

AN URBAN UNIVERSITY:

AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF BUILDING COMPONENTS

by

STANLEY E. PINSKA Bachelor of Architecture University of Minnesota March, 1965

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts on 19 June 1967

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Author:

Thesis Advisor:

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Head of the Department:

I am grateful to Professor Eduardo Catalano and Professor Waclaw Zalewski for their valuable assistance during the development of this project. Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 19 June 1967

Dean Lawrence B. Anderson School of Architecture and Planning Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Dean Anderson:

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Architecture I hereby submit this thesis entitled "An Urban University: An Integrated System of Building Components."

Sincerely,

Stanley E. Pinska

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#### ABSTRACT

Title of Thesis: Phase I - An Integrated Building Component System
Phase II - An Urban University

Author: Stanley E. Pinska

Submitted to the Department of Architecture in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Architecture.

The objective of Phase I of this thesis is to develop a building system based on modern technology of construction, integration of environmental services with structure and future growth as well as internal change.

Thesis advisor: Eduardo F. Catalano Title: Professor of Architecture

#### I. INTRODUCTION

In order that present and future building needs can be met, significant technical advances within the building industry are necessary. The architect, through a collaborative effort with engineers and industry, must develop industrialized construction techniques into a familiar vocabulary. Extensive research into the various disciplines involved in construction will lead to a new creative stimulus.

The master's thesis affords the student the opportunity to study the techniques of industrialized construction and evaluate its in-

Phase I of this thesis deals with research and study. Phase II will serve as an evaluation through application to the design of an urban university campus.

#### II. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this thesis is to develop and evaluate a building system based on the following principles:

- a) Modern technology of prefabrication and assembly
- b) Future growth and internal flexibility
- c) Integration of environmental services with structure.

Design Criteria

a) Modern technology of prefabrication and assembly

In the USA the coefficient of cost of automobiles as compared with the period before 1914 is -50. That is because production was organized in such a way as to exploit the miracle of machines. The coefficient of cost of buildings as compared with the prewar period is +210. That is because no advantage was taken of the methods that might have overcome heavy labor costs in the building trades which are essential to the country. 1

These words, written by LeCorbusier in 1935, clearly express the then and current basic shortcoming in the building industry. The majority of United States industry is able, through production development, to continually provide more product for less money. However, the building industry, still based primarily on on-site labor, continues to provide less for more. At a time when economic prosperity and increasing population point toward an increased

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>LeCorbusier, <u>When the Cathedrals were White</u>, New York, McGraw Hill Book Company, 1964, p. 199.

amount as well as rate of building, the industry is sorely in need of more efficient, improved technique in order to produce more for less. Principles common to the product industry, such as standardization and prefabrication, must be employed by the building industry.

The degree to which construction can be "industrialized" depends not only on prefabrication of components, but also on component assembly. No matter how sophisticated the prefabrication and standardization of elements may be, elements will necessarily have to be "assembled" to complete the building statement. Technology of component assembly is at least as critical a consideration as component prefabrication in the design of building elements.

## b) Future growth and internal flexibility

In buildings such as office facilities, light industrial facilities, research and especially educational facilities, it is not possible to accurately predict future usage requirements beyond, perhaps, 8-10 years. However, the potential life span of most large-scale buildings today is at least 100-150 years. With these two facts in mind, it is obvious that buildings must allow for continued internal usage change during the life span of the structure. Taking an educational facility as an example, it can be seen that shifting of department location, revision of curriculum and increased

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enrollments all suggest the need for adaptable and "readaptable" space. "Form follows function" may or may not be a valid principle; in any case, it becomes extremely important to correctly define the function and, as suggested, it appears that one primary function is the ability to allow for change.

In addition to internal change, buildings must be able to grow. As more effort is directed to our urban development problems, the doctrine of orderly growth potential becomes ever more critical. Buildings must not only allow for change within themselves, but must also anticipate growth. The same reasoning applies to growth as to internal change.

c) Integration of environmental services with structure

The necessity for buildings to allow for internal change has been discussed. This necessity implies the need to supplement the structure with environmental services to create a self-sufficient framework.

