

# SEAGRAM BUILDING

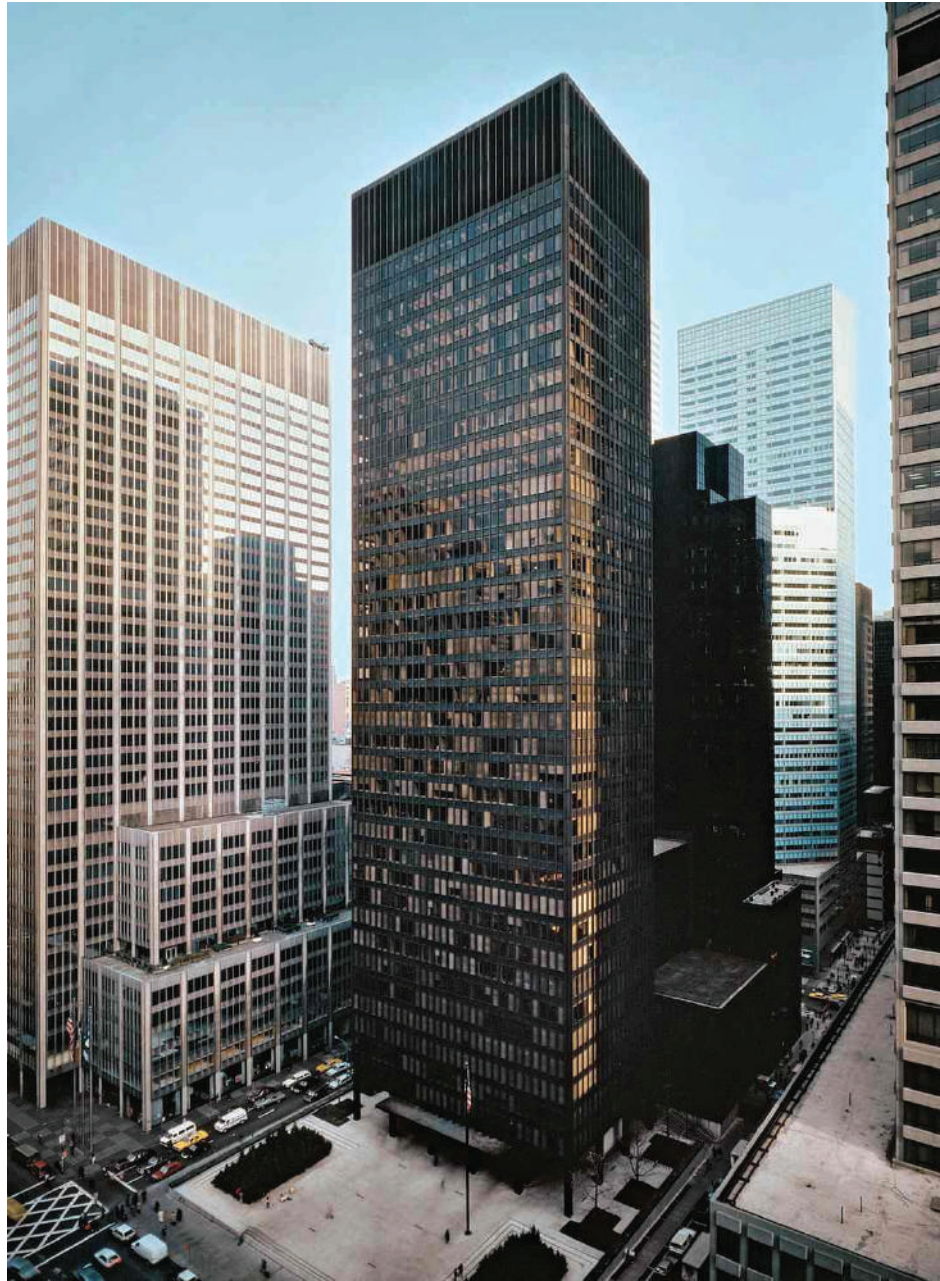
Daylighting and Electric Lighting



PRALADA WASANASOMSITHI (PIPPA)

