactly the physical character and uses of almost every area of the building. These areas include not only spaces which seem to have satisfactory basic organization (entrance, council suite, concourse edge, cafeteria and staff common rooms, office lounges, reception areas, etc.), but also the problem areas mentioned above.

Both of these types of explorations are done by isolating parts, studying them and then reintegrating the parts into the whole scheme. This reintegration process will undoubtedly cause further modification both to the parts and to the site plan as a whole.

The drawings which follow illustrate this process. The library was chosen because its difficult organizational problems were not fully solved in the competition entry (partially due to an unclear program). In the present plan not only is the internal organization explored but some new ideas about the relation of the library to the other buildings and to the site are explored.

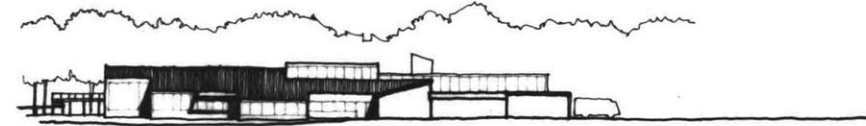
The difficult corner of the concourse is explored at a larger scale and given detail to make it physically as important a place as its location implies.



A-A



C-C



B-B

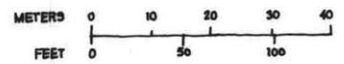


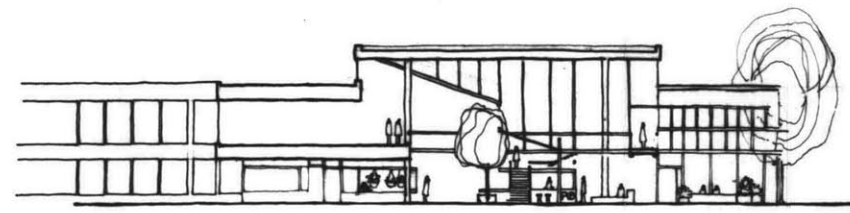
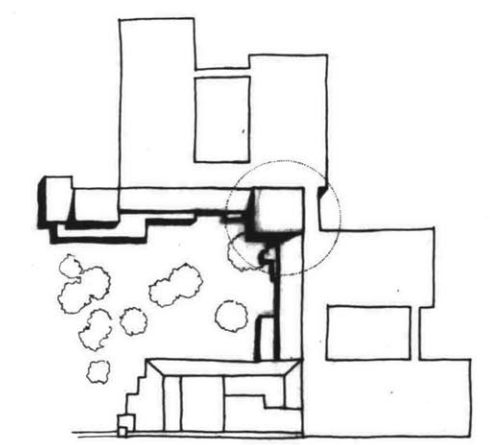
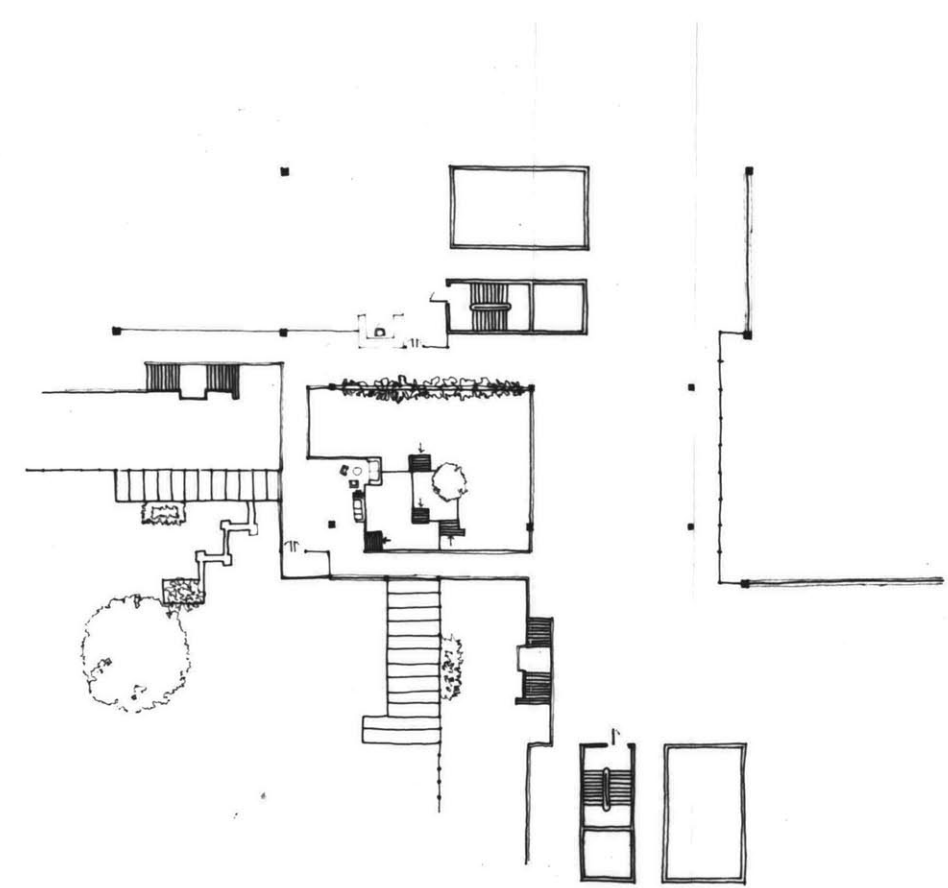
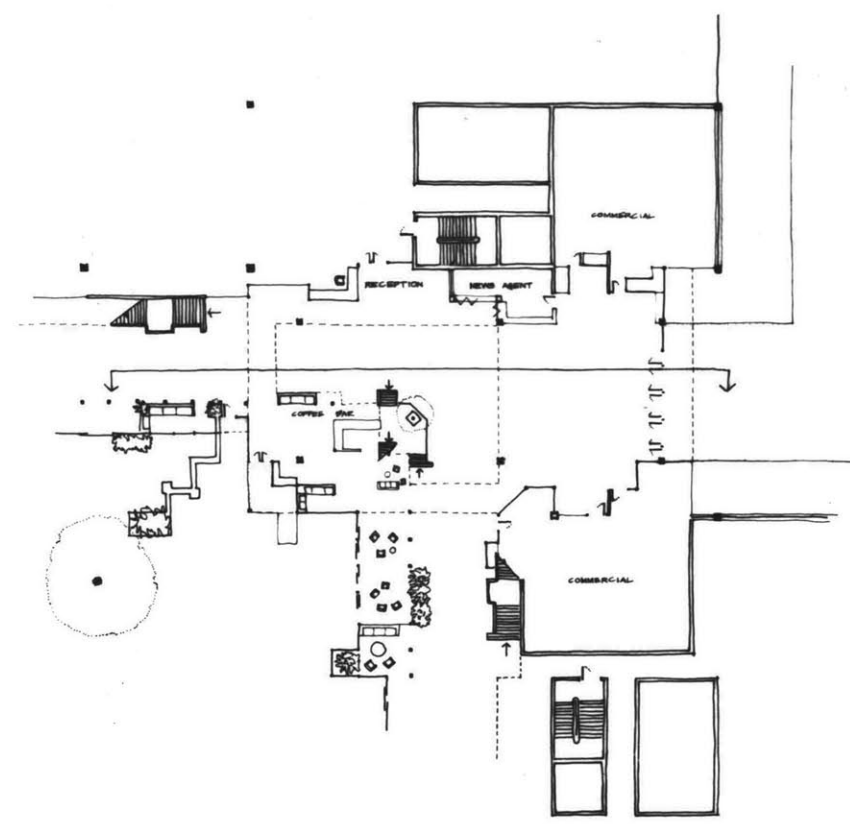
D-D



NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HALL

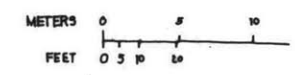
LIBRARY SKETCH





NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HALL

CONCOURSE DETAIL SKETCH



APPENDIX--Building Program

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Plan A	Master plan of expansion of Northampton
Plan B	Area available for erection of new County Hall (approx. 30 hectares); adjacent road improvements and traffic circulation
Plan C	Site plan showing services
Plan D (i), (ii) and (iii)	Site survey
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	Form of Declaration (see paragraph 8)
Form A	Estimate of cost (see paragraph 30)
Form B	Schedule of floor areas provided (see paragraph 30)
	Envelope (see paragraph 8)
	Extra copy for competitor's use of schedule of floorspace of accommodation on Inset Section D Part Ib

Summary of timetable

Date of issue of Competition Conditions	1st November 1972
Questions to arrive before	14th December 1972
Answers to be circulated not later than	5th January 1973
Designs at the first stage to arrive not later than	5 pm on Friday, 30th March 1973

1 Introduction

The Northamptonshire County Council came into being in 1889 following the enactment of the Local Government Act, 1888. Ever since that date the Council Chamber, members' suite and administrative headquarters have been located at George Row, Northampton, next to the seventeenth-century Sessions House. Over the years these premises were extended to house the continually increasing staff appointed to undertake additional functions which have from time to time devolved upon the County Council.

