

WORKS JOAO LUIS CARRILHO DA GRA A

ARQUITECTURAS DE AUTOR  
AUTHOR ARCHITECTURES **AA<sup>31</sup>**

JOAO LUIS CARRILHO DA GRA A

# WORKS

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# “Sobre la belleza de la geometría”

Luis Tena

*“On the beauty of geometry”*





It is said that in 1962, five years after winning the competition for the Sydney Opera House, the great Danish architect Jørn Utzon was fortunate to have in his studio a recent graduate whose name was Rafael Moneo. Moneo's knack for descriptive geometry, it is said, contributed to turning the irregular forms of Utzon's proposal, wings or sails unfurled in the wind of the bay, into spherical shells, rendering them representable, calculable, and without too much ado buildable. According to what is already legend, part and parcel of the history of 20th-century architecture, the daring forms of the sketches and notes are what captivated Eero Saarinen. Arriving late at the jury meeting, the Finnish-American master salvaged Utzon's entry from a pile of proposals rejected in a first round, and fought for it so energetically that his co-jurors were persuaded and the contest was settled. At the time Moneo arrived at the Danish office, the problem at hand was how to transform a beautiful and complex formal intuition into a structured geometry. To grasp the extent of the challenge, suffice it to remember that it took six years, 1959 to 1965, and ten complete structural solutions, for a definitive project to be drawn up. The engineer Ove Arup, who was responsible for the final version, testifies to this. And the young Spanish architect's spatial and geometrical composition, forged manually with set squares and a compass and through painstaking academic exercises based on intersecting spheres, was instrumental in turning all intervening surfaces into shells of a single sphere with a diameter of 75 meters (246 feet). The regularity of the resulting form, moreover, was such that it could be clad with the over a million identical pieces of glossy white ceramic that largely determine the building's external appearance, exactly the look that Utzon sought:

...so I had white in mind when I designed the Opera House. And the roof, like sails, white in the strong day, the whole thing slowly coming to life as the sun shone from the east and lifted overhead. In the hot sun of the day it will be a beautiful, white, shimmering thing -as alive to the eyes as architecture can make anything, set in the blue-green waters of the harbour. At night the floodlit shells will be equally vibrant but in a softer more majestic way... The final effect will at times resemble what we call Alpenglow (Alpine glow) -the colour you get on snowcapped mountains when the sun is setting- the beautiful pink and violet reflections from the combination of melt snow and shining ice. This roof will be very sensitive. Unlike a building which has only light and shade, it will be a very live sort of thing, changing all day long

Three decades later, in Bilbao, Frank Gehry similarly spoke of the changing effects of sky light and the estuary on the skin of the Guggenheim Museum to justify his choice of cladding material, sheets of titanium that adapt like scales to the warped surfaces of the facades.

This building, which like the Australian opera house has a place of honor in all listings of the past century's finest architectural works, is a grand, multi-form sculptural gesture of uncertain geometry that materialized thanks to the application of the computer program Catia, a technology pertaining to the aerospace industry, to the process of the architectural project.

The Guggenheim-Bilbao was the first great building of a new era.

It marked a new way of designing and constructing buildings. The first step is the model: the model as an instrument for experimenting with three-dimensional forms generated, basically, by cutting up solids. The "styrocut", specifically, a cutting table of polystyrene blocks, is the tool that has replaced the preliminary sketch. However complex the model, its measurements are obtained through the computer program through digital optical instruments, and the dimensions are transferred on to plans. This computer-aided process is applied to the building project, but not only in the strict sense. It goes further, into the realm of the production of industrialized elements. It is no longer necessary for the design to undergo a process of economic optimization and adjustment. No more need for repetition of pieces. All the structural components of a building can be unique, each knot different. The claddings are custom-cut to fit each surface. The glazed surfaces can be warped, curving in previously unimaginable ways. With the program, everything is possible.

The Guggenheim marked the start of an era in which anything can be built. The consequences weren't long in coming. Use of said tools has become widespread, and not always in the hands of people as gifted as Gehry. The tendencies constituting the ever-changing architectural scene have resorted to them with varying results. There is an invasion of the "formless" in avant-garde architecture, magazines, and competitions. Elements of proposals that in the 1960s were mere graphic speculations have been unearthed and materialized, such as the curved surfaces and ox eyes of Archigram's "Walking City", fixed in Graz and its scale and use radically altered to accommodate an art center.

Characteristic of this architecture are its "diffuse geometry", its disturbing complexity, its lack of measure. Uncontrolled change of scale is a mechanism that is quite rampant. "Maps", "diagrams", "layers", and "folds" abound, almost always in proposals of the bulbous, aleatory, and chaotic kind, based on "fractal" irregularities. The resulting panorama is a mix of the most varied references borrowed from previous periods of architecture itself ("International Utopia", sixties "Metabolism"), or other disciplines (philosophical-artistic currents like the "Situationists", diverse scientific currents).

In particularly convulsive times, this may be a generalized attempt to go back, once again, to moments when architecture inexorably reflected "the spirit of the times". Disturbing buildings for disturbing times...

A look at a career like João Luís Carrilho da Graça's is a refreshing and stimulating encounter with a different sort of architecture. His is architecture that does not try to reflect the chaos of our social or urban environment, much less put order to it and transform it, which would be naïve. After all, these are not times for heroic commitment. Carrilho acts as an intermediary who with his arms, projects, forms, geometry, and materials creates serene spaces of repose amid all the turbulence.

Through his buildings, the architect gives us his take on the things, places, or cities around us, showing us that there may be another way of looking at reality.

Young as he is, he doesn't have a long list of works to show for, but the indisputable quality of what he has accomplished so far has given him a good standing in the Portuguese scene as well as increasing coverage in the international scene. He has been invited to teach in prestigious architecture schools like Harvard's, and he has ongoing works and projects in Spain and Italy.

This publication presents a selection of his works and projects, an architecture of prismatic forms and volumes and a recognizable geometry notable for its precision. Seen in continuity, Carrilho's career is a rigorous and tireless process of near-ascetic formal purification. It mustn't be confused with a certain reductionist "minimalism" and catalogued as belonging to some Portuguese school characterized by constructional economy and a taste of refined abstraction. It is not easy to classify Carrilho.

Scattered throughout Portugal, his buildings assert themselves in their respective environments, imposing on them, whether nature or city.

Whether situated in isolated rural places, like the municipal swimming pool of Campo Mayor, with its classical echoes, or in Lisbon's crowded outskirts, steep in the process of transformation, such as the Communications School, Carrilho's buildings do not hide their true dimensions. Tall or long, large or small, they are never arbitrary.

The symbolic effectiveness of the Oceanography Pavilion he built for Expo 98 rested on balancing two large prisms evoking powerful megaliths. The positioning of its parts, the horizontal and the vertical, its size and shape: all this, painstakingly elaborated, contribute to the balance.

In the functional resolution of programs, Carrilho doesn't shy away from complexity. He goes by clarity and economy until he obtains on one hand the right floor-plan arrangement, including the right sequence of routes (updated reinterpretation of Corbusian promenades) by way of courtyards or cloisters equipped with ramps and stairs generally treated as spirals in elevation, and on the other hand the external composition that is most in keeping with the objectives set.

Memorable buildings that are excellently built, of recognizable forms and geometries, understandable and, above all, beautiful.



# OBRA CONSTRUIDA

*FINISHED WORKS*









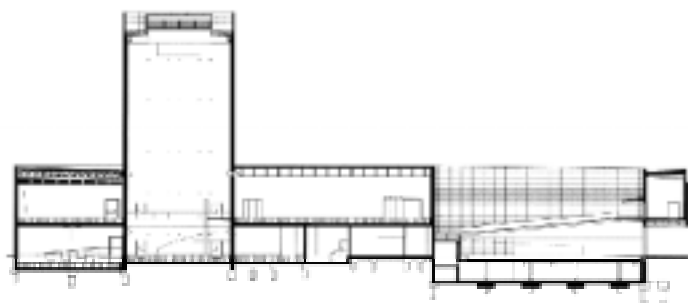
LISBOA. 1995/1998

## PABELLON DEL CONOCIMIENTO DE LOS MARES SEAS KNOWLEDGE PAVILION

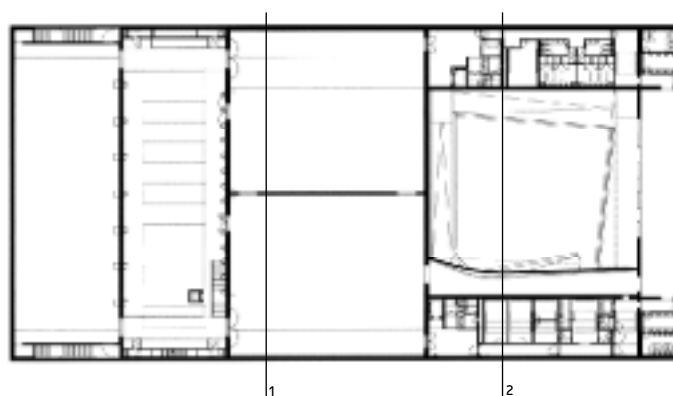
El recinto ferial de la Expo 98 se planteó desde un principio con la intención de regenerar una antigua zona industrial y hacer ciudad. Con este objetivo, se proyectaron pocas construcciones efímeras, que conviven con los pabellones que, como éste, perduran con otros usos una vez que la exposición cerró sus puertas.

Separado por el edificio olímpico del pabellón de Portugal, otra de las construcciones emblemáticas de la feria lisboeta, obra de Álvaro Siza, y paralelo también al bulvar que rodea el recinto, el pabellón del Conocimiento de los Mares se levanta próximo al corazón de la Expo, el Muelle de los Olivares.

Por su forma simple y elemental, el pabellón transmite una imagen clara e instantánea. Dos cuerpos prismáticos de grandes dimensiones se cruzan, evocando los monumentos megalíticos, y se articulan para permitir la continuidad de los recorridos. El volumen vertical alberga el núcleo del ámbito expositivo: la gran sala donde se mostrarán fragmentos de navíos de distintas épocas. Este cuerpo está anclado en otro horizontal, que aloja los servicios y otras salas de exposición, y en uno de cuyos extremos se horada el gran patio cuadrado de acceso. Esta parte del edificio queda parcialmente suspendida, con el fin de mantener la continuidad del paseo público entre la alameda y el Muelle de los Olivares. En la construcción de ambos cuerpos se ha utilizado hormigón blanco y *líos* (una piedra calcárea, dura y blanca, con restos de fósiles marinos, que se encuentran en gran parte del casco histórico de Lisboa); del empleo de ambos materiales se obtienen superficies claras y resplandecientes, que harán resaltar el pabellón en el polifónico entorno de la feria.



sección longitudinal  
longitudinal section

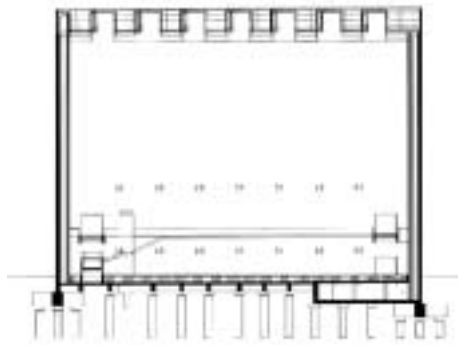


planta primera  
first floor

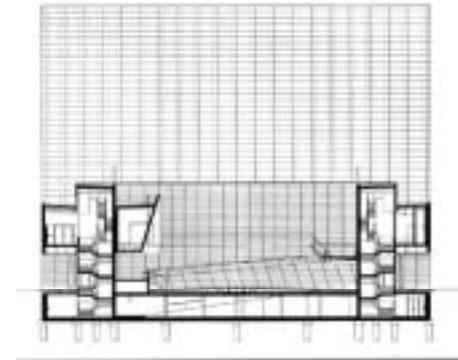


planta baja  
ground floor





section 1  
section 1

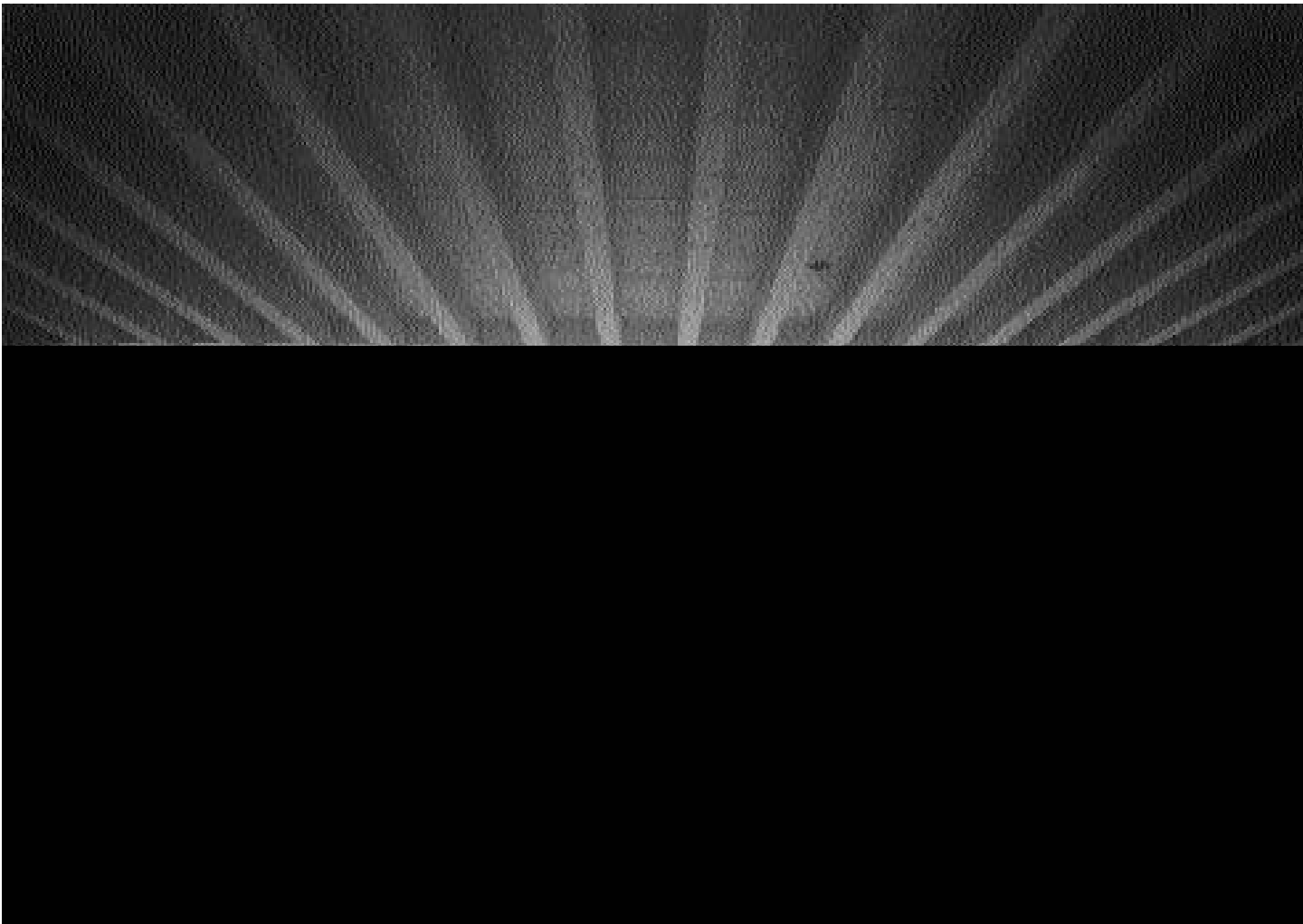


section 2  
section 2

The Expo 98 premise was thought out from the very start with the intention of regenerating an old industrial zone and city-building. Only a few ephemeral structures went up. Most of the constructions were meant to stay after the exhibition, redirected to other uses, the oceanography pavilion among them.

Separated from the Olympic building by the Portuguese pavilion, another emblem of the Lisbon fair, a work of Álvaro Siza, and parallel to the boulevard that surrounds the premise, the oceanography pavilion stands close to the Olivares dock, the heart of the Expo.

