

FORTIFYING DIPLOMATIC BUILDINGS:
NECESSITY OR PARANOIA?

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Abstract

Enclaves, exclaves, and jurisdictions are all examples of how we create boundaries and appropriate space. In the built environment, fortified architecture uses walls, bollards, setbacks, and security checkpoints to create boundaries. U.S. Embassies are a good example of both an enclave and a fortified building. They are political missions residing on sovereign land inside foreign territory. They symbolize a country's foreign policy objectives, values, and efforts to analyze and understand their host country. For those who work at embassies and those who visit embassies, they find a place of business and political action as well as refuge. Embassies serve as cultural, economic, and political links between countries. Because embassies serve as an ambassador's headquarters, and accommodate foreign service officers and diplomats, these buildings have unique safety requirements; requirements which are becoming increasingly stringent due to government reactions to terrorism.¹

This research analyses how current fortified architecture symbolizes historical precedents, explores the capacity of architecture to change the way it responds to fortification, and promotes positive human interaction. I propose that fortified embassy designs are an important site for changing the way we look at protecting people within the built environment. In hopes of instilling communal value and ownership, new fortified building programs should strive to change their historical symbolism, invite public engagement, and encourage an atmosphere of global citizenship and tolerance.

¹ Ellen G. Rafshoon, "Embassies" *Dictionary of American History* (New York, NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2003), 194

Fortifying Diplomatic Buildings: Necessity or Paranoia?

Introduction

Imagine discussing fortified architecture with a child. Until you mention castles, they may have no idea what the word fortified means. Their limited understanding often comes from fictional literature and film, and is unlikely to be derived from historical insight. Apathy leads to a similar misunderstanding among adults as border patrol walls, gated communities, and airport security checkpoints become a part of everyday life. Fortified architecture symbolizes different things to different people. An embassy that only shows concern for defensive structures, may result in a design that improperly symbolizes of a country's foreign diplomacy. This study aims to clarify the challenge in designing this building type which struggles to find a balance between the necessities of security and the often negative symbols portrayed by fortification.

Michael Dell's global perspective on security postulates third world and emerging countries seeking the advantages of the global marketplace are less likely to war with one another when they create mutually beneficial, reciprocal business agreements.¹ This begs the question, if mutual benefit creates a good atmosphere for safety, can architecture heighten awareness to the benefit of such agreements to create safety? Furthermore, Friedman suggests, "We cannot retreat from the world. We have to make sure that we get the best of our own imaginations - and never let our imagination get the best of us."² In other words, our thoughts have the power to protect or destroy. These two statements suggests we can best secure ourselves by forming relationships and creating opportunities for people to connect in ways that spawns tolerance and understanding. This research analyses how current fortified architecture symbolizes historical precedents,

explores the capacity of architecture to change the way it responds to fortification, and promotes positive human interaction and an increase in global citizenship. I propose that Embassies are the type of fortified architecture where new security strategies can better create safety within the built environment.

Methodology

Today the notion of building castles, fortresses, and walled cities may seem outdated and impractical. A new approach to fortified architecture needs to be found. This research compares the design of historical fortifications to contemporary embassy designs, and discusses why current security methods often act in similar ways to historic ones. More specifically, the historic crusader castle of Crac des Chevaliers, the fortress citadel of Besançon, and the walled city of Neuf-Brisach will be analyzed in order to understand the public critique of the new U.S. embassies in London and Berlin.

Crusader Castles: Crac des Chevaliers

Starting with the Holy Sepulchre in 1009, rulers in the Islamic world created a catalyst for the crusades by destroying christian churches in the holy land. The first crusade was ordered in November of 1095 and by July of 1099 Jerusalem was re-captured. After the First Crusade two orders of knights were formed to maintain control in Outremer and protect pilgrims. One order was the Templars, founded in 1118. The other was the Hospitallers, which grew from an existing order in Jerusalem³ The need for permanent defensive structures along pilgrimage routes and strategic military sites led to the creation of the crusader castles and the skillful masonry of crusader knights. Both orders used the

enclosure plan for their fortified cloisters which often encompassed a chapel and a refectory used in monastic life.⁴

Crusader knights fortified extensively for three main reasons. First, the curious shape of the Latin kingdom, second, lack of manpower, and third, the needs of feudal administration.⁵ By exerting control over locations in the holy land, castles acted as strategic bases to increase strength and maintain interests of christian nations abroad. In this way, the castle acted similar to an embassy today in that the enclave was used to strategically enforce foreign interests. More then defensive fortifications, castles had religious, economic, and political undertones. Christians took interest in the holy land to protect pilgrimage routes and ensure freedom of worship. They also acquired palatine territories with which to form dioceses backed by a bishop. This meant bishops and crusaders were allowed to conduct feudal control over obtained demesnes land and extract tithes from goods produced.⁶ Other economic benefits were the opening of trade between Europe to the west, and Asia Minor and the Levant to the East as well as crusader military collection of tributes from captured or threatened Muslim cities. To this end, the crusades not only helped fortify christian hegemony, but it brought with it wealth and prosperity. This makes the case that the goal of the crusades was more than mere religious piety. Castles became a symbol of the Christian struggle for power from the early 11th century until the late 13th century.

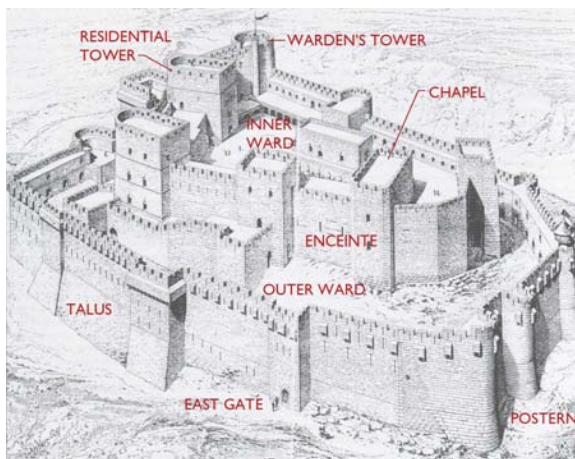


Fig. 1. Crac des Chevaliers: seen from the northeast

The concentric conventual castle Crac des Chavaliers still resides on its Syrian hill-top location close to north Lebanon. This castle played an integral role in aiding the Hospitallers to protect trade routes and restrict Muslim access to the Mediterranean Sea. It served as a headquarters and administrative centre for their order and a casting off point from which to conduct raids into Muslim-held territory.⁷ The Hospitaller Order took control of the castle in 1142 and added extensively to the its fortifications by creating an outer and inner enceinte, with the inner enceinte housing their monastic life and chapel.⁸ This configuration shows a combination of both church and military architecture. The castle sits on a spur and is protected by natural terrain on three sides. The outer enceinte was 9 meters high with rounded towers projected out to allow for defense from siege engines. The entrance to the castles outer bailey was made through an elaborate and convoluted series of tunnels that bent and turned and exposed besieging forces to make them vulnerable to attack. The inner bailey housed the Knight's hall, chapel, stores, residential tower, and Warden's tower. The castle was very self-sufficient. It collected rainwater into cisterns and used an aqueducts to supply itself with water from the nearby hills. It also made use of a windmill on top of one of the towers and large ovens to process its large stores of raw grain.⁹ During the first half of the thirteenth century, the castles most profitable time period, the Knights extracted tribute from the Muslims of Homs and Hama and led punitive expeditions against those refusing to pay, as well as received wealth from crusading noblemen and the bounty of their own rich lands.¹⁰ The glory of the Hospitallers at Crac des Chavalier came to an end April 8th, 1271 when the Knights surrendered the castle to Sultan Beibars, who led a successful army campaign to break through the south wall and took over the outer bailey.¹¹

Embassies

Embassies are unique examples of contemporary fortified enclaves. Headed by ambassadors, embassies are the official missions through which nations conduct foreign affairs, promote national interests, protect U.S. citizens abroad, and gather information about host countries.¹² Embassies serves as the headquarters of the ambassador

and an office for lower-ranking diplomats, Department of State employees, and officials from other agencies.¹³

Though the U.S. has had a foreign diplomatic interest since 1781, the history of diplomatic architecture starts mainly after the Rogers Act of 1924 and the formal creation of the Foreign Service.¹⁴ After the U.S. involvement in World War I, the Foreign Service was called on to protect U.S. interests abroad and intervene in the employment of American public and private resources and the expansion of American shipping interests.¹⁵ The United States, in reaction to post-war trauma, seemed determined to create an image of stability instead of *l'esprit nouveau* of modern Architecture. "Historical continuity - the transferral of an imperious style from a nation's Golden Age to the present - implied endurance, stability, and strength, qualities in demand during an age of confusing and volatile international relations."¹⁶ The United States chose to build in its colonial style to appear devoid of foreign influence. This changed after World War II when the United States role as a world leader grew. The Foreign Service Act of 1946 introduced innovations to working conditions, recruitment training, improved salaries, and utilization of personnel, as well as fixing many deficiencies found during the war.¹⁷ Despite the U.S. Government's slow adoption of Modern Architecture prior to the war, it had little argument with a new appearance abroad. Americans sought to promote democracy through an architecture that was open, abstract, innovative, and accessible.¹⁸ From the mid 1940s to mid 1960s hundreds of foreign building operations went underway as the newly formed Office of Foreign Building Operations replaced the Foreign Service Buildings Commission and found creative ways to produce their own funds for projects through the reclamation of foreign debts.¹⁹ In the face of the Cold War modern architecture was promoted due to a sharp contrast with the, "Stalinist architecture" of the Soviets who stuck to historical styles.²⁰ While the International style shared some success it later became muddled with the private structures of corporate headquarters, leaving the U.S. embassy to appear focused mainly on big business and bureaucracy.²¹ In 1953 the Architectural Advisory Panel was created and brought in private architects and consultants on two year memberships.²² This led to new

embassy designs that strived for a harmony between regional style and the international style. Through a mixture of American Modern design and local traditions, buildings like Edward Durrell Stone's New Delhi embassy in 1959, Eero Saarinen's London embassy in 1960, and John M. Johansen's Dublin embassy, attempted to further project an image of the United States as open to international relations. Negative sentiments towards U.S embassies grew as the United States became increasingly involved in the Vietnam War. In 1965 an attack on the U.S. embassy in Saigon led to the death of three embassy employees and marked the first attack of such kind to take lives.²³ This event marks the beginning of what is today an ongoing struggle to further secure U.S. embassies abroad. Another influential event happened in 1979, when seventy-six Americans were taken hostage for 444 days in Tehran, Iran.²⁴ Then in 1983, the bombing of the Beirut embassy in Lebanon led to the creation of the Inman Report and new security design requirements for U.S. embassies. Soon, embassy's appearance changed due to the implementation of reinforced 9 foot high walls, a 30 meter setback, reduced window to wall ratios, and 10-15 acre building sites. Older buildings were either deemed obsolete, or surrounded with fences, bollards, concrete planters, and increased security. The Oklahoma City bombing in 1995 and the 1998 dual suicide bombings at U.S. embassies in Dar el Salaam and Nairobi further bolstered America's agenda of new security practices. In 2001 the OBO implemented a new look to embassies as they began use of the SED or Standard Embassy Design.²⁵ Loeffler explains the use of the prototype was based on a need for efficient and safe designs with a low economy of materials. The SED prototype is now being reviewed for stifling diplomacy. In 2008 the League of Green Embassies was created under the belief that Eco-diplomacy from an environmentally conscious platform would strengthen the United States position as global leader.²⁶ In April, the OBO announced the "Design Excellence Initiative," of which the new London embassy is the championed project.²⁷

Over the last 85 years, U.S. embassies have gone through many changes in an effort to accommodate a government involved with a vastly connected world. Finding a harmony between protection and isolationism, and

openness and vulnerability has been an ongoing goal of Embassy design since the foundation of the Foreign Service Buildings Commission. By analyzing the manner in which we design U.S. embassies and recognizing their historical underpinnings, this building type can realize new design solutions.

U.S. Embassy - London

Due to the organization of their defensive structures and the location on site, current embassies bear a striking resemblance to historical fortresses and castles. To protect against car bombs, embassies are required to have a 30 meter setback from the street. These setbacks are spanned with engineered landscapes, and walls making passage difficult. High walls or fences are placed near public sidewalks and surround the embassy. Similar to the inner curtain wall of a concentric castle, the space between the fence and adjacent public buildings acts as an outer ward. The space inside the fence is similar to a castle's inner ward with the embassy acting as a keep. While defenses may sound adequate for an embassy, they don't protect neighboring properties. In the case of a concentric castle, a bomb detonated in the outer ward would be contained within the castles walls and not affect buildings outside. In the case of an embassy, outlying properties become involved in the attack and collateral damage occurs to local buildings due to a lack of social responsibility. Embassy design needs to address this issue and take adjacent buildings out of the line of fire?



Fig. 2. U.S. Embassy, London

The new billion dollar U.S. Embassy in London by Kieran Timberlake has moved from the Mayfair district to in central London, to a more recluse location. Compared to Eero Saarinen's U.S. embassy in Grosvenor Square, this buildings is not nearly as accessible to pedestrians. It sits away from the street and keep the public far from its structure. Some negative public opinions suggest the building looks like a castle with a moat around it. This opinion does not come as a shock considering the historical undertones of the building. When you compare the layout for this building to that of a spur castle, like Crac des Chevaliers, one can see the similarities. It sit a top what look like a mound of earth with three inaccessible sides facing out to neighboring buildings, while the main entry is

accessed over a drawbridge walkway. The encompassing landscape is sloped upward toward the building, similar to glacis earthworks surrounding medieval fortresses. These earthen mounds are held at the bottom, closest the street, by low ramparts or bulwarks and create low retaining walls. It may also be closely related to the design of a motte-and-bailey castle since a spur castle often resided on a natural earthen outcropping. In a motte-and-bailey, the castle's keep was placed atop a steep, often artificially made, hill and the ground excavated to create the mound would be filled with water. The London Embassy appears to be surrounded on one side by a scarp and counterscarp, while the other side of the building has a moat acting as a reflecting pool. On two sides of the building there are detached ravelins or bastion like structures made of high retaining walls filled with soil and covered with grass.



Fig. 3. Besançon Citadel Ariel

Comparing the London embassy to Vauban's citadel fortress in Besançon, reveals a few ways in which The embassy draws upon the historical roots of the citadel. For instance, Besançon use walls to limit access and protect the building from the outside world. The embassy does this as well. Likewise, limited access at the entrance grants only a selective group in to either fortification. At the Embassy, excavated scarp and counter scarp make approaching difficult and leaves intruders vulnerable. Similarly, the natural landscape and high walls of the citadel restrict access and expose enemies to attack. Both examples have a 360° vantage of their perimeters with the central buildings raised up above the landscape. The biggest difference between the

physical traits of these two is the proximity of the public to the fortified area. At Besançon, like at Crac des Chevaliers, public buildings are at a safe distance from the fortifications where battles take place.

Another fortification type to take into consideration is the walled city of Neuf-Brisach in North-eastern France. In this example the city is surrounded on all side by bastions and strategic defense positions. The array of bastions creates a buffer between the front lines of battle and the city proper. This setback distance was created to protect the interior of the city from artillery.



Fig. 4. Neuf Brisach Ariel

The embassy does nothing to protect its neighbors. Also, Neuf-Brisach uses fortified setbacks differently than the London embassy. When the outcroppings of the city were not in use or in battle preparation, they could be visited by the public. The buffer zone at an embassy serves one purpose, to keep people away, and at Neuf-Brisach the buffer zone serves multiple uses be they defined or not.

U.S. Embassy - Berlin

The Design for the U.S. embassy in Berlin, by Moore, Ruble, Yudell, differs greatly from the embassy design for London. While the design for London is newer than Berlin, the construction of the London embassy may prove to be a regression from the tangible and accessible embassy in Berlin. The Berlin embassy sits near the Brandenburg Gate. Its front entrance opens to the Pariser Platz and

the French Embassy in the distance. This building is not on an island nor far removed from the public. "People throughout the world remark on the openness and warmth of the American citizenry. The new building achieves a symbolic and real sense of welcoming without sacrificing its important security requirements."²⁸ The exterior draws influence from the existing urban fabric and the proportions of the Brandenburg gate in an attempt to create a connection to the past.²⁹ Unlike the London embassy, the Berlin Embassy can be walked next to and touched. Though the building does create an inner courtyard, similar to an inner bailey, views into the space are encouraged as the entry sequence breaks up the north elevation with a glass entry rotunda off the Pariser Platz. With its gently swooping entrance at the scale of the street, this building encourages cooperation, community and human engagement. This embassy doesn't evoke the symbolism of a castle rather it allows for shared experiences and integration with the community.