This process of expansion has greatly accelerated since the Second World War and whole departments have been dispersed in and around Northampton. The County Council have decided to build a new County Hall at Wootton Hall Park, a site which is capable of accommodating the administrative headquarters of all the services for which the Council are now responsible, but which will also allow for expansion to meet all reasonable future requirements. In initiating a two-stage architectural competition they hope to achieve a new County Hall of outstanding design and have in mind that local government reorganization, which will become a reality in 1974, will entail the centralization on a county-wide basis of certain public services which have hitherto been separately administered by the existing County and County Borough Councils.

The County Council hope that the design of the building will express the essential unity and interdependence of the several services which they administer, diverse in scale and function as these are. They also hope that the new building will be seen as the focal point of County affairs and reflect the responsibilities towards the community which fall upon elected members and the Council's staff.

In Wootton Hall Park the County Council believe that they have a site which lends itself admirably to these objectives. It is high, has wide views of the characteristic Northamptonshire landscape, has an abundance of mature trees which form an attractive feature, and should provide an excellent setting for a new County Hall.

2 Invitation

The Northamptonshire County Council (hereinafter referred to as 'the promoter') invites architects resident in the United Kingdom to submit designs in two stages in competition for the erection of a County Hall which it is proposed to build on a site in Wootton Hall Park, Northampton, in accordance with the following conditions and instructions.

The word 'architect' means any person who, at the time of his application for these conditions is registered under the Architects (Registration) Acts, 1931 to 1938, or being qualified for registration had already made application to the Architects Registration Council in the prescribed form to be admitted to the register. Any applicant for the conditions must state his registration number, and in the case of an unregistered person who has made application for registration, the date of such application and the number of the receipt issued by the Architects Registration Council in respect of the admission fee.

Where application is made by a firm, the registration number or numbers of the architect partner or partners of the firm must be given. In this context a firm is defined as a partnership properly established for the purposes of architectural practice, or an association of architects for the purpose of entering the current competition; in the latter case there must be in existence a partnership agreement for the purpose of carrying out the project in the event of the association winning the competition and this must be stated on the form of declaration (see paragraph 8).

3 Persons ineligible

The competition is not open to (i) a member or an employee of the Northamptonshire County Council, (ii) a partner, an associate or an employee of a member of that Council, or (iii) an assessor for the competition or a partner, an associate or an employee of such an assessor. Such persons shall also be debarred from assisting competitors or from acting as architects or joint architects for the project.

4 Assessors

Mr R. H. Sheppard, CBE, ARA, FRIBA, Mr H. Faulkner Brown, MC, FRIBA, Mr N. Conder, FRIBA, AA Dip. Hons., FSIA, Mr W. Whitfield, ARIBA, MRTPI, Mr A. C. A. Colton, Chairman of the Northamptonshire County Council, Mrs D. P. Oxenham, CBE, Chairman of the General Services Committee of the County Council, and Mr J. F. Goff, FRIBA, County Architect, have been appointed as assessors to advise on the conduct of the competition, adjudicate on the designs submitted and make the award. In the event of the death of any assessor before the completion of the competition to the stage of the appointment of the architect for the work, or of his or her inability to continue to act through illness or any other cause, another assessor will be appointed in his or her place in consultation with the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

5 Premiums

- a** The promoter undertakes to accept the award of the assessors. From the entries to the first stage the assessors shall select at least eight finalists whom they shall invite to proceed to the second stage and the promoter shall accept the decision of the assessors in making such selection.

The promoter shall accept the award of the assessors to be made at the end of the second stage and undertakes to pay within two months of the date of such award, the following premiums and honoraria in accordance therewith, namely -

To the author of the design placed first by the assessors £7,000.

To the author of the design placed second by the assessors £3,500.

To the author of the design placed third by the assessors £2,350.

To each of the remaining competitors in the second stage an honorarium of £1,000.

The premium payable to the author of the design placed first by the assessors represents a payment on account of fees payable to the winner when engaged as architect to carry out the project, subject nevertheless to the provisions of paragraph 17.

- b** In the event of the competition being abandoned by the promoter after the first stage but before the commencement of the second stage, the sums which otherwise would have become payable by way of premiums and honoraria on completion of the second stage of the competition as provided in sub-clause (a) of this clause shall be aggregated, and the resultant sum shall be distributed in equal shares among those competitors who shall have been selected to proceed to the second stage. The promoter undertakes to pay the amount of one such share to each of the said competitors within two months of the date of the announcement by the assessors of their selection following the end of the first stage, or within two months of the promoter announcing his intention to abandon the competition, whichever shall be the later, provided that the competition shall not be abandoned until the first stage shall have been completed and the assessors shall have made a selection as aforesaid and that such an abandonment shall not be permitted after instructions have been given to the selected finalists to proceed with the second stage. At no time shall the period between the announcement of the selected first stage finalists and the announcement of the promoter's decision to abandon or proceed with the competition exceed four months.

6 Deposit

A deposit of £10 is required from each applicant for the competition conditions. It is returnable to him after the publication of the assessors' award provided that he has sent in a bona fide design within the period required. The deposit is also returnable to an applicant who decides not to compete and who returns to the promoter his copy of the conditions and all annexed documents not less than four weeks before the closing date for the submission of designs in the first stage.

7 Questions

Any questions which first-stage competitors wish to ask must be addressed to the Clerk of the County Council, County Hall, Northampton to arrive before 14th December 1972. An explanatory memorandum based on the questions submitted will be circulated to all competitors not later than the 5th January 1973 and will form part of the conditions and instructions to competitors. No questions will be permitted at the second stage.

8 Submission of designs

These instructions in regard to the submission of designs will apply equally to both stages. Competitors should retain copies of the designs submitted. Each design and the report (see paragraph 28) accompanying it must be sent in without name, motto or distinguishing mark of any kind; the design and report should be accompanied by a declaration signed by the competitor or joint competitors and contained in the official envelope issued with these conditions, properly sealed, stating that the design is his or their own personal work, and that the drawings have been prepared in his or their own offices, and under his or their own supervision, and that he or they undertake(s) to accept the assessors' award. A form of declaration is supplied with these conditions. In the case of an association of architects formed for the purpose of entering the competition, there must be in existence a partnership agreement for the purpose of carrying out the project in the event of the association winning the competition and this must be stated on the form of declaration. A successful competitor must be prepared to satisfy the assessors that he is the bona fide author of the design he has submitted. A number will be placed on each drawing and on the report and on the sealed envelope contained in each package. No names of competitors will be revealed to the assessors until after the award has been made.

9

In the first stage the design of each competitor is to be contained in a single package and to be sent carriage paid addressed to the Clerk of the County Council, County Hall, Northampton, and endorsed 'Design for New County Hall', to arrive not later than 5 pm on Friday, 30th March 1973. Instructions as to the time and date for the submission of designs at the second stage will be issued at the appropriate time.

10 Designs disqualified

A design shall be excluded from the competition for any of the following reasons—

- a If received after the latest time stated in paragraph 9.
- b If, in the opinion of the assessors, it does not give substantially the accommodation asked for.
- c If it exceeds the limits of site as shown on the plan issued by the promoter, the figured dimensions on which shall be adhered to.
- d Subject to paragraph 19, if the competitor's estimate exceeds the cost limit stated in the instructions or if the assessors shall determine that the probable cost will exceed such cost limit.
- e If any of the conditions or instructions, other than those of a discretionary nature, are disregarded.
- f If a competitor shall disclose his identity or improperly attempt to influence the decision.

11 Copyright

The ownership of copyright in the work of all competitors will be in accordance with the Copyright Act, 1956.

12 Announcement of award and exhibition

Designs submitted by all competitors in the first stage will be retained by the promoter until the conclusion of the competition. Designs submitted in the first stage will not be exhibited and no announcement of the names of those selected to proceed to the second stage will be made, but those not selected to proceed will be informed individually by letter. On completion of the second stage the assessors shall notify the promoter of their award. Before any public announcement is made by the promoter all the original competitors shall be notified of the terms thereof and informed of the time and place of the exhibition of the second-stage designs. Such designs shall be exhibited for a period of not less than six days. All second-stage designs may by agreement be retained for a further period by the promoter for the purposes of exhibition, publicity and illustrations subject always to the provisions of paragraph 11, and subject to their eventual return to the authors by a date to be mutually agreed.

Thereafter all designs except that selected for execution will be returned to the competitors. The promoter will exercise all reasonable care but will not be responsible for loss or damage to drawings which may occur either in transit or during exhibition, storage or packing. The author of the design selected for execution may be required to provide without additional fee a perspective drawing for the promoter's use.

13 Appointment of the architect

It is the intention of the promoter to build. The author of the design placed first will be appointed as architect for the work unless—

- a The assessors shall determine that there is some objection valid under paragraphs 2, 3 or 10 of these conditions to such appointment in which case the author of the design placed second will be appointed subject to a similar condition and so on. The award of the assessors will not be varied for any reason without their authority.
- b The promoter decides not to proceed with the winning design in which case the architect of that design shall be paid an additional fee of the same amount as the premium originally paid to him as author of the winning design, and the promoter shall be free from further commitment.