Because of its simple, elemental form, the pavilion transmits a clear and instantaneous image. Two large prismatic volumes cross, evoking megalithic monuments, and link up to allow continuity of circulation. The vertical volume contains the core of the exhibition space: the large hall where fragments of ships of different periods will be put on display. It is anchored to the horizontal volume, which contains various services and additional exhibition rooms. One end of this second volume opens onto the large square-shaped access courtyard. This part of the building is partly suspended so as to maintain the continuity of the public walk between the avenue and the dock. Both volumes are rendered with white concrete and lios (a hard white calcareous stone, with remains of sea fossils, that is found in much of Lisbon's historic quarter), resulting in bright, gleaming surfaces that will make the pavilion stand out in the polyphonic environment of the Expo.

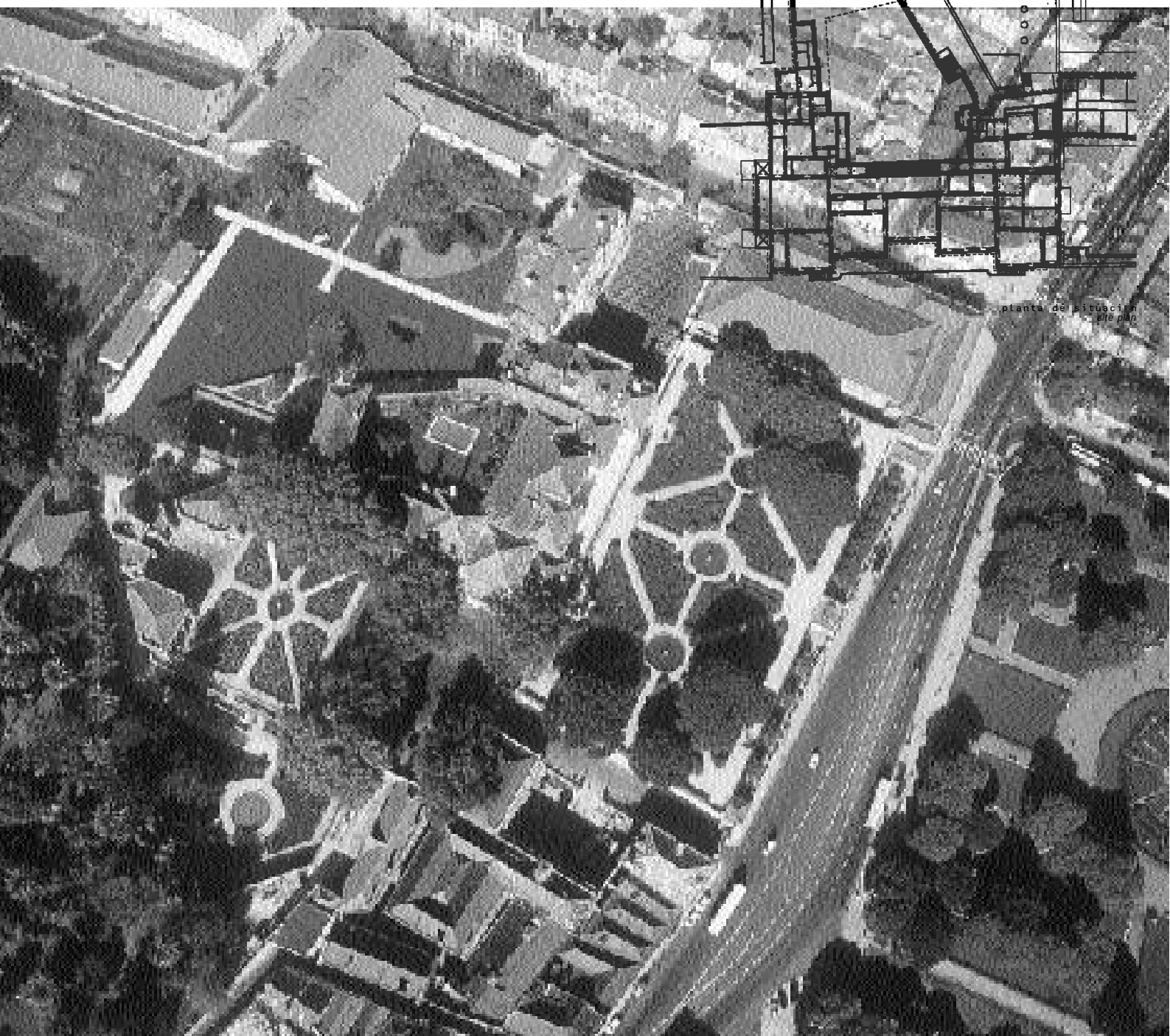
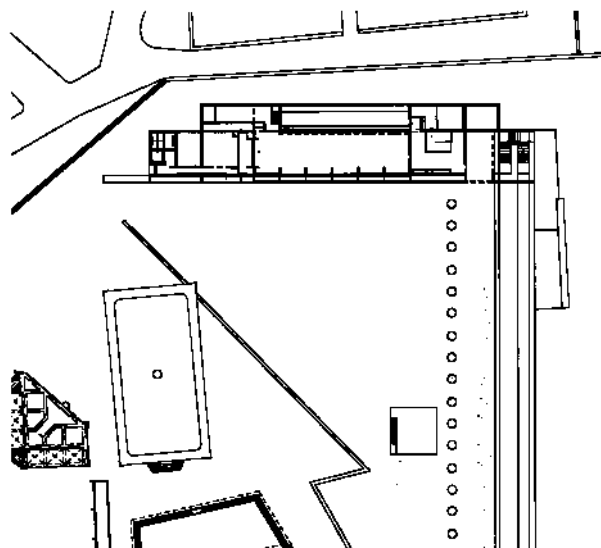




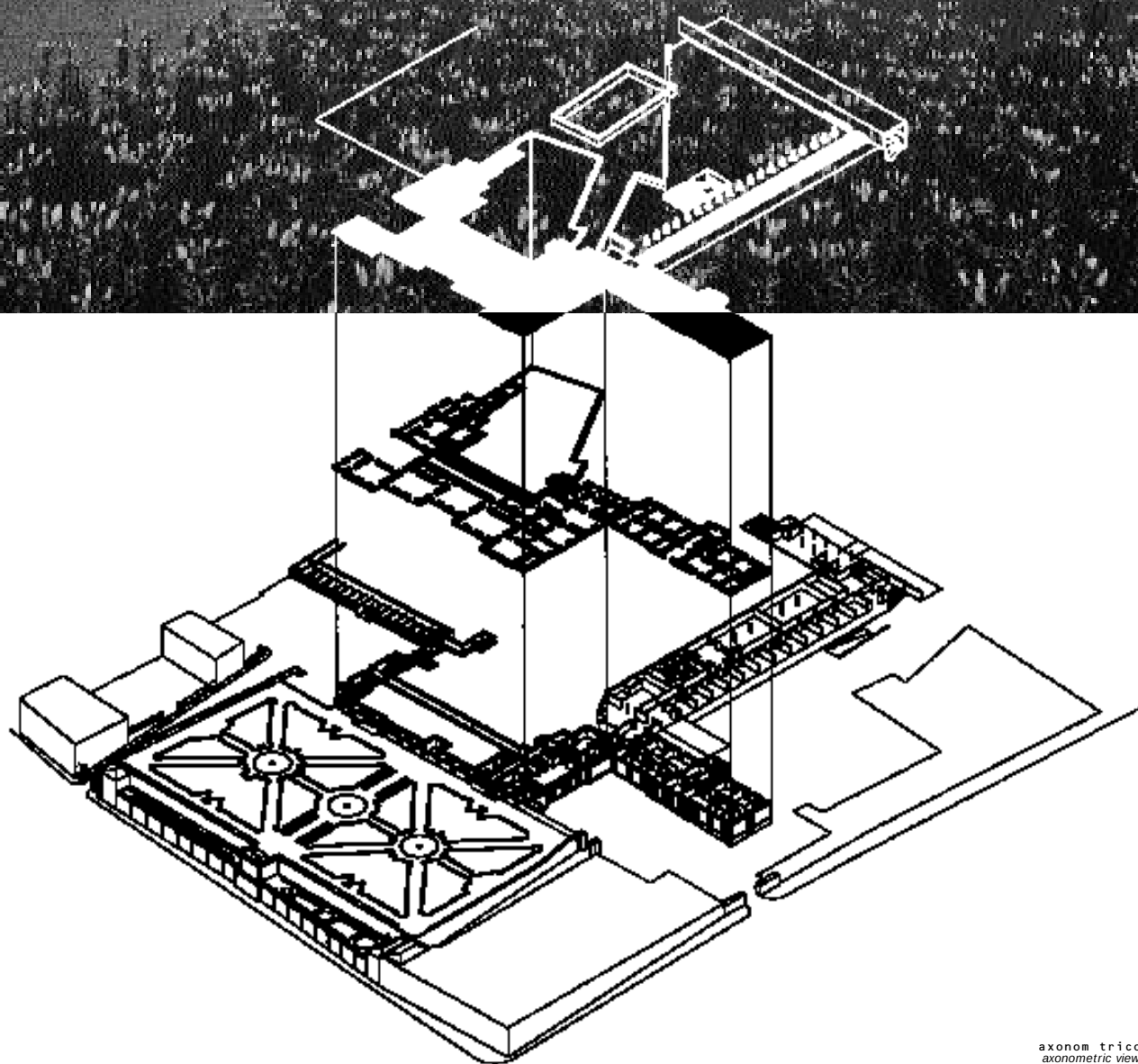
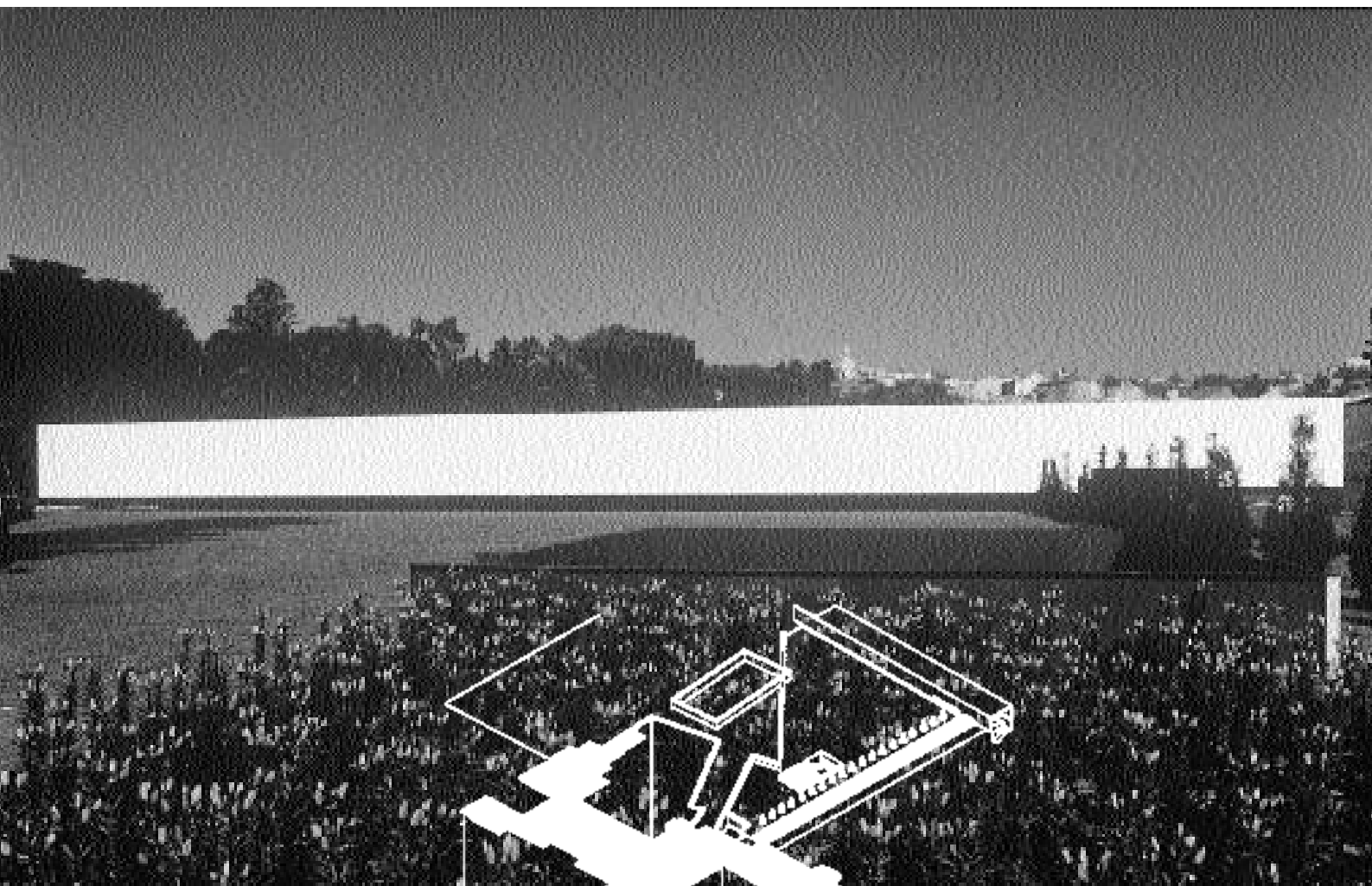


El Palacio de Belem es un conjunto de jardines, terrazas, fuentes y pabellones que ha ido creciendo por adición alrededor del edificio original: un convento construido en el siglo XVI y posteriormente convertido en quinta de recreo, que actualmente alberga la residencia oficial del presidente de la República portuguesa. El lugar elegido para la implantación del centro es un jardín tardorrománico adyacente al edificio principal, cuya gran pendiente ha sido sustituida por dos plataformas a distinta altura que permiten ocultar gran parte del volumen construido. El programa de usos se distribuye así en dos cuerpos perpendiculares que acotan la geometría de la plataforma, de manera que uno queda bajo la bandeja superior y el otro parece flotar sobre ella. El cuerpo semienterrado agrupa los despachos en el flanco abierto al patio arbolado del plano inferior. En paralelo con el palacio, el volumen correspondiente al restaurante de los funcionarios de la presidencia se levanta sobre el jardín superior.