Fig. 5. U.S. Embassy, Berlin from Pariser Platz

Discussion

Military architecture has played a role in War's incalculable influence on world history, and helps justify the importance of this research. In the first century BC, Vitruvius claimed military architecture as one of the three allocations of public works construction.³⁰ He said, "And so these victories by besieged cities were not achieved by machines; instead, they were liberated by the cleverness of architects pitted against various types of machines."³¹ Though the times of building stone wall defenses and bastioned cities are seemingly gone, the study of fortifications must continue. After the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center, anti-terrorism sentiment increased as did concerns for homeland security. Contrary to Dell's beliefs on creating

security, borders patrols, airports, and public transportation increased security measures as a means to separate rather than incorporate people. The government's need to protect people is a serious concern, but not an easy task since efforts to do so must work closely with diplomatic priorities abroad. Former Secretary of the State, Lawrence Eagleburger describes this predicament well. "There is no question that we must do everything we can to protect the security of our personnel. But it is also true that an American Embassy is in a country to do business with the local inhabitants thereof. As a consequence, it is for us a constant compromise between Absolute Security,... ..and the sort of access that must be available for any American Embassy. As a consequence, I think it is a fair statement that given what we are supposed to be doing in embassies around the world, it is never going to be possible for us to do our job and be totally secure at the same time."³² The grey area between a secure architecture that is too closed off and an open architecture that is too vulnerable is met with simultaneous opposition and support. Michael Sorkin, the director of graduate design at City College of New York, believes the current redesigns are not very reassuring to the people they are meant to protect, and instead, create a climate of fear and further perpetuate a culture of paranoia.³³ Conversely, Mark Rios, a landscape architect from Los Angeles, claimed that the challenge lies in how one protects against terrorist and still creates a public civic experience that is open and democratic.³⁴ If it is true that fortified buildings cannot fully provide protection, legitimacy for such buildings are left in question. While technical developments take place in fortified architecture, typological developments seems to be lacking. Are there other ways to secure space?

Conclusion

In order to protect a building in a different manner, one must better understand the nature of threats. Threats have traditionally been understood as the products of some combination of capabilities and intentions.³⁵ The fear of a threat comes from a source that has both qualities; the ability to cause harm and a reason to do so. However, "The concept of national security to include military aspects has evolved over the past few decades as it has been accepted that issues such as ethnic

and religious differences and environmental degradation affect national stability and the likelihood of conflict.”³⁶ Therefore, threats to national security are far reaching and difficult to classify under one type. Now, design protocols must consider a wide variety of threats. In the case of embassy attacks, they often occur due to the actions of organized groups, or the actions of a individual members of an organized group. This collective behavior is the action of a body of individuals that, while comparing itself to its adversary, perceive they are deprived or misunderstood and once they decide no social mobility is possible and there is no other alternative, they take matters into there own hands.³⁷ Due to this, it would be fair to infer that a building with the ability to change or stop a threat’s intentions would aid in protecting its occupants. However, this would require a design that shows a strong understanding of the people around it. From this standpoint, my future work aims to do just this. If an Embassy or a Consulate can obtain interest and value from the area within which it is built, perhaps this could help to change what it symbolizes and better protect it. If the building offers something the public values, it stands a better chance at gaining support and approval because it shows interest in a place rather than it own interests abroad.

One new trajectory to increase public value in embassy design is to take an interest in protecting the public welfare along with those in the embassy. To do this, setbacks could be redesigned and utilized to create an opportunity for increased safety and interaction between people through the use of public space. Designing a larger, evenly divided, blast radius, where vehicular traffic is limited to the center and moved below grade could keep the threat of attacks contained and secluded from the embassy, adjacent buildings and many innocent bystanders. This would limit public embassy access to foot traffic, thus greatly diminishing the scale of threats. Enlarged green spaces could be open and inviting parks that provide the public a place to interact and convene. Along with new pedestrian accessibility, the addition of a cultural center and library would allow guests to learn about both the United States and their own country. Through reciprocal agreements with the host country, the curators, librarians, and directors would obtain educational materials to create a comprehensive

representation of both countries. In areas where such facilities are scarce, a cultural center could be a symbol of cooperation, hope, and empathy.

The intent of this paper has been to show the design difficulties embassies have faced since inception, describe why strong historical ties are associated with embassies, and analyze why these associations strongly affect public opinion. This thesis banks on the idea that architecture has the ability to influence people and create situations where people can impact one another. Our work must go beyond the requirements of a program and consider the greater needs of mankind. By understanding what an embassy symbolizes and knowing who is affected by its presence, architects have the opportunity to create an atmosphere for change.

Figures

Fig. 1. Crac des Chavalier: reconstruction from the northeast. (E. G. Rey, *Architecture militaire*, pl. VII)

Fig. 2. US Embassy, London (Kieran Timberlake, <http://blog.kierantimberlake.com/wp-content/uploads/kt-07.jpg>)

Fig. 3. Besançon Citadel Ariel (comité régional du tourisme de Franche-Comté, http://sew2009.univ-fcomte.fr/images/800px-Citadelle_Besan%E7on.jpg)

Fig. 4. Neuf Brisach Ariel (Norbert Blau, http://www.kaiserstuhl-breisgau.de/Unterseiten/neuf-brisach_06.htm)

Fig. 5. Entry to US Embassy, Berlin from Pariser Platz (conceptual: Moore Rubel Yudell, *Foreign Affairs*, pg. 176) (actual: Thomas Riehle, “Architect” v.97, n. 12, Sept 2008, pg. 78)

Notes

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³ Peter Harrison. *Castles of God: Fortified Religious Buildings of the World* (Suffolk, UK: The Boydell Press, 2004) 39

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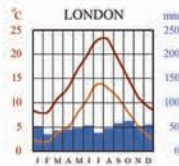
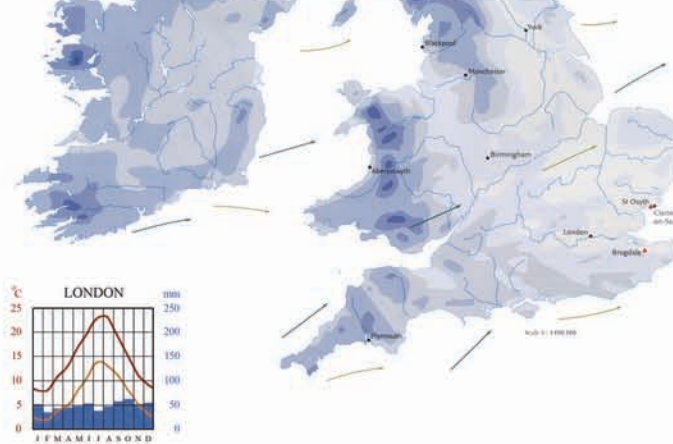
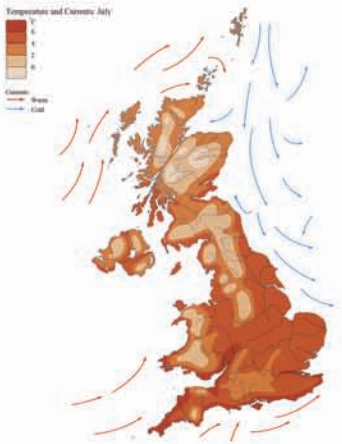
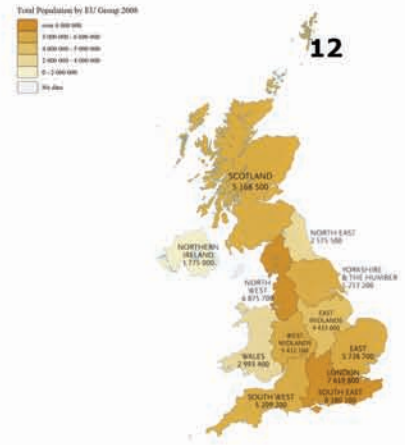
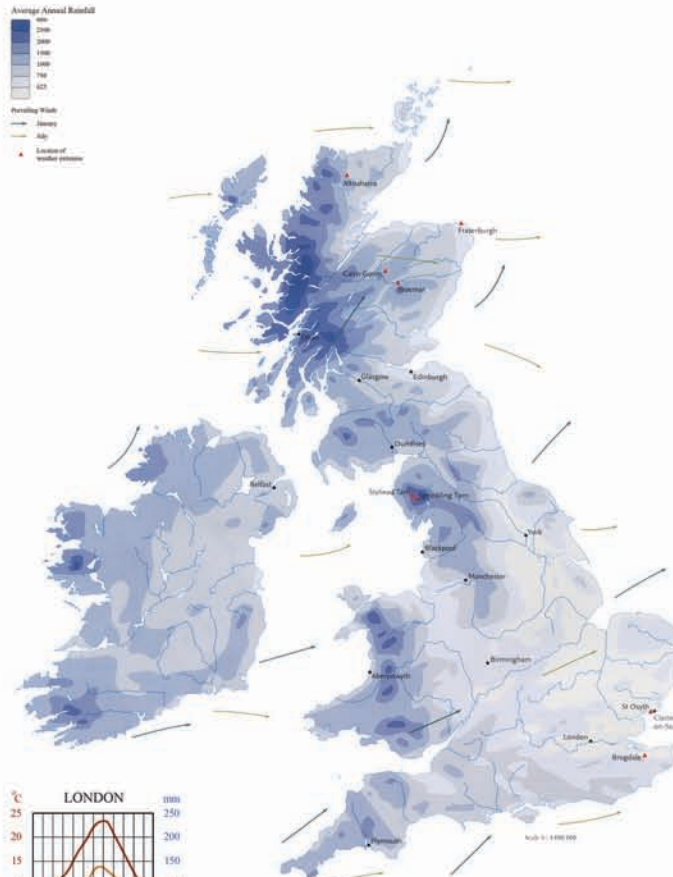
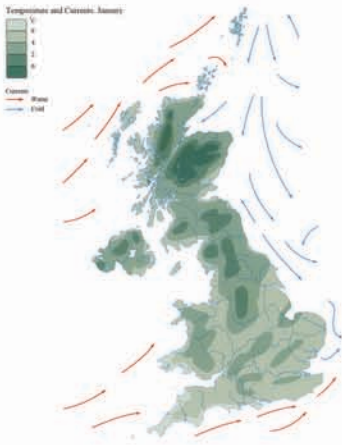
³⁷ Caroline Kelly and Sara Breinlinger. *The social psychology of collective action: identity, injustice, and gender* (Philadelphia, PA: Taylor & Francis, 1996),



GREATER LONDON



- 1. CITY
- 2. WESTMINSTER
- 3. KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA
- 4. HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM



Population

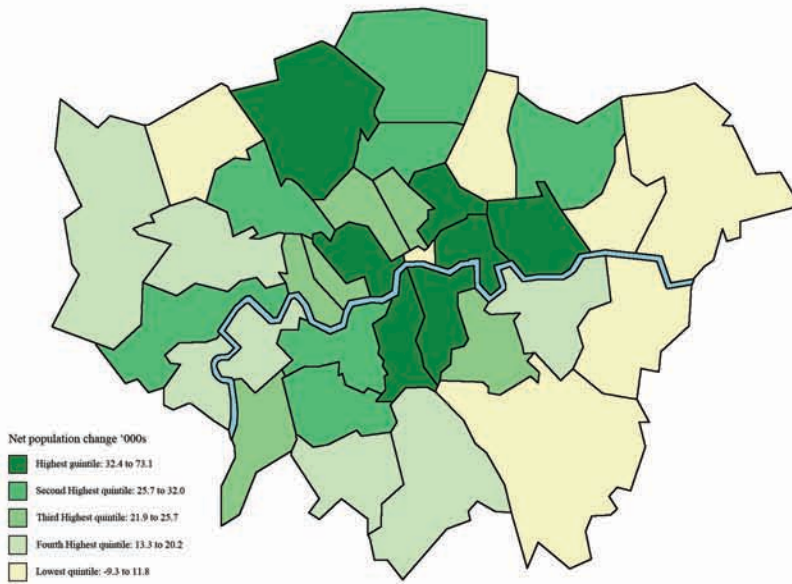
The United Kingdom population has increased steadily over the past century apart from a small plateau in the 1970s. Life expectancy at birth has increased from around 50 years a century ago to nearer 80 years, and while the birth rate has fallen from 151 births per 1000 population in 1901 to 10.65 in 2008, this has been compensated for by international migration where immigration is greater than emigration. This is one of the world's more overall densely populated countries, but the population is unevenly distributed. The greatest concentration of people is in the southeast and Greater London area. Other densely populated areas are the West Midlands, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, Tyneside and Greater Glasgow. Populations are much more mobile than they used to be. People will move much further to find work than in the past and there are also noticeable concentrations of retired peoples, and the non-white populations are often found in particular areas. London has the greatest ethnic mix of population in the UK. East London is one of the more densely populated parts of the United Kingdom, it is also home to a large proportion of the non-white population.

Climate

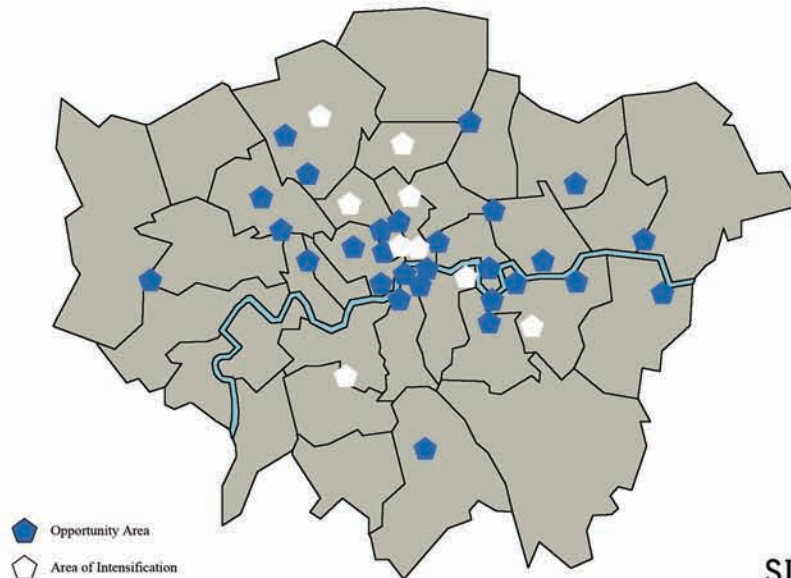
The United Kingdom has a temperate maritime climate, which usually means cool summers and mild winters and a relatively small annual temperature change, which in the UK is, on average, 10°C. The influence of the sea helps to keep the climate moderate, as it takes longer to heat up in summer but keeps its energy for some time after the land has cooled. The prevailing wind are south-westerly, from the Atlantic Ocean, which brings the benefits of the warming influence of the Gulf Stream. Climate is a long-term view averaging weather events out over time, so while there are many weather extremes around the country and the climate is very changeable with many types of weather being experienced in a very short time scale, a longer term view shows a clearer pattern. The UK is generally wetter in the west where the land is higher, and drier in the east where rain shadow effect is experienced. Generally the west has mild maritime winters while the east is colder with a continental influence, but the north has cool summers while the south has warmer temperatures as these are influenced more by latitude