14

The author of the selected design may be required to satisfy the assessors that he has the resources to carry out the work efficiently. If they are not satisfied that he possesses or can develop a suitable organization they may, at their discretion, after consultation with the author of the selected design, advise the promoter that a second architect should be appointed to collaborate with the author of the selected design in carrying out the work, but without obligation on the promoter to pay any additional fees. The assessors will be prepared if necessary to assist the author of the selected design and the second architect in agreeing a suitable apportionment of the fees which would otherwise be due to the former.

- 15
- a The promoter will enter into an agreement under seal with the appointed architect setting forth the terms of his engagement based on these conditions and instructions. In the event of any dispute between the parties prior to the signature of the agreement as to its terms and conditions, the matter shall be referred to the assessors whose decision shall be final.
 - b The promoter will, in agreement with the appointed architect, engage such consultants as may be necessary and such appointments will not be made until after the result of the competition is published.
 - c Any dispute between the promoter and the appointed architect shall be referred to an arbitrator to be nominated by the President, or a Vice-President, for the time being, of the Royal Institute of British Architects.
- 16 Fees
- Subject to the provisions of paragraph 19, the appointed architect will be paid in accordance with the Conditions of Engagement sanctioned and published by the Royal Institute of British Architects, the competition premium which he received being deemed to be a payment on account towards the total fees payable.
- 17
- If no instructions are given to the competitor selected for appointment as architect in accordance with paragraph 13 within two years of the date of the award, he shall be paid an additional fee of the same amount as the premium originally paid to him as author of the winning design.
- 18
- In the event of the promoter deciding to proceed with part only of the work, the appointed architect will be paid scale fees in accordance with paragraph 16, unless the aggregate of the original premium and an additional fee in accordance with paragraph 17 is greater than such scale fees in which case he shall be paid an amount equal to the first premium plus the additional fee. Where scale fees are the greater the original premium shall merge in these fees. If at any time the promoter decides to complete the entire project the original premium and any additional fee paid under paragraph 17 shall merge in the full scale fees.
- 19 Increases in building costs
- Where between 31st May 1972 and the date of the award increases have occurred in the costs of labour and materials, the effect of such increases shall not prejudice the design or estimate of the appointed architect whose estimate calculated in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 30 may be adjusted to take account of such increases.
- 20 Modifications
- Subject to the provisions of paragraph 19, the appointed architect may be required to modify his design to meet any reasonable requirements of the promoter within the original brief without the payment of any extra fee, and the cost limit shall be adjusted to suit such modifications. The appointed architect shall be entitled to additional fees in accordance with the RIBA Conditions of Engagement in respect of additional work resulting from any change in the promoter's brief.

- 21 **If when tenders are received from contractors and after allowance has been made for increases in cost of materials and labour between 31st May 1972 and the date of the receipt of tenders, the lowest of such tenders exceeds the appointed architect's competition estimate or the promoter's cost limit, the appointed architect shall be given the opportunity of submitting further proposals to achieve a reduction of the tender price provided that, in the opinion of the assessors, such proposals do not radically alter the appointed architect's original design. Any work incurred by the appointed architect in preparing and submitting such revised proposals shall not entitle him to any additional fee but no part of the original premium shall be repayable even if the finally modified tender price exceeds the cost limit.**
- 22 **If the architect is unable to effect such a reduction, the promoter shall not be bound to carry out the design, nor shall the architect be entitled to any remuneration or compensation other than the premium which has been awarded in accordance with paragraph 5 of these conditions.**

- 23 Site plans and photograph** **The following plans and photograph of the site are supplied with these conditions and instructions-**
- Plan A** **Master plan of expansion of Northampton**
- Plan B** **Area available for erection of new County Hall (approximately 30 hectares); adjacent road improvements and traffic circulation**
- Plan C** **Site plan showing services**
- Plans D (i), (ii) and (iii)** **Site survey**
- Aerial photograph of Wootton Hall Park**
- 24 General information** **General and detailed information pertaining to the site is given in Appendix I. This information includes a description and survey of the site, the accesses to it and the existing main services; it also includes an indication of the type of sub-soil based upon a site investigation.**
- 25 Geological, social and architectural history of County** **A synopsis of the geological, social and architectural history of the County is given in Appendix II.**

- 26 Instructions**
- The following instructions list the information which competitors are required to submit. Further instructions will be issued to competitors selected for the second stage including the date and time for the second stage submissions.
- 27 Schedule of drawings**
- The following is a schedule of the drawings required—
- i Site plan scale 1/1250
 - ii Plans at each floor level scale 1/500
 - iii Elevation scale 1/500
 - iv Sections scale 1/500
- All drawings will be line drawings only—prints are acceptable. Conventional tone shadows will be allowed on elevations and plans to assist appreciation of the design. Perspectives, models or photographs of models are not to be submitted. All drawings are to be submitted on sheets of International Size A1 paper. Each part of the accommodation must be identified on the drawings by the Reference Number in Column 1 of the schedule on Inset Section D Part 1b (see also requirements for special notation for office suites mentioned in paragraph 40 (q)).
- 28 Report**
- The drawings must be accompanied by a concise typewritten report describing the buildings and explaining their construction, finish and materials proposed to be used. The report should be limited to not more than 1,000 words and should give information which cannot be shown clearly on the drawings. The competitor's design approach to the problem should be explained briefly in the first section of the report. The report should also include diagrammatic indications of the form of future extensions to the buildings (see also paragraph 37).
- 29 Cost limit**
- The cost limit for the project is £5 million. This sum is based upon the cost of labour and materials prevailing on the 31st May 1972 and excludes the costs that competitors are instructed in paragraph 30 to exclude from their estimates of cost.

30 Estimate of cost

Competitors are required to prepare an estimate of cost based upon the cost of labour and materials prevailing at 31st May 1972 and to submit Form A supplied herewith. Provision is made in the form for the competitor to give a brief analysis of the building cost showing the rates per m² that are being applied to the different parts of the scheme and the relevant areas and costs.

The estimate is to include the cost of fixed or adjustable blinds or shades if required by the design for the control of the internal climate. It must also include the cost of carpeting wherever this is proposed as the basic floor covering. Competitors should allow whatever prices they consider appropriate for special areas but for the carpeting to the departmental offices they should allow £7 per m², laid complete. The estimate is also to include the PC sums referred to in paragraphs 31 and 44.

The estimate is to exclude professional fees, the cost of promoting the competition, the cost of land, the cost of work to roads, sewers and other services outside the boundaries of the site, and the cost of furniture.

The following will be classified as furniture—

Loose furniture

Council Chamber fittings and seating

Lecture Theatre fittings and seating

Library shelving and equipment

Catering equipment

Office equipment

Curtains

Telephones

Loose fire-fighting equipment

Competitors are also required to complete and to submit Form B supplied herewith on which floor areas are to be shown. The areas of the departments and the other accommodation listed in items 1–6 should be measured between external walls and the walls separating such accommodation from the 'other areas' included in item 7. The gross floor area should represent the total floor area measured over internal walls and partitions, and between external walls.

31 Fire precautions

The attention of competitors is drawn to the obligations as regards means of escape in case of fire imposed by legislation, particularly the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963, and the recommendations relating to precautions against fire contained in BS Code of Practice CP3; Chapter IV; Part 3 Office Buildings (1968) published by the Council for Codes of Practice of the British Standards Institution.

Additionally, the fire precautions must include an automatic early-warning system for calling the Fire Brigade and warning the occupants of an outbreak of fire, i.e. an automatic fire detection system connected direct to Fire Brigade Headquarters Control. Estimates must include a PC sum of £25,000 for this system.

32 Disabled persons

The attention of competitors is also drawn to the requirements of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, 1970, so far as they relate to premises open to the public.

- 33 Existing prefabricated office buildings on site
- The sites of the existing prefabricated office buildings in Wootton Hall Park which are occupied by the County Architect's, the Licensing, the Weights and Measures and the Social Services Departments and which are shown on Plan B supplied herewith should be treated as included in the area available for the competition.
- 34 Adjoining properties-
Linking to road system on site
- Competitors should indicate their proposals for linking the ambulance station, Divisional Police Station and adjoining flats, the police and other houses and the County Police Headquarters at Wootton Hall adjoining the County Hall site on the northern, eastern and southern sides, respectively, to an internal road system (see also paragraph 4 in Appendix I).
- 35 Future maintenance costs
- Maintenance costs of buildings, particularly where expensive services have been installed, are escalating rapidly. These costs not only involve the regular maintenance of equipment and installations but increasing costs of power and fuel. Competitors are expected by their decisions on the service installations and by their choice of construction, materials and finish, within the cost limit imposed, to ensure that the continuing cost of services and building maintenance is kept to a minimum.