6538058625



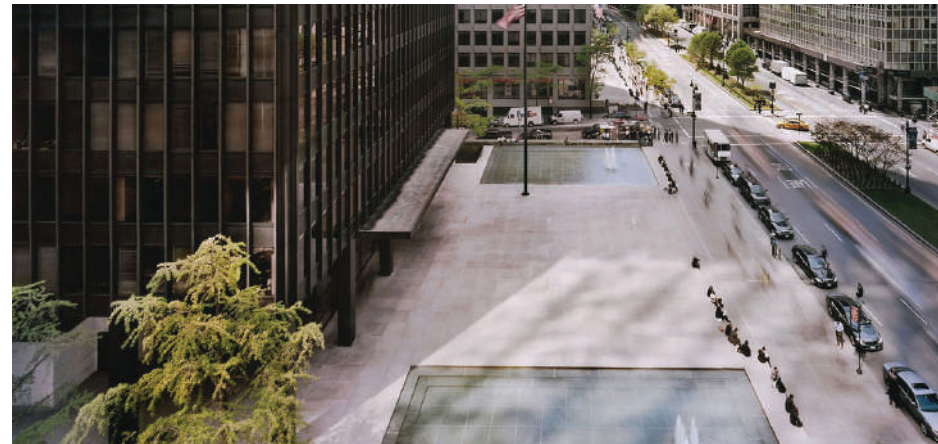


## Seagram Building Technical Information

Architect : Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe  
 Restaurant Architect : Philip Johnson  
 Location : 375 Park Avenue, New York, United States  
 Surrounding condition :  
 Material : Exterior : Steel, Concrete, Glass  
 Material : Interior : Bronze, Travertine, and Marble.  
 Topics: Office Buildings, Structural  
 Dimensions : 38 floors. Height: 516 ft | 157 m  
 Area : 46,000 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Floor Area : 78,876 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Completion Year : 1958

The Seagram Building, completed in 1958, is one of the most influential modernist buildings of the 20th century. Designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe in collaboration with Philip Johnson, it marked a turning point in corporate architecture and set the standard for skyscrapers around the world.

The project was commissioned by Phyllis Lambert, daughter of Seagram's CEO. She played a critical role in shaping the building's design, rejecting conventional proposals and insisting on an architect who could create something bold and refined. Her decision to appoint Mies van der Rohe was pivotal, both for the building's quality and its legacy.



The building's most radical gesture was its large public plaza, which set it back from Park Avenue. At a time when maximizing floor space was the norm, this open space signaled a new attitude—one that prioritized urban experience and architectural dignity over sheer profit.

Architecturally, the Seagram Building is a prime example of the International Style. It features a steel frame, bronze-toned curtain wall, and clear structural expression. Mies used non-functional bronze I-beams on the facade to suggest structural honesty, a poetic contradiction that became a signature of modernist theory.