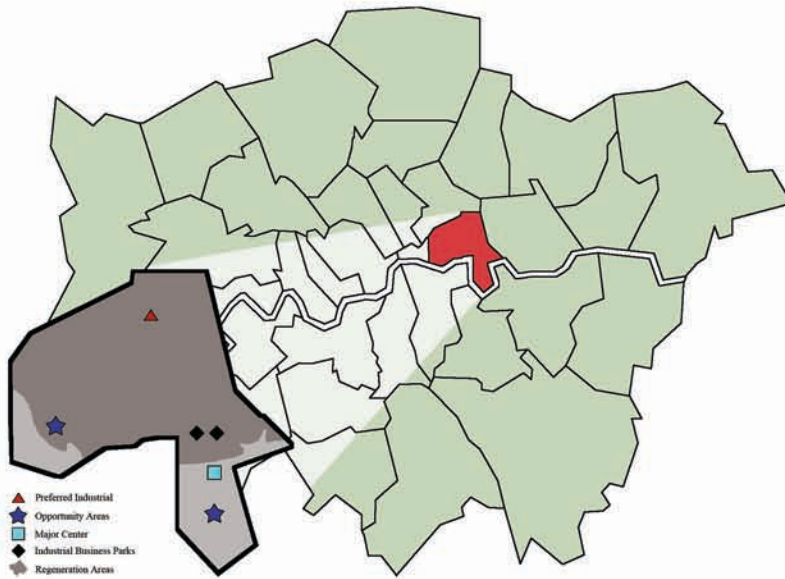


Population growth 1986 - 2006

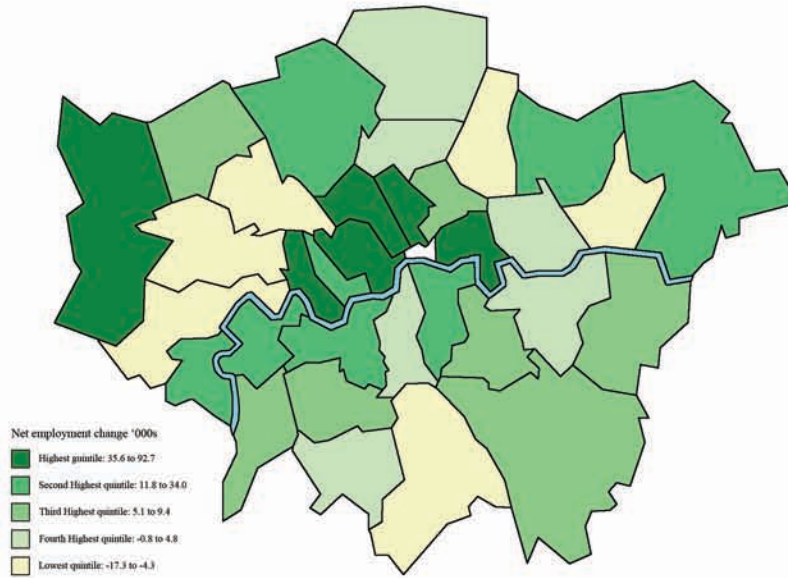


Opportunity Areas and Areas for Intensification

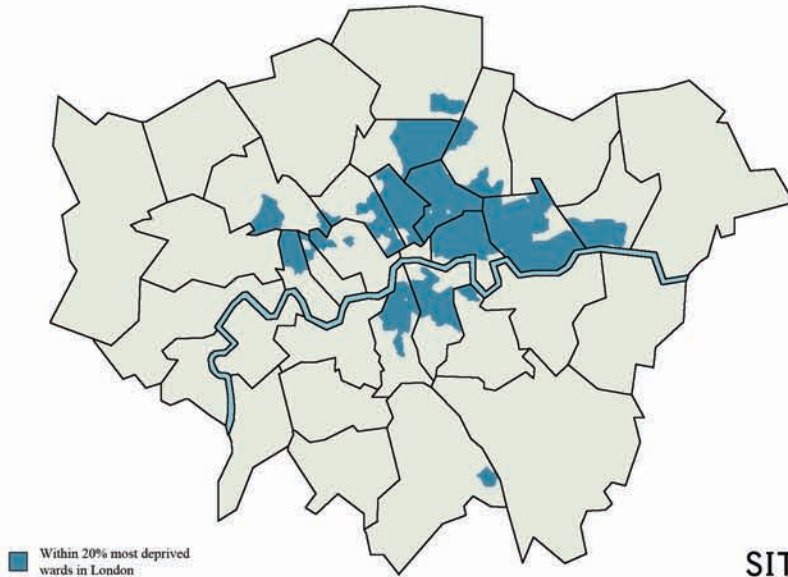


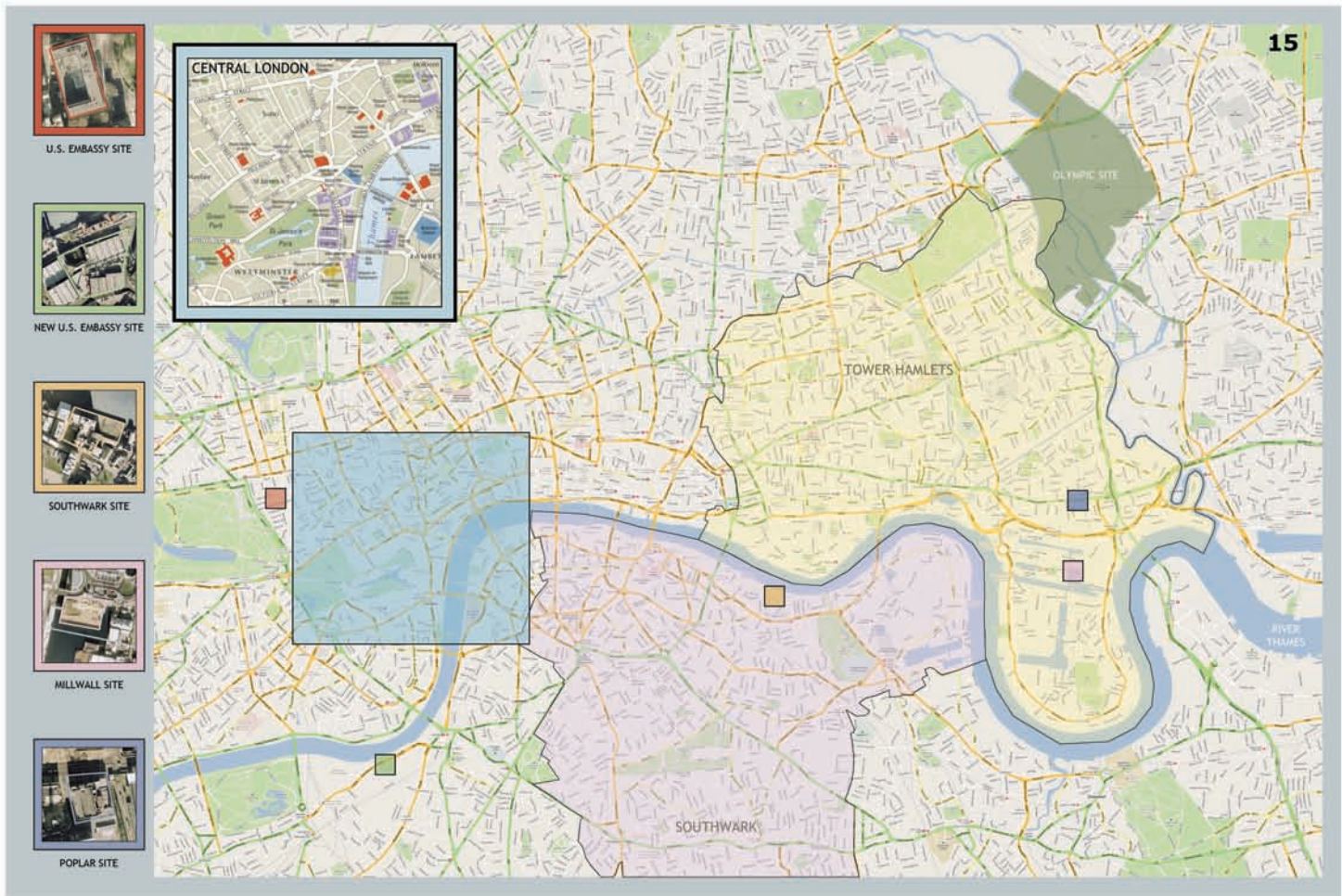


Jobs growth 1986 - 2006



Areas of Regeneration





Tower Hamlets

The borough of Tower Hamlets contains much of London's traditional East End - Bethnal Green, Shoreditch, Whitechapel, Stepney, Poplar and Bow - but it has also seen immense change. The former docklands around the Isle of Dogs have become a major Financial center, centered around Canary Wharf and linked to the City by the Docklands Light Railway, while areas like Spitalfields, once occupied by French Huguenots and then by Jewish immigrants, is now home to a large Bangladeshi community. The borough is ethnically diverse with 44 per cent of the population white British and around 30 per cent Bangladeshi (two-fifths of London's Bangladeshi population live here). Many commute into Tower Hamlets to work, with over 55 per cent of all jobs in the borough in finance, IT and other business, but those who live in the borough are amongst the most deprived in Britain. The Tower of London is its most well-known landmark, while other significant buildings include the Royal Mint and the Baroque churches of Nicholas Hawksmoor at Spitalfields, Wapping and Limehouse. It is a host borough for the 2012 Olympics.

Southwark

The borough of Southwark has a long boundary along the south bank of the Thames from the National Theatre to Rotherhithe, which contains Tate Modern and the Millennium Bridge, the newest, and pedestrian-only bridge across the Thames, HMS Belfast, the reconstructed Globe Theatre, the medieval Southward Cathedral, Tower Bridge and the former wharves and dockland of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe. To the south lie Camberwell, Peckham and Dulwich. Southwark's population is diverse, with nearly 20 per cent of the population of Black African or Black Caribbean origin, while in the borough's schools only one quarter of pupils are white British. The area close to the Thames and to the major commuting terminus of London Bridge Station, has had a major influence on 43 per cent of the borough's jobs being in finance, IT and business. Additional tourist attractions include the Imperial War Museum London and the Dulwich Picture Gallery. This was Britain's first public art gallery, opening in 1814, in a building designed by Sir John Soane that has influenced gallery design ever since.

East India Dock Rd / Vesey Path, Poplar, Greater London, UK

The Site falls in Poplar District of the Borough of Tower Hamlets
 Site of former Public Baths. Fire Station across the street to the west
 Poplar Baths Building closed in 1988 but "The Environment Trust" seeks to see it used again
 Site is across from a shopping center including Barclays Bank branch
 Site is directly next to a DLR (Docklands Light Rail Stop) The All Saints Stop
 Site is roughly 180 feet wide at E India Dock Rd and 500 feet deep on Poplar Bath St
 E India Dock Road is the A13, a main east bound road to the M25 from central London
 The site is 3 train stops north of the Millwall Docks (1.2 miles - 6 minute drive)
 The site is 3 train stops south of the Olympic site (2 mile - 5 Minute drive)
 The site is 5 train stops east of the Tower of London (3 miles - 10 Minute drive)

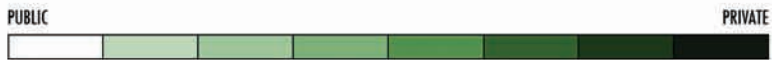
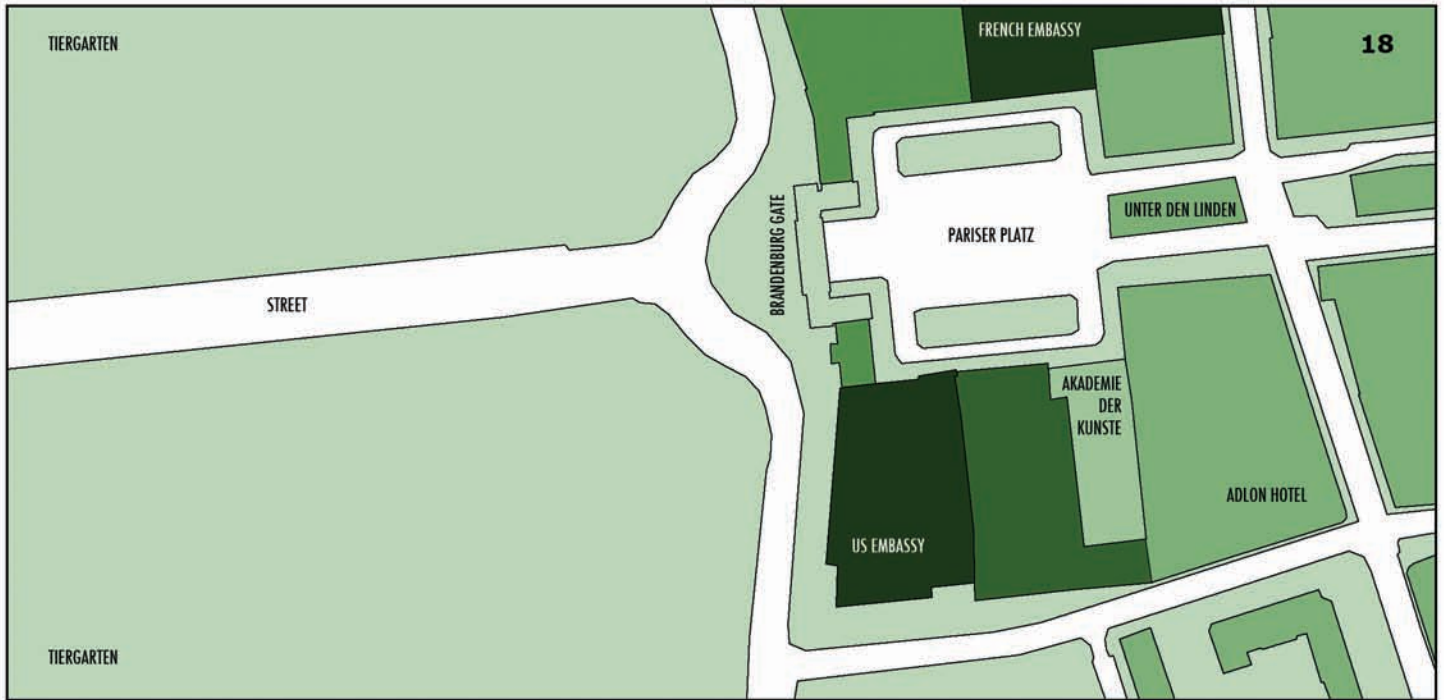


POPLAR

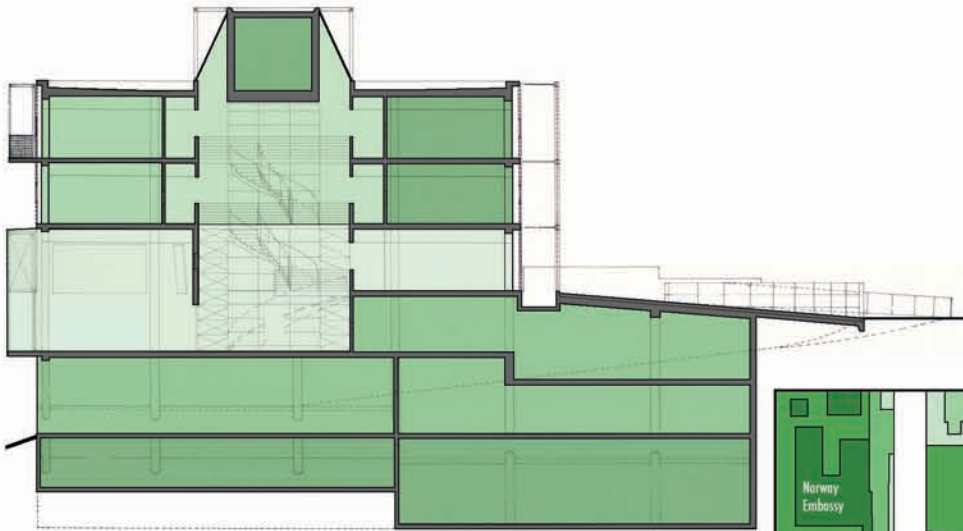
Churchill Place / South Colonnade, Poplar, Greater London, UK

The site is .3 miles from the Canary Wharf DLR Station (1 min drive - 6 min walk)
 The site is .3 miles from the Canary Wharf underground (1 min drive - 6 min walk)
 The site is .15 miles from Jubilee Park
 The site overlooks an inlet between the West India Docks and the Blackwall Basin
 The site is .4 miles from Billingsgate Fish Market, the UK's largest (3 min drive - 7 min walk)
 The site is 1 mile from the Museum of London Docklands (1 min drive - 15 min walk)
 The site is .7 miles from Canary Wharf, Four Seasons Hotel, and London Marriot





AKADEMIE DER KUNSTE



FINNISH EMBASSY, WASHINGTON D.C.