*The Palace of Belem is a complex of gardens, terraces, fountains and pavilions that have gradually extended around the original building: a convent built in the 16th century and later transformed into a recreation precinct, which currently houses the official residence of the President of the Republic of Portugal. The site chosen to build the center is a late Romantic garden next to the main building whose steep slope has been replaced by two platforms at different levels that allow to conceal most of the built volume. The functional program is thereby distributed in two perpendicular volumes that delimit the platform's geometry, in such a way that one remains below the upper level and the other seems to float above it. The half-buried volume groups the offices in the flank open to the tree-lined courtyard of the lower platform.*



planta de situación  
site plan



axonom trico  
axonometric view

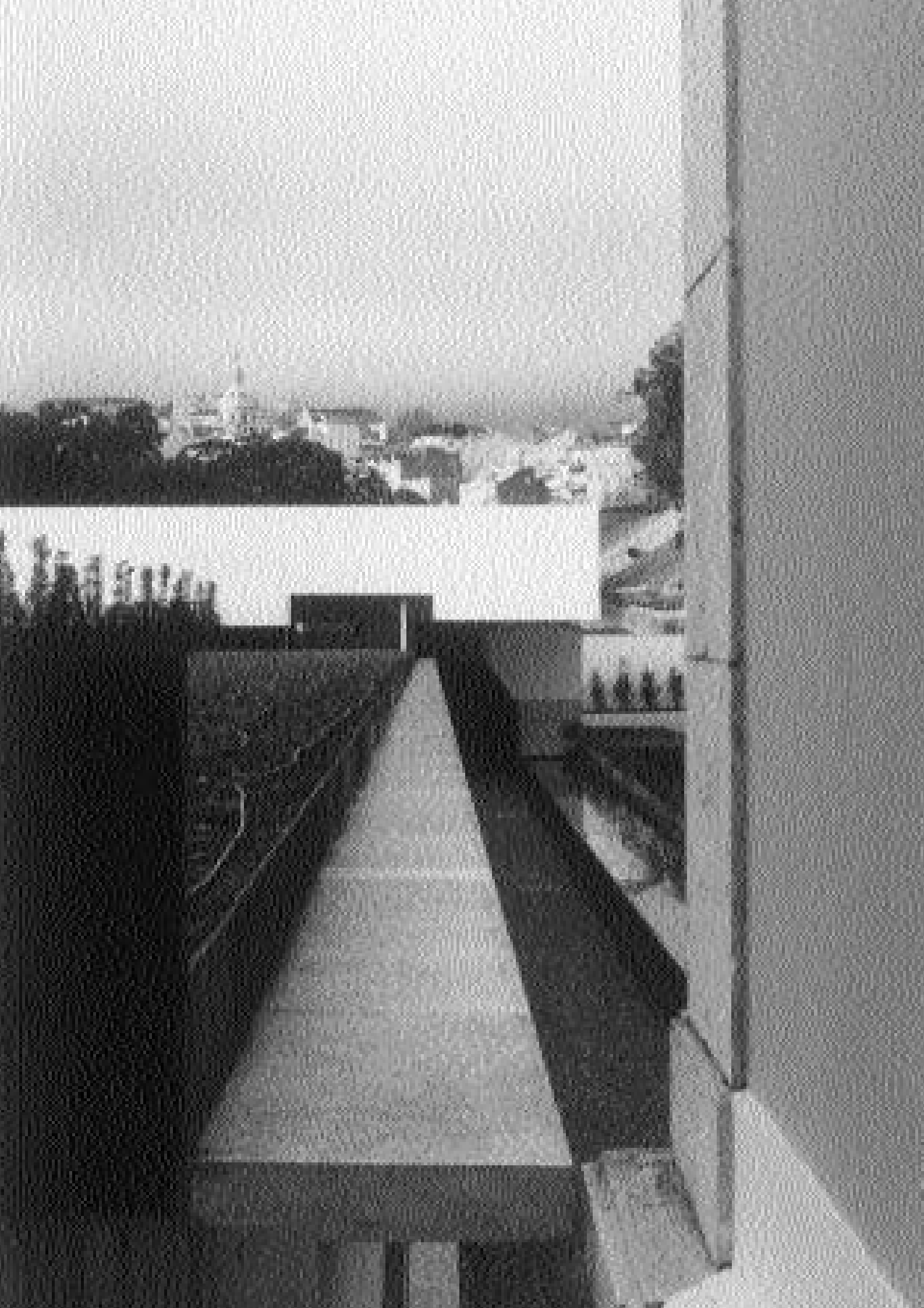


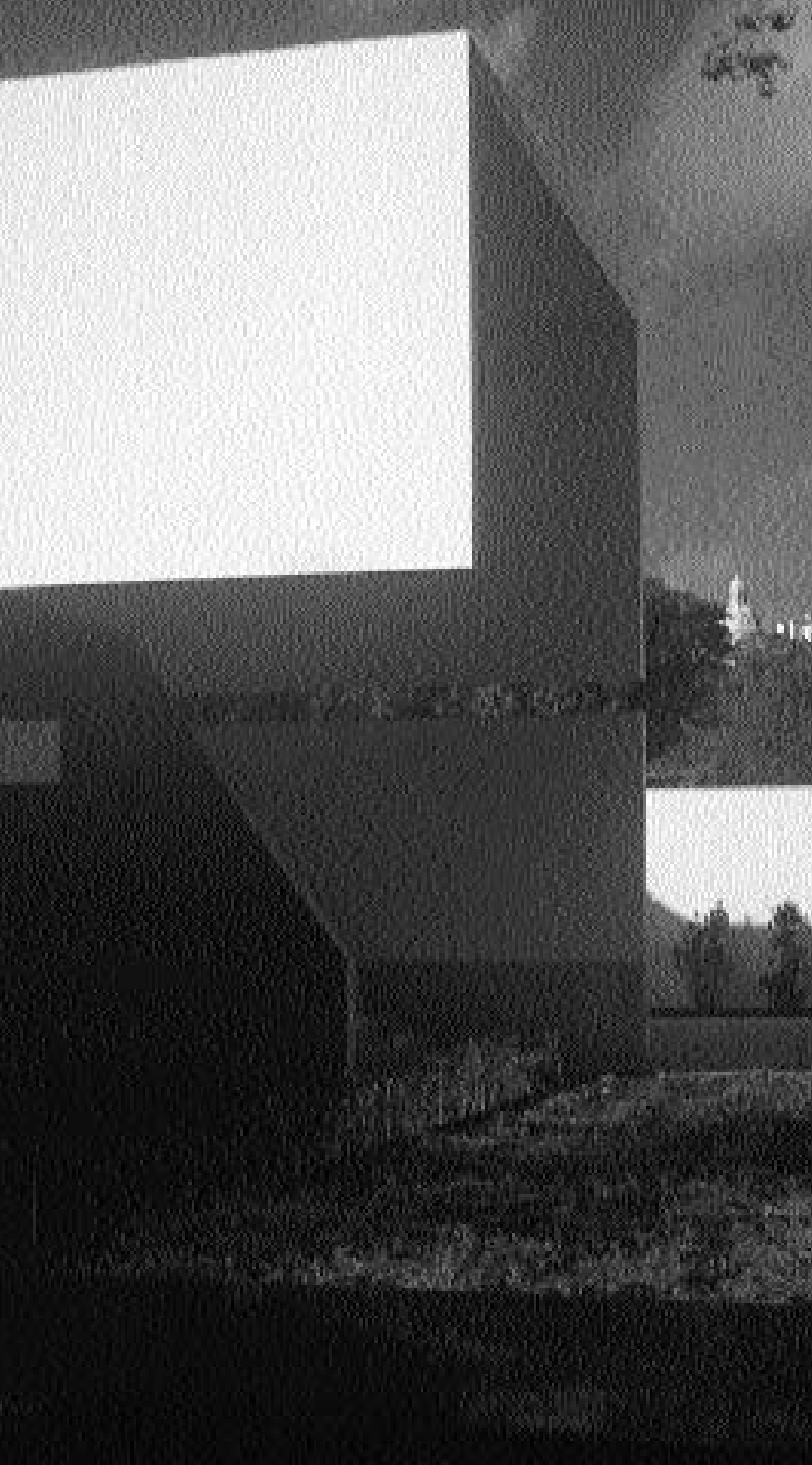
planta baja  
ground floor



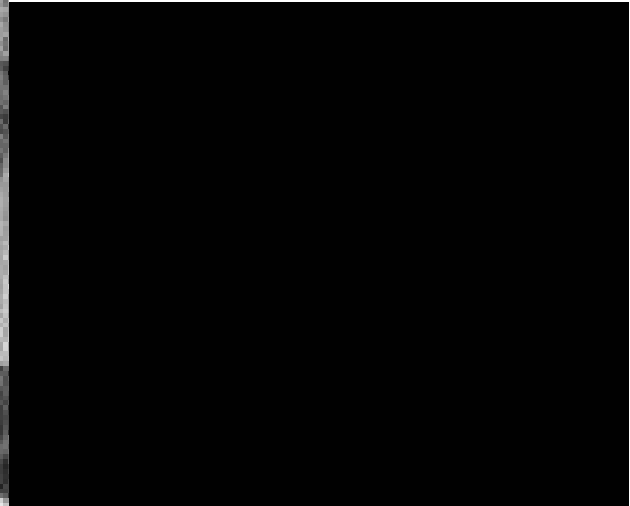
sección 1  
section 1











LISBOA. 1988/1993

## FACULTAD DE COMUNICACION

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION

Entre la autovía y la línea del borde del monte, el edificio procura construir y proteger una plaza elevada.

En los niveles inferiores a la plaza, las áreas más equipadas: auditorio, estudios de televisión y radio. Al nivel de la plaza, los accesos y las aulas. En un nivel más elevado, a poniente, destacan el cuerpo administrativo y salas de profesores. Sobre las aulas, la cafetería.

Al espacio "interiorizado" de la plaza, se le opone el plano del alzado orientado a la autovía. En el ángulo, el atrio casi cúbico es atravesado verticalmente por el ascensor, una columna y el cilindro de la chimenea.

*Between the expressway and the ridge of the hills above, the building seeks to construct and protect a raised square.*

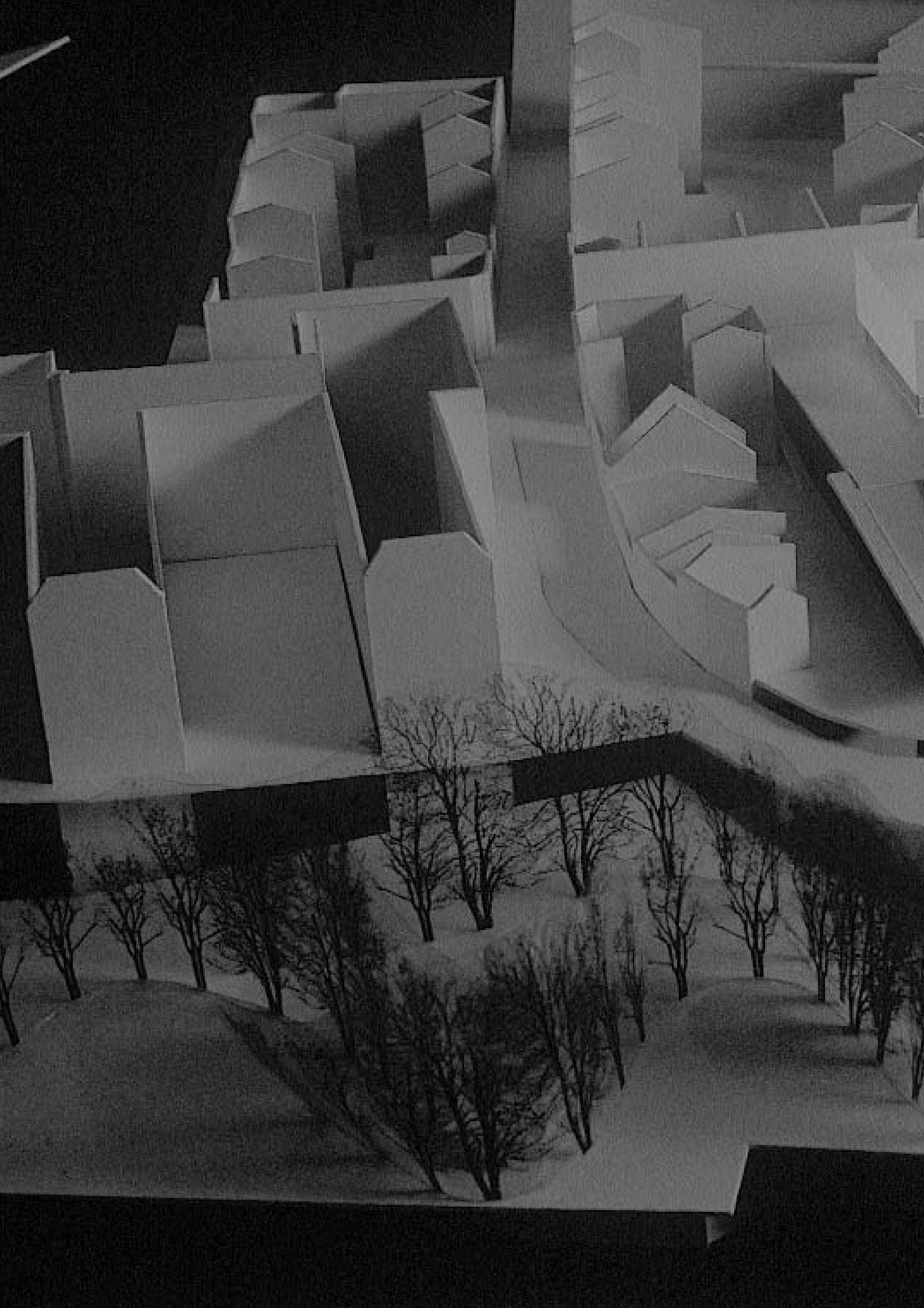
*The levels below the square are the most equipped areas: auditorium, television and radio studios. Access to the classrooms is from level of the square. The outstanding element is the taller administrative and staff block to the west. The cafeteria is set on top of the classrooms.*

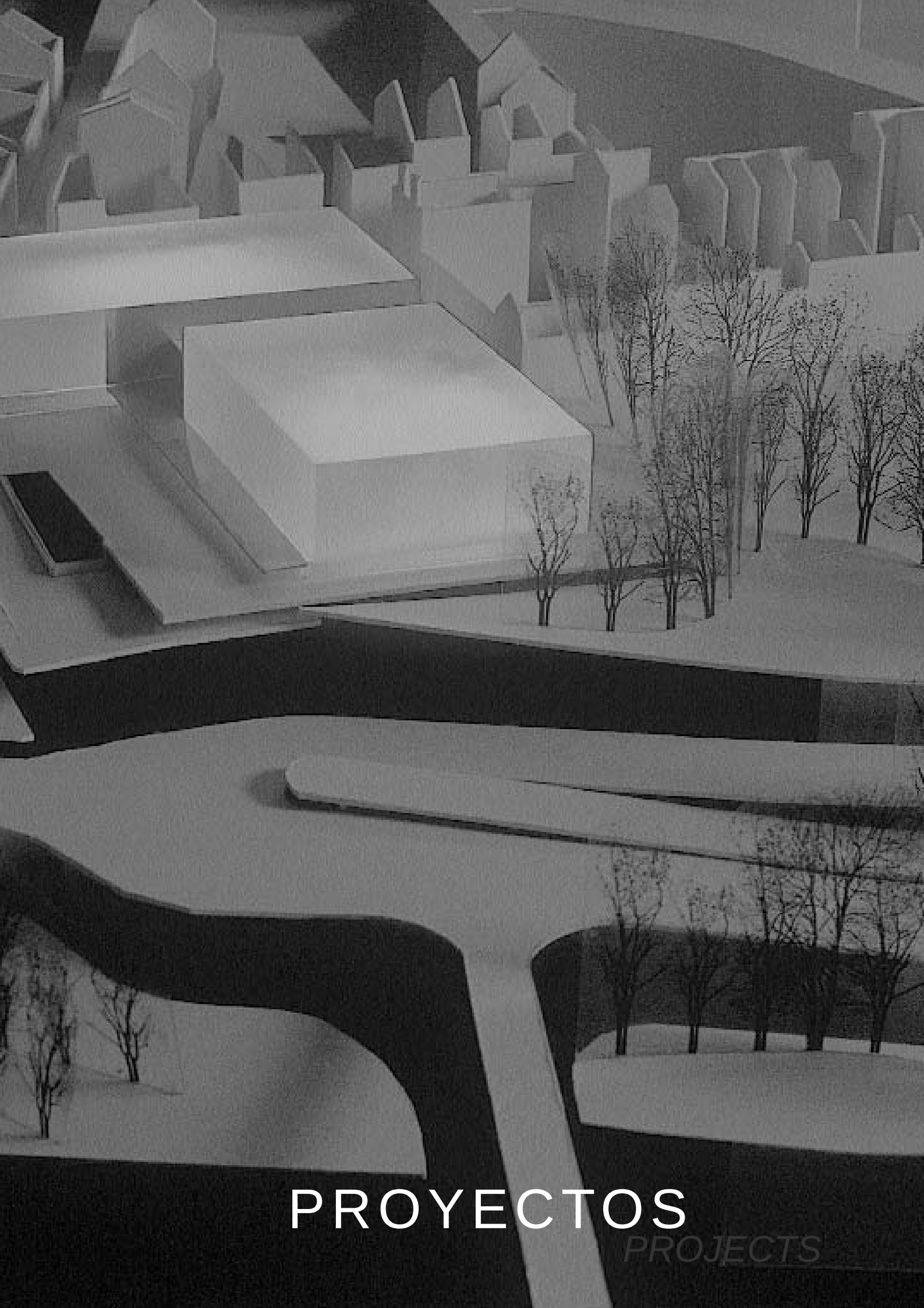
*In opposition to the "interiorized" space of the square is the plane of the elevation that overlooks the expressway. In the corner is the almost cubic volume of the atrium, vertically traversed by the elevator, a pillar and the cylinder of the chimney.*











