



capitol complex + city plan
chandigarh, india | le corbusier
city plan, 1950-57; capitol complex 1950-1965



figure : ground: inhabiting monumentality

figure:ground as a structuring theme for inhabitation of the earth and sky;

interweaving cycles of temporality and permanence of human, civic/monumental, and site operations, Chandigarh establishes a complex relationship between the individual and the collective at many scales.

- 1 **human establishments**: man structures ordering system
- 2 **center + edge + strata**: layered horizons, basements
- 3 **iconography**: sites and stories
- 4 **precedent** : modern/ancient/classical/vernacular



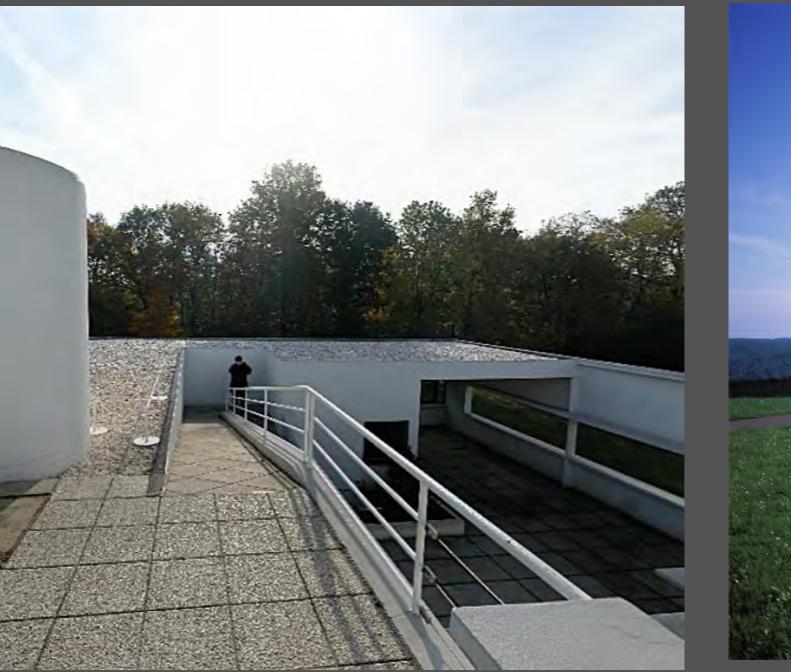
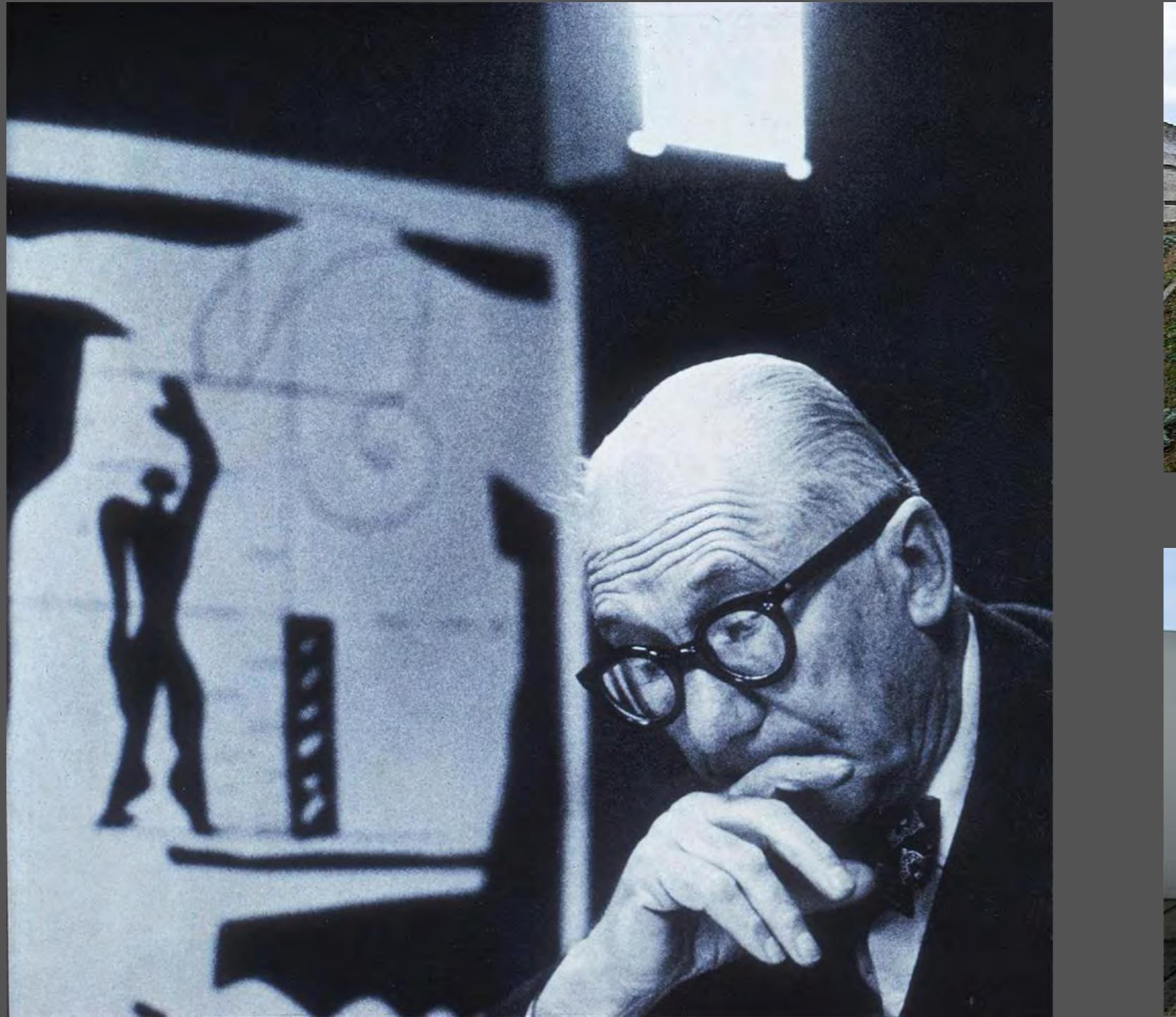
'India, that humane and profound civilization...At the end of the race, 1951 at Chandigarh contact [is] possible with the essential joys of the Hindu principle: brotherhood, relationship between the cosmos and living things: Stars, nature, sacred animals, birds, monkeys, and cows, and in the village children, adults and old people, the pond and the mango trees, everything is present and...poor but proportioned.'

political context: Le Corbusier + Nehru

+ Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru: prime minister of India, 1947-1964

+ major figure in the movement for Indian independence

'Let this be a new city, unfettered by the traditions of the past, a symbol of the nation's faith in the future.'



Le Corbusier : late works/precedents

+ tracing Le Corbusier's trajectory of post-war work:
drawing from vernacular traditions, genius loci, myths

+ 3 human establishments: "Finding again the conditions of nature, it will also find the fundamental base which unites man with the cosmos."



region



region



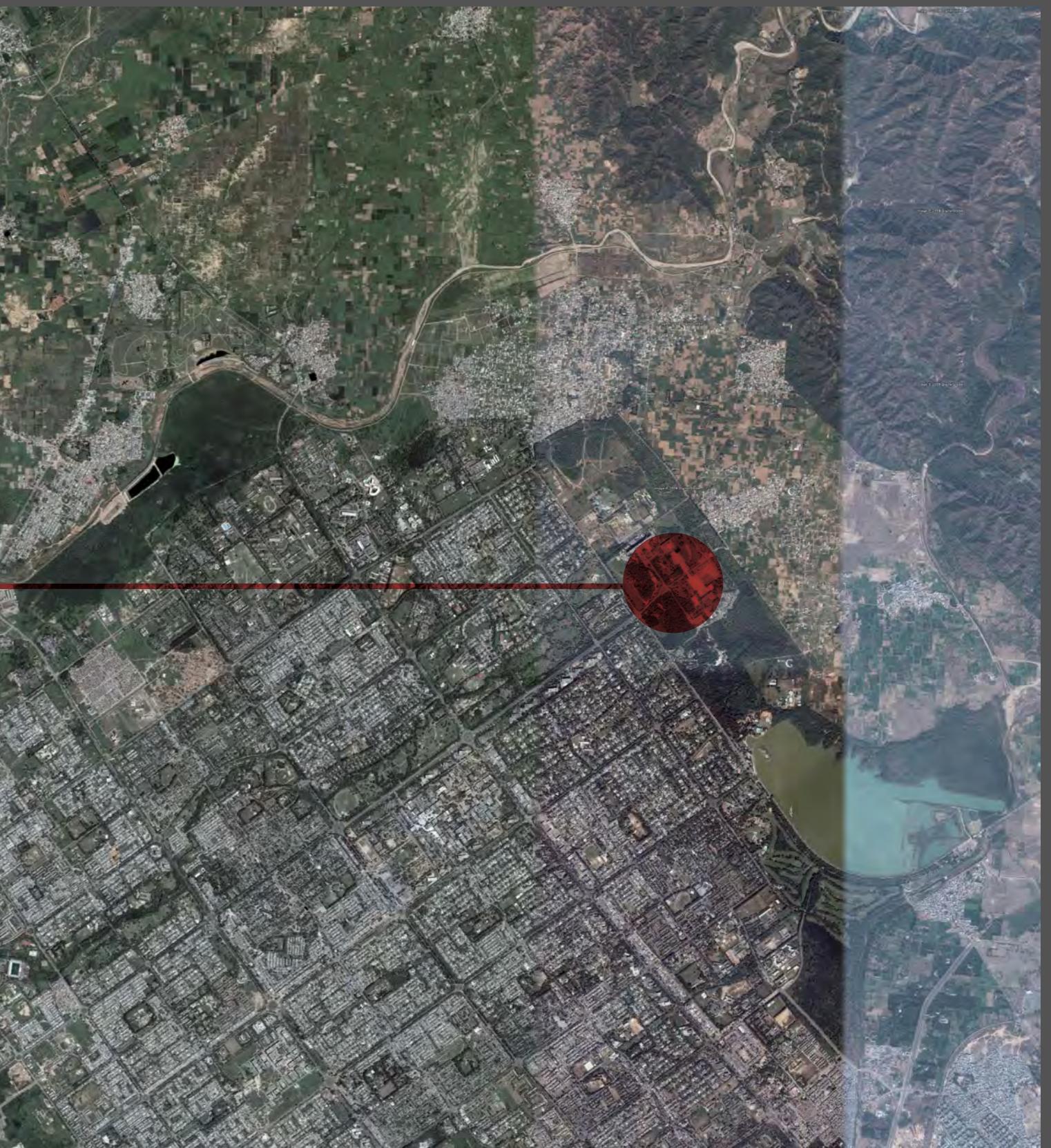
city



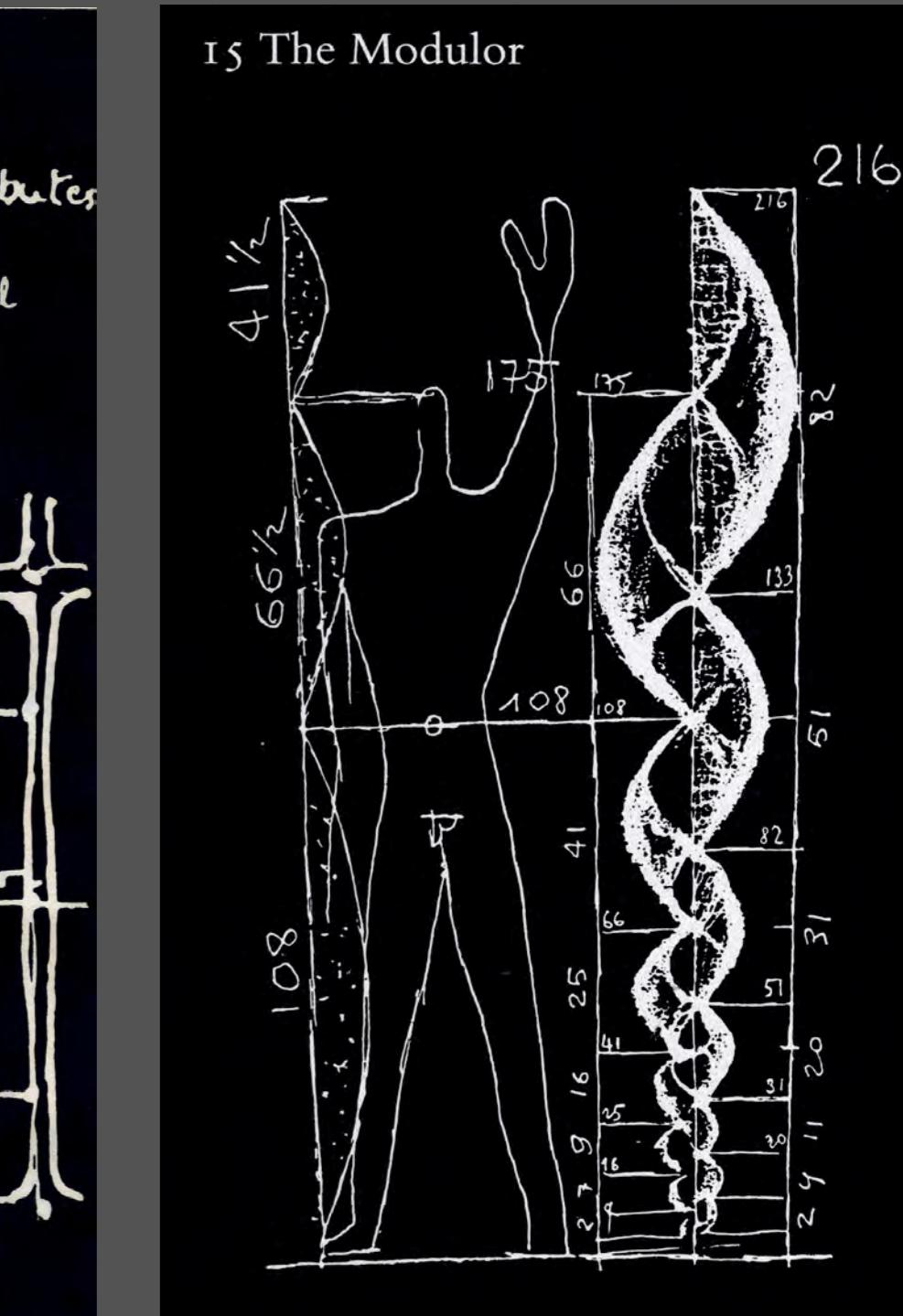
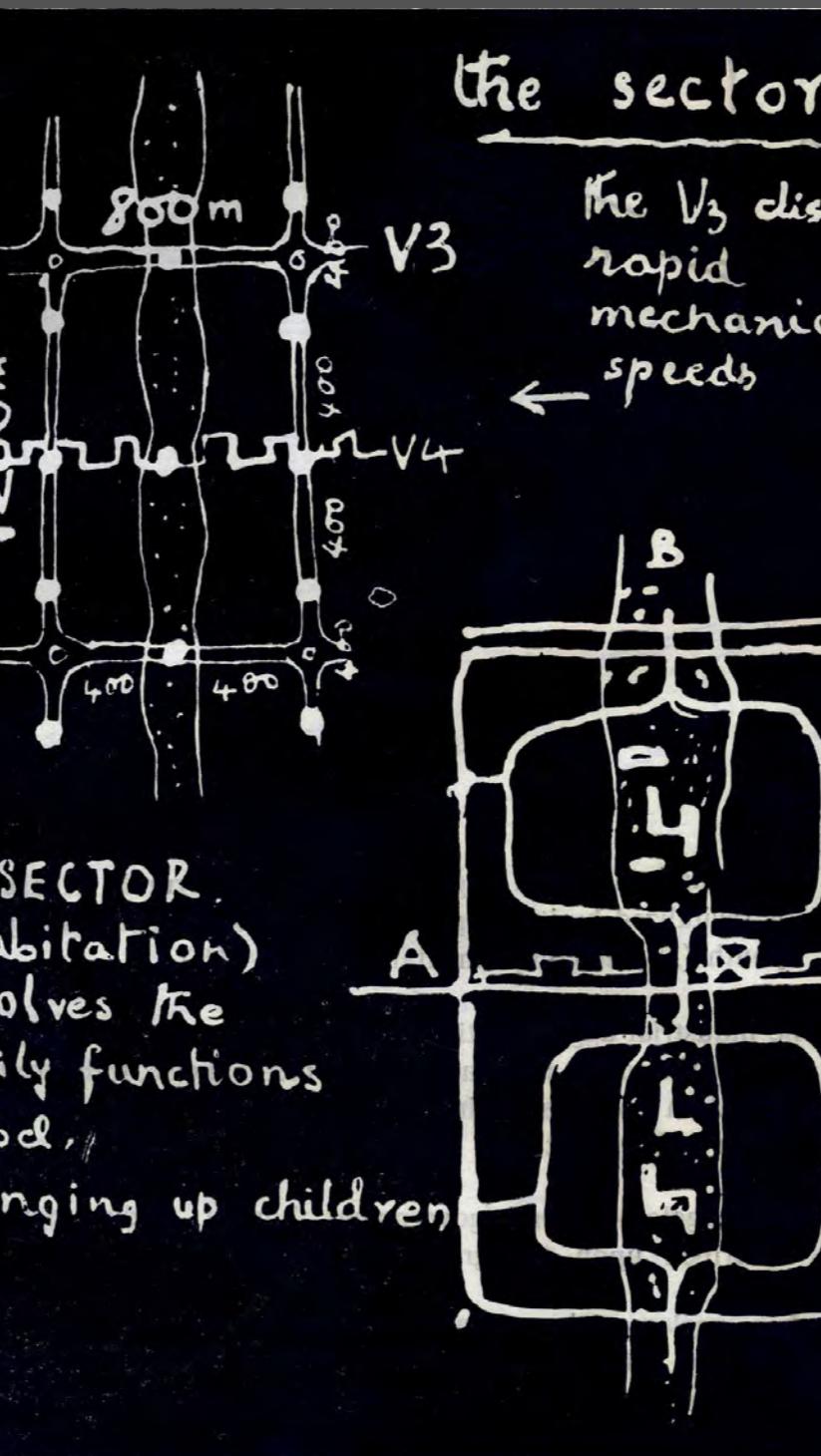
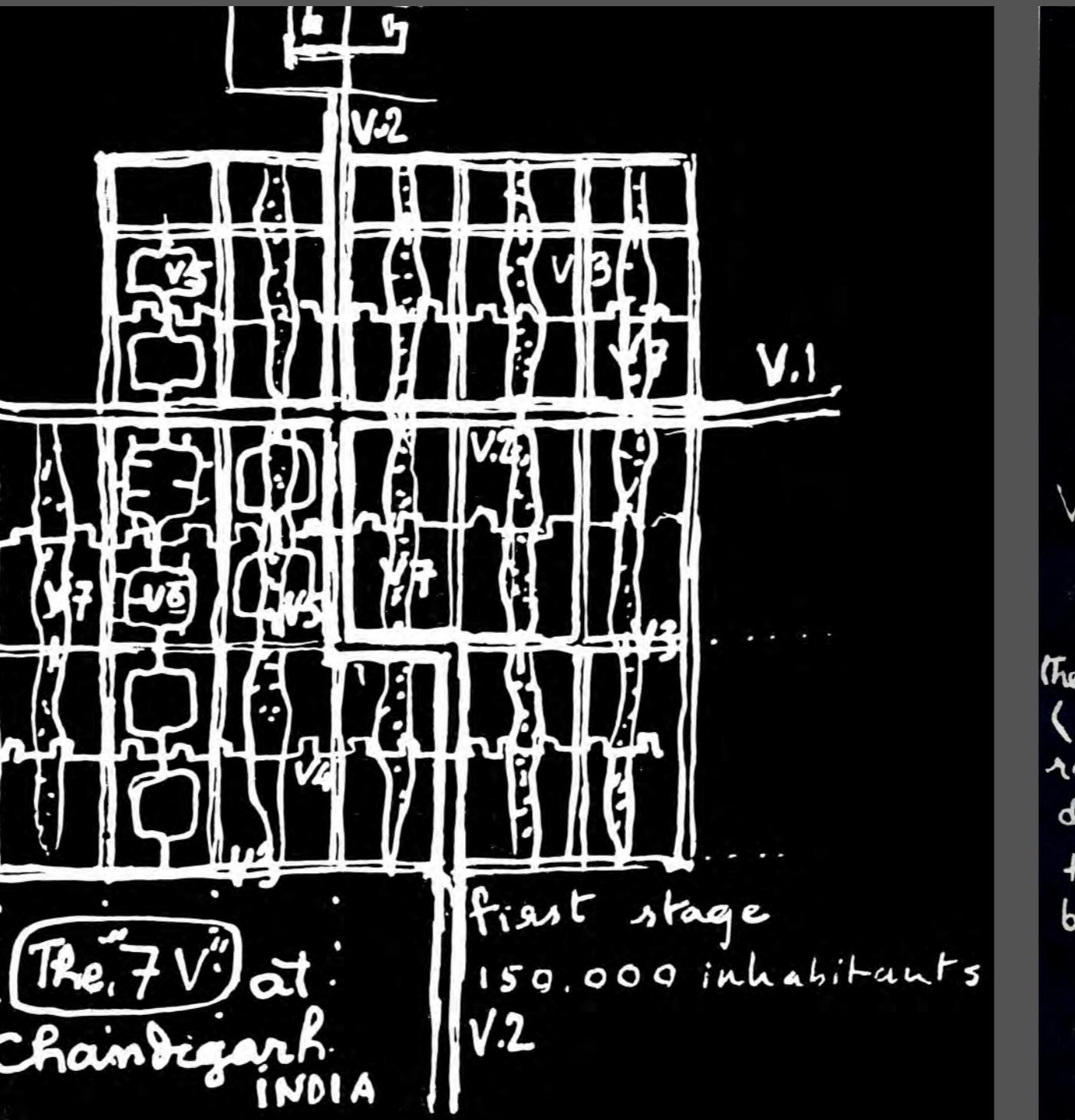
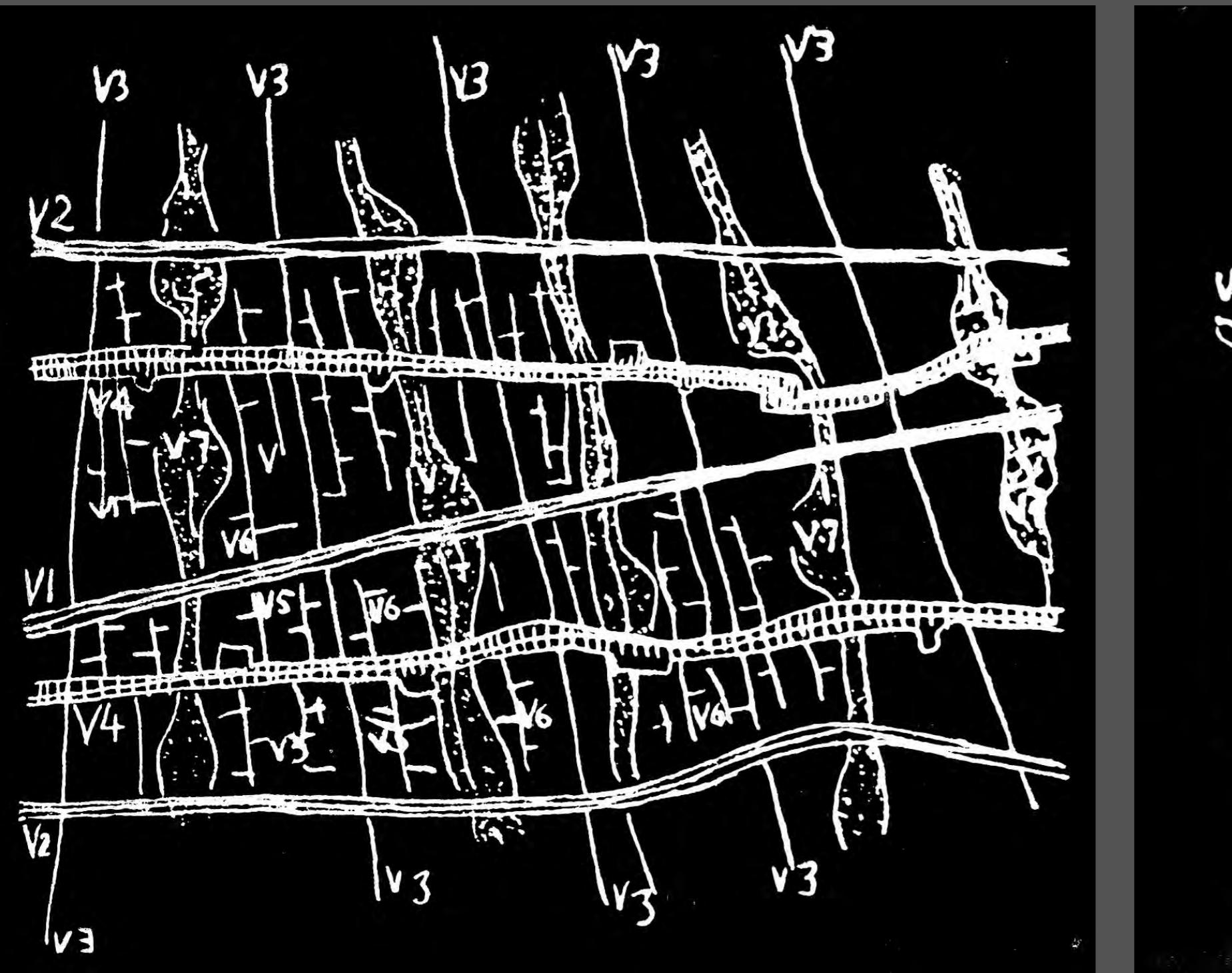
region

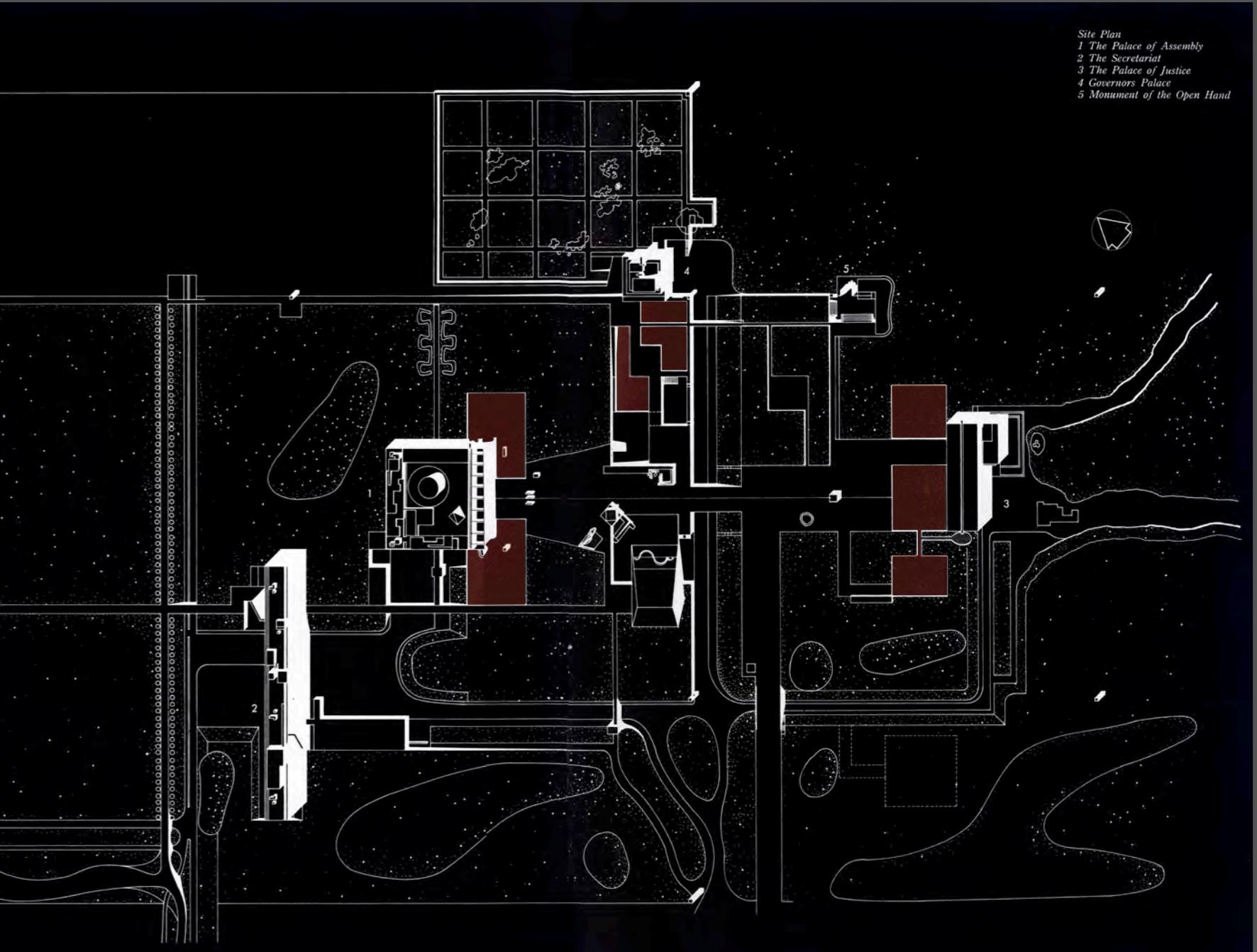
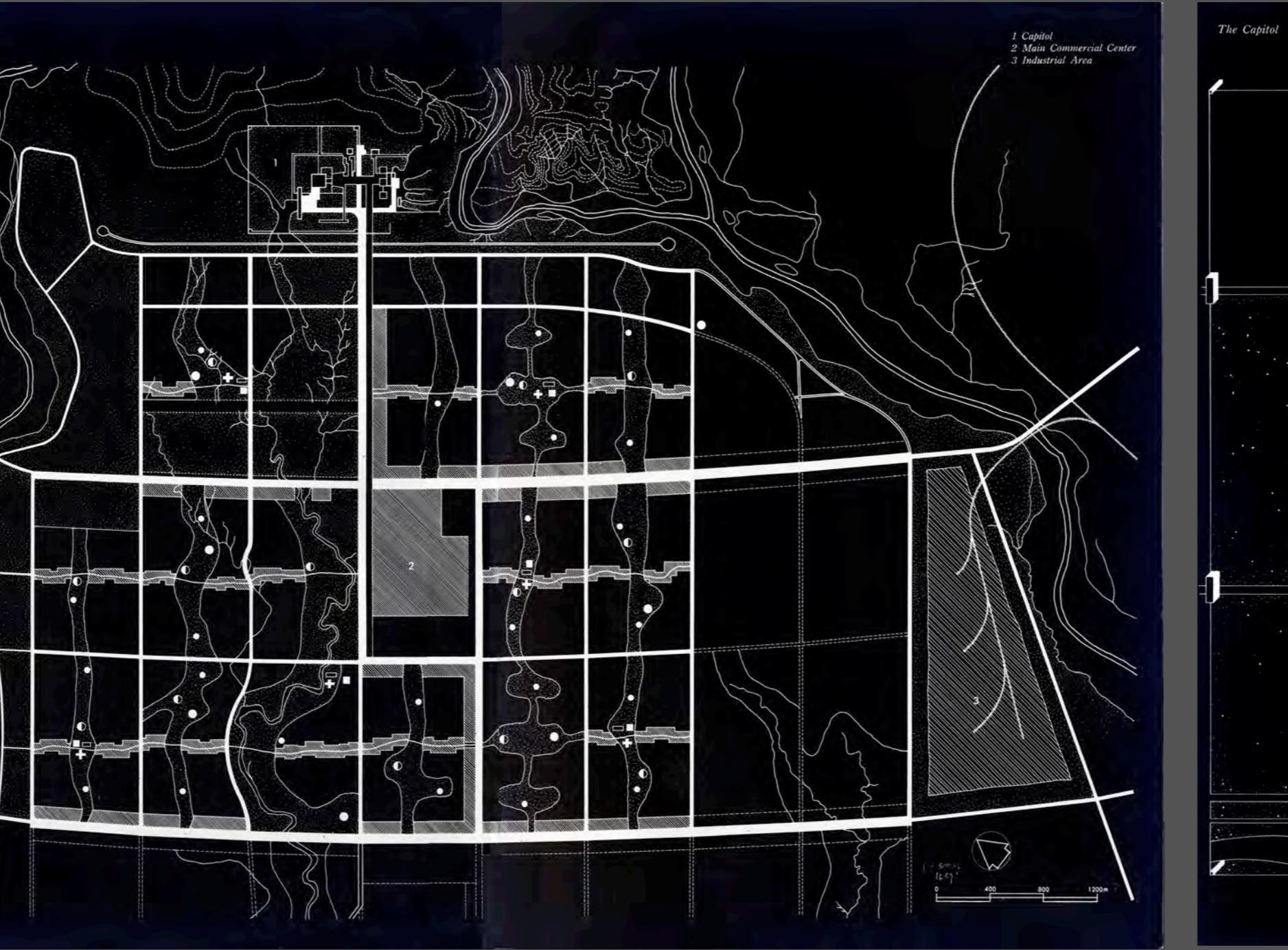
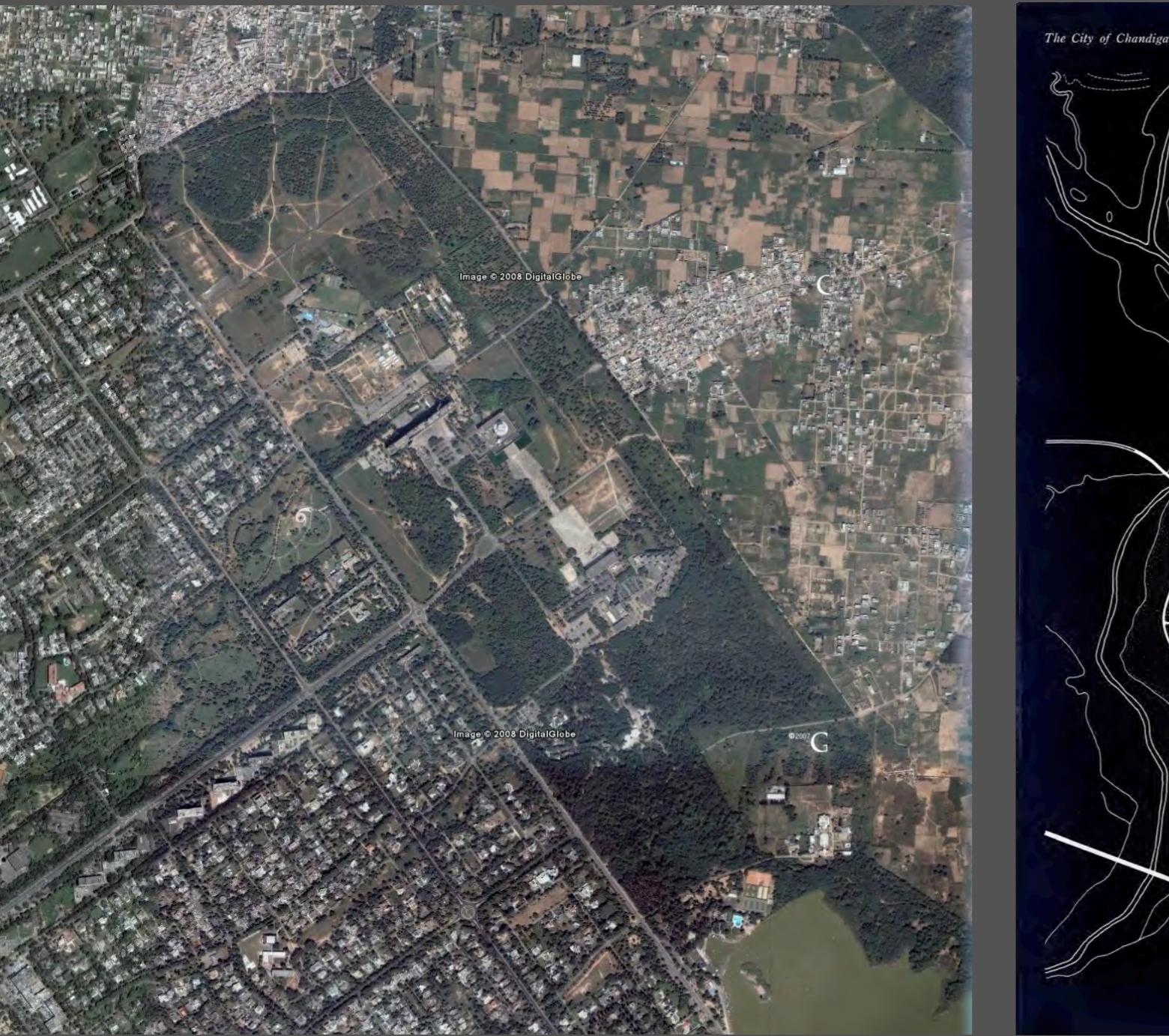


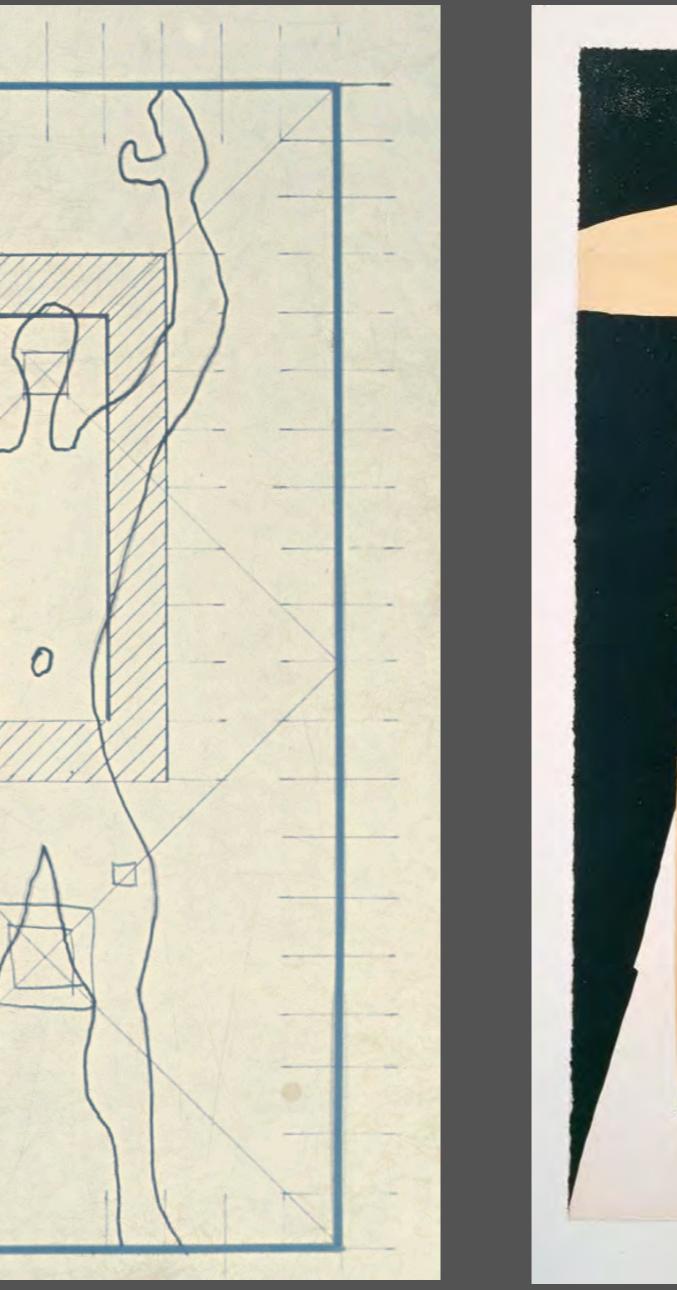
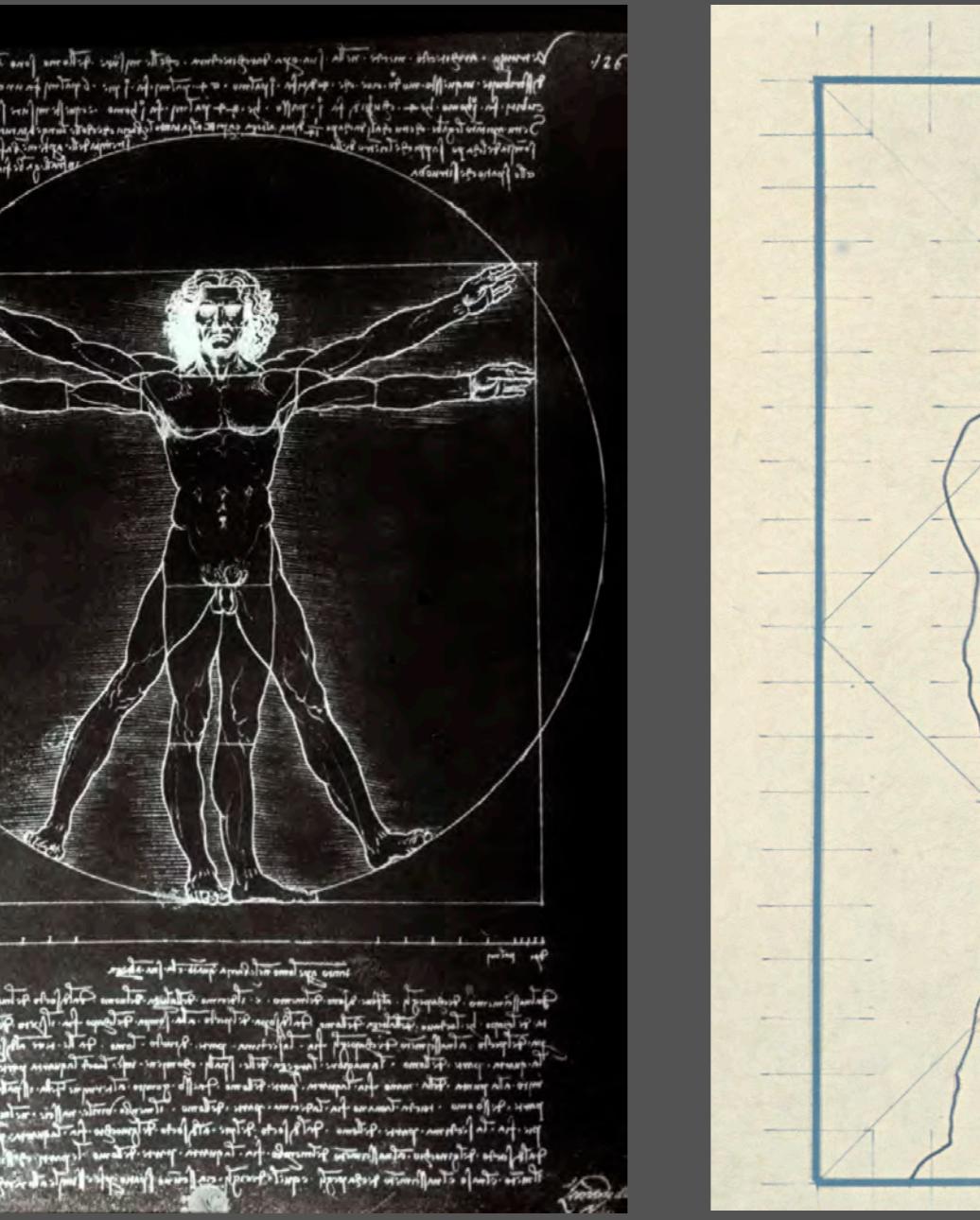
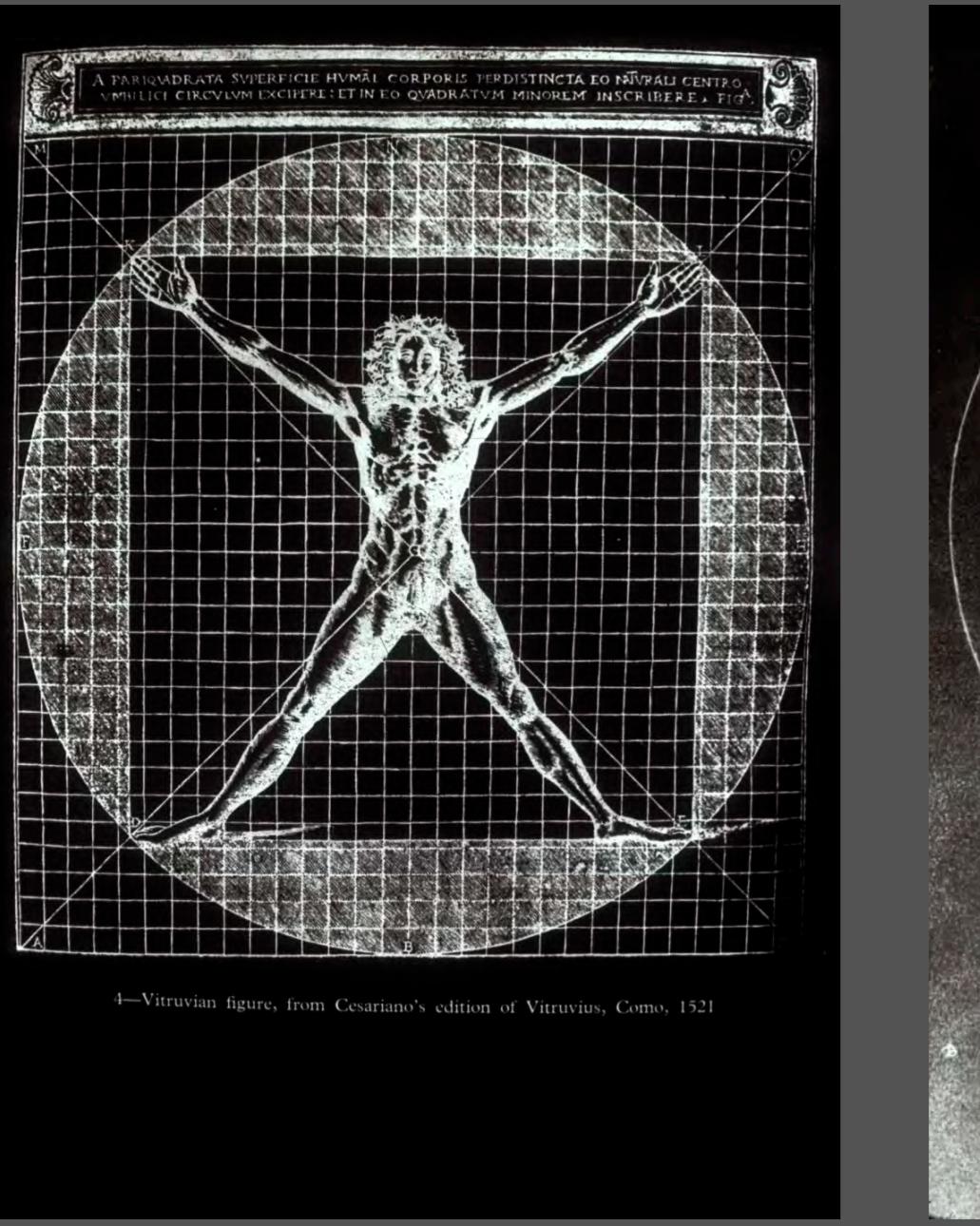
sector



city

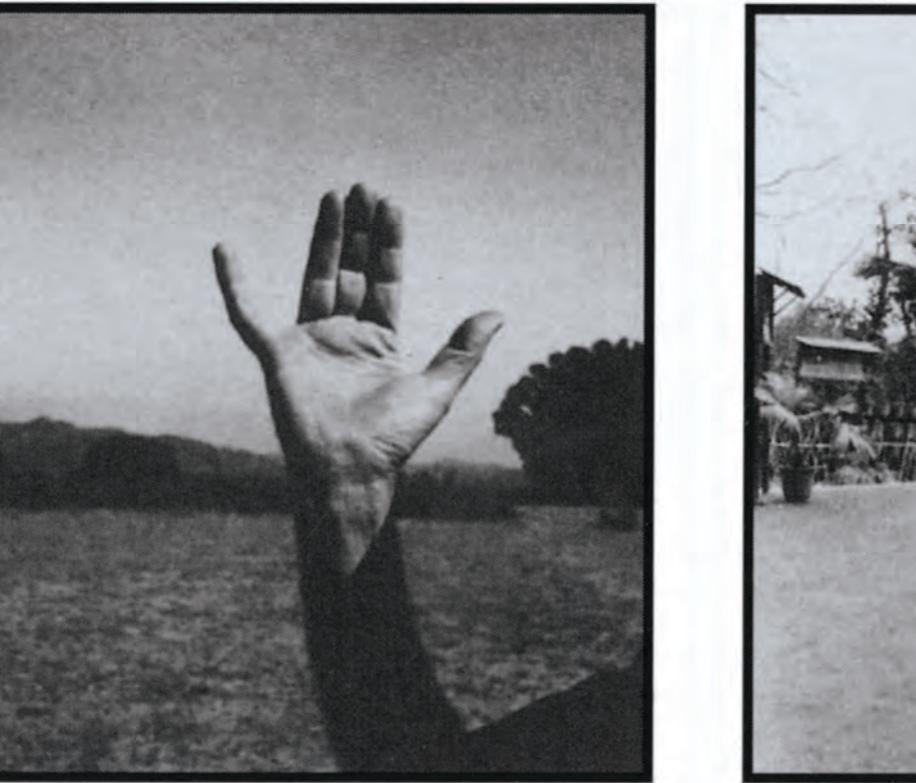
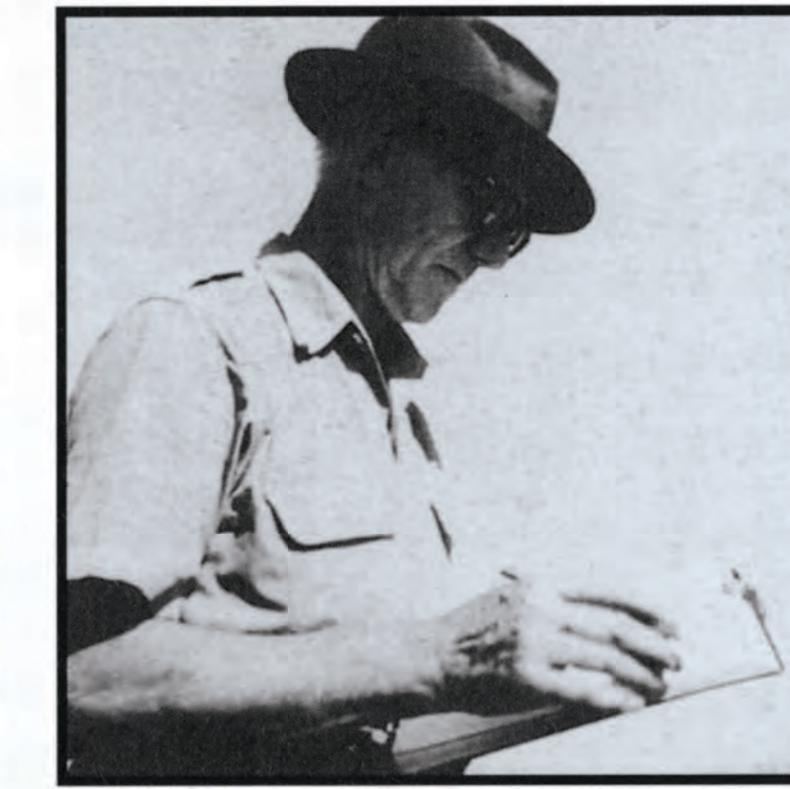
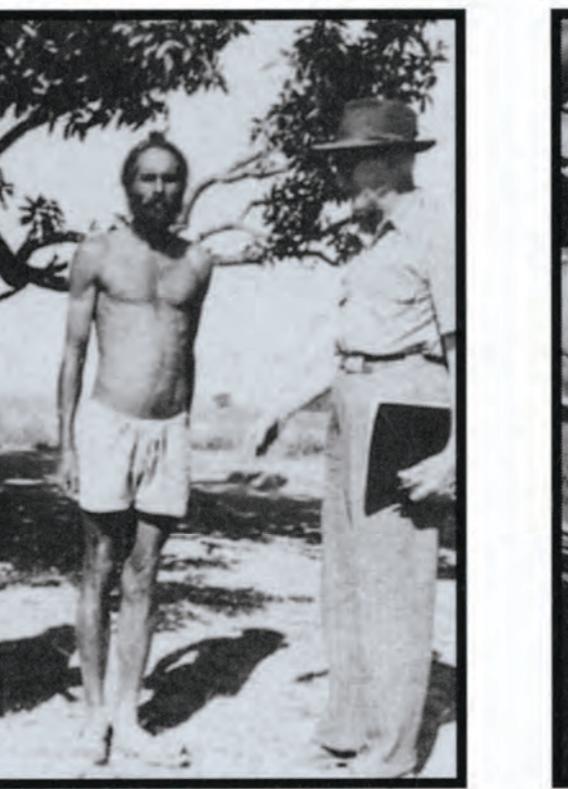
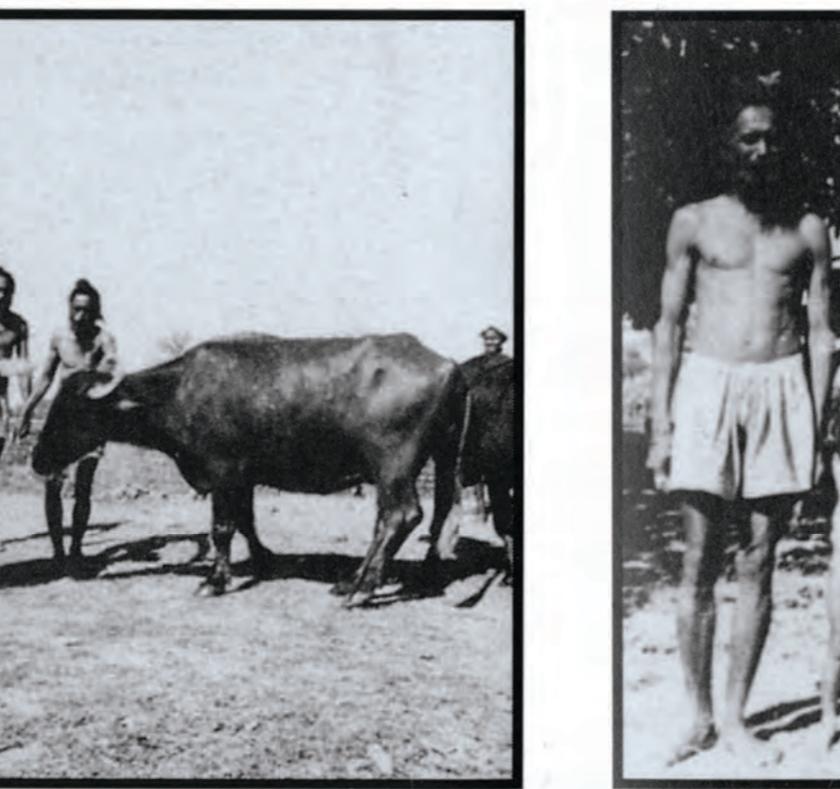
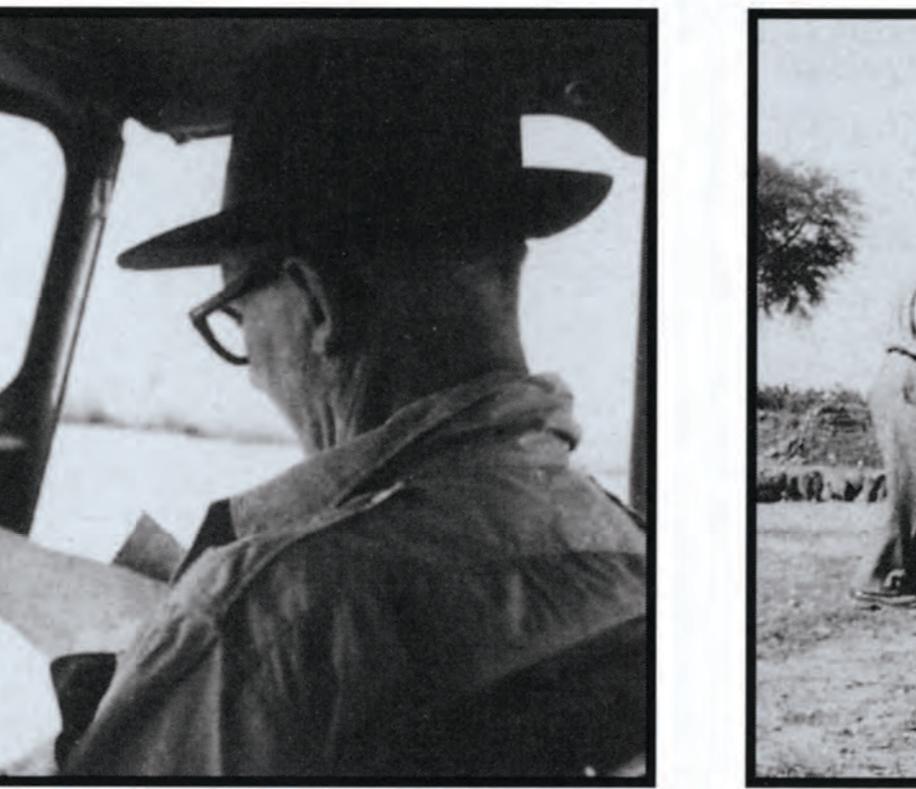