## The Architect

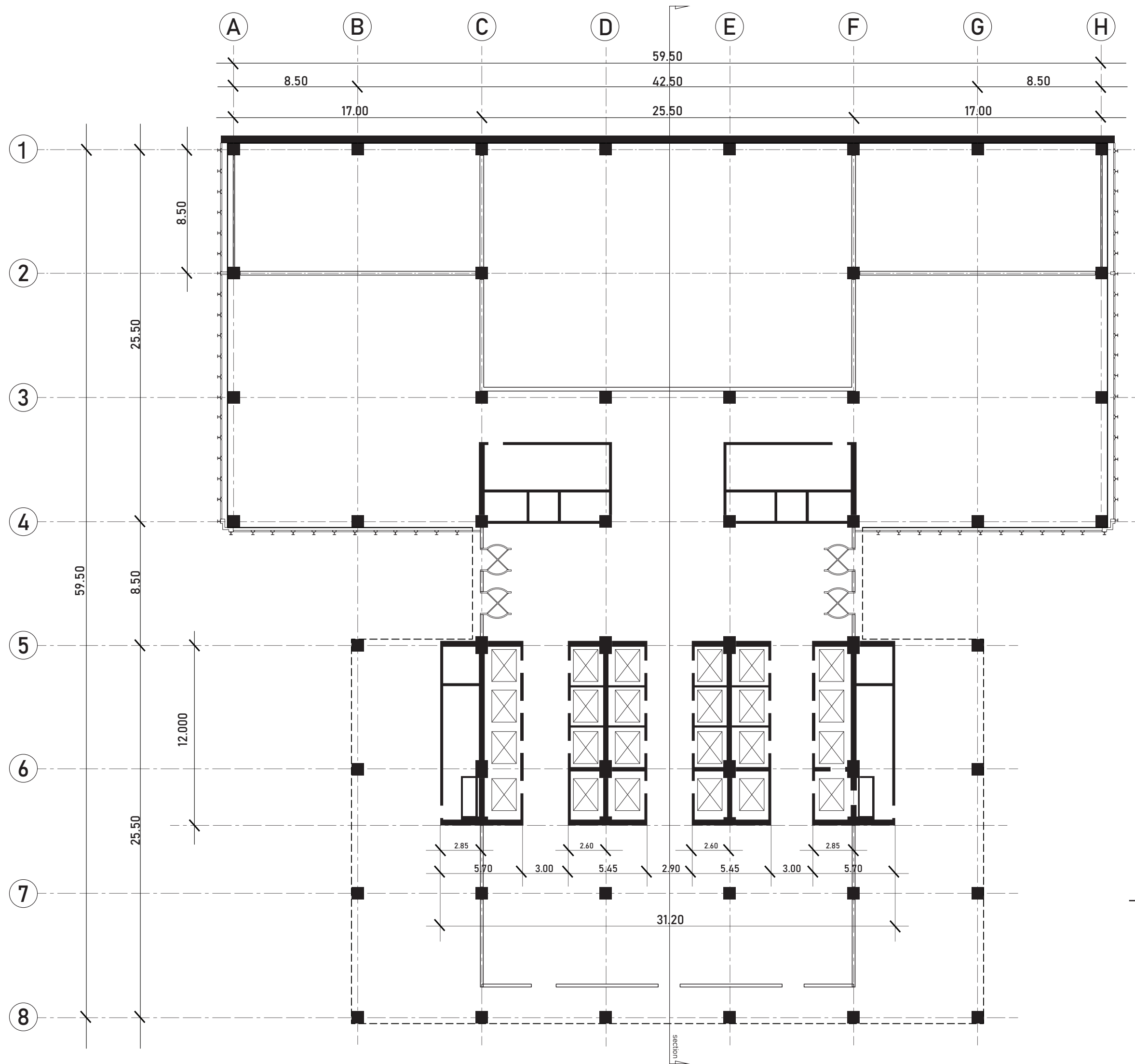


Ludwig Mies van der Rohe was a German-American architect who played a pivotal role in shaping 20th-century modern architecture. Born in Aachen, Germany in 1886, Mies began his career working in his father's stone-carving business and later with influential architects like Peter Behrens, where he was exposed to early modernist thinking. He developed a unique architectural philosophy rooted in simplicity, structural clarity, and precision. His famous mantra, "less is more," captured his belief in minimalism—not as a lack of design, but as a distillation of form to its most essential and elegant state.

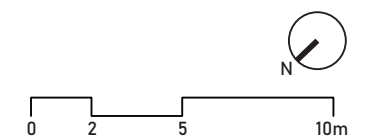
Mies was a pioneer of the International Style, characterized by open floor plans, minimal ornamentation, and the use of modern materials like steel and glass. His European works, such as the Barcelona Pavilion (1929) and Tugendhat House (1930), became icons of early modernism. With the rise of the Nazi regime, he emigrated to the United States in 1938, where he continued his career and left an indelible mark on the architectural landscape.