PROYECTOS

*PROJECTS*

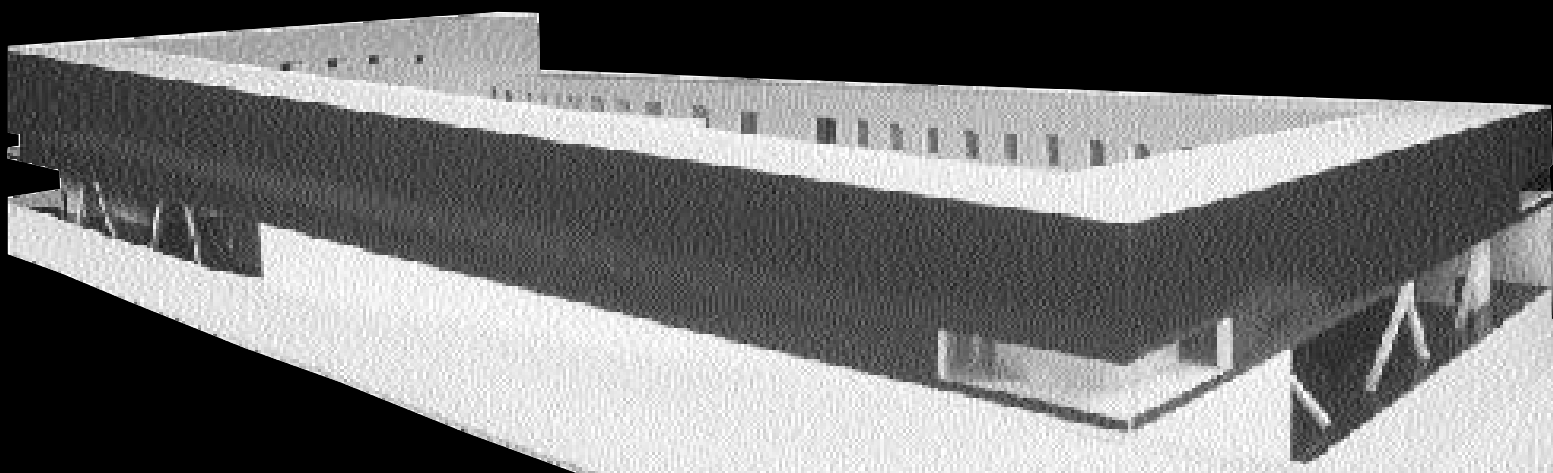
*The Escola Superior de musica will be in the Benfica district not far from the Escola Superior de Comunicacao Social built by Carrilho da Graca and completed in 1993. Situated along a busy roadway, on sloping ground that forms a little hill, it is part of the master plan for the campus of Lisbon's Polytechnic Institute, which also includes a school of accounts and administration, a refectory, a restaurant, a gym and green and parking areas.*

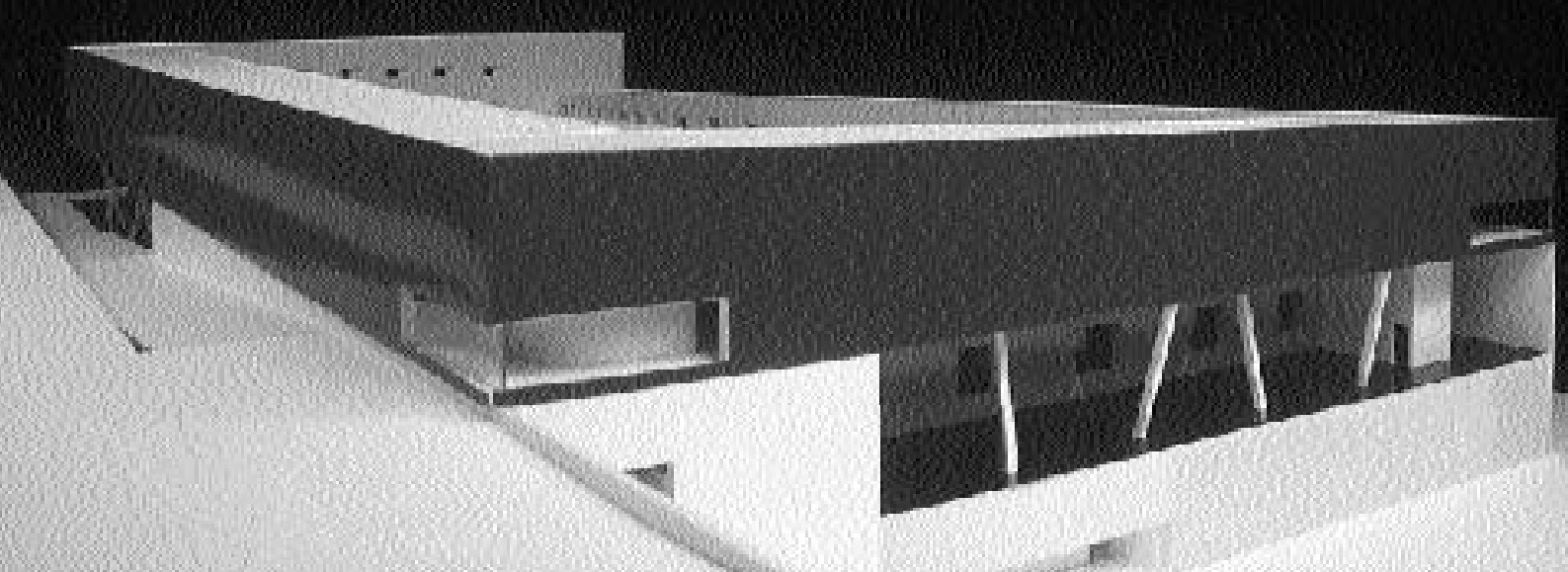
*While the Escola de Comuciação with its long shape looked like a physical border, a visual wall along the very busy roadway, the Escola de musica represents a closed form creating a void and a haven from the noise pollution of the traffic outside. The aims of the plan are to create a centre equipped with the dynamism that the figure of the spiral contains and an "internalised" outside ambience, with acoustic, spatial and scalar features that would be difficult to create in the centre of the city. The installation revisits the convent type typology through its reference to the Certosa di Pavia. It is built from two sections: a basement-platform, which becomes the horizontal reference plane and a perimetral spiral body marking the internal space of the cloister situated at the level of the plane, the same as the neighbouring Escola de Comunicacao. The formal matrix of the project unites with the functional programme and the acoustic requirements of the musical areas giving life to a building, which in its essence turns out to be a complex machine. The spiral section, closed to the outside, is organised on one single level to avoid excessive insulation of the building and the consequent acoustic problems; winding around itself, with increasing progress, it reaches the highest point on the south-west side while a second plane is added by way of exception on the south side. This layout guarantees the largest number of rooms facing north with benefits in terms of ventilation and natural lighting. A corridor runs the whole length of the outside perimeter providing continuity and serving in sequence a series of rehearsal rooms, soundproofed and open towards the patio. Following the spiral-form progress of the building, the rooms reveal dimensional variations both in ground view and in cross section giving the optimum acoustic performance in line with the typology of the instruments. The rooms for organ, song and percussion, higher as regards those for the metal wind instruments, piano and wood wind instruments; an even lower height for those of the historical and stringed instruments, which for the limited volume of the sound, are situated below the rooms for theory lessons.*

*The connection between the interior and the exterior is provided by the void of the large cloister, which becomes the location for open-air concerts. The grassy mantle covering the surface of it is a real horizontal façade, which by recasting the horizontal plane sets the new sea level.*

*Below, illuminated by a patio and connected by a flight of steps to the green level, are the areas designed for the public: large-scale rehearsal rooms, an auditorium, a cafeteria, a library and bathrooms. Two access systems, for activities directly linked to teaching and for those open to the public allow the school to work independently.*

*A ramp, fitted externally along the larger side of the building, feeds into the patio and connects the nucleus of the auditorium, the conference rooms, the library and the bar.*

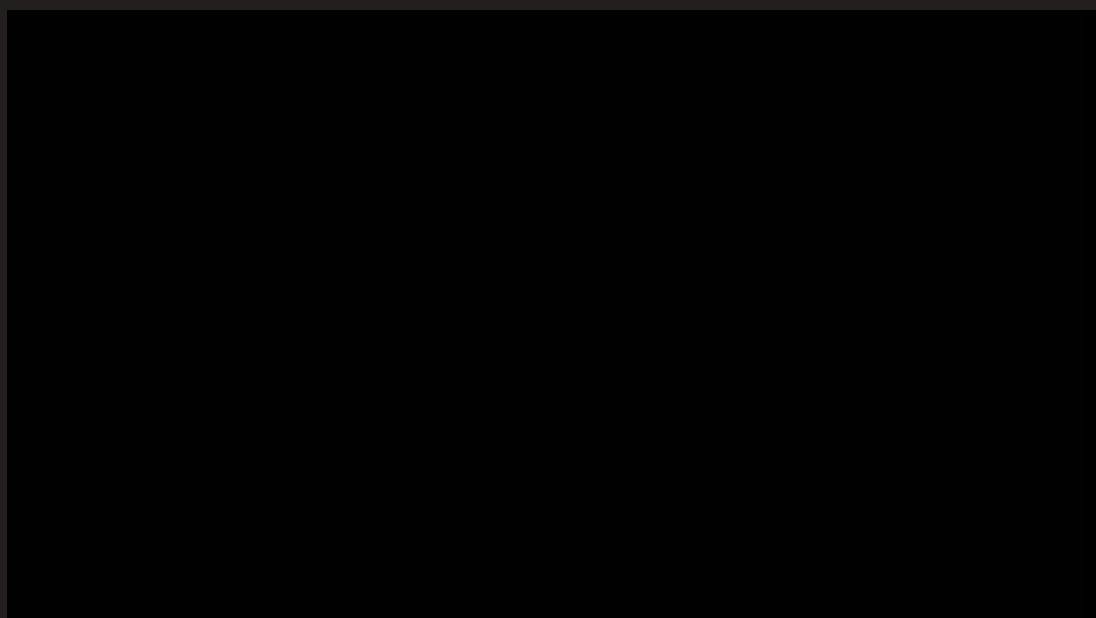




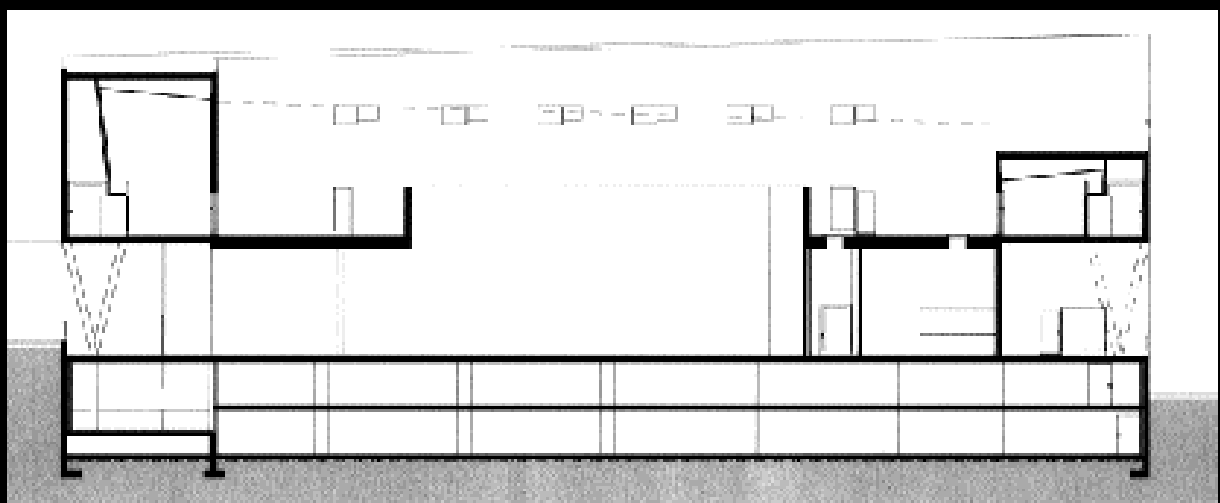
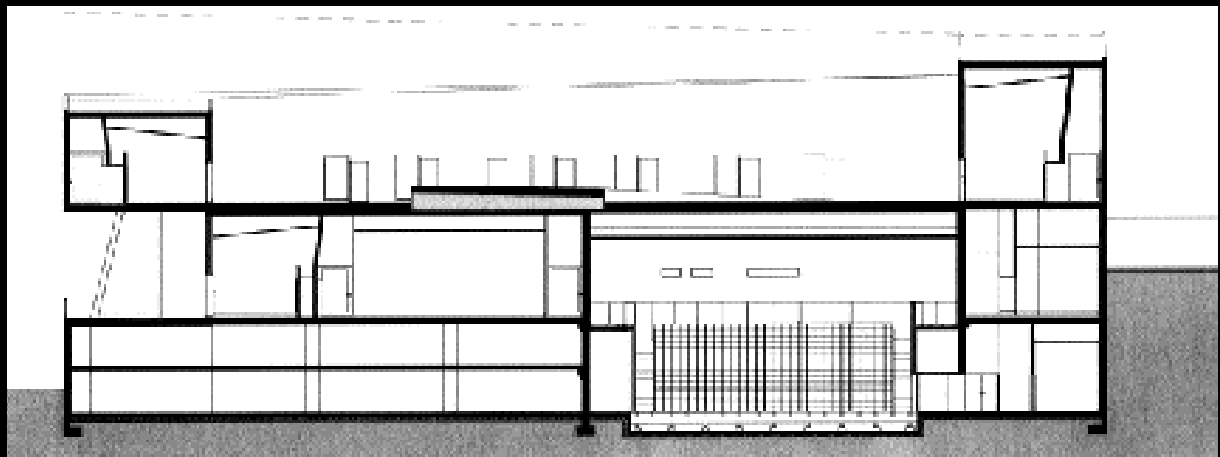
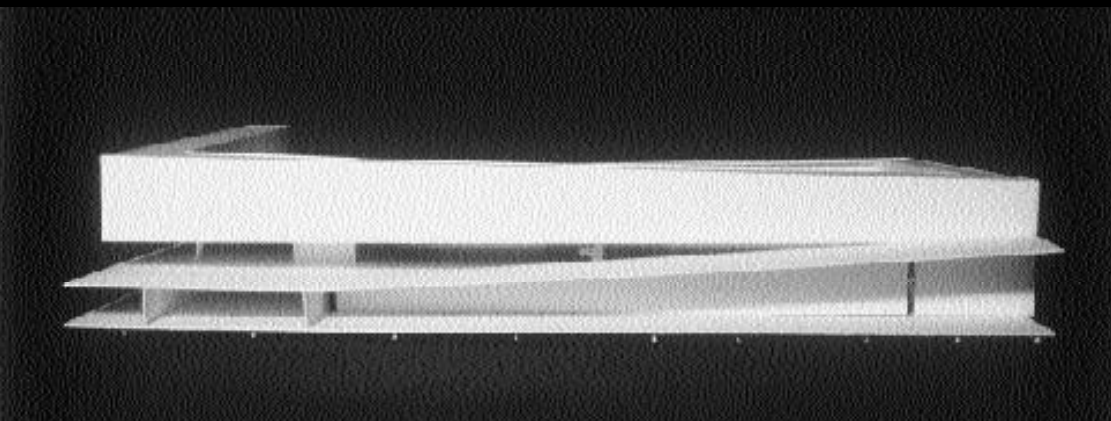
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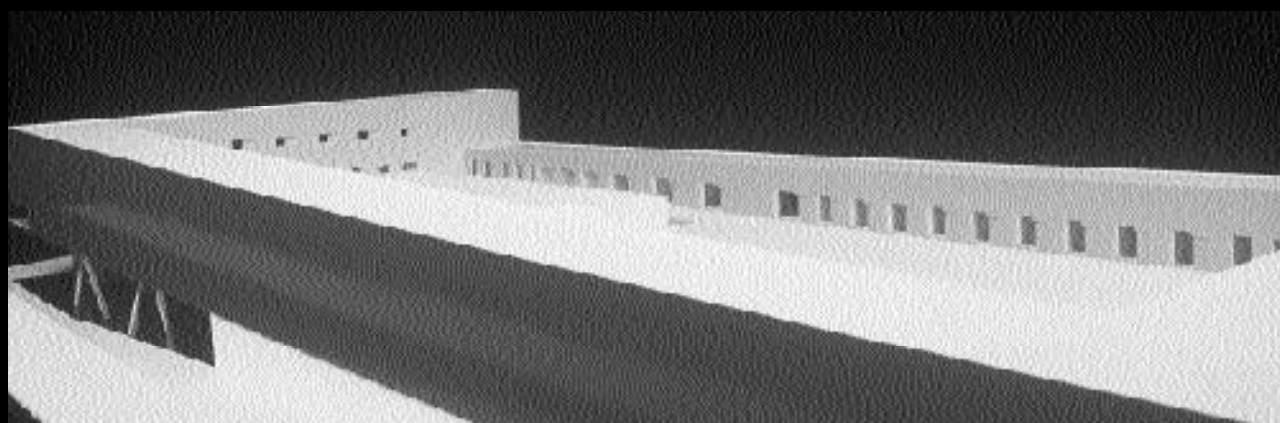
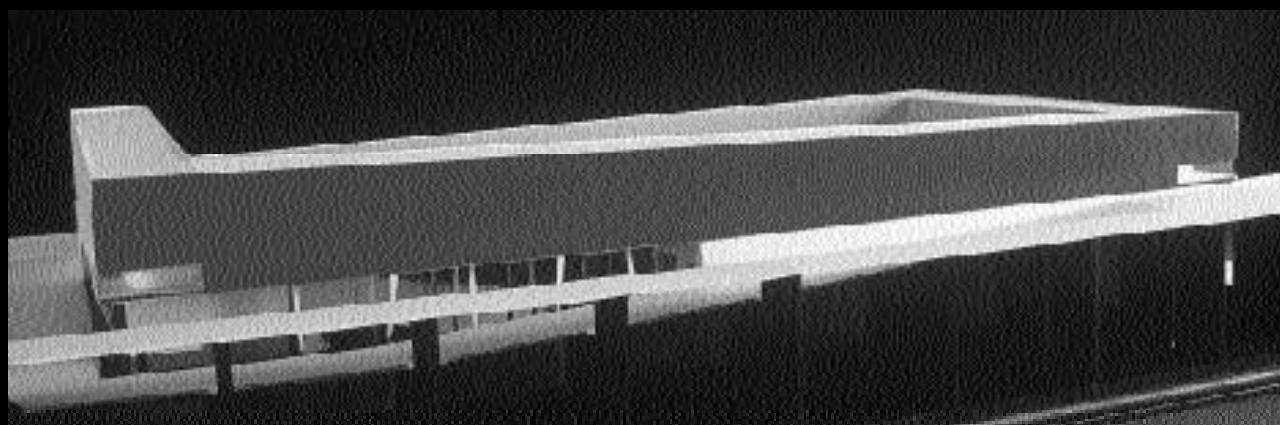
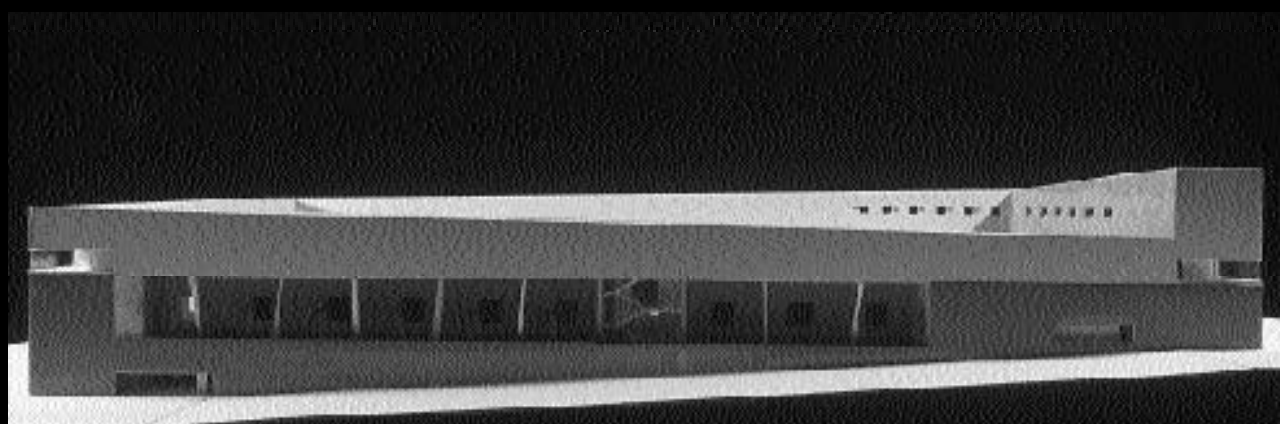
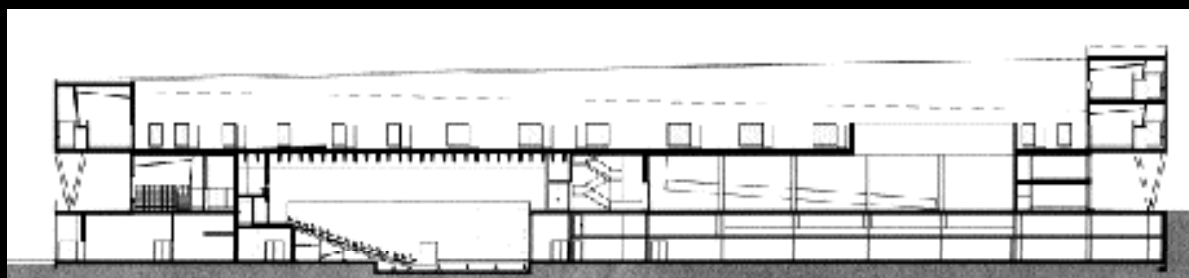
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planta baja  
ground floor