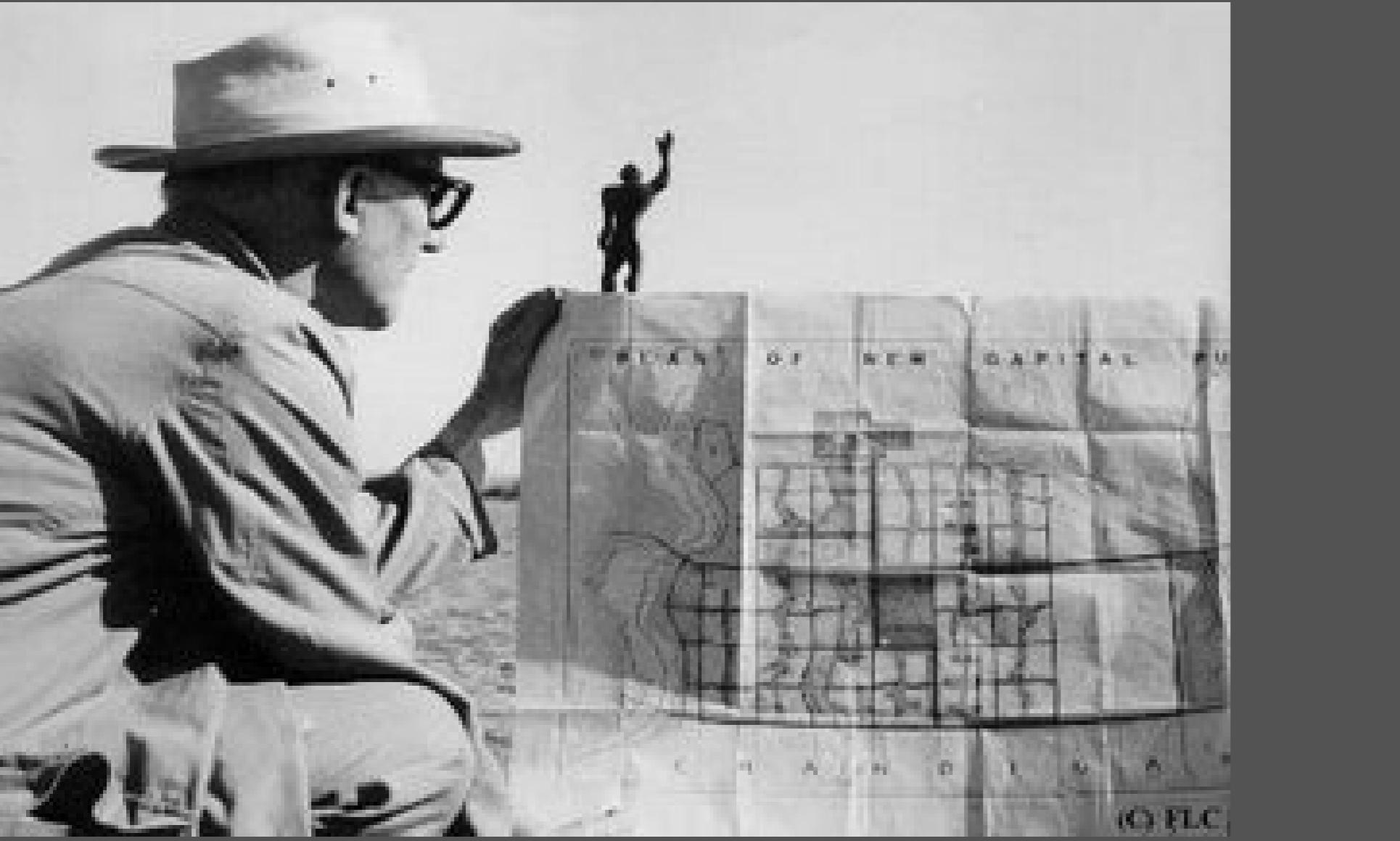


proportional systems of ordering

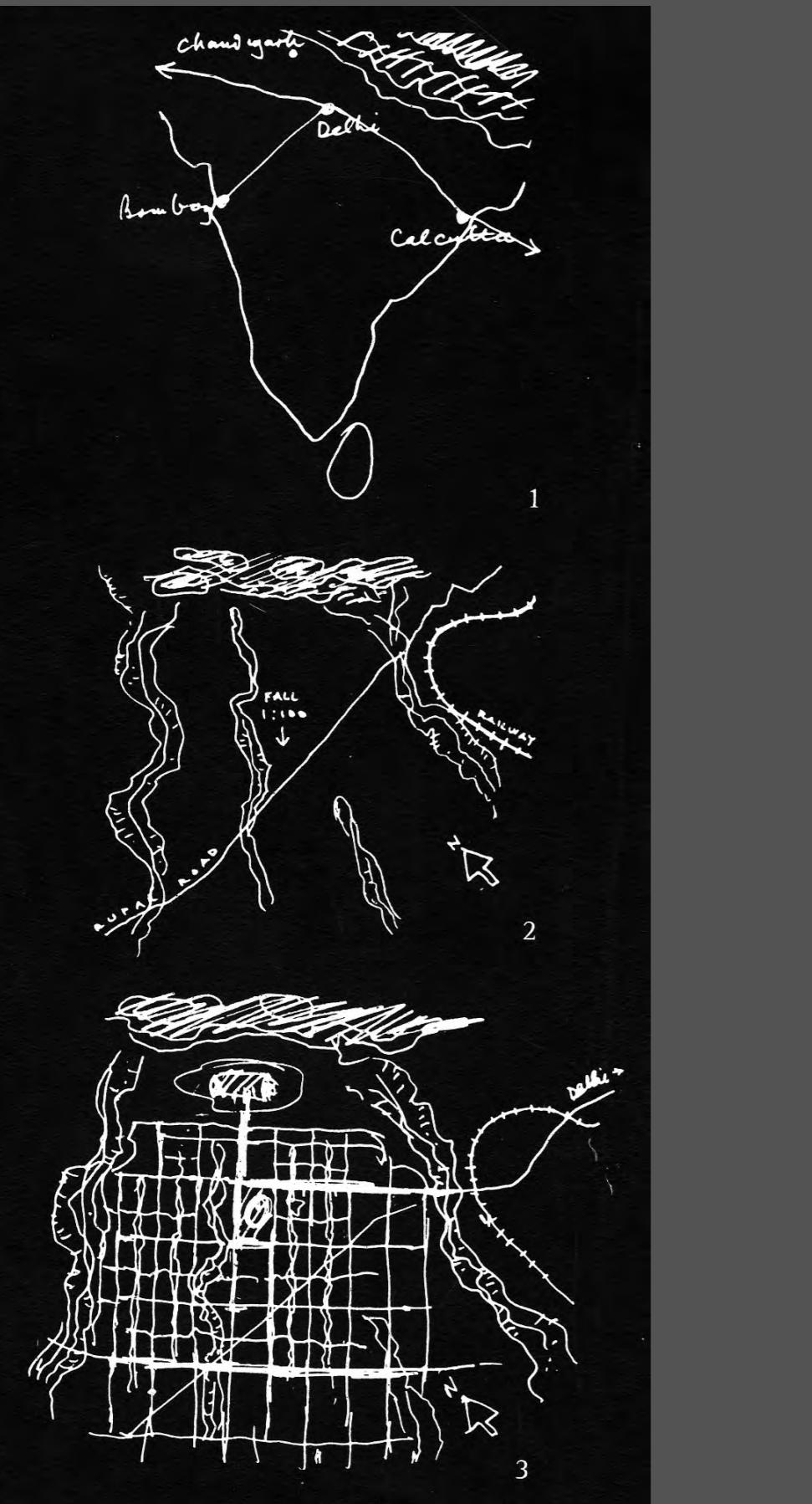
- + classical : modern systems
- + geometrical/proportional relationships of human figure as a system of ordering that applies at many scales
 - classical: man at the center of the universe; **static**, perfect geometry [Renaissance]
 - Modulor: **dynamic** relationship between man and his surroundings
 - + LC's concern for the "condition of Man" reflected in his structuring and deployment of Modulor



Clichés pris lors de l'une des premières visites de Le Corbusier sur le site de Chandigarh.



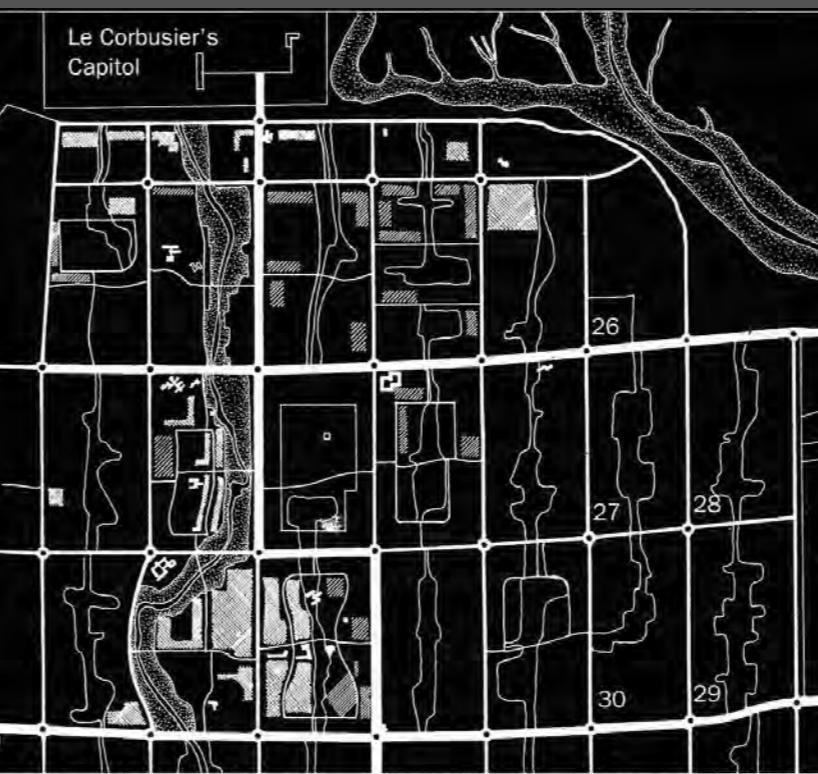
in order to work out the answers to the formidable problems presented by our time and with regard to its equipment, there is only one acceptable criterion which will reduce every question to a common denominator: Man.



1951



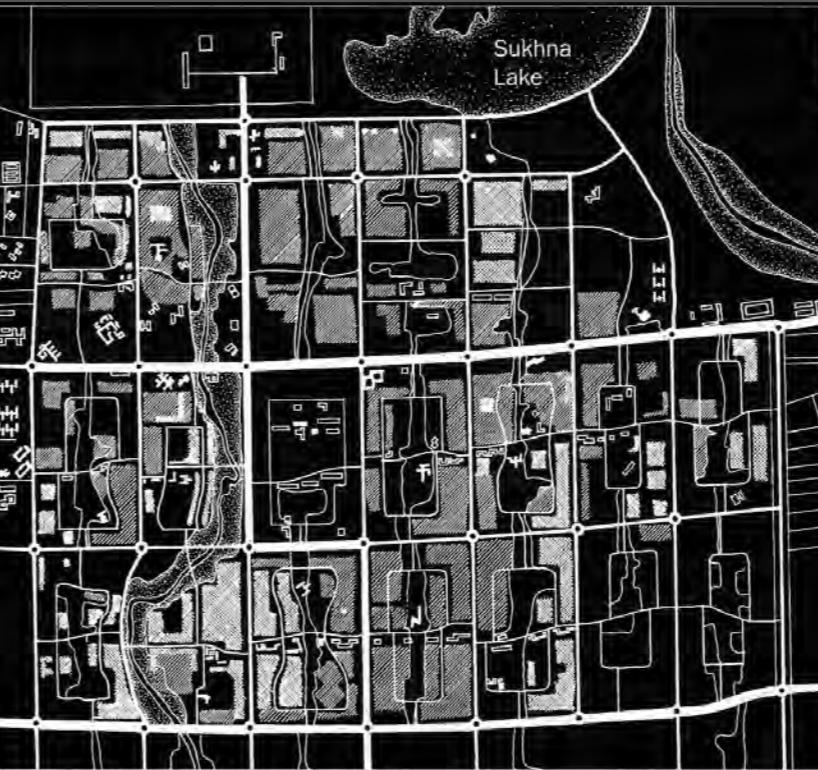
1956



1961

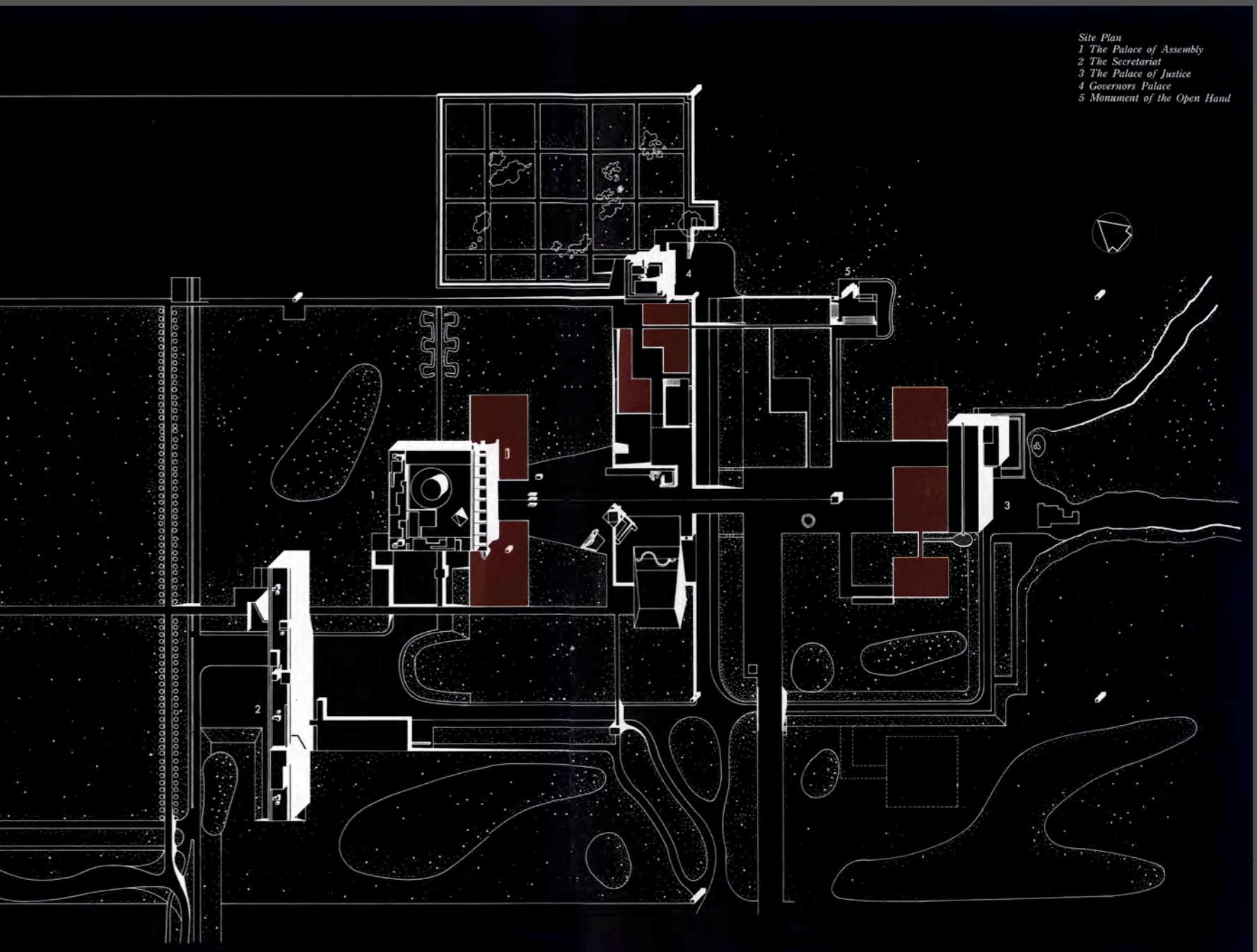
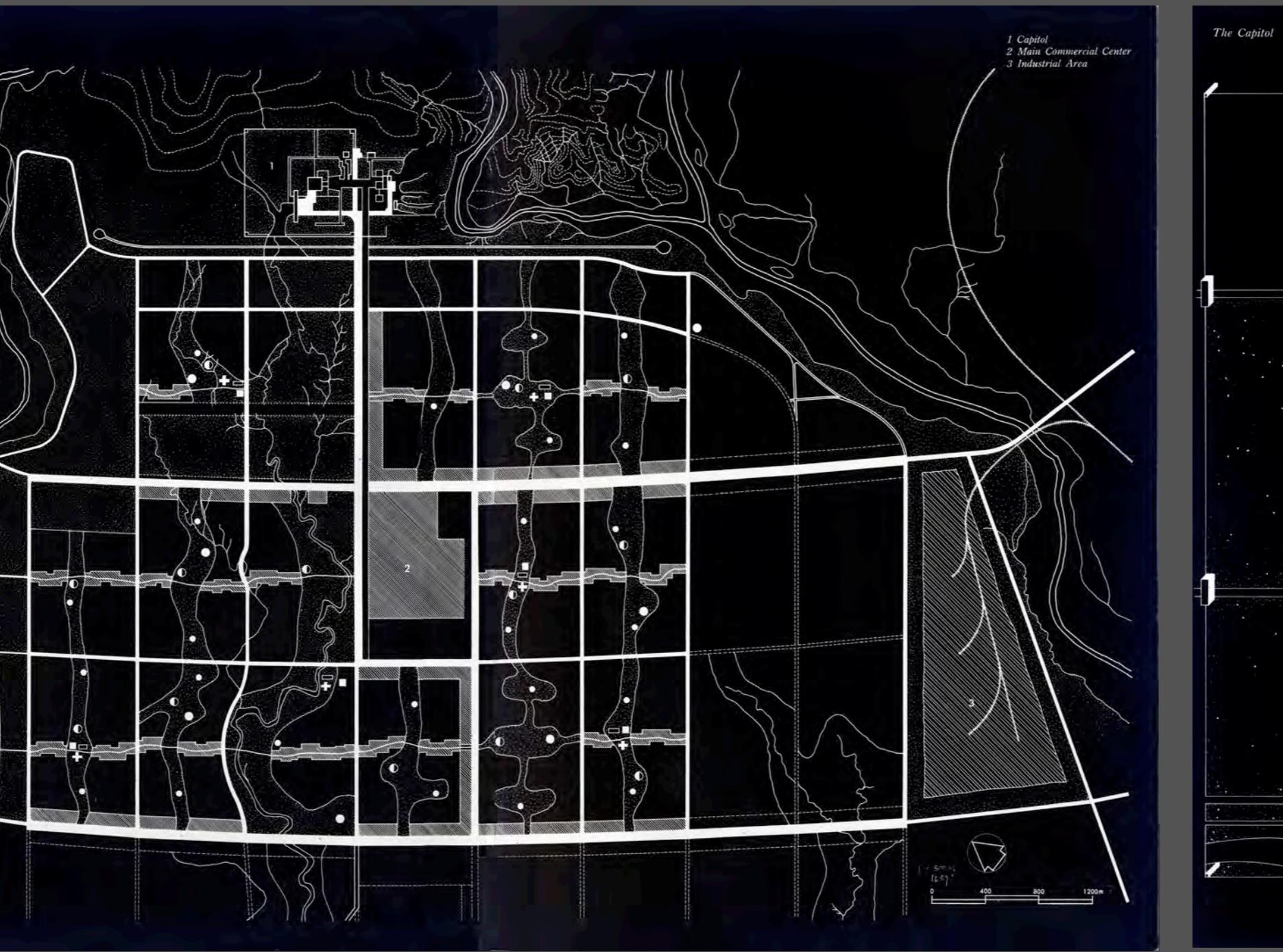
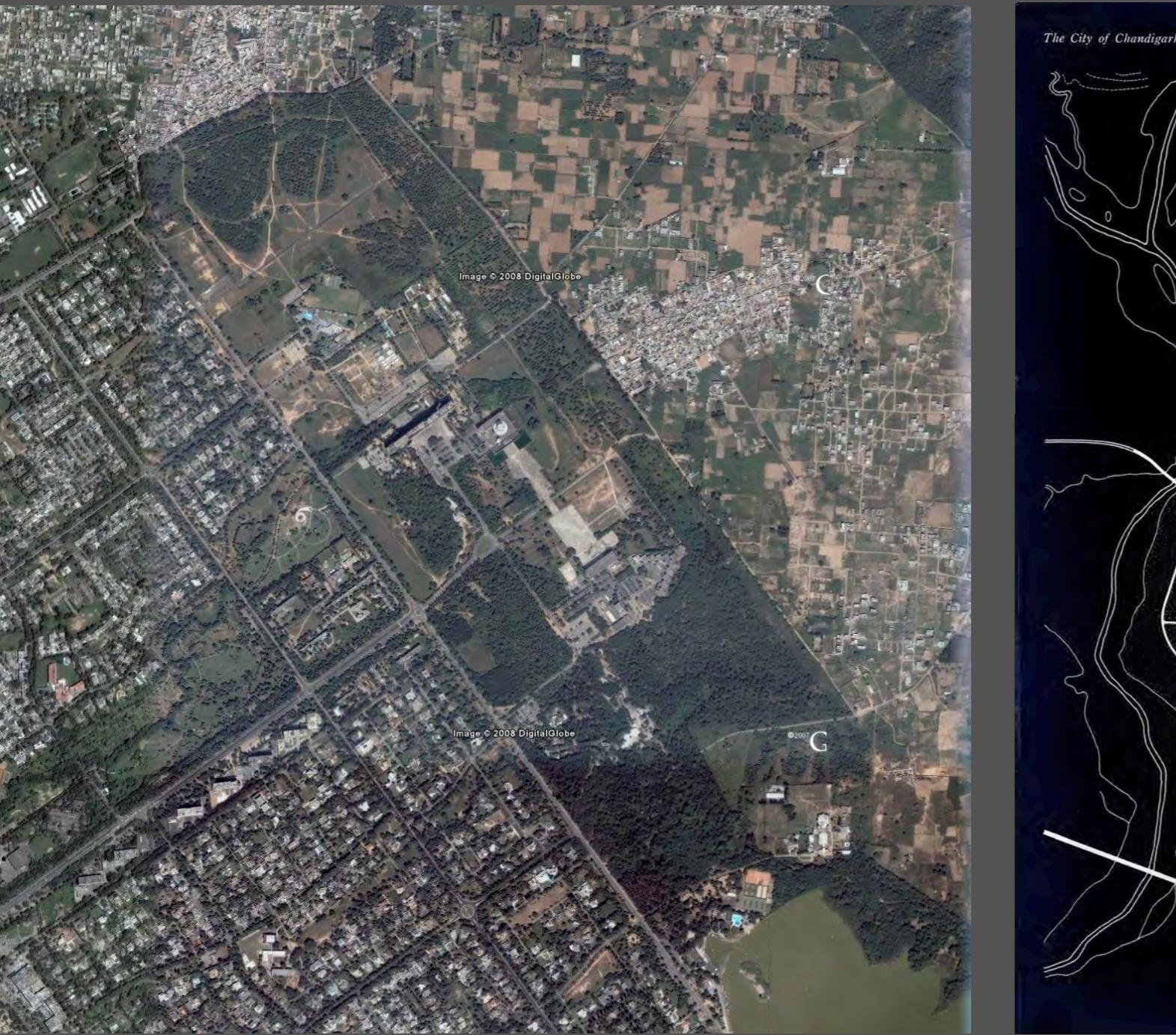


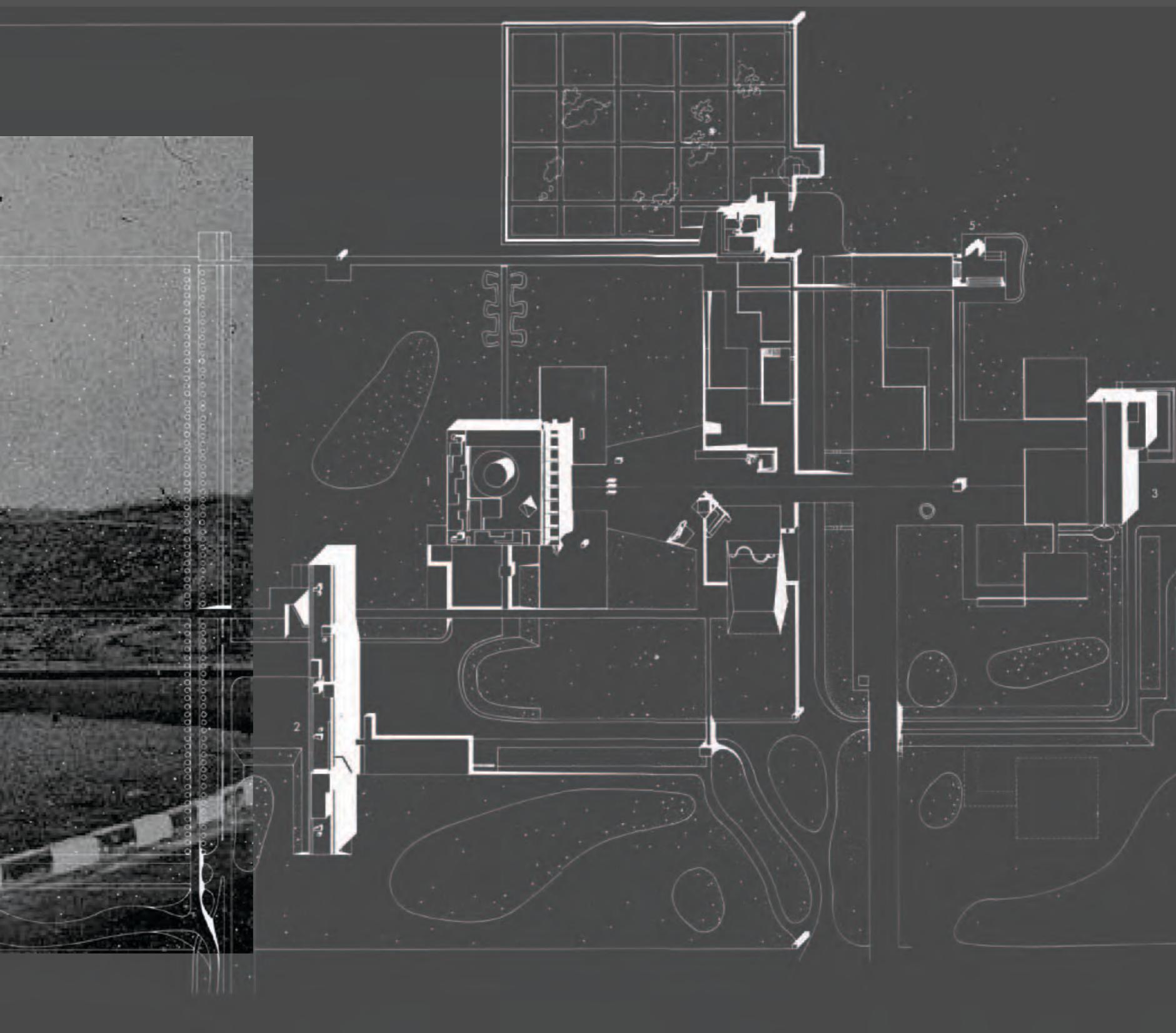
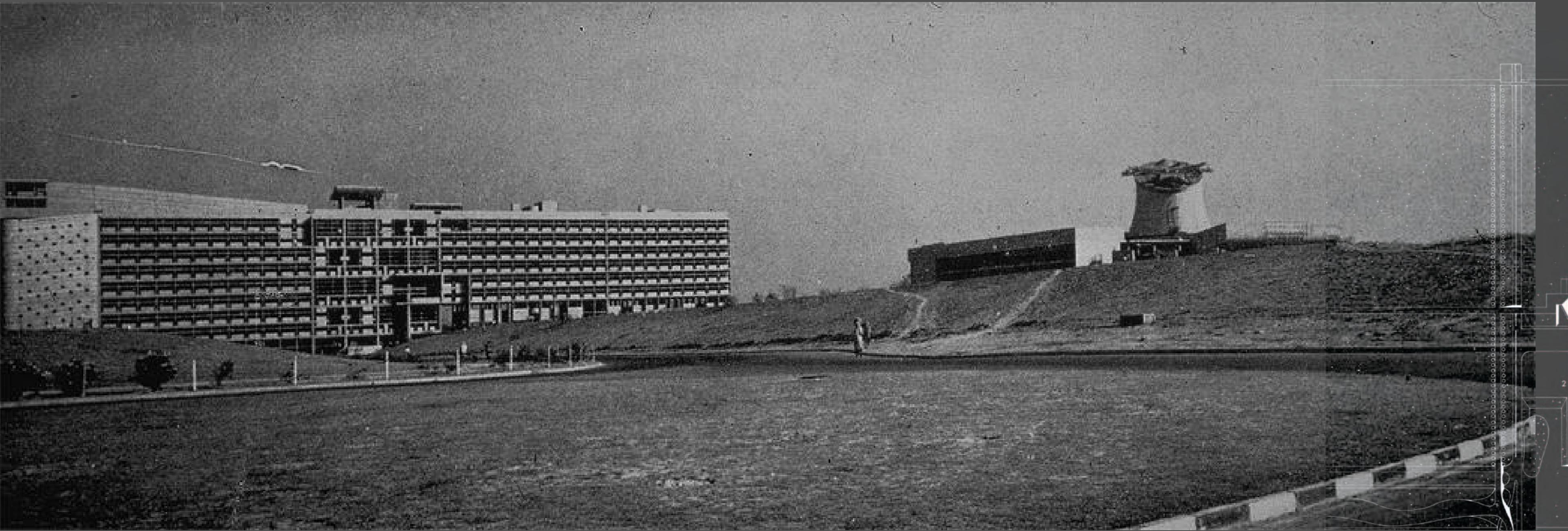
1966



chandigarh, the city beautiful

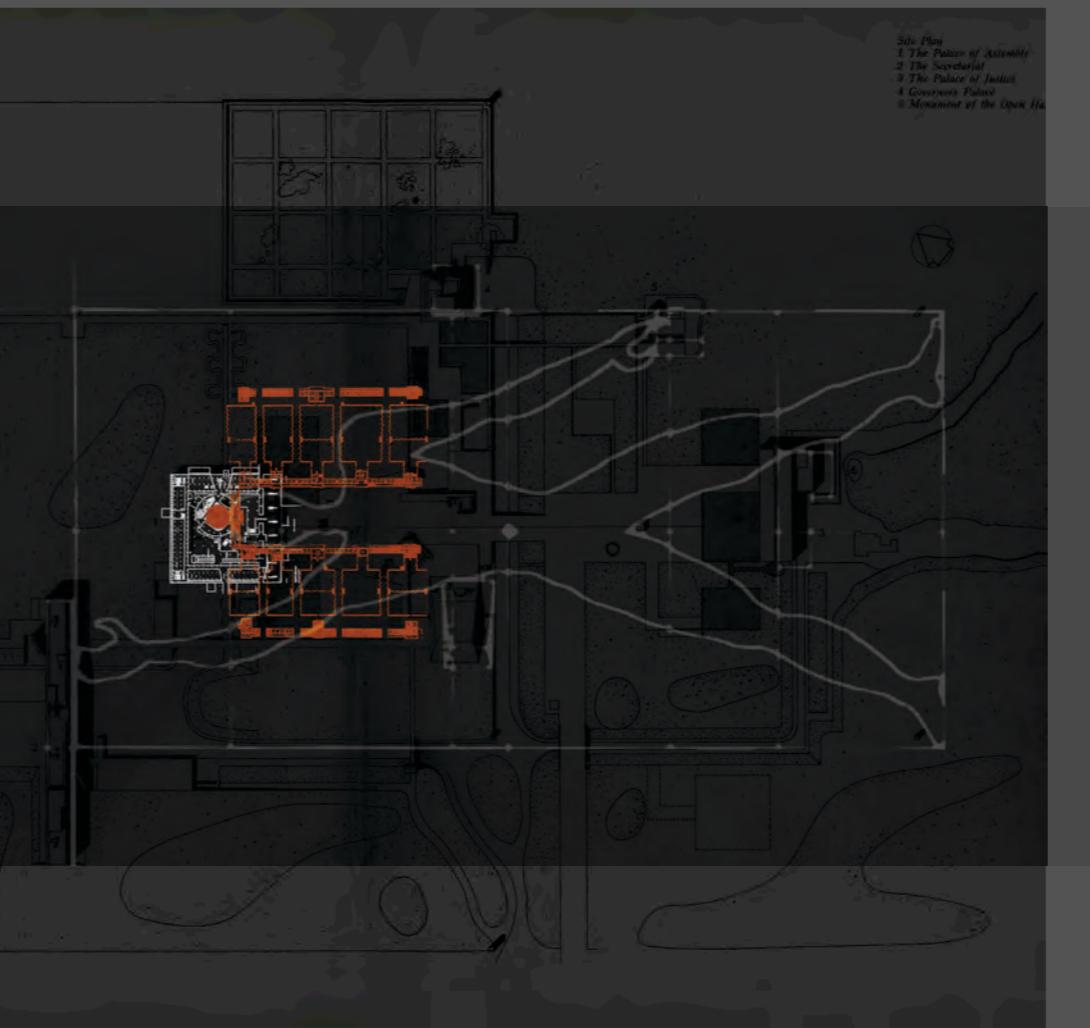
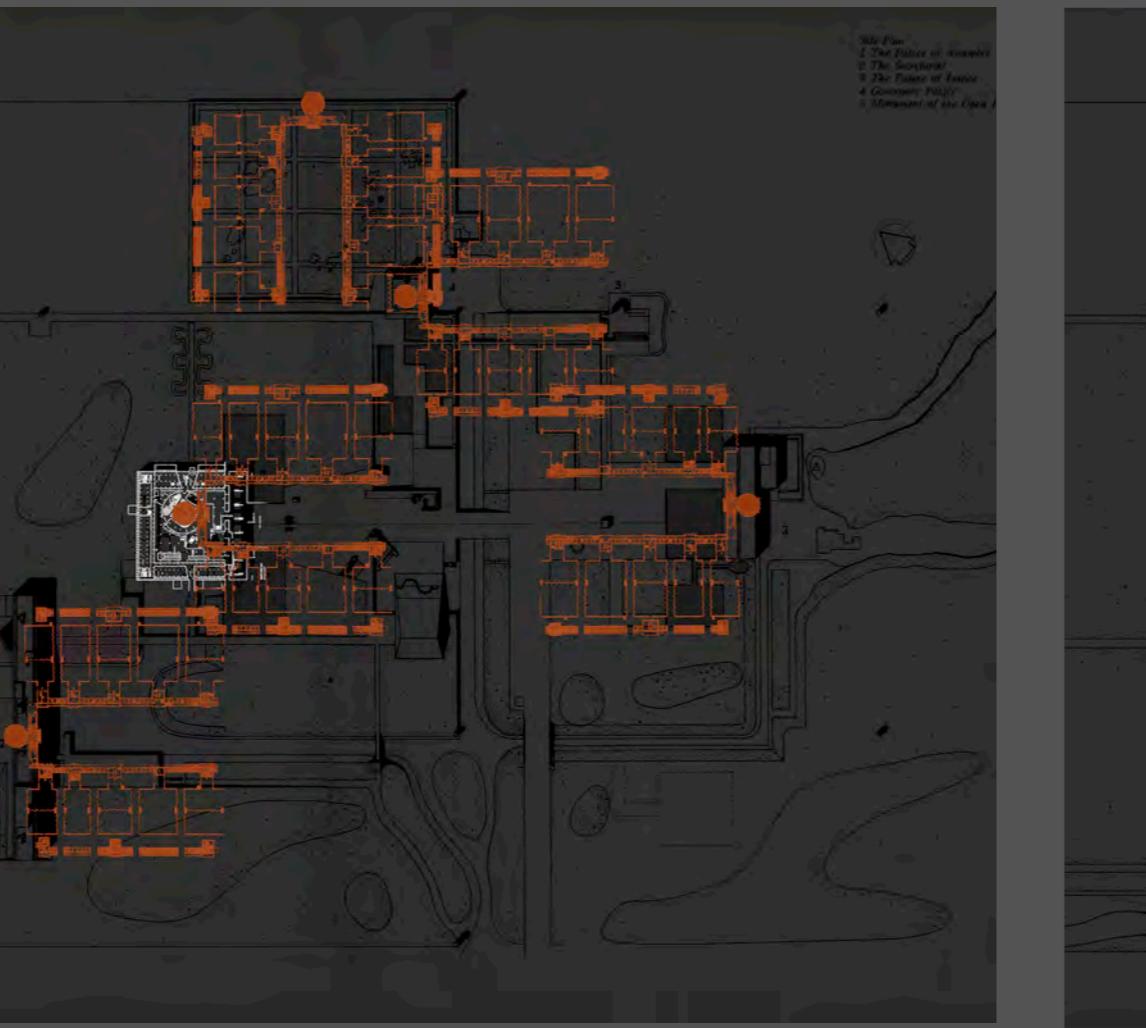
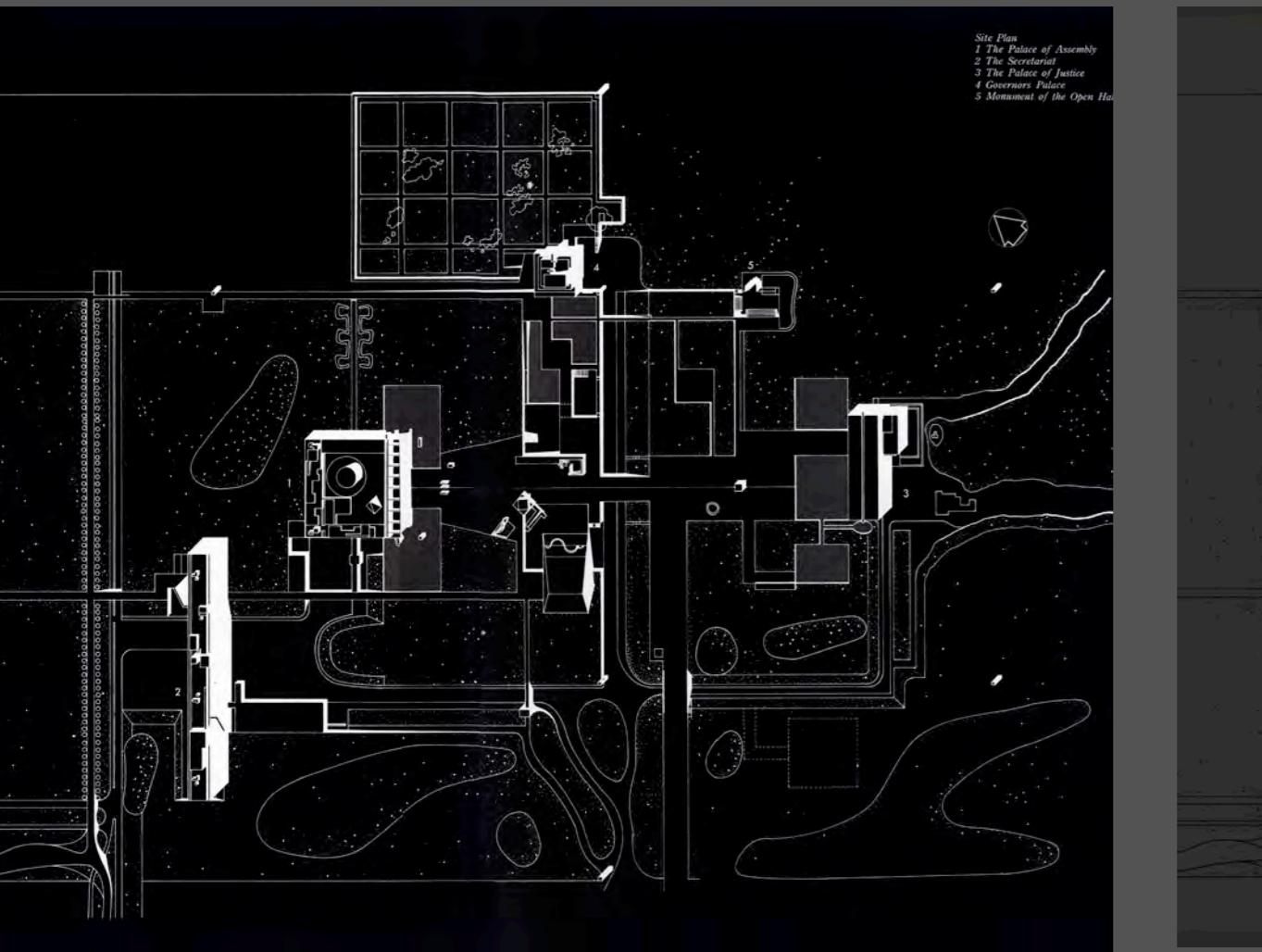
- + 3 Human Establishments:
radiant village
linear industrial city
radio-concentric city of exchange
- + layered systems of transport as “irrigation of territory”
- + establishment of grid, juxtaposed with sinuous stream corridors; registration of geometrical ordering of landscape against alluvial precondition as framework for inhabitation
- + pedestrian as fundamental unit of measure and movement in the city
- + planned aggregation: 500,000; actual: 900,000





civic | monumental scale

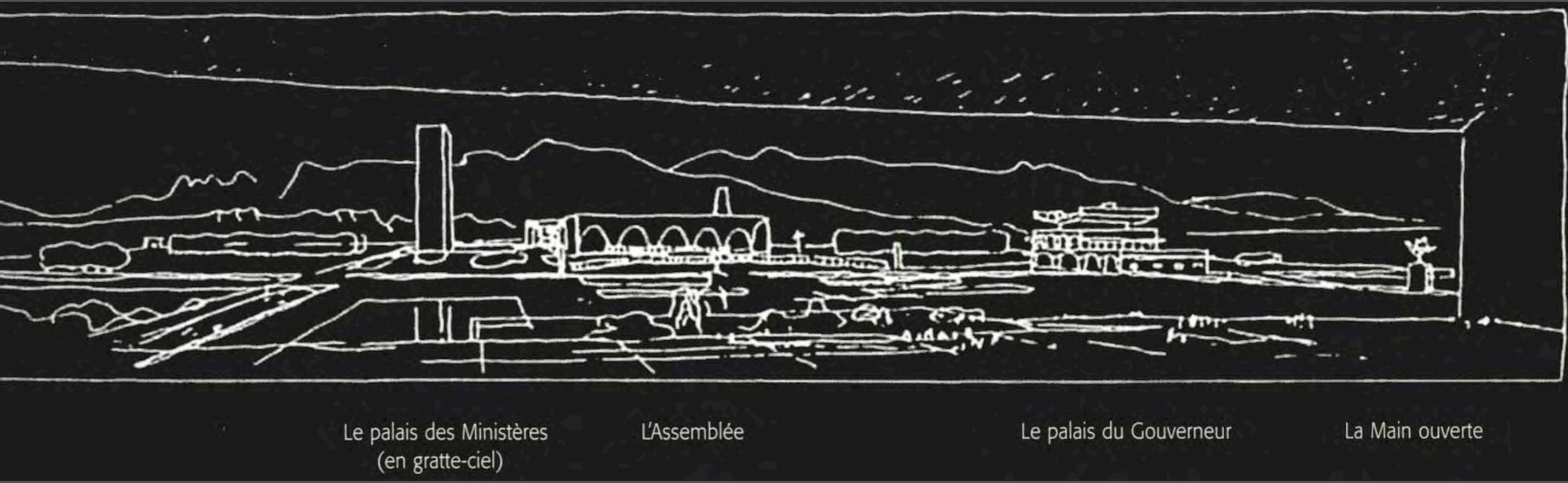
- + scale of constituent parts related to the scale of the extent of the Lawn
- + Gast: overlay of Modulor man on site plan registers the proportional system of its composition