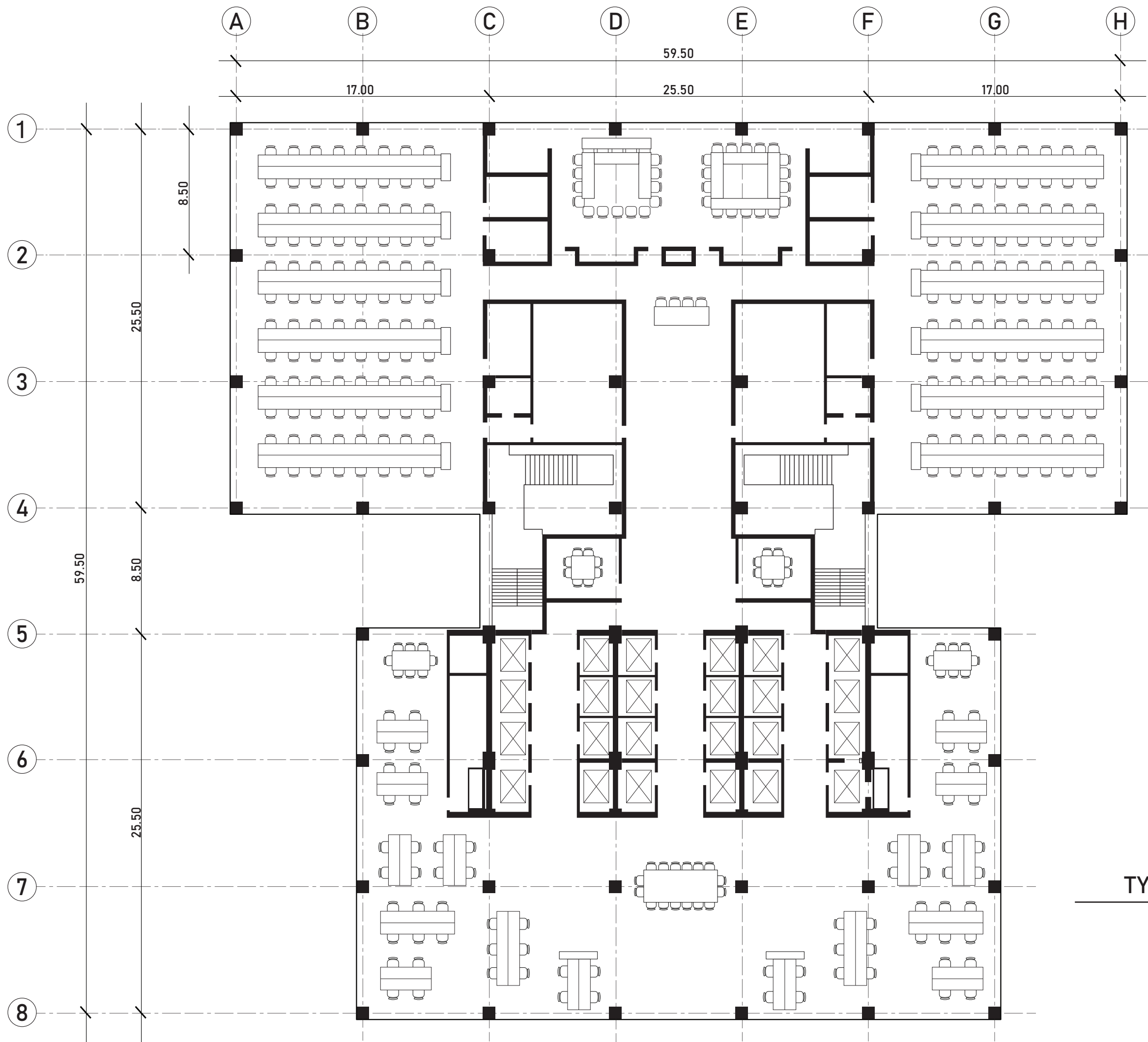
In the U.S., Mies became the head of the architecture school at the Illinois Institute of Technology, where he redesigned the campus and developed a new model for architectural education. His American projects, such as the Farnsworth House and the Seagram Building, pushed the boundaries of what modern architecture could be—combining technical innovation with philosophical depth.