In addition, through integration, a more efficient use of space required for structure and services is possible so that greater spans (i.e., more column-free area) will be possible within the same depth or less as is now commonly occupied by structure and services (see diagram).



separate

integrated

III. PROPOSAL

## a) Selection of material

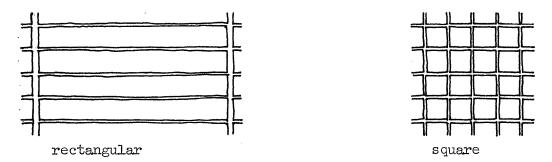
Basically three structural materials are available and commonly used. They are: steel and reinforced concrete, either cast-inplace or precast. To a certain degree contemporary steel construction is based on the principles of prefabrication and standardization. The various shapes and sizes of steel members are both prefabricated and standard. However, with steel construction the variety of components, although standard, is definitely limited and in most cases fireproofing is necessary.

Reinforced concrete offers an unlimited potential for shaping of elements and it is inherently fireproof. In the case of pre-cast concrete practically all the advantages of both concrete and steel construction exist.

However, as with steel, the joinery of components becomes critical. Cast-in-place concrete, although expensive, due to the necessary on-site labor of form erection etc., offers monolithic connection potential. Therefore, by combining precast technique with that of cast-in-place, an extremely logical and efficient solution is possible. A combination of precast and cast-in-place concrete has been chosen as the structural material for this study.

b) Selection of framing system

The two basic types of framing systems are rectangular (one-way) and square (two-way). See diagram.



The rectangular framing system has been chosen for this study based on the following three considerations:

1) The possibility to achieve a greater span, within the same structural depth, than a two-way system. Admittedly this increase in span is only in one direction, but it nevertheless appears to be an advantage.

2) The relatively simple shape of one-directional elements as opposed to the complicated shapes required for two-directional elements.

3) The apparent correlation between the primary-secondary nature of the structural framing and the primary-secondary nature of the air distribution pattern.

## c) Description

A one-way combination precast cast-in-place system based on a 4.5 foot module is proposed. The solution is based on a structural bay of 31.5' x 63.0', with girder spacing of either 9.0' (Scheme "A") or 15.0' (Scheme "B"). In both Schemes A and B vertical distribution of services is directly related to column location. In Scheme A the entire area between columns is utilized for services while in Scheme B the area is divided by a corridor. See diagram.



Scheme B.

The two basic structural elements of the system are based on the precast concrete T-beam. The "girder-beam" is a T-beam with two diaphragms cast either 9.0' or 15.0' apart (whether Scheme A or B). The ends of the "girder-beam" are notched. The "infill beam" is a simple T-beam with notched ends and is placed between the "girder-beams." The columns are cast-in-place.

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Construction sequence<sup>2</sup>

- 1) Erect scaffolding and column formwork
- 2) Pour column to bottom of girder
- 3) Place "girder-beam" elements on scaffolding
- 4) Place post-tension cable and sleeve in girder and place girder stirrups
- 5) Place girder joint forms
- 6) Cast girder joints
- 7) Remove girder joint forms
- 8) Place "infill-beams"
- 9) Post tension girder cables and remove scaffolding and column formwork.
- d) Environmental services

The vertical distribution of services is, as mentioned, accommodated within the space adjacent to the columns. The air distribution is based on each column pair serving one bay in area. The air is supplied vertically at 6000 cfm to a sound attenuator in the plenum. From the attenuator the air travels horizontally at 1200 cfm throughout the bay. The air is returned at 1200 cfm both horizontally and vertically. The system is therefore a "single duct, low velocity, terminal reheat" (electric coils) with potential of reheat coils

<sup>2</sup>Typical floor sequence only.

as needed for individual room control.

The plumbing service required is accommodated with basically the same distribution pattern as the air distribution system.

Electric and telephone circuits are distributed from the cores within the leveling slab.

#### IV. SUMMARY - EVALUATION

Of the various considerations affecting the solution, two play a dominant role. First, at the outset of the study it was assumed that the structure would be uniform in depth, thereby establishing a flat undersurface to aid standardization of partition height for increased flexibility. Secondly, the beams were designed to be continuous across the girders so that a cantilever condition could be developed. The cantilever allows for variation in the length of the beams and therefore increasing planning flexibility.

Since, in some ways, these considerations are at odds with each other, they tend to complicate the solution. This complication is ultimately concentrated at the connection of beam and girder. For this reason the combination of precast and cast-in-place construction seems to be a logical choice.