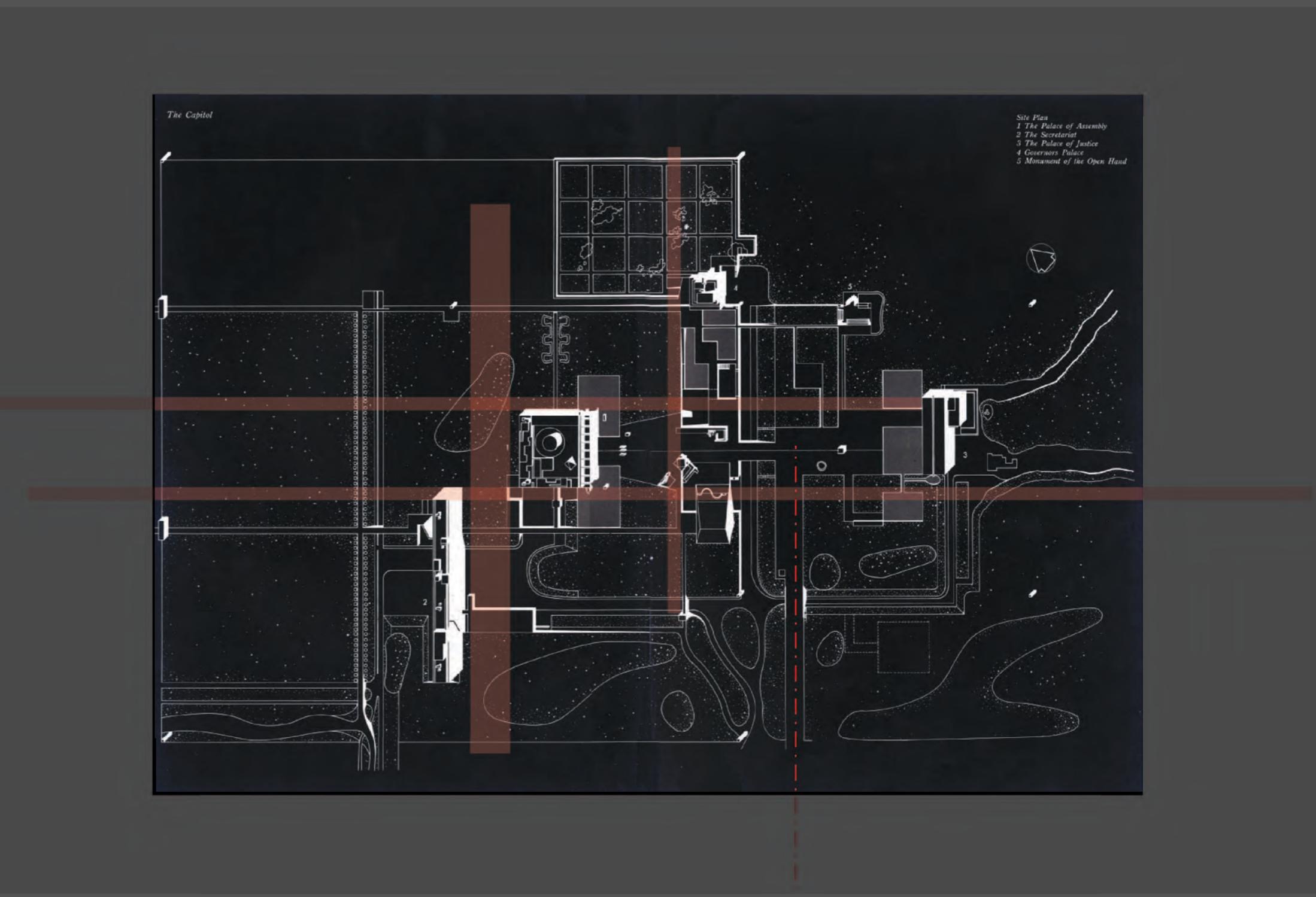
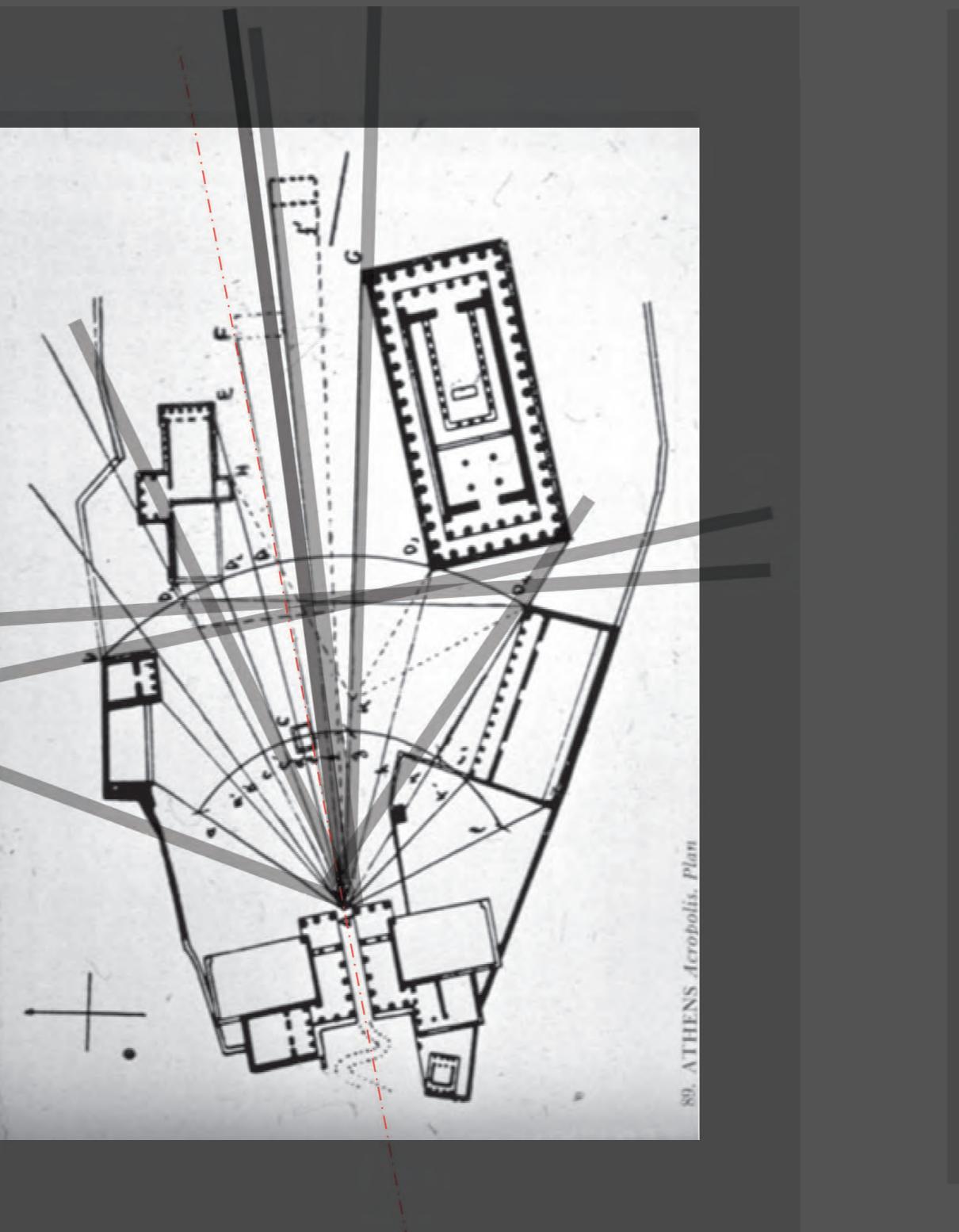
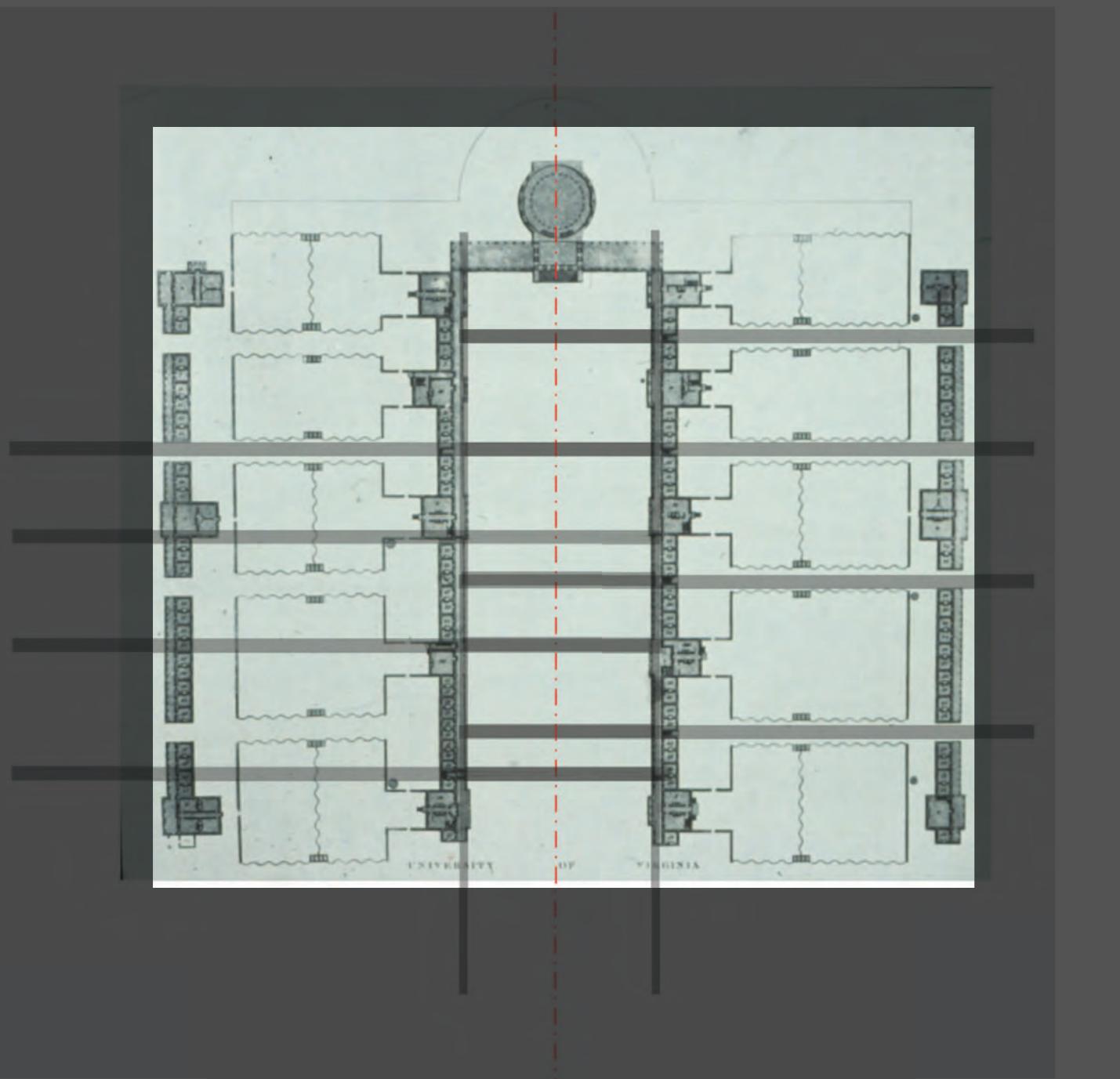


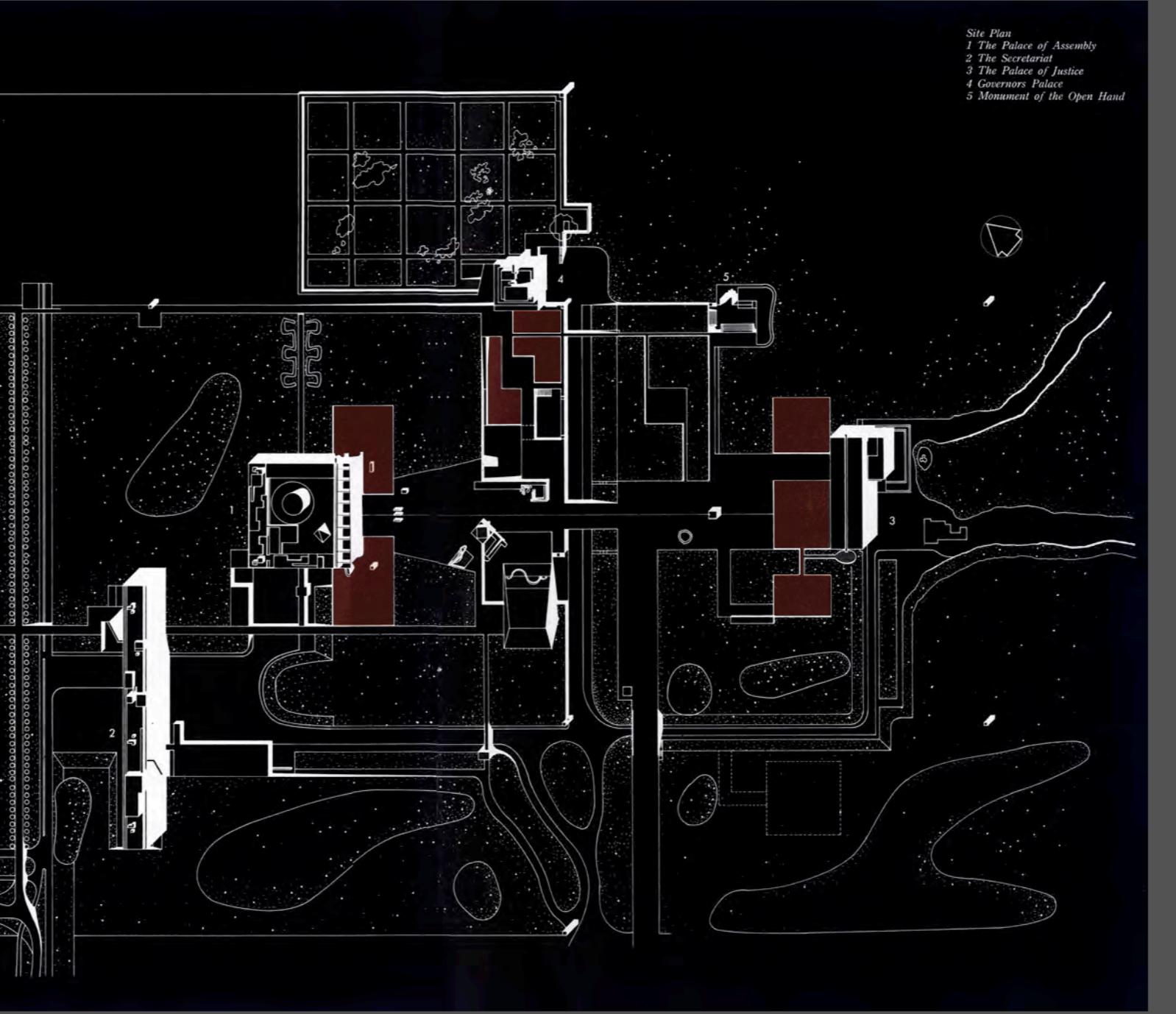
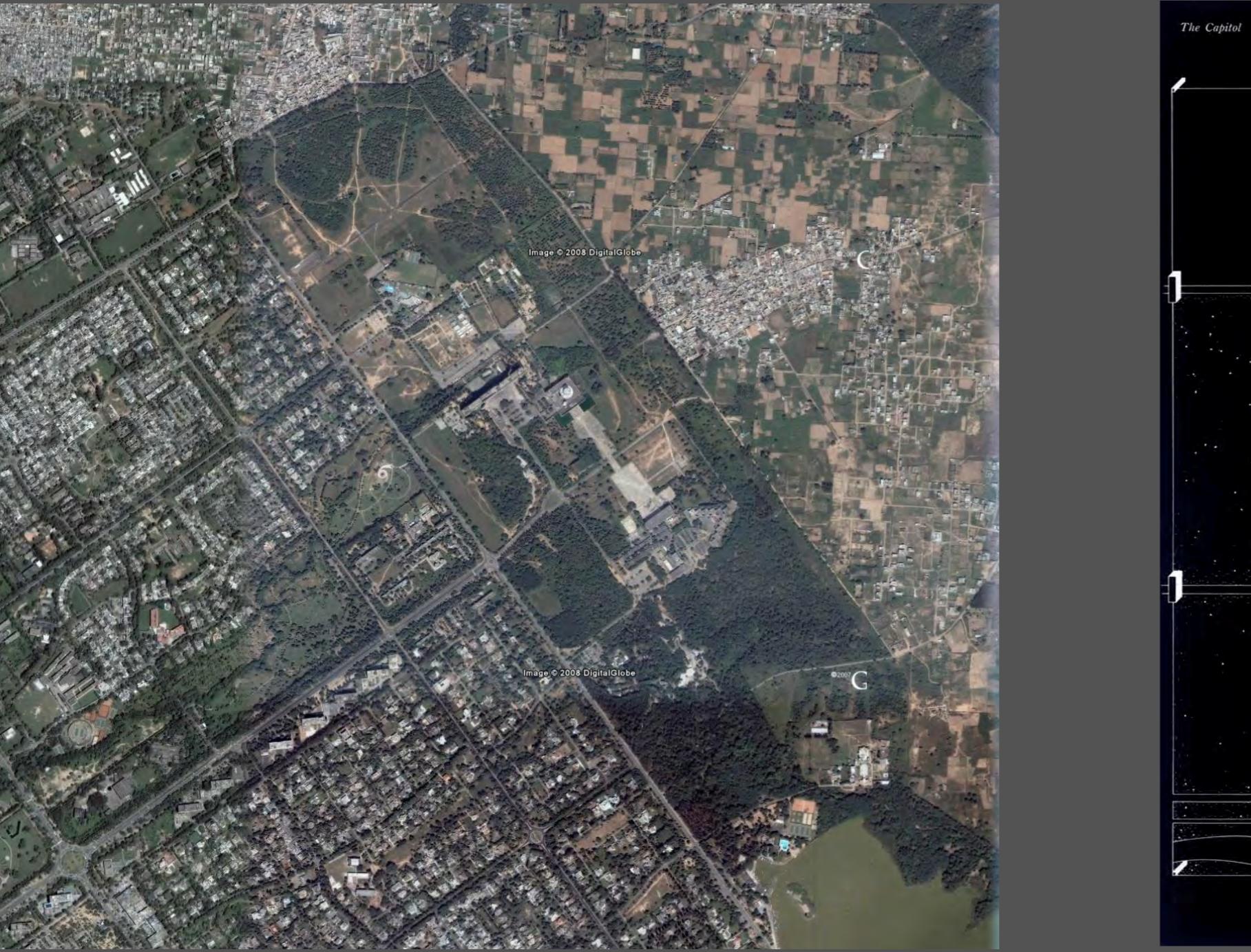


capitol complex : cosmic landscape

- + Frampton: ‘tensions and spatial ambiguities’ between immediate and distant elements
- + *shakkei/borrowed scenery*: mountains define horizon
- + ground, water, sky, and horizon: themes of Hindu and Christian philosophy







capitol complex: elements of democracy

+ 7 elements according to Indian constitution:

Assembly Building/Parliament
Secretariat

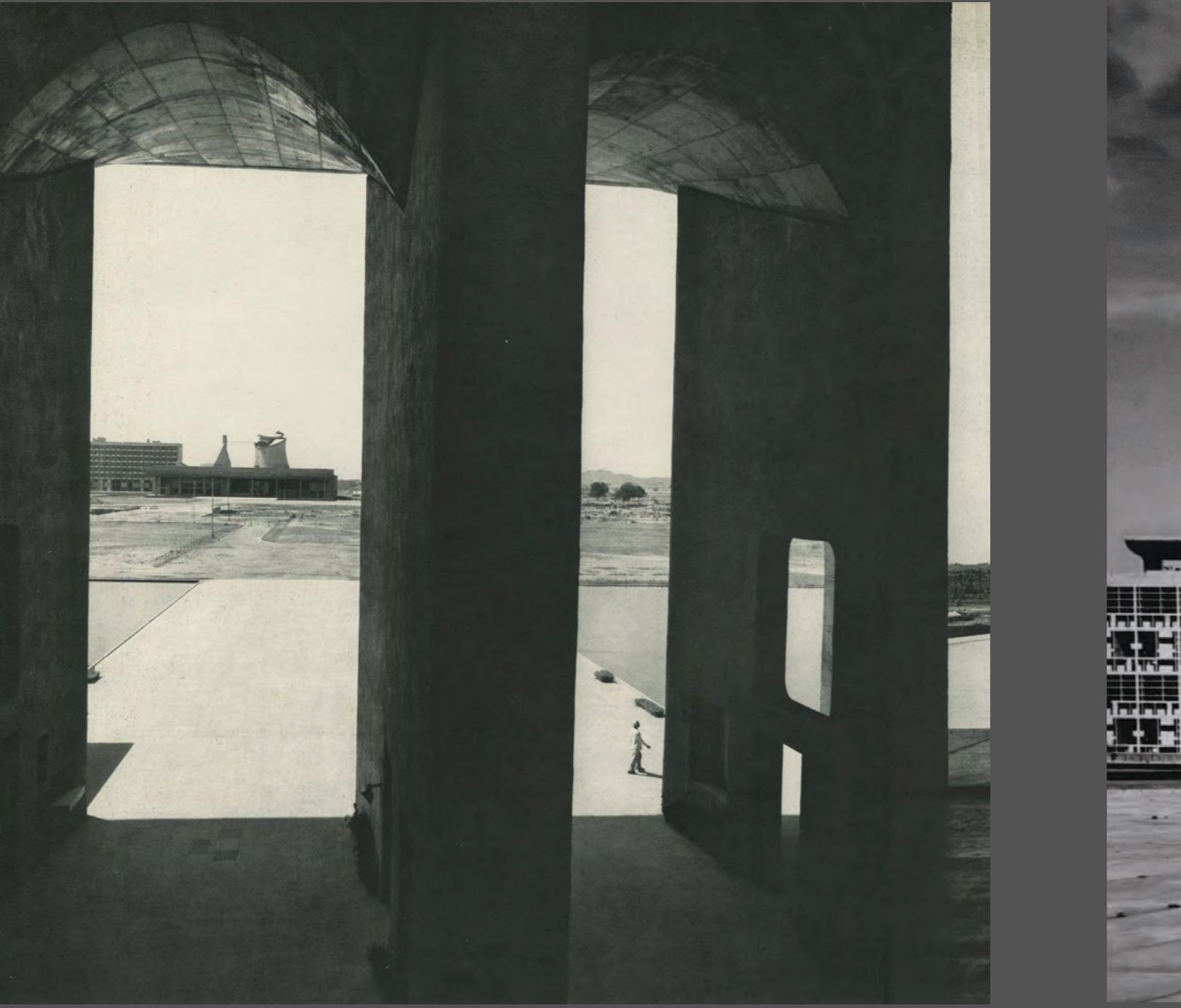
High Court/Palace of Justice
The Open Hand

The Governor's Palace

The Tower of Shadows

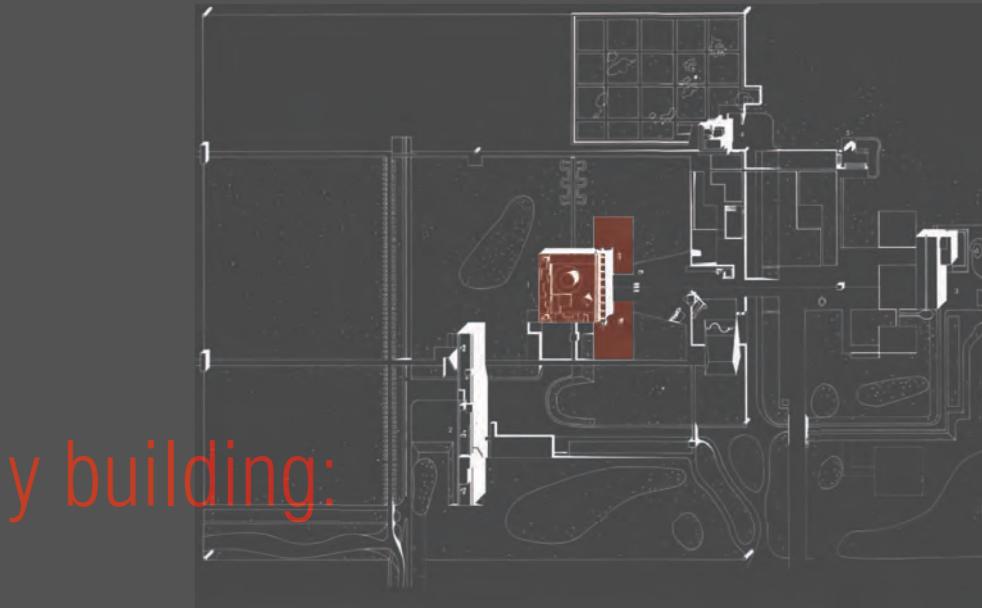
The Victims of the Partition of the State

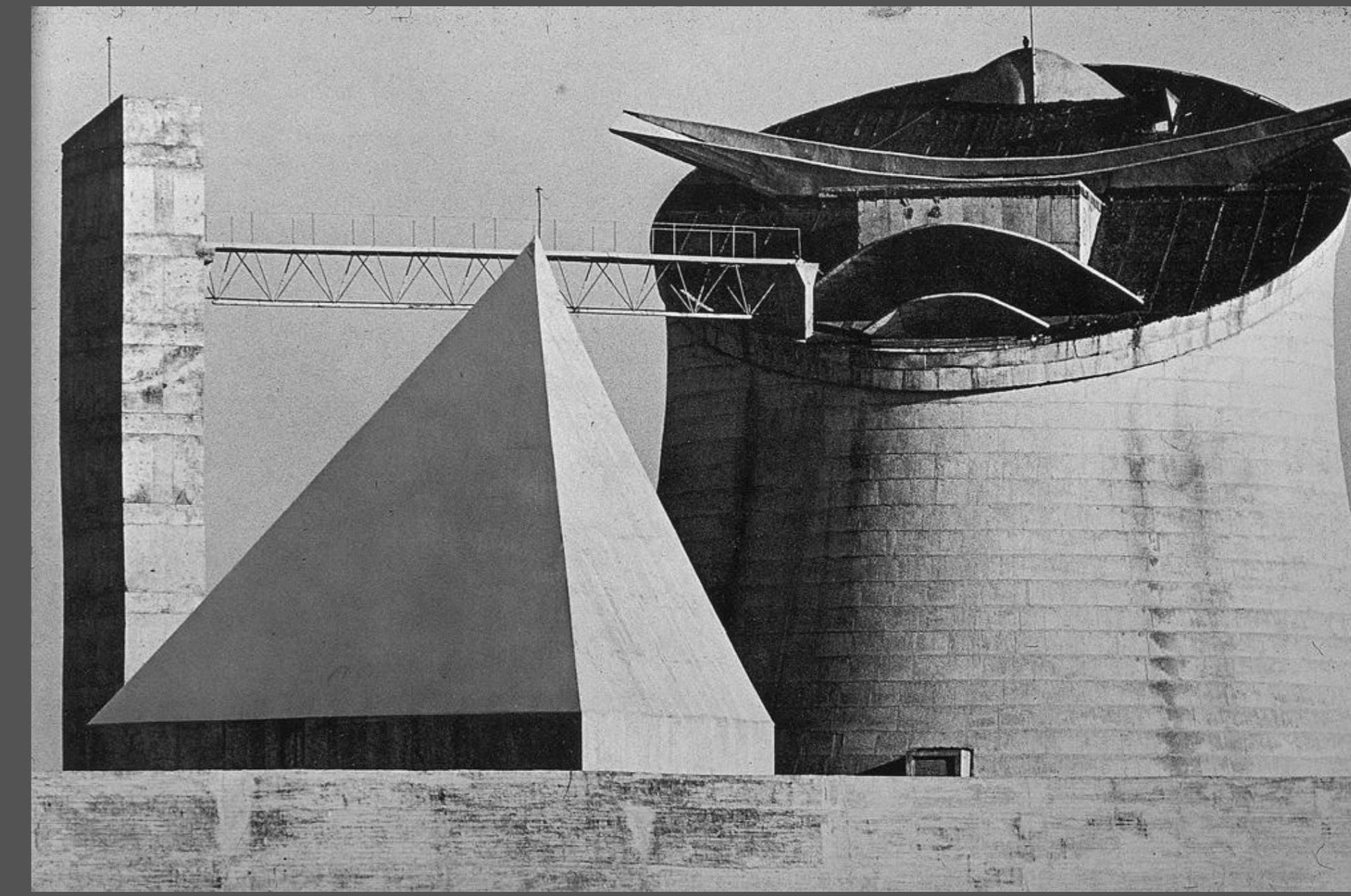
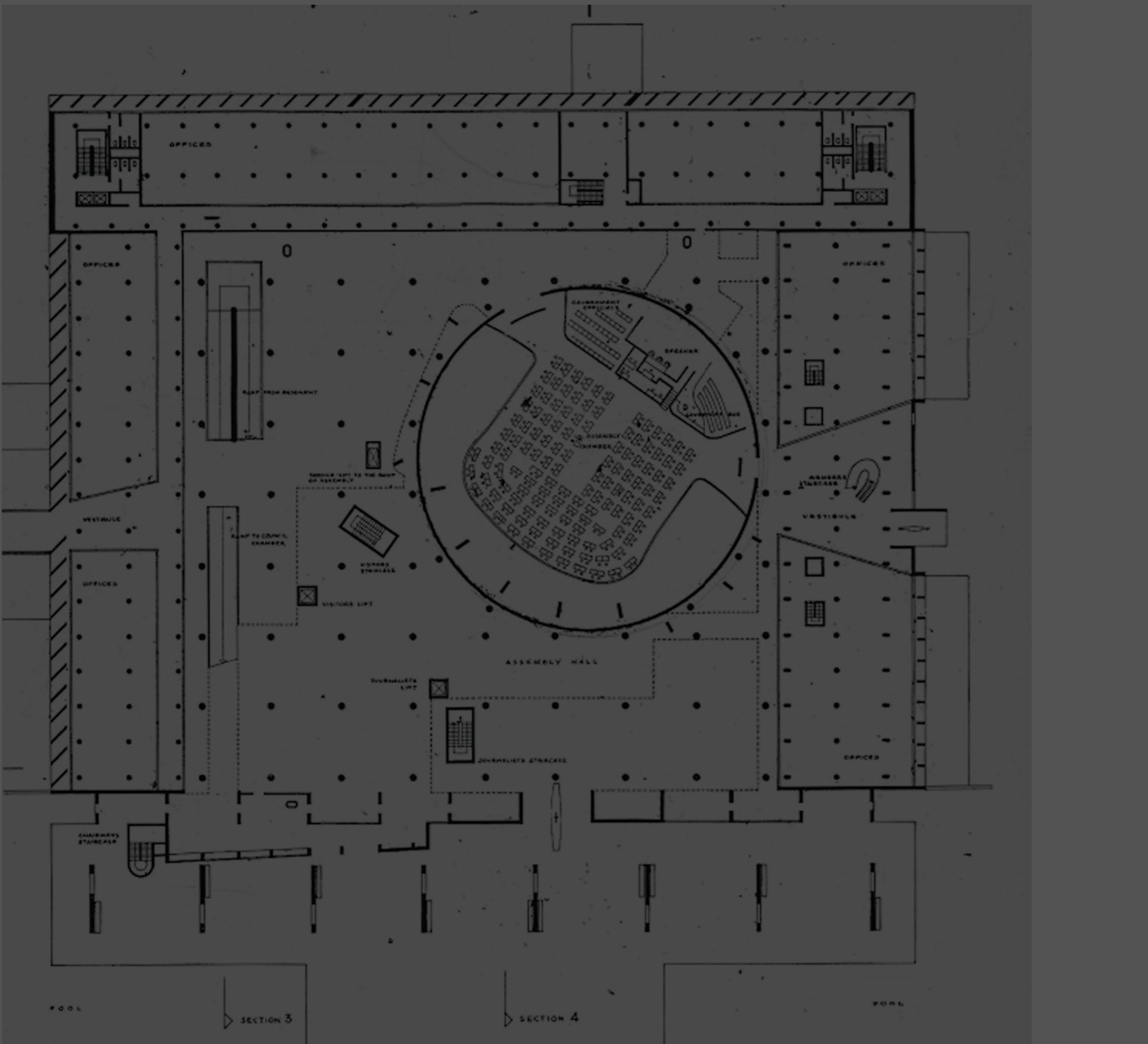
+ vernacular, ancient/classical, and modern precedents

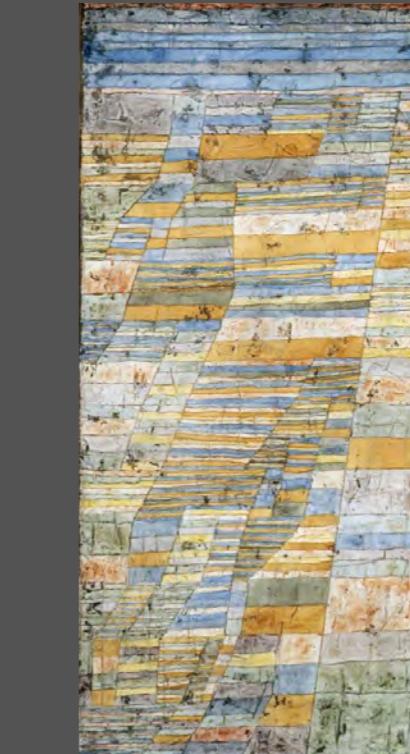
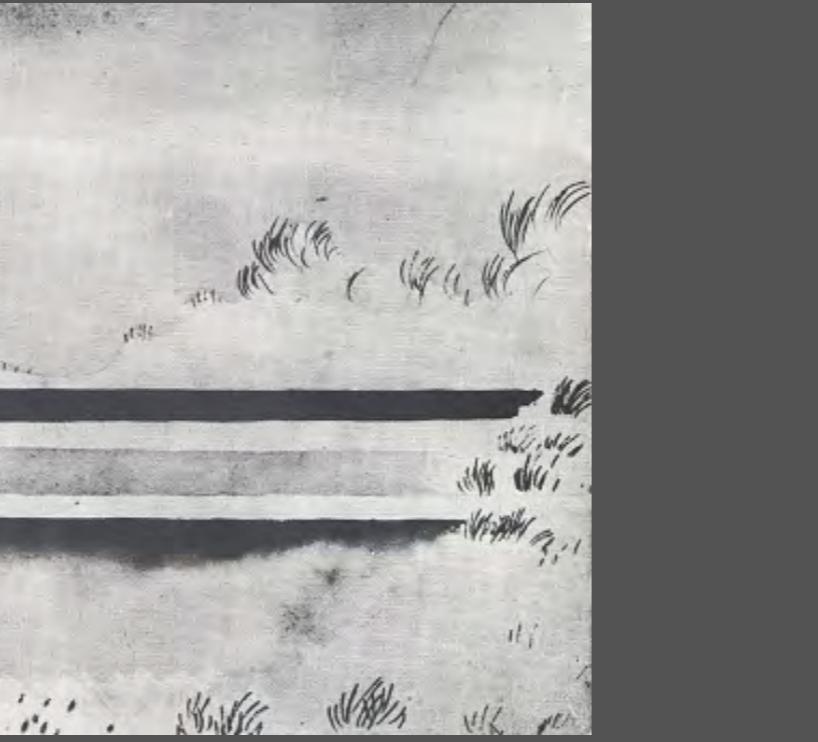
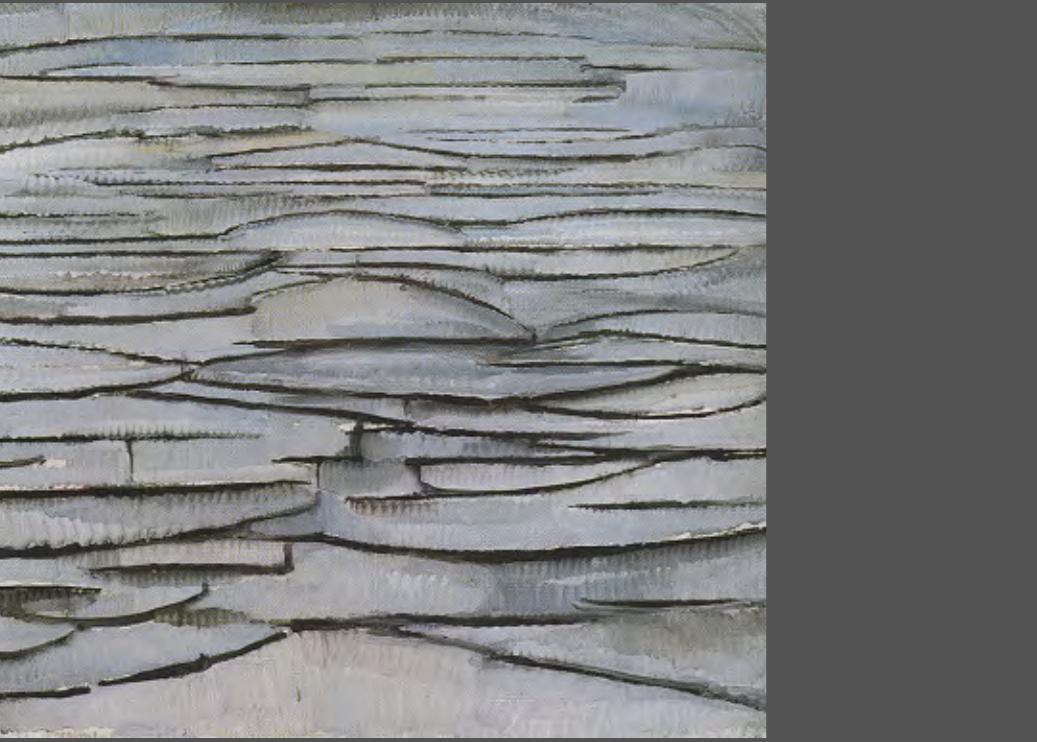
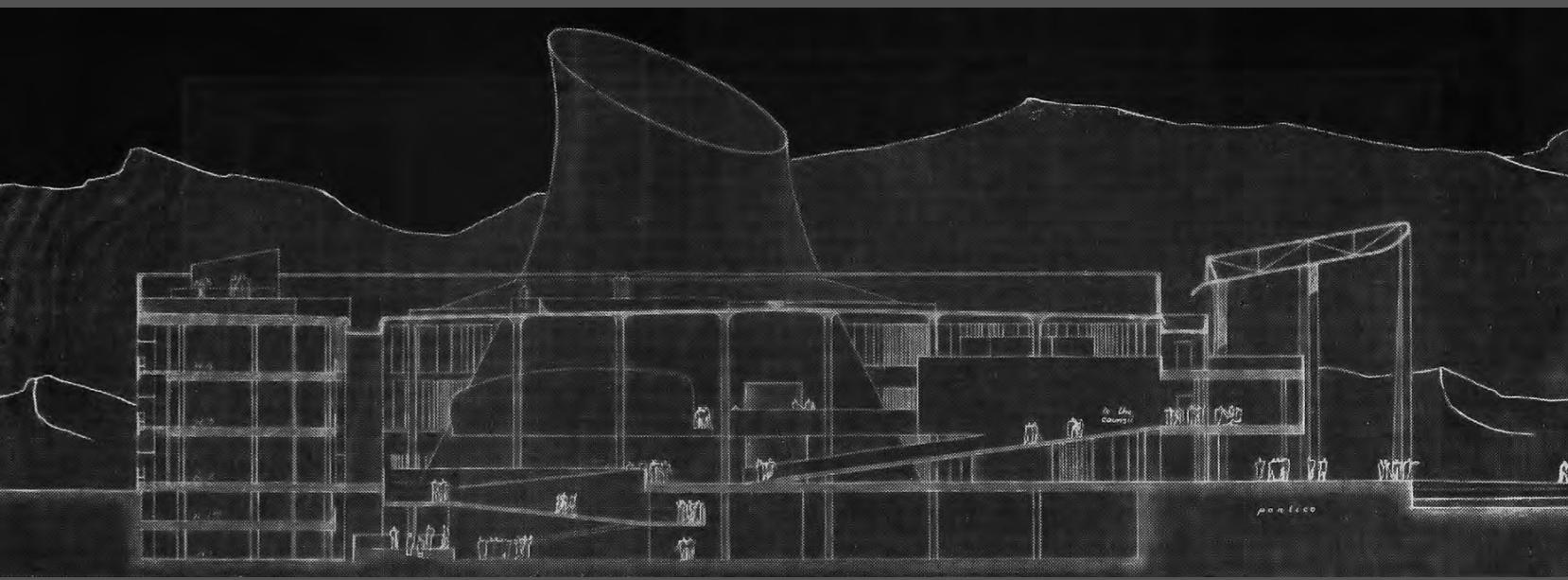
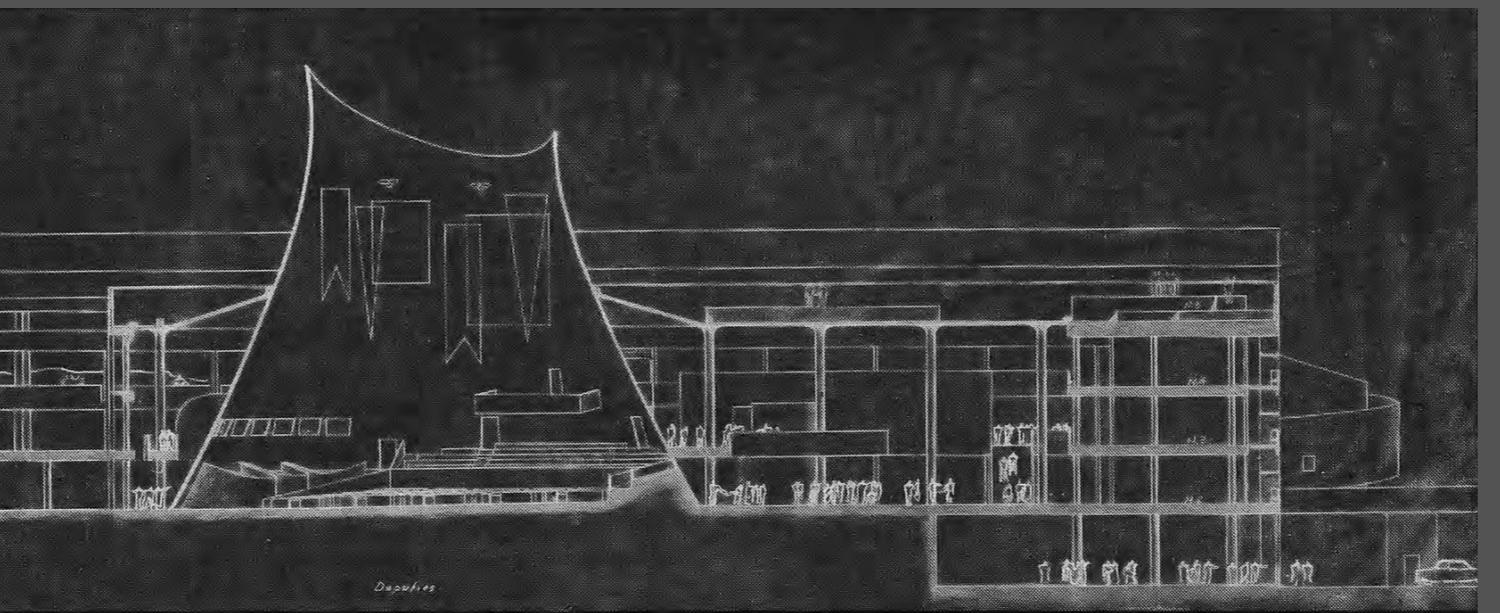
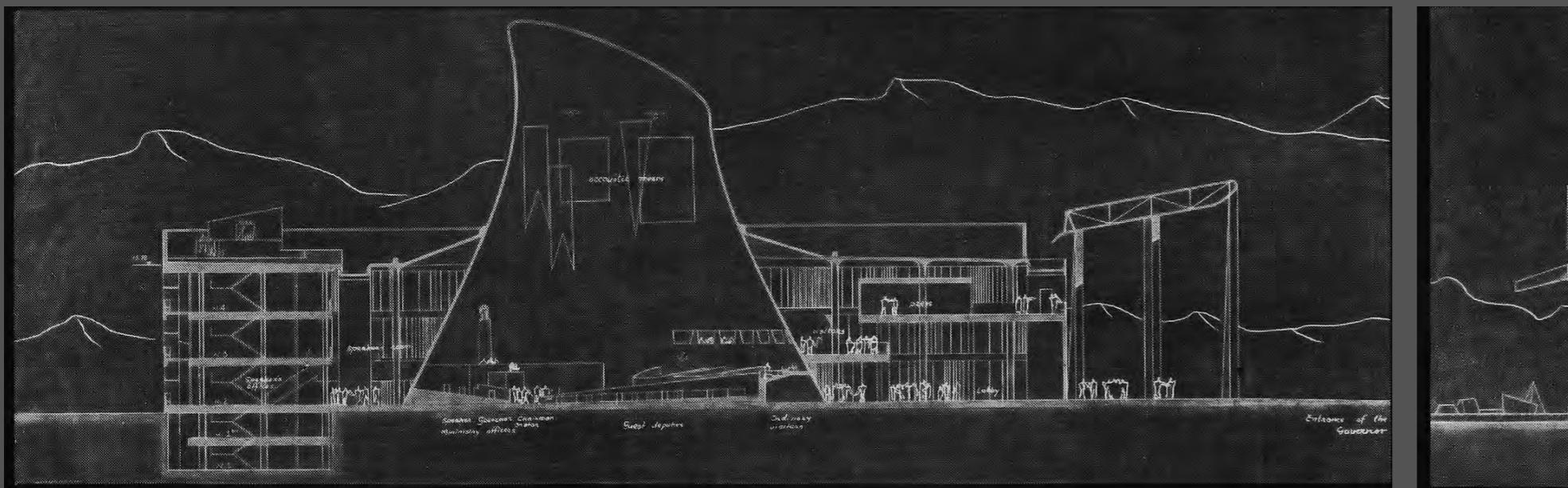


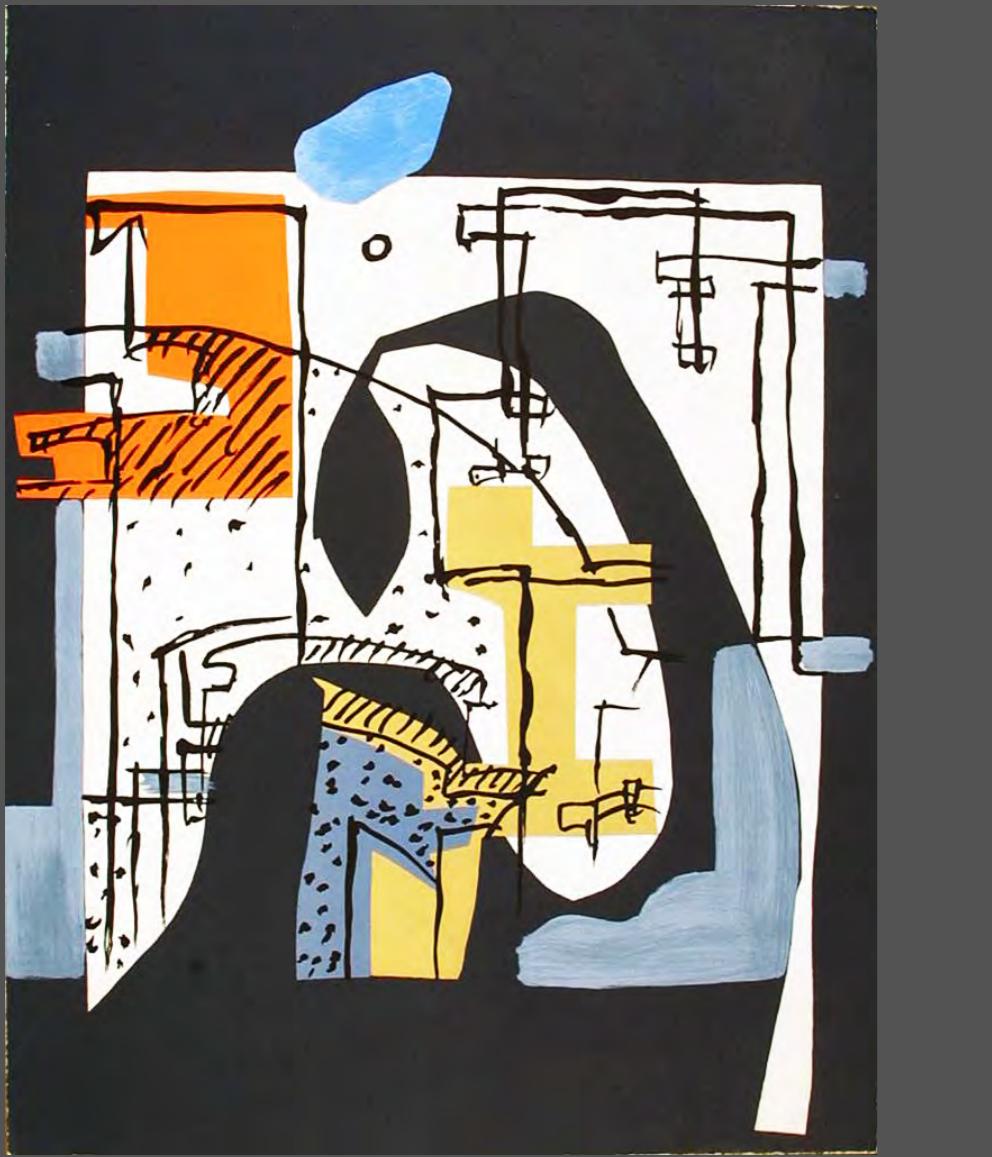
assembly building:

- + meeting place of Parliament
- + constant registering of monumental versus human scale, woven together by Modulor
- + ordering grid, sculptural elements, and geometrical abstraction of figures
- + chiaroscuro
- + iconography

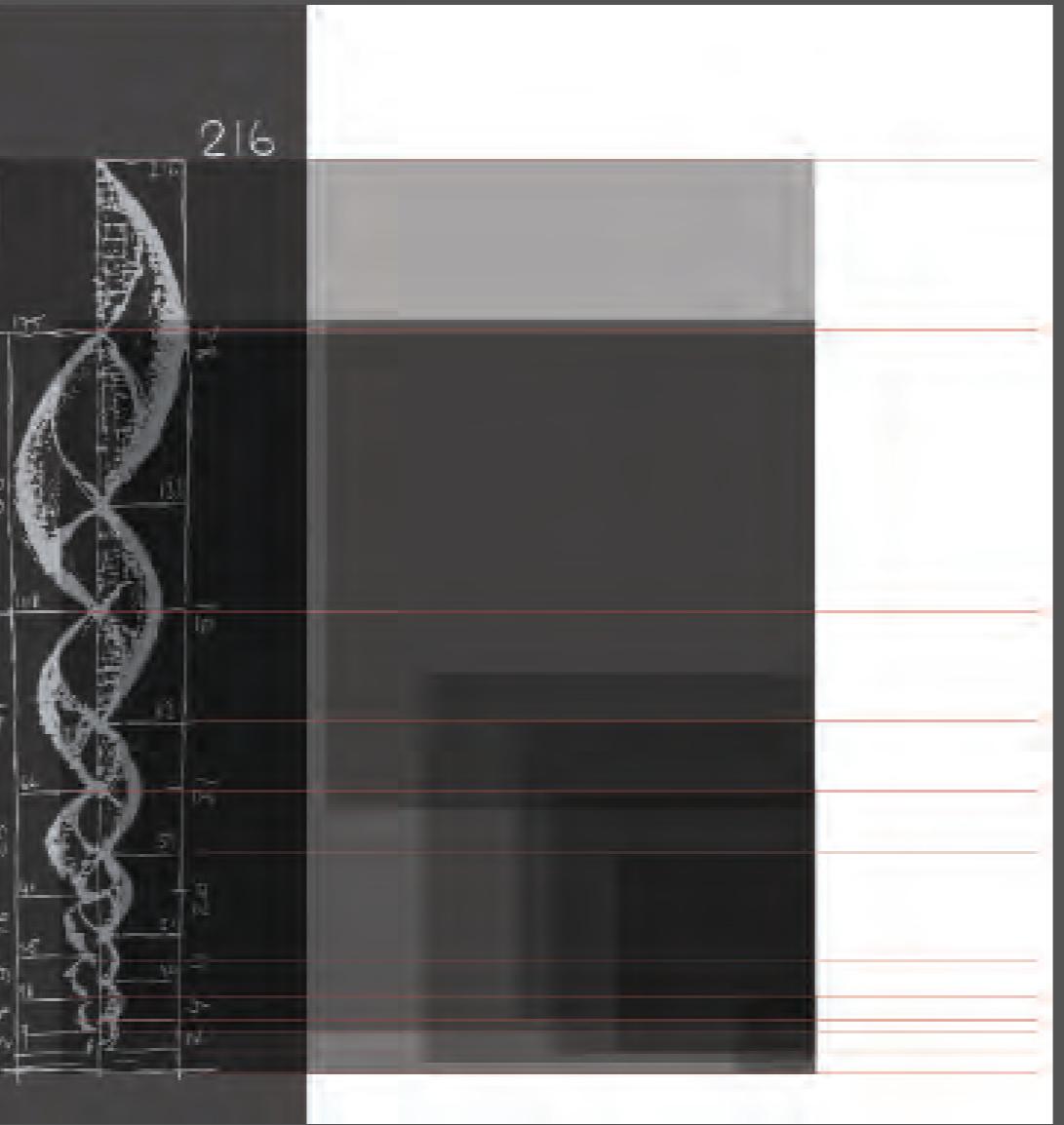






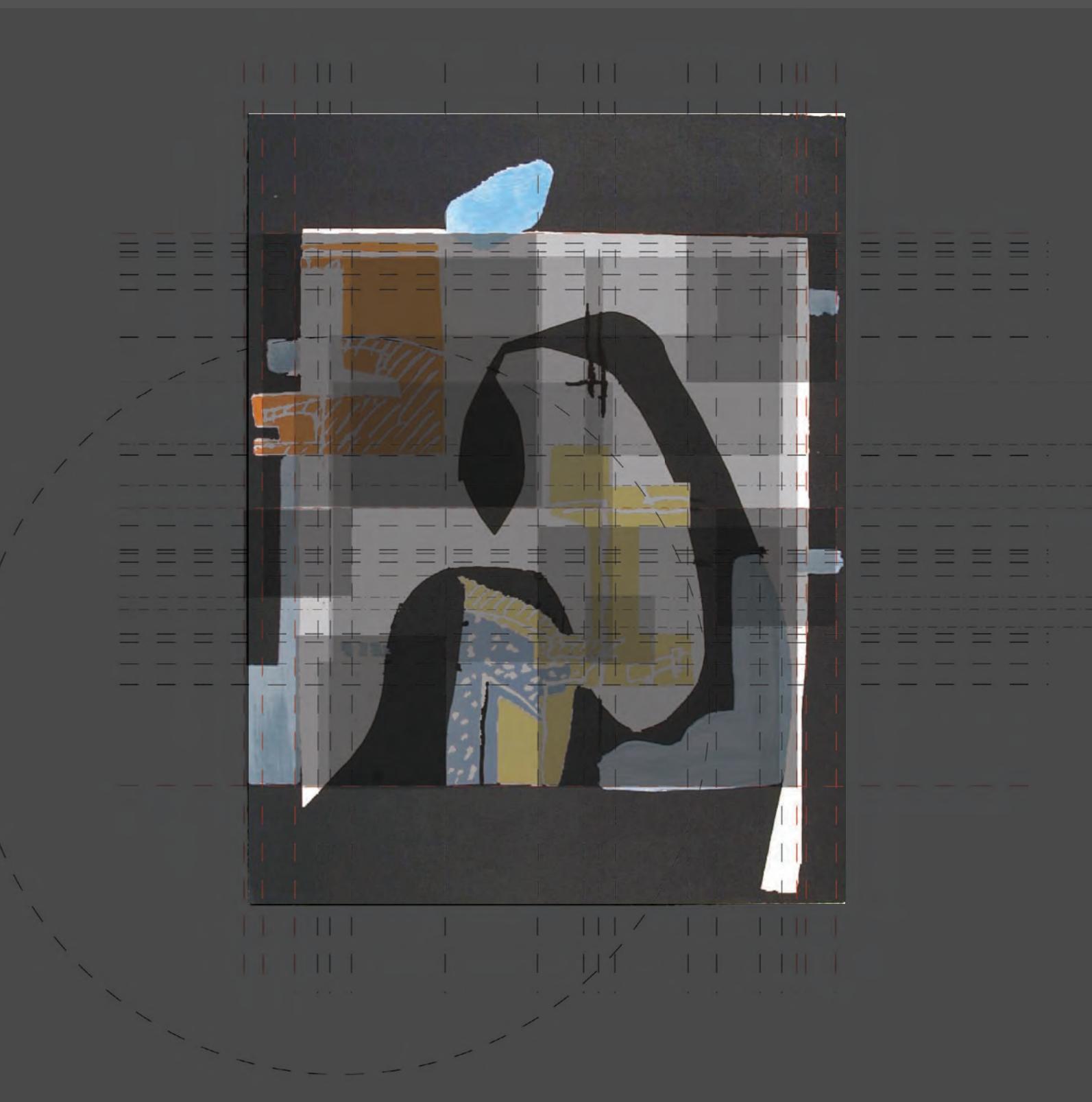
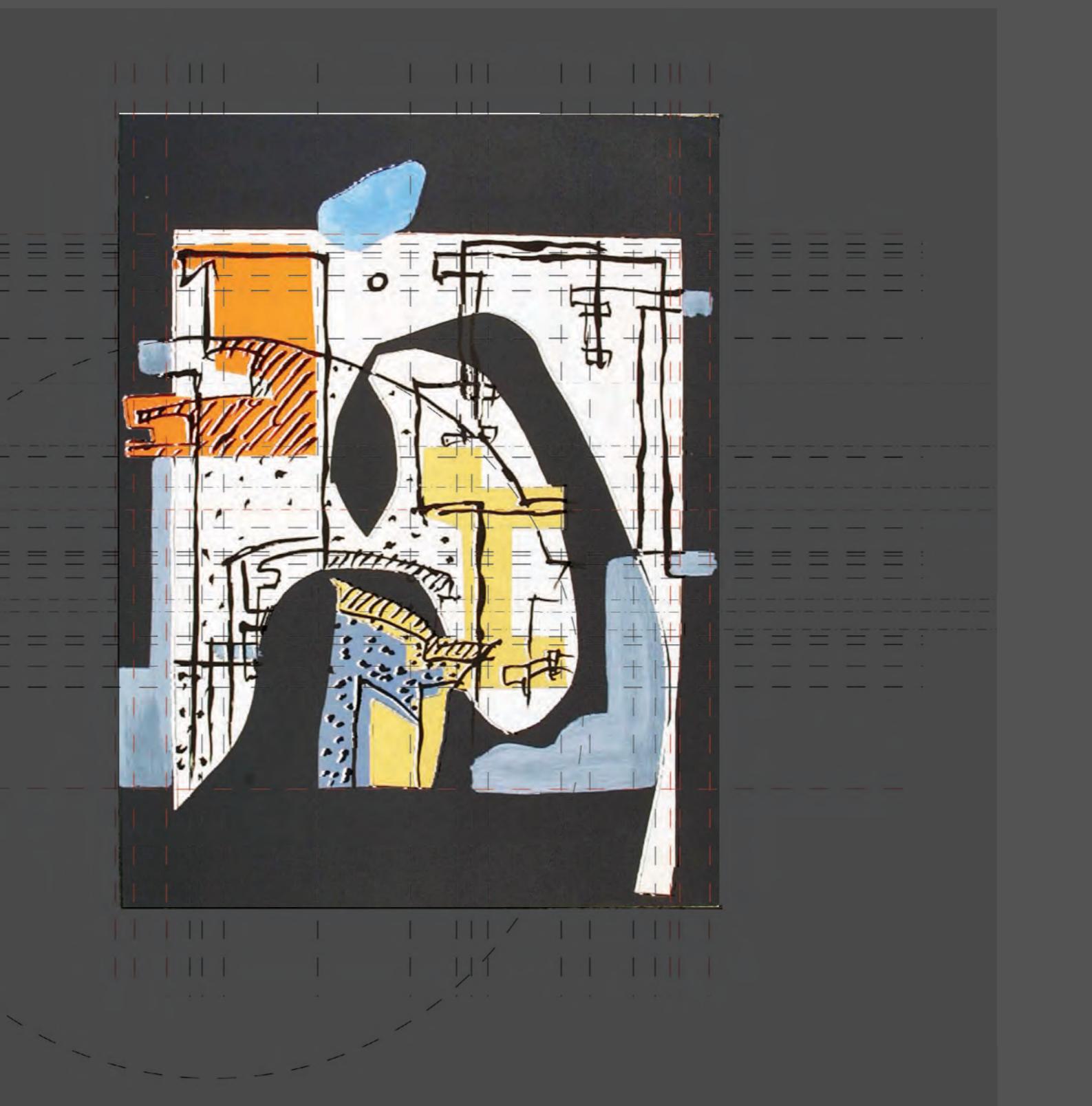
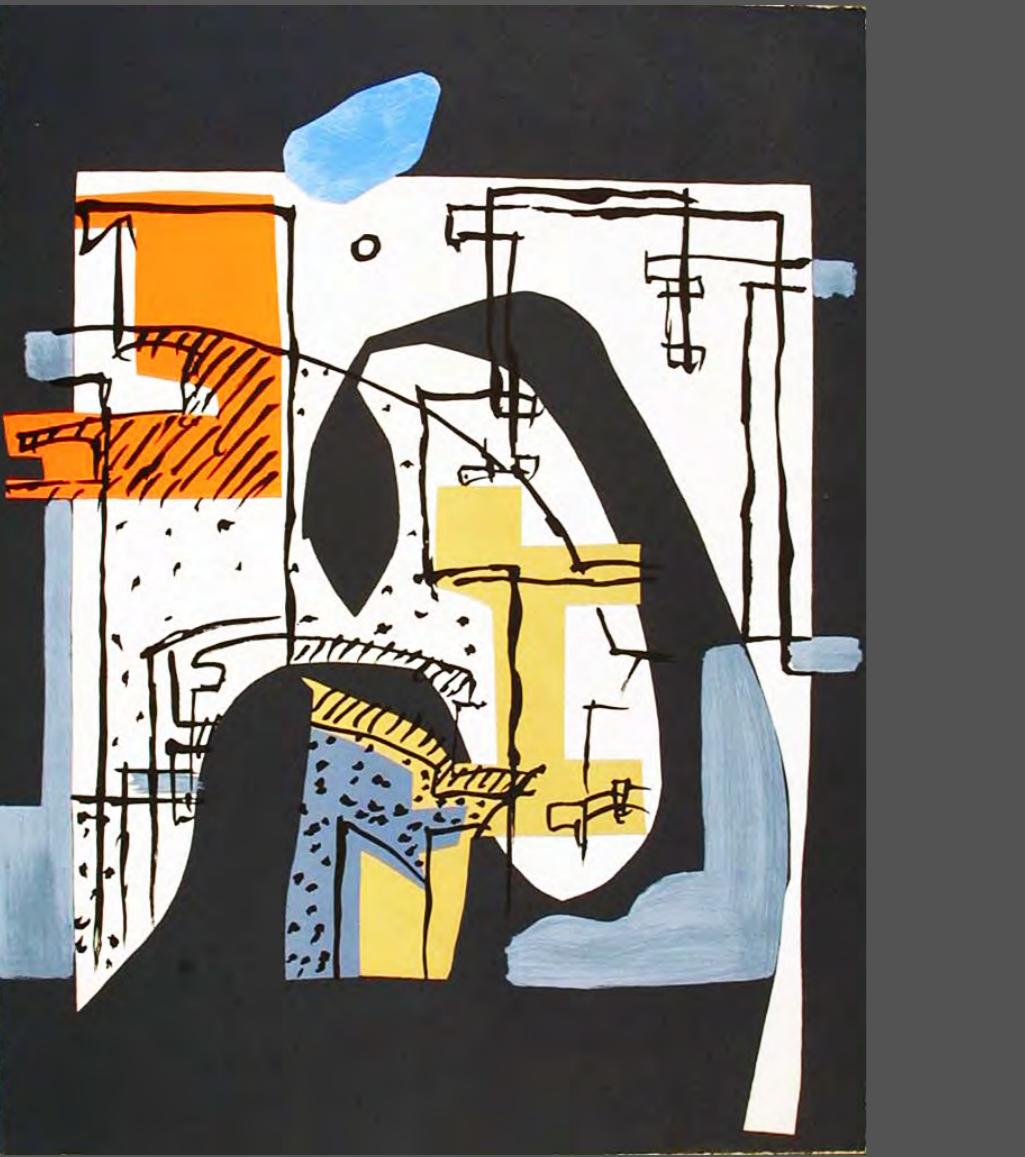