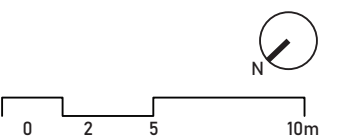
**GROUND FLOOR PLAN**  
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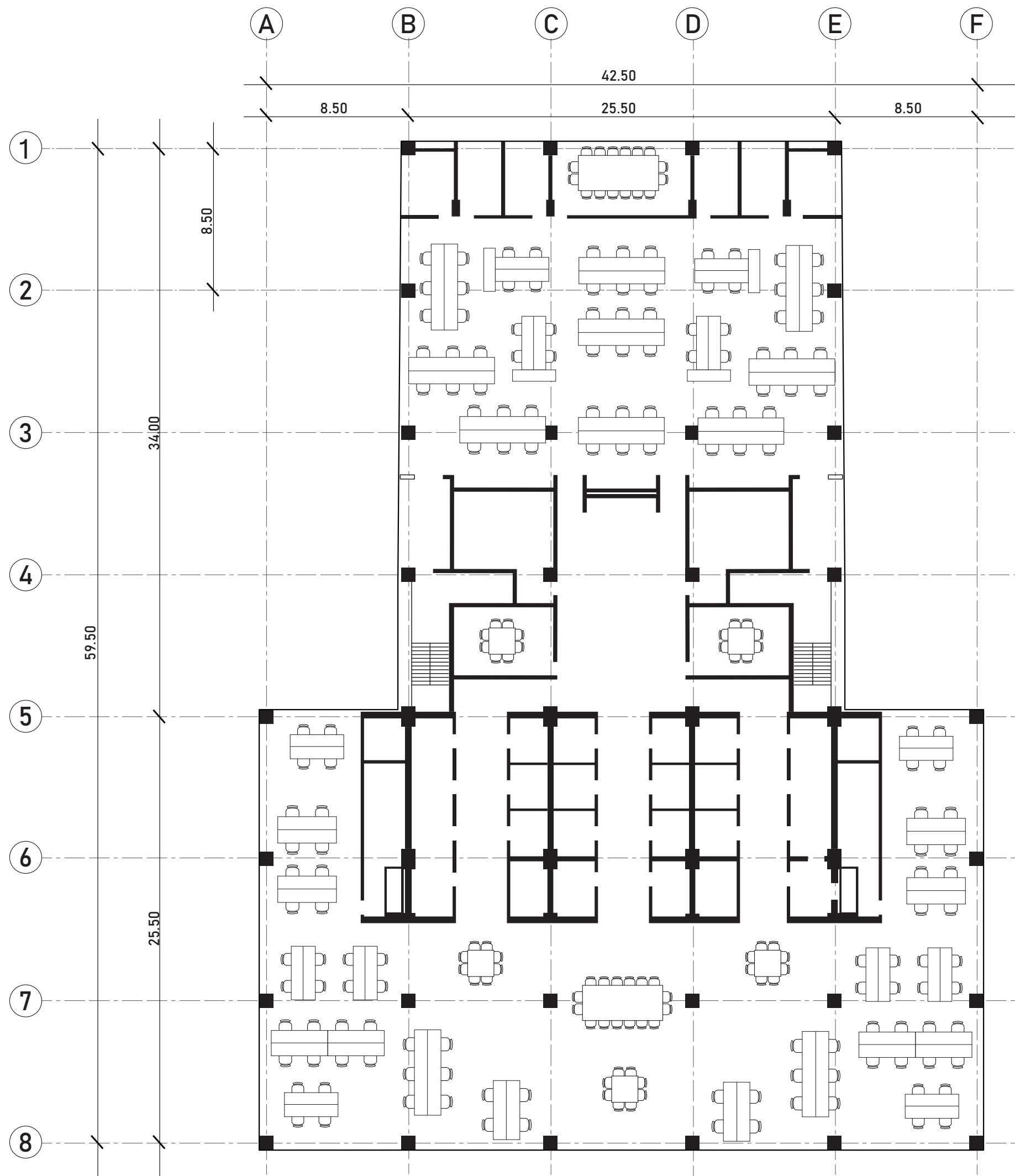