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# PROPOSAL: PHASE II

Although many of the factors considered in the development of the component system are general in nature and applicable to various types of facilities the planning module, on the other hand, is more directly related to the particular function to be accommodated. The planning module of the proposed system is based on increments of 4'-6". Three types of functional requirements determined the 4'-6" dimension: laboratory facilities, office facilities and parking.<sup>2</sup> Increments of 9'-0" are often adopted in laboratory planning.<sup>3</sup> Either 9'-0" or 13'-6" is a satisfactory dimension for the types of offices necessary in a university. Parking spaces of 9'-0" x 18'-0" are a common size and the column spacing of 31'-6" x 72'-0" (27'-0" x 63'-0" clear) allows for rows of parking oriented in either direction within the bay. Facilities such as classrooms, lecture halls, seminar rooms and special functions are somewhat more flexible in terms of exact dimensions and were considered as secondary factors to the determination of planning module.

# <sup>1</sup>See Introduction, page 1.

 $^{2}$ According to Carl Peterson, Director of the Physical Plant of MIT, the Institute has found 9'-0" to be a satisfactory module for laboratory planning.

 $^{3}$ It is assumed that a large amount of parking will be accommodated below the academic space.

The site selected for this project is in the Washington Park Urban Renewal District of Boston. It is bounded on the west by Washington Street, on the north by Dudley Street, on the east by Warren and Walnut Streets and on the south by Dale Street. The area to the north of the site is the southern limit of a commercial area along Washington Street. A portion of this commercial area extends along Warren Street. The remainder of the surrounding neighborhood is residential in character, composed of one and two family dwellings. There is a small park (Washington Park) to the south of the site across Dale Street. The site is approximately a 1:2 rectangle, being actually somewhat narrower at the northern portion.

Ten MBTA (Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority) rapid transit routes either pass through or terminate at Dudley Street station one block north of the site. The site is basically one large hill with a plateau approximately in the center. The north portion slopes from elevation 35.0' at Dudley Street to the plateau elevation of 125.0'. The remainder of the perimeter slopes up from approximately 65.0' of elevation.

The organization of the university facilities is based on the interdependence of the following elements:

1) categories of space usage

2) horizontal and vertical circulation

3) site shape and accessibility

The categories of space usage are defined as follows: Group spaces (classrooms, lecture halls, seminar rooms, etc.), individual spaces (laboratories, offices, studios, etc.) and special spaces (library, auditorium, student center, theater, etc.).

The organization of the various spaces of the university is directly related to circulation. The critical demands on the circulation system naturally occur during "class-break." This fact suggests that group spaces should be located as close together as possible to minimize the distance the student must travel during class-break. It should be noted that "distance minimized" should be vertical as well as horizontal. Since it is basically impractical to move large numbers of people via elevators (especially at only 6-7 times a day) group spaces should be in areas of only 3-4 stories. Individual spaces do not have the "peak load" type of circulation pattern. For this reason, plus the necessity for low percentage of land use inherent in any urban structure, the individual spaces can easily be "stacked" vertically and served by elevators. In addition, it is not a necessity that individual spaces (of various different departments) be close together.

The shape of the site and the points of access to it, plus the factors discussed earlier, ultimately define the form of the university. The rectilinear shape of the site, the linear structural system, and the need for orderly growth led to a solution based on a linear organization of elements. The university is structured along an open space which runs the length of the site and serves as a "spine." The spaces directly adjacent to the spine are group spaces. The individual spaces are located outside the group spaces toward the site boundary.

In each of the two major elements adjacent to the spine there is a primary circulation artery that serves the length of the complex. The vertical service cores are located regularly along the artery and determine the location of secondary corridors perpendicular to the main arteries. The special functions such as the library, student center, theater and auditorium are located along the spine and coincide with connections across the open space. In this way the special spaces act as "landmarks" in the campus circulation system. The linear nature of the complex allows for orderly growth to the south.

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# AN URBAN UNIVERSITY

(Site Plan and Buildings Design)

A college in the northeast U.S.A. has acquired 65 acres of land near the heart of its capital city, with the purpose of developing a new campus.

The present facilities outside the city are overcrowded; and buildings and site restrictions do not allow further growth. The construction of a new campus closer to the very dense populated areas of the city seems to be the most proper solution to their problem. It brings back the academic life into the heart of the city and allows the organization of a branch institution as a free community, self-directed and new.

## Program

:

<u>Site</u>: Area - 65 acres. Shape of site to be determined by each designer, who is also free to determine street widths, topography, and surroundings.

The site is within an area subject to urban renewal, with buildings four to six stories high of mixed uses for housing and light industry.

It is expected that the construction of the new university will influence the renewal of such areas, which hopefully will become an integrated part of a larger development.

<u>Density</u>: Since land is scarce and expensive, the college has decided to build a very dense group of buildings and adopt a master plan that allows horizontal and vertical growth. For this reason, no outdoor athletic activities, which demand large areas, are included in the college program.

<u>Number of students</u>: A first stage of construction for 5,800 students will satisfy the college needs til 1980. It is contemplated that the college will have an enrollment of 12,000 at the turn of the century.

:

<u>Design Approach</u>: A program is presented, with indication of the different disciplines or departments and area required for each one. This information is provided with the sole purpose of giving the designer an idea of the elements needed, whether spaces for office work, laboratories, classrooms, libraries, workshops, seminar rooms, or spaces for social, living or eating activities.

The general study of the need required by each function will allow the designer to set the organization of the building system, as related to spans, vertical and horizontal circulation, services, demountability, growth, and floor to ceiling heights.

The designs prepared are not expected to show with precision the location of each room, which could be of a temporary condition. It should however show that the building system is flexible enough to permit within its free envelope the location and number of rooms of different uses at any time in its life span.

Experience has shown that the constant changes in educational systems; growth and the creation of new disciplines demand a flexible system.

It is accepted that within the order created by a unified module of bays there will be spaces that recognize specific needs, such as housing, athletic facilities, theatre-auditorium, etc.

<u>Site Plan</u>: Special importance should be given to the development of the site plan, regarding spatial definition of entrances to site and buildings, interior automobile circulation, design of an underground network of servies (power plant, tunnels with utilities) to connect and serve every building or area of the project and landscape.

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It is requested to design a continuous circulation system as to be able to move from place to place, within enclosed spaces.

<u>Design Development</u>: One complete level of the project should be developed with enough detail as to incorporate in it, in a rational planned manner, as many activities as required by the program in order to show that the building system proposed is capable of housing rooms of many sizes and functions.

## Requirements:

- 1. Site plan, with complete indication of roads, landscape.
- 2. Model of first stage of construction for 5,800 students.
- 3. First underground level, showing parking and services.
- 4. Underground connecting network of mechanical and electrical services.
- 5. Two plans one should show distribution of functions as explained in "Design Development."
- 6. Two sections.
- 7. Two elevations.
- 8. Plan showing growth.
- Detailed plan of the most significant open space, showing construction details such as: paving, steps, ramps, parapets, landscape areas, rails, benches, outdoor lighting, and part of the surrounding buildings.
- 10. Four photographs of model 8" x 10".
- ll. Report.

Partial deadlines will be set for each requirement.

Presentation techniques will be unified by determining drafting standards. The material required for this project together with the one prepared for the spring semester, will constitute the required thesis.

Last jury before presentation will be held the 3rd week of May. Final jury will be held the 15th of June 1967.

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-4-

Simplified Program

Gaioneo		<u>sq. ft.</u>
<u>Science</u> Total Gross Area		507,160
Mathematics Department		2019200
Administration and Staff Classrooms and seminar rooms Instructional Laboratories Research and graduate facilities		
	Totals	17,060
Physics Department		
Administration and staff Classrooms and seminar rooms Instructional laboratories Research and Graduate facilities		29,200 26,600 40,500 <u>30,400</u>
	Totals	126,700
Chemistry Department		
Administration and staff Classrooms and seminar rooms Instructional laboratories Research and graduate facilities		31,800 29,000 44,300 33,200
	Totals	138,300
Geology, Meteorology, Geophysics 1	Department	
Administration and staff Classrooms and seminar rooms Instructional laboratories Research and graduate facilities	Totals	26,800 24,300 37,000 <u>27,800</u> 115,900
Biology Department		
Administration and staff Classrooms and seminar rooms Instructional laboratories Research and graduate facilities		25,100 22,900 35,000 26,200
	Totals	109,200
Engineering		

Total Gross Area

460,000

Section A February 1967	- 5-	
Electrical Engineering (550 students, 56 staff)		<u>sq.ft.</u>
Administration and staff Classrooms and seminars Instructional laboratories Research laboratories		11,000 7,700 28,380 _19,360
	Totals	66,440
<u>Mechanical Engineering</u> (500 students, 56 staff) Administration and staff Classrooms and seminars Instructional laboratories Research laboratories		10,000 7,000 91,180 62,080
	Totals	170,260
<u>Metallurgy</u> (200 students, 25 staff) Administration and staff Classrooms and seminars Instructional laboratories Research laboratories		4,000 2,800 12,600 8,580
	Totals	27,980
<u>Civil Engineering</u> (270 students, 29 staff) Administration and staff Classrooms and seminars Instructional laboratories Research laboratories		5,400 3,380 27,666 18,834
	Totals	55 <b>,</b> 680
Sanitary Engineering (90 students, 11 staff) Administration and staff Classrooms and seminars Instructional laboratories Research laboratories	Totals	1,800 1,260 9,220 <u>6,280</u> 18,960
Commutation Contra		10,900
<u>Computation Center</u> Total Gross Area		
TOTAT GLOSS ALGA		45,000

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<u>Chemical Engineering</u> (40 students, 9 staff) Administration and staff Classrooms and seminars Instruction laboratories Research laboratories		<u>sq. ft</u> . 800 560 2,960 _1,740
	Totals	5,660
Energy and Propulsion (550 students, 56 staff) Administration and staff Classrooms and seminars Instructional laboratories Research laboratories	Totals	11,000 7,700 51,600 <u>35,200</u> 105,500
Library		
(contains 50,000 books) Books Administration Students Reading Room	<b>m</b> e 1 - 1 -	3,750 3,000 <u>3,750</u>
	Totals	10,500
(sq. ft. per student: 2	08) Total:	460,980
<u>School of Humanities</u> (1,150 students)		
Total Gross Area		121,194
Total Gross Area Library for 70,000 volumes Shelving Seating Sound room (language) General area	Total	121,194 7,000 13,800 500 1,000 22,300
Library for 70,000 volumes Shelving Seating Sound room (language)	Total	7,000 13,800 500 1,000
Library for 70,000 volumes Shelving Seating Sound room (language) General area Faculty and staff personnel 20 seminars 20 classrooms Journal laboratories Audio classroom	Total	7,000 13,800 500 1,000 22,300 30,190 7,500 14,000 5,546 1,260 40,398

Total Gross Area

206,650

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School of Architecture and I	<u>Planning</u> (cont.)	<u>sq. ft.</u>
<u>General</u> Dean's office Conference Library Exhibition rooms (2) Projection room Research (indoors) Research (outdoors) Seminar rooms (5) Lounge	Total	1,400 600 30,000 12,000 1,000 12,000 20,000 3,000 6,000 86,000
		·
Architecture Department Studios (8) Model storage Faculty Administration		35,900 6,000 6,160 
	Total	49,060
City and Regional Planning J Studios (3) Maps, reference, etc. Faculty Administration	<u>Department</u>	15,000 600 3,300 700
	Total	19,600
<u>Construction Department</u> Studios (4) Workshops (2) Sample exhibition Faculty Administration	Total	20,000 12,000 6,000 2,600 600 41,200
<u>Visual Design Department</u> Studios (4) Darkrooms (2) Project studio Technician Discussion and jury Plaster area		6,000 900 2,400 300 1,000 200
	Total	206,660
(sg. ft. per student: "	590 approx.)	

(sq. ft. per student: 590 approx.)

-8-

Total gross area		221,900
Public catalogue Bibliography Processing departments Lobby and display Reference Humanities Sciences Recreational reading Periodicals		2,000 1,500 4,000 3,000
Open stacks for 500,000 books 2,000 readers with 35 sq. ft. p Map room Rare books Music Lounge Listening rooms Newspaper reading Scanners Microfilm storage Library lounge Seminars (8 with 240 sq. ft.)	ber reader	120,000 1,200 1,800 3,000 1,200 1,300 600 900 1,400 2,000
	Total	143,900
Classrooms (3 with 600 sq. ft.) Conference rooms (6 with 240 sq. ft Miscellaneous offices and workrooms Receiving and shipping Bookbinding Photostating and reproducing Staff lounge Closed stacks with carrels and stud	3	1,800 1,500 5,000 1,200 1,000 1,500 1,000
oasis, 500,000 books	ţŷ	<u>50,000</u> 206,900
Circulation and mechanical		15,000
	Total	221,900

### Museum

Total gross area

25,650

Just by its function a museum is verry difficult to program. Its functions vary with the kind of collections it can have, in this case collections owned by the museum itself are going to be very small. The following information has to be taken as proportional and not as a definitive number.

-9-

Temporary exhibit space Permanent exhibit space Storage (1/3)

	Total	23,000
6 offices (director, assistant Auditorium (50 seats) Services	z, etc.)	1,350 900 400
	Total-annex	2,650
<u>Parking Area</u> Students Staff Employees Visitors		1,500 400 550 50 2,500 cars

It is requested to provide at least 250 cars on grade close to the several entrances.

## Auditorium

1,400 seats and a theatre with 600 seats	
Total gross area	54,070
Large Auditorium	21,900
Front lobbies and offices	5,820
Back stage area	3,980
Auditorium and platform	12,200
<u>The Theatre</u>	32,170
Front lobbies and offices	3,240
Auditorium	4,350
Stage	7,200
Back stage	17,200

# Athletic Facilities

Intercollegiate Basketball Arena (8,000 capacity)	
Main floor area	90,000
Service level	45,000
(including mechanical, storage, varsity	
locker rooms, training rooms and general	
maintenance)	
General Athletic Facili <u>ties</u>	
General Autretic Factitutes	

Total gross area

150,000

		<u>sq. ft</u> .
Administrative facilities		15,000
Athletic director		
Coaching staff		
Intramural offices		
Clerical staff		
Ticket sales		
Miscellaneous		
Lobby (display)		4,000
Special gyms		15,000
- Men (3)		
Women (2)		
Tennis courts included		_
Swimming pools (2)		8,000
General Locker room facilities		25,000
Game rooms		15,000
Handball courts (10)		
Boxing, etc. (5)		
Apparatus rooms (2)		
Tumbling (1)		1. 000
Recreation Rooms		4,000
Men (1)		
Women (1)		10.000
Bowling Alleys (16)		12,000
Main Athletic Equipment Storage		2,000
Laundry		2,000
Mechanical		15,000
	Total - net	117,000
	Total gross	150,000
	2	
Graduate Center		
(1,000,students)		

(1,000 students)

Total gross area

400,000

The Graduate student center is formed by 4 units called houses of 250 students each. One of these houses is for women graduate students.

# Undergraduate Center

(for 2,000 students)

Total gross area (approx.)

867,000

The undergraduate center is formed by 7 units called houses of 285 students each (5 for men and 2 for women).

# Married Student Housing

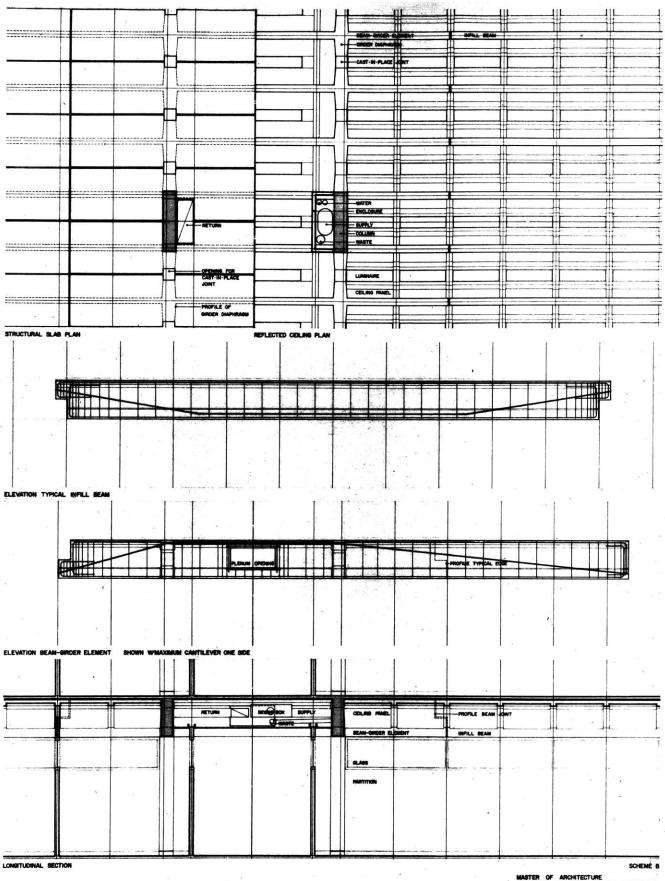
(250 units)

Total gross area

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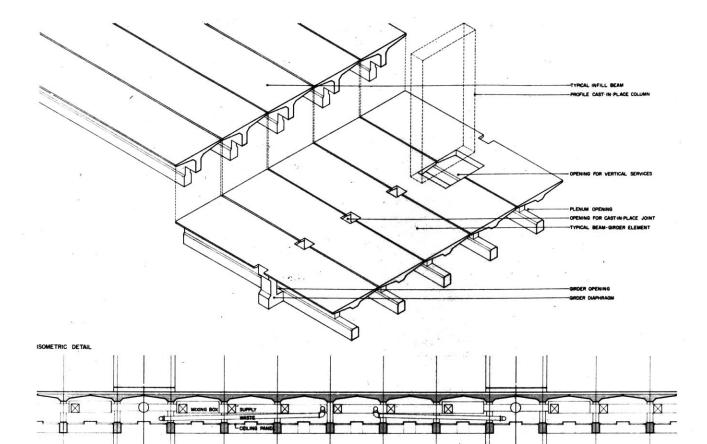
220,000

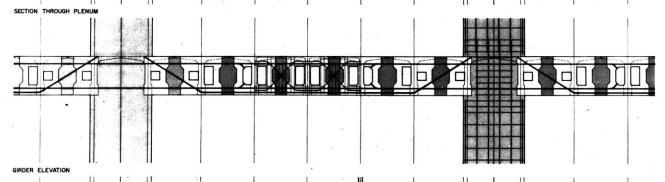
<u>Student Center</u> Total gross area		<u>sq. ft.</u> 170,000
<u>Medical Department</u> : (clinic, infirmary for 100 students Total gross area	s)	100,000
<u>Physical Plant</u> Power plant Workshops Technical office	Total	100,000



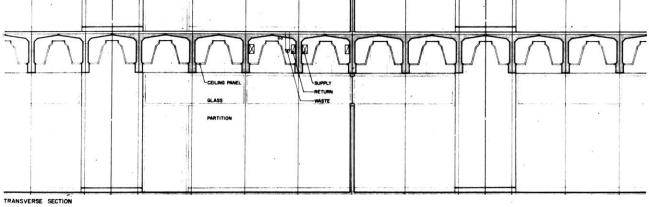
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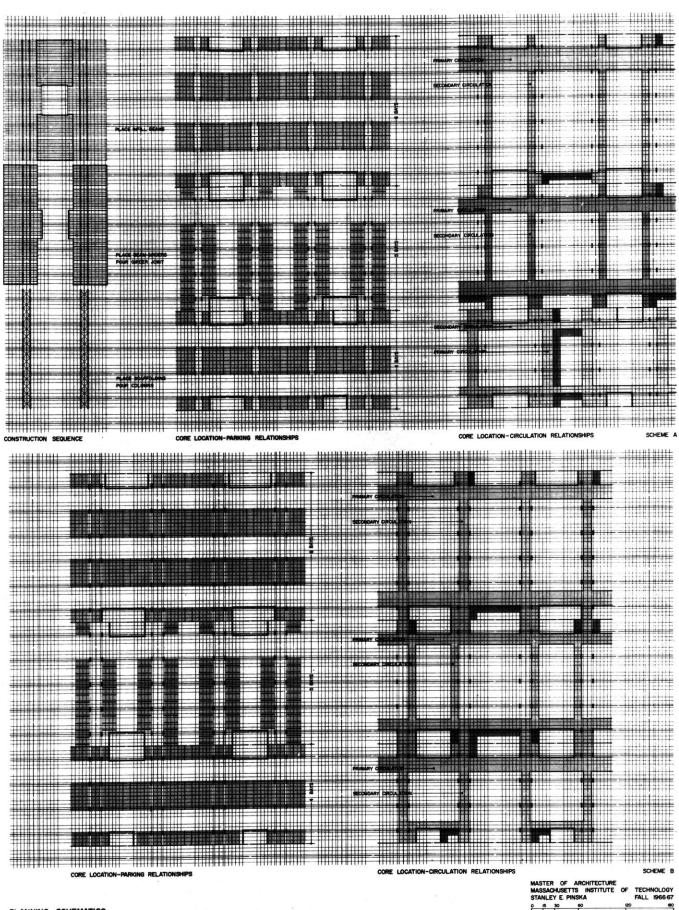


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COMPONENT	DETAILS
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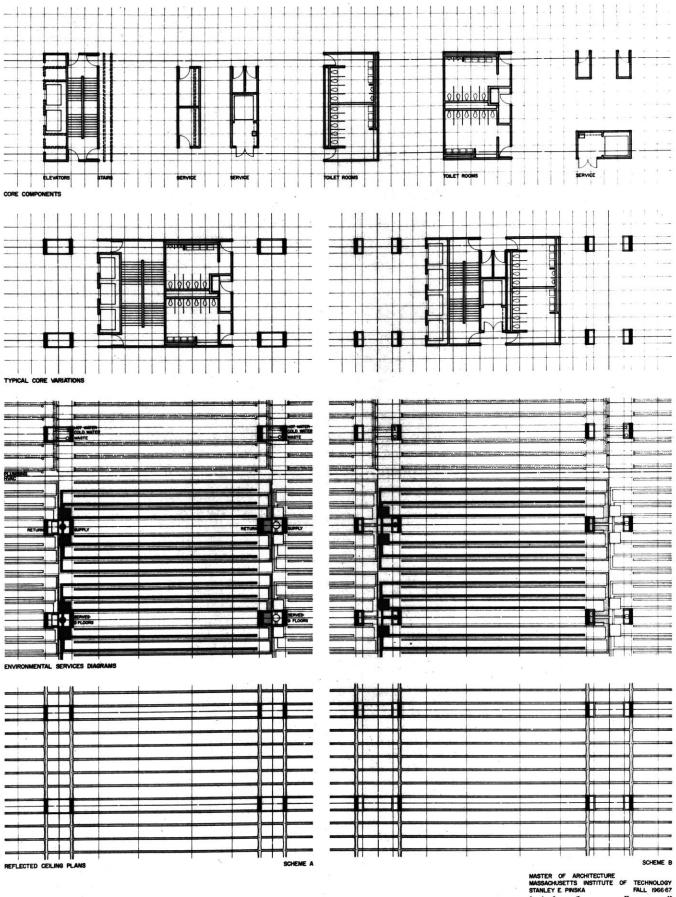
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PLANNING SCHEMATICS

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CORE COMPONENTS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

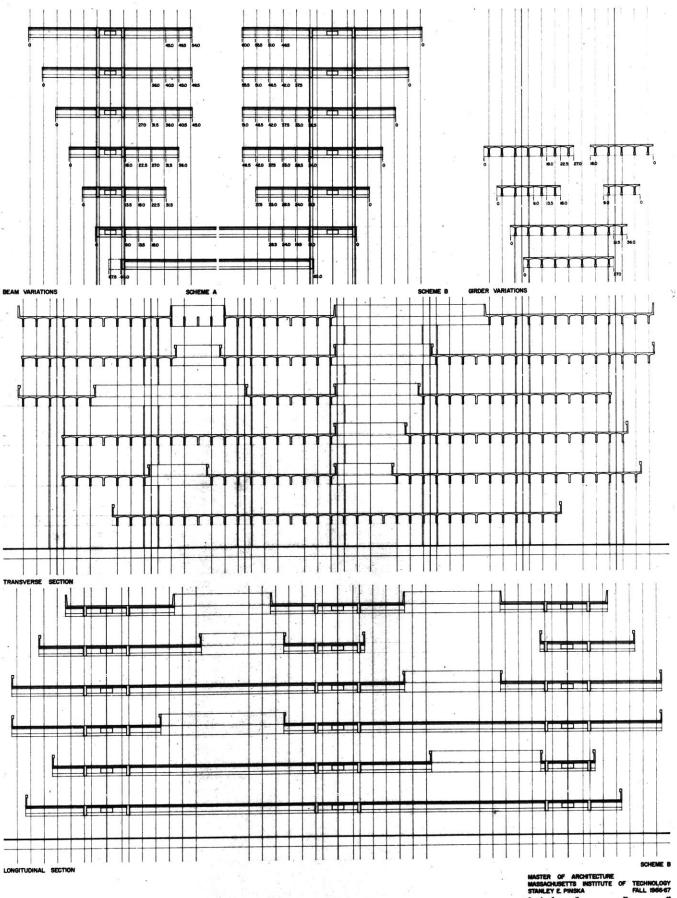
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