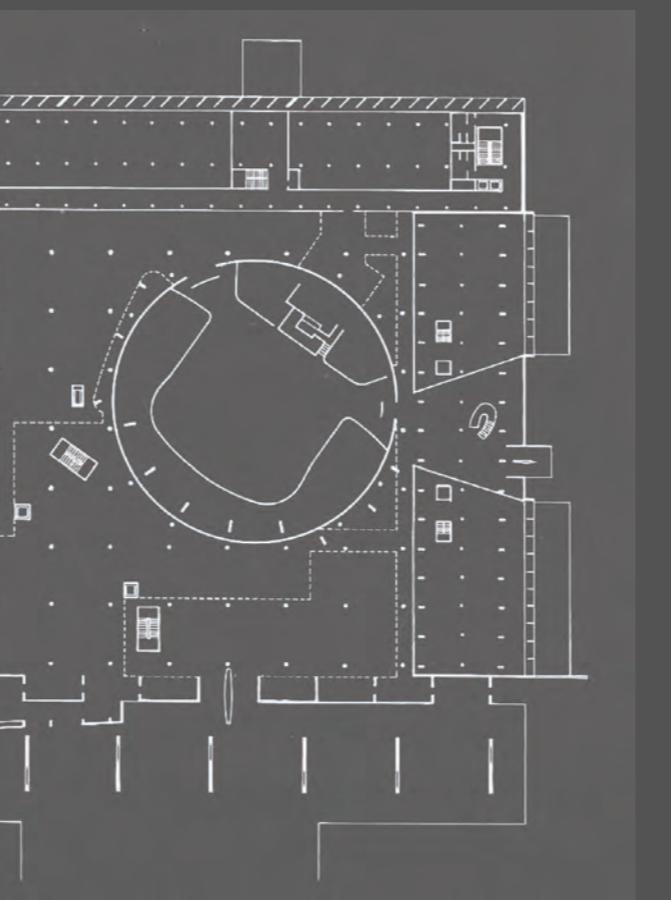
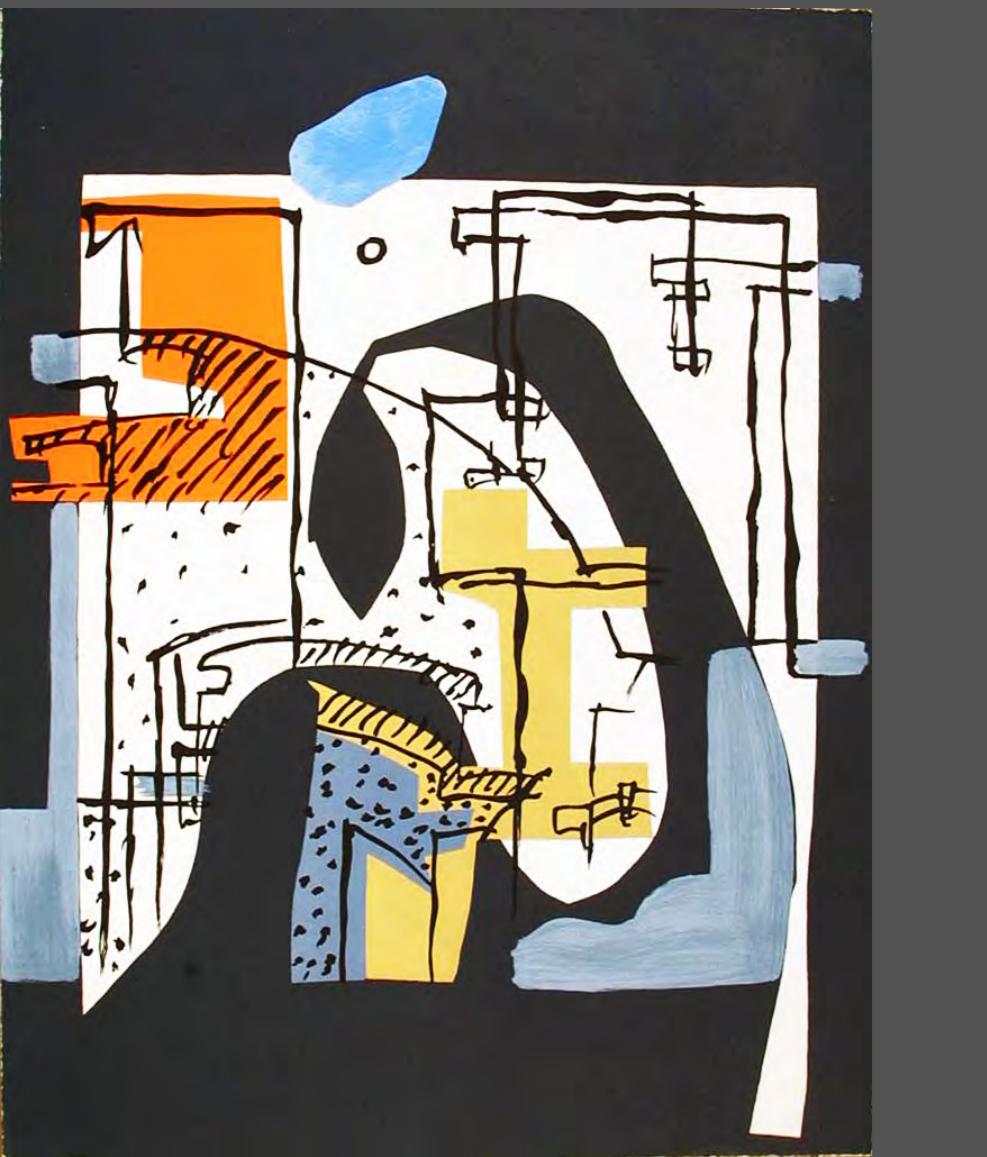
from **le poème de l'angle droit**, 1955

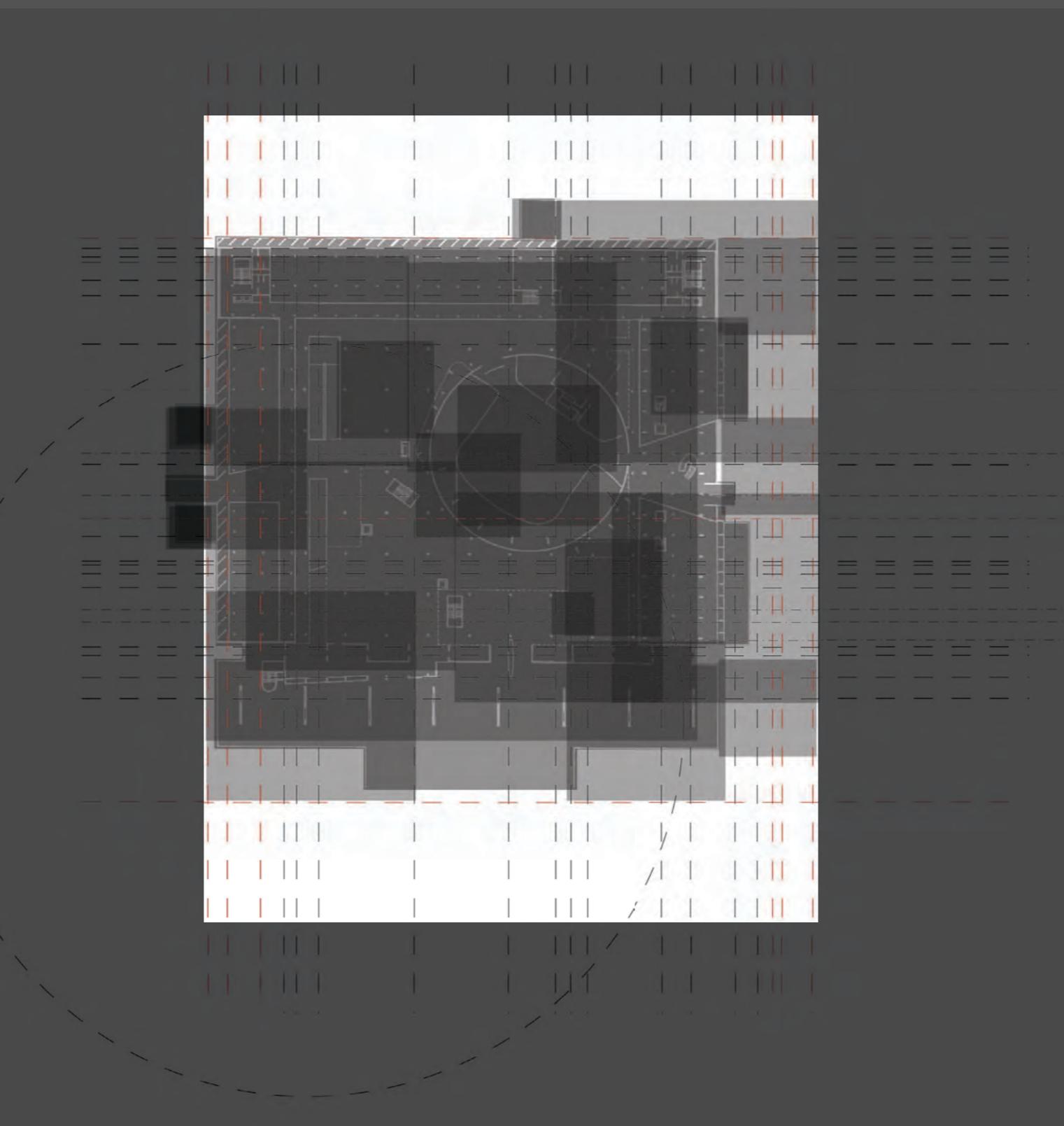
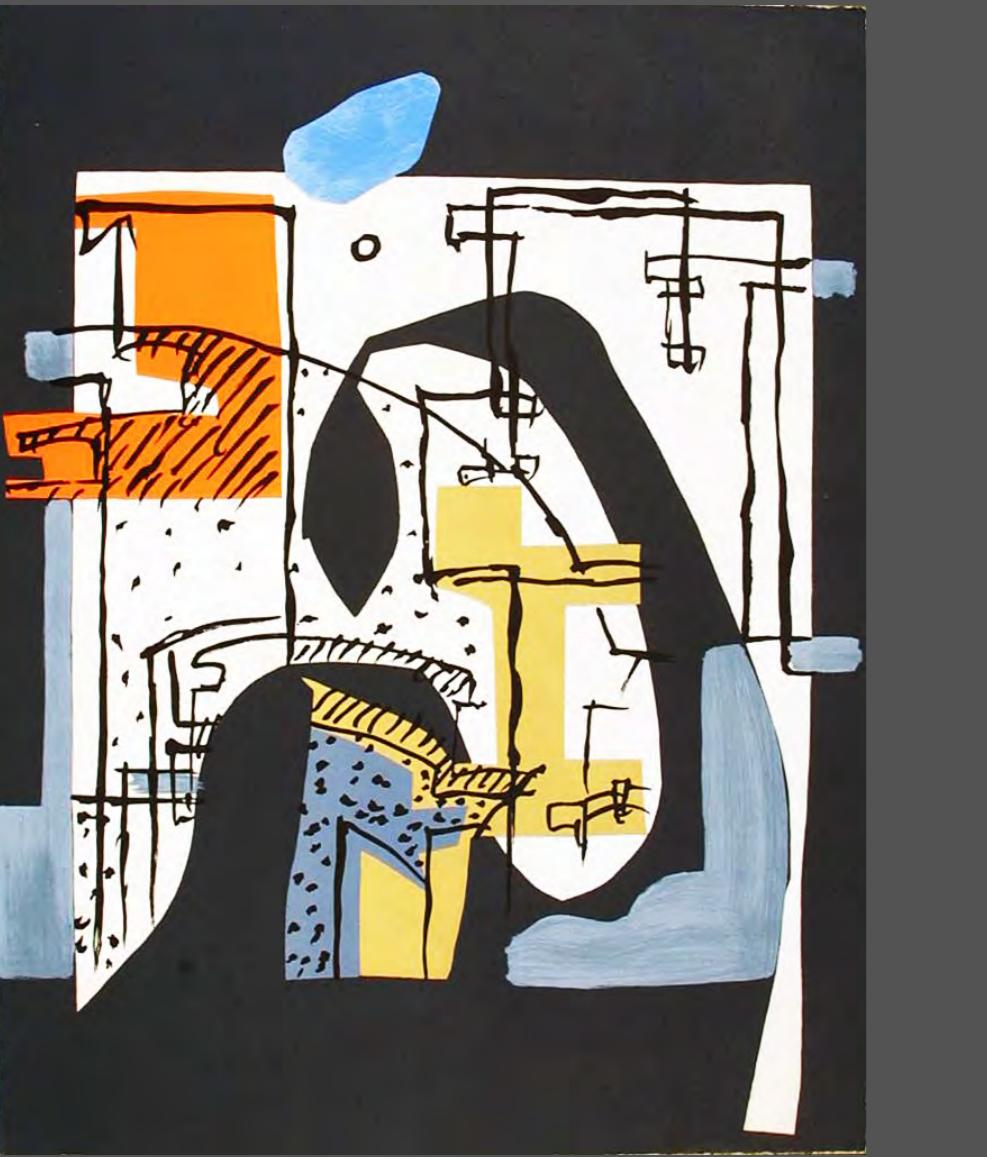


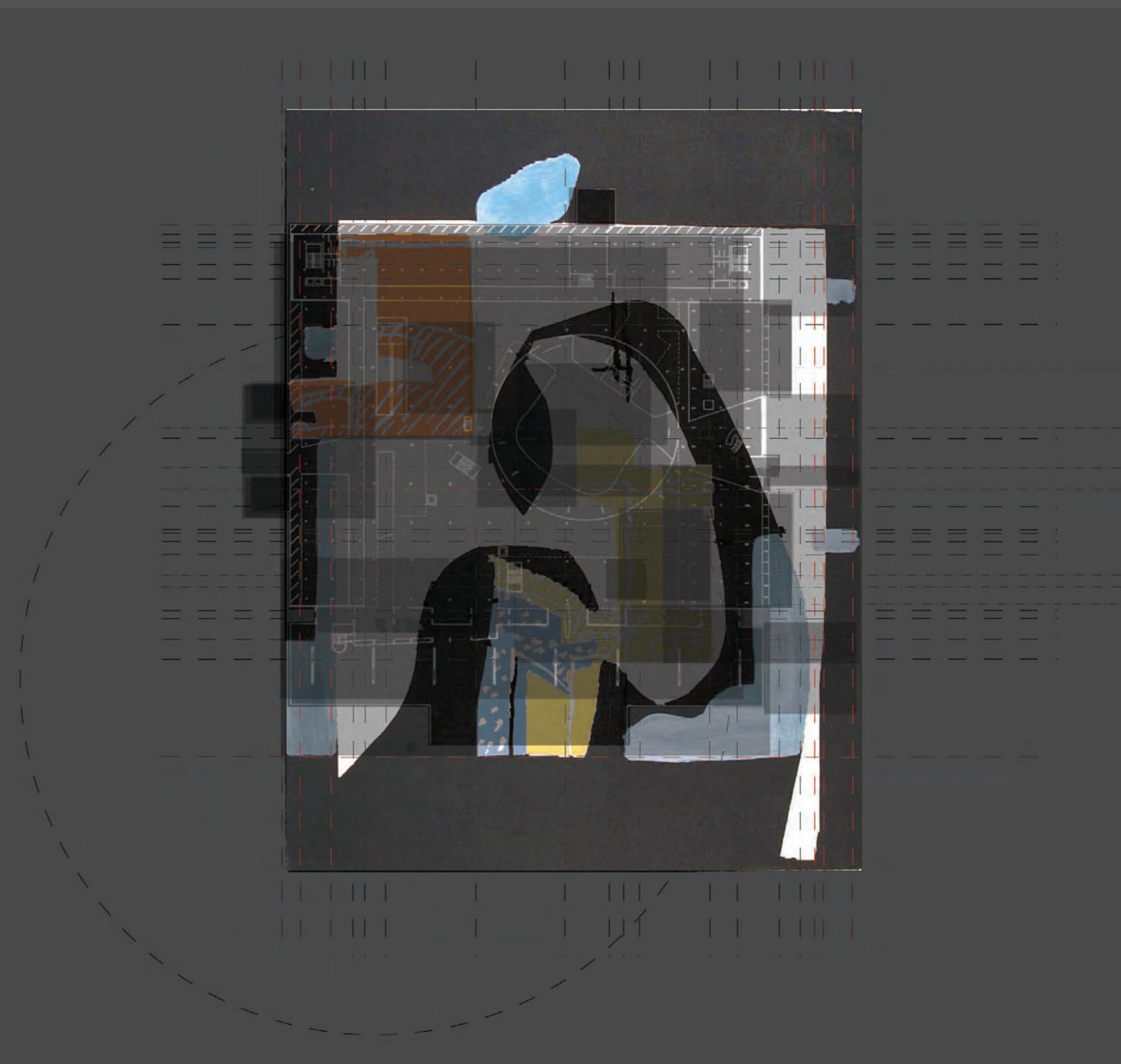
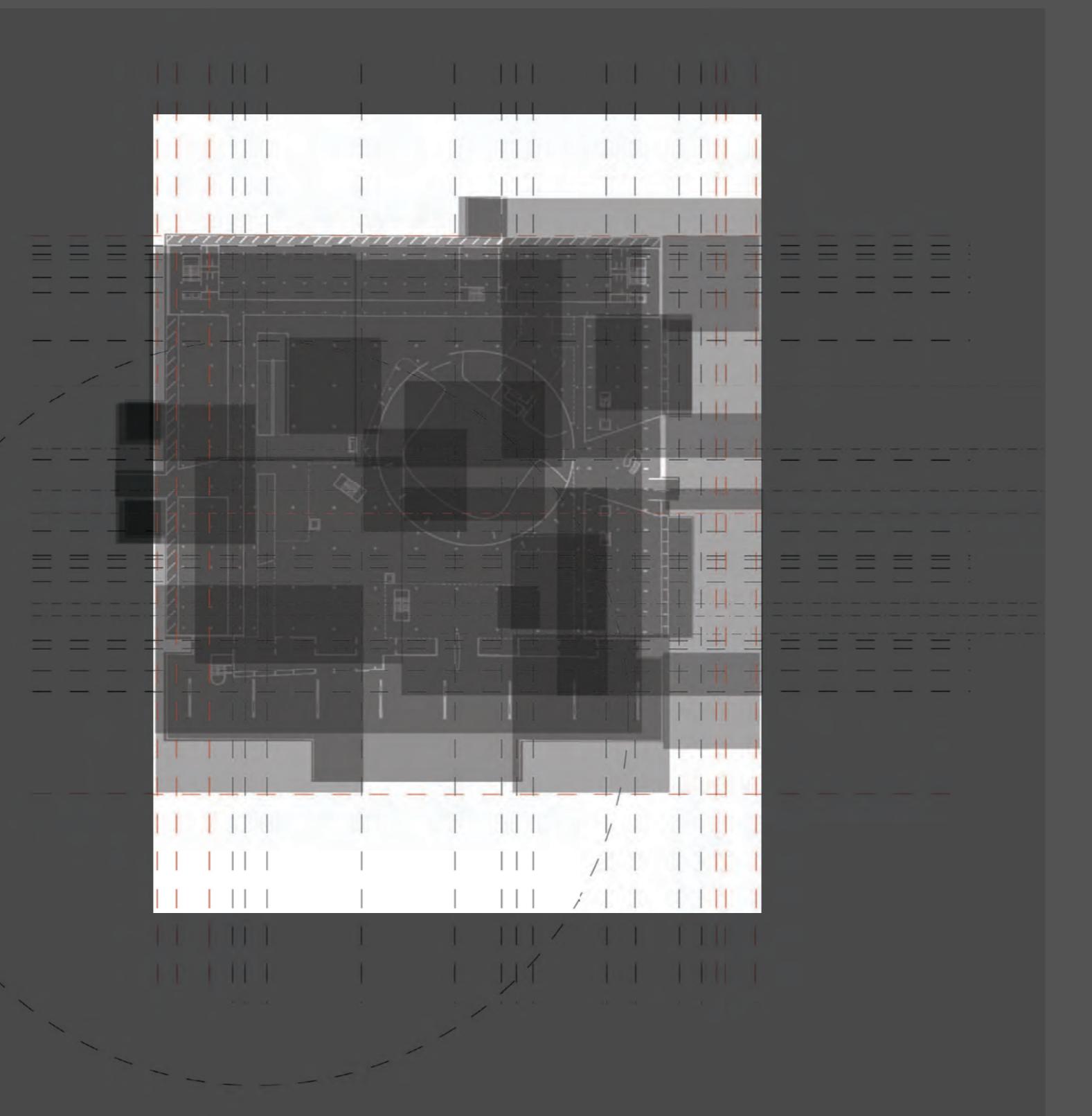
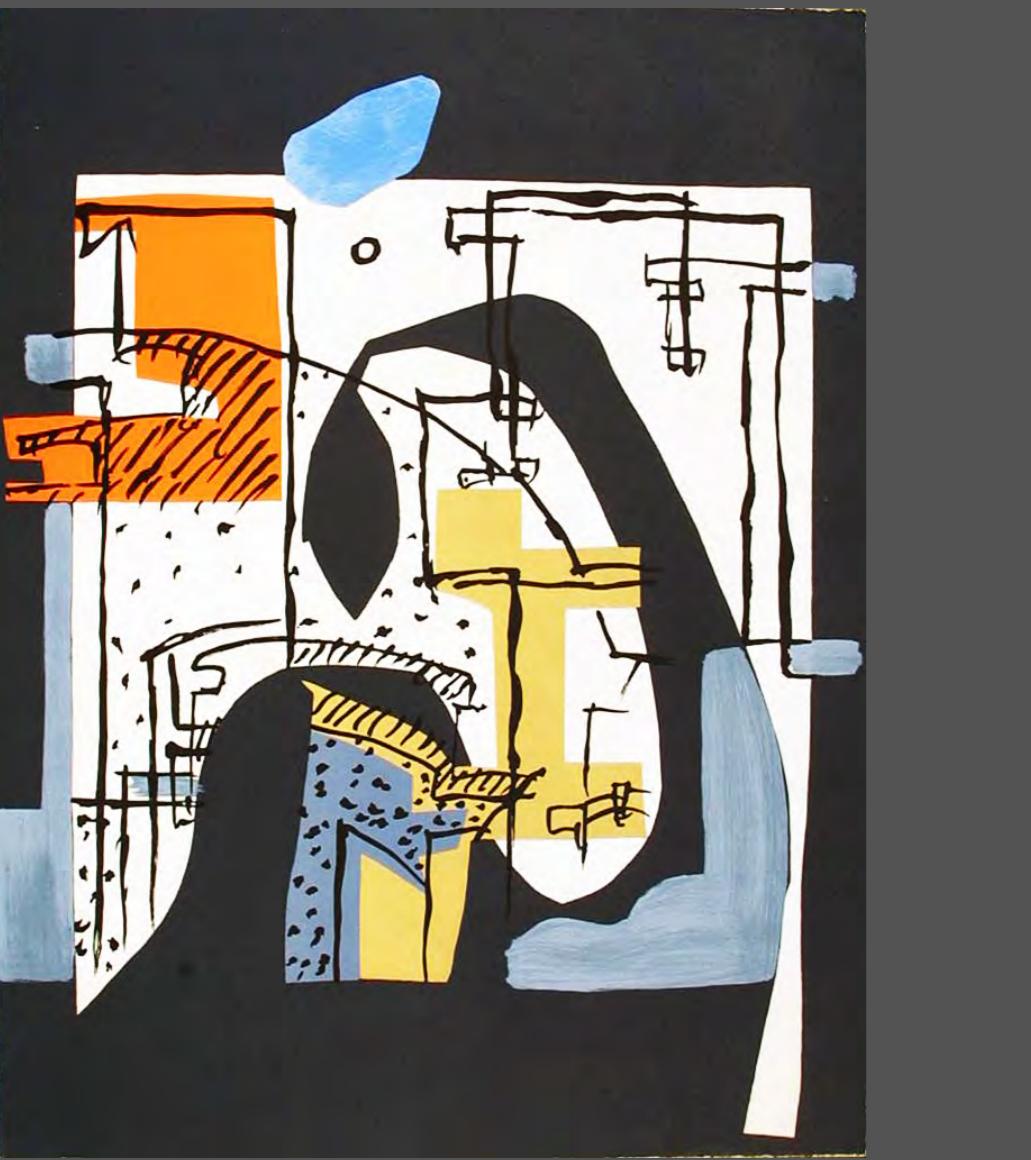
assembly: superimposition of scales

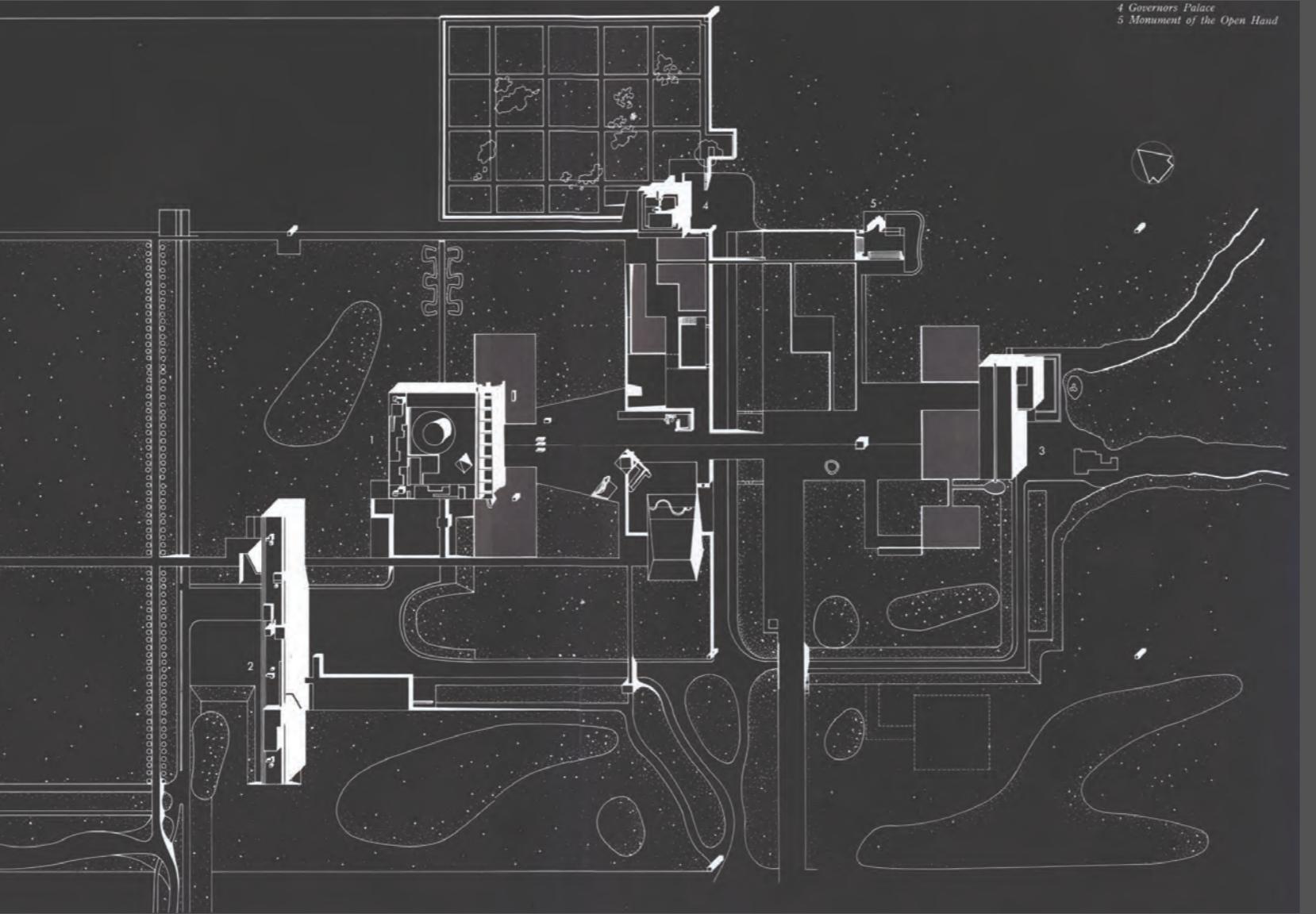
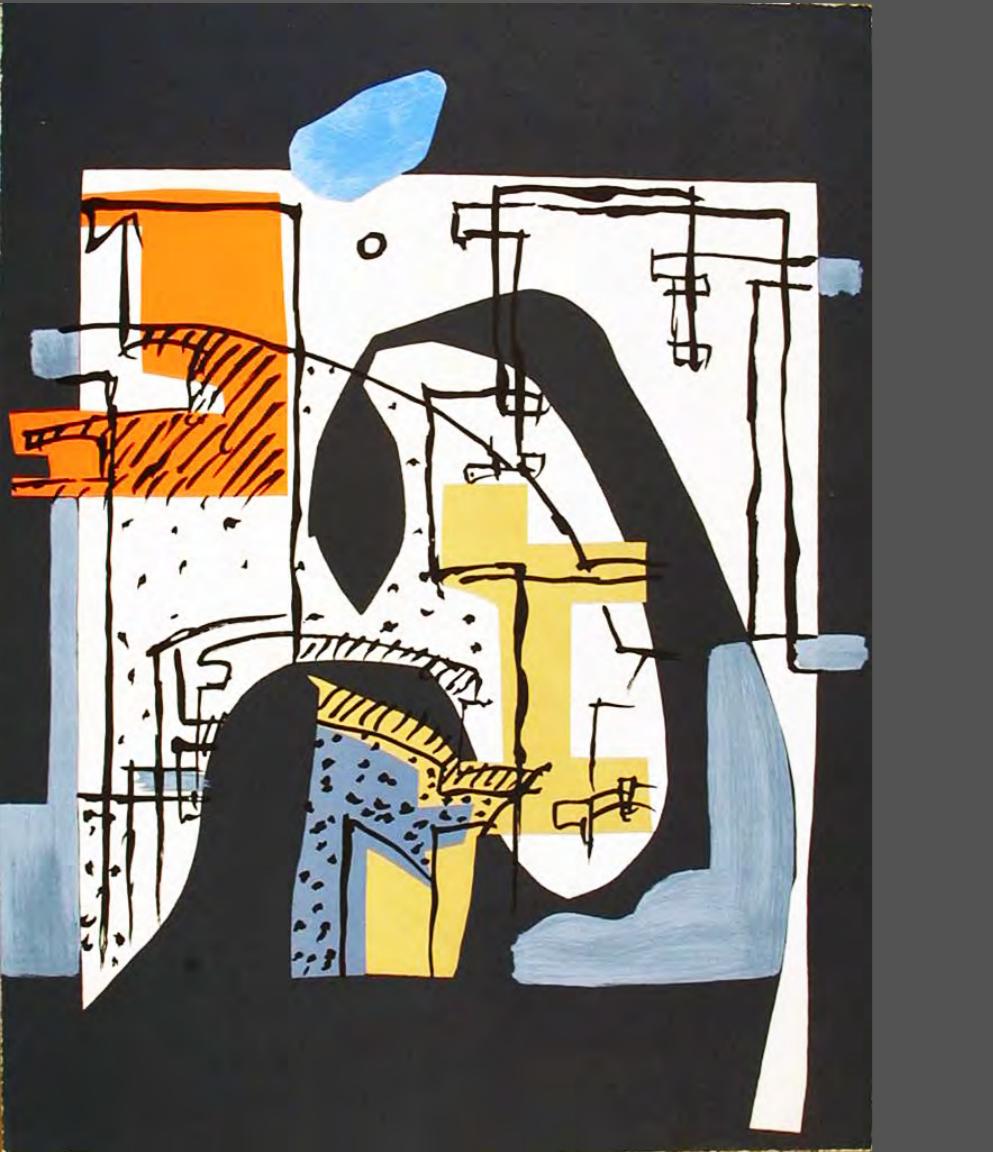
- + modulor: proportional system based on 6' man; derivative of golden section, fibonacci series
- + plan + section overlay at multiple scales allowed by system
- + horizon : himalayas; ceilings : foothills; references : water and source; ground as stabilizing element
- + le poème : poem of the right angle : composition of verses/paintings/musings)

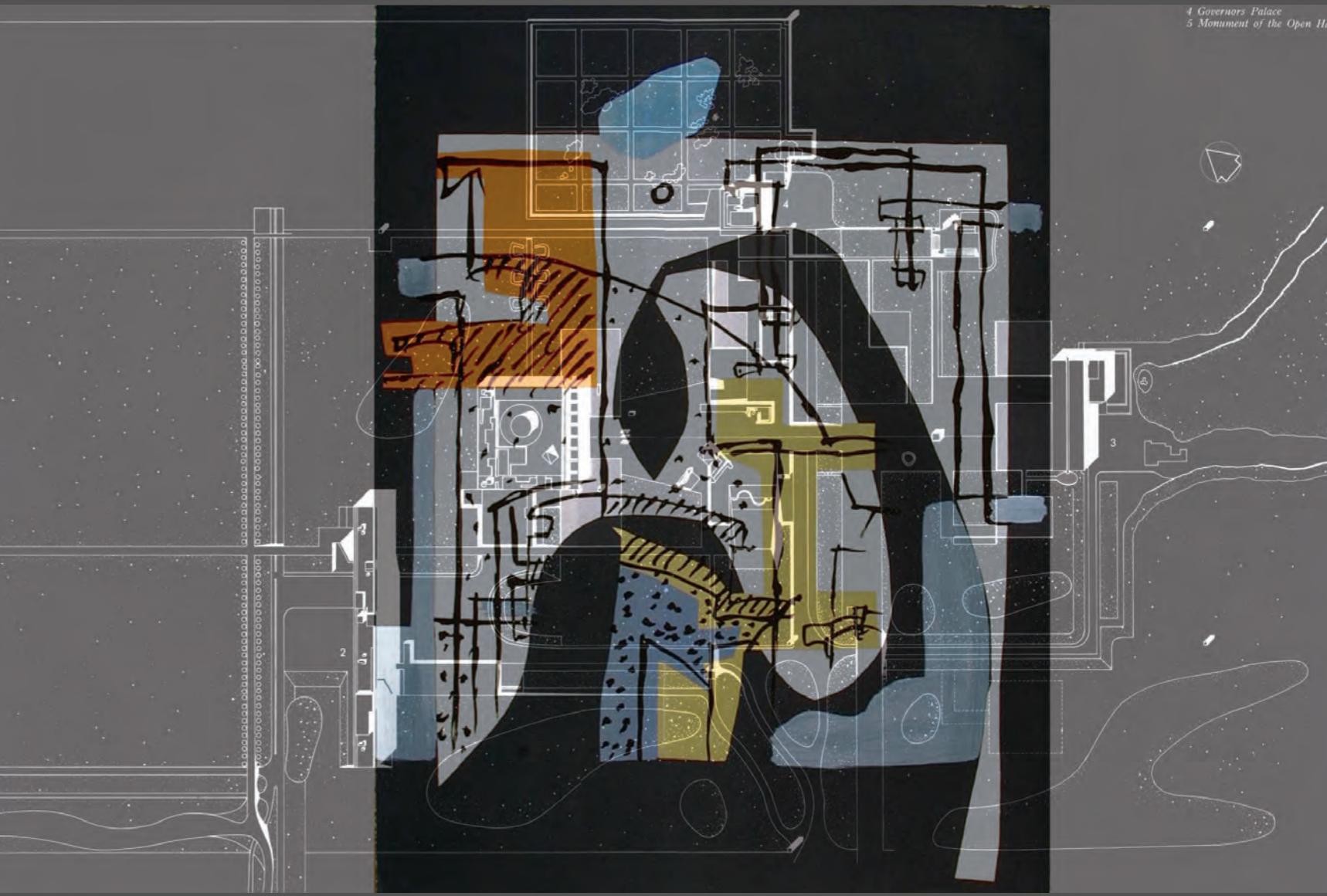
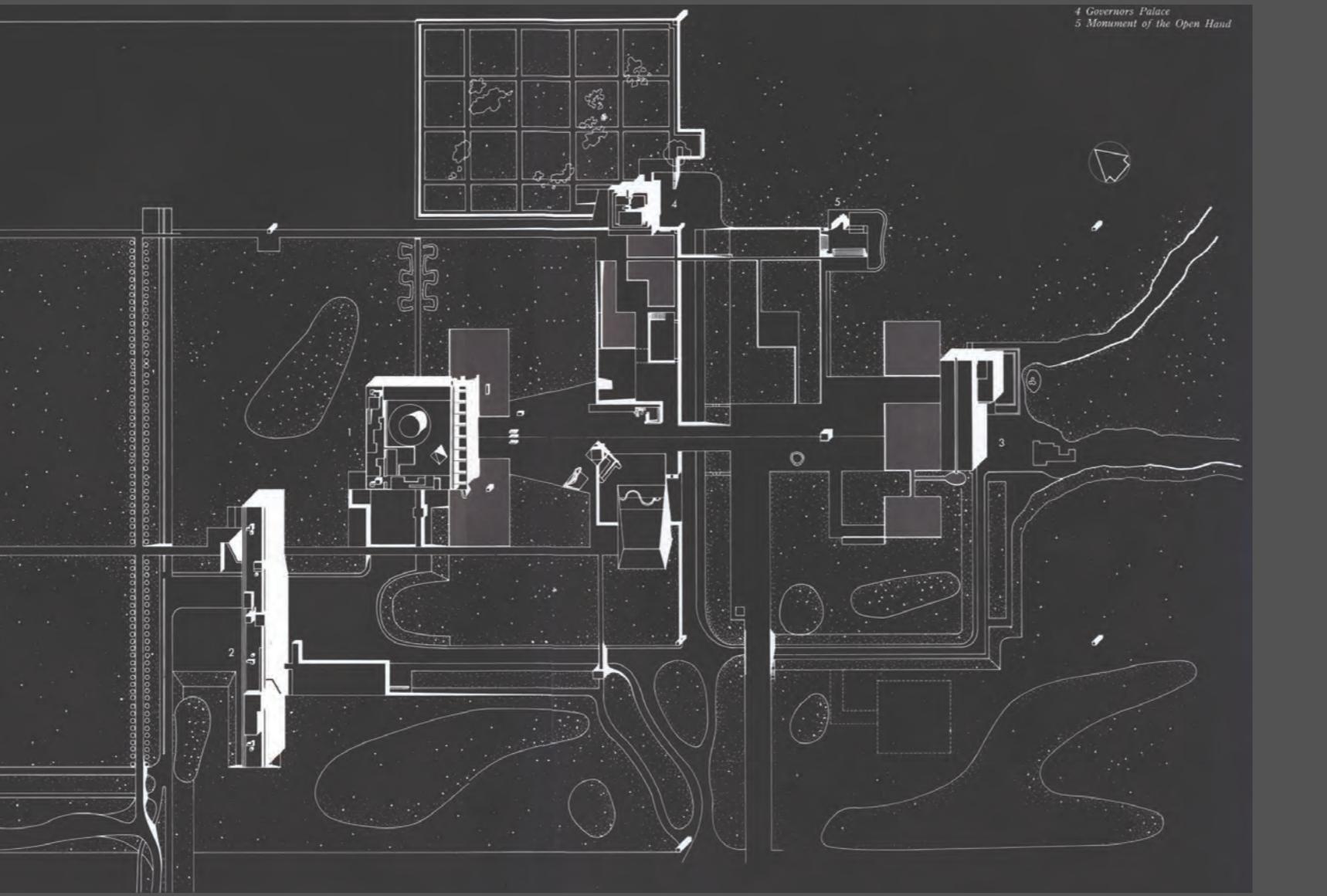
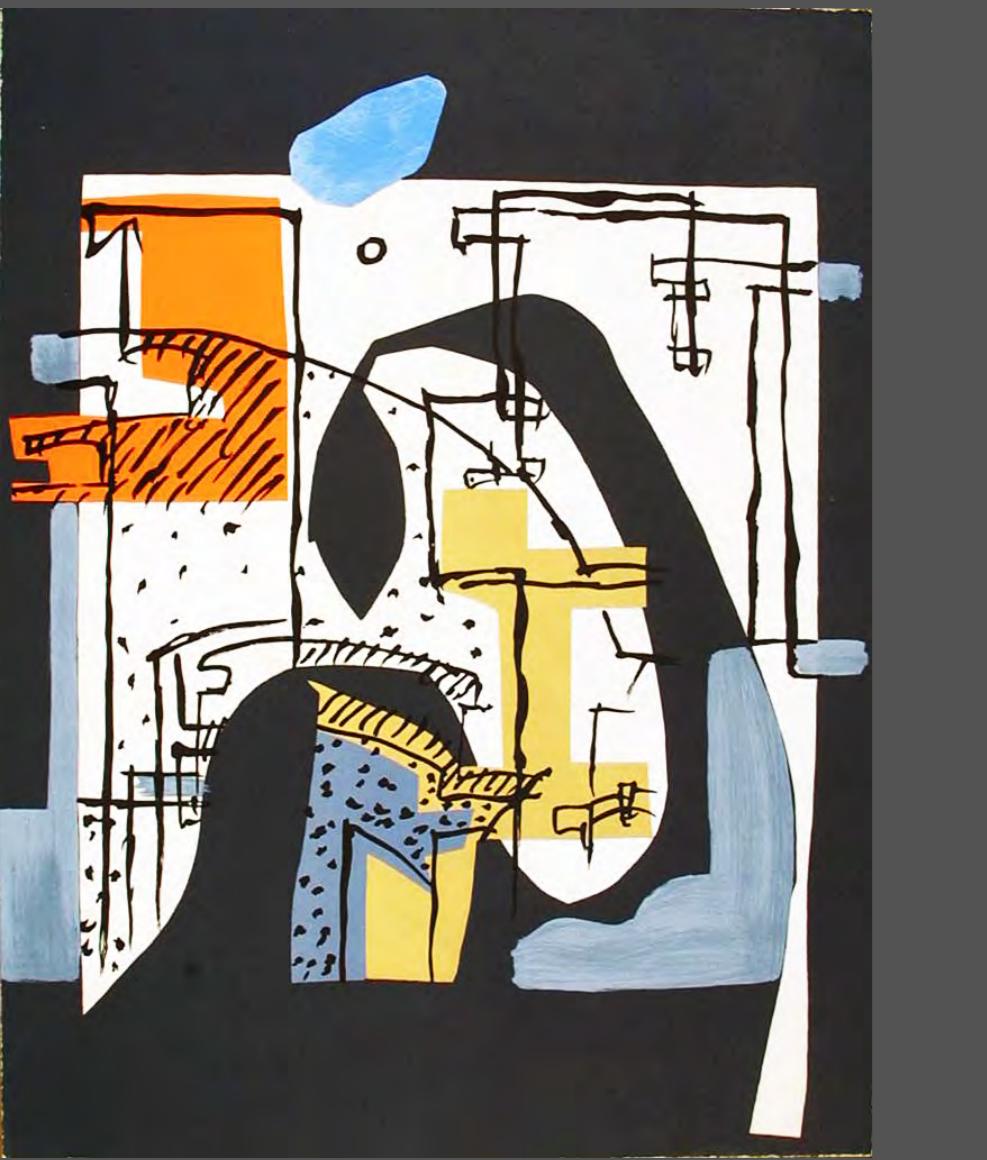