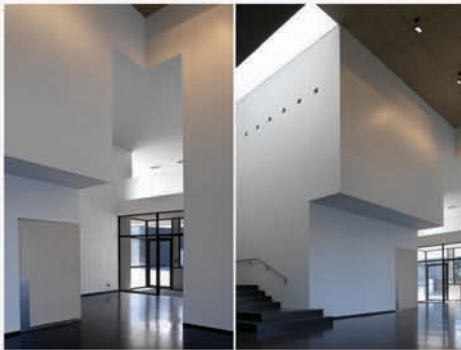
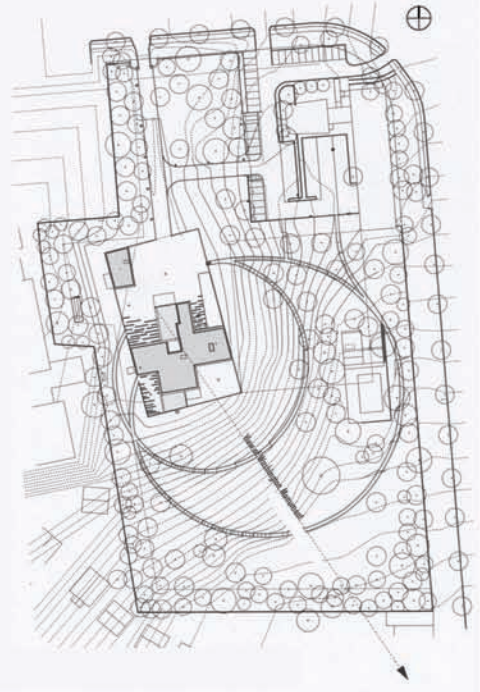
RESIDENCE AT SWISS EMBASSY



NORTH ELEVATION - DAYTIME



NORTH ELEVATION - NIGHTTIME



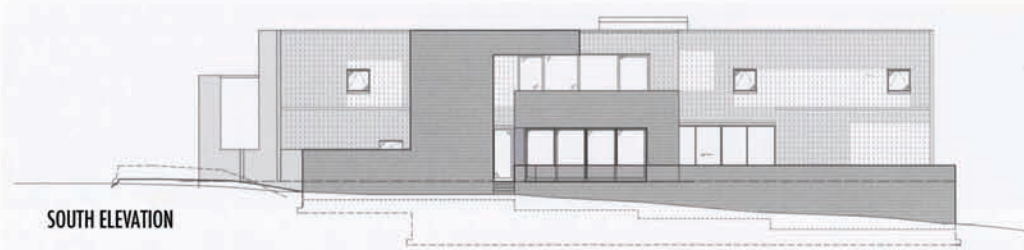
ENTRY HALL - LOOKING NORTHWEST



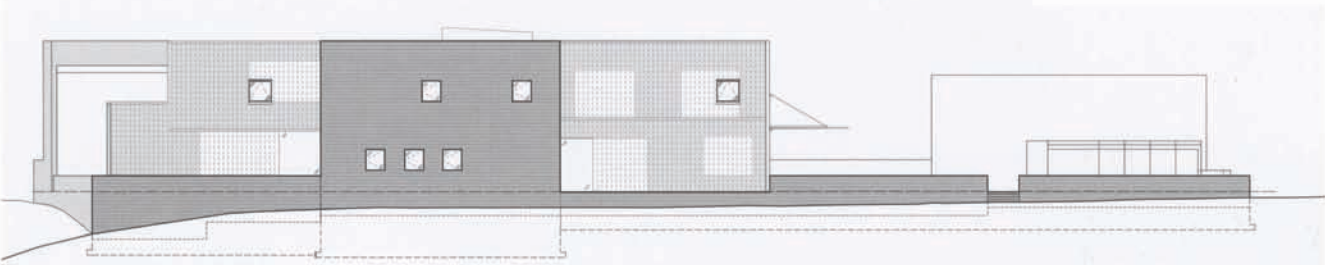
ENTRY HALL - LOOKING SOUTHEAST

Images - www.stevenholl.com

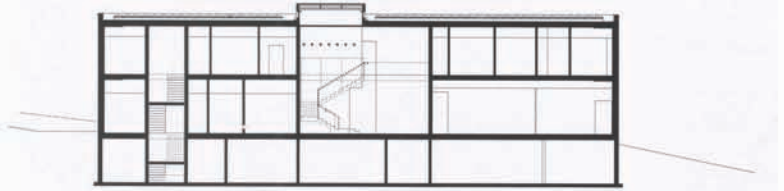
Scans - Moe, Kiel. *Integrated Design in Contemporary Architecture*. 2008, p82-89



SOUTH ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION

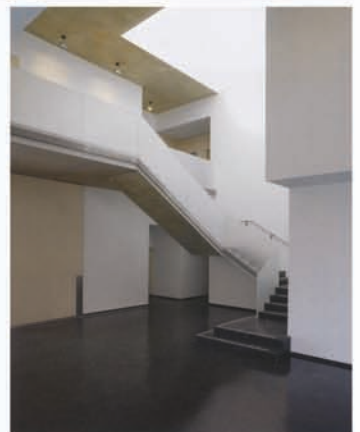


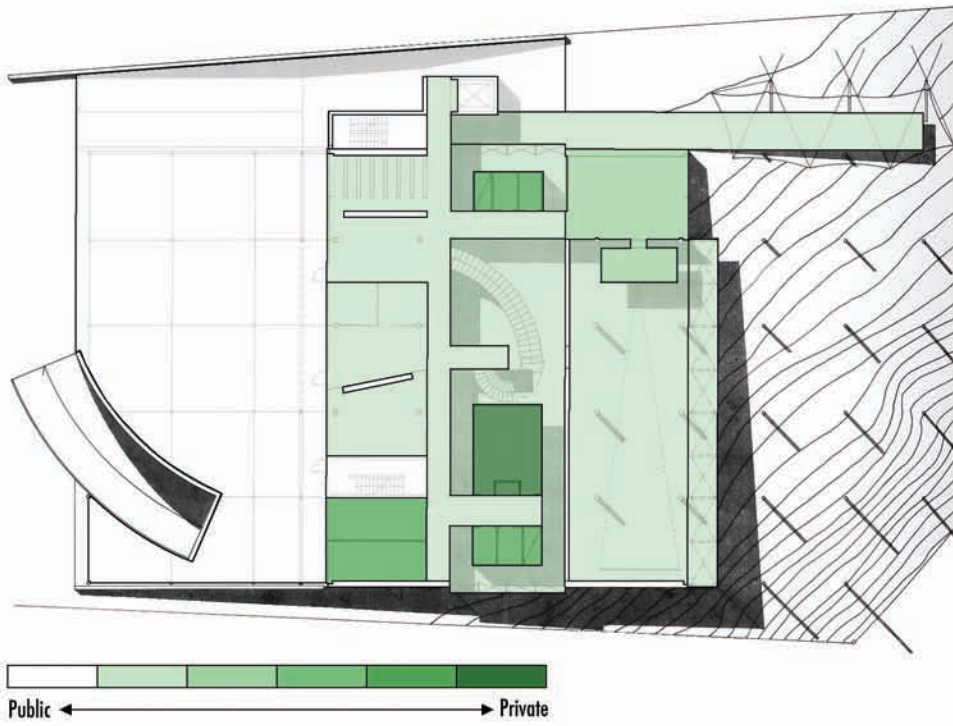
SECTION A



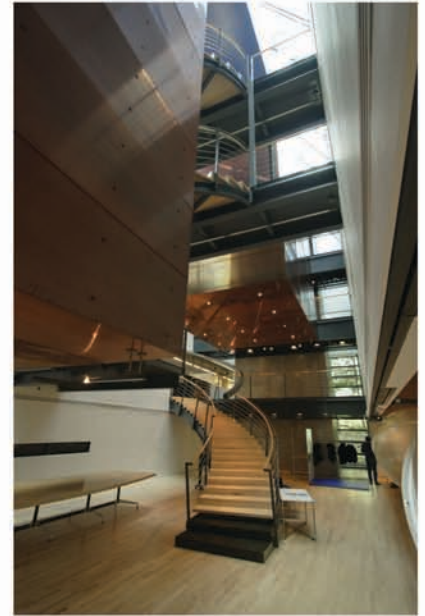
SECTION B

- 1 MAIN ENTRANCE HALL
- 2 DINING AND RECEPTION HALL
- 3 SERVICE
- 4 HERB GARDEN
- 5 RECEPTION TERRACE
- 6 REFLECTING POOL
- 7 CARETAKER HOUSE





At the Finnish Embassy, private spaces are intermingled with public space. The entry sequence to the building, though abrupt, transitions visitors from the street into open circulation and event spaces.



Images - maps.google.com
http://www.heikkinen-komonen.fi/Frames_new_projects.htm
www.skaengineers.com/portfoili/publicinstitutional.asp
<http://www.finland.org/public/default.aspx?culture=en-US&contentlan=2>

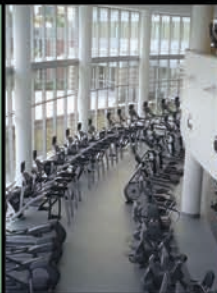




LLOYD HOTEL & CULTURAL EMBASSY - AMSTERDAM



HEALTH AND ARCHITECTURE



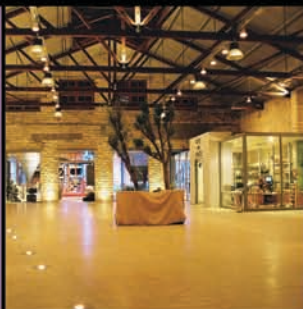
RETHINKING HOW WE ORGANIZE



CONCEPTION OF AN IDEAL HOME



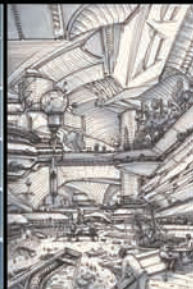
RENOVATION AND REUSE



HOME SECURITY AND SAFETY



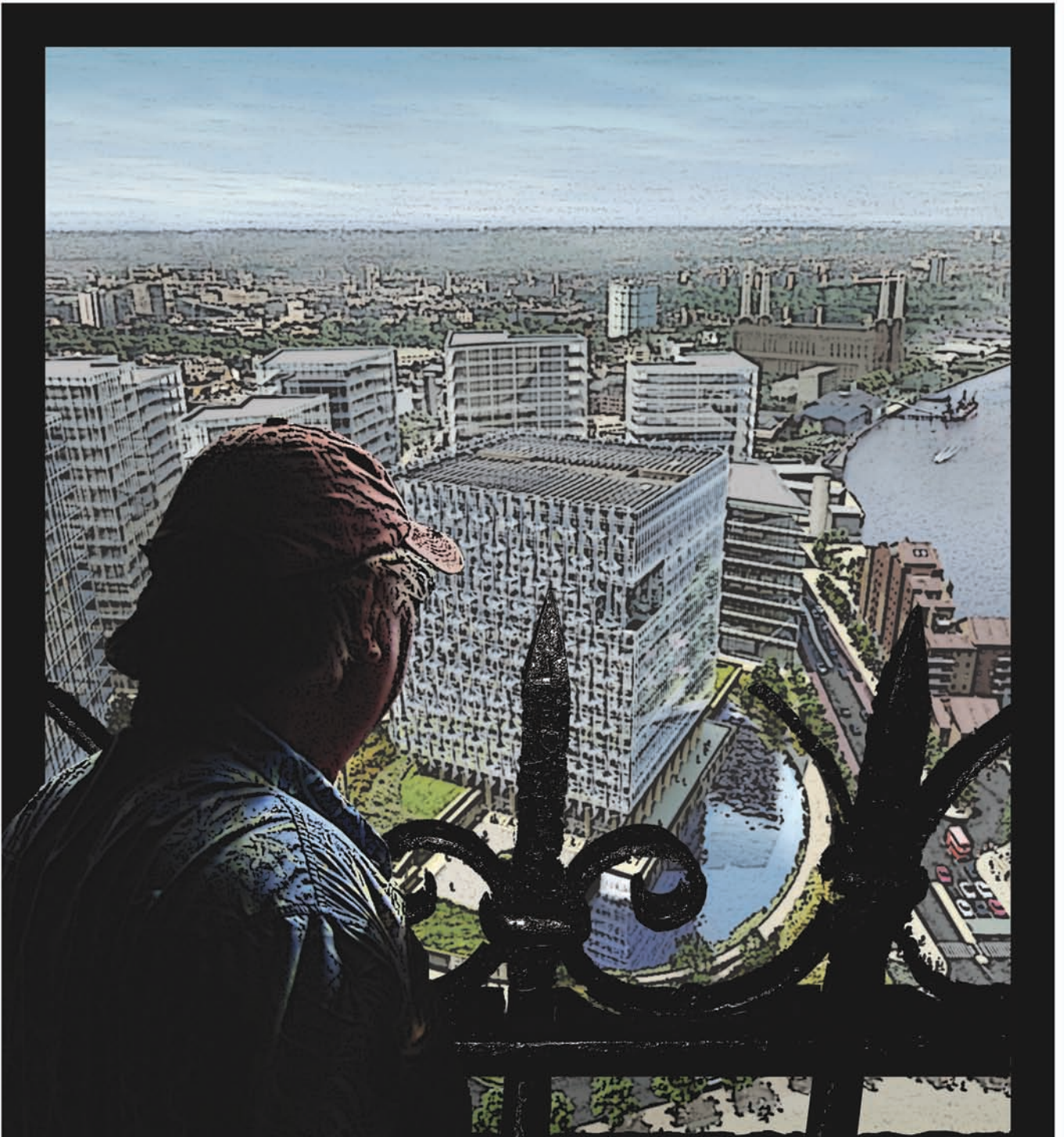
RETHINKING WALL CONSTRUCTION



FORTRESSES, ENCLAVES AND EMBASSIES:



SECURING A MIDDLE GROUND BETWEEN UTOPIA AND PARANOIA



DIPLOMATIC ARCHITECTURE

A MEDIUM FOR MAKING CULTURAL CONNECTIONS



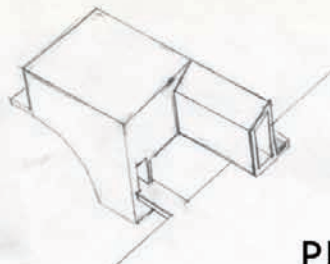
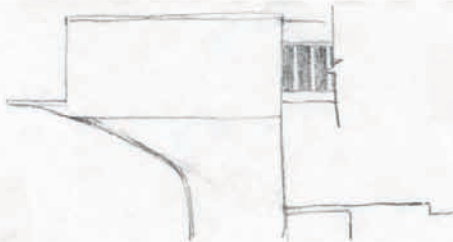
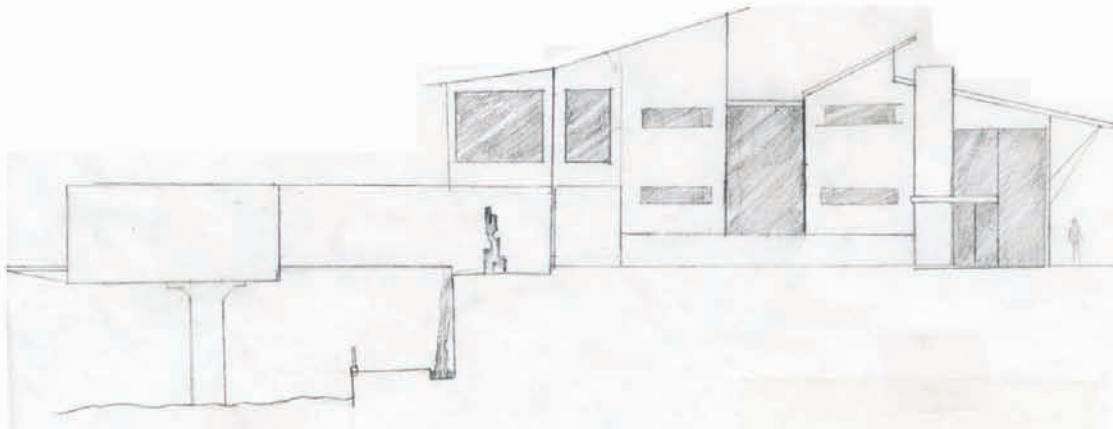
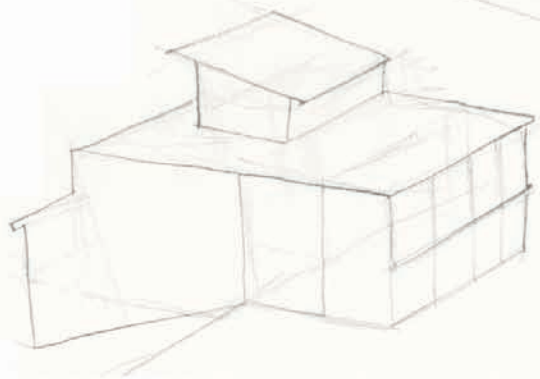
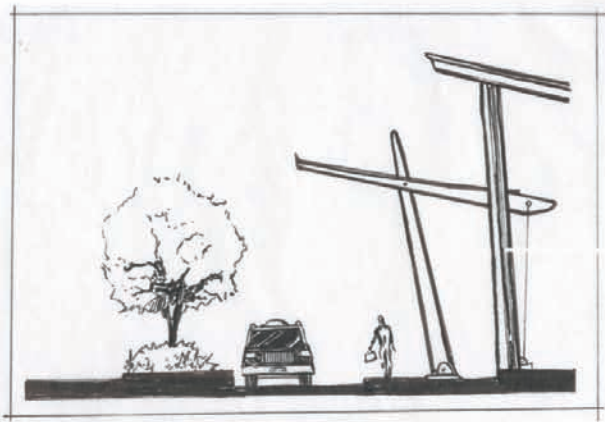
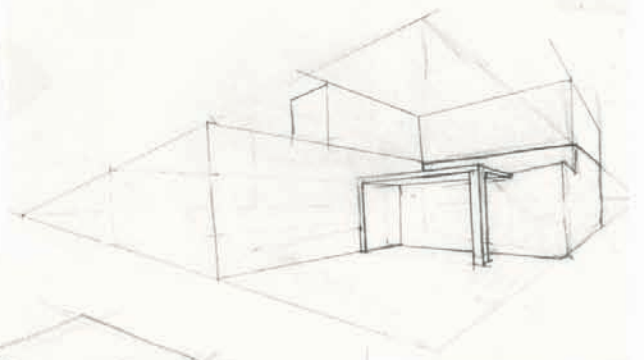
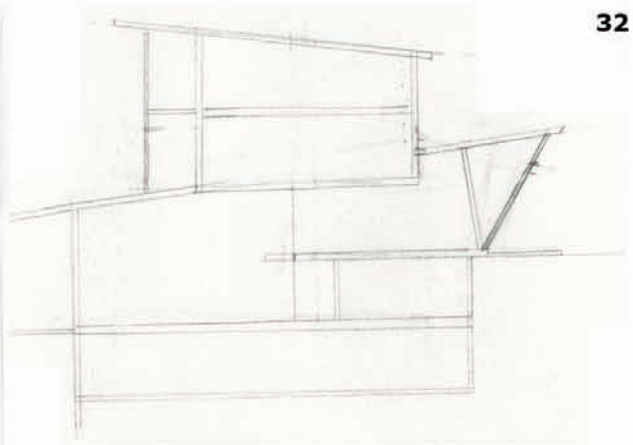
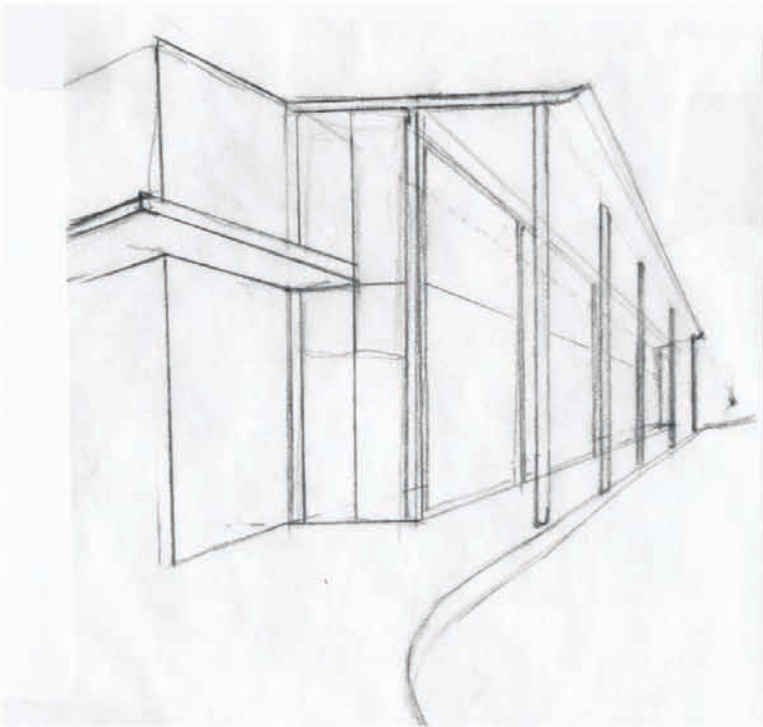
Diplomatic Architecture