TYPICAL LOWER FLOOR PLAN

scale 1:250

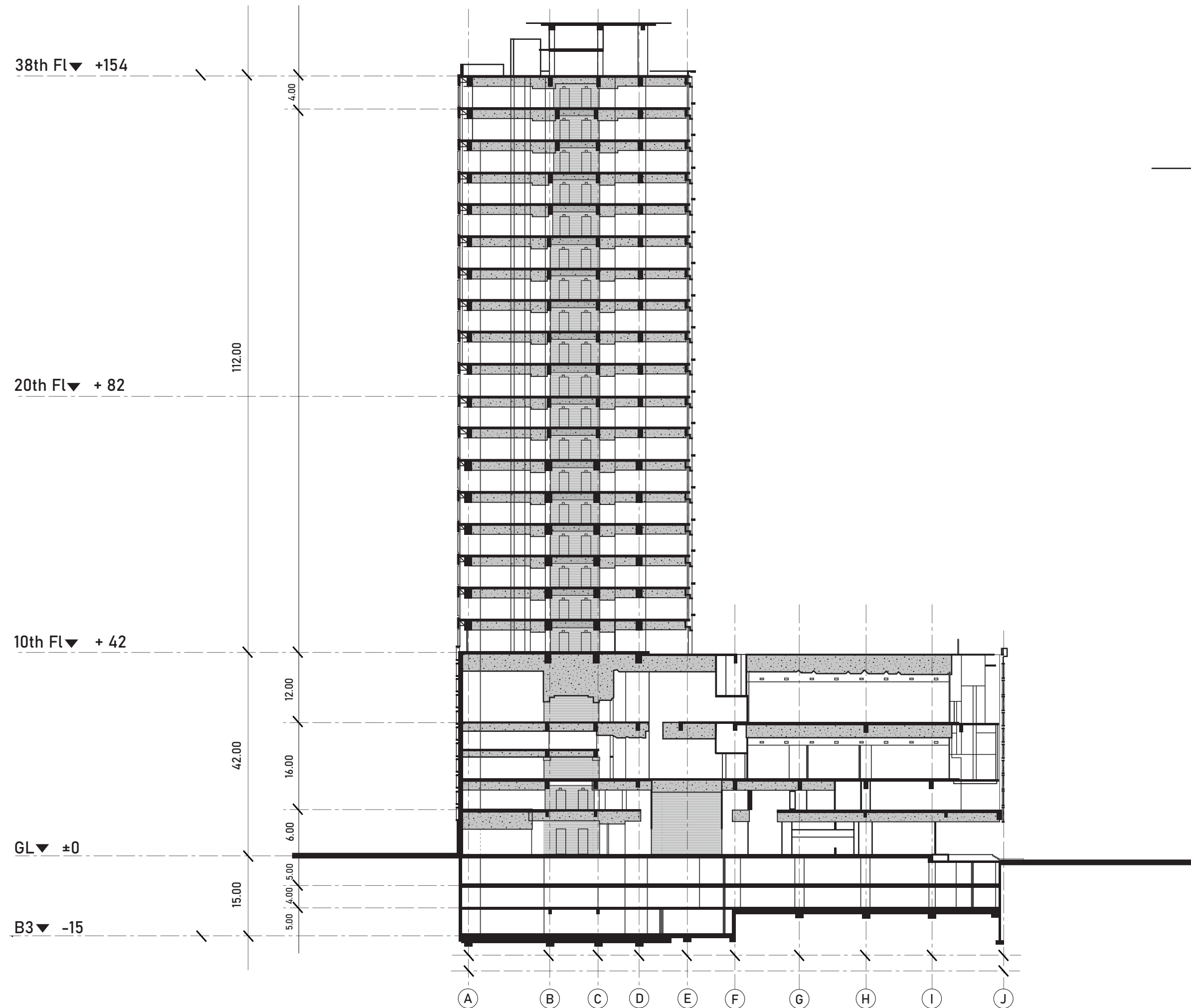




TYPICAL UPPER FLOOR PLAN

scale 1:250





SECTION

scale 1:750