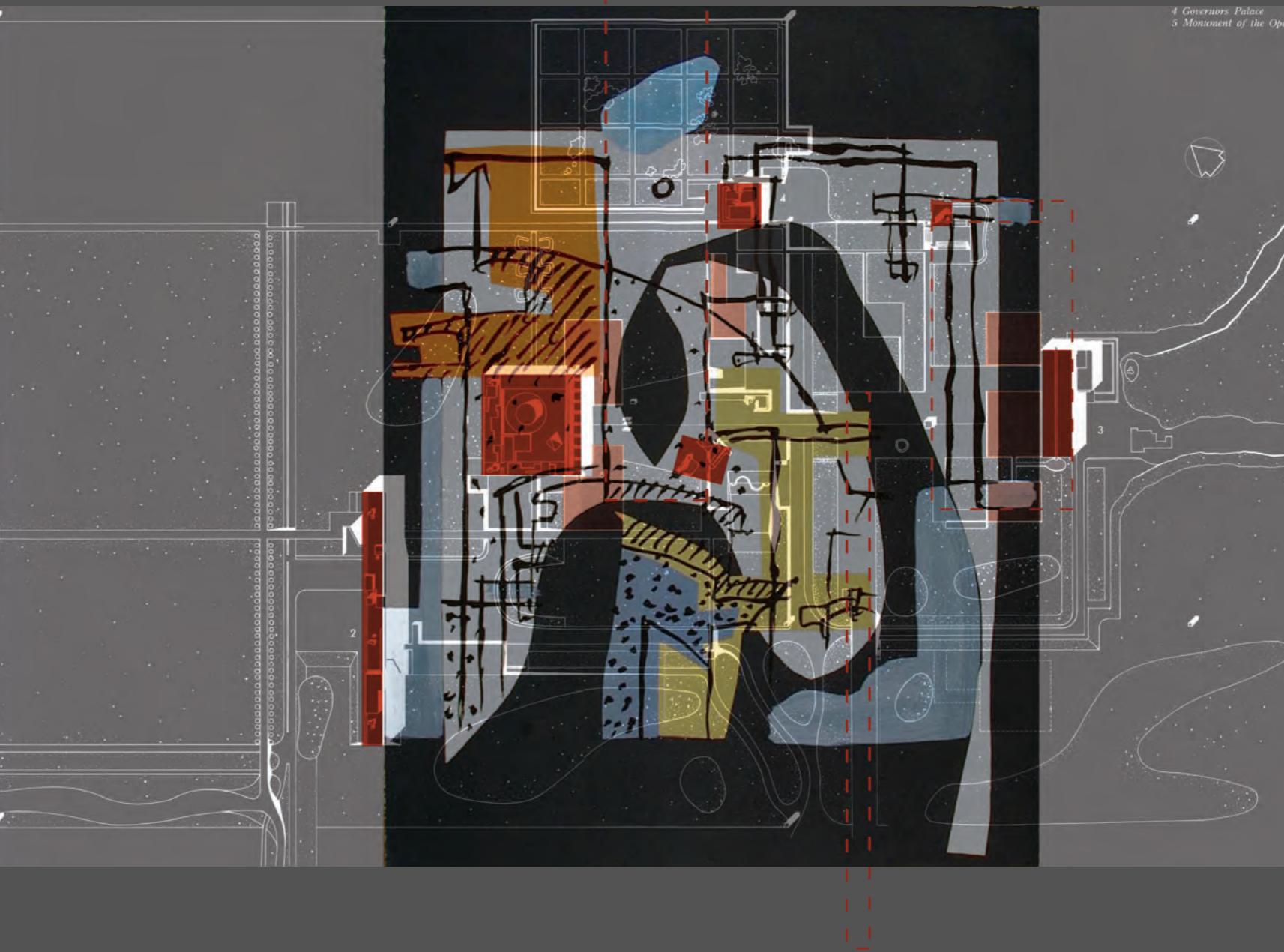
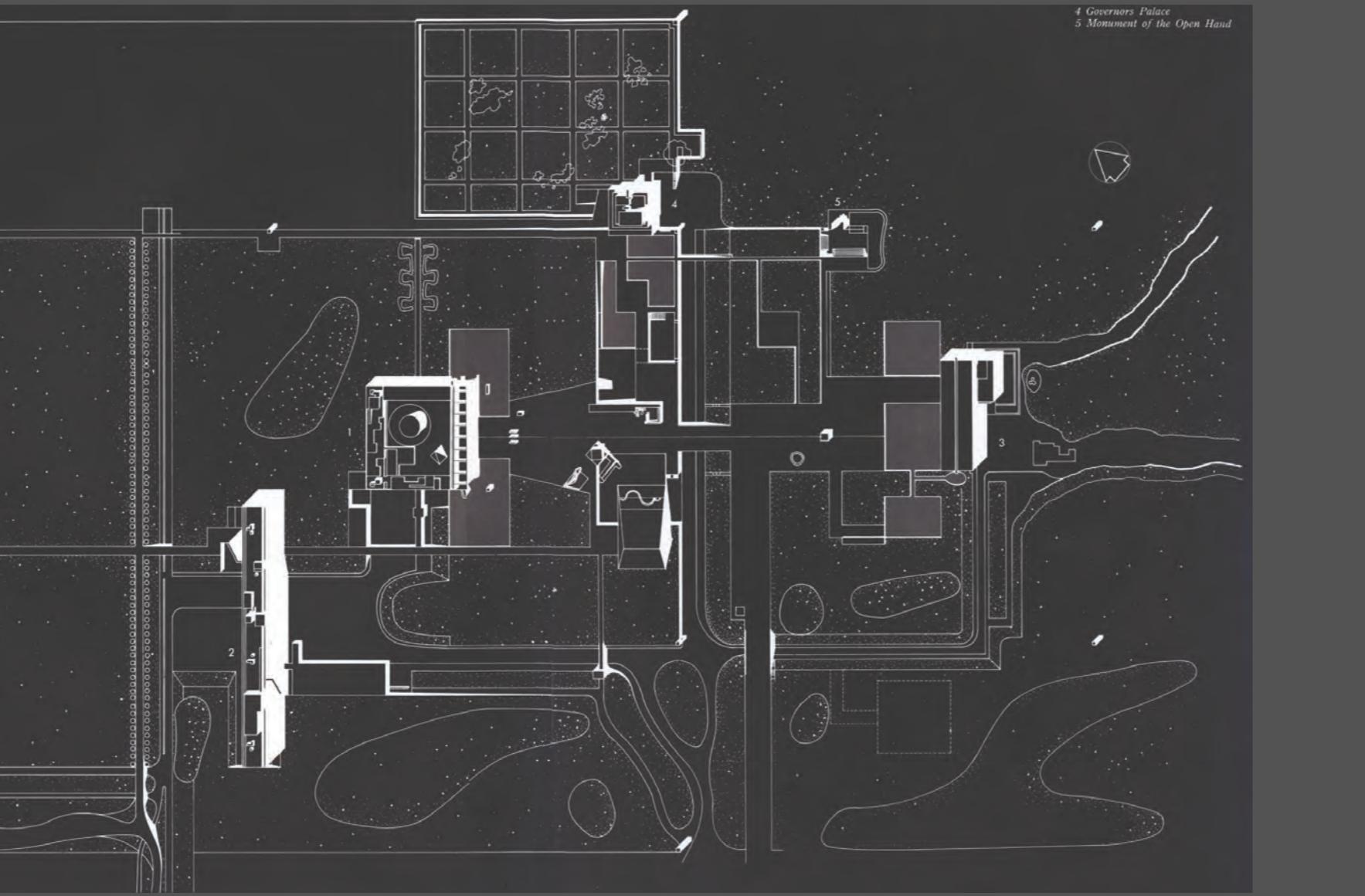
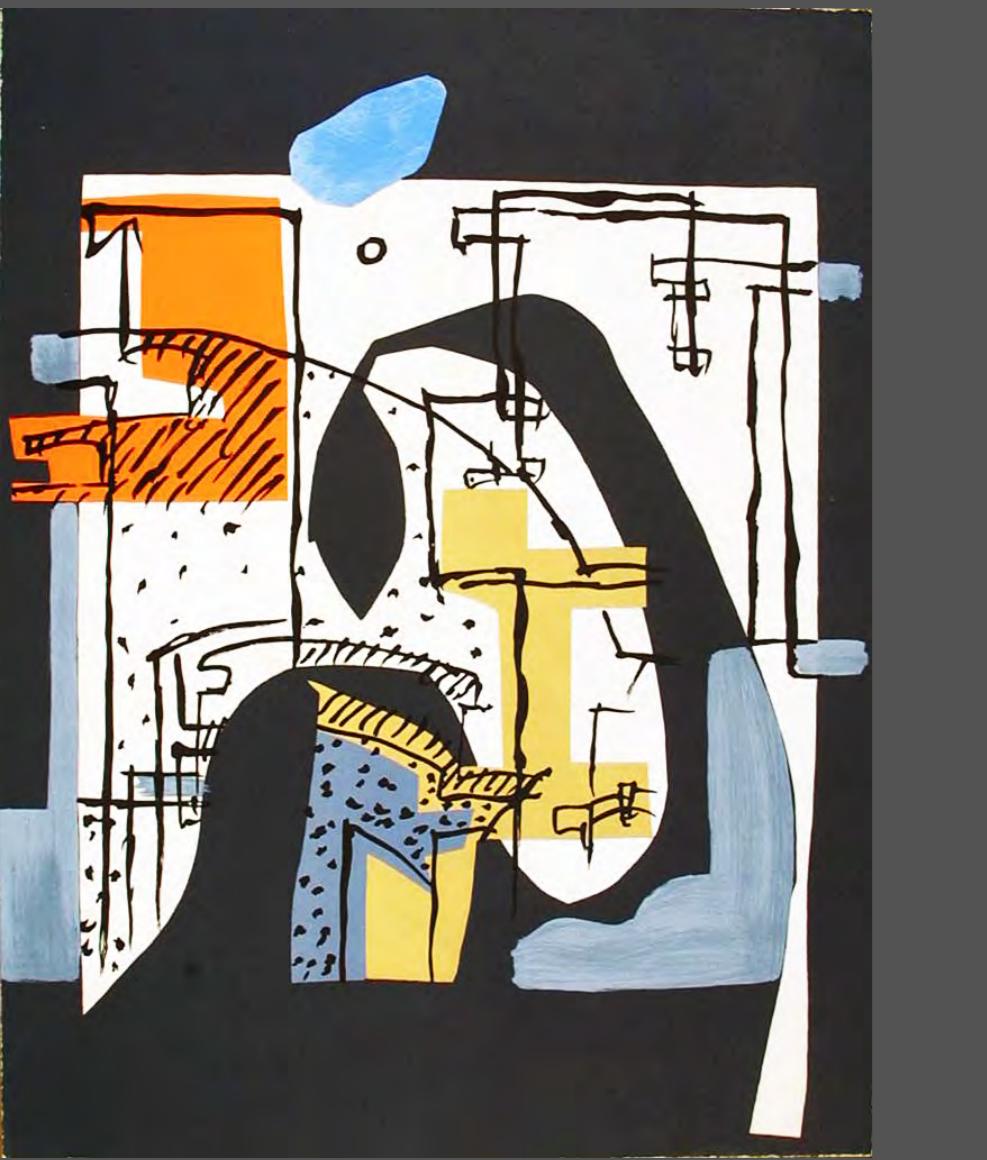




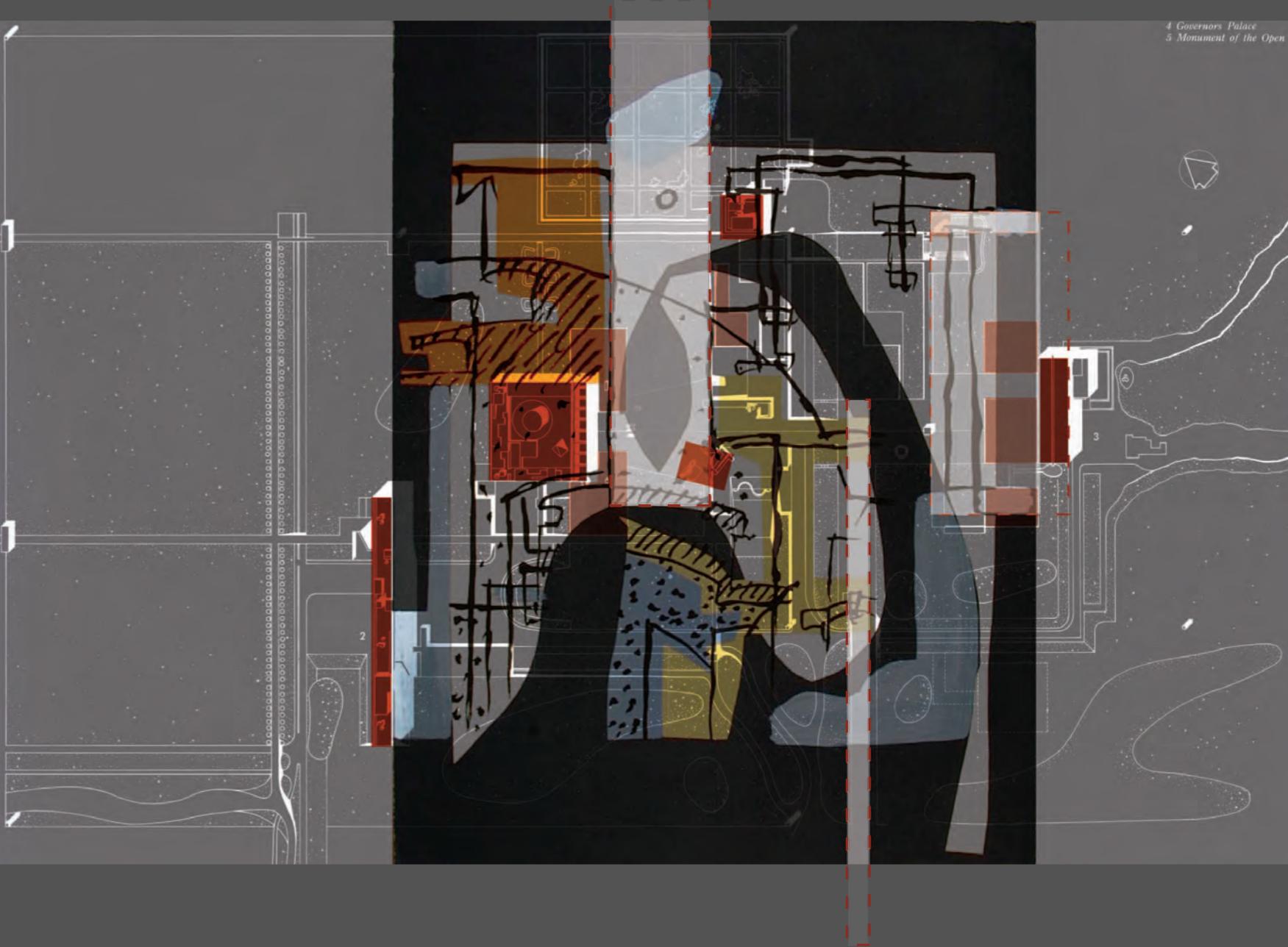
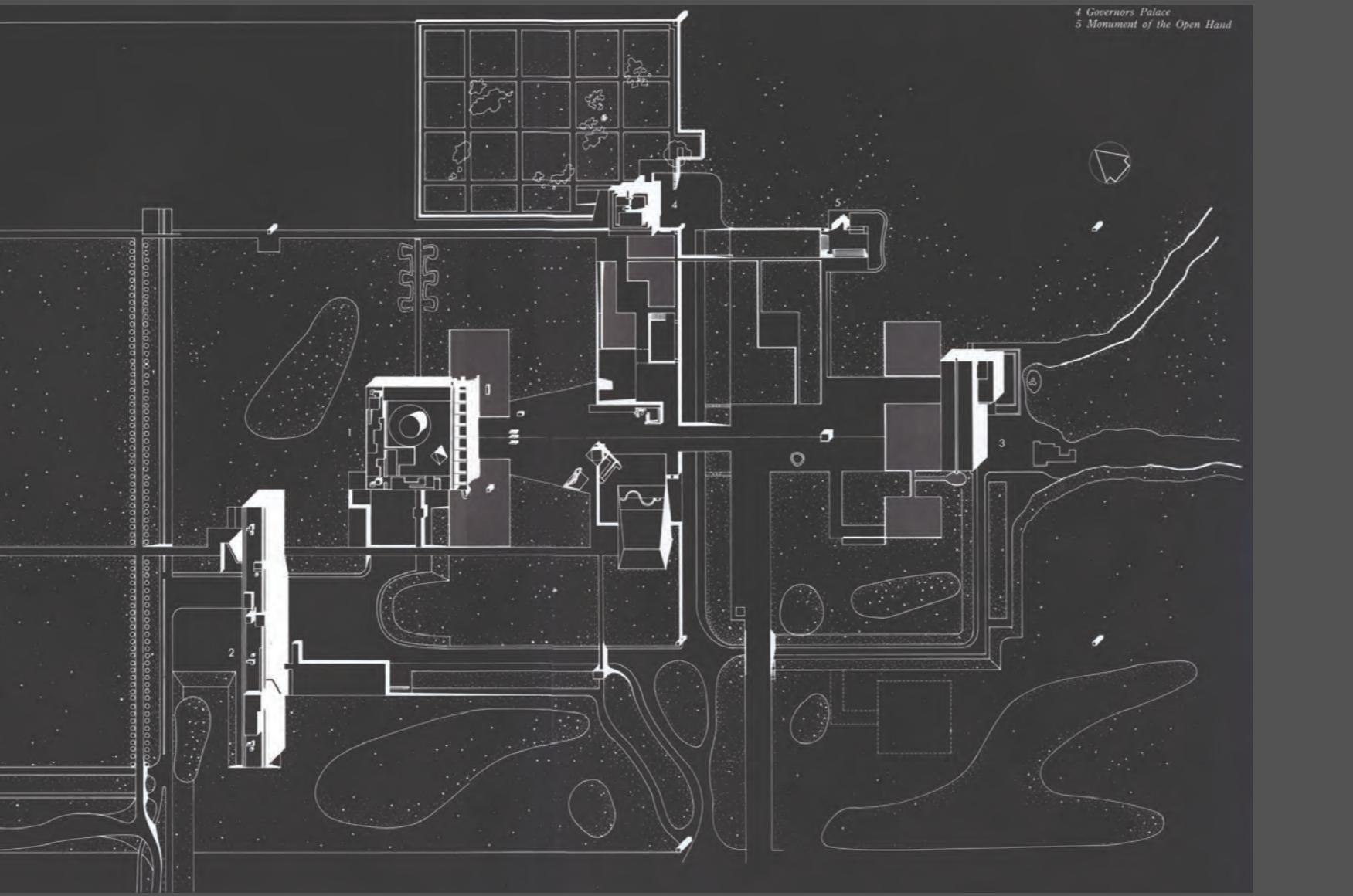
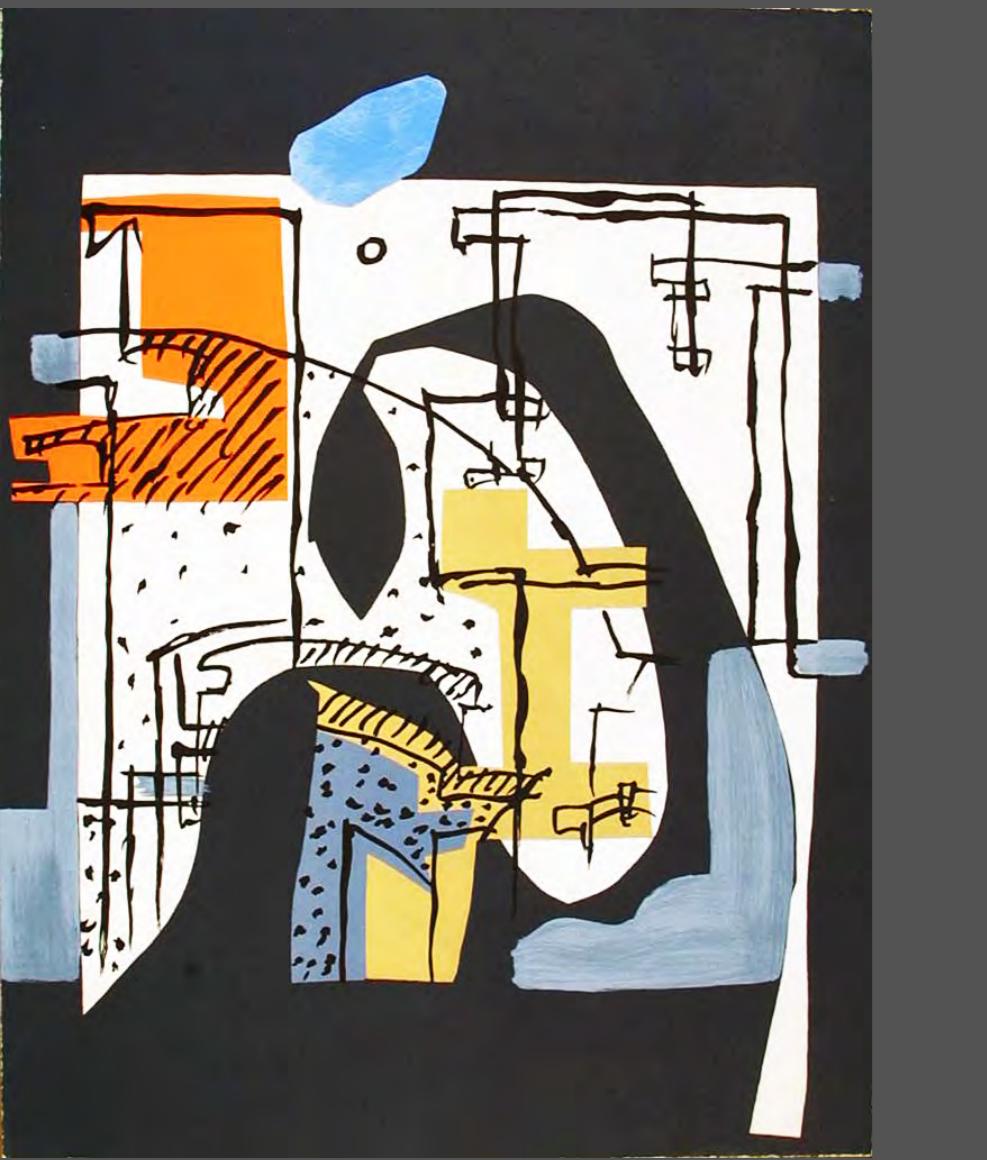


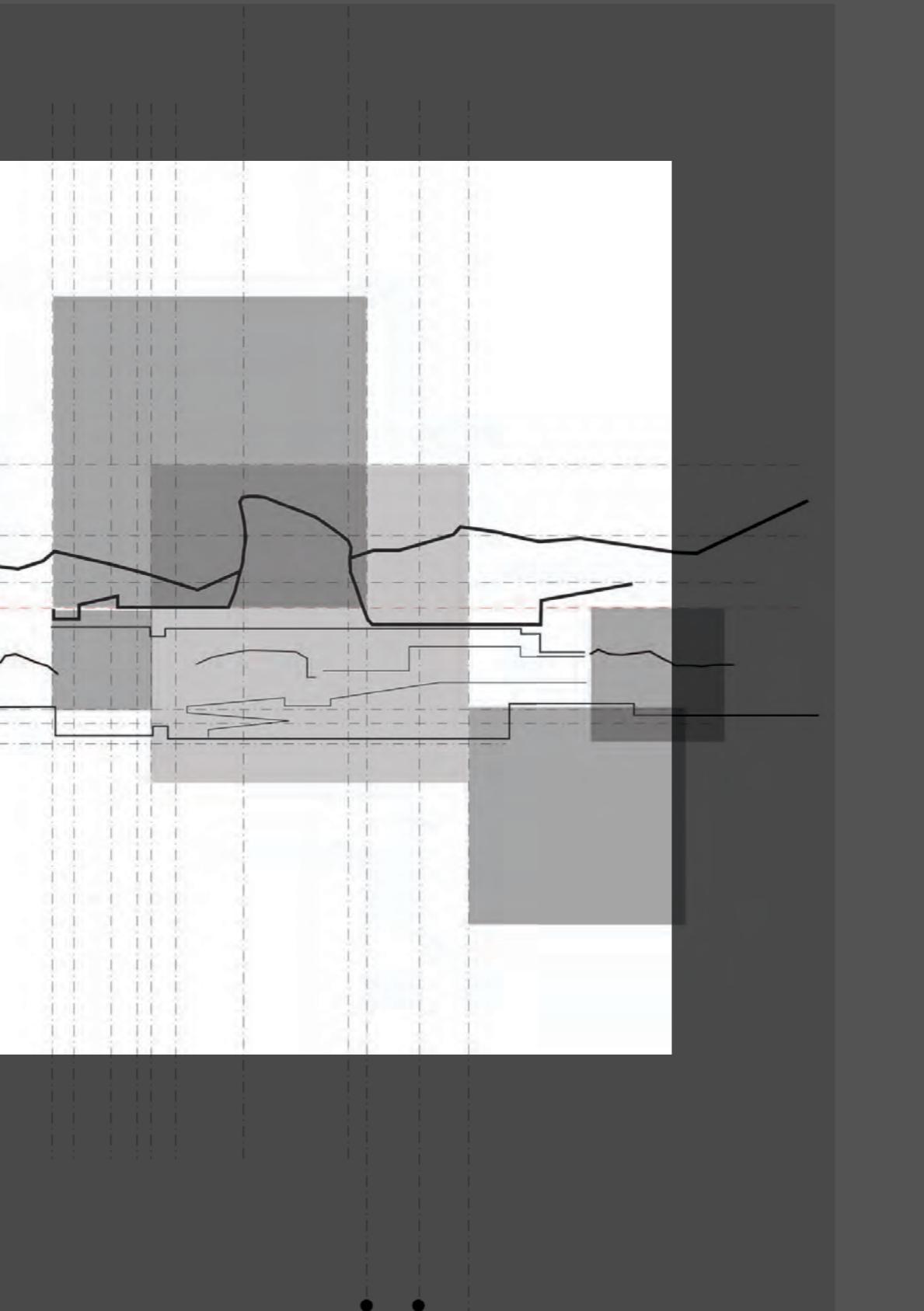
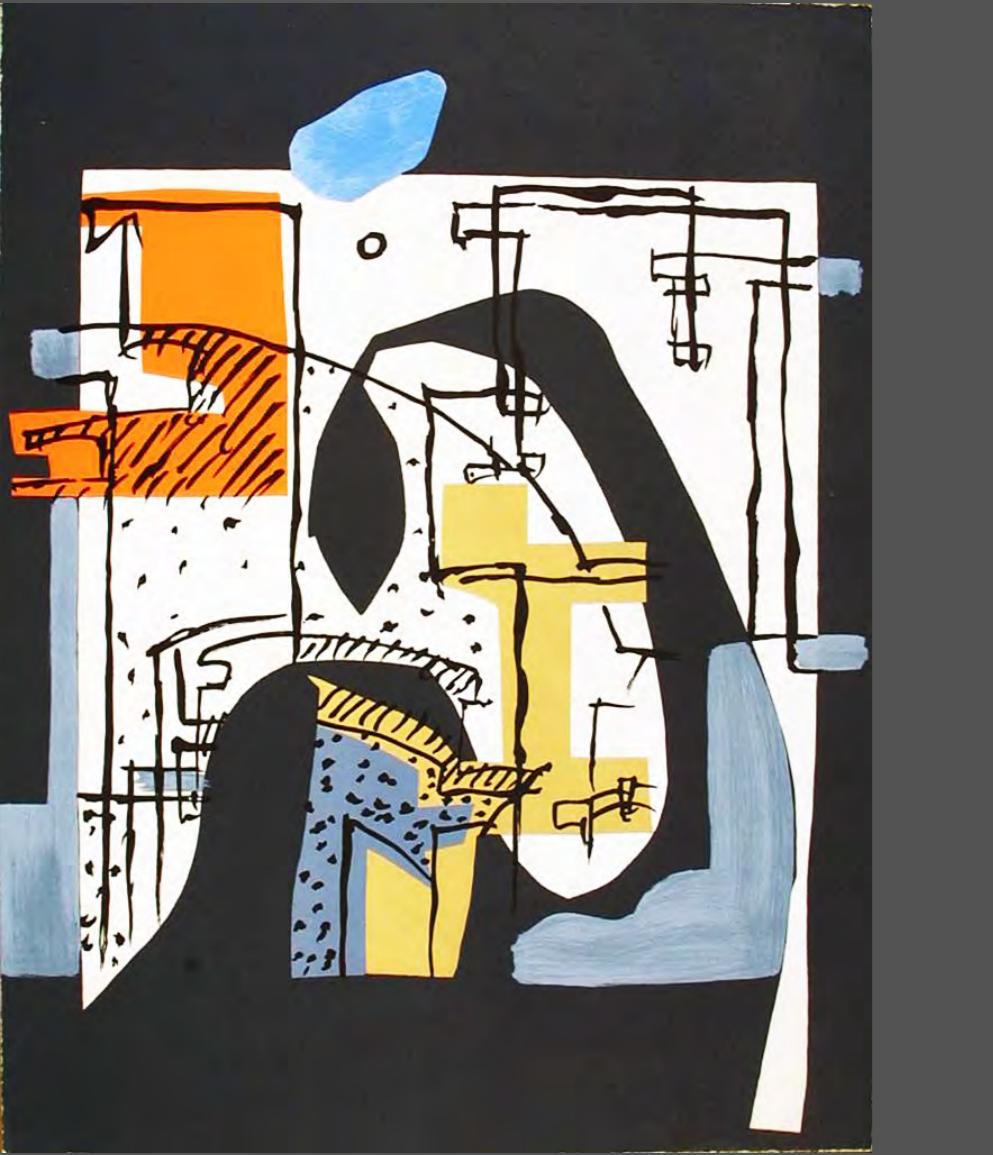


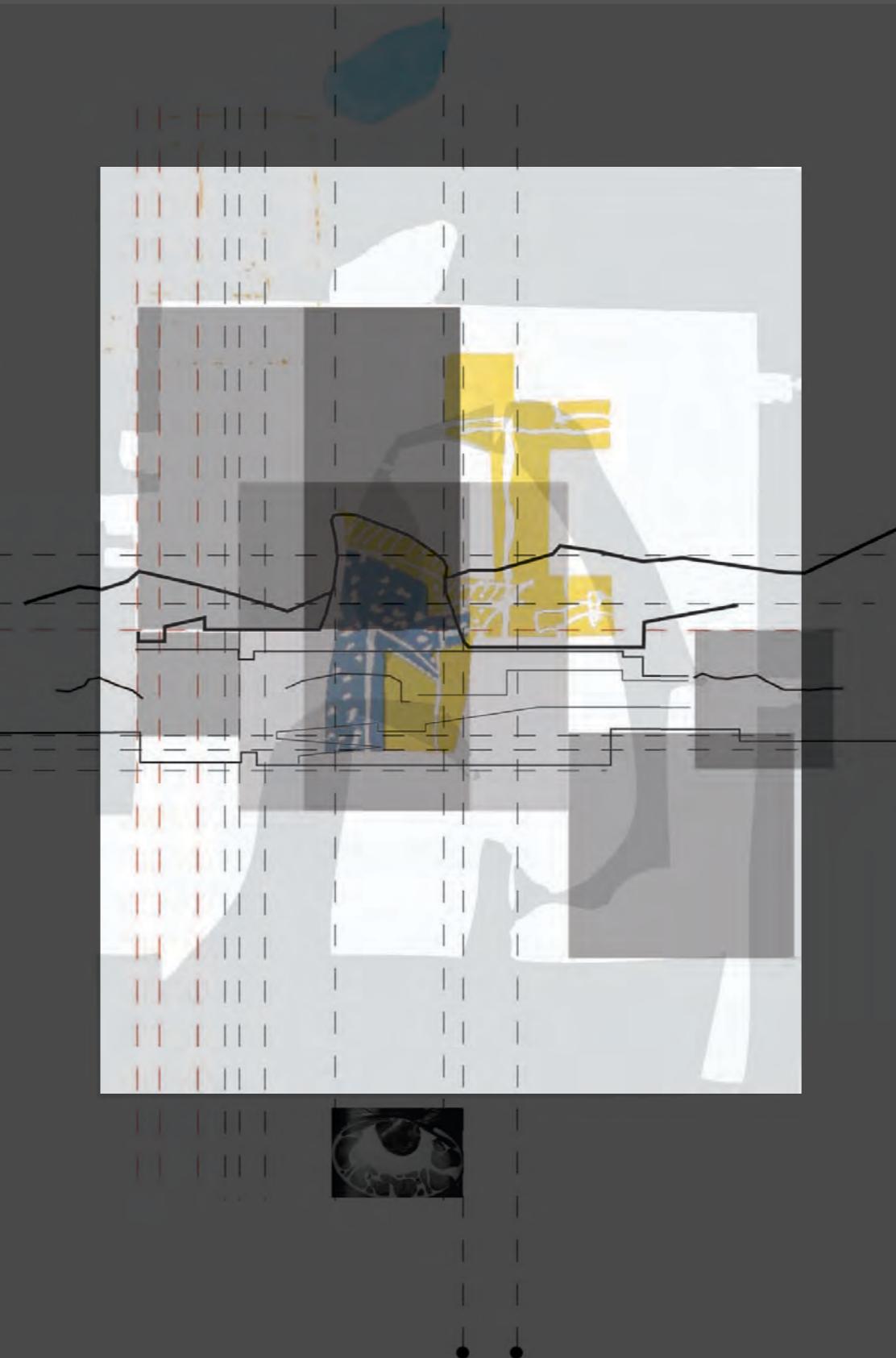
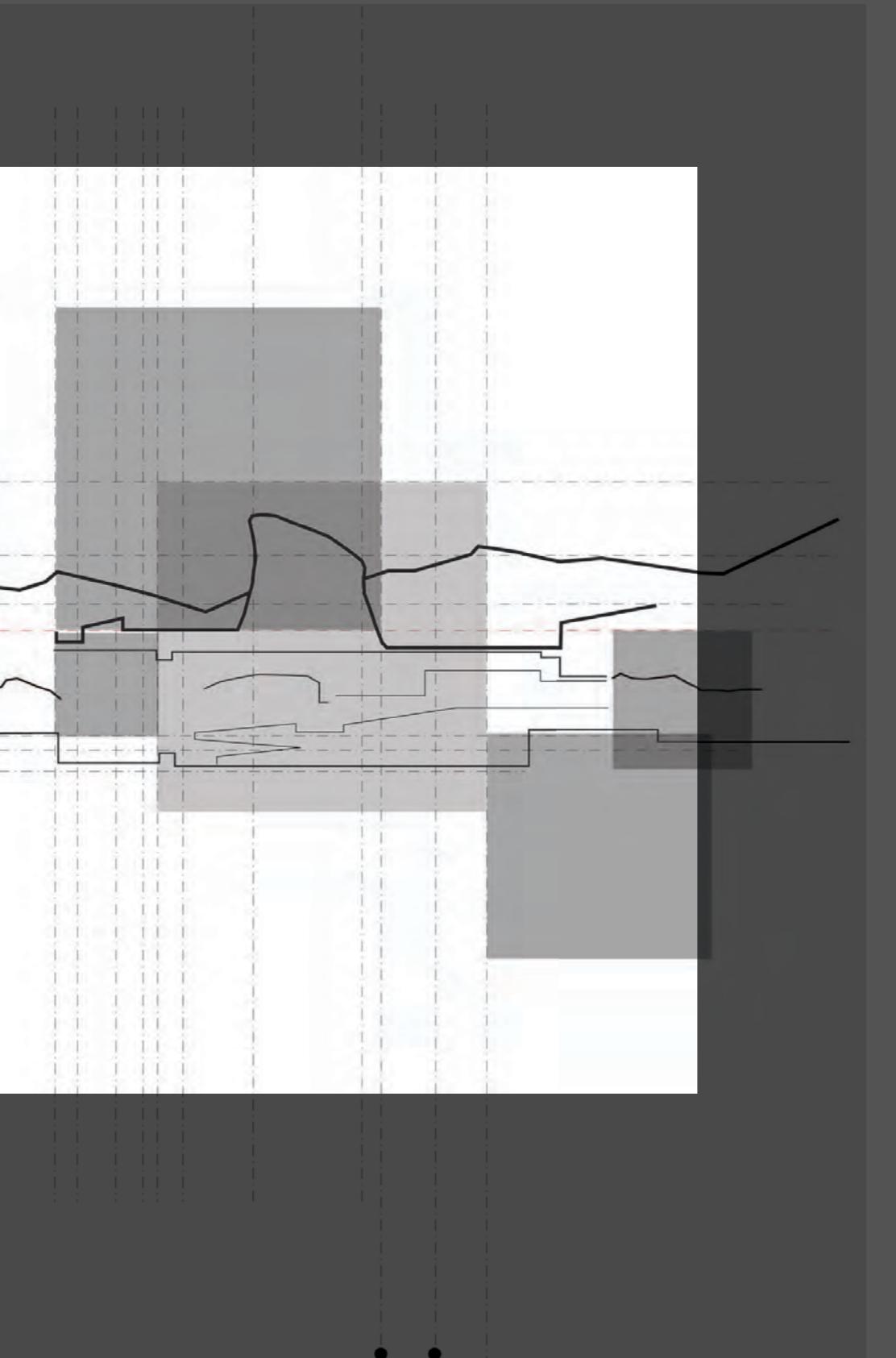
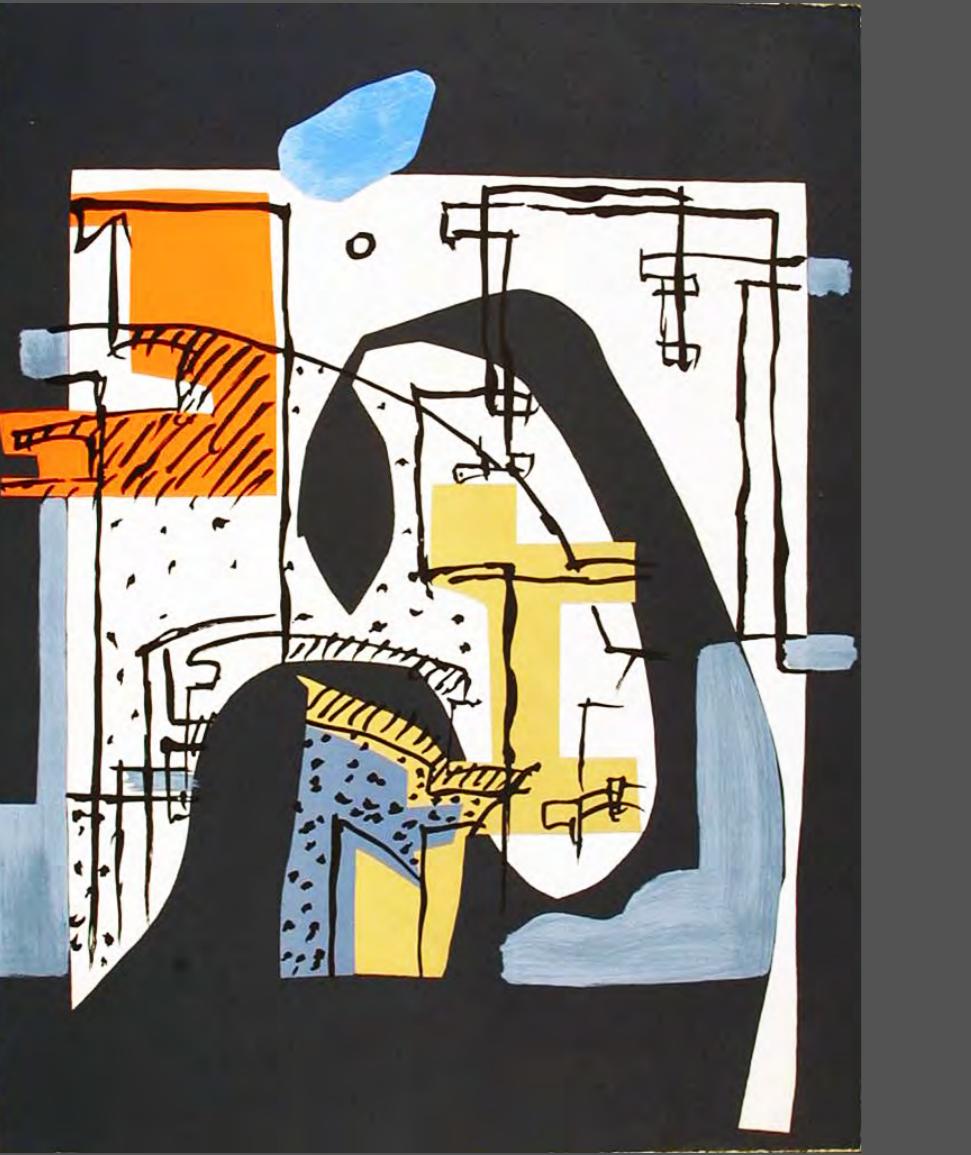


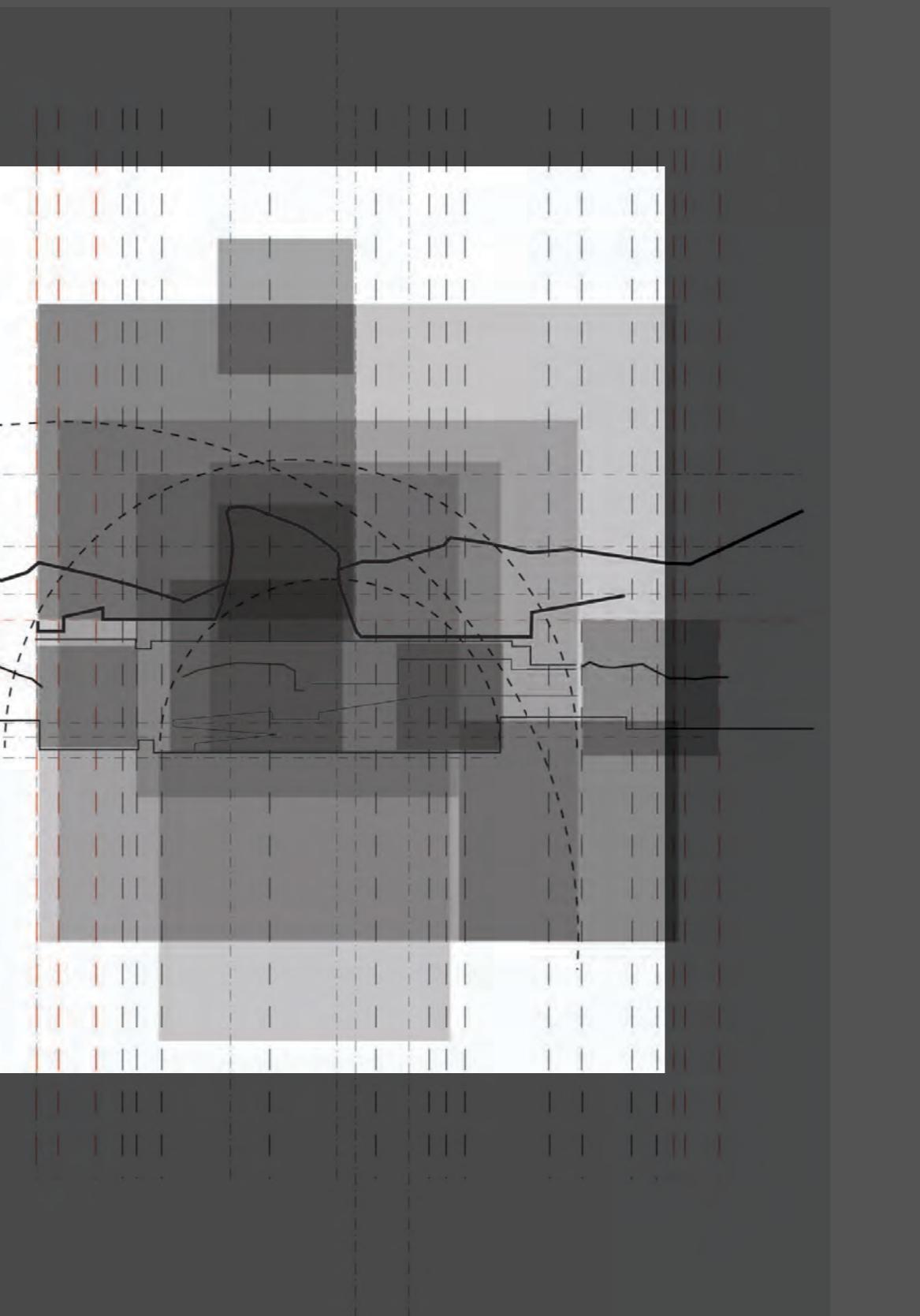
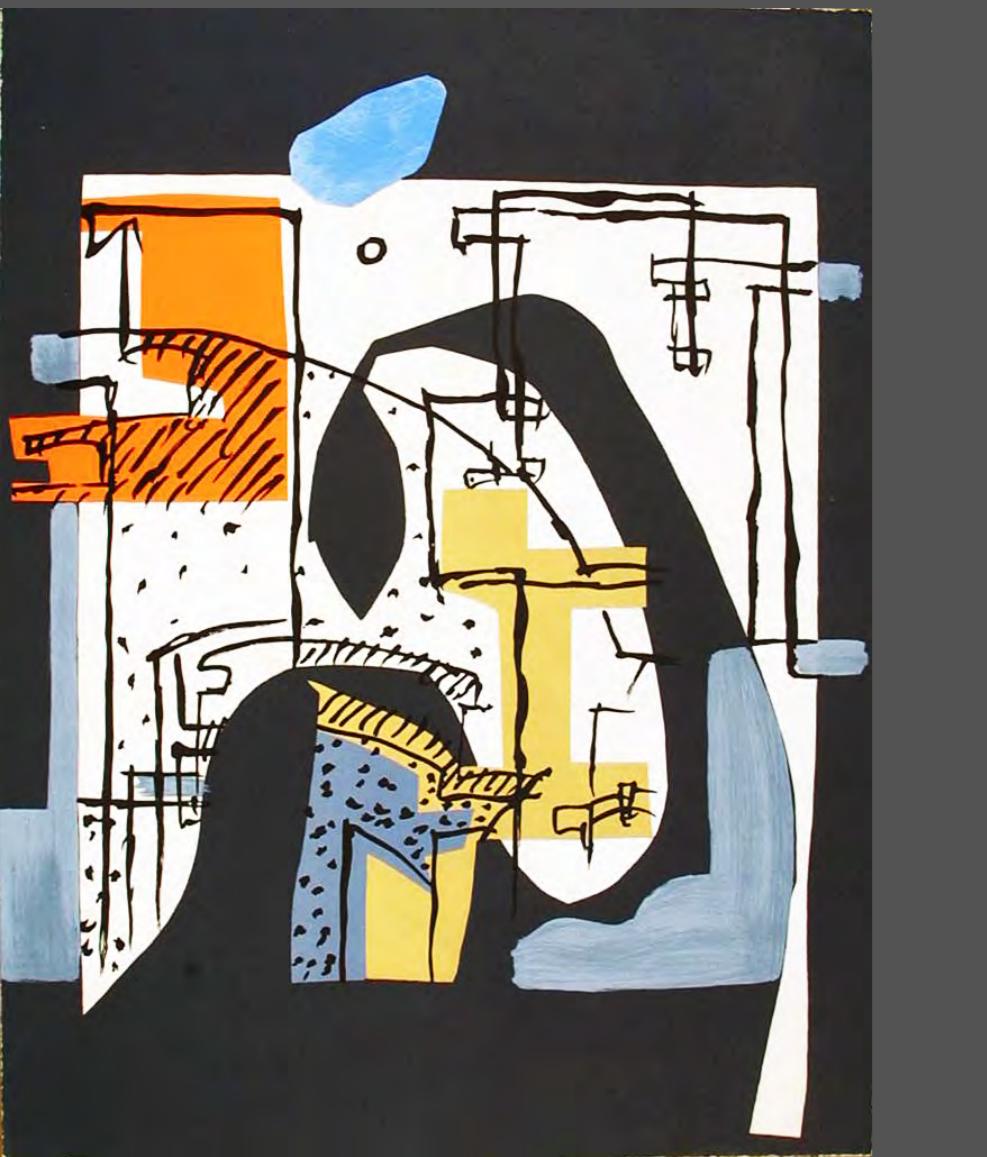


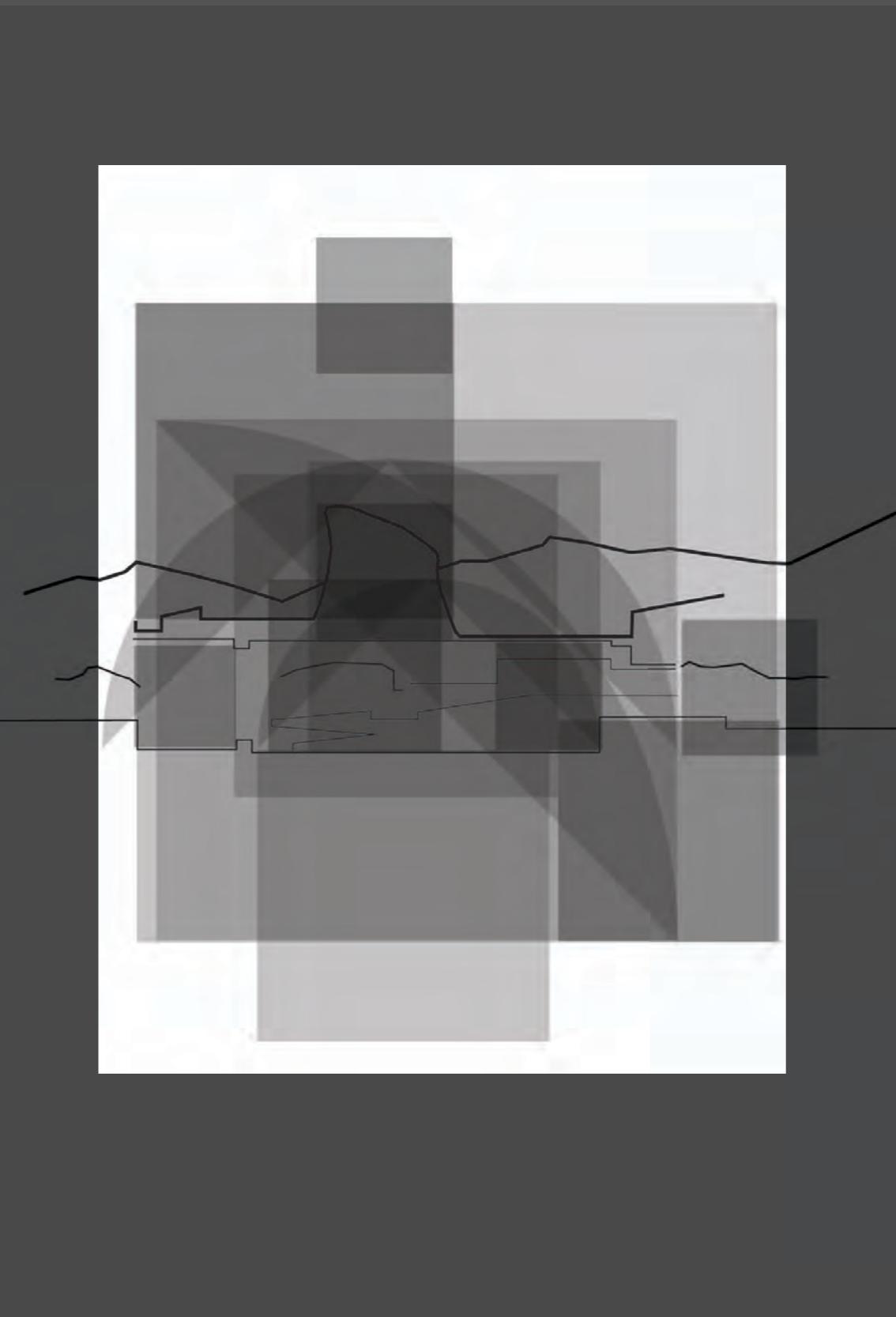
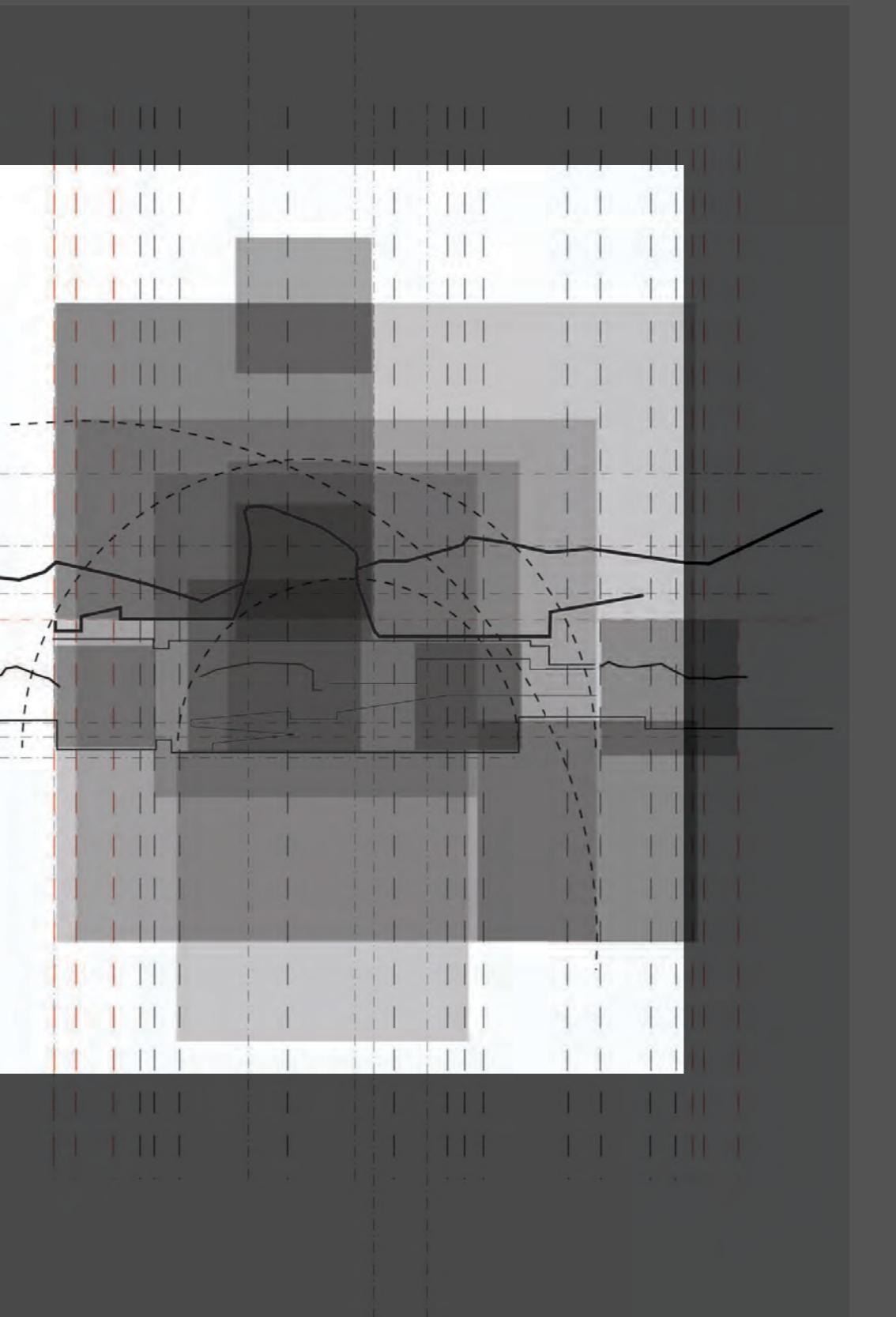
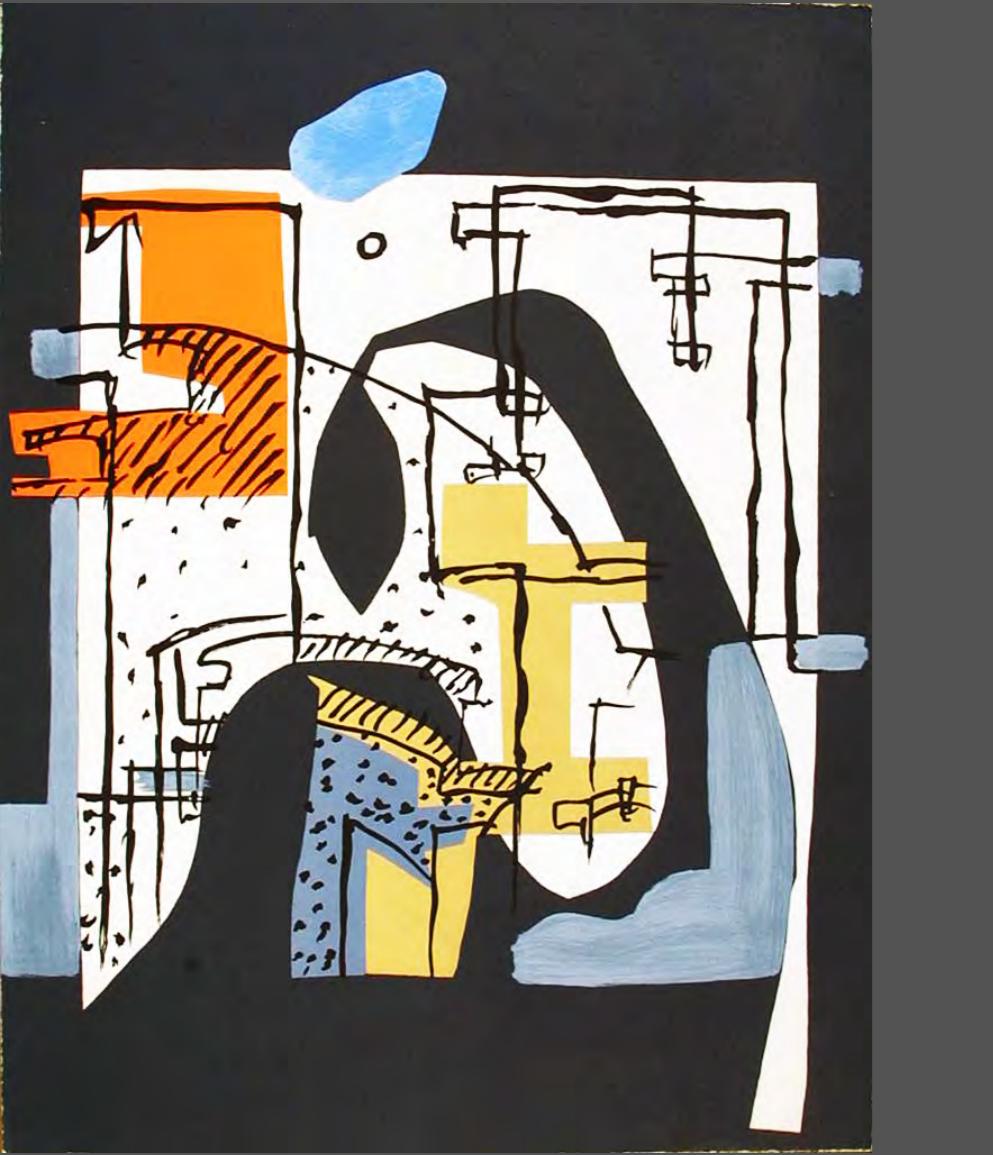
4 Governor's Palace
5 Monument of the Open Hand