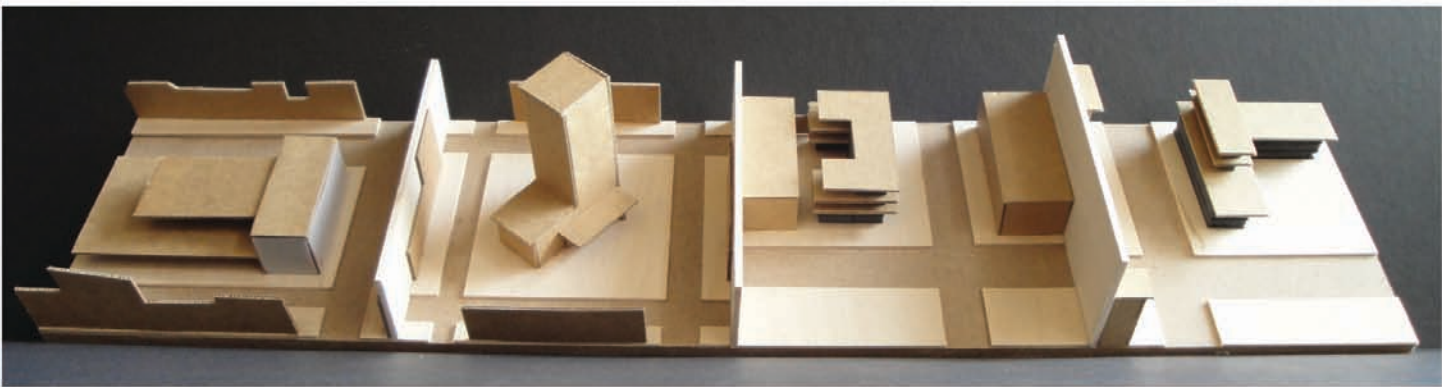
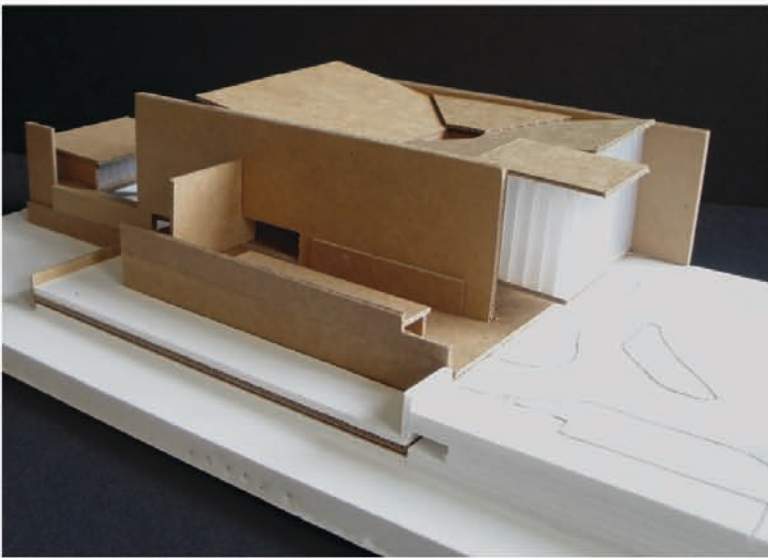
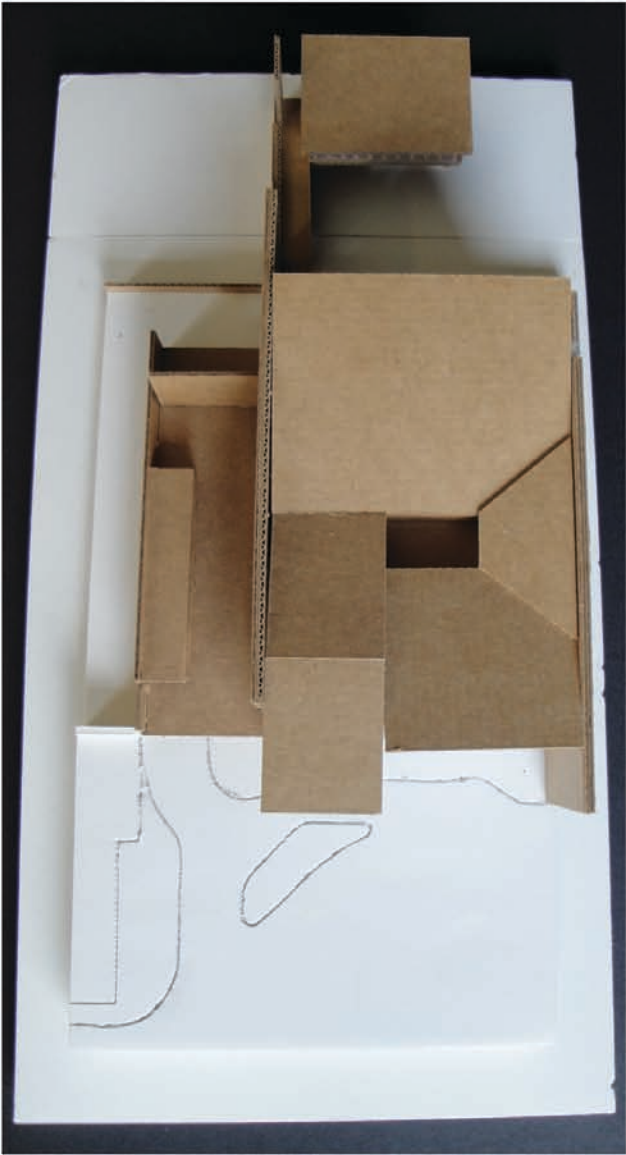
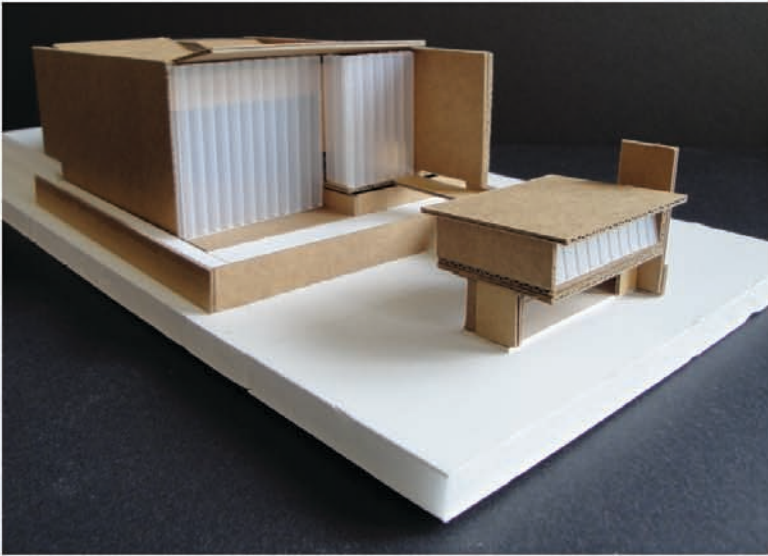
A Medium For Making Cultural Connections



“Mutual benefits between nations create an atmosphere of safety, therefore can architecture promote cooperation between people and consequently improve safety?”

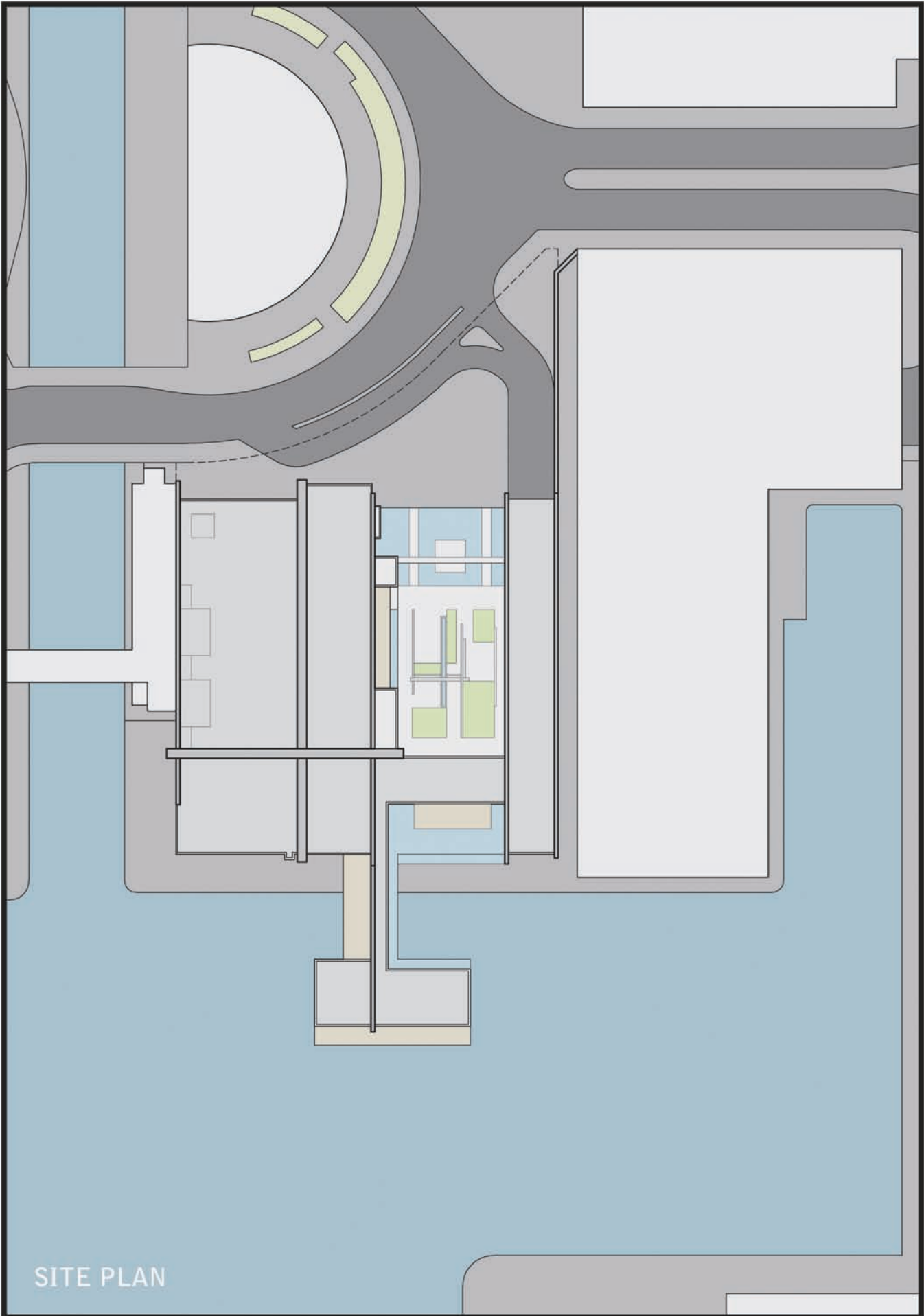
“Can new architectural solutions allow an embassy to expand its functions to multiple locations in order to better serve its diplomatic goals and increase overall embassy security?”