planta primera  
first floor







COIMBRA. 1996

## CONVENTO DE SAN FRANCISCO CONVENT OF ST. FRANCISCO

El convento de San Francisco, construido a comienzos del siglo XVII, está situado en un relieve con vistas a la ciudad de Coimbra cerca de otra importante institución del mismo tipo, llamada el Convento de Santa Clara Nova. El complejo se extiende horizontalmente y se funde a varios niveles con la pendiente.

Construido a partir de dos secciones diferenciadas, el edificio compuesto por la iglesia y el monasterio conectado horizontalmente por una larga estructura que acoge al mismo tiempo las habitaciones, se transformó en una fábrica textil durante el siglo XVIII, el histórico molino lanero de Santa Clara. La transformación en un edificio industrial produjo considerables alteraciones, pero no consiguió destruir la extraordinaria claridad espacial del complejo monástico. Incluso hoy el convento se mantiene como una ruina encantadora, una imagen más unida a una visión de "abandono poético" que a los rasgos arquitectónicos que la distinguen.

El objetivo de la transformación del convento es mostrar la estructura original del complejo y corregir y eliminar aquellos cambios que lo habían deformado y empobrecido. Esto significa en primer lugar una operación de "limpieza" y en segundo lugar el desarrollo de sus atributos espaciales con la introducción de un nuevo programa, que incluye un centro de conferencias con un auditorio, salas multiusos, áreas de exposición, bares y servicios de apoyo.

La creación de un gran sótano que absorbe toda el área alrededor del edificio devuelve el nivel del suelo de la fachada de la calle a su altura original, que el cuerpo de dormitorios excede en tres plantas. La plataforma actúa como una re-cimentación; constituye el nuevo plano de referencia desde el que emergen con gran claridad los tres elementos, re-evaluando las cualidades, y precisas geometrías que al mismo tiempo habían determinado su construcción. Este plano artificial albergará el aparcamiento, las áreas de servicios y la gran sala de conferencias. Inicialmente, en la propuesta de concurso, la sala de conferencias ocupaba un vacío existente entre la iglesia y el convento, con la misma capacidad que el claustro. En la propuesta subsiguiente, se posicionó en cambio hacia el norte del complejo y se sumergió en el sótano. Rodeado por un anillo de túneles, el volumen de la sala emerge desde la plataforma desvelando su presencia urbana. El acceso al vestíbulo se realiza a través de la cubierta de sótano, que se sumerge para permitir conectar con el nivel de la ciudad. Dentro de las salas polivalentes del convento, se proporciona un área de recepción y un bar, mientras que el cuerpo de dormitorios acogerá las salas de exposiciones y en la planta baja las áreas administrativas.

La iglesia con su bella área del coro se restaurará a su función original mientras que un área dedicada a eventos al aire libre completará el vacío existente entre las dos secciones.

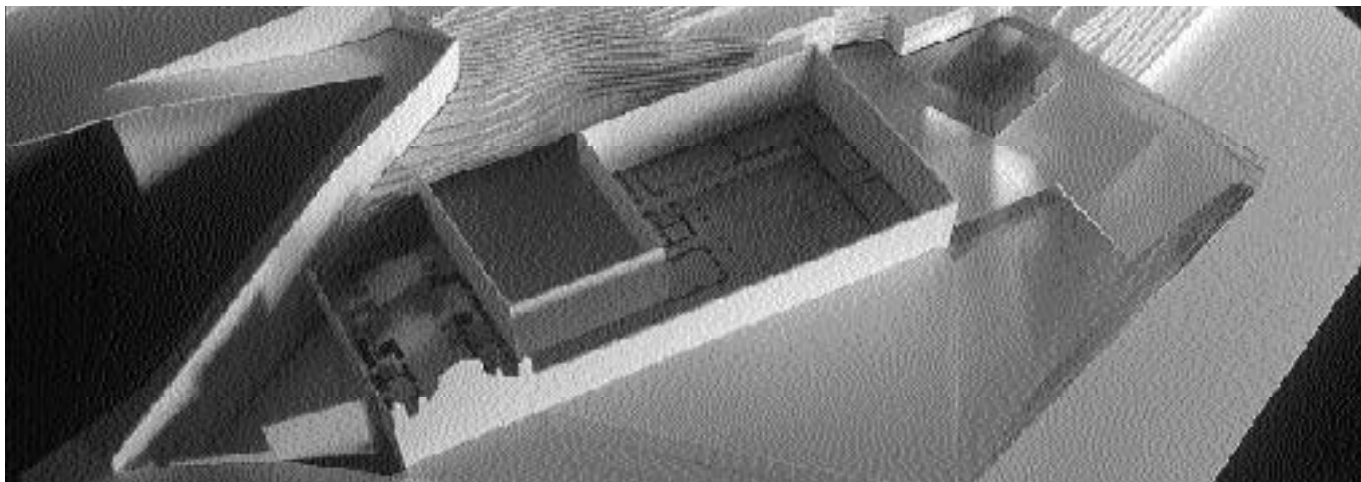
*The Convent of St Francis, built at the start of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, is located on a relief overlooking the town of Coimbra near another important institution of the same type, namely the Santa Clara Nova Convent. The complex extends horizontally and blends at various levels into the hillside.*

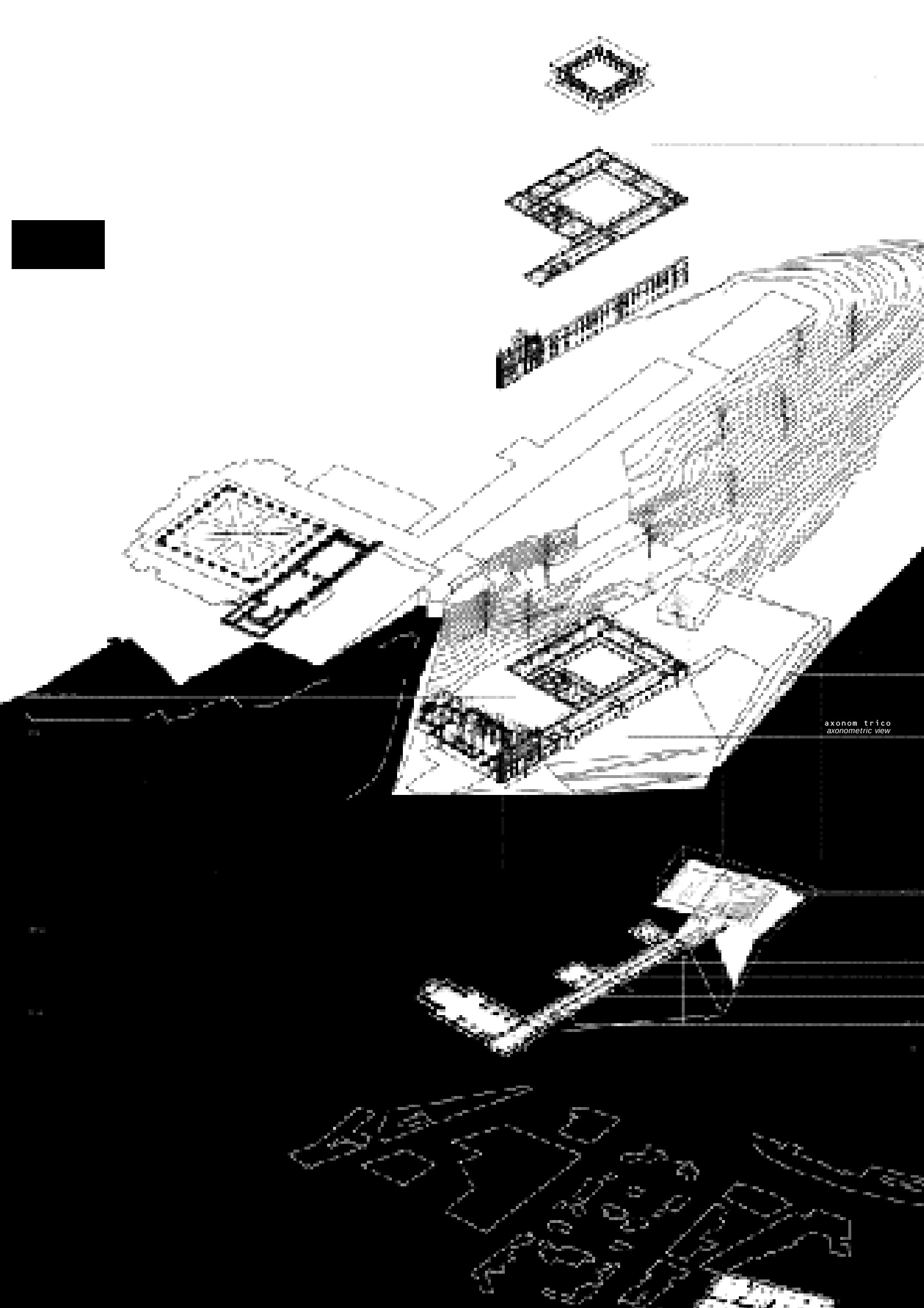
*Built from two separate sections, the church and the monastery connected horizontally by a long structure, which at one time housed the dormitories, it was transformed in the eighteenth century into a textile factory, the historic Santa Clara woollen mill. With the move to an industrial building came considerable alterations and defacement, which however have failed to completely destroy the extraordinary spatial clarity of the monastic complex. Even today the convent stands as an enchanting ruin, an image more linked to a vision of "poetic abandonment" than to the architectural features that distinguish it.*

*The aim of the transformation of the convent is to once again lay bare the original structure of the complex and correct and remove those changes that have distorted and impoverished it. This meant primarily an operation of "cleaning" and removal of the superfetations and secondly the development of its spatial attributes with the introduction of the new programme, which includes a conference centre with an auditorium, multipurpose rooms, exhibition areas, bars and support services. The creation of a large basement which absorbs all the area around the building brings back the level of the ground at the street front to the original height which the body of the dormitories exceeds by three floors.*