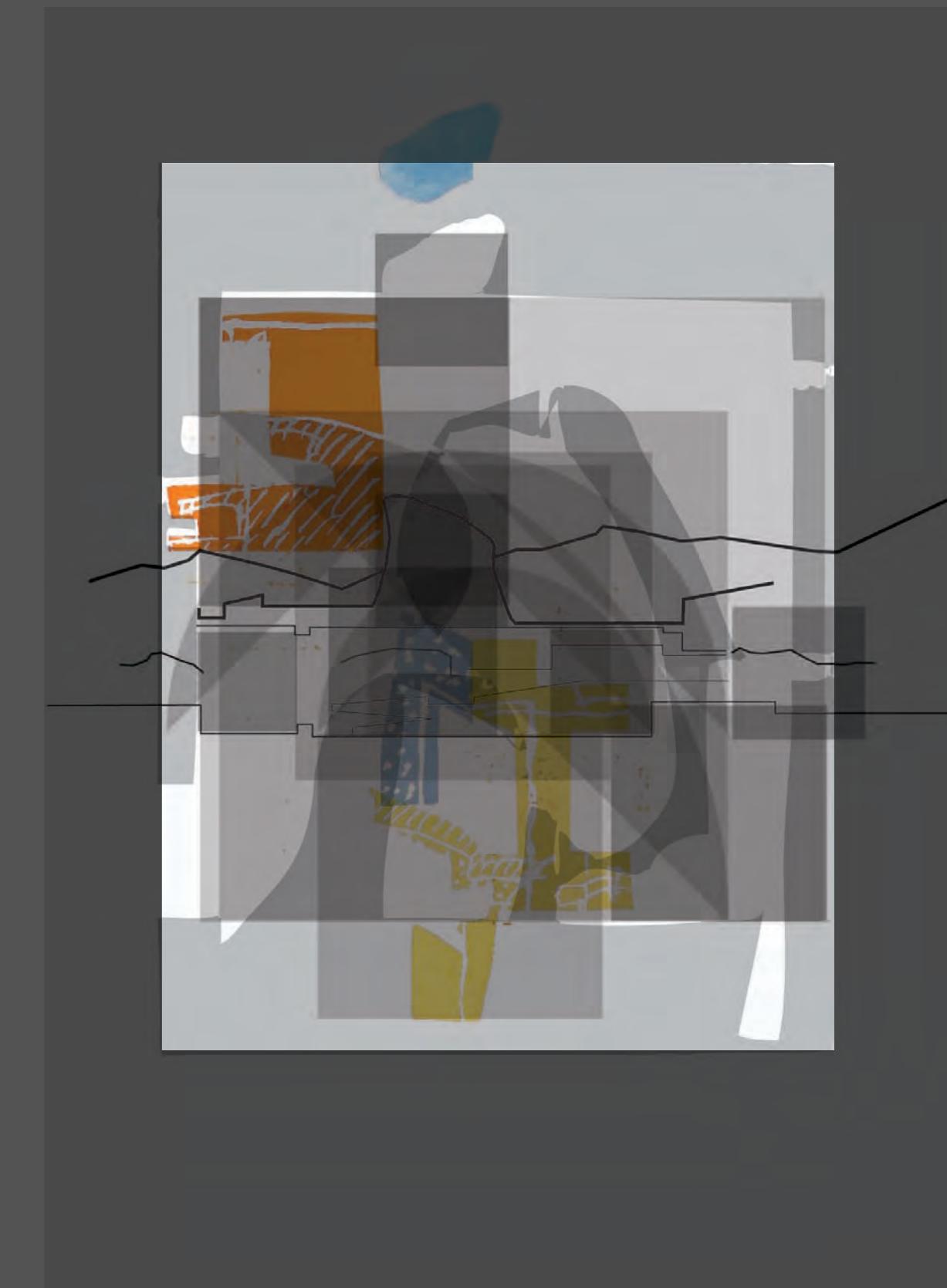
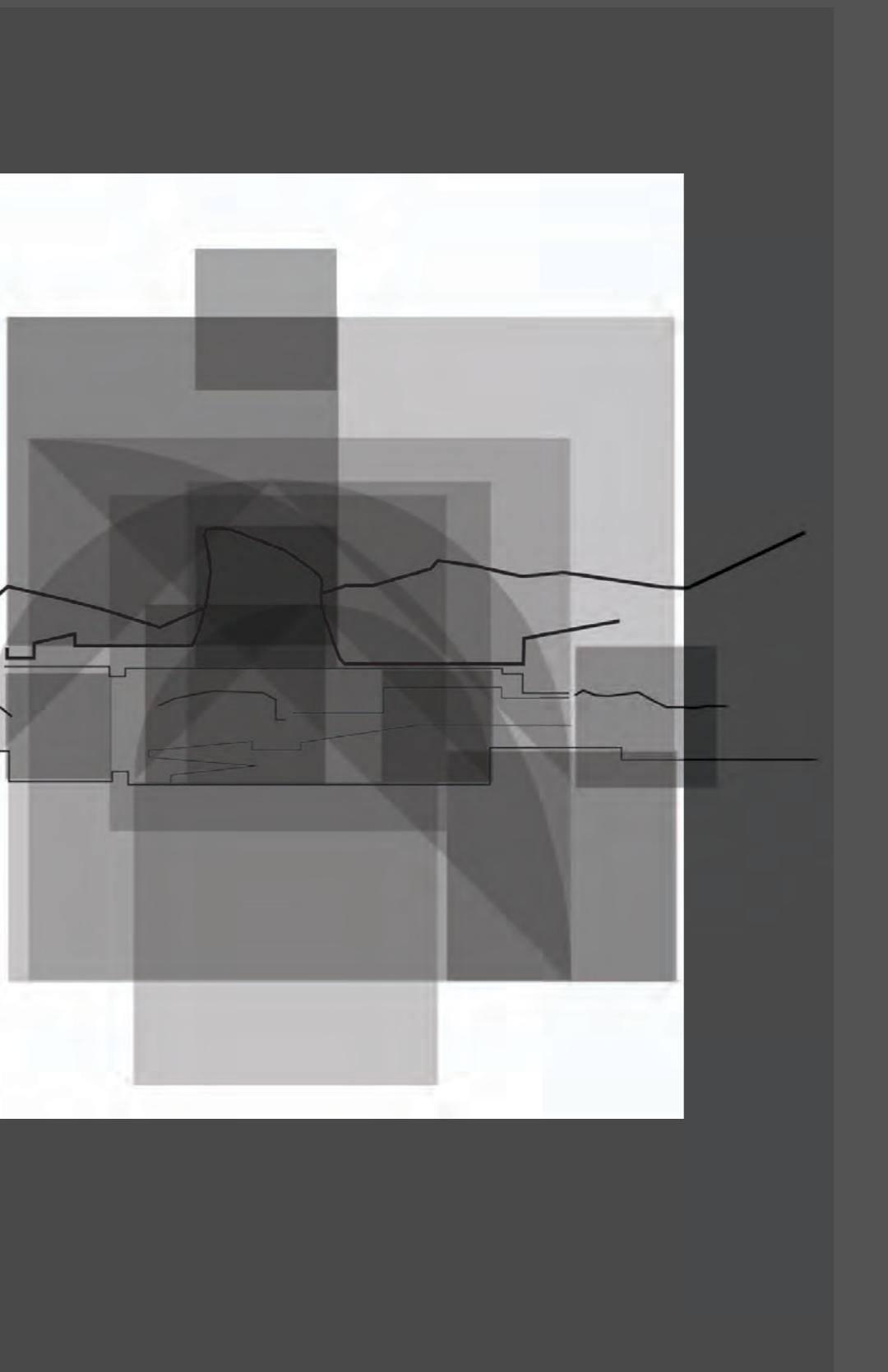
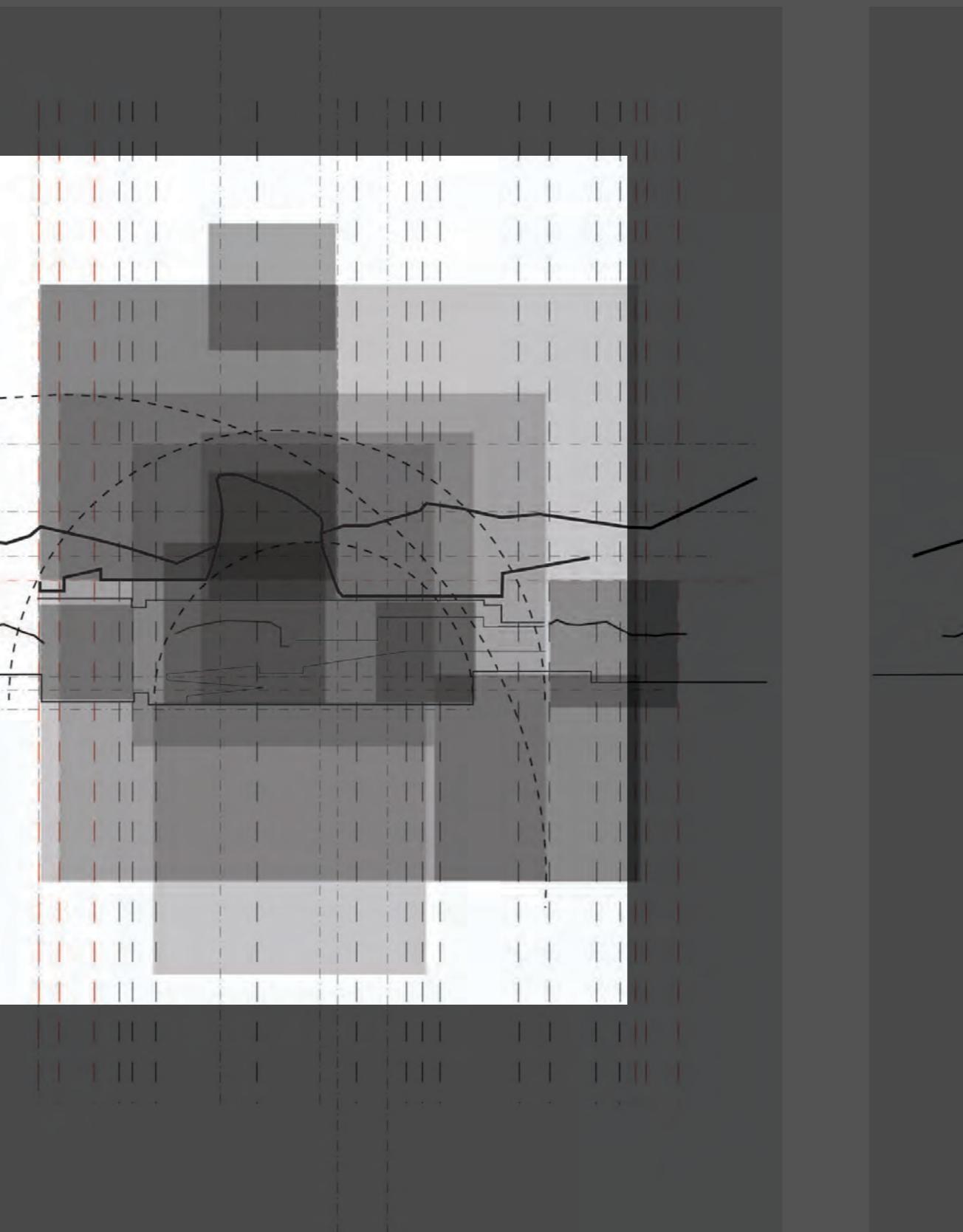
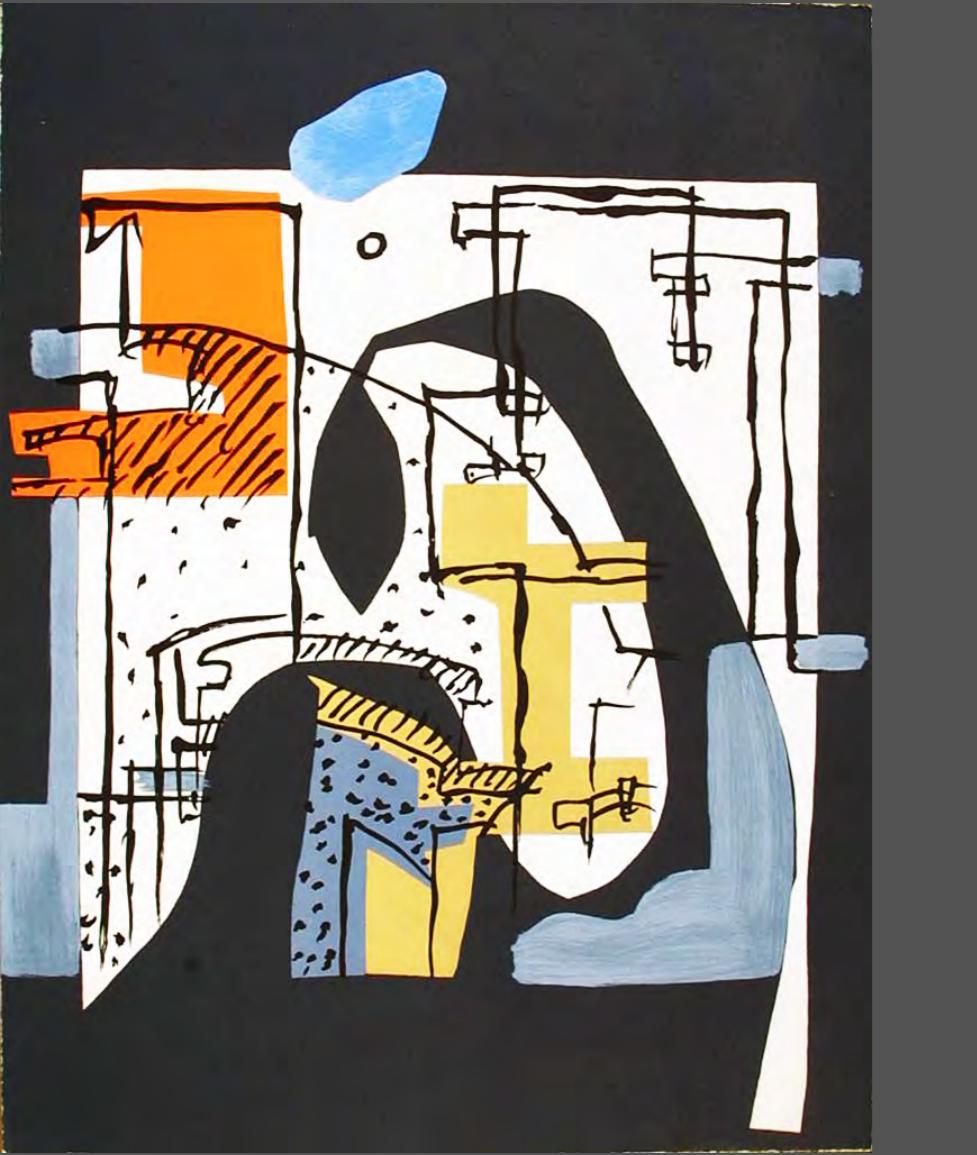


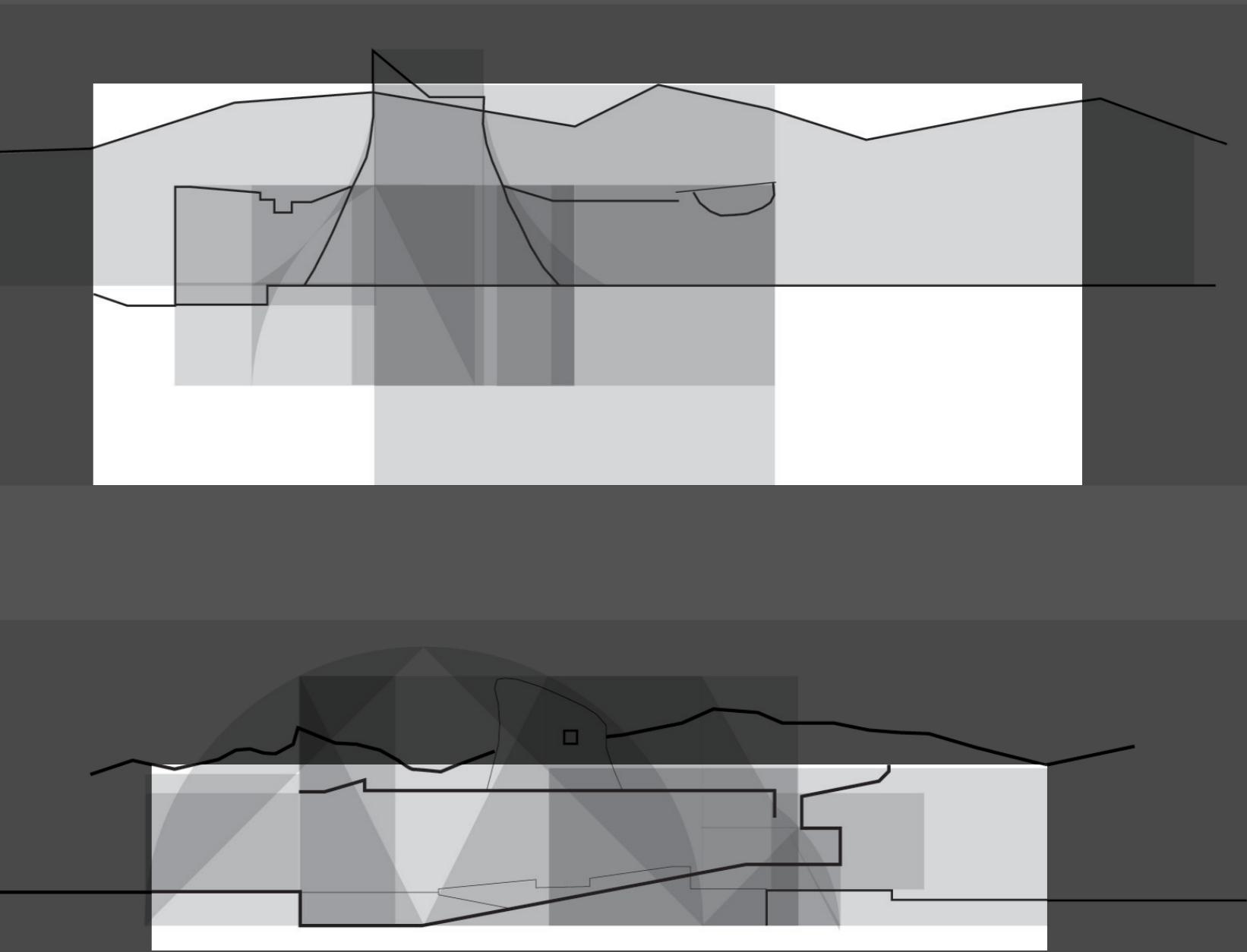
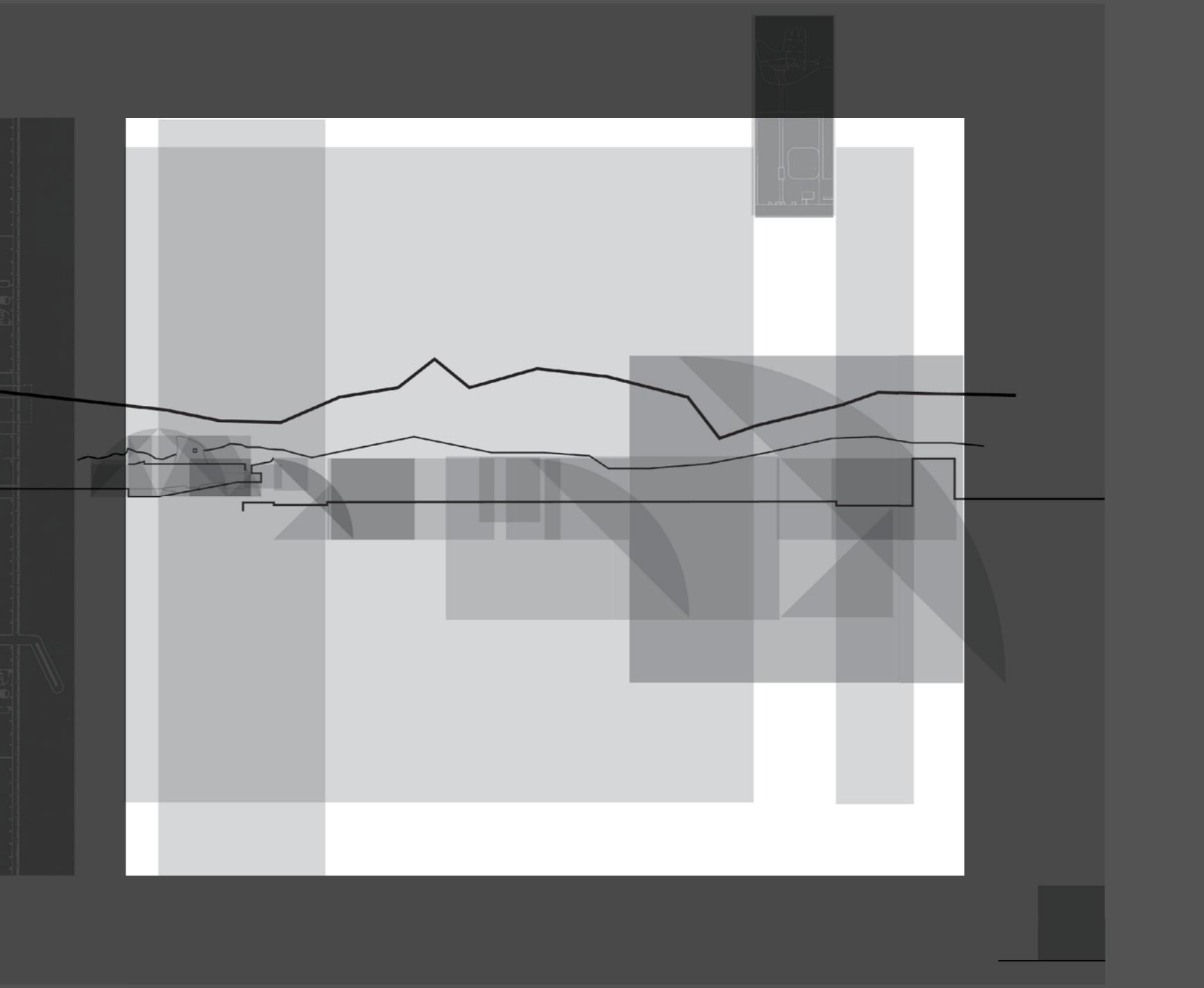
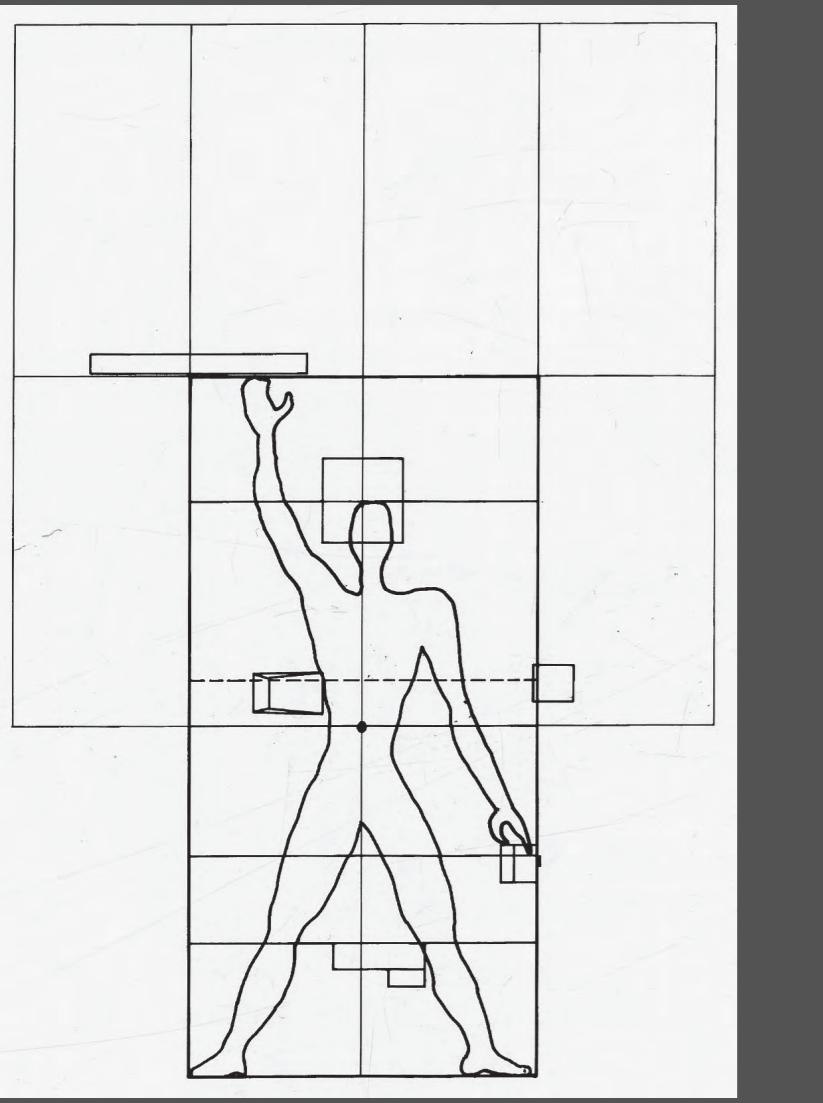




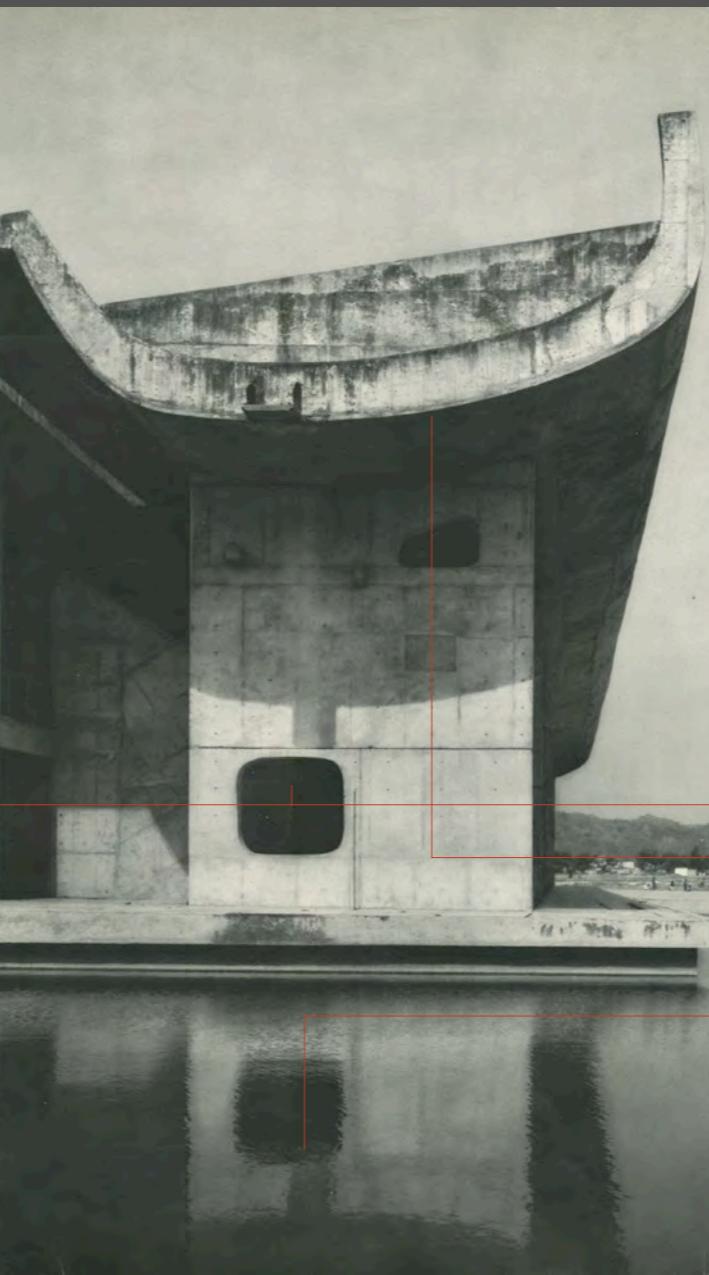




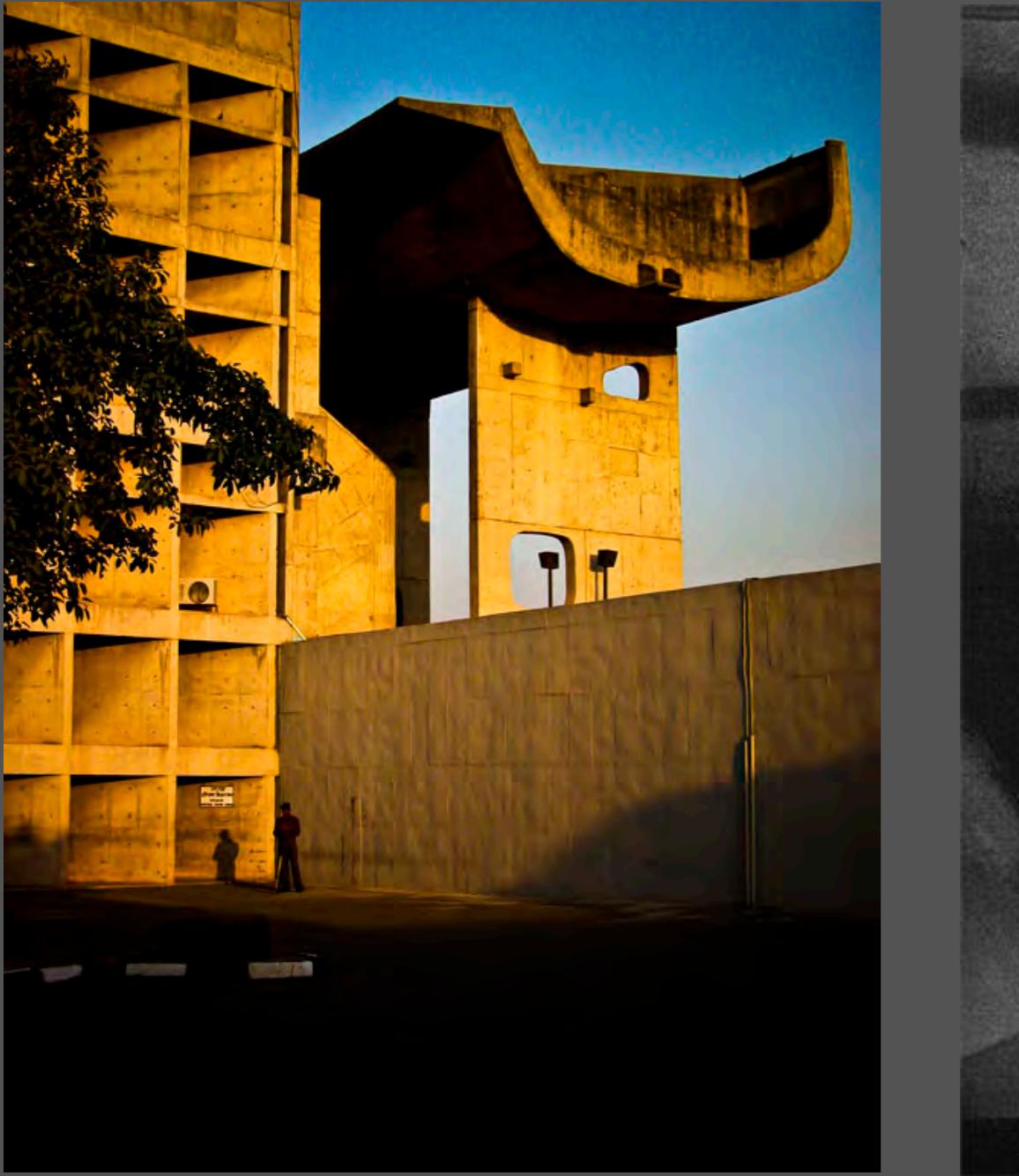


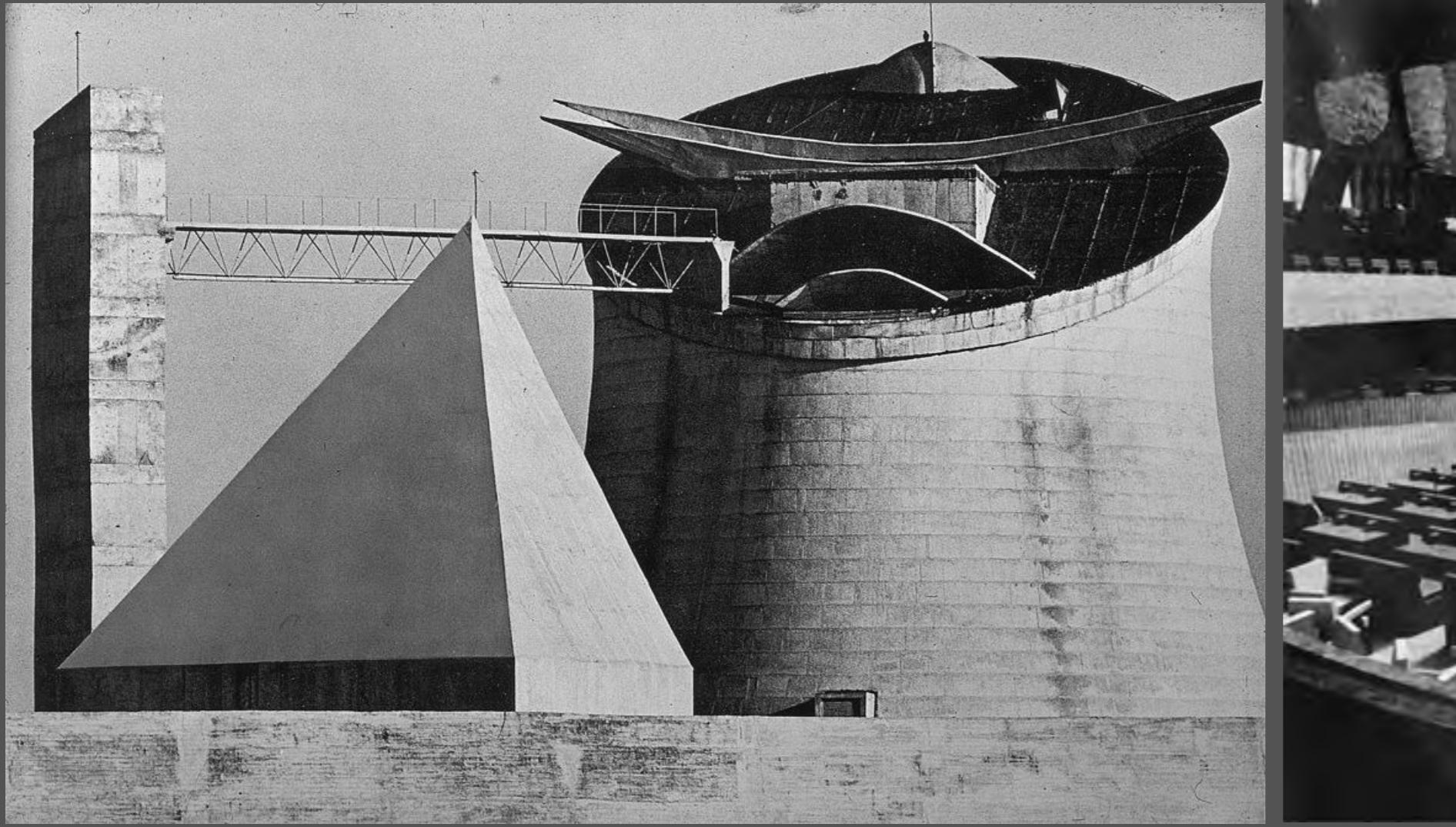


assembly building : scalar densities



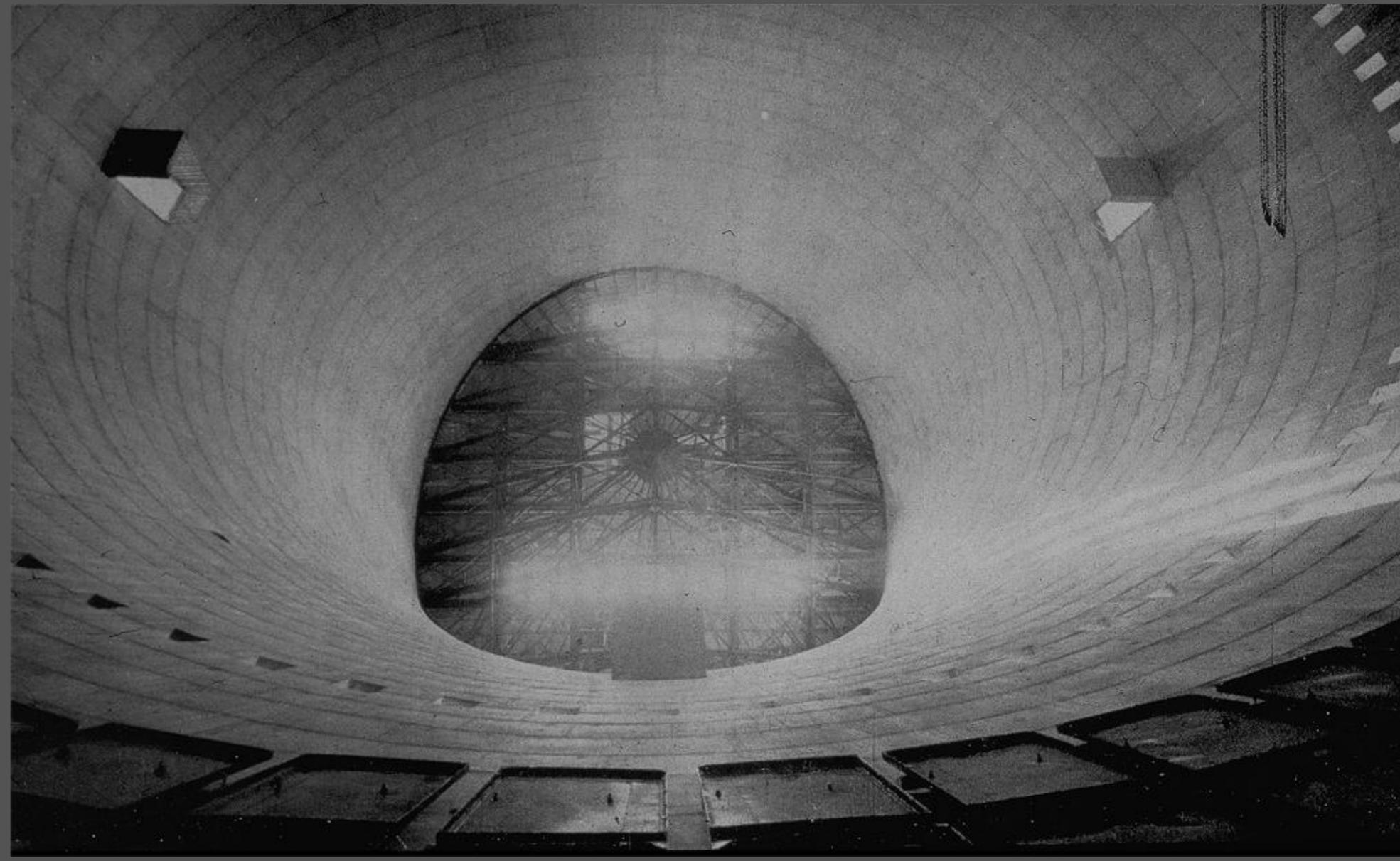
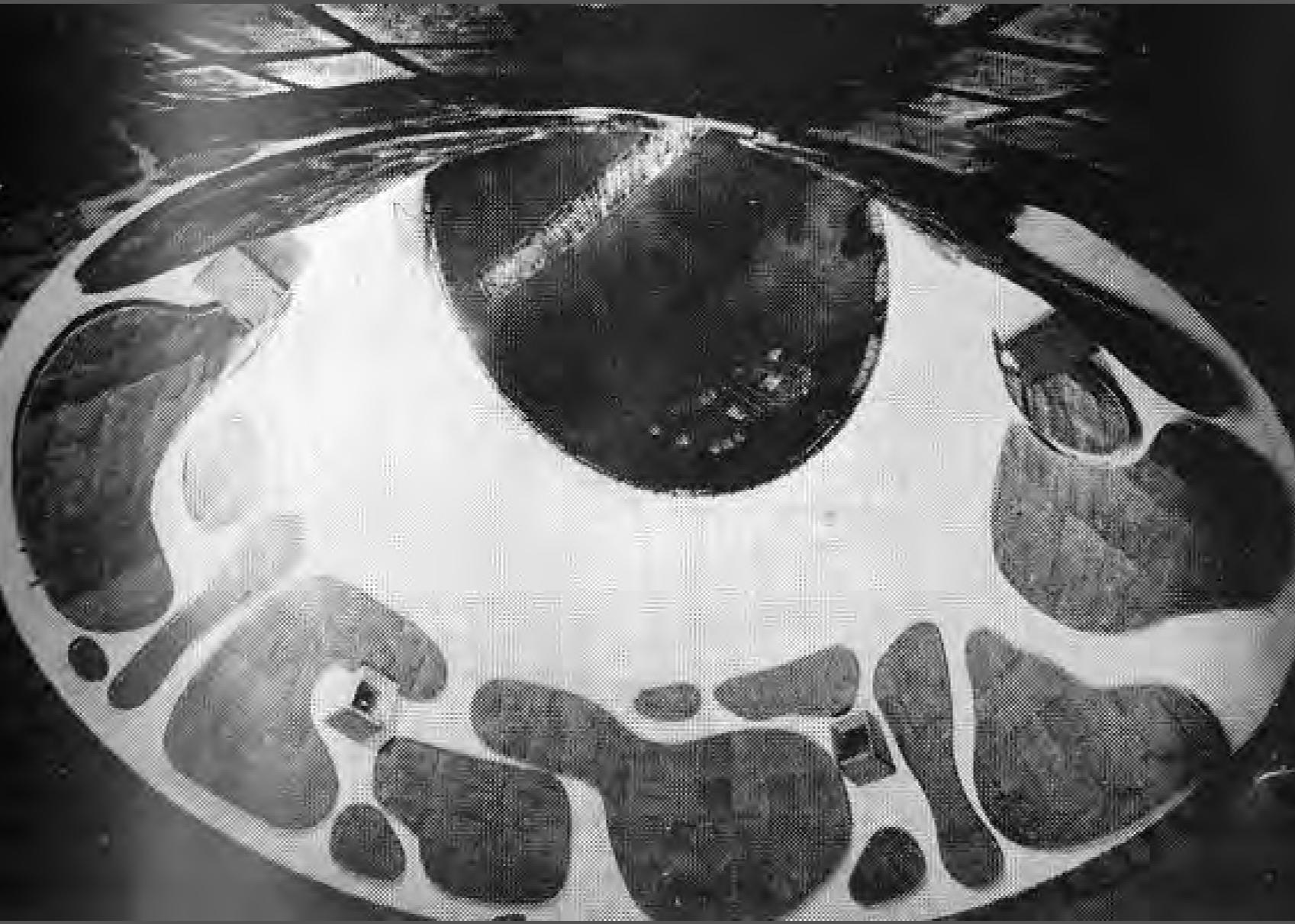
+ registering of human scale against monumental | infinite

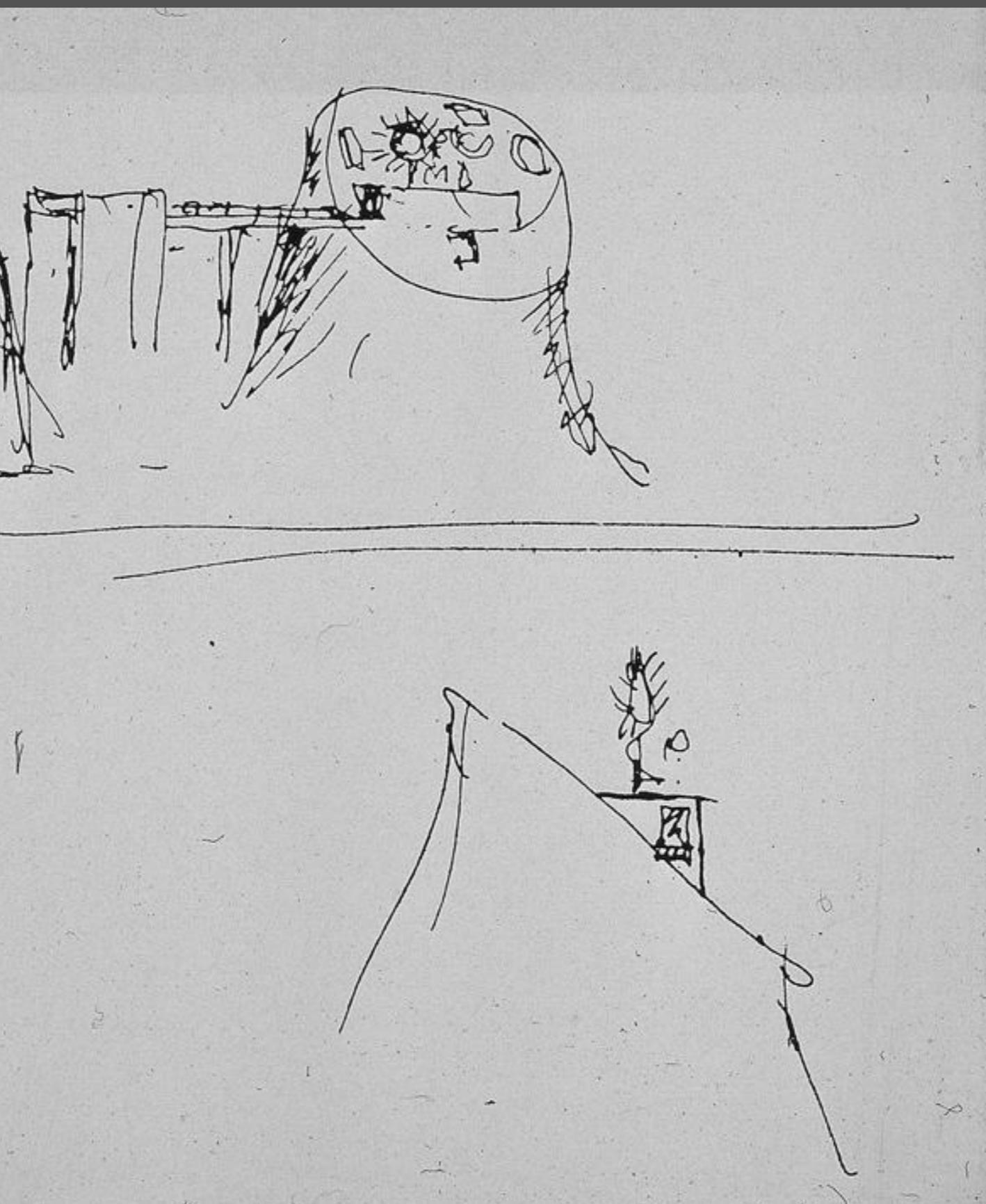
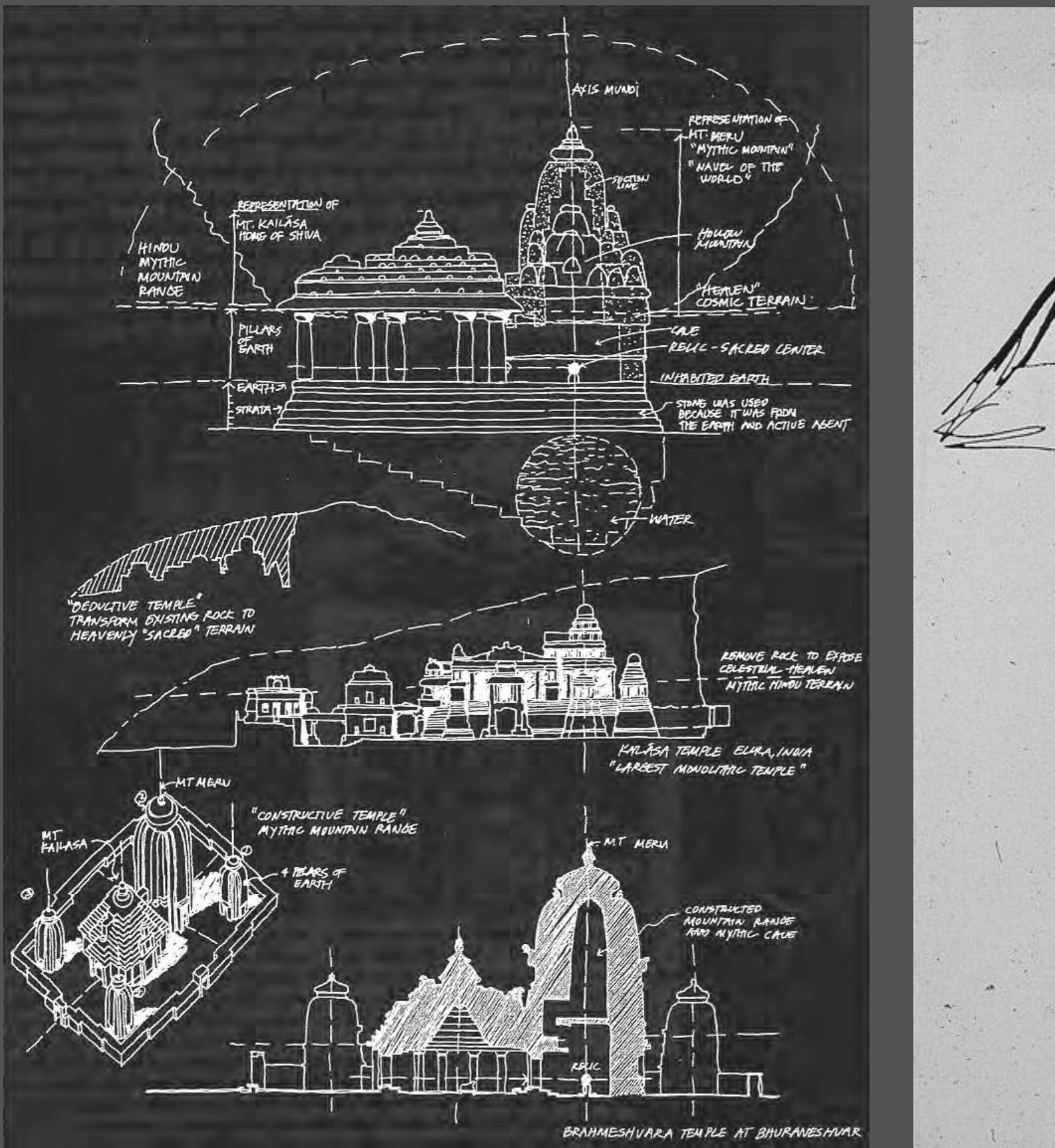




assembly building : chiaroscuro

- + subtractive quality of light versus shadow;
- + extreme contrast + carving of ground
- + cycles: scales of temporality, permanence, and ritual







assembly building : inhabited ground

"[The ground] forms one pole in a spatial construct linking earth to sky...one of the fundamental relationships guiding human thought and action.