36 General

The Northamptonshire County Council administer a county with a population at present estimated to be 341,000. With the implementation of local government reorganization in 1974, a new county council will incorporate the area at present administered by the Northampton County Borough Council which is designated as a new town and the population of which is planned to increase from its present figure of 126,250 to 230,000 by 1981.

The County Council's main functions are identified by the departments named under the reference numbers 12 to 23 in Column 1 in Part 2 of the schedule on Inset Section D Part Ib.

Notwithstanding the diversity of these functions, the Council are anxious that their administrative services should be thought of and be seen as a whole rather than as a number of separate entities. While it is essential that the members of the Council and, more important, the public visiting the different offices shall be able to identify and find any department easily, this does not presuppose a permanent and immutable area for any department.

The size and importance of the different departments may vary in the future, according to the duties remitted to local authorities by the central government. It is hoped, therefore, that competitors will consider this problem and endeavour to find ways in which the different departments can fluctuate in area without waste of space or diminution of functional efficiency.

45 The County Council intend that this building or group of buildings shall emphasize the unity of the area it serves and that all departments should be recognized as aspects of this unity. There need not be separate entrances for members, employees and visitors but whether the building or group of buildings has but one major entrance or several, the site layout and building design must lead the visitor who is not familiar with the site to a reception point at which he will receive direction and help. Here there should be space for visitors, including lavatory accommodation (for both sexes totalling 26m²). There should also be a space for mounting small exhibitions of public interest.

37 Future expansion

The layout must allow for the expansion of accommodation within the site. Although it is not possible at present to assess the extent of expansion required, it is nevertheless for competitors to suggest how expansion generally can be achieved. Logistic and servicing arrangements for such an extension policy must be an integral part of the design and should be described and illustrated by diagrams in the report to be submitted as described in paragraph 28.

38 Car parking

46 Competitors are advised to consider at an early stage in design the effect of the required car parking provisions on the overall cost. It is the promoter's present intention to make an initial provision for 600 cars within the present scheme and the budget set out in these conditions (see paragraph 29).

The 600 places will be apportioned as follows—

- i elected members and senior staff 100 cars
- ii staff 400 cars
- iii visitors 100 cars

Design proposals for this accommodation must be shown in detail as part of the overall scheme.

When the project is put in hand a further 400 car spaces will be provided in order to comply with planning standards. Competitors must therefore show their proposals for the location of this additional provision, i.e. a total of 1,000 car spaces on the site. In doing so they should have regard not only to future expansion (paragraph 37) but also to parking requirements which that expansion will itself generate. Thus, of the initial 1,000 car spaces required, 600 only fall within the cost limit for the project, but the remaining 400 should nevertheless be designed economically.

Parking arrangements must take into account the following:-

- a Access roads, access and exit points to the site and circulation within the site.
- b Easy access to all departments of County Hall.
- c Easy control and clarity of arrangements for users.
- d Standard dimensions for parking stalls and manoeuvring areas (parking stall 4.90m × 2.40m).

Parking may be provided in one of the following ways or in any combination thereof -

- a In open landscaped areas.
 - b Below ground.
 - c Separate parking building.
 - d As part of the County Hall.
- (In the case of types (b) and (c) associated lavatory facilities should be provided).

Neither mechanical parking garages nor those requiring parking by attendants are acceptable.

Provision for fuel sales and services is not required.

The promoter is hopeful that the usual environmental and logistical problems associated with large car parks may be overcome by skilful design.

39 Accommodation used by Members

The items of accommodation described in paragraphs (a) to (e) below are used primarily by the elected members of the County Council and are therefore best planned together. This accommodation, though small in relation to the total project, must be recognized as the focus of a relationship between the permanent staff and the elected representatives, on whom responsibility rests for the political decisions and the success of the democratic process. Members must feel themselves to be and to be seen to be part of the framework of government, and their accommodation needs to have a timeless quality free of too much drama and transient fashion. Yet a member must be able, within his surroundings, to identify himself as a counsellor on a county scale and to grow with the office. He should be able to meet fellow members on equal terms in many different conditions of formality and leisure. It is these requirements which make the members' suite and the concourse described below so important.

Access for members to the building would be best through an entrance shared with the public and staff, but a separate entrance is not ruled out.

1 a Council Chamber

To seat a total of 100 members and officers in the main part of the chamber disposed as follows -

The Chairman central to the dais, with the Vice-Chairman on his right and the Clerk of the Council on his left.

An additional chair with lectern to the Clerk's left for use by committee chairmen in turn while presenting papers.

12 chairs for chief officers behind and flanking the Chairman's group.

4 officers at a table below the dais.

The remaining 80 seats facing the dais in tiered rows with generous desk space.

In addition there should be a press and public gallery for 50 persons entered by a separate entrance which can be direct from the outside of the building or from a part of the internal circulation that is easily accessible to the public. In either case, the public and press entrance should be

11 through a small lobby from which should open a press room of approximately 15m².

The promoter does not wish to preclude a planning solution that places the Council Chamber away from external walls if there are substantial consequential advantages in such an arrangement. But they wish to state a preference for natural daylighting.

b Committee Rooms

2 One to seat 50 persons (approx. 75m²)

3 Three to seat 30 persons each (approx. 46m² each)
All to have natural daylight.

c Members' Suite

Members are often in the building for much of the day for Council, committee and informal meetings. The Members' Suite – with an atmosphere that is analogous to that of a club – is for their use on these occasions: a place in which to relax between meetings, to read committee papers and to hold informal conversations with other members, with the officers or with invited members of the public.

The accommodation should comprise –

- 4 i A general 'club-room' area with comfortably furnished space for about 65. This may be designed as one space, with recesses or screened areas for more private conversation, or as a series of linked rooms which may on occasions be thrown together for a reception. A bar, with closable shutters, must serve this general area in such a way that it does not dominate the whole. A pantry, with wash-up and storage facilities, for the provision of coffee must also serve this general area.
- 6
- 7
- 5 ii A reading/writing room which may open off the general area to seat an approximate total of 20 in easy chairs or at writing tables.
- 8 iii Lavatory and cloakroom accommodation for both men and women members should be convenient to the Members' Suite and to the other accommodation principally used by members.

9 d The Concourse

The promoter gives this name to the circulation area connecting the Members' Suite, the Council Chamber and the Committee Rooms to imply a generously proportioned linking space. As well as providing inter-communication and room for assembly, it should provide seating which is also convenient for non-members waiting to attend upon committees. It is therefore common-ground to members, non-members and professional advisors and should be easily accessible from the Members' Suite and from the direction of the Clerk's Department. It must, however, not be planned in a way that allows it to become a thoroughfare for those not connected with Council or committee business.

10 e Chairman's Room (approx. 24m²)

This may be placed as part of the Members' Suite or off the Concourse and should have a private lavatory associated with it.

40 Departmental offices

- 12 a The following notes apply to the office areas for all the departments named
to 23 under the reference numbers 12 to 23 in Column 1 in Part 2 of the schedule
on Inset Section D Part Ib.
- b The promoter wishes to follow the general principles of open landscaped office planning (Burolandschaft) – with air-conditioning, carpeting and permanent supplementary artificial lighting – in an arrangement of offices that yields a series of ‘office suites’. An office suite is defined as an overall floor space of a superficial area (not necessarily that of a given department) to be determined by the competitor and planned with most of it as general open offices but including some permanent private offices. Some of the open space should be capable of being sub-divided as optional additional private or semi-private offices, conference/interview rooms or typists’ pools (hereinafter referred to as ‘optional additional private rooms’).
- c The quota of permanent private offices for each suite should preferably be near the entrance of the general area (but need not open directly to it) and will be bounded by solid partitions with individual ventilation outlets.
- d The promoter expects the percentage area within each suite required for the optional additional private rooms to vary between departments and from time to time and a flexible modular system is therefore suggested for these.
- e Part 2 of the schedule on Inset Section D Part Ib gives the floor areas for each department (exclusive of lavatories, cleaners’ closets, pantries and access circulation) divided between the area required for permanent private offices, optional additional private rooms and open landscaped offices.
- f In the overall area given for each department allowance has been made for an area or areas for comfortable relaxation within the open landscaped area. This will normally be arranged adjacent to the pantry mentioned below. Similarly, an allowance has been made for reception facilities which, for purposes of the competition, may be assumed to be at the entrance of the open landscaped area occupied by the department.
- g The figures in Column 6 in the schedule on Inset Section D Part Ib have also been adjusted to make the appropriate allowance for such central filing, storage or special requirements, e.g. safes, that must be provided within each department. For the purpose of the competition, competitors may ignore any special problems arising from these items but the appointed architect will be required to work with the promoter, adjusting the design to incorporate any further subdivision or floor strengthening that may be required. Storage and other accommodation requirements related to departments which do not have to be adjacent to departmental offices are listed in Columns 7 and 8.
- h Lavatories for both sexes (in accordance with the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963) and cleaners’ closets (see paragraph 47(d)) must be provided convenient to all parts of the departmental offices but it is within the competitor’s discretion as to whether individual units serve only one suite or several. Each suite must, however, have a small pantry. The floor areas for these items are additional to the scheduled areas.
- i Both permanent private offices and optional additional private rooms should be on an outside wall but conference/interview rooms (which shall be assumed to be 25% of the total divided space) need not be on external walls.