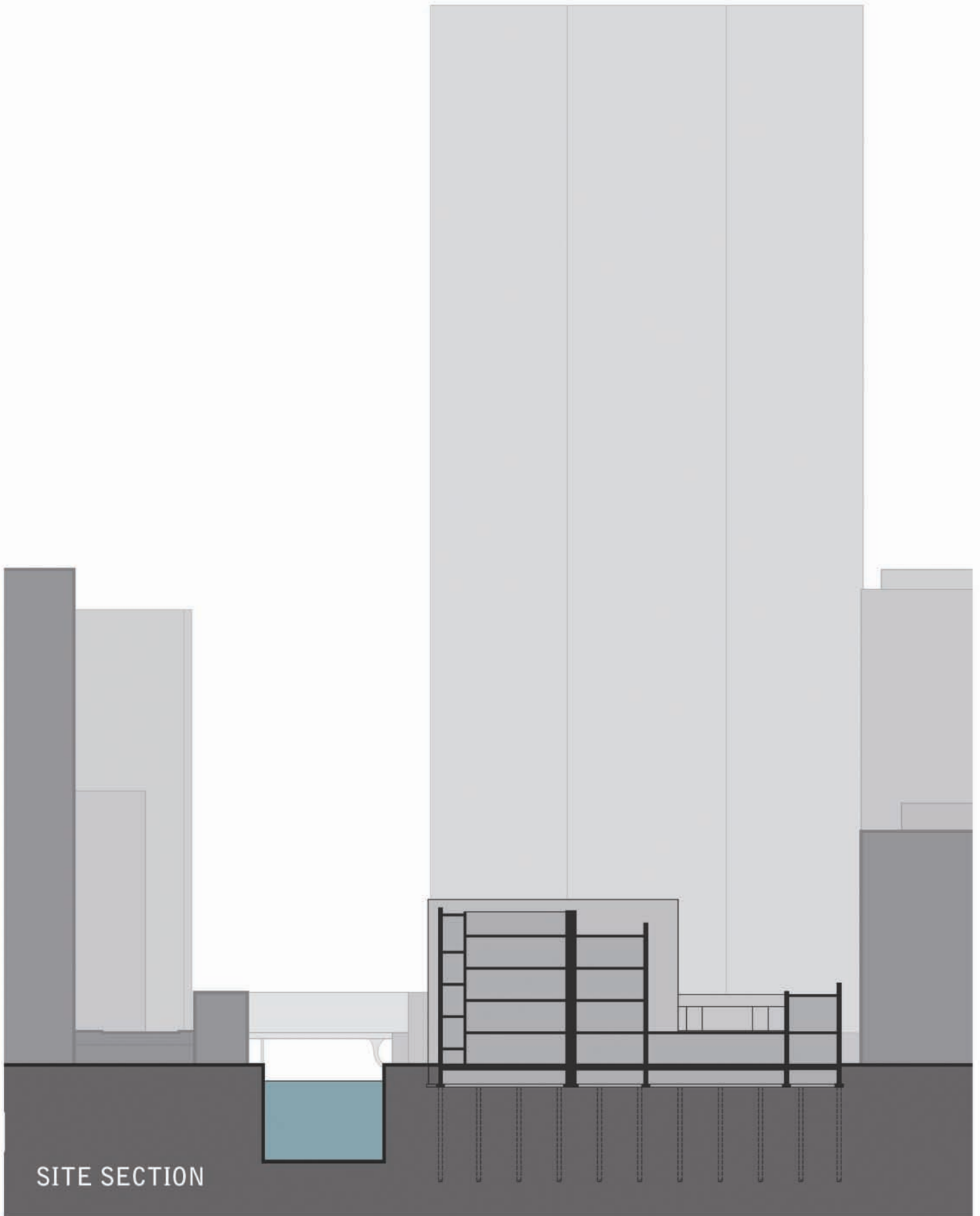


SELECTED PROCESS MODELS

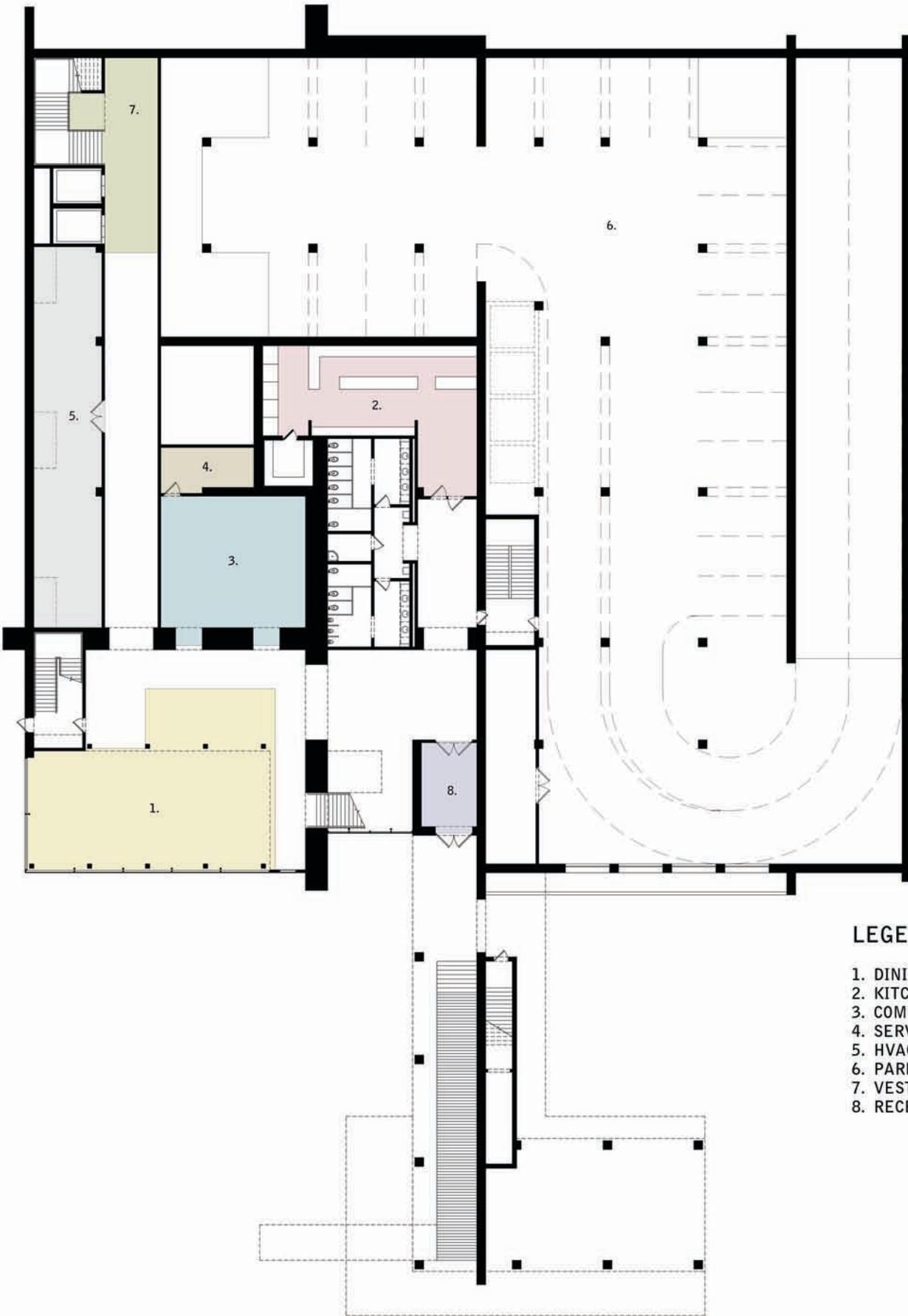




SITE PLAN



SITE SECTION

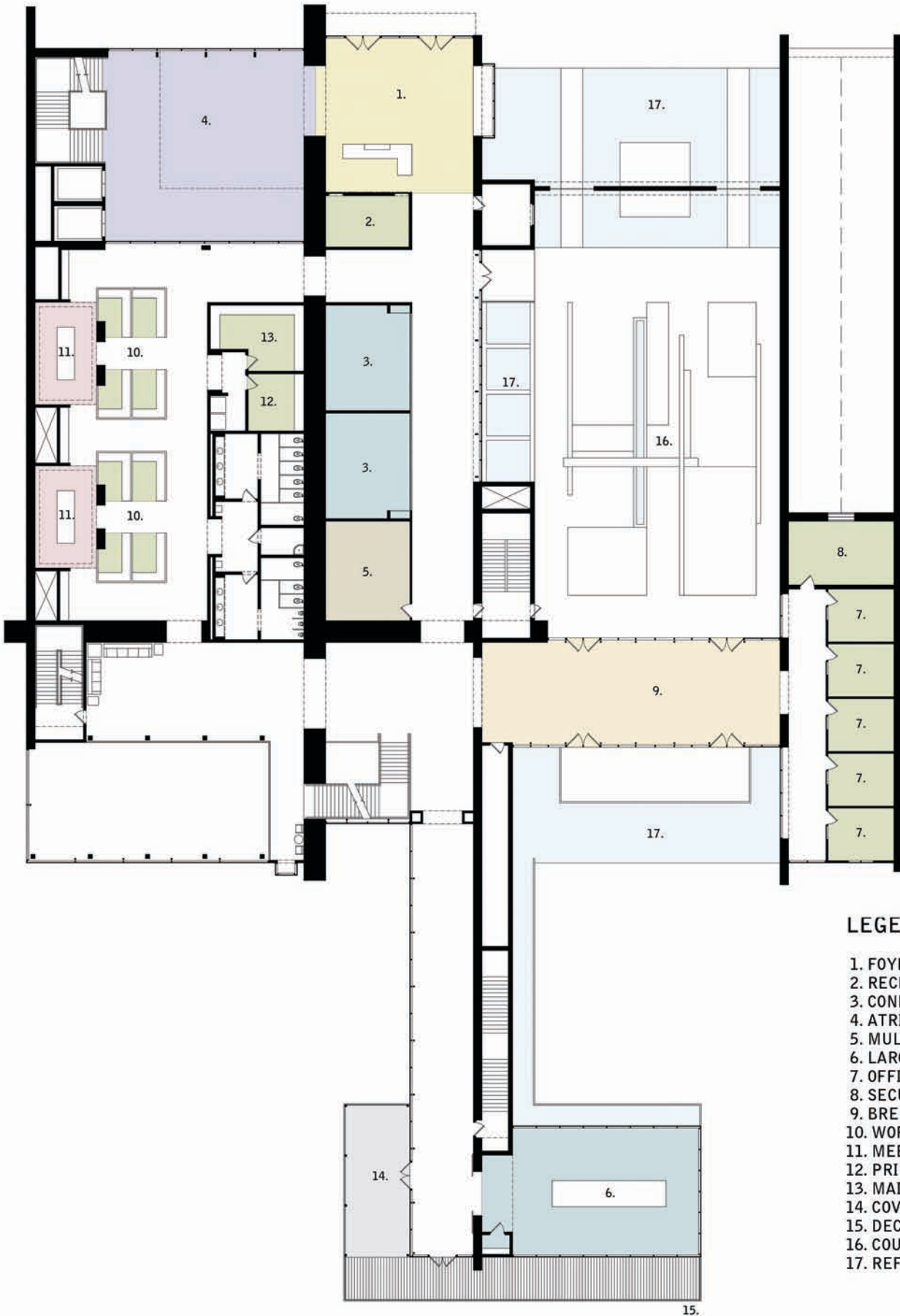


LEGEND

- 1. DINING
- 2. KITCHEN
- 3. COMPUTER LAB
- 4. SERVER ROOM
- 5. HVAC
- 6. PARKING
- 7. VESTIBULE
- 8. RECEIVING

LOWER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN



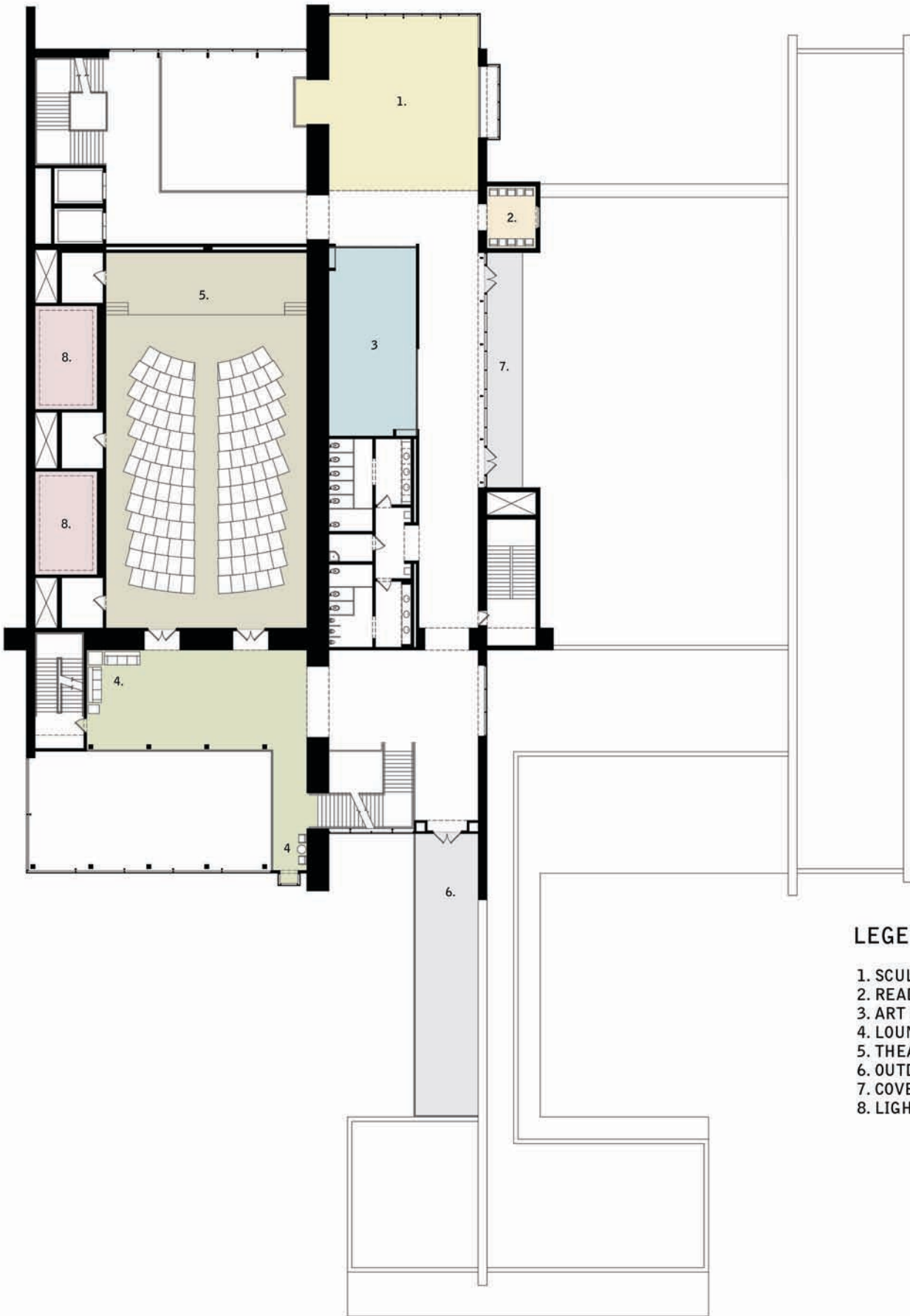


LEGEND

- 1. FOYER
- 2. RECEPTION OFFICE
- 3. CONFERENCE
- 4. ATRIUM
- 5. MULTIMEDIA ROOM
- 6. LARGE CONFERENCE
- 7. OFFICE
- 8. SECURITY OFFICE
- 9. BREEZEWAY
- 10. WORKSPACES
- 11. MEETING SPACES
- 12. PRINT/COPY ROOM
- 13. MAILROOM
- 14. COVERED PORCH
- 15. DECK
- 16. COURTYARD
- 17. REFLECTING POOL

LEVEL 1 FLOOR PLAN



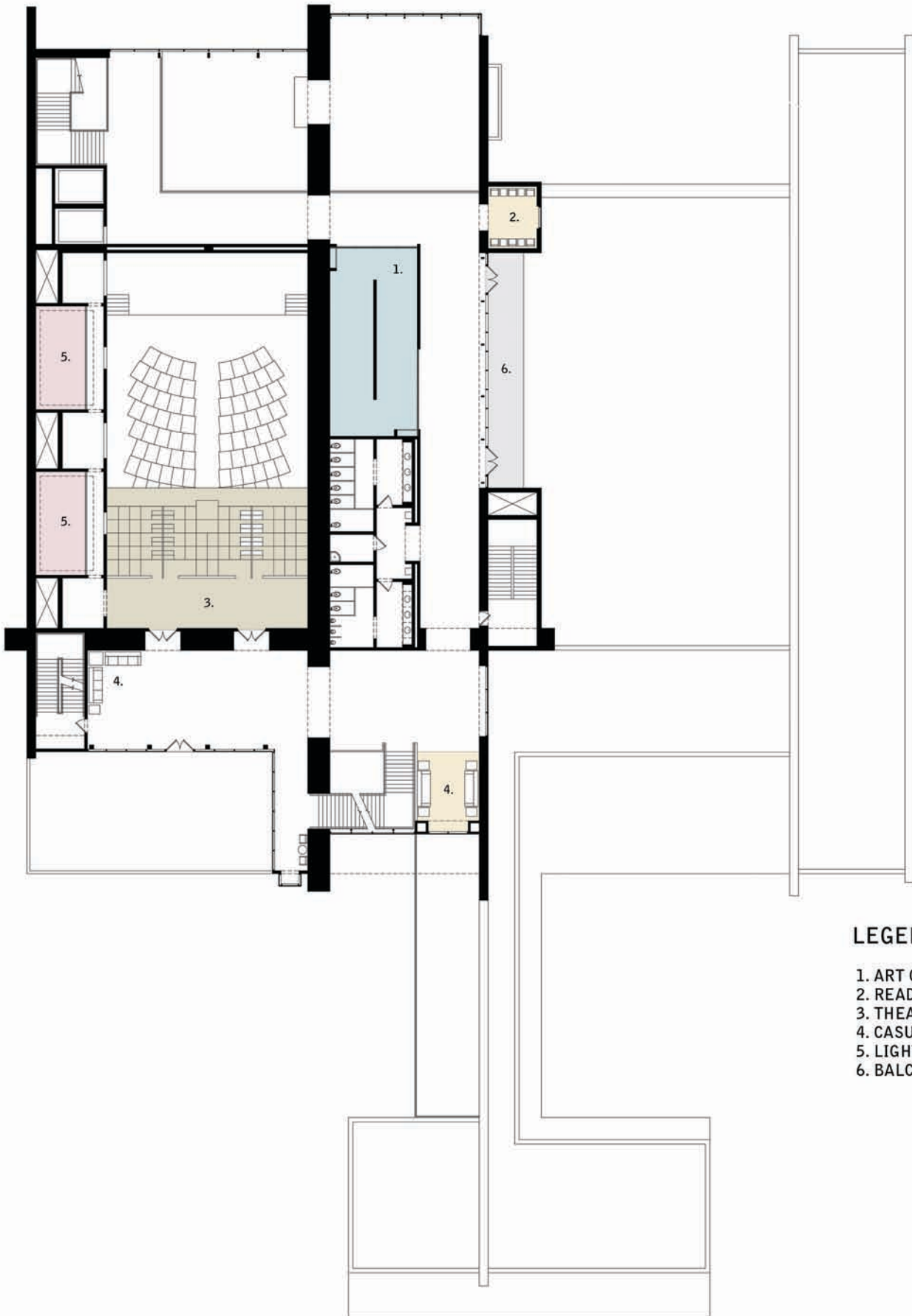


LEGEND

- 1. SCULPTURE GALLERY
- 2. READING ROOM
- 3. ART GALLERY
- 4. LOUNGE AREA
- 5. THEATRE STAGE
- 6. OUTDOOR PATIO
- 7. COVERED BALCONY
- 8. LIGHTWELL