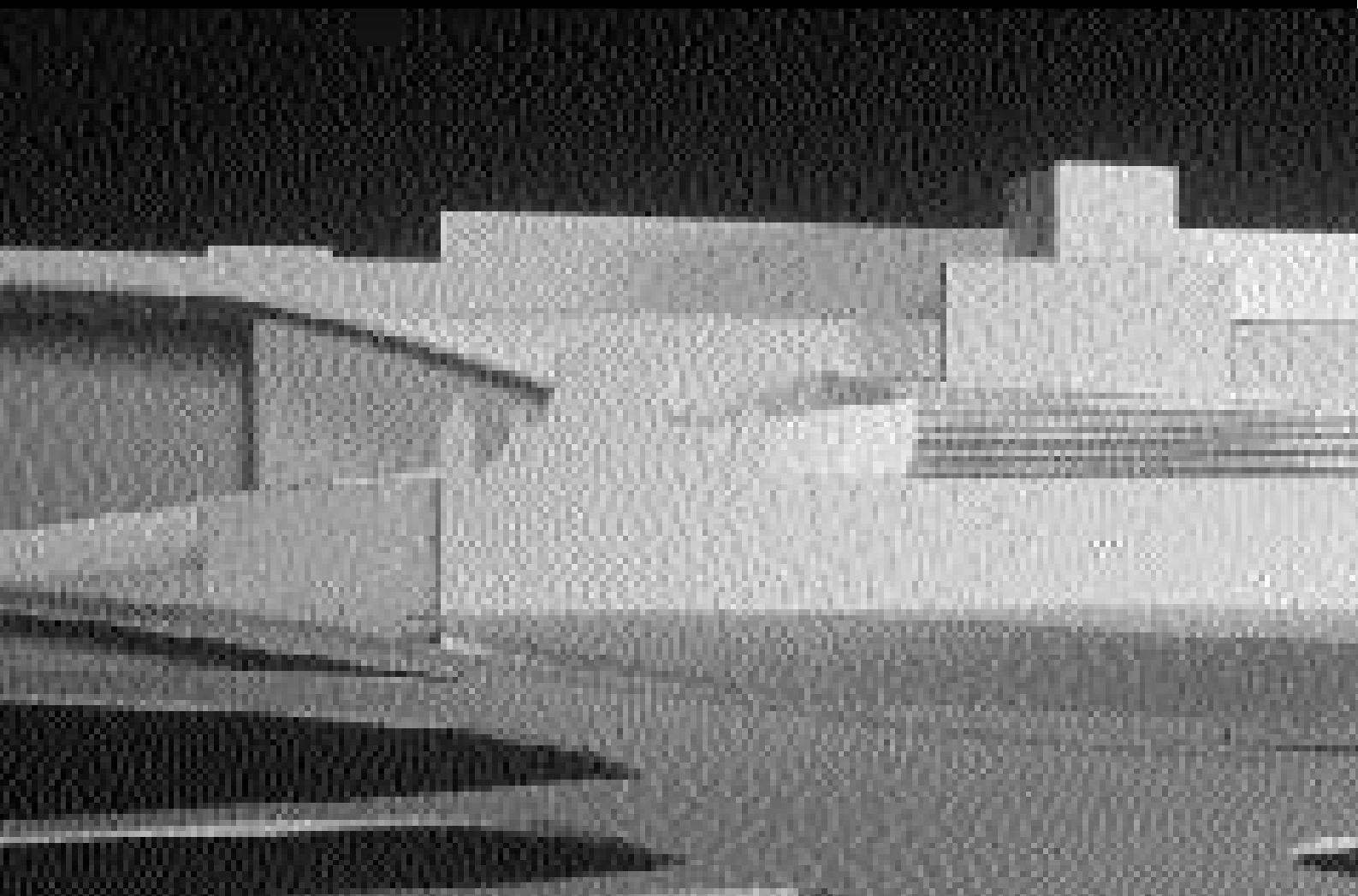
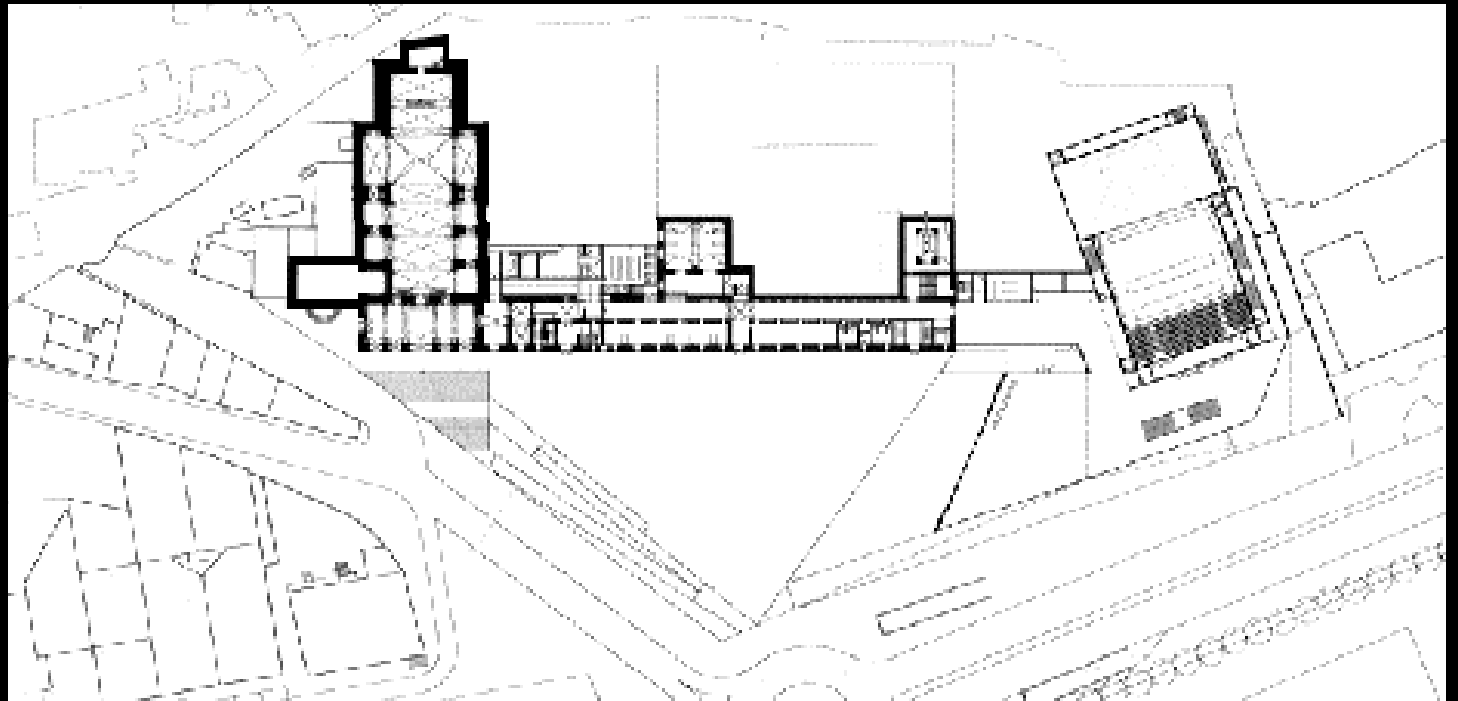
*The platform acts as a re-foundation; constitutes the new reference plane from which emerge with great clarity, the three elements, re-evaluating the skilled, precise geometry which at one time had determined the construction thereof. This artificial plane will house the car parks, service areas and the large conference hall. Initially, in the competition proposal, the conference hall occupied an existing void between the church and the convent, with the same capacity as the cloister. In a subsequent option this was instead positioned to the north of the complex and sunk into the basement. Surrounded by a ring of tunnels, the volume of the hall comes out from the platform revealing its urban presence. Access to the foyer is via the cover of the basement, which dips to allow it to connect to the town level. Inside the convent multifunctional rooms, a reception area and a bar are provided while the body of the dormitories will house exhibition rooms and on the ground floor the administrative areas.*

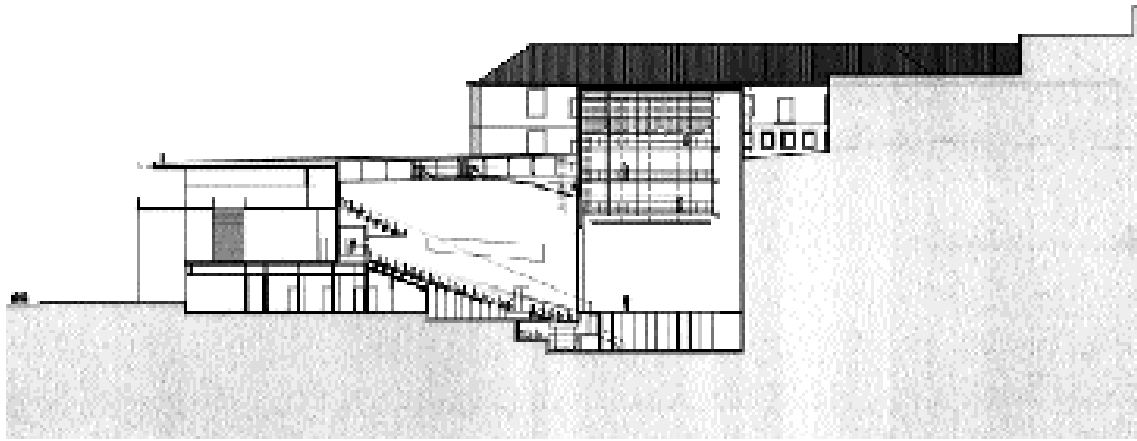
*The church with its beautiful choir area will be restored to its original function while an area for open air events will fill the void between the two sections.*