- j The schedule shows that the combined areas of the permanent and optional additional private rooms generally amount to about 20% of the space of most departments (with a higher percentage in very small departments). The promoter realizes that a content of divided space as high as this may make the planning of the office suites difficult when the normally accepted principles of open landscaped planning are used. They seek, however, through this competition to find a solution that allows the advantages of this type of plan to be gained while allowing for those separate offices that considerations of confidentiality demand for much local government work.
- k While the promoter would prefer each of the optional additional private rooms to open off the main space, they are prepared to consider schemes with spur wings or attached groups off the central area. Such solutions must, however, be planned within the overall conception of office suites as defined above so that, as far as possible, private rooms are in close association with landscaped areas.
- l The office suites need not necessarily be self-contained—the one from the other—and the central landscaped space of one suite may flow into that of a neighbouring suite or suites. Similarly, private offices, architecturally grouped, may form part of different office suites.
- m The promoter believes there is some advantage in each suite adjoining and being able to flow into at least one other suite—but this is not an over-riding principle. The promoter also feels that there is some advantage, but again not an over-riding one, in having suites of different sizes.
- n It has been generally stated elsewhere that the full advantages of open-landscaped planning are only realized in very large undivided areas. The promoter is prepared to compromise in this respect and to accept small areas planned in this way.
- o The promoter accepts that small departments can share suites with other departments to give flexibility in design and, in addition, the promoter will accept a 5% tolerance, up or down, on the overall size of each departmental office area provided that the collective total floor area of all the suites is not reduced and that the budget is not exceeded.
- p All office suites must have access for the visiting public.
- q To assist the assessors competitors must superimpose on their drawings the boundary lines of each office suite in a fine blue dotted line whether such boundaries follow wall lines or pass through undivided office landscaped areas. Each suite must be given an alphabetical notation followed by its floor area and, in brackets, the reference numbers (see Column 1 on Inset Section D Part 1b) of the department or departments which will occupy it, e.g. 'Suite A: 700m² (13, part 14 and 17)' or 'Suite B: 660m² (part 12)'. Permanent private office divisions should be drawn with continuous lines. The areas of optional additional private rooms should be shown with dotted red lines. As a basis for estimating only and for the purpose of the competition, competitors should assume that the permanent private offices for each department will comprise one office of approx. 25m², one of approx. 15m² and the others of 12m² each. For estimating purposes it should also be assumed that the whole quota of the optional additional private rooms will be installed (with rooms *averaging* approx. 15m² each).

- 41 Relationship of office suites and departments**
- Ideally, at any one time, the different office suites would match the needs of different departments in size and would be geographically arranged to provide adjacent suites for departments with close working relationships. For the guidance of competitors, a list of inter-departmental contacts and diagrams showing the working relationships between departments are attached as Appendices III (a), (b), (c) and (d).
- The promoter feels, however, that the initial scheme for the uses of various spaces will soon be outdated owing to possible changes in the working patterns, the differential expansion of departments and even the restructuring of certain departmental systems due to reorganization of local government in 1974 and to possible changes in management systems. The promoter would, therefore, not wish competitors to prejudice other economic or architectural considerations in order to achieve a too rigid adherence to the diagrams of working relationships.
- 42 Catering facilities and staff common room(s)**
- The promoter intends to employ a catering consultant to work with the appointed architect to evolve the best catering arrangements in relation to the selected design. Meanwhile, for the purposes of the competition, competitors must provide –
- 24 A private dining room for waitress service for the use of members, chief officers and guests, of approx. 38m².
- 25 A self-service staff dining room (principally for luncheon) with a service counter 11m long and a seating area of approx. 260m².
- 26 An additional dining area for waitress service for the staff, as an extension to or recess off the self-service area. This area, which will be separated by light moveable screens, should be an additional 60m² and be flanked by a servery.
- 27 A staff common room or rooms of 450m² with a coffee and sandwich bar. This will be for the use of those who bring sandwiches or buy them at the bar. Coffee for those who have lunched in the cafeteria will be served here. It may also be used for evening club activities and it would therefore be an advantage if this part could be entered without threat to the security of the rest of the building group.
- 28 A total floor area of 170m² should be allowed for service areas in relation to these catering facilities to include main kitchen, stores, preparation areas, kitchen staff amenities, the service counter, waitress serveries and coffee bar. Except for the bar and serveries, the subdivisions of this service area need not be shown at either stage of the competition.
- 43 Common services**
- Apart from the specific departmental accommodation required, further facilities as described below must be provided for activities general to the entire organization –
- 29 a Reprographic service
- 835m² for the installation of plan printing, duplicating and photographic apparatus, together with facilities for the receipt and storage of materials. A floor loading of 4kn/m² should be allowed for and also an adequate ventilation system to extract noxious fumes. Since the installation and maintenance of light engineering equipment is involved, this accommodation should preferably be sited at ground-floor level with ready vehicle access.
- 30 b General storage facilities
- 95m² at ground-floor level with ready vehicle access, should be provided for miscellaneous items such as election boxes, exhibition screens, furniture in transit, etc.

- 31 c **Telephone service**
140m³ to accommodate the switchboard, rest room for operators and switchboard equipment. The switchboard equipment, which may be fractionally detached from the remainder, involves a floor loading of 7.5kn/m².
- 32 d **Post/messenger service**
55m³ with ready vehicle access at ground floor level, to be used for the receipt and sorting of post and internal correspondence.
- 33 e **Rest/medical rooms**
60m³ for medical inspection and first-aid treatment.
- 34 f **Maintenance workshop and store for materials**
95m³ at ground floor level with ready vehicle access.
- 35 g **Boiler and plant rooms**
Adequate provision to be made within overall cost limit.
- note It is anticipated that the upkeep of the grounds will be dealt with by a maintenance unit located elsewhere and the necessary equipment brought to the site as required on a low-loader.
- 44 **Civil defence control rooms** 36 The appointed architect will be required to work with the relevant authorities on the final design of this accommodation.
- For the purpose of the competition, basement space for these control rooms should be provided with connection to the general circulation of the building above and an additional escape and ventilation duct tunnel direct to the open air. No details of the sub-division of the space are required. Competitors should allow for a waterproof reinforced concrete basement in bare carcass of 375m² plan area (exclusive of access tunnels and stairs) with a clear carcass height of 3m. In addition, at ground level, adjacent to the basement, a space of 20m² must be provided in a reinforced concrete box structure to house reserve water supplies, a generator and fuel.
- The appointed architect will be required in due course to discuss technical details with the Home Office Directorate of Telecommunications. For the time being it should be assumed that a concrete or steel mast, either freestanding or attached to the buildings, would extend to a height of 100 feet above existing ground level and would be suitable for the attachment thereto of one or more aerials generally of the television type. The position of this mast must be indicated on the drawings.
- Estimates must include a PC sum of £30,000 for the necessary basement sub-divisions, finishes, lavatories, tanks, air-conditioning and plant and for the provision, fixing and connection of the aerial mast.
- 45 **Office for County Branch of Nalgo** 37 An office of 14m² for the County Branch of Nalgo (staff trade union) with easy external access for use outside as well as within normal office hours.

46 Shops

- 38 Space is to be provided for three shop units for the convenience of the staff. These are likely to be let on a concessionary basis for a bank, a hairdresser's saloon and a general shop and are best placed together so that the space can be subdivided according to the actual needs of each when known.

Competitors should provide a total floor area of 270m² and should estimate on the basis of providing the enclosing and party walls (other than shop fronts). This shop space will be left in bare carcass for finishing by the tenants.

The shopkeepers will be expected to use lavatories provided elsewhere in the building. No lavatories are therefore to be provided especially for or within this shop area.

47 Caretakers and cleaners-
General and residential
accommodation

Competitors must provide-

- 39 a A mess room for the caretaking and cleaning staff of approx. 55m² (inclusive of a small pantry).
- 40 b An office for the manager of the caretakers and cleaning staff of approx. 12m².
- 41 c A central store of approx. 100m² for cleaning materials, equipment and furniture under the control of the manager.
- 42 d Cleaners' closets with sinks and local storage at convenient points at each level throughout the buildings or complex of buildings. The sizes and distribution will depend on the plan form but the promoter envisages a total allocation of approx. 200m².
- 43 e A total area of approx. 40m² for the accumulation, sorting and despatch of refuse and salvage in one or more positions convenient for vehicle access.
- 44 f Four three-bedroomed houses of approx. 90m² each with small gardens for the caretaking or gardening staff and their families. A single garage is to be provided for each house but not necessarily attached to the house. The houses may be grouped or dispersed at the competitor's discretion.

48 Playing fields

- 47 Competitors should indicate an area of 4 hectares (approx. 10 acres) for use as playing fields. The cost of the provision of these playing fields must be met out of the competition budget.