The attic, with its clearly articulated structure exposed to view, its removal from the particularity of the ground... gives it its greater sense of perspective on things, and its mnemonic capacity coming from the contents typically stored within, is considered the rational part of the house.

The cellar, with walls just barely holding back the vast and formless extent of the earth beyond, is both physically and poetically the dark entity of the house."

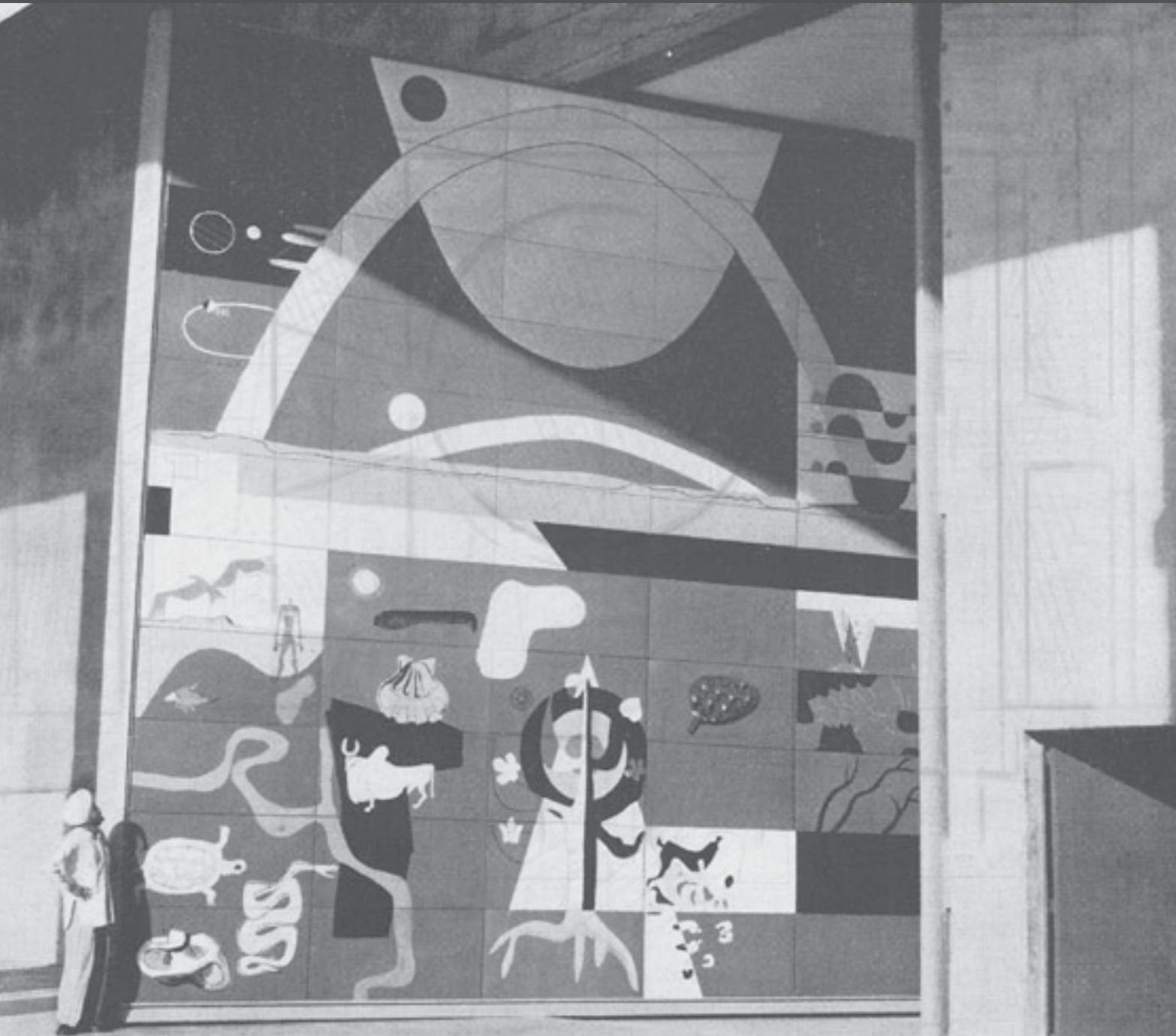


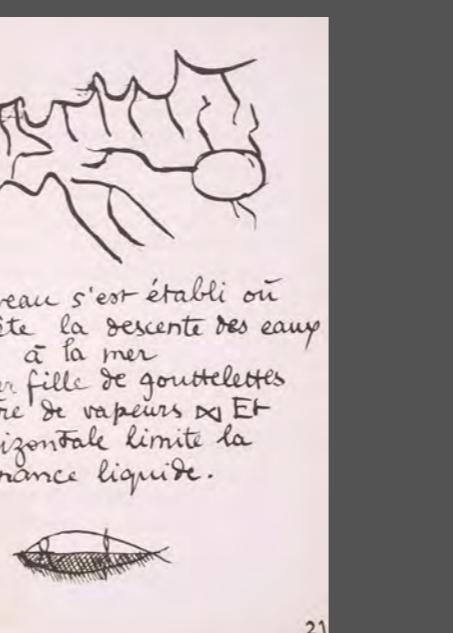
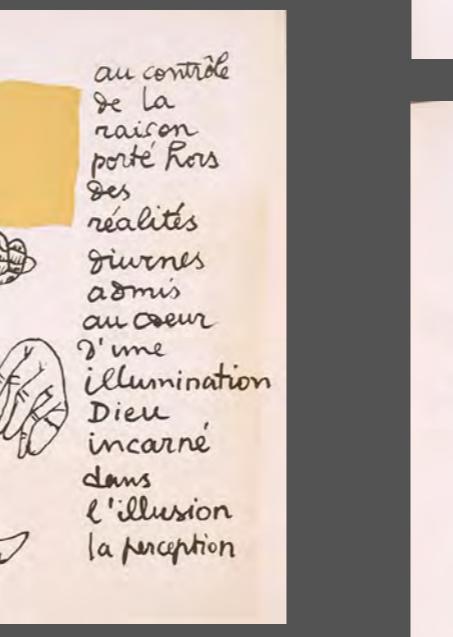
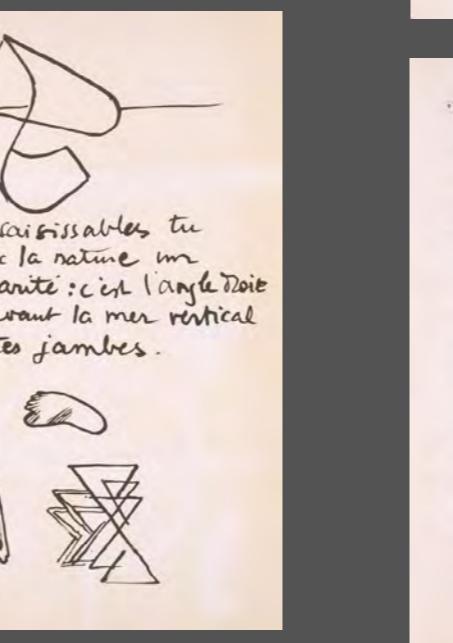
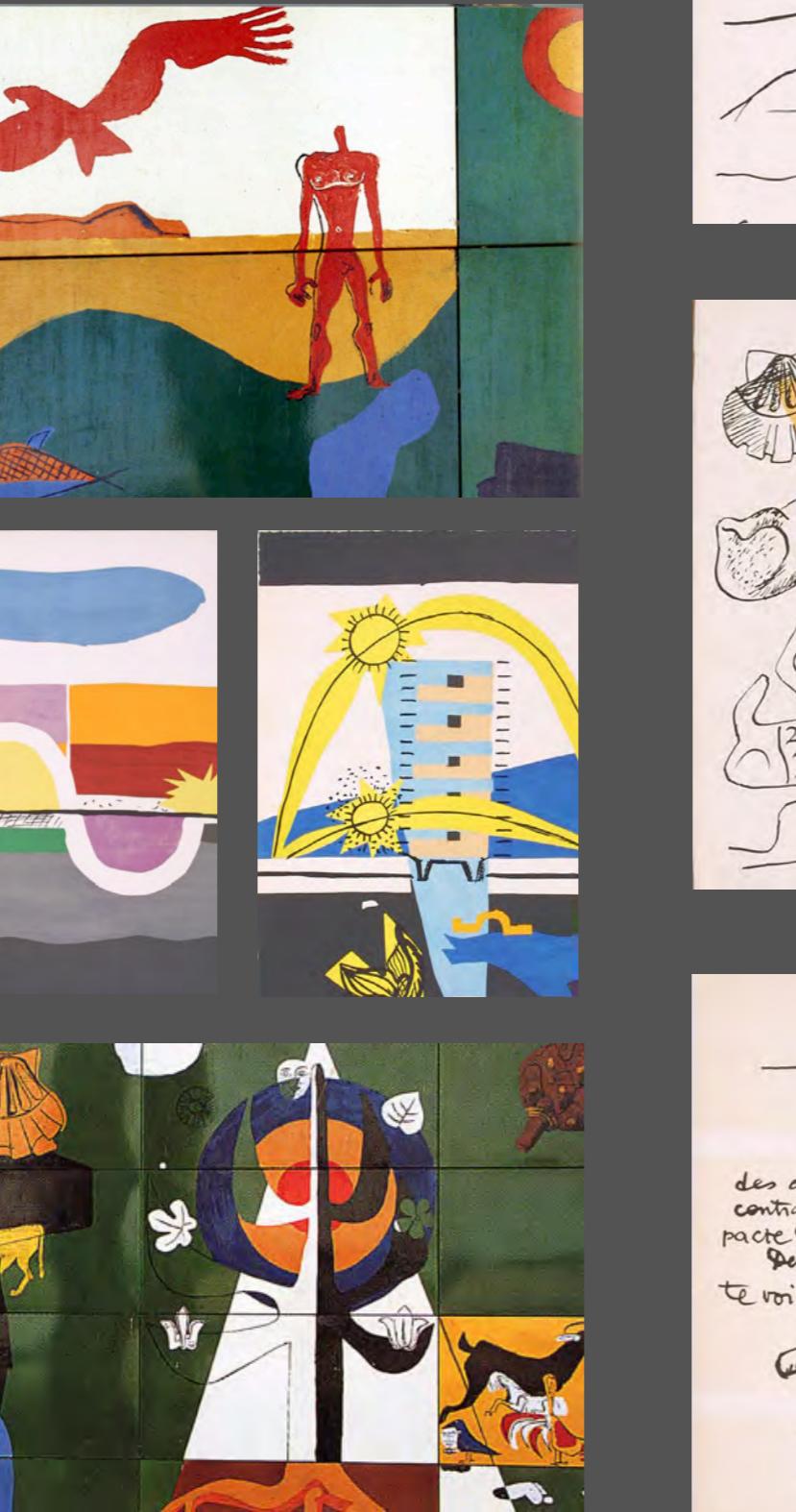
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assembly building : iconography

+ Modulor man : situated at threshold between earth, water; mythical scale versus distant horizon and mountains establishes him as belonging to both realms

+ fish indicates source : water relationship of mountain : sea; raven references the sky -- essential forms

+ daily sun cycles registered against a blue horizon, superimposed with seasonal cycles of high noon sun, darkness

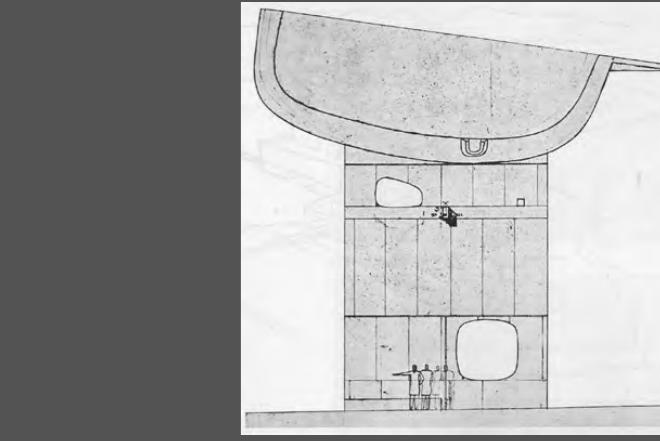
+ tree of knowledge situated at the door hinge; symbolic rotation of threshold

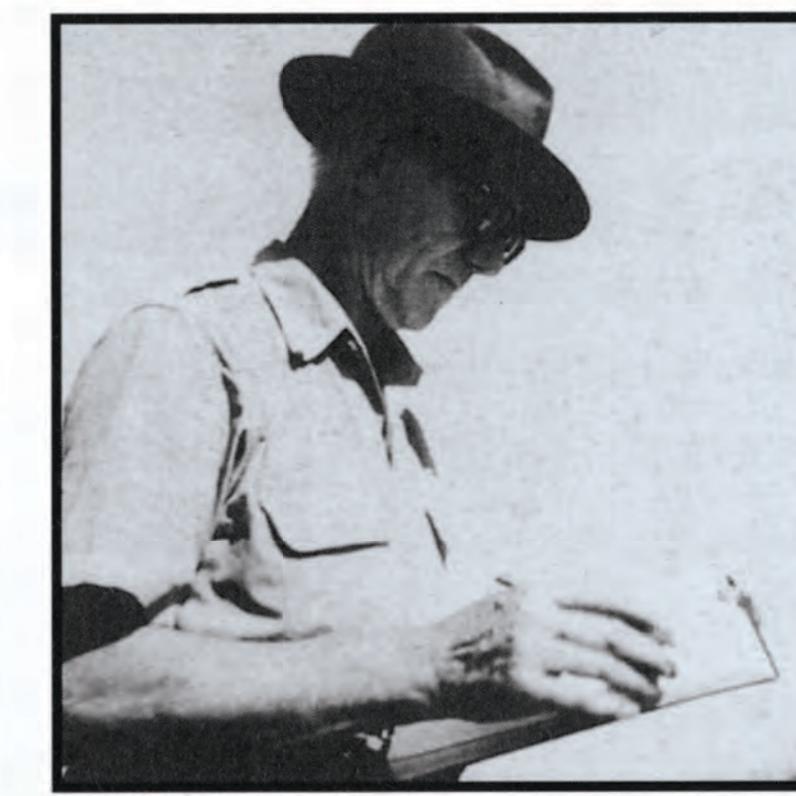
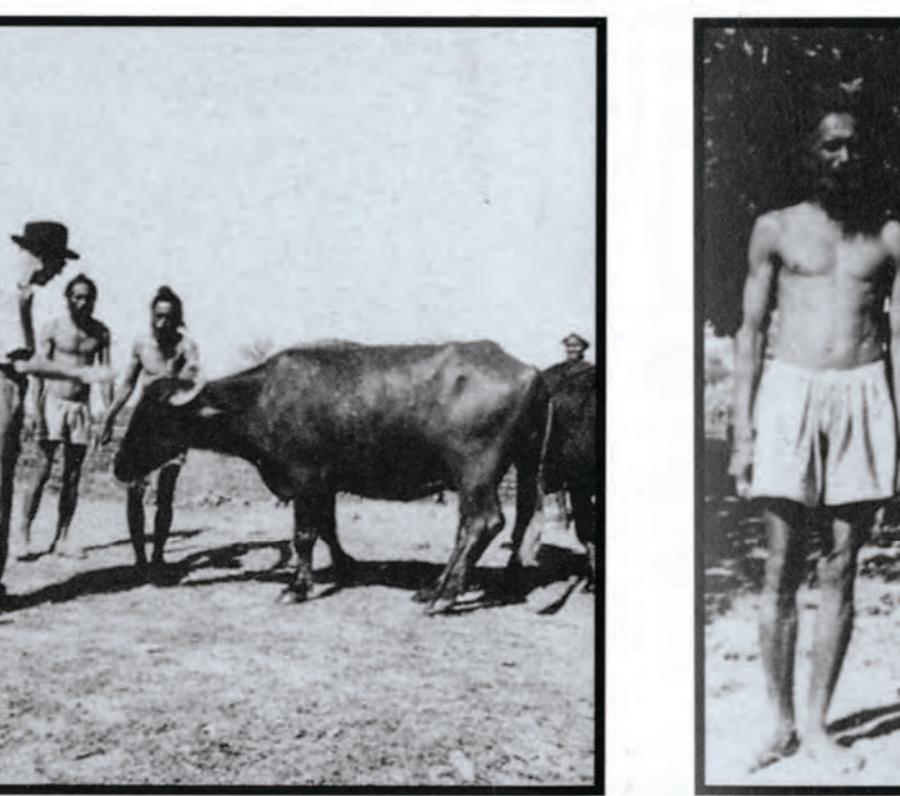
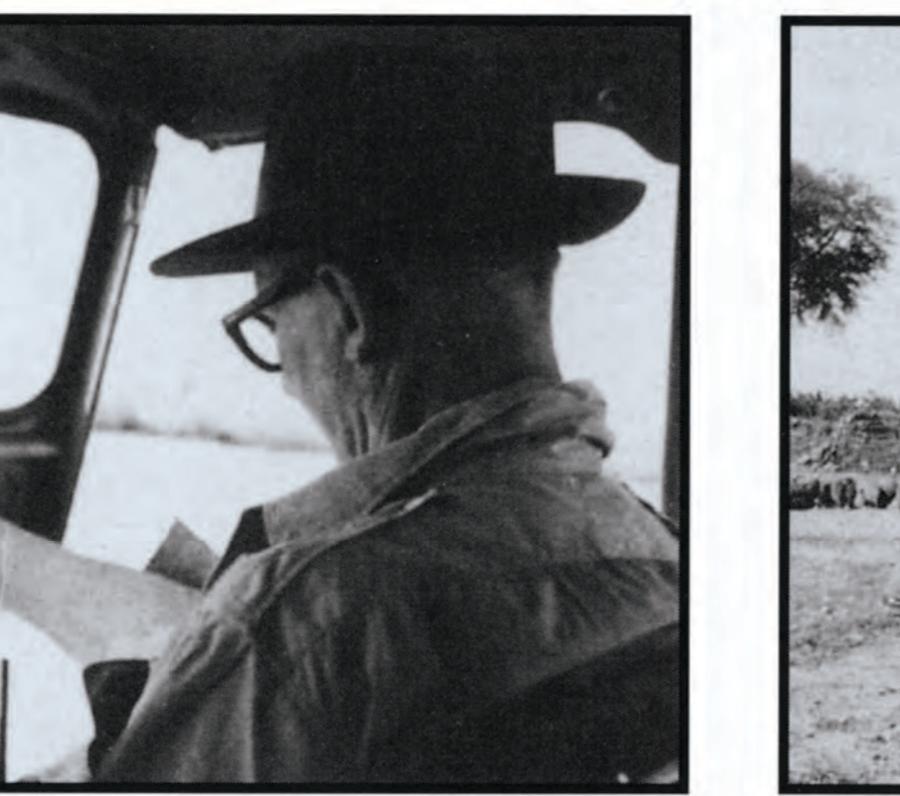
+ “to make an architecture is to make a creature”



modern + ancient civilization

- + cosmic cycles, geologic time, vernacular influences, constructed ruins
- + materials and patina
- + registering of human scale against monumental | infinite
- + iconography ties together ancient ritual with progress





Clichés pris lors de l'une des premières visites de Le Corbusier sur le site de Chandigarh.



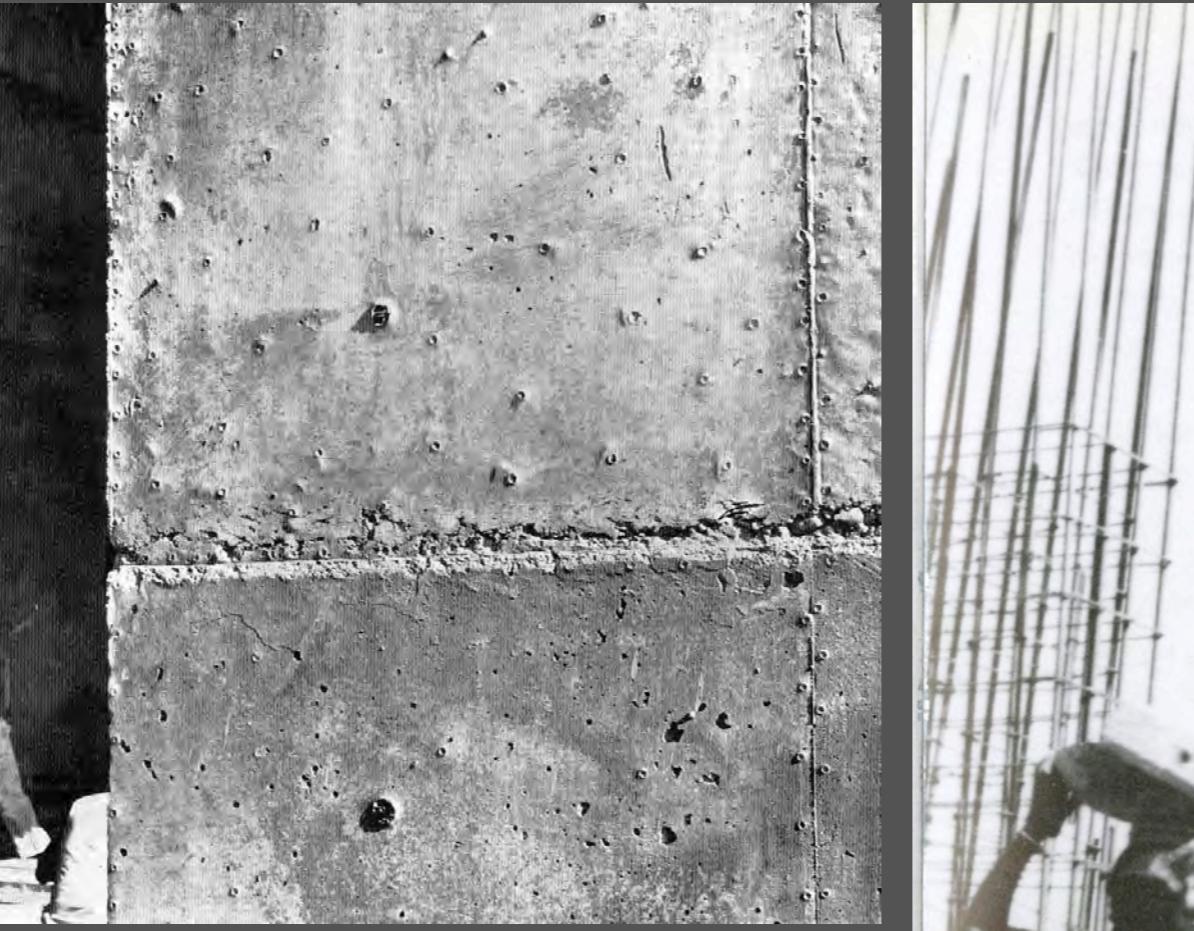
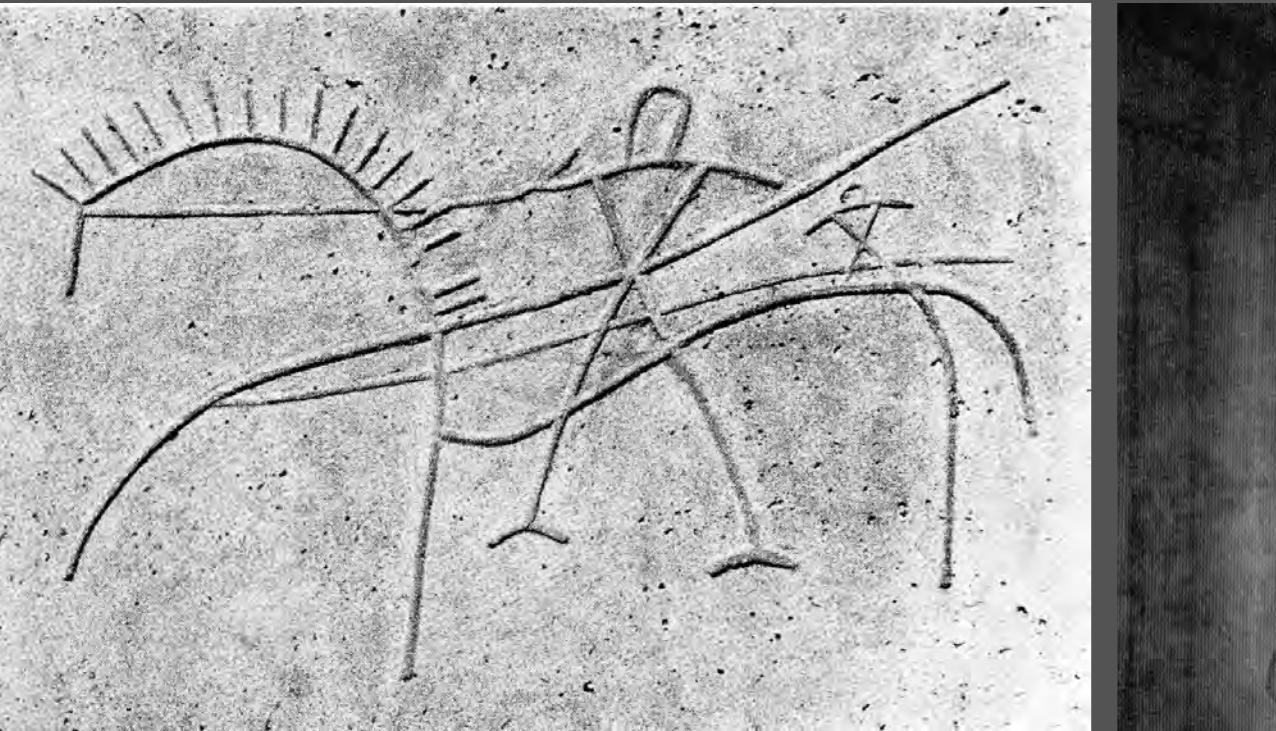
construction + resources

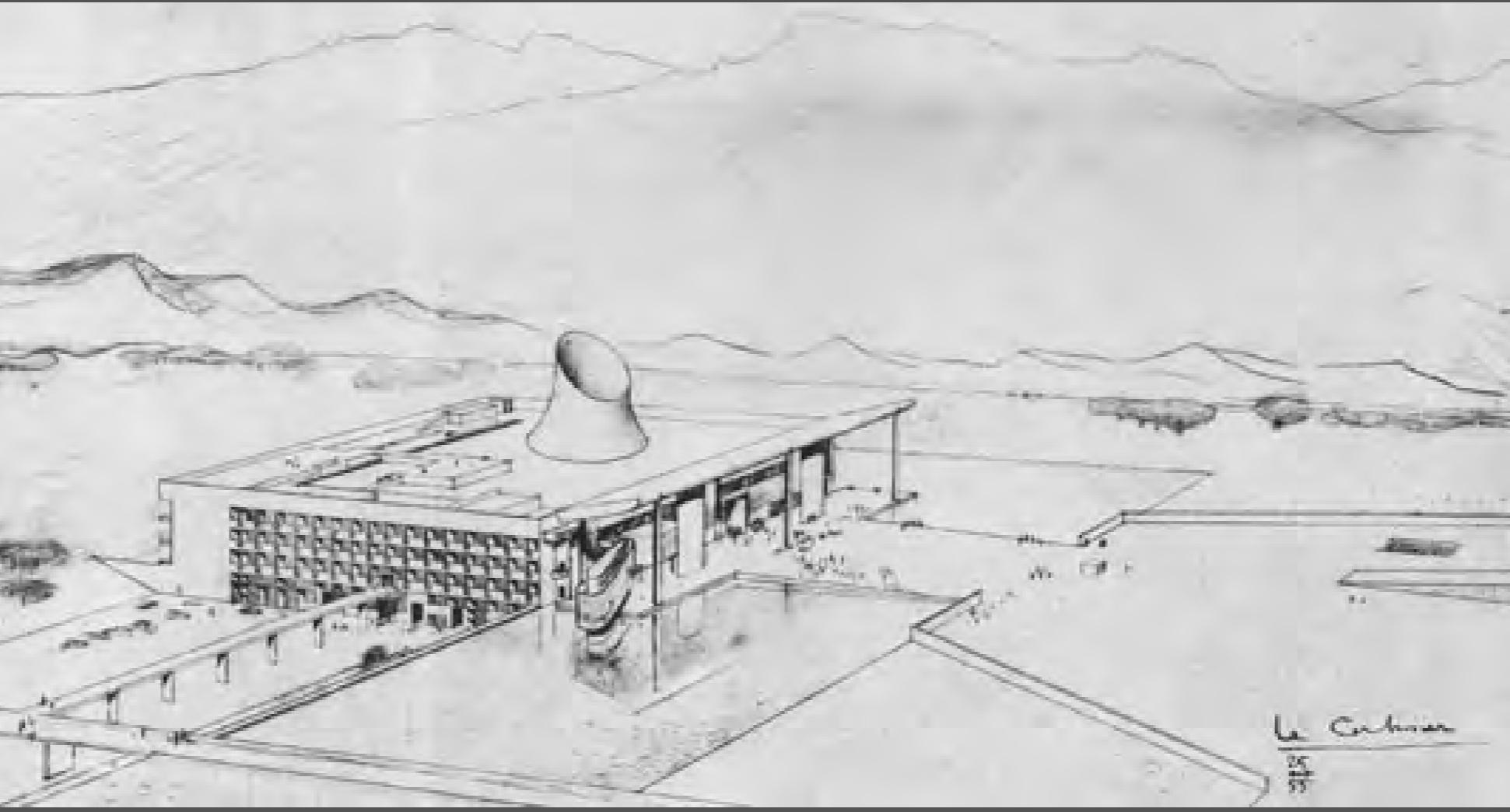
+ Lawn/bricks, craft: incorporated local practices

+ tactility : hand;
roughness, imprecision : craft; weathering

+ concrete packed between rough planks

+ highly labor-intensive

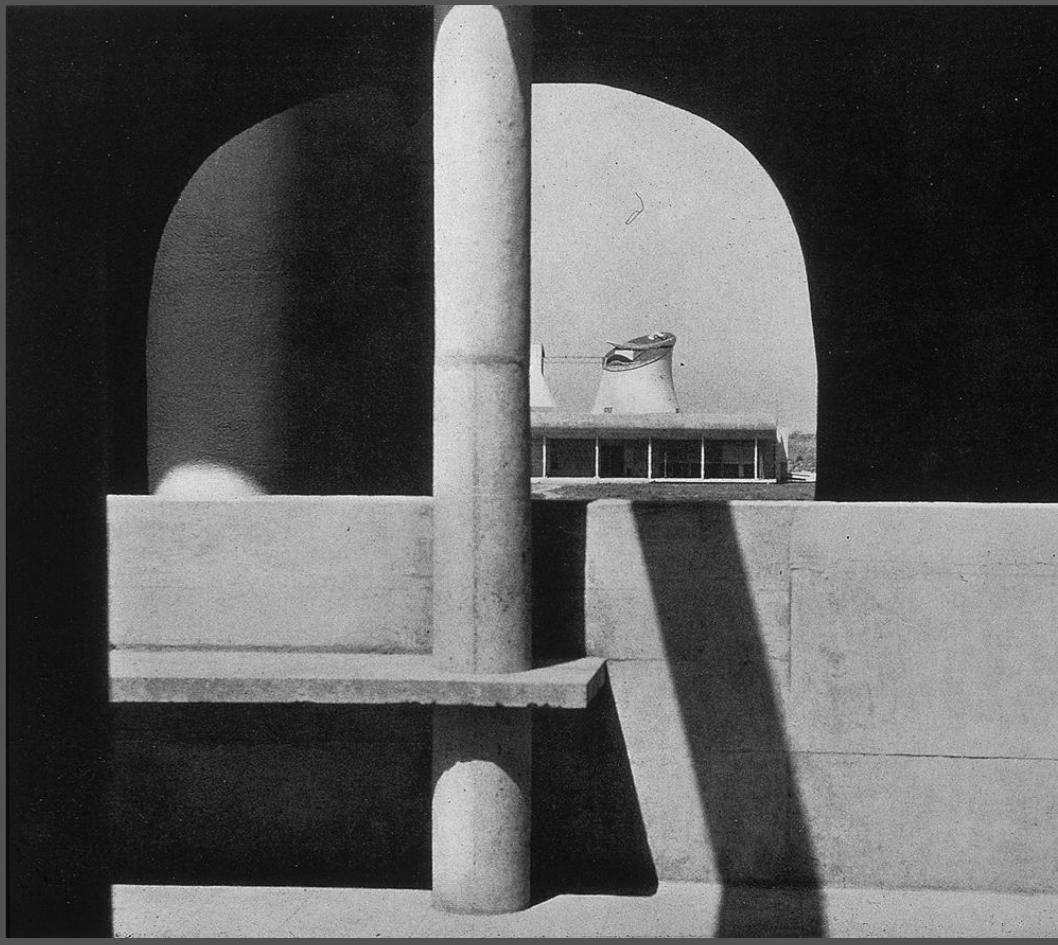
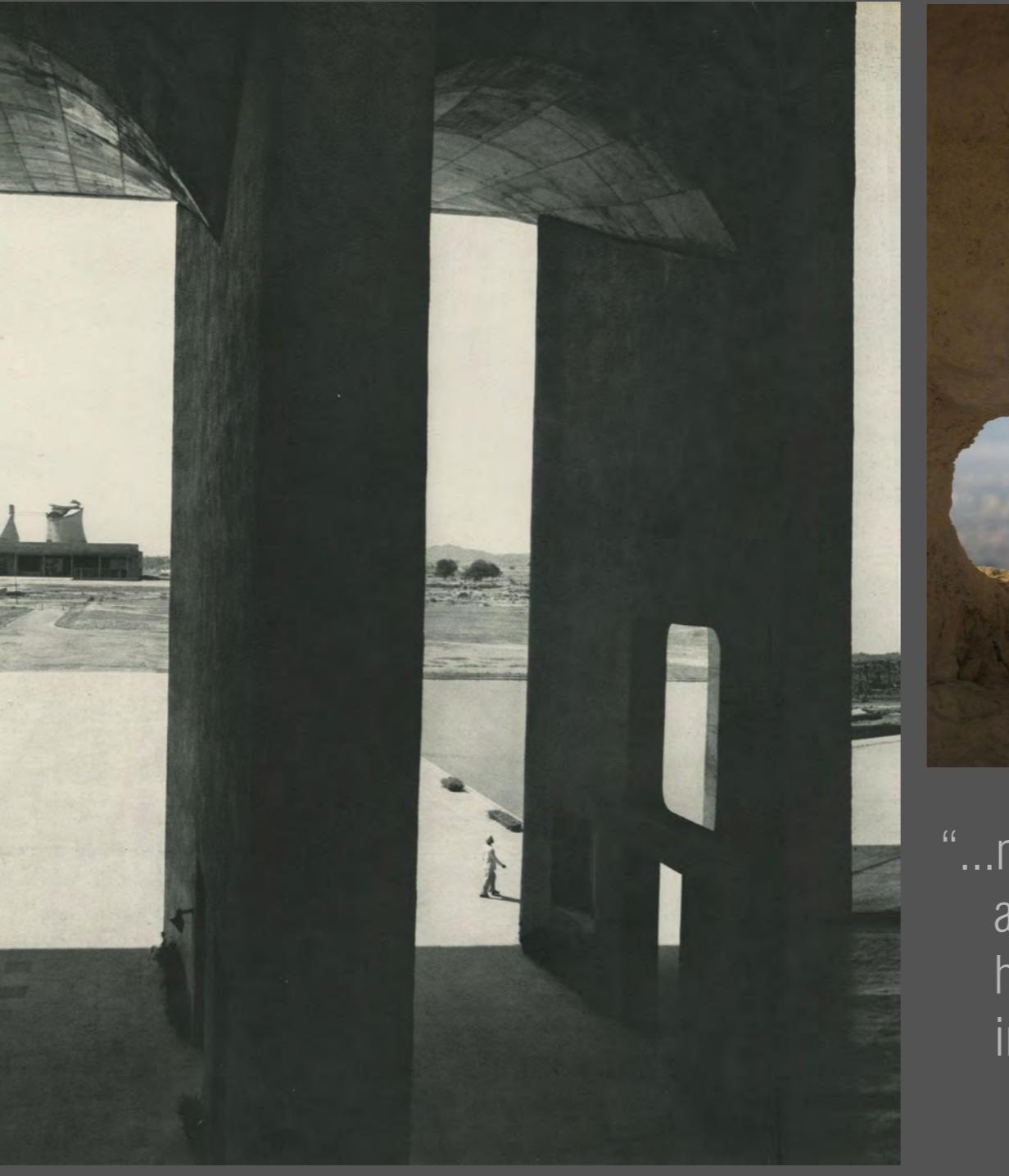




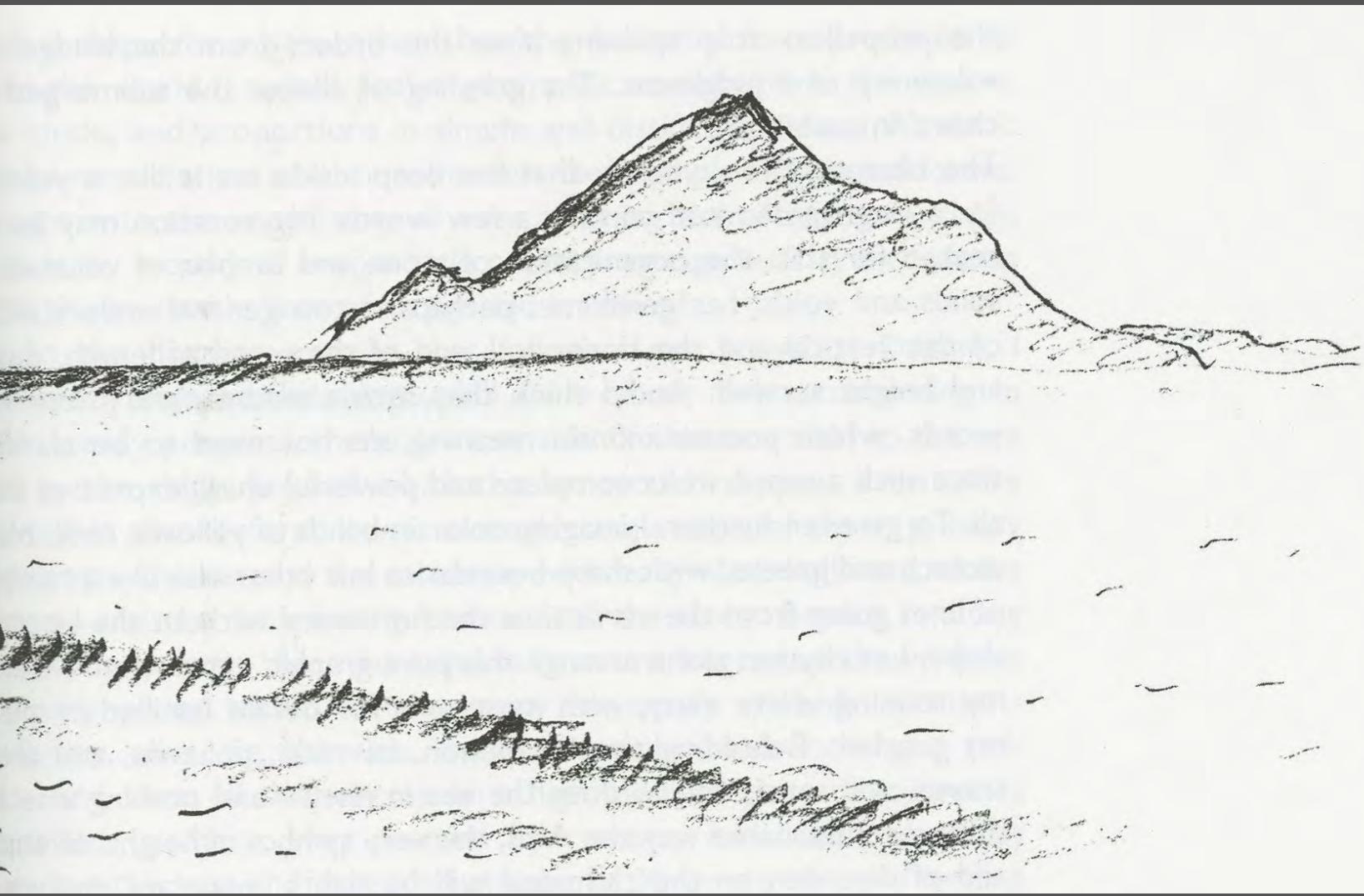
precedent : Acropolis

+ Journey to the East, 1911

+ Acropolis elevated to connect to distant peaks; Chandigarh rooted in ground | alluvial plain to connect to mountains

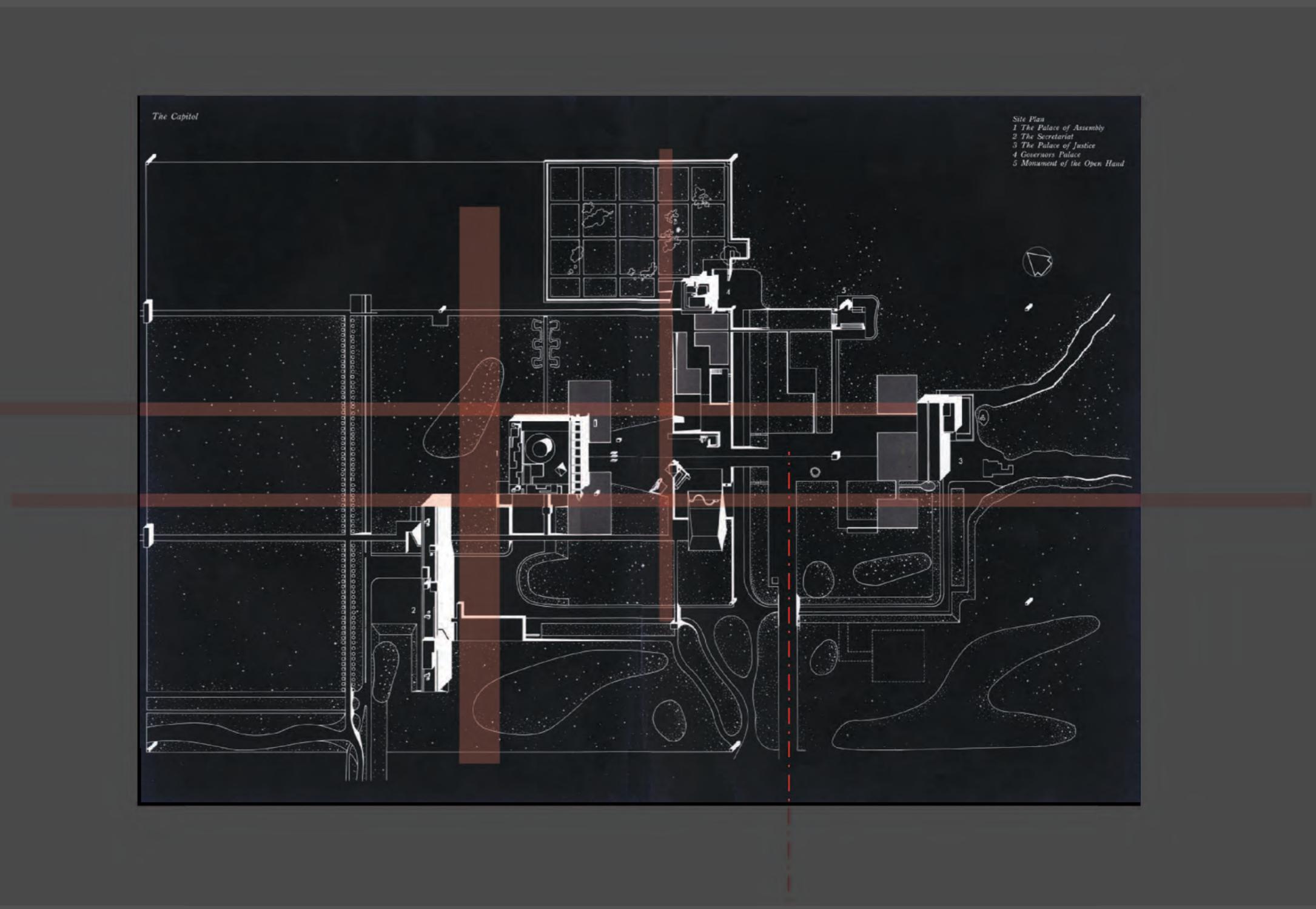
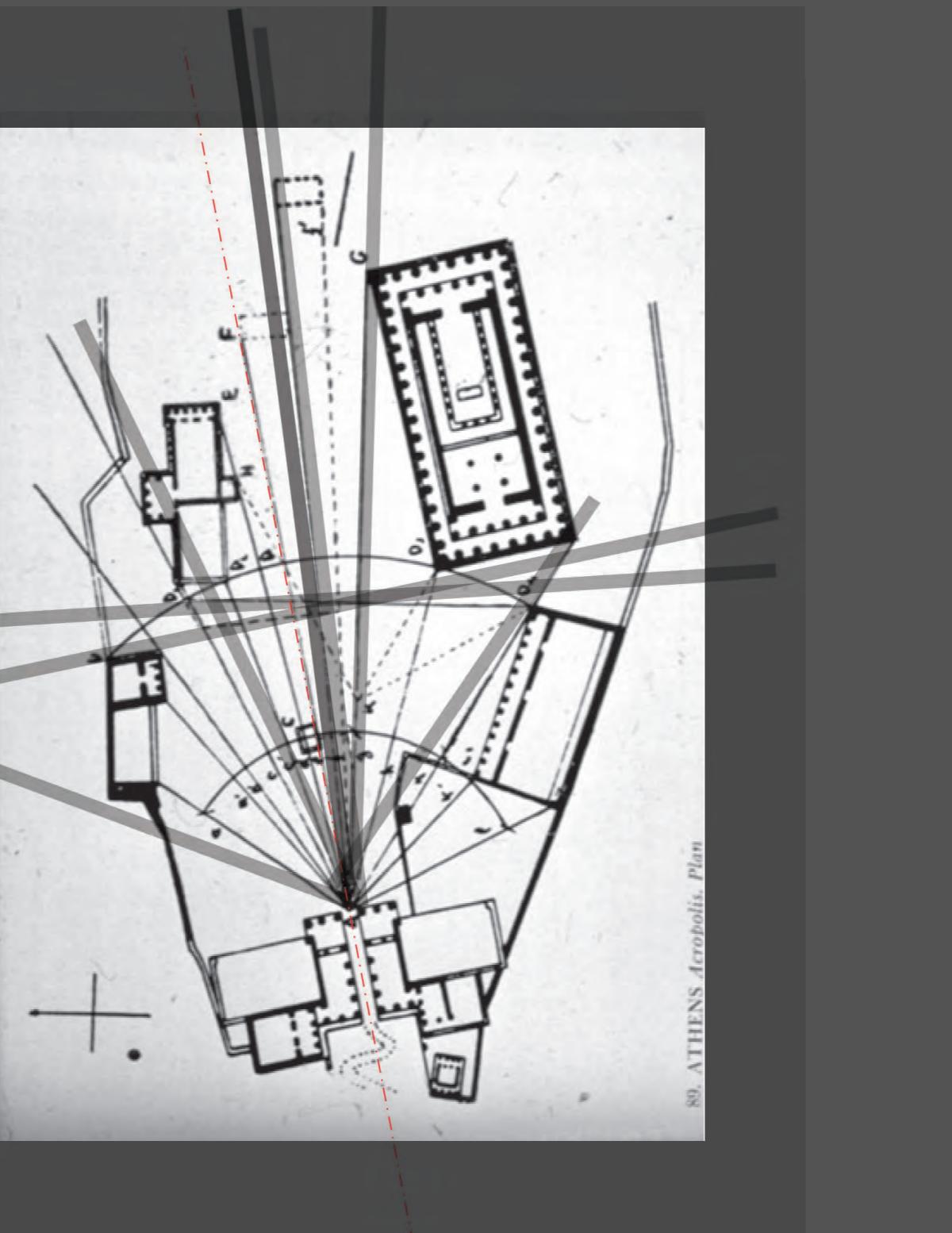
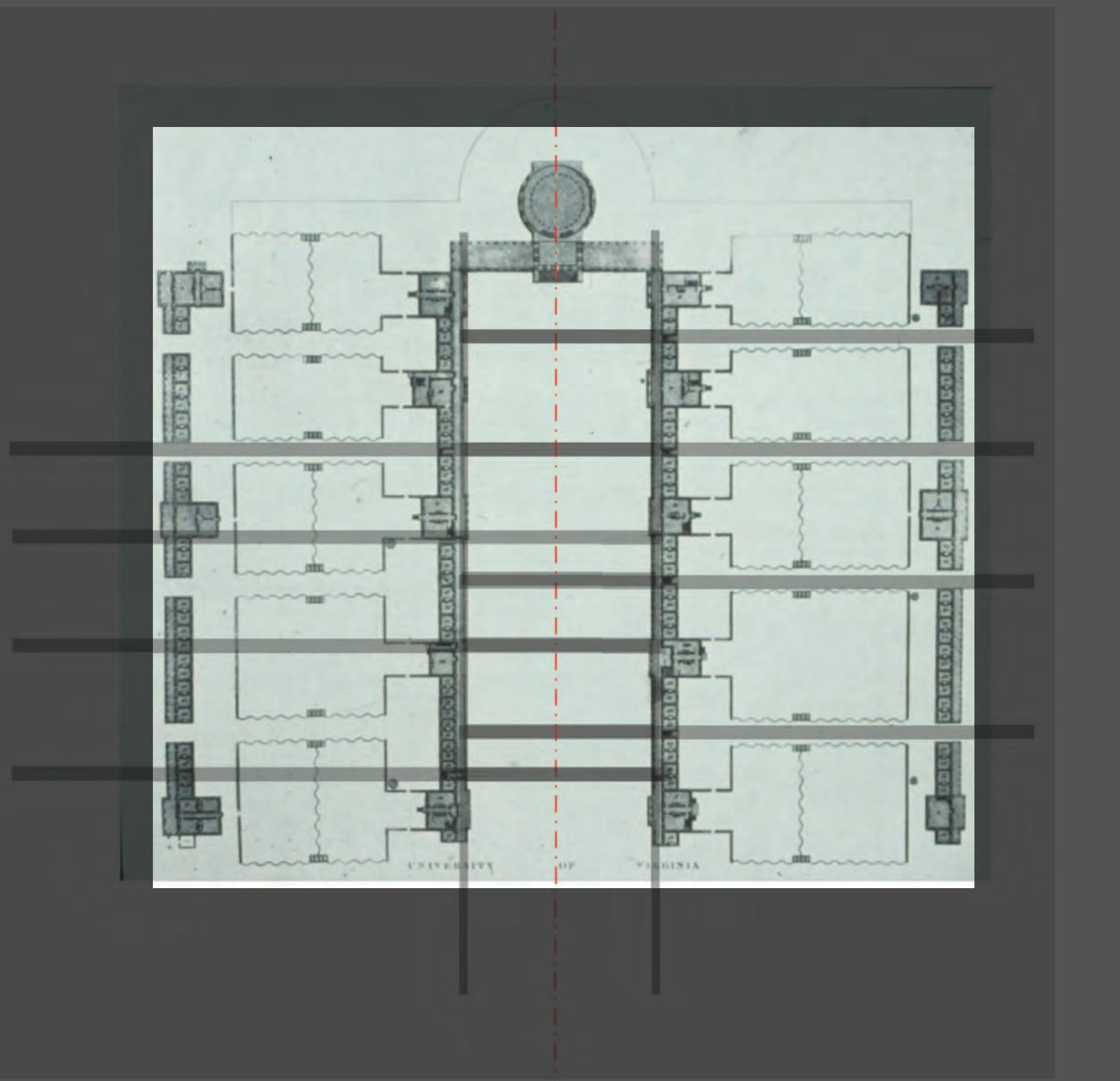


“...nothing existed but the temple, the sky, and the surface of paving stones damaged by centuries of plundering. And no other external sign of life was evident here, except, far off in the distance, Pentelicus, creditor of these stones, bearing in its side a marble wound, and Hymettus, colored the most opulent purple.”