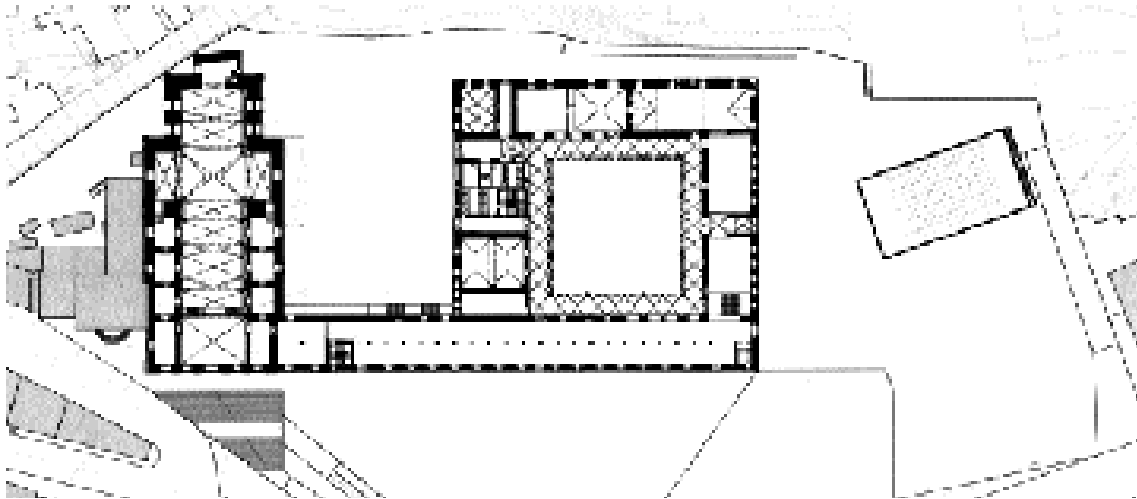


axonom trico  
axonometric view

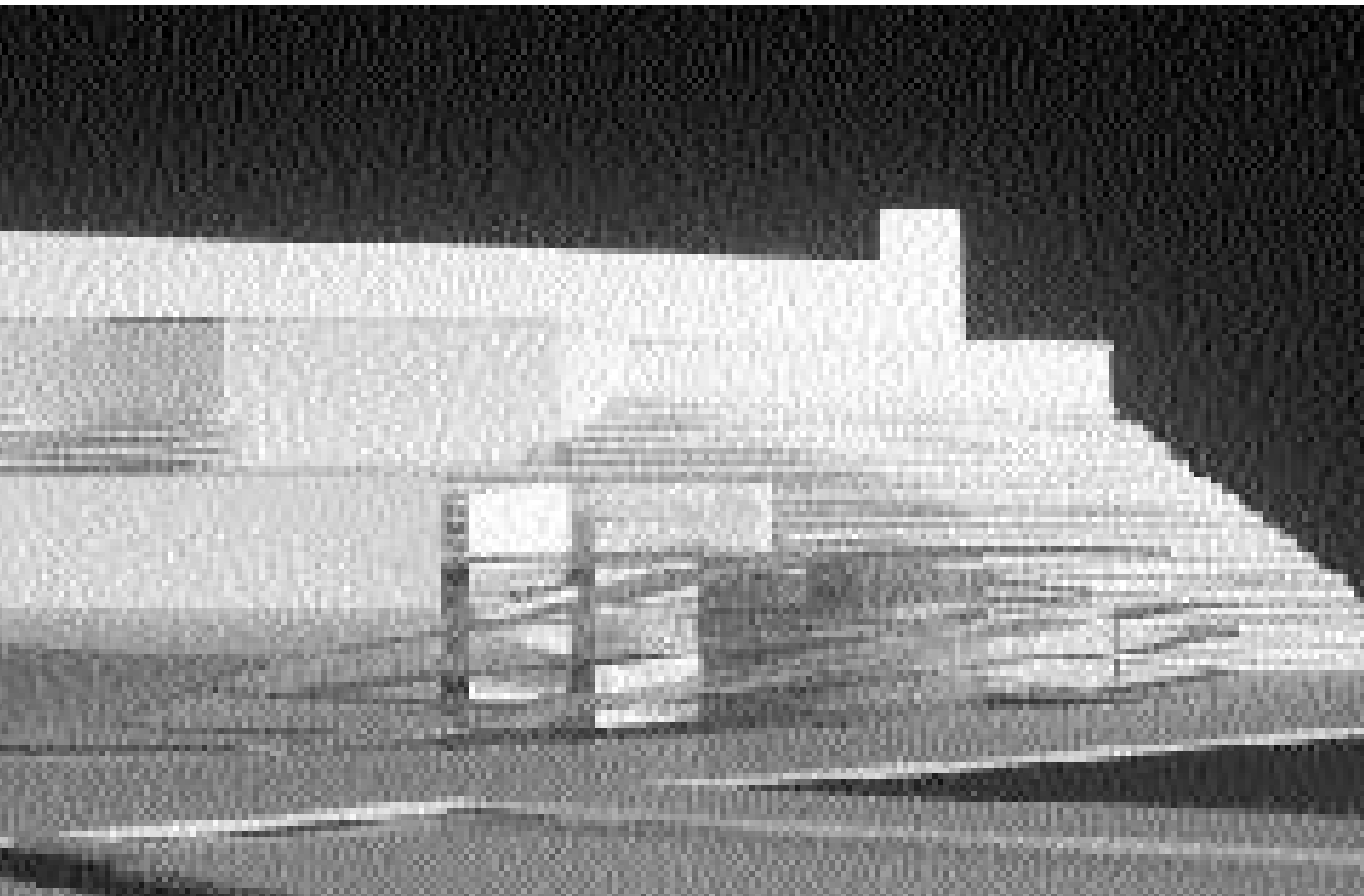


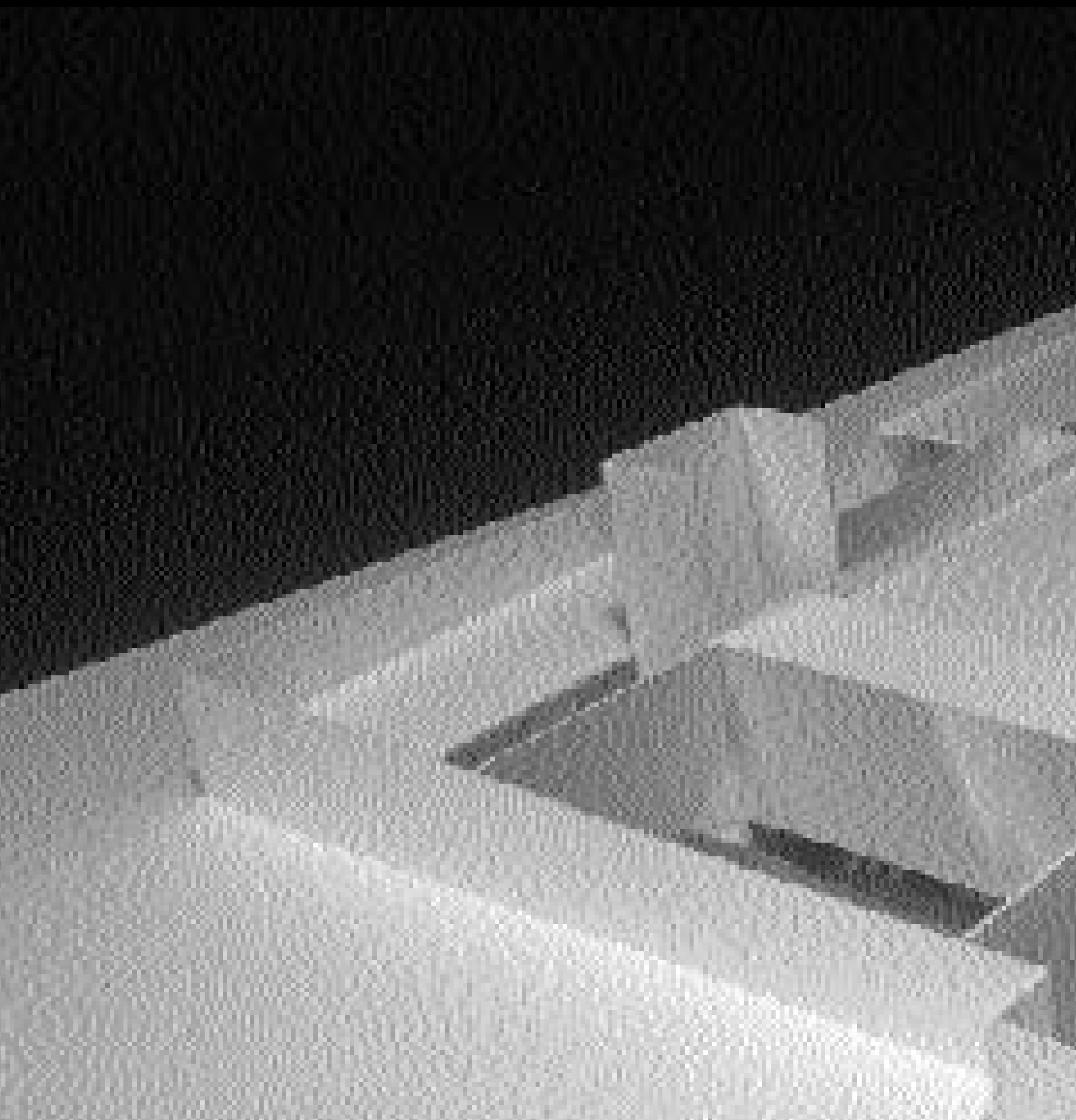


sección  
section

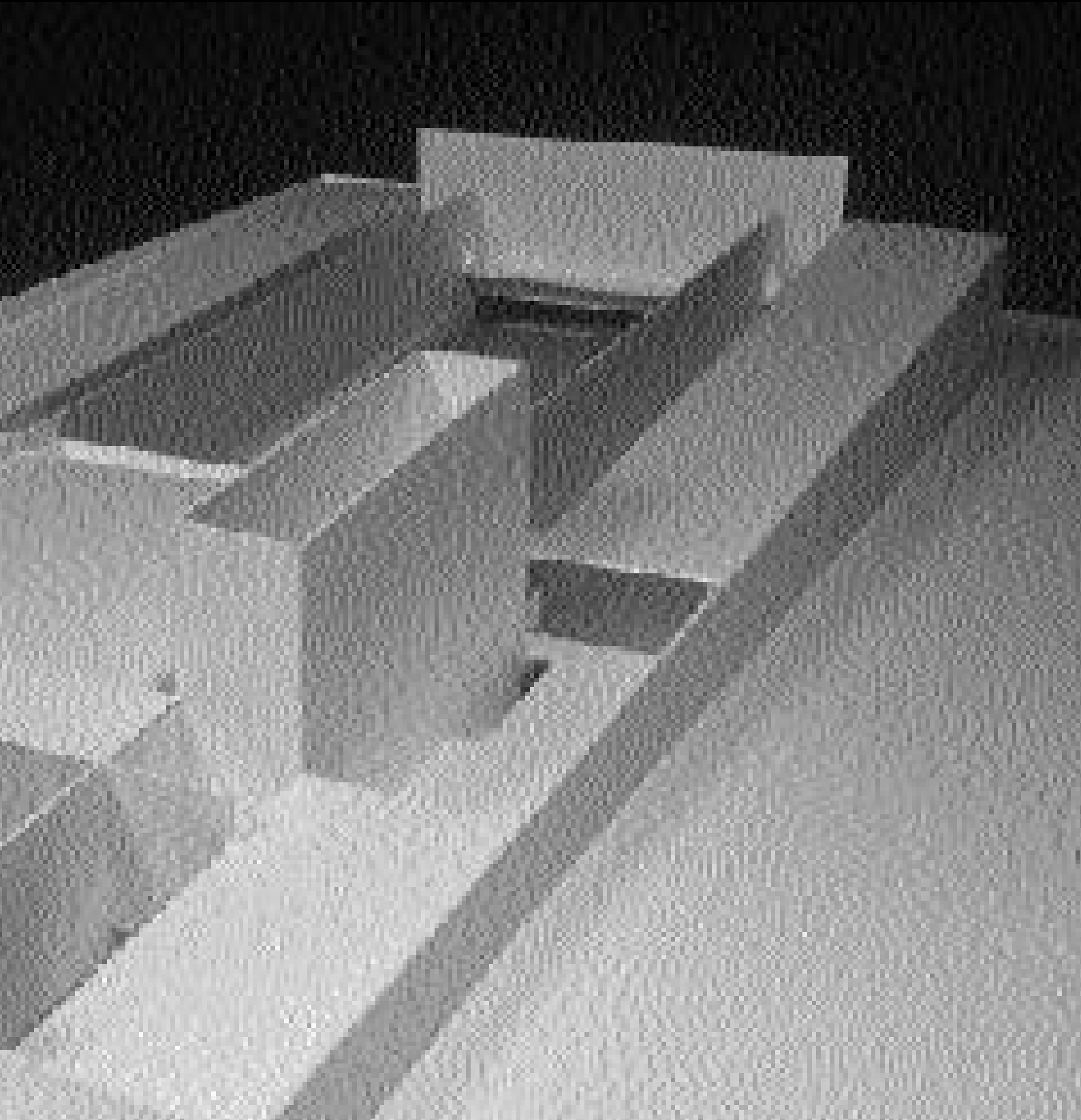


planta baja  
ground floor plan





*The complex is inserted into a peripheral suburb of a small town with a population of a little less than 20,000. The plot has an appreciable north-south slope, with a drop in level of 8 metres, and a number of outcrops of quartzite. The complex is laid out around a courtyard-cum-entrance terrace which distributes access to the various parts. The church, at the back, has an evidently square plan. The access facade can be opened up by means of partitions in the entrance terrace. On the far side, the glass wall behind the altar looks out onto another exterior courtyard. The opposite side of this second courtyard will be of the natural rock -quartzite and granite- left exposed by the excavation work. The church will look down on the rock wall, beneath which a small pool will be created, with the baptistery on this lower level, by the side of the pool.*



[The following text is a dense, continuous block of text, likely a scan of a document page. It contains numerous words and phrases that are mostly illegible due to the quality of the scan. The text appears to be a single paragraph or a section of a larger document. The words are arranged in lines, with some words appearing to be in a different script or language than others, possibly indicating a mix of languages or a specific dialect. The text is too blurry to transcribe accurately.]



La Casa de la Paz albergará a numerosas organizaciones que trabajan en favor de la paz. Será, además, la sede del Instituto Superior de Estudios Internacionales así como de su amplia biblioteca. El proyecto pretende crear un espacio que favorezca la unión de numerosas instituciones, facilitando así lugares de reunión y que permita a las distintas instituciones la puesta en común de esfuerzos para la convergencia entre las mismas.

El proyecto se sitúa cerca del parque urbano de la sede de UN, no lejos de la Plaza de las Naciones. El área tiene forma triangular y estrecha y se abre hacia la Avenida de Francia, a lo largo de la vía del ferrocarril. Los Alpes, el Jura y el Lago Lemán definen el paisaje.

A pesar del ruido provocado por el ferrocarril y de la forma tan alargada del terreno, los promotores (el estado de Ginebra y la Confederación Helvética) proponen llevar a cabo el proyecto con los mejores criterios de control medioambiental: ventilación natural y un alto porcentaje de iluminación natural en las zonas de trabajo. Los conceptos básicos en los que se apoya el trabajo: las características del programa, las ventajas y desventajas del lugar y las condiciones climáticas.

El programa se divide en dos partes:

- Lugares públicos (auditorio, cafeterías, aulas, biblioteca): situados en el sótano y en la planta baja.
- Talleres (salas de reuniones, salas privadas y oficinas de diferentes dimensiones): situados en las otras cuatro plantas superiores.

Es en estas plantas superiores donde encontramos mayores posibilidades a la hora de introducir la ventilación natural y ventanas. El edificio se presenta como una gran masa de vidrio con varios patios. La circulación vertical y horizontal es flexible y utiliza, entre otros, un sistema de pasarelas e inclinaciones que permite crear una barrera interior-exterior que protege a los patios del ruido. El sistema de control climático usa un panel activo de hormigón enfriado mediante intercambio de calor con agua del lago y ventilación natural por canales controlados acústicamente.

*The "Maison de la Paix" will house several organizations that work towards maintaining peace. It will also be the headquarters of the "University Institute of High International Studies", and its large library. The concept is to create a congregation of institutions, so that meetings, synergies, efforts of convergence will become a normal happening.*

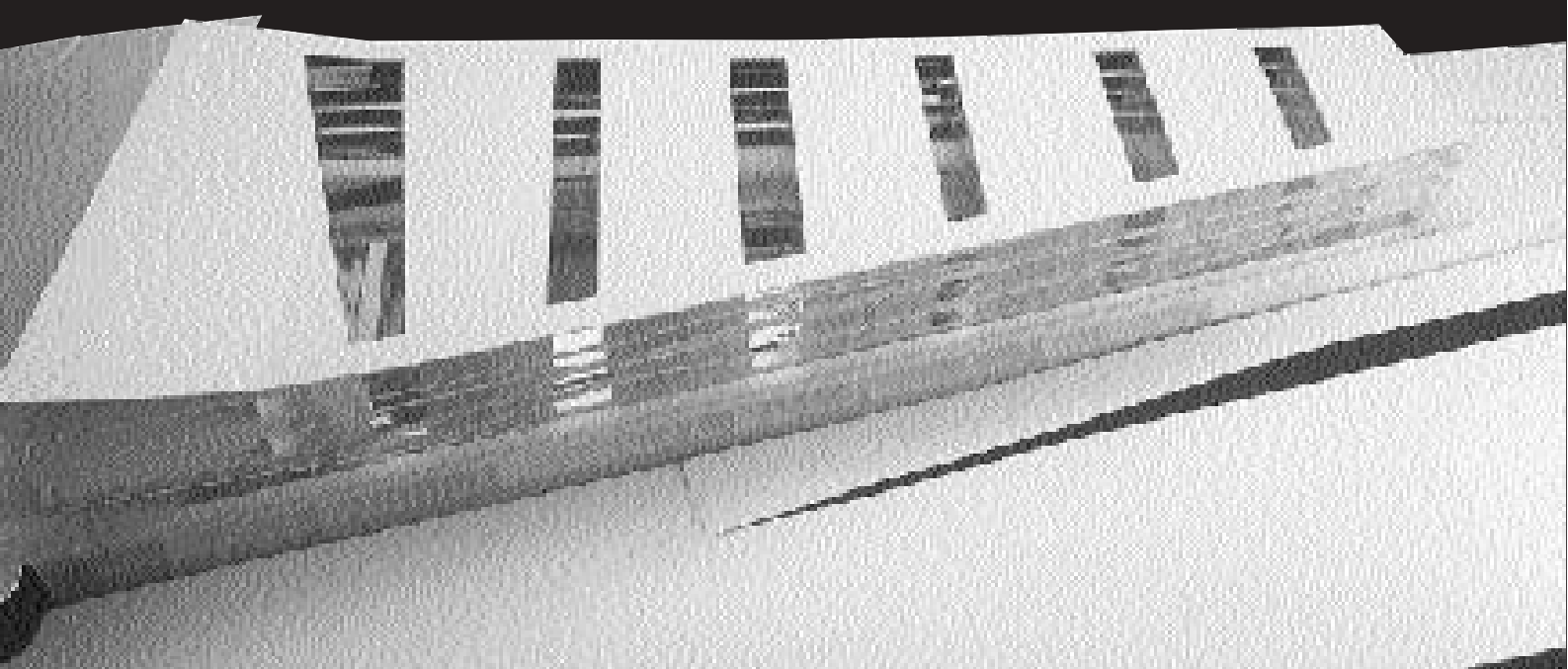
*The project site is located near the urban park of the UN headquarters, not far from the "Nations Square". The site area is triangular and narrow, unfolding on the Avenue de France, along the railway track. The Alps, the Jura and Lake Lemán compose the skyline.*

*In spite of the high noise levels created by the adjacent railroad and a very elongated terrain, the promoters -the State of Geneva and the Helvetic Confederation- propose to achieve the highest standard of environmental control: natural ventilation and a high percentage of natural illumination in all the working areas. The basic concept of the project results from: the programme characteristics, the site potentialities and constraints, and the climate conditions.*

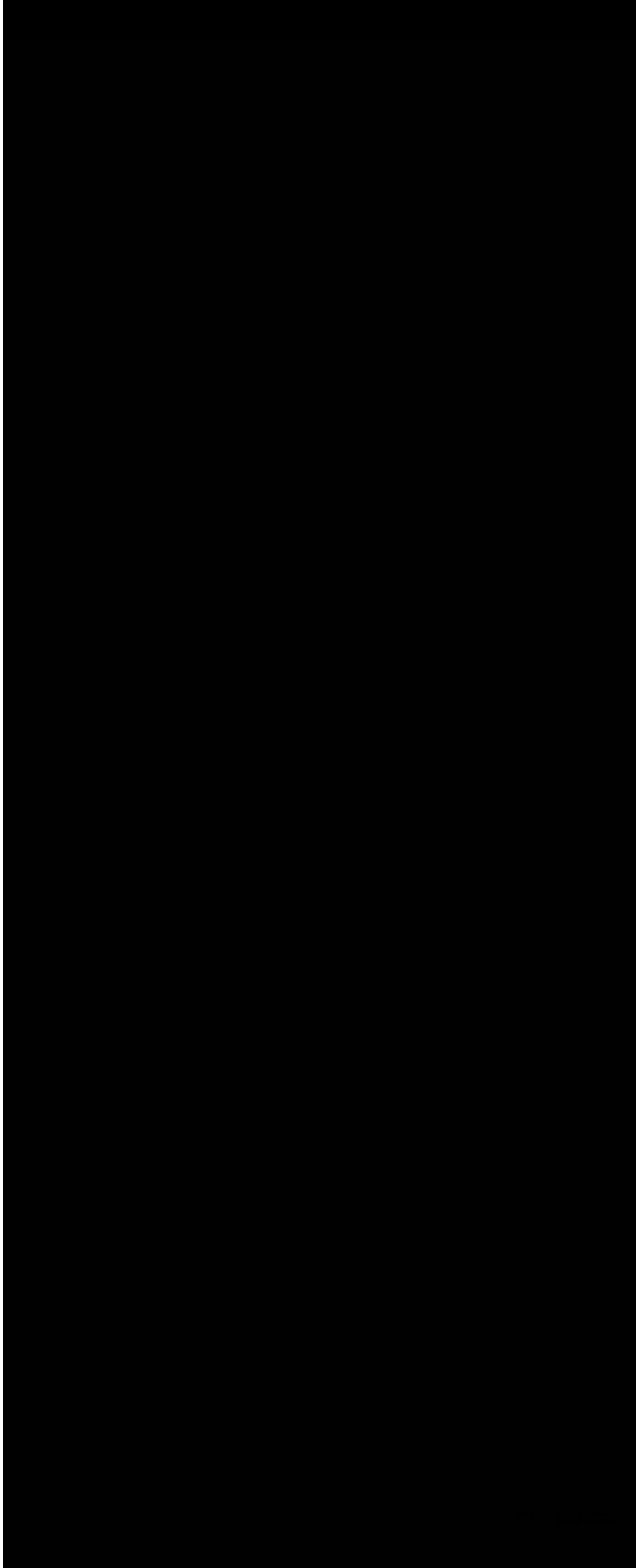
*The program is divided in two main groups, as follows:*