At present, as indicated on Plan B, the central area identified as 'sports ground' is in use as playing fields and a further area has been levelled for this purpose to provide pitches as shown in dotted outline to the east of the Police Headquarters. Competitors need not necessarily regard these areas as reserved for playing field use.

Competitors should also indicate a site of 200m² for the erection of a pavilion. In all other respects, including the cost of erection, this pavilion should be disregarded for purposes of the competition.

49

The relationship of the library to the rest of County Hall, whether connected or separate, is left to competitors provided that if the library is incorporated this should not diminish its clear identity of purpose. There are certain general features of the library's use which must be considered:

- a The library will be regularly open for substantially longer hours than most other departments, probably 9.30 am-8 pm each day except Sunday.
- b All areas are net and no allowance has been made for circulation, lavatories (except where so stated) and cloakrooms, etc.
- c Unless otherwise noted all stack areas are based on the assumption that 8 books can be accommodated for 300mm run of shelf with a maximum of 7 shelves in height. The average vertical distance between shelf centres is to be 280mm.
- d The design of the library should assist in promoting an atmosphere of active use where movement and conversation are permitted side by side with relaxed browsing.
- e It is essential that access and use for disabled readers shall not be merely practicable but accomplished with ease.

50 Administration

a Administrative offices	Total net area
	177m ²
County Librarian	25m ²
Deputy County Librarian	15m ²
Secretary to County Librarian	12m ²
The above should be in separate offices approachable through a common waiting space. The offices of the County Librarian and Deputy County Librarian should have access to the secretary's office independently of the waiting area.	
Interviewing and Conference Room	45m ²
Remaining office space	80m ²
The above may be arranged at the competitor's discretion.	
b Bibliographic services	Total net area
	210m ²
This department is responsible for the procurement, processing of all stock and its allocation and distribution. It has two main functions:	
reception/unpacking/sorting/repacking	95m ²
processing/selection/ordering/cataloguing/classifying	115m ²

c County reserve bookstack Total net area

540m²

Some 200,000 volumes are needed and provided these are conveniently accessible to the staff, the position of the reserve bookstack is left to competitors.

d Miscellaneous ancillary functions Total net area

106m²

Display preparation studio 24m²
It should be accessible from loading bay.

Library store 38m²
This workroom should be accessible from loading bay as well as other departments.

Lavatories and cloakrooms 24m²
Staff (wholetime and equivalent) will not exceed 50, two-thirds of whom will be women. A lavatory and cloakroom for the use of drivers is also necessary.

Staff room 20m²
A special library staff room will be necessary irrespective of staff facilities elsewhere in the County Hall, owing to the hours worked by the staff.

51 Headquarters of children's, youth and education library service

This service may be treated as an open landscaped library and the areas given for each function are a guide.

Total net area

522m²

a Reception, Display Collection, Teachers' Library, 'Browsing' area 94m²

This area requires 150m run of shelving in cases not more than 1.5m high together with 12m of periodical display. It will require comfortable seating for 15 users.

Facilities for viewing slides, microfilms, films and pictures will be needed as well as two small sound proof booths.

b Main book stock 240m²
to accommodate 35,000-40,000 books.

c Book collection, preparation and disposal area. 75m²
This area to have a close connection to the main book despatch and reception areas.

d Non-book material stores 75m²
for slides, film strips and loops, films, microfilm tapes, records and pictures.

e Staff working area 38m²
This must include an interview room 11m² but otherwise open-plan is preferable. Six working places (three at desks, three at tables) must be provided.

This is the service which will be most visited by the public. The main entrance to it will not only serve as an exhibition space but will also house the book issue/return counter which itself will communicate with a book sorting and general workroom. The lending library should expand naturally from the entrance area and will constitute a central core from which access to the other public areas in this section can be made.

The children's area and the music and records area should not be close to the Reference Library or the Local History Library owing to the risk of disturbance.

Accommodation required	Total net area
	1,164m ²
a Entrance/exhibition space	70m ²
b Book sorting/workroom	30m ²
c Lending library The lending library is controlled by the enquiries desk. This must be in a position where all readers must pass and it would be an advantage if the children's section could be controlled from it. It is quite separate from the book issue/return counter. 30,000 books should be accommodated in cases not exceeding 1.5m in height (island cases) or 2m wall cases. These are to be disposed to create small intimate areas.	350m ²
d Children's library A staff desk for two with adjoining display area is required. 4,000 books are required but the shelves should not exceed 1.35m in height at 12 books/0.30m run.	140m ²
e Reference library Seats for 50 students and six lockable ventilated carrels are required. Shelving for 7,500 books at seven books/0.30m plus 10% special oversize and lockable glazed cases.	140m ²
f Music, records and tapes This should be placed to reduce sound transmission to other parts of the library to a minimum. It would be an advantage if record recitals could be given here. A librarian's counter is required controlling four sound-proof listening booths.	112m ²
g Illustrations, slides, films, strips, pictures. Librarian's desk.	70m ²
h Local history library This can be an extension of the reference area. 2,000 books will be housed. Maximum number of readers 24 at tables seating six each.	70m ²

i Periodicals and drama 70m²
 These should be placed near the entrance and clearly visible from it.
 Mixed, informal seating for 25 and two tables.

j Local government library 112m²
 This should be associated with reference library, probably with common control enquiries desk. It must be possible to restrict entry to this area.
 Seats for 12
 200m accessible shelves (cases 2m high)
 Display for 200 periodicals (jointly with reference library)
 Generous pamphlet and report storage
 Map and plan cabinets

53 Mobile libraries base and garage

Total net area
 370m²

The total bookstock carried by the mobile libraries is 15,000 books and these must be examined and serviced daily, both morning and evening.

Two loading and delivery bays.

Garages for 10 vans including wash down and pit facilities.

54 Northampton (Branch Libraries) Divisional Headquarters

Total net area
 370m²

These headquarters will service new district libraries and branch libraries and will also be responsible for four mobile libraries. These headquarters must have good access to garage and loading bays.

Working and reserve bookstock 25,000 volumes at eight books per 0.30m. This bookstock forms the core of the accommodation and work benches and desks for staff can be placed around the perimeter.

55 Lecture theatre

Area at competitor's discretion

A lecture theatre to seat 75 persons with desk shelves is to be provided complete with projection facilities, chalk boards and pin boards. It should be closely associated with the library but it may be used on occasions by members in committee. It will also be used for staff training and public lectures.

195m²

Accommodation, with vehicular access, must be provided adjoining the lecture theatre, for a film library, a store for visual aids and a workshop.

56 Reservation of site for future erection of museum/art gallery

Total net area
 0.8 hectare

Competitors must indicate on their site plan a site near the library headquarters of 0.8 of a hectare (approx. 2 acres) for the erection of a museum/art gallery if so required at some future date.

The Common Seal of the County Council of the
Administrative County of Northampton
was hereunto affixed this first day of November 1972
in the presence of



(Signed) O. MEURIG JONES

Clerk of the County Council

- 1 Site location** Wootton Hall Park is situated within the Designated Area for Northampton New Town as shown on Plan A.
- 2** The New Town is being developed by way of a partnership between the Northampton County Borough Council and the Northampton Development Corporation under the New Towns Acts.
- 3** The site of the proposed new County Hall forms part of the Southern District of the New Town. No finite plans for the future development of the Southern District have been published by the Development Corporation. At the present time several alternative Land Use/Transportation Schemes are being evaluated. The principles are, however, illustrated on the published Master Plan (see Plan A).
- Within the principles shown on the Master Plan there are several firm criteria which will not be the subject of alteration as a consequence of the evaluation of the alternatives referred to above.
- 4** These criteria can be summarized as follows—
- a Vehicular access from the adjacent main roads will be provided to the new County Hall only at the two points indicated on Plan B, i.e.
 - i As a left-in/left-out junction with the northbound carriageway of the A508;
 - ii As a multi-directional junction with the improved dual carriageway Mere Way.
 - b With the construction of the new County Hall, the present single access to the site from Mere Way must be discontinued and arrangements made for the existing County Police Headquarters, the Divisional Police Station and adjoining flats, the Ambulance Station, the police houses and other housing in Alexander Close to be made accessible, via internal roadways, to the two access points mentioned in (a) (i) and (ii) above.
 - c From Plan B it will be seen that future improvements of the A508 will require modification of the service road layout to the police and other houses. Detailed proposals for this modification and the cost thereof need not be submitted in Stage 1 of the competition but competitors are expected to bear the requirement in mind in connection with paragraph (b) above.
 - d There will be no provision for vehicular access from the South or West.
 - e No public rights of way affect the site and there will be no proposal to provide such access facilities other than by way of a pedestrian link at the N.E. corner of the site.
 - f The proposed land uses adjacent to the site are shown on Plan A.
- 5 Factors leading to the choice of the site** The site in Wootton Hall Park has several distinct 'communications' advantages, namely—
- a It is in very close proximity to the M1.
 - b The site is well served by two principal roads to the North and East, i.e. Mere Way and the A.508.
 - c These roads form an integral part of the future road pattern for the Greater Northampton and link with the principal road pattern of the County at the present time and in the future, thereby ensuring that there are good communications available from the County and Region to the site of the new County Hall.