LEVEL 2 FLOOR PLAN



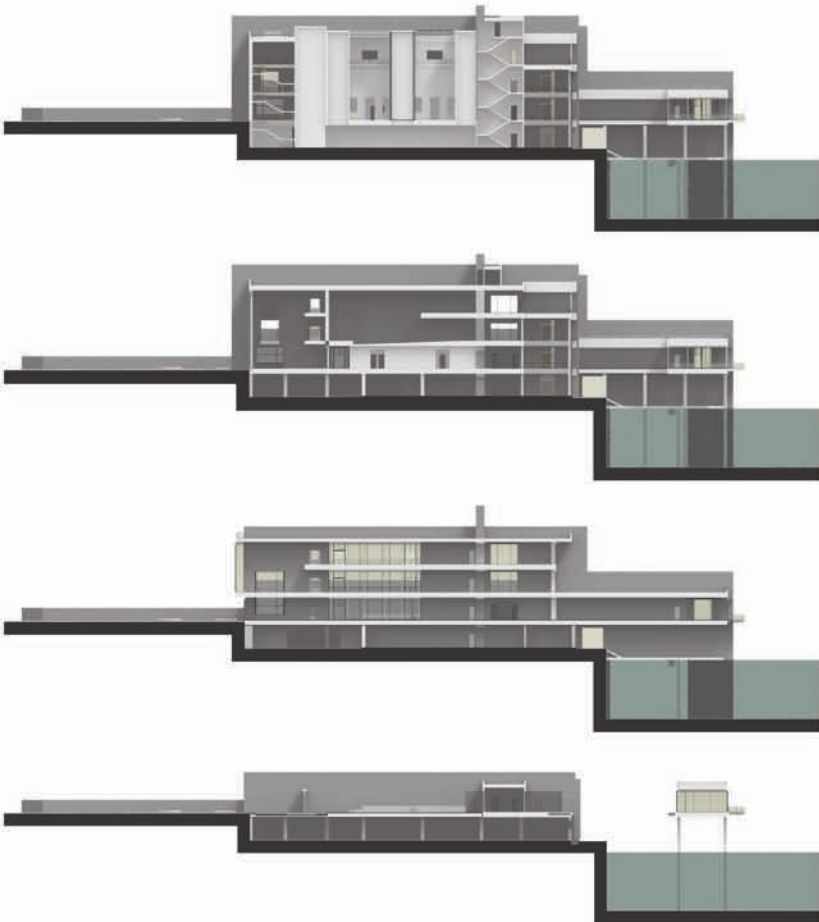
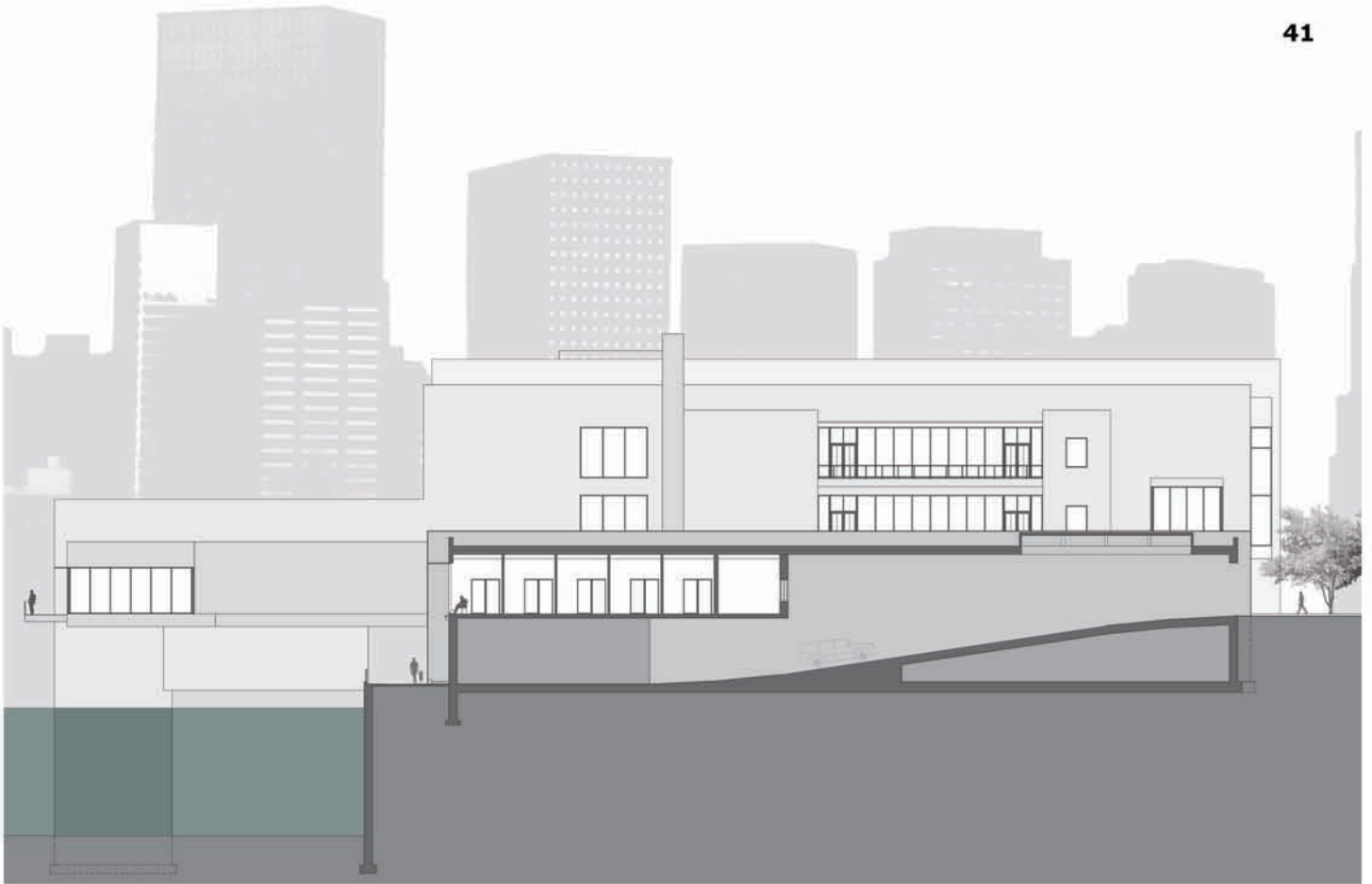


LEGEND

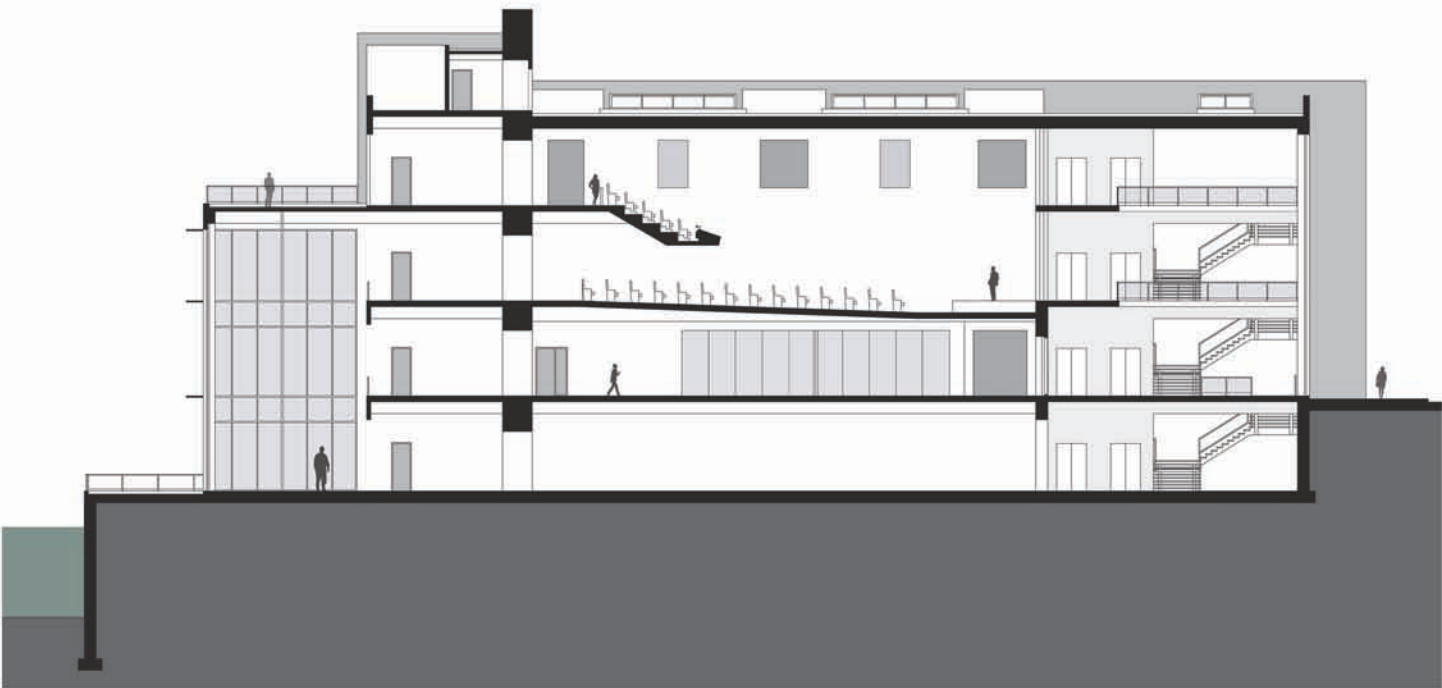
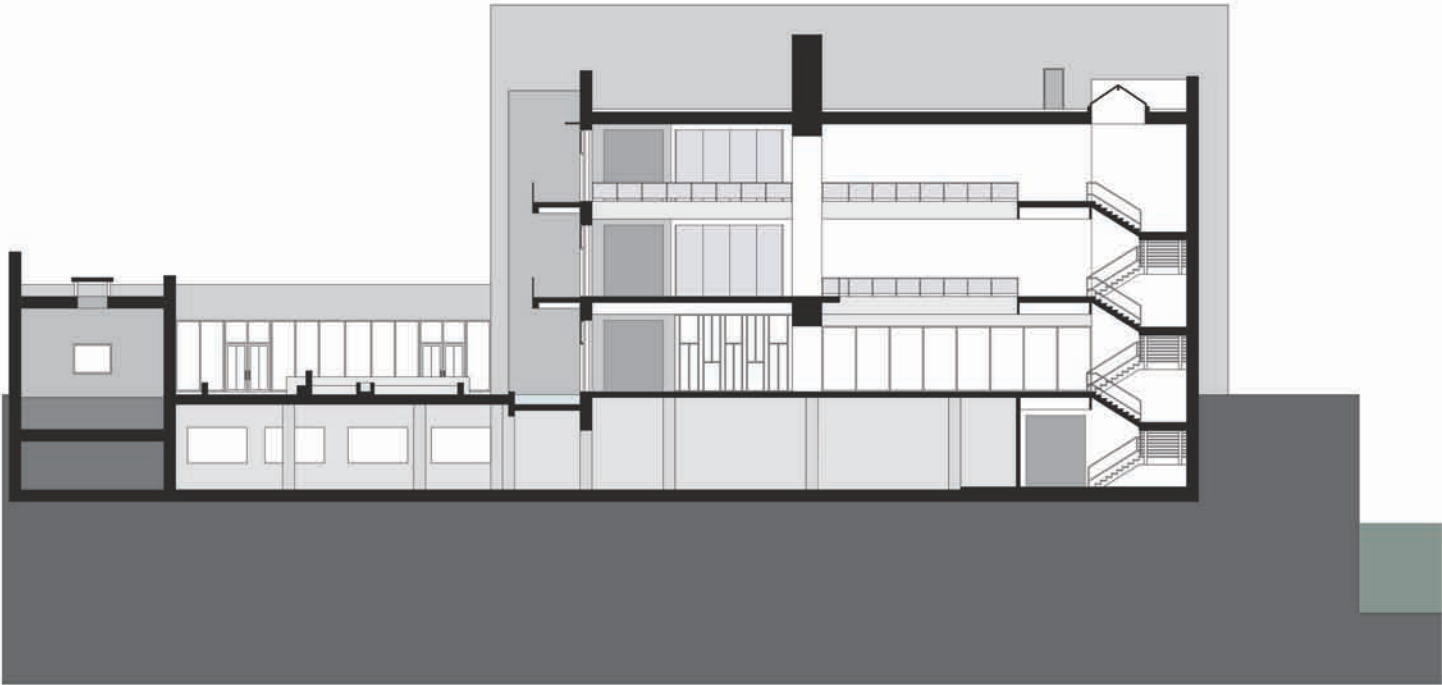
- 1. ART GALLERY
- 2. READING ROOM
- 3. THEATRE BALCONY
- 4. CASUAL SEATING
- 5. LIGHTWELL
- 6. BALCONY