"I think the flatness of the horizon, particularly at noon when it imposes its uniformity on everything about it, provides for each one of us a measure of the most humanly possible perception of the absolute."







secretariat :

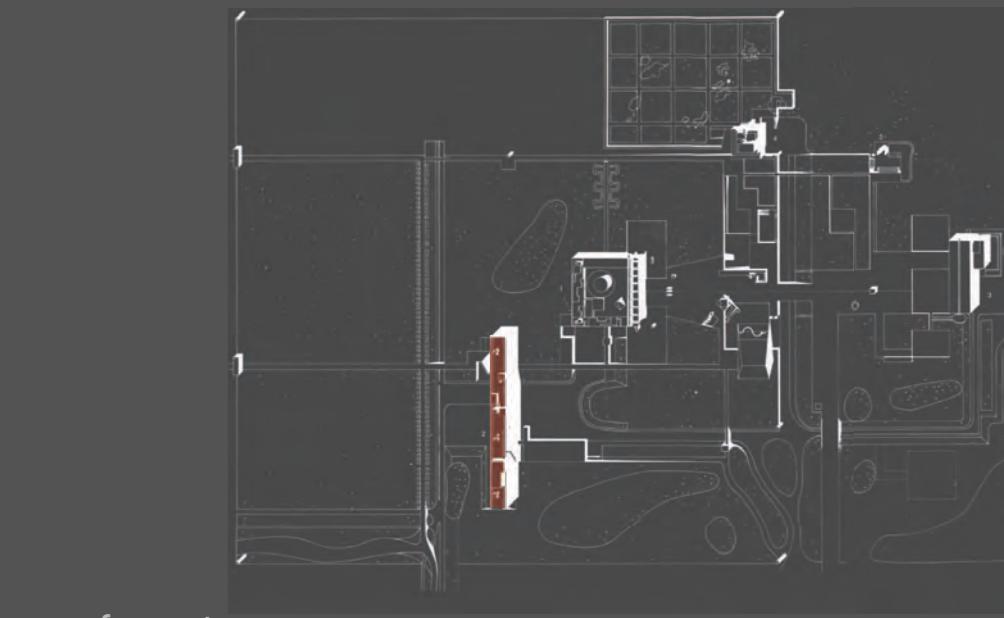
+superimposition of systems

+*brise-soleil*: vernacular influences

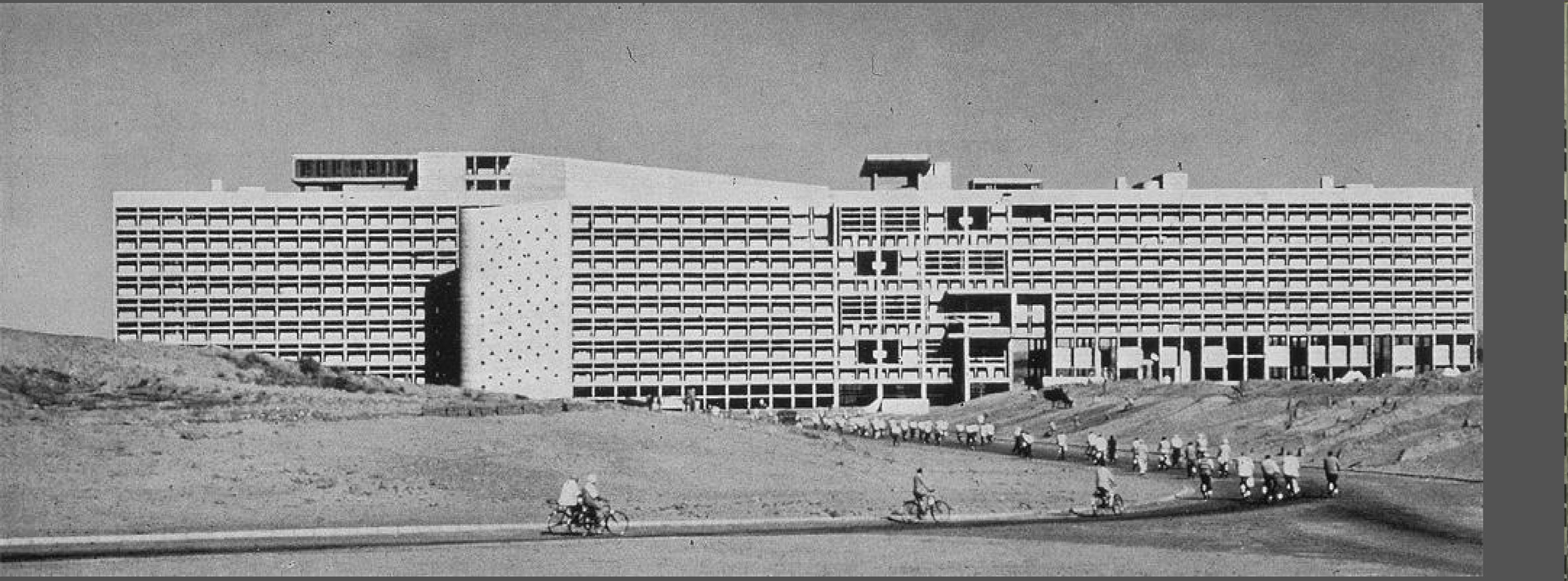
+orientation

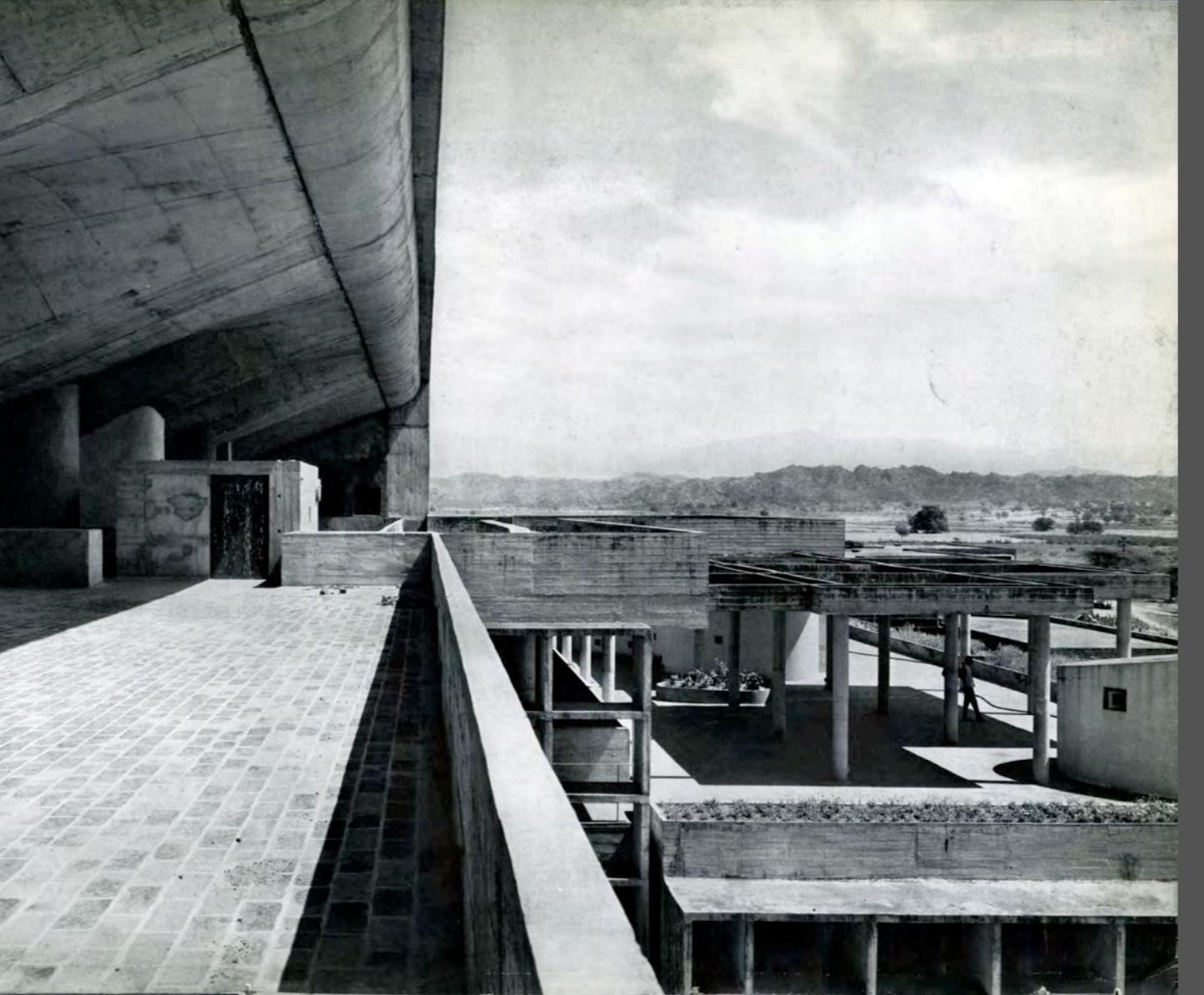
+roofscape/landform

+precedent: Bresil, Unite d'Habitation





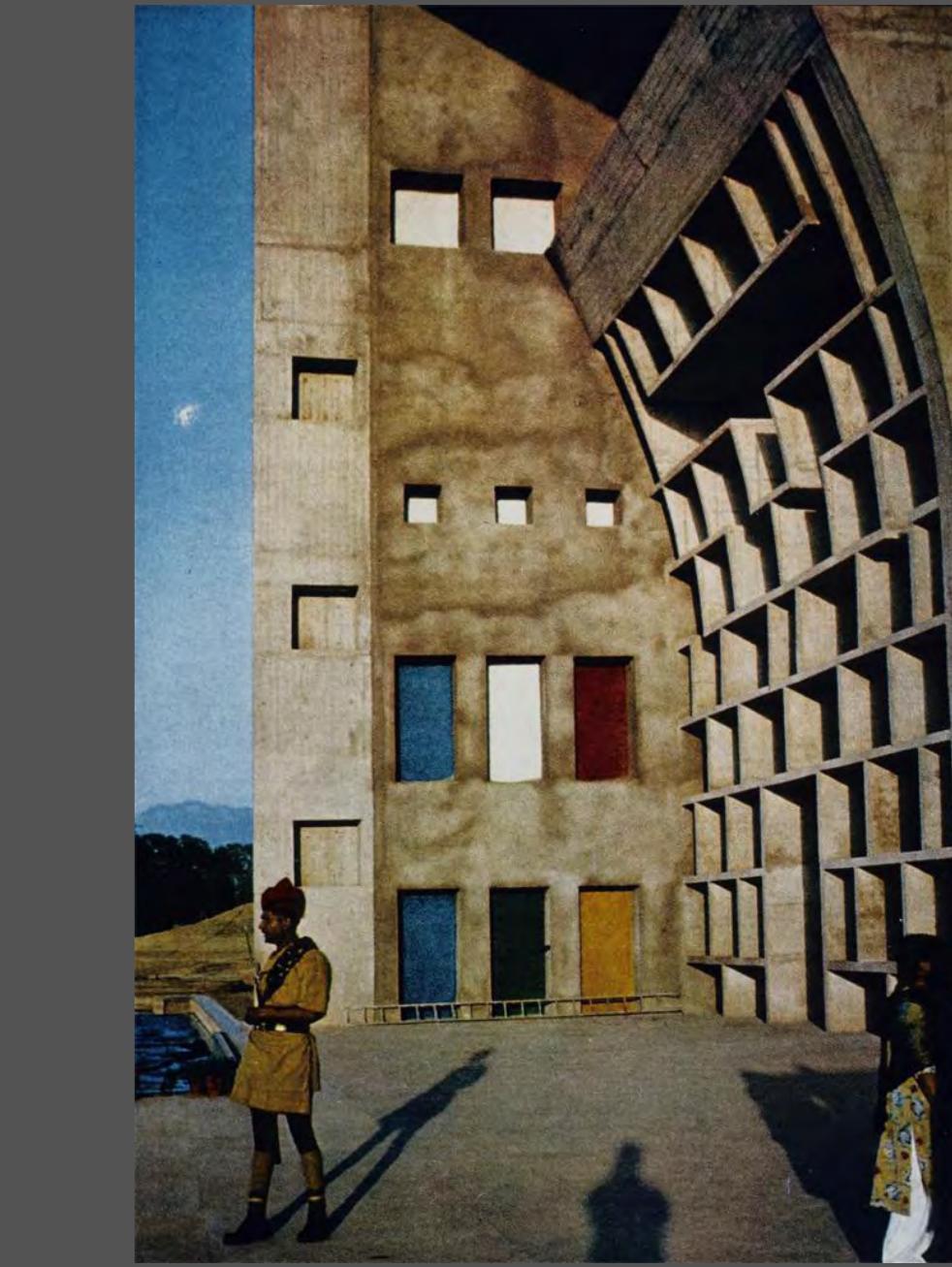
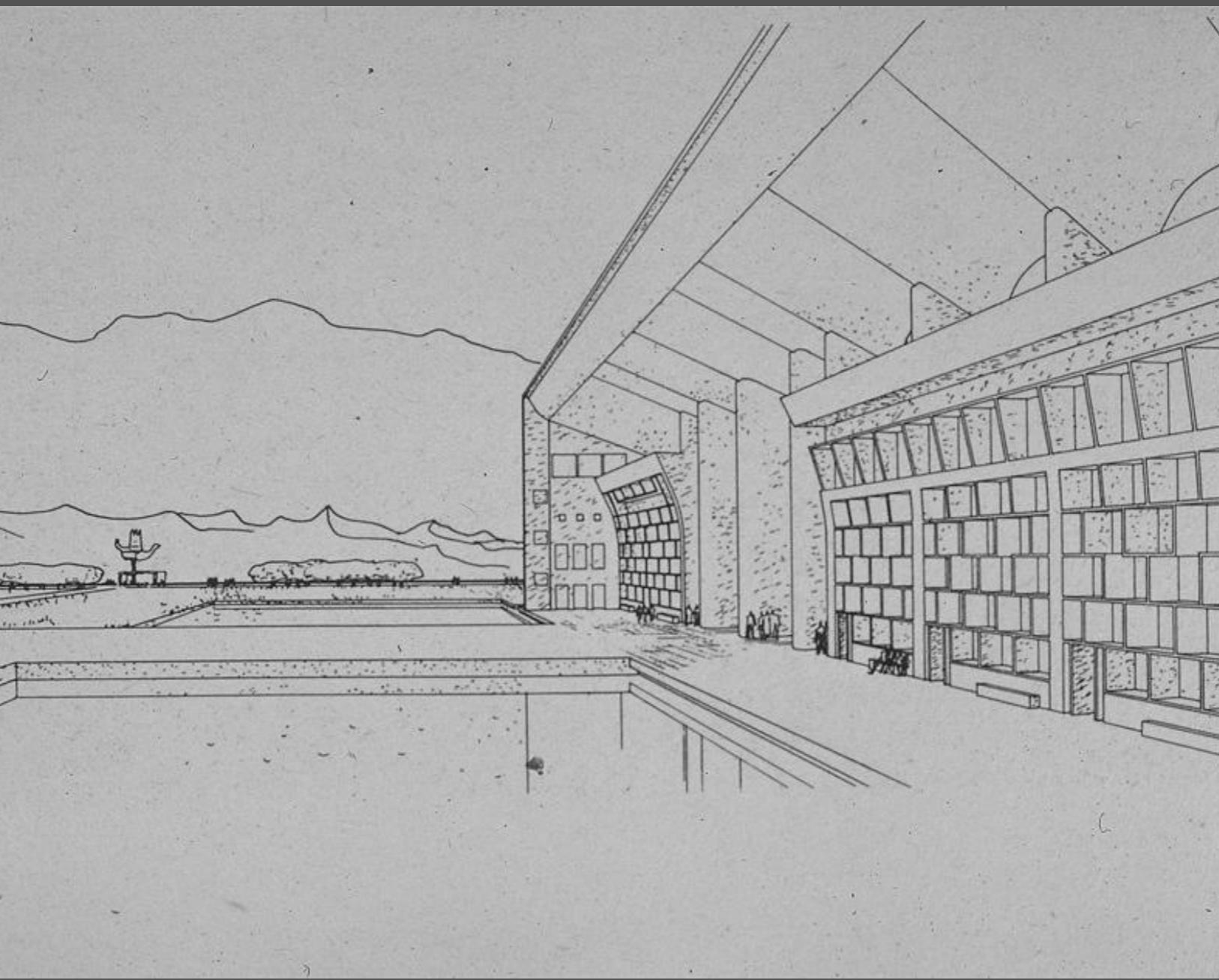


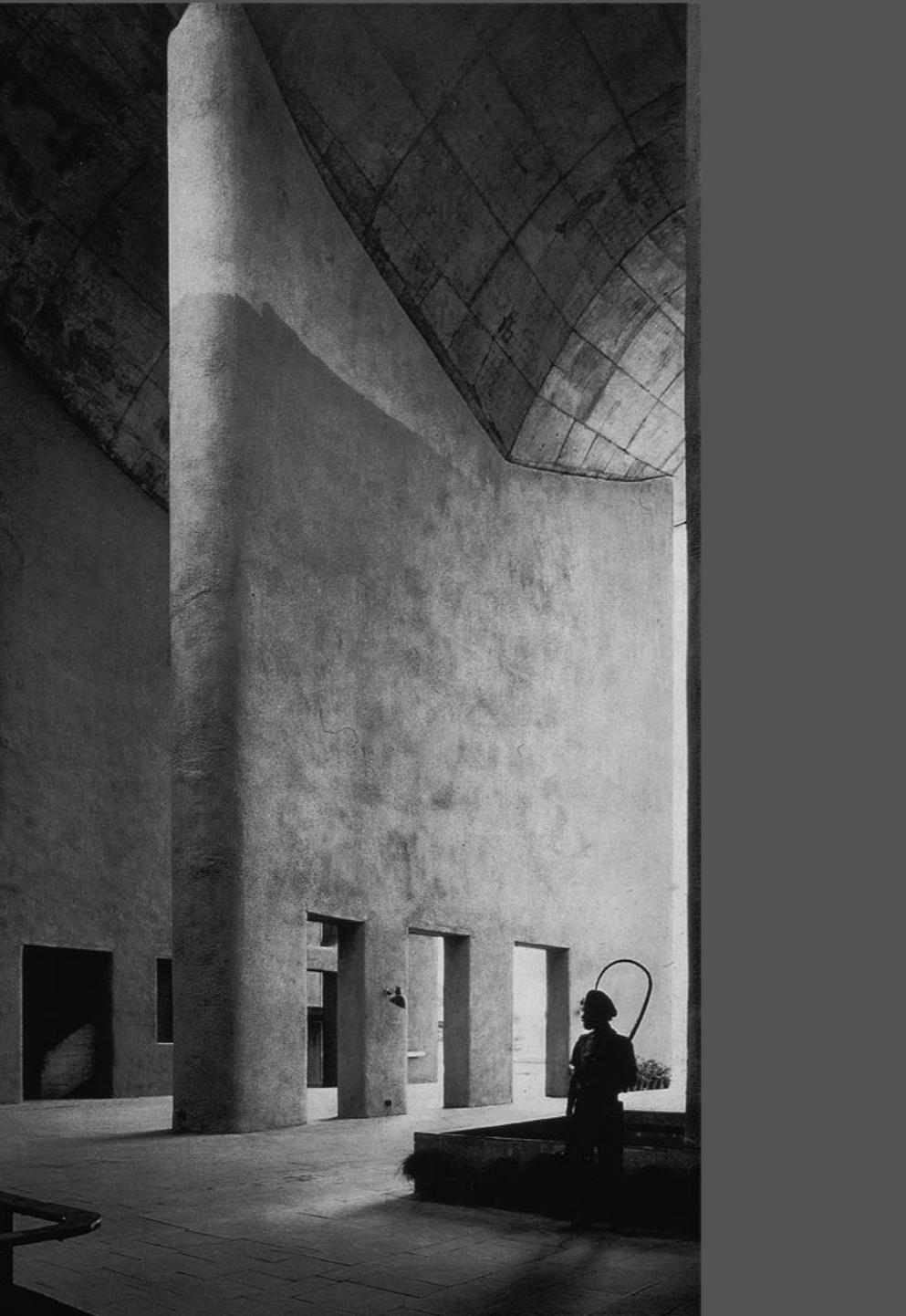
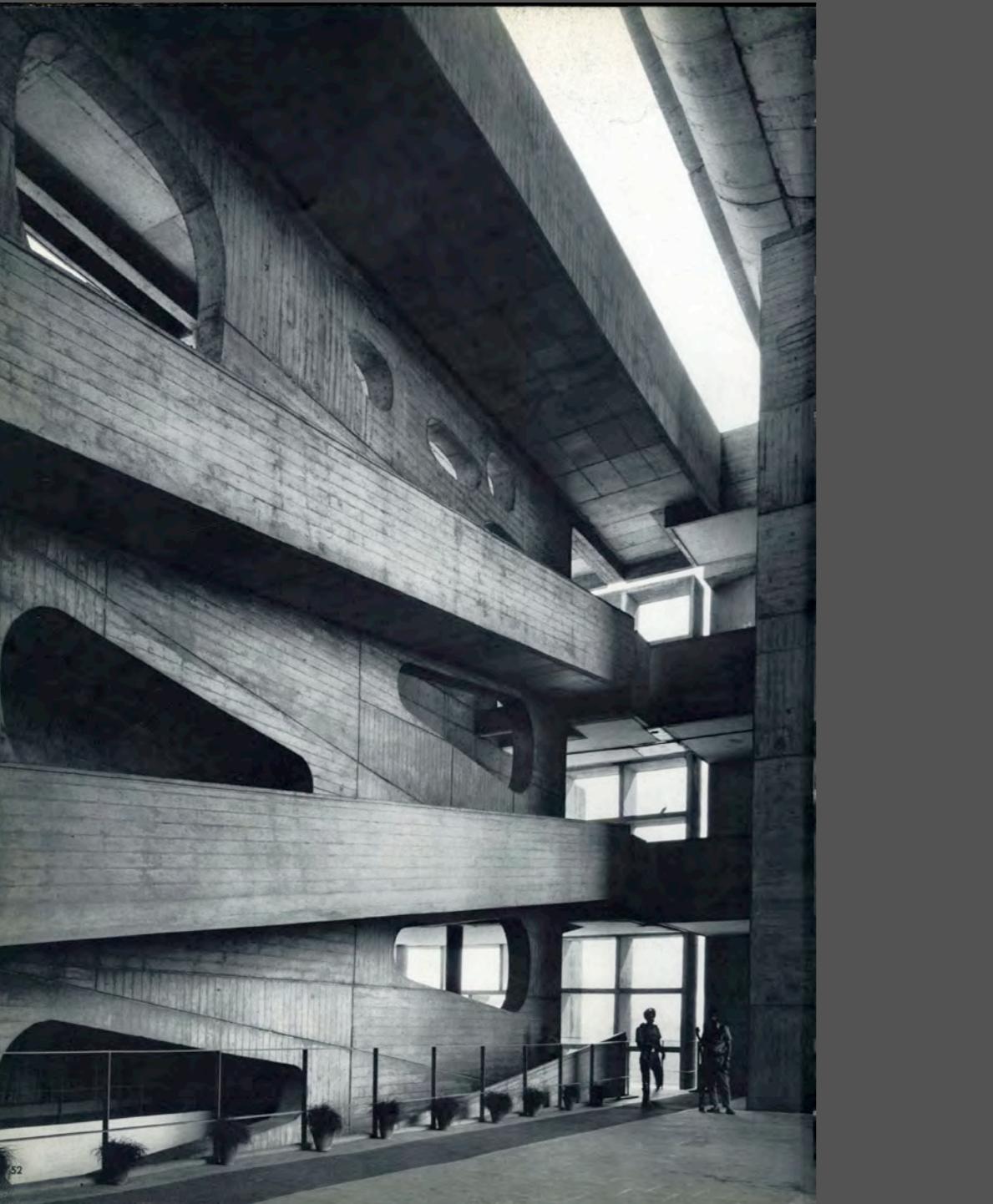


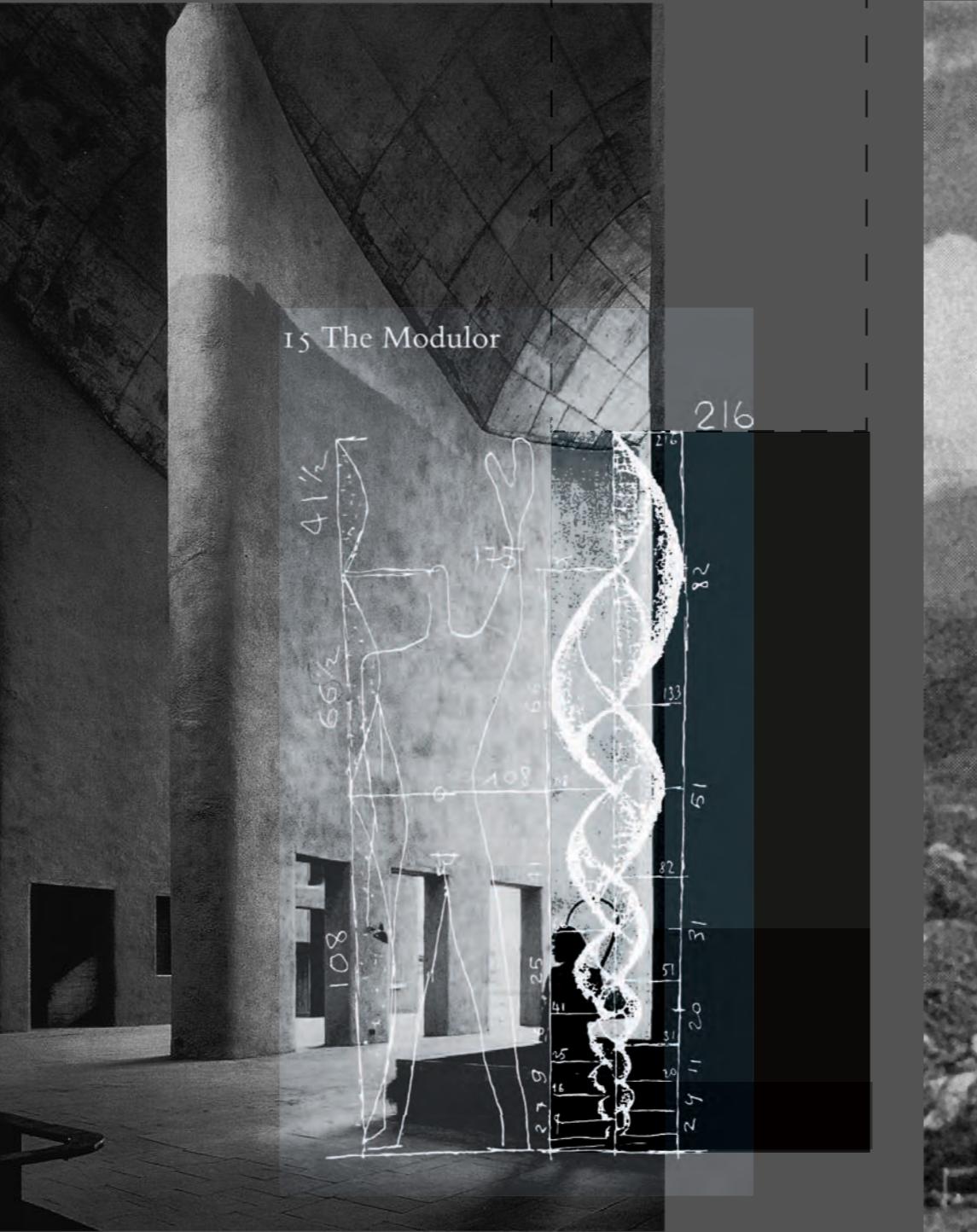
high court/palace of justice

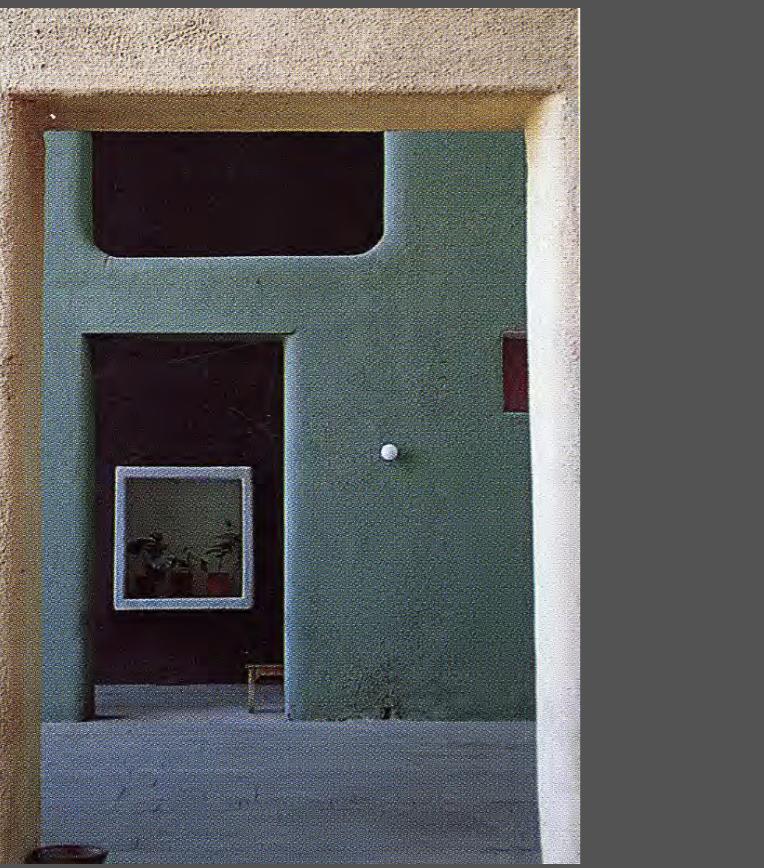
- + framed views
- + superimposed ordering systems and sculptural elements
- + registering of human scale against monumental | infinite
- + layered thresholds mediate climate and scale

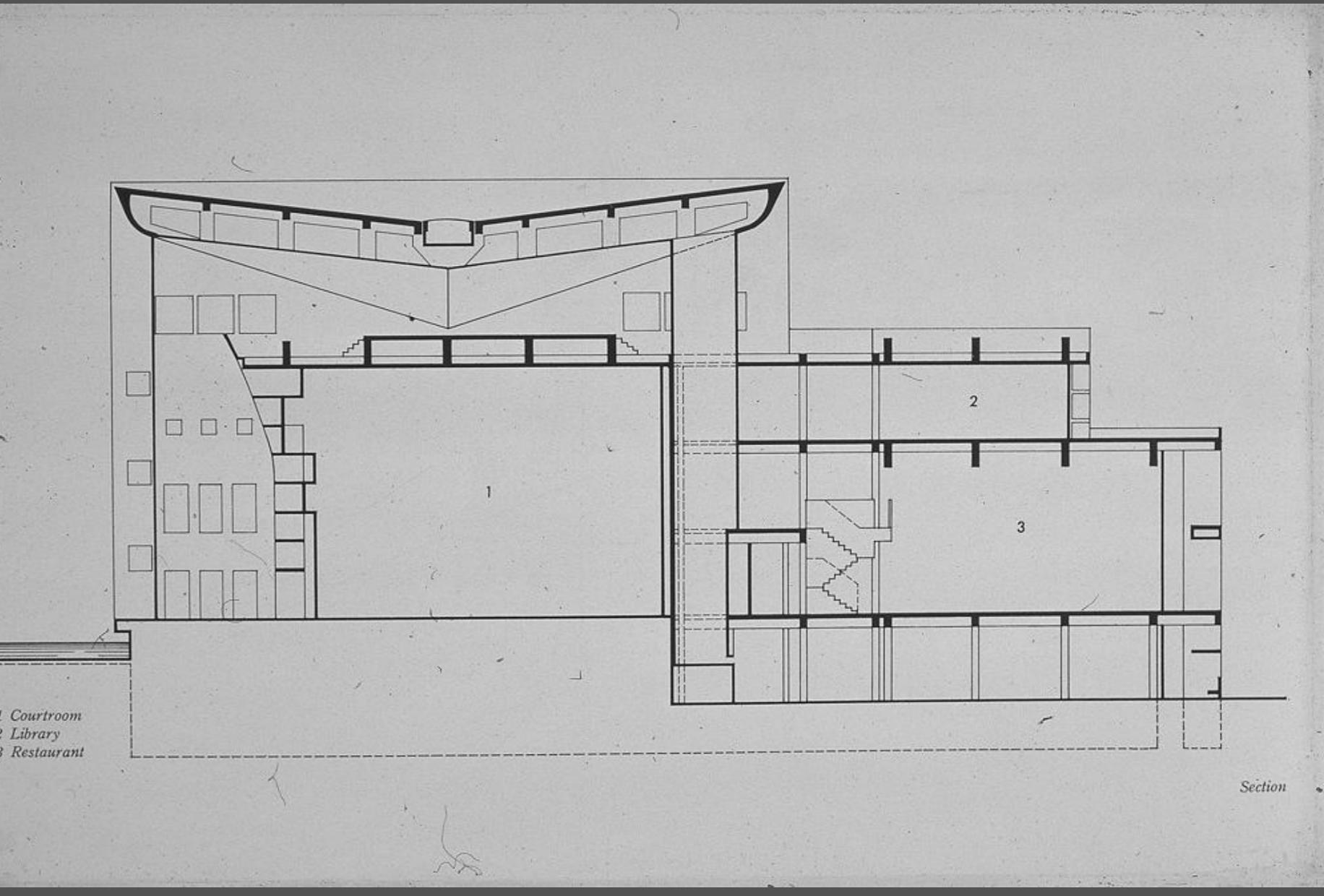
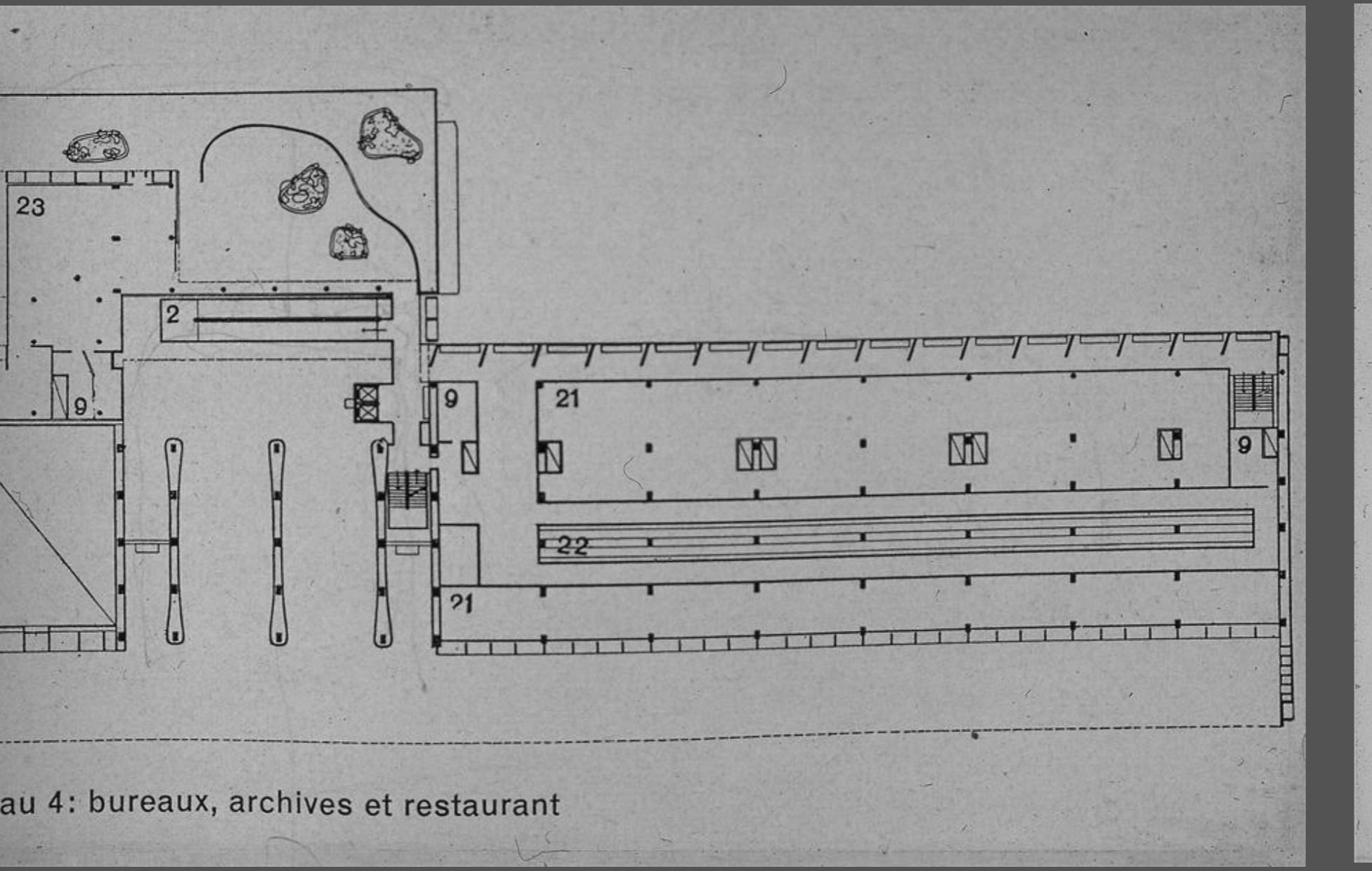
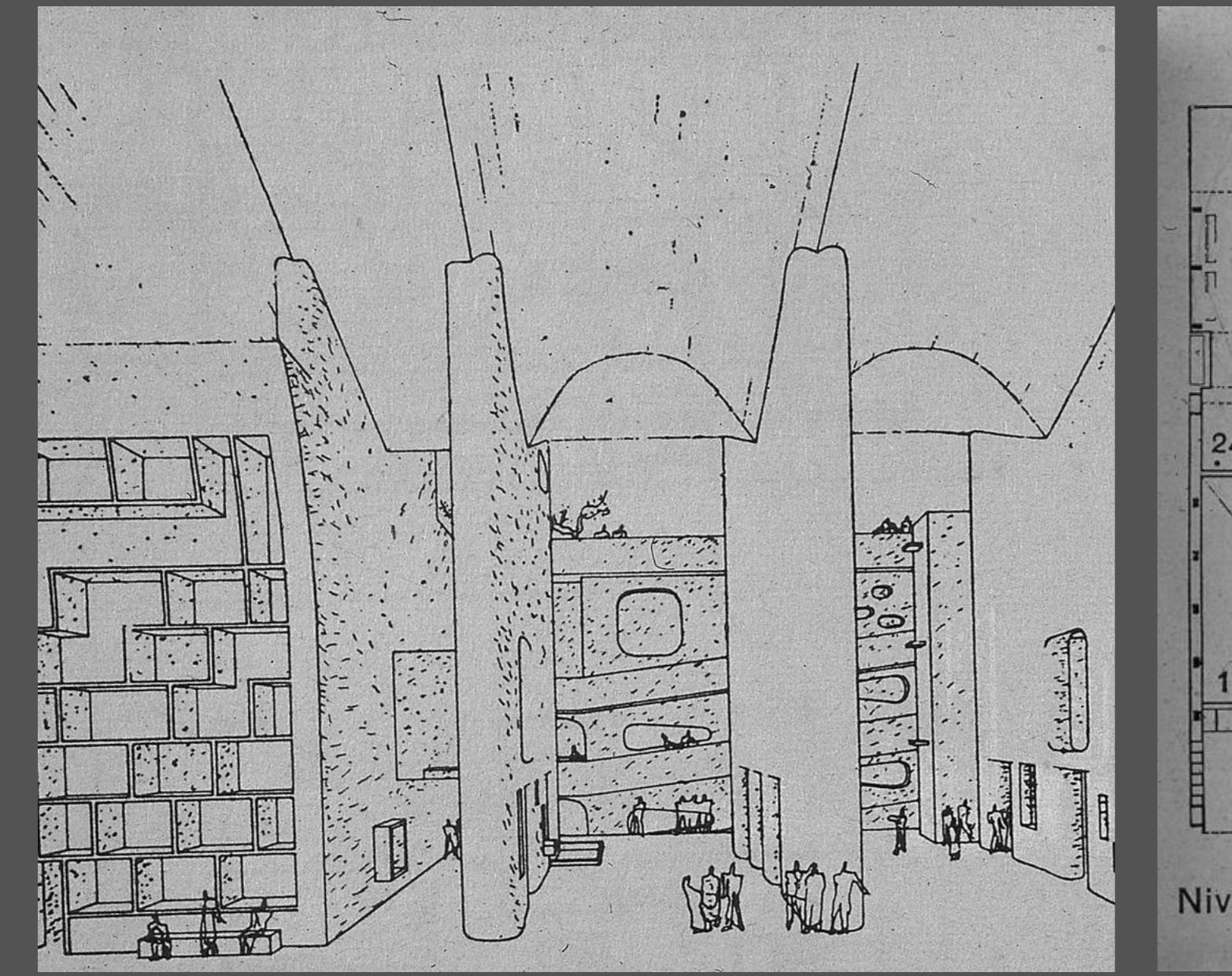


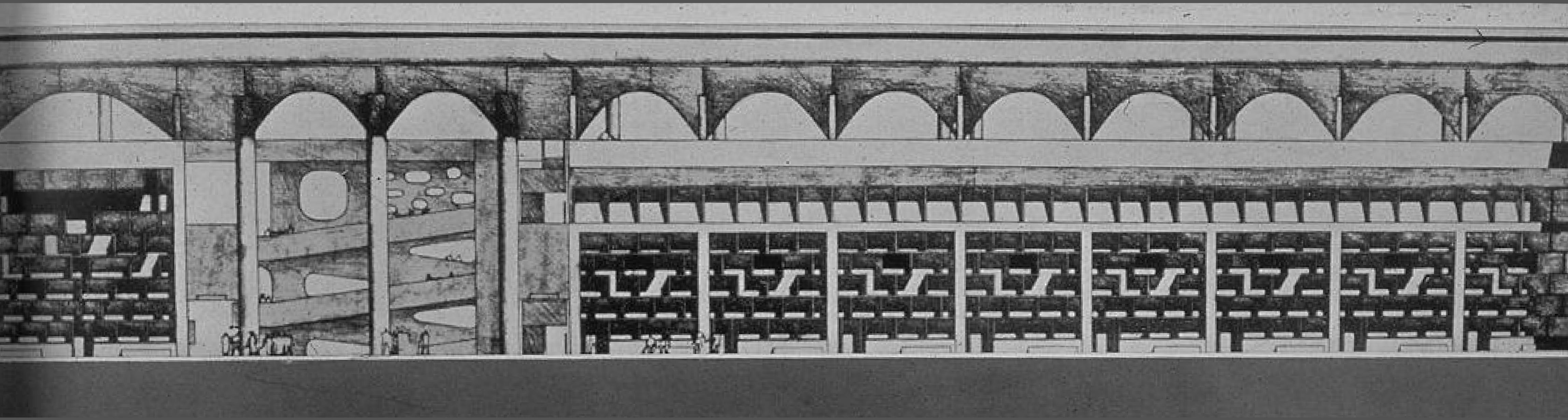


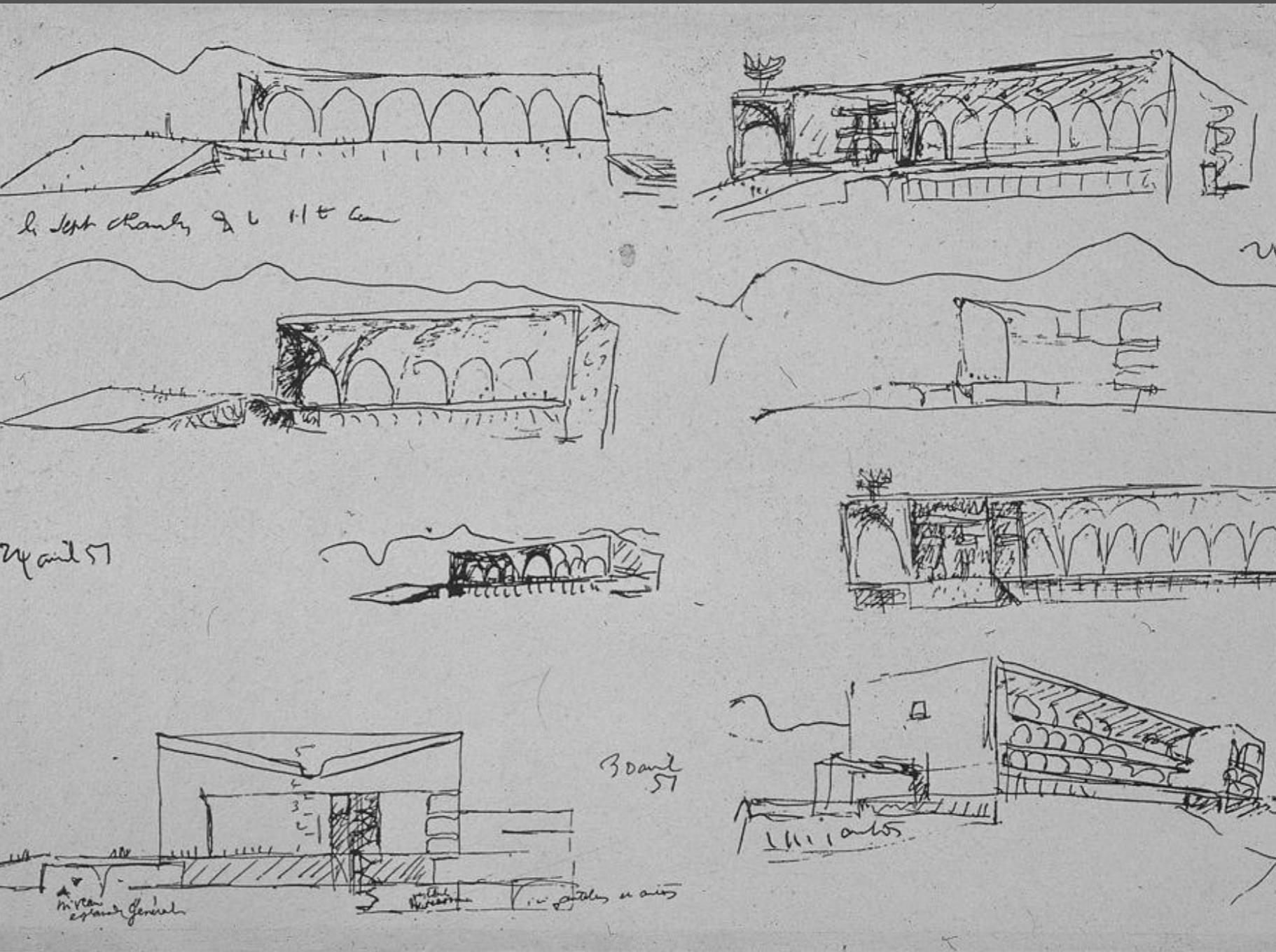
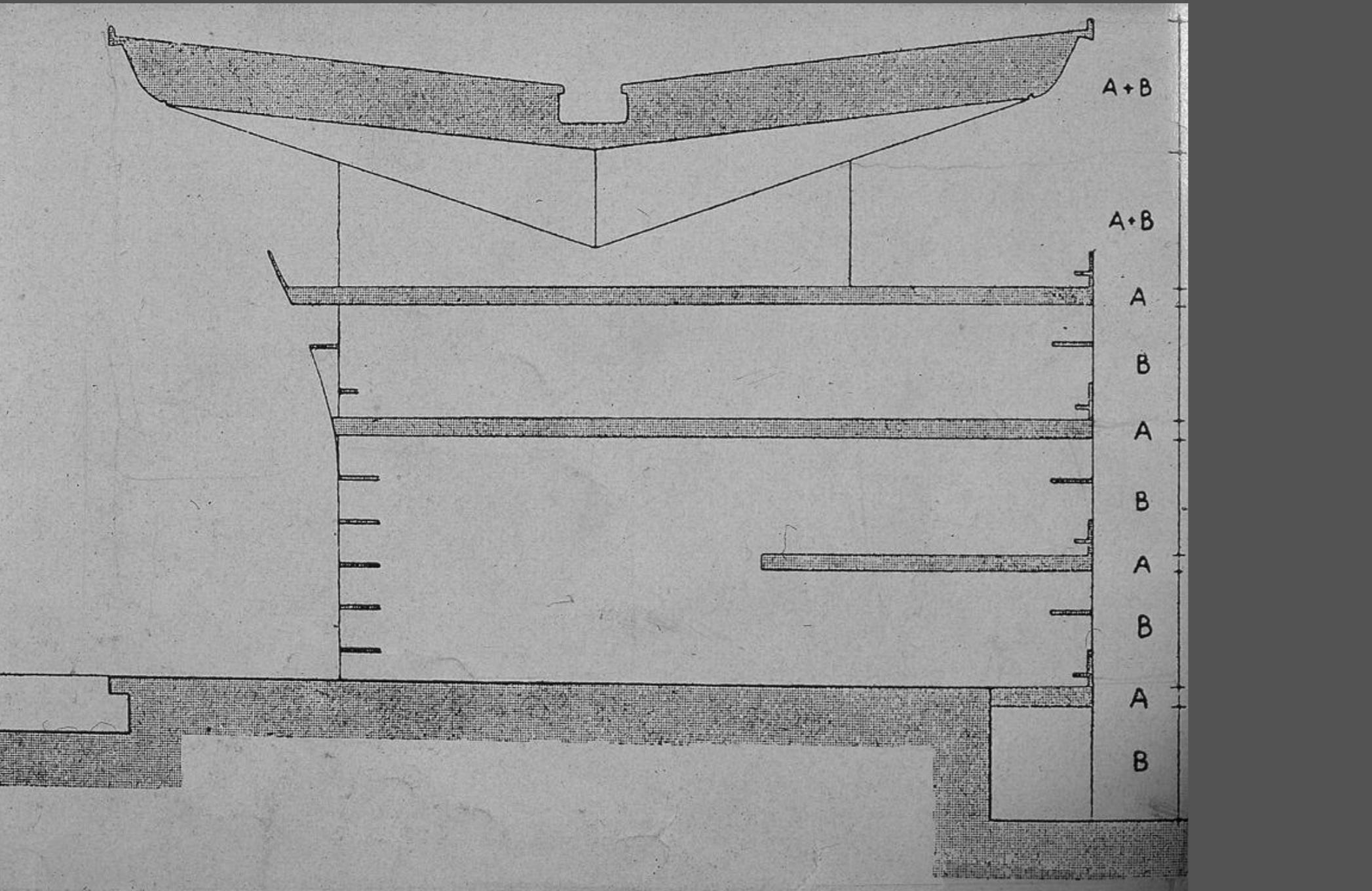




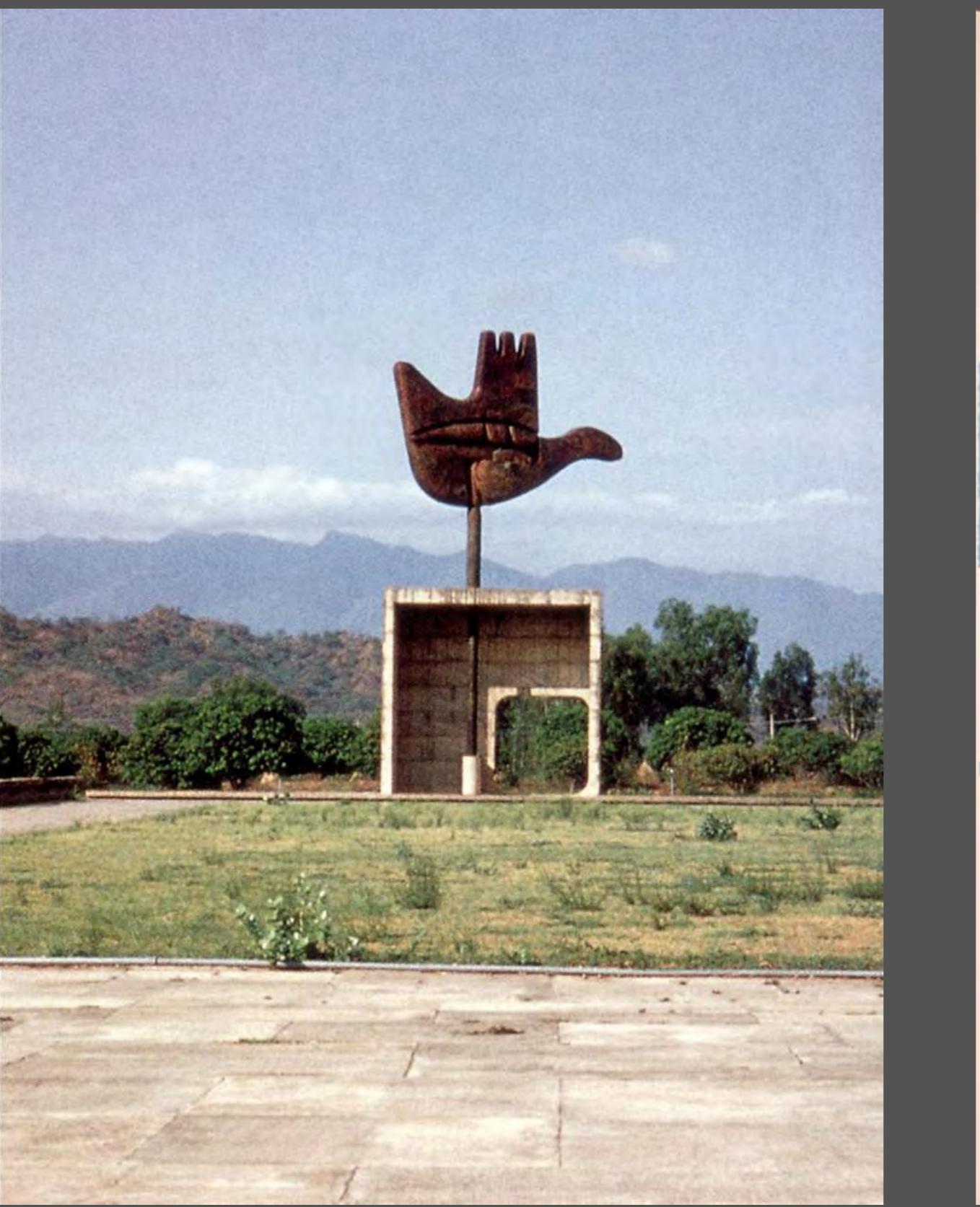












the open hand + equality

+ "It was not a political emblem, a politician's creation... [but] an architect's creation...a symbol of peace and reconciliation...Open to receive the wealth that the world has created, to distribute to the peoples of the world...It ought to be the symbol of our age. ..

+ "The Open Hand will affirm that the second era of man-chinist civilization has begun; the era of harmony."