- 6 Sewers** Competitors may assume that the new County Hall may be connected to storm and foul sewers to be installed in 1975/6.
- 7 Planning approval** Outline planning approval has been granted on the site available for the erection of the new County Hall.
- 8 Plans** The plans mentioned above are as follows—
- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Plan A | Master Plan of Expansion of Northampton |
| Plan B | Area available for erection of new County Hall (approx. 30 hectares); adjacent road improvements and traffic circulation |
| Plan C | Site plan showing services |
| Plans D (i), (ii) and (iii) | Site survey |

9 Site geology

The Ordnance survey geological maps indicate that this site lies on succeeding strata of the Jurassic system, i.e. Upper Lias Clay, Northampton Sand, Estuarine Series and Great Oolitic Limestone. A superficial deposit of glacial sand and gravel also overlies the east central portion of the site. During the period 5th–19th January, 1972, four boreholes each 150 mm in diameter were sunk, through strata evidently of the Estuarine Series, in the positions shown on Plan C. These borings revealed the following sequential conditions below ground level—

Borehole No.1 Standing Water Level 4m	Thickness (m)
Brown sandy topsoil	0.6
Brown and yellow sand with some clay	2.4
Brown fine grained laminated ferruginous sandstone	3.6
Total penetration	6.6

Borehole No. 2 Standing Water Level 4.6m	
Brown sandy topsoil	0.8
Yellow-brown sand with some clay	3.8
Brown clayey sand with pieces of sandstone	1.5
Brown clayey silt with layers of ferruginous sandstone	3.5
Total penetration	9.6

Borehole No.3 Standing Water Level 6.1m	
Brown sandy topsoil	0.9
Brown silty sand with some clay and layers of ferruginous sandstone	8.5
Total penetration	9.4

Borehole No.4 Standing Water Level 5.5m	
Brown sandy topsoil	1.2
Brown sand with some clay and layers of sandstone, ferruginous nodules etc	5.0
Total penetration	6.2

Chemical analysis of the ground water encountered in these boreholes indicates low sulphate concentrations, the results being all Class 1 of the Building Research Station Digest 90 (2nd Series). From examination of disturbed samples, and the results of the Standard Penetration Tests, and for preliminary design purposes only, competitors may assume the following criteria for foundations-

**Estimated net allowable bearing capacities (q_a)
for spread foundations (kn/m^2)**

(With standing water level at 4m depth)

Depth m	q_a per width-			Raft
	1m	2m	3m	
1	230	210	185	105
2	315	285	210	130
3	375	255	200	145

**Estimated ultimate values of pile bearing
characteristics (kn/m^2)**

Adhesion side friction

Ground level to 1.5m	Neglect
1.5m-3m	65
3m-6m	90
Below 6m	100

End bearing

At	4m	2100
	5m	2400
Below	6m	2500
On Sandstone in Borehole No 1		4300

Geologically, Northants lies along the central section of the Jurassic system which runs across England from S.W. to N.E. In basic landform it is thus an extension of the Cotswolds, with affinities to the Lincolnshire and Yorkshire Wolds. Since the Jurassic rocks lie tilted, their successive different strata outcrop across Northants from N.W. to S.E. Over this surface Ice Age glaciers moved southwards, transporting and depositing here the ground-up remnants of rocks from further north.

Watercourses then dissected the new surface, exposing varied strata and long springlines on the sides of their valleys. Local surface geology is therefore very diverse, containing interleaved beds of clay and sedimentary rock, these being overlaid in parts by Glacial clay, sand and gravel. The resultant landscape is still discernible as a 'scarpland' but is less pronounced than that of the unglaciated Cotswolds. The Northamptonshire Upland forms the central watershed of the Midlands, its streams flowing either way to the North Sea and the Bristol Channel. Surface elevation ranges from 734 O.D. near Daventry to 44 O.D. in the Nene Valley near Nassington.

By reason of its central position, Northants has been involved in most major trends of English history and has served as the meeting point of successive intrusive cultures. At Northampton, prehistoric settlers moving up the Nene encountered others travelling the cross-country 'Jurassic Way'. On the line of the Nene, Belgic tribes reached the limit of their advance northwards, just prior to the Roman invasion. In the Dark Ages, Anglian colonists moving inland from the Wash here encountered Saxon groups probing northwards from the Upper Thames. The local settlement pattern of close-spaced nucleated villages dates basically from this time, as may parts of the present county boundary.

Local Anglian settlement was demarked to the N.W. by the Welland and to the S.E. by the edge of dense forest then covering the Boulder Clay between the Rivers Nene and the Ouse. In the ninth century this area was overrun by Danes from the Leicestershire and Lincolnshire areas, the boundary between Danelaw and Saxon England being drawn along the Watling Street, a distinction which has persisted in place-name structure and local dialect.

This role of Northants as a cultural meeting point has continued into modern times with the settlement of Scots steelworkers at Corby in the 1930's and, of late, with the reception of Birmingham overspill at Daventry and of Greater Londoners at Wellingborough and Northampton.

After the Conquest, Northants was partitioned between prominent Normans and local forests reserved for Royal use. By this time local iron ore was already modestly exploited and leatherwork - derived, it is said, from the use of oak bark for tanning - was already a notable activity. Other cottage industries were later to appear, including pillow lace which, by tradition, was introduced by Katherine of Aragon.

Northampton, greatly enlarged by the Normans, was a key town of the medieval Midlands and served repeatedly as a conference centre and rally point.

In late medieval times, mixed farming gave way to extensive sheep rearing and this, in turn, to the greater involvement of local families with London affairs both at court and in commerce. From Northants, local recusants directed the Gunpowder Plot. Here also, a branch of the Washingtons from Lancashire settled and were later concerned with the colonization of America. Northants, within easy reach of London, was favoured as the pastoral 'country seat' of many wealthy families and became known as the 'County of Squires and Spires', the original version of which included 'and Springs' for the reasons given in the second paragraph on the previous page.

The familiar landscape of present Northants is no more than 200 years old, dating from Parliamentary Enclosures mostly in the mid eighteenth century when the former 'Open Fields' were divided by hedgerows, the old 'ridge and furrow' being still widely visible. Arising from this 'Agricultural Revolution', many local villages have been categorized as either 'Closed' or 'Open', i.e. either limited in size and carefully maintained by one overall landowner or indiscriminately, and often tastelessly, developed when otherwise.

Canal and railway construction speeded the local industrial revolution and its enlargement of towns and villages, especially in east central Northants, for instance, the industrial belt along the trunk road A.6. In this process the town of Northampton was greatly repopulated by countryfolk from the surrounding area. Nineteenth-century Northants was notable for the industrialization of its traditional boot and shoe making and for the widespread appearance of ironworks. The iron content of the Northampton Sand, which has oxidized and hence the 'rusty' brown colour, was worked from Roman to Elizabethan times, using local timber fuel for smelting.

This practice was then curtailed in the interests of forest conservation and the ore 'rediscovered' in the expansive mood of the early nineteenth century, specimens being shown at the Great Exhibition of 1851. Commercial extraction began c.1853 and supplied numerous local furnaces, even in parishes now deceptively rural in appearance. Of these, only the modern works at Corby now remain. Ore extraction, mostly open-cast, gravely changed much of our local landscape and the County Council has played a prominent role in restoration. This ironworking background underlies the light-engineering industry which is now a major element in local economy. Recently, this latter has moved also into the field of electronics.

In its record of English architecture Northants is outstanding, this not only as regards historical sequence but in quantity and quality.

A contributory factor was no doubt the abundance, variety and workability of local stone. Our earliest extant building, the porticus church at Brixworth, has been described as 'perhaps the most imposing architectural memorial of the seventh century surviving north of the Alps'.

The original structure, dating from 675, is clearly an imported design based on arcuated masonry forms of the Mediterranean. In complete contrast is the tenth-century tower at Earls Barton. This, in its projecting stripwork and baluster mullions, is more typical of the native (North European) 'woodworking' background. Similar church towers remain at Barnack and Stowe-IX-Churches and contemporary work may be seen in a handful of other Northants parishes.

Norman details are not unusual and the late Norman St. Peter's Church at Northampton, though partly rebuilt, is exceptional: also at Northampton, the Norman Round Church of the Holy Sepulchre, an echo of Early Christian form in Syria probably introduced via the Crusade. Medieval castle structures remain at Rockingham and Barnwell.

Two of the three surviving 'Eleanor' Crosses (late thirteenth century) stand at Delapre and Geddington, the former closely adjoining Wootton Hall Park.