LEVEL 3 FLOOR PLAN

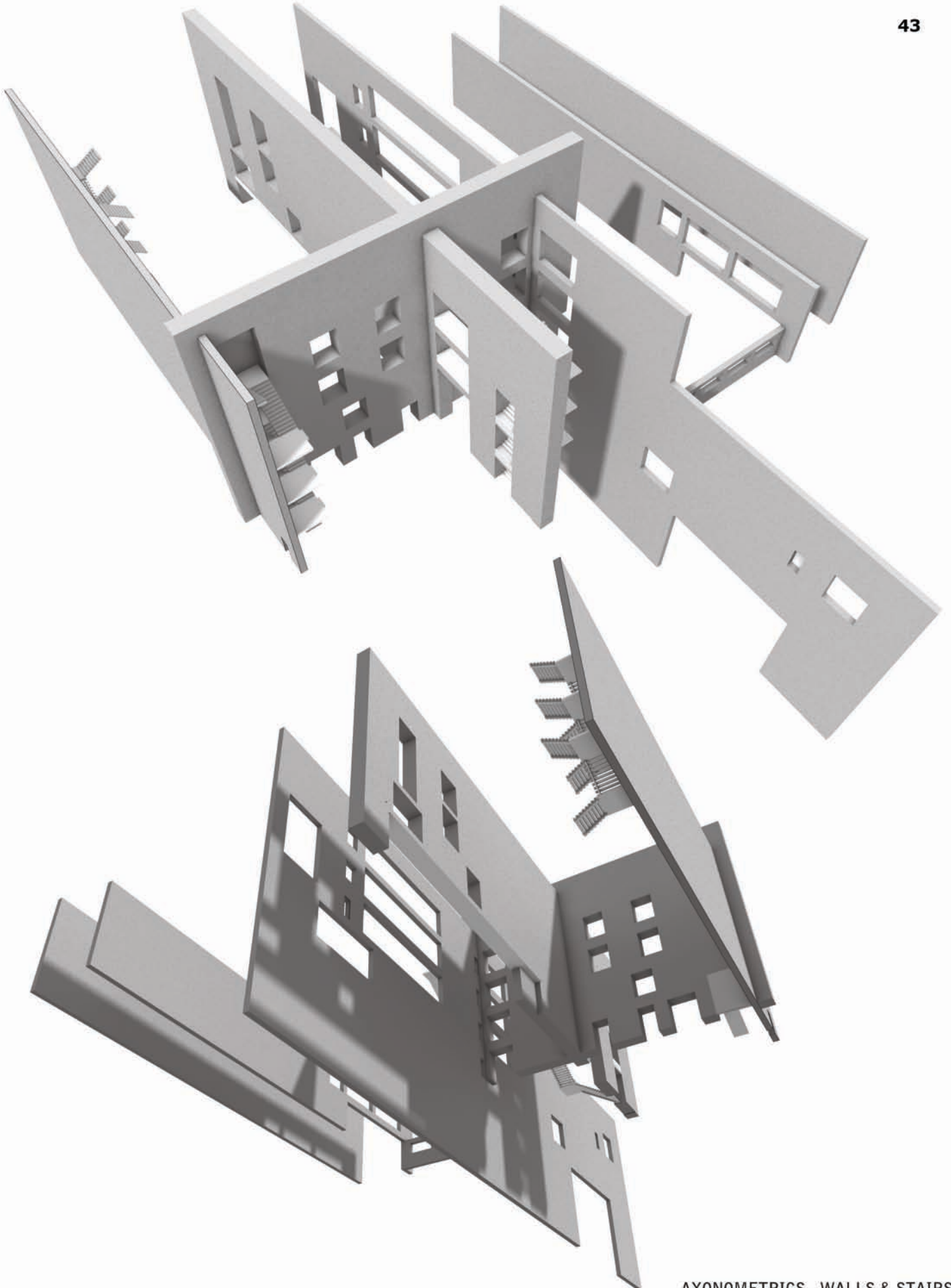


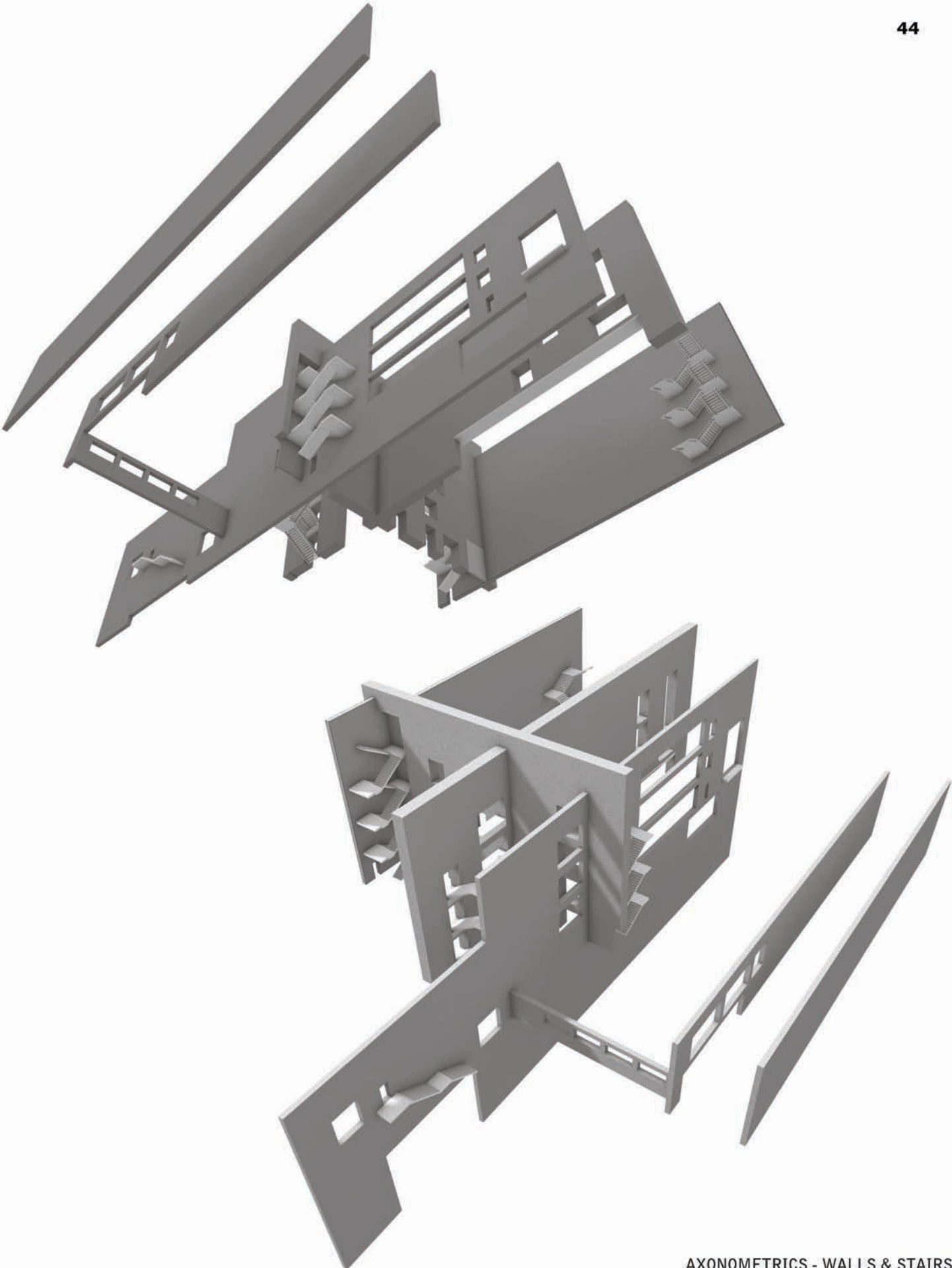


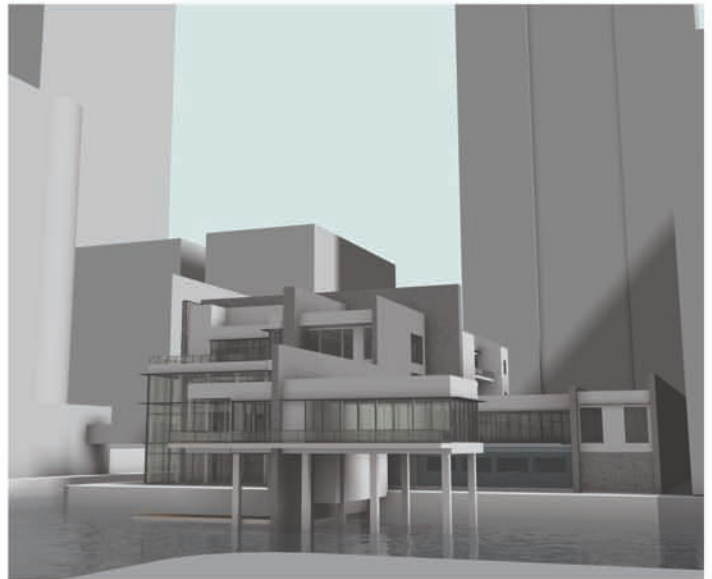
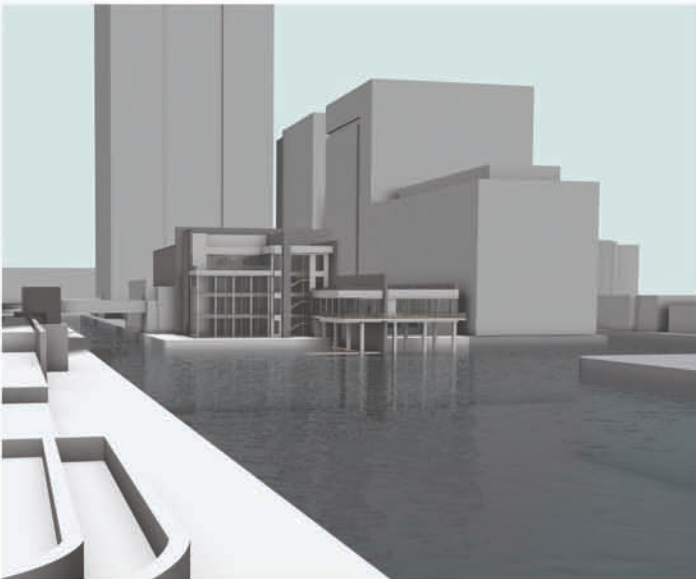
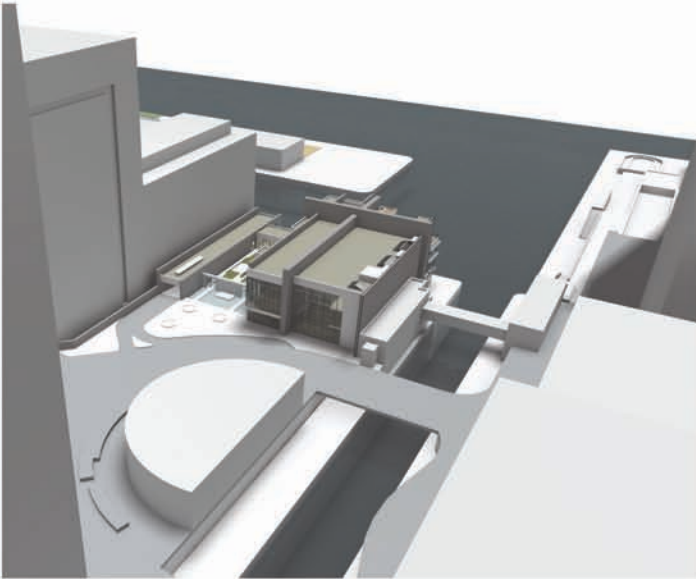
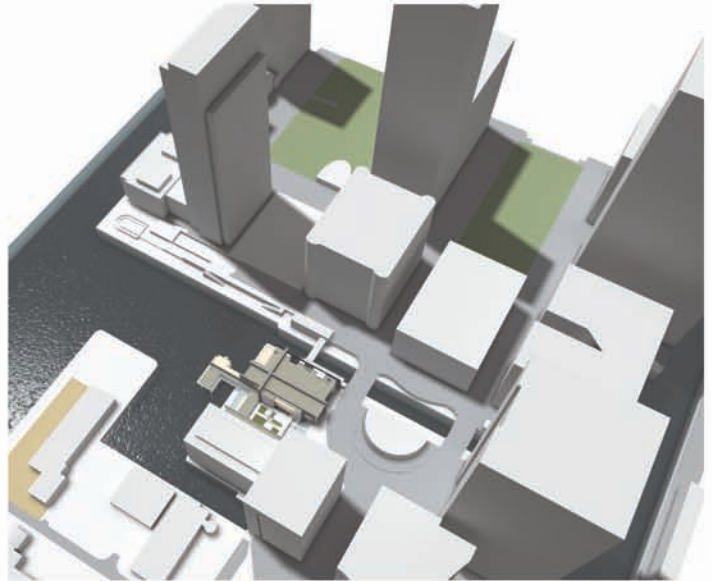
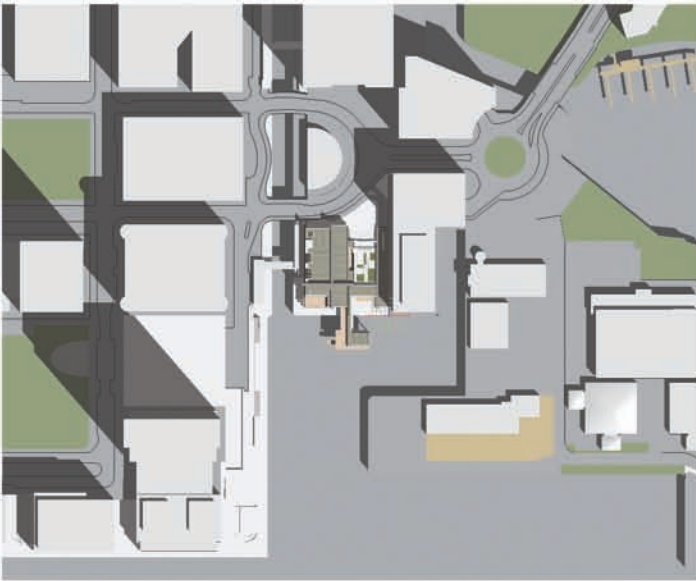
NORTH - SOUTH BUILDING SECTIONS



EAST - WEST BUILDING SECTIONS







SITE PERSPECTIVES SEQUENCE



FRONT FACADE FROM NORTHEAST



REAR FACADE FROM SOUTHWEST



SOUTHEAST VIEW FROM DINING ATRIUM



ENTRY SEQUENCE AND RECEPTION DESK

CONCLUSION

Diplomatic Architecture: A Means For Making Cultural Connections

Introduction

The written portion of my thesis explored the symbolism embedded in U.S. Embassy design. Whether or not this symbolism was an intentional design strategy does not make it any less prevalent. These hidden messages can often cause problems. They can communicate incorrect ideas about the United States intentions abroad, show an unwillingness for the U.S. to connect with their host country, or transmit a false idea of how the U.S. perceives the people that live and work around the Embassy. The thesis paper aimed to clarify the challenge in designing a building type which struggles to find a balance between the necessities of security and the often negative symbolism portrayed by fortification. It was written with the hope that fortified architecture, mainly embassies, could change in a way that would promote human interaction as opposed to keeping people at odds with one another.

Upon completion of the thesis paper I looked at ways in which the current embassy model could be changed to address the concerns outlined in my paper. I attempted some design iterations that stayed true to the idea of an Embassy as a single structure with all its functions centralized in one location.

In the following example, shown in figure 1, you can see the green space allows pedestrian traffic to connect with the building through a park, while the traffic circulation is dropped below grade to circumnavigate the building and limit access into the building, from the road, to an underground parking structure.

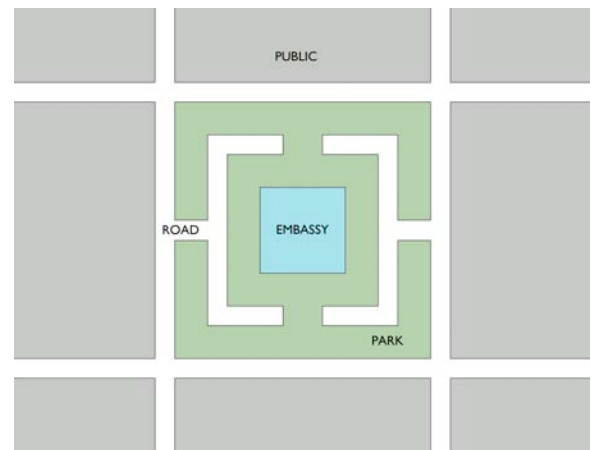


Fig. 1. Centralized Embassy surrounded by a park

It soon became evident, that while there are different design possibilities, the model of a single centralized structure seemed to bring about designs that varied only marginally from precedents seen today.

This discovery led me to rethink the organization of an Embassy from a single building to a network of buildings within one city. This idea would still rely on a central embassy building to house all embassy functions, but the scale of the central building could be greatly reduced. This would allow satellite buildings to be built in multiple locations that could more conveniently serve specific embassy functions as needed by their respective site. This network of buildings therefore could better serve diplomatic goals by allowing more opportunities for embassy employees and officers to interact with the public and get out from behind the current wall of stringent protective measures.

This new network of buildings was thought to be a different solution to creating protection for

Embassies. The fact that employees could be in multiple locations on any given day creates unpredictability. If an enemy is trying to make a statement through hostile attack, the effectiveness of a strike towards this goal would be difficult to anticipate. Also, attacking one building would not mean the end of the Embassy, or its presence. If the goal of an attack was to stop an Embassy, the coordination it would take to attack multiple sites would be far greater, and in turn decreases the likelihood that such an attempt would be made. This model can be related in part to the idea of cloud computing, where in computational resources aren't gathered from one single source, rather they are pulled into an aggregate from a nebulous network of computers. For example, the existence of the internet is safe because destroying one or even a thousand computers doesn't effect that existence of the internet. It is safe because it is spread out.

Site Selection

The site I chose for my thesis project is located in Canary Wharf, in the Tower Hamlets borough of London. Consequently, the site is in the heart of London's new financial district, and therefore it is far more convenient for conducting business in the financial district as opposed to the new embassy site in the Mayfair district.

London was chosen for practical reasons as well as articles found during my thesis paper writing. It is large and diverse. Information about the city is easily obtainable. It is a well protected city, by both police and closed circuit video. (This is important to the safety of satellite buildings) The new embassy design received negative criticism and this grabbed my attention.

PROGRAM - DESIGN

The building program was centered around offering a multitude of opportunities for conducting business in different settings. Some intimate, some informal, and some grand. The building was meant to cater to the many needs of financial and management officers as well as provide the tools necessary to conduct business in a manner applicable to different clients.

The building design was intended to be honest. New embassy designs hide walls and fortifications in an effort to soften their overall appearance, however, onlookers are soon aware of the distance they are kept from the building regardless of its creative landscaping. My building very clearly shows walls and boundaries. However, these walls are meant to draw people in as opposed to keep them away. The hope is that through the onlookers curiosity to see beyond them, they search and find there are many opportunities to move through these barriers. This is aided by the fact that the building is accessible from the street and pedestrians can walk up to the building unhindered. Visitors curiosity is further peaked by the use of water elements. Water has been used to enrich the narrative of drawing visitor through the building by offering interest and opportunities for reflection along the journey. Just as water searches for ways to reach the lowest level in which to settle, visitors are invited to search throughout the building for opportunities to make discoveries.

CRITICAL COMMENTARY

- Presentation is too pragmatic and not theoretical enough
- The walls are too big and close off the building
- I want to hear more about the networking of Embassy functions
- I wouldn't work there
- The building isn't safe

CONCLUSION

My project presentation would have better served me had I discussed the theory behind the design and spent very little time explaining the deliverables of the final project. As for the reviewers capacity to guide the future trajectory of the project, I think they would applaud the idea of networking Embassy functions as being unique, however they would ask that I redesign the building.

Figures

Fig. 1. Conceptual Embassy Layout. Rinehart