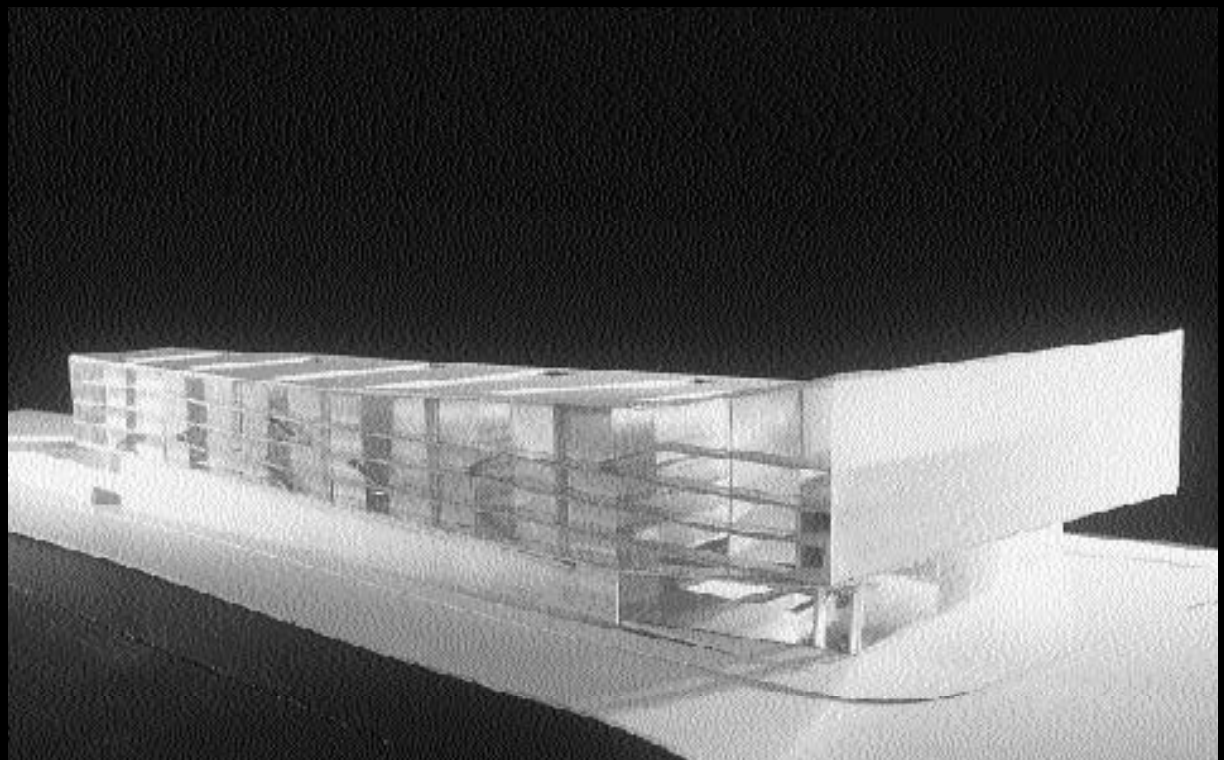
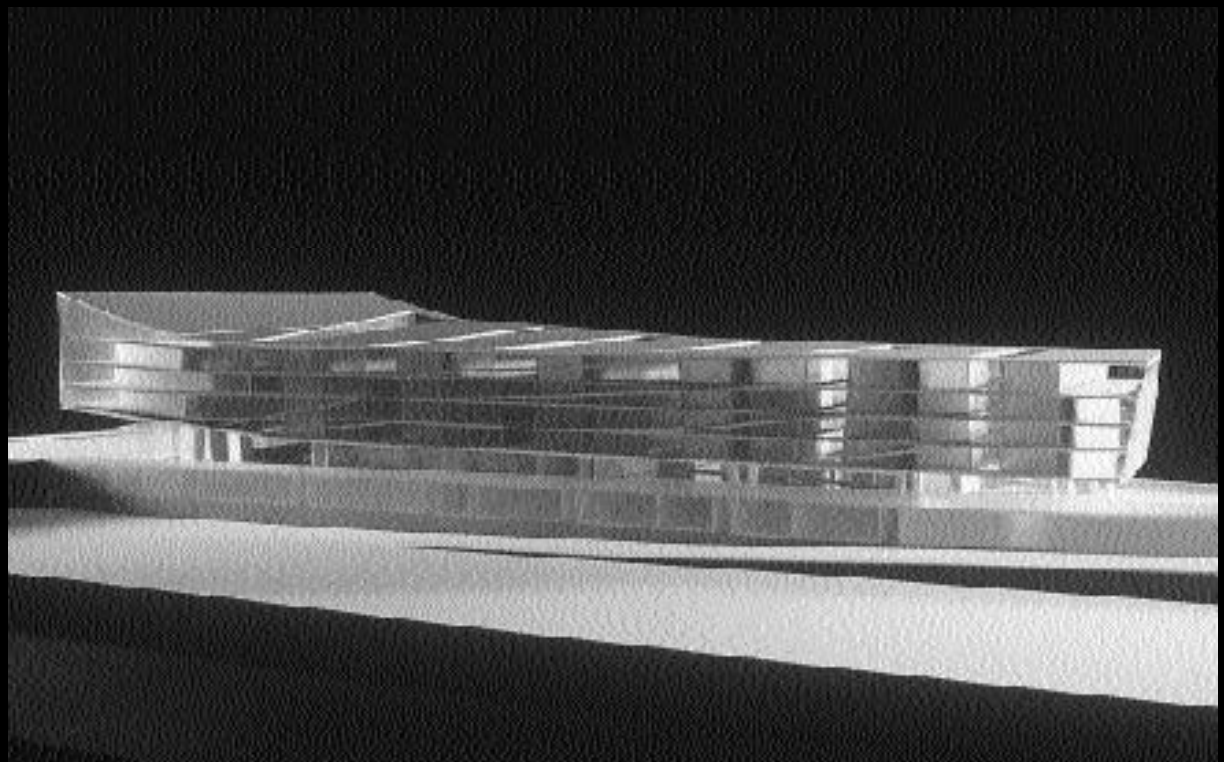
- Public spaces (auditorium, cafeterias, classrooms, library) are located in the basement-ground floor;*
- Workshops (meeting rooms, private rooms and offices with different dimensions) are located on the four upper levels.*

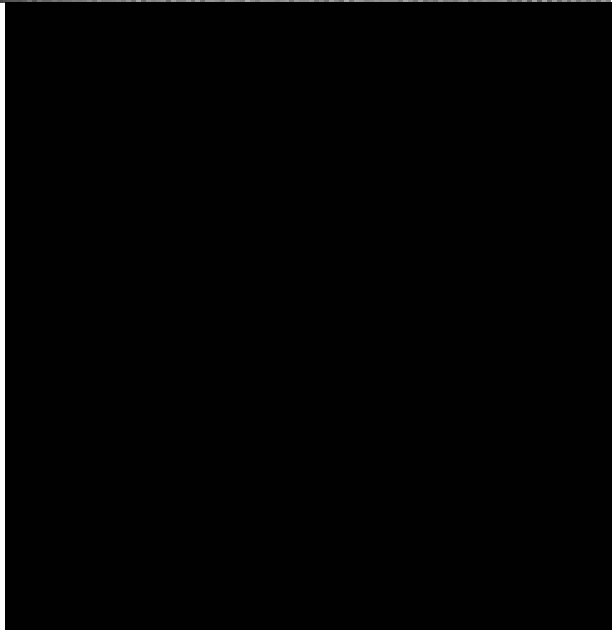
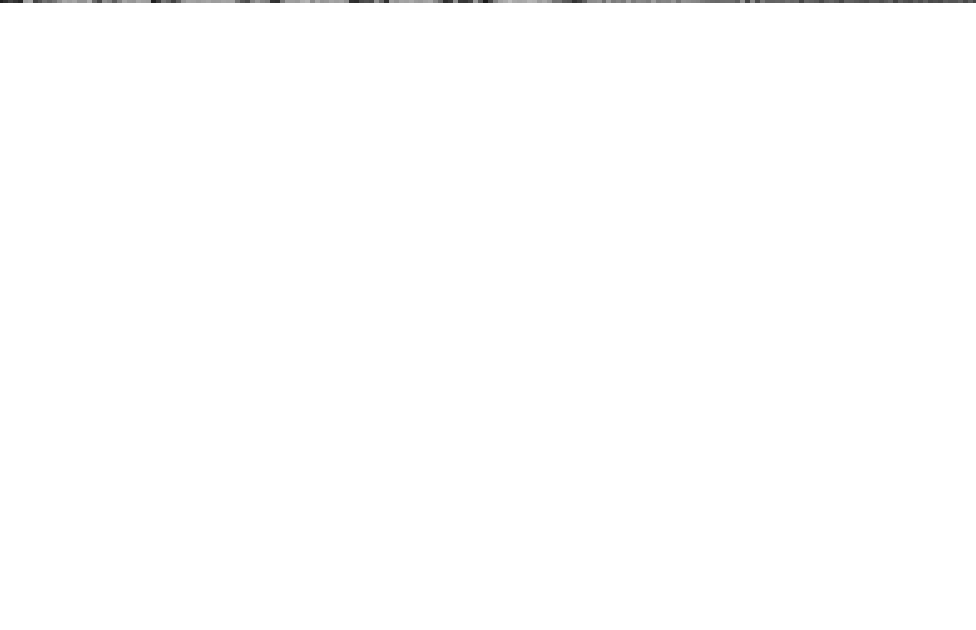
*The upper levels are where natural ventilation and the possibility to open windows become more appealing. The building is set as a massive glass monolith, in which a series of patios are laid. The horizontal and vertical circulation system is flexible and uses, among others, a system of passerelles (passage ways) and peripheral slopes that creates an inner-outer screen that protects the patios from noise. The climate control system uses an active concrete slab cooled by heat exchange with lake water and natural displacement ventilation through acoustically controlled channels.*











La casa está situada dentro de una pequeña granja en Minho, al noroeste de Portugal. Se trata de una granja de granito con una pequeña casa rural que se conserva en muy malas condiciones (la planta superior, que estaba en ruinas, fue rehabilitada de manera muy pobre y sin demasiado interés).

Las cornisas se sustentan sobre muros de mampostería. El cuerpo metálico de la casa es un objeto. Revestido de titanio, brillará sobre la romántica y rústica atmósfera.

El cuerpo, de forma cuadrada, contiene un patio. El piso elevado está hecho a base de tablas de madera colocadas de manera que permiten a la luz penetrar en los espacios inferiores. Los muros del patio son curvados en los puntos de intersección y están pintados con colores llamativos. El patio está parcialmente cubierto por una especie de malla que permite crear sombra y también momentos de luz.

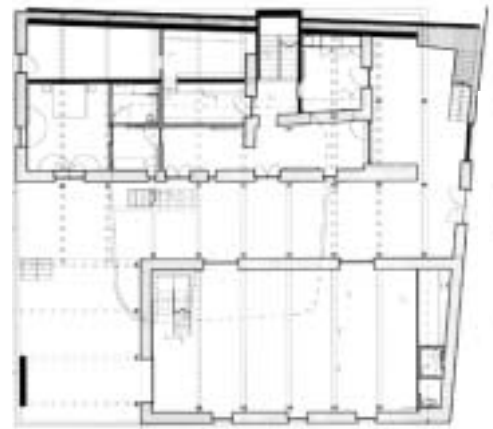
El resto de la casa es muy simple. Es un pabellón con una secuencia de espacios serenos e intensos. Una galería, una explanada elevada, una colección de diferentes ambientes. En definitiva, una sucesión de espacios abiertos.

*The house is built inside a small farm in Minho. A granitic farm with a rural household in a bad condition -the upper floor was ruined, poorly built and short of interest- a storage shed and a slim "street" between them. Ledges sustained by masonry walls, outcroppings, arbors, porches, an existing and envisioned dense foliage.*

*The metallic body of the house is an object; its cladding -titanium, rustproof and dirt-free- will shine upon the romantic and rustic atmosphere. The surface of the titanium, its hue and glow, are of considerable gentleness which will reflect the foliage and light coming through it.*

*This square-shaped body holds a patio inside. The elevated floor is made of wood boards laid down with intervals, allowing for the air and light to circulate and enter the spaces underneath. The patio walls are embracing, curved at the intersections and painted with saturated colours. The patio is partly covered by a trellis providing shadow and filtering light.*

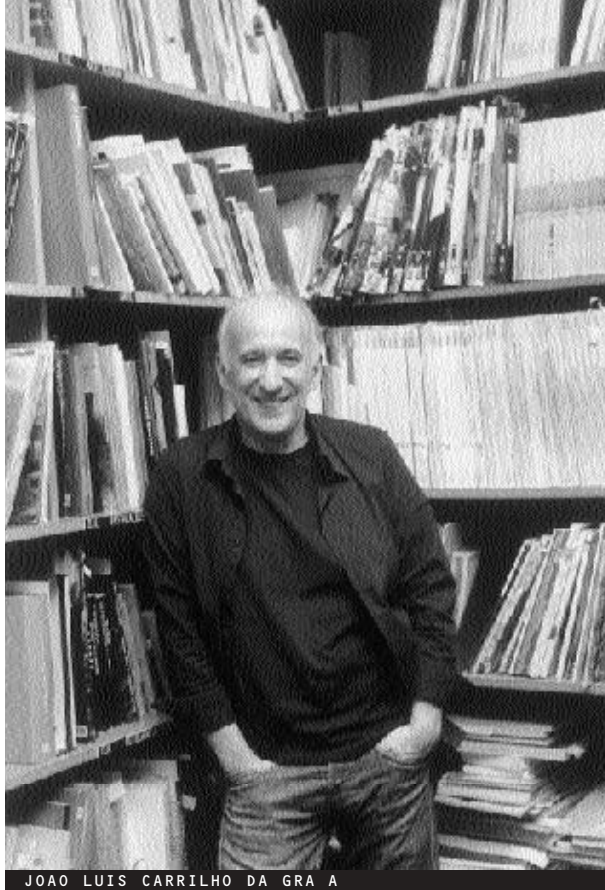
*The rest of the house is razor cut. Simple. Rotating around the patio, contemplative along the metallic facades. It is a pavilion, a belvedere, a sequence of spaces as serene and intense as possible. It is a gallery, an elevated promenade, a collection of settings. It is a string, a succession, a series of open space cores.*



planta baja  
ground floor plan



planta baja  
ground floor



JOAO LUIS CARRILHO DA GRAÇA

Se graduó por la ESBAL (Escola Superior de Belas-Artes de Lisboa) en 1977 y enseñó en la Facultad de Arquitectura de la Universidad Técnica de Lisboa entre 1977 y 1992. Profesor invitado en el departamento de arquitectura de la Universidad Autónoma de Lisboa desde 2001. Ha sido invitado a numerosas universidades, seminarios y conferencias a lo largo del mundo. Es un miembro permanente del jurado italiano para doctorados.

Recibió el Premio Internacional de la Art Critics Association en 1992 por su trabajo, el premio "Relação com o Sítio-Honourable Mention" (Premios de Arquitectura Nacional - Asociación de arquitectos portugueses) en 1993 por la Piscina Municipal Campo Mayor, el premio "SECIL" 1994 por la Escuela Politécnica de Periodismo, el premio FAD 1999 por el Pabellón del Conocimiento de los Mares, así como varias nominaciones por el premio europeo de arquitectura "Mies Van der Rohe".

Su obra ha sido publicado en diversos libros y revistas de arquitectura, recientemente en una monografía publicada por "Electa".

*Graduated from ESBAL (Escola Superior de Belas-Artes de Lisboa) in 1977 and taught at the Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade Técnica de Lisboa between 1977 and 1992. Invited professor at the architecture department of Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa, since 2001. Has been invited to several universities, seminars and conferences all over the world, he is permanent member of the italian jury for doctorates.*

*Received the International Art Critics Association Award in 1992 for the ensemble of his work, the "Relação com o Sítio-Honourable Mention" Award (National Architecture Awards - Portuguese Architects' Association) in 1993 for the Campo Maior Municipal Swimming Pool, the "SECIL" price 1994 for the Polytechnic School of Journalism, the "FAD" price 1999 for the Seas Knowledge Pavilion as well as several nominations for the "Mies Van der Rohe" European Architecture Award.*

*His work has been published in several books and architecture magazines, recently in a monography by "Electa".*

**EXPOSICIONES /**  
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- 1985** XIII Bienal de París, París.
- 1987** La citta e il Fiume, Florencia.
- 1989/1990** Lugares de arquitectura europea, París, Roma y Lisboa.
- 1991** Europalia, Bruselas.
- 1991** Arquitectura portuguesa en los años 60 a 80, Fundación de Serralves, Oporto.
- 1991** Portugal en los 90, Sevilla.
- 1991** Arquitectura y Poesía. Encuentro promovido por Kenneth Frampton. Ciudad de México.
- 1992** Trienal de Milán, Milán.
- 1994** Portugal, cuatro puntos de vista, Ljubljana y Messina.
- 1994** Olas de influencia. Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Nueva York.
- 1997** Diseño de Portugal, antología. Museo Fuer Kunsthandwerk, Frankfurt.
- 1997** Diseño actual portugués, Barcelona.
- 1997/1998** Trienal de Milán, Nova Iorque, Londres y San Paulo.
- 2003** Arquitecturas de Autor, Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona.
- 2003** Exposición de la Fundación de la Bienal de San Paulo: "Desenhos nas cidades, Arquitectura em Portugal".