Interesting local parish churches are too numerous to detail. Some are totally of one period. Others, no less fascinating, contain a mixture of successive styles from Norman to Perpendicular and were often embellished with funeral monuments of the calibre of Nicholas Stone. Spires are a feature in East Northants, the highest being at Oundle. Renaissance churches are more rare. All Saints, in the centre of Northampton, is a seventeenth century rebuild of its fire-damaged medieval forerunner. There are a few Georgian churches, notably Daventry (1752), and indeed Georgian chapels.

The mansions of the 'Squires' range in date from Drayton, at its earliest, thirteenth century, to late Georgian. Some Tudor manors have been continuously remodelled, that at Althorp being finally encased, by Holland, in 'Mathematical Tiles'.

The Elizabethan Kirby Hall was recently well reviewed in a *Times Magazine*. Contemporary Holdenby ('Holmby'), used to detain Charles I and since mostly demolished, was conceived on 'Palace' scale. The memory of sunsets reflected in its many windows is preserved by an old saying 'Shining like Holmby' (local equivalent of Hardwick Hall's 'More Glass than Wall').

Many local mansions still serve as family homes and are thus excellently maintained. They include designs by Thorpe, Inigo Jones, Webb, Hawkesmoor, Capability Brown, Holland, the Reptons and Soane and fine work by others less known and, in some instances, anonymous. The local reputation for mansions unfortunately overshadows our great number of fine 'Yeoman' farmhouses dating mostly from the seventeenth century and of the style popularly associated with the Cotswolds, these being in ashlar limestone, sandstone, or a combination of both, according to the parish substrata, with stone 'slate' roofs in the S.W. and N.E. and thatch elsewhere.

This group is characterized by moulded mullions, transomes, etc. and delicately carved commemorative date stones. Nearly all older village architecture is predominantly of stone, though now mixed, especially in 'Open' villages, with items in nineteenth-century brick. Some cottages in a distinct area of N.W. Northants are in a brown cob made from less compact beds of Northampton Sand. Half-timbered work is rare but remains especially on the N.W. county boundary, which is significantly a Lias clay area, deficient in stone.

Equally impressive are various relics of the early Industrial Age, especially some canal bridges, their surfaces curved in several planes. There are a number of Victorian churches and nonconformist chapels, several exceptionally good, and isolated works by Pugin, Voysey, Lutyens and Mackintosh. The 'Gothic' Northampton Guildhall (1861) by Godwin was the result of an architectural competition.

The Modern European style first appeared in England in the Bassett-Lowke house at Northampton, 'New Ways', by Peter Behrens (1926). Subsequent local architecture is too extensive and varied to describe here.

An authority such as the Northamptonshire County Council consists of a number of departments some of which provide services direct to the public while the others provide support services to those departments.

The departments which provide a service direct to the public are as follows –

- Education
- Social Services
- Surveyors
- Planning
- Road Safety

The departments supplying support services are as follows –

- Clerks (including Management and Common Services)
- Treasurers
- Architects
- Valuers

By the very nature of their work it is inevitable that these services have close links with virtually all other departments and with each other. The other group of departments which are closely tied to each other by virtue of their similar or allied functions are the 'technical' departments, namely –

- Surveyors
- Architects
- Planning
- Valuers

Although each department provides its own specialist service, basically they all work for and on behalf of the people within the Administrative County. There are, therefore, links between all the departments to facilitate the operation of a well co-ordinated and efficiently managed overall service. One of the principal concepts behind the impending reorganization of local government, to which reference is made in paragraph 36, is that each authority should be seen as a network of interwoven activities. More intensive collaboration between departments will be the future trend and an appropriately designed headquarters building can be an important means of bringing this about.

The chief officers of the main departments under the leadership of the Clerk of the County Council form the top management team. There is, therefore, a good deal of contact at this executive level. However, there are also points of contact between departments at almost all other levels in the organizational structure and it is essential that the flow of work and information is maintained at those other levels.

The new County Hall will house the headquarters administrative, professional and technical staff of the County Council. These will, however, comprise only a comparatively small portion of the total number of staff on the Council's payroll; the remainder will be located in the various County Council establishments situated throughout the County which provide other important points of contact.

The list and diagrams in the Appendices III (b), (c) and (d) show the relationship between departments as seen by the departments themselves. It is obviously important that the design and the layout of the new County Hall should reflect as many of these aspects of the relationship between departments as possible.

		In 'Office Suites' see pages 18 to 19 for columns 4 5 6							
1 Ref. No.	2 Accommodation	3 Members, Public and Press Accommodation	4 Permanent Private Offices	5 Optional Additional Private Rooms	6 Burolandschaft Office	7 Storage Accommodation	8 Other Requirements	9 Total	
		m ²	m ²	m ²	m ²	m ²	m ²	m ²	
Part 1 Council Chamber, Committee Rooms, Members' Suite, etc.									
1	Council Chamber (and press and public gallery)	see note 1						see note 1	
2	Committee Rooms	1 for 50 persons						75	
3		3 for 30 persons each						138	
4	Members' Suite	General 'club-room' area for 65 persons							
5		Reading/writing room for 20 persons						see note 1	
6		Bar							
7		Pantry							
8		Lavatory and cloakroom							
9	Concourse								
10	Chairman's Room	24						24	
11	Press Room	15						15	
Part 2 Departmental Accommodation									
12	Architect's Department		160	480	2510			3150	
13	Civil Defence Department		15		50			65	
14	Clerk's Department		100	90	834 see note 2	100 see note 3		1124	
15	Education Department		220	225	2074 see note 4		see note 5	2519	
16	Planning Department		40	105	700 see note 6	10 see note 7		855	
17	Road Safety Department		12		24	see note 8	120 see note 9	156	
18	Social Services Department		100	105	1105 see note 10	20 see note 11		1330	
19	Surveyor's Department		160	495	2770 see note 12	25 see note 13	555 see note 14	4005	
20	Treasurer's Department		112	120	1473 see note 15			1705	
21	District Audit		15		135 see note 16	200 see note 17		350	
22	Valuer's Department		40	15	179			234	
23	Weights & Measures Department		25	15	316 see note 18		77 see note 19	433	
Part 3 General Accommodation									
24	Catering	Dining room for members					38	38	
25		Self-service cafeteria					260	260	
26		Dining room for staff					60	60	
27		Staff common room(s)					450	450	
28		Service area					170	170	
29	Common Services	Reprographic					835	835	
30		General storage				95		95	
31		Telephones					140	140	
32		Post/messenger service					55	55	
33		Rest/medical rooms					60	60	
34		Maintenance workshop and materials store					95	95	
35		Boiler and plant rooms					see note 1	see note 1	
36	Civil Defence Basement Control Room						395	395	
37	Nalgo Office		14					14	
38	Shop Units						270	270	
39	Caretaking and Cleaning	Staff messroom and pantry					55	55	
40		Manager's office					12	12	
41		Store				100		100	
42		Cleaners' closets					200	200	
43		Waste and salvage area					40	40	
44		Housing for caretaking staff					360 see note 21	360	
45	Lavatory accommodation off main entrance						26	26	
46	Car parking						see note 20	see note 20	
47	Playing fields (and site for pavilion)						see note 22	see note 22	
note	In addition to the above, see also details of County Library Headquarters etc. in Part II of Section D.						Total	19,908	

All figures in this schedule are net including those given for Burolandschaft offices in Column 6 although by definition that type of accommodation contains some circulation space.

Explanatory notes

- Area at competitor's discretion.
- Includes area for despatch room (65m²) and completions room (14m²).
- Area for strong room with ready access from the Department's office accommodation.
- Includes area for filing registry, equipment and teachers' records (230m²) and conference room to seat 30 (30m²).
- Area for visual aids, film library and workshop (140m²) included in the brief for Library Headquarters.
- This figure includes an area for filing (160m²) and an interview/waiting room in the Development Control Section (10m²).
- Area for exhibition units with vehicular access.
- Area (55m²) for storage of models, audio and visual aids with vehicular access included in the brief for the Library Headquarters.
- Area for garage accommodation for two 5m mobile units (110m²) plus workshop for preparation of aids (10m²).
- Includes area for filing (185m²), conference/training room (140m²) and goods reception area (40m²).
- Area for extra storage, probably in basement.
- Includes area for filing (70m²), conference room (15m²) and soundproofed computer equipment room (25m²).
- Area for storage of survey equipment with vehicular access.
- Area for garage (370m²), and soils and materials testing laboratory (185m²) in semi-basement with some natural light.
- Includes accommodation for computer (560m²) preferably on the ground floor with 3m ceiling, air conditioning etc. and area for strong room (20m²), preferably adjacent to computer rooms.
- Includes area for storage of Departmental records (50m²).
- Area for storage of records.
- Includes areas for general (36m²) and heavy weights (21m²) storage areas, testing room (29m²), adjusting area (22m²), laboratory (21m²), measurements room (18m²), and standards room (29m²), all to be on the ground floor.
- Area for garage to be adjacent to remainder of Department.
- See details in paragraph 38.
- Area for single garage and small garden for each house excluded from this figure.
- See details in paragraph 48.
- Where the area is 25m² or less, that space is in one room. For division of larger areas into rooms see paragraph 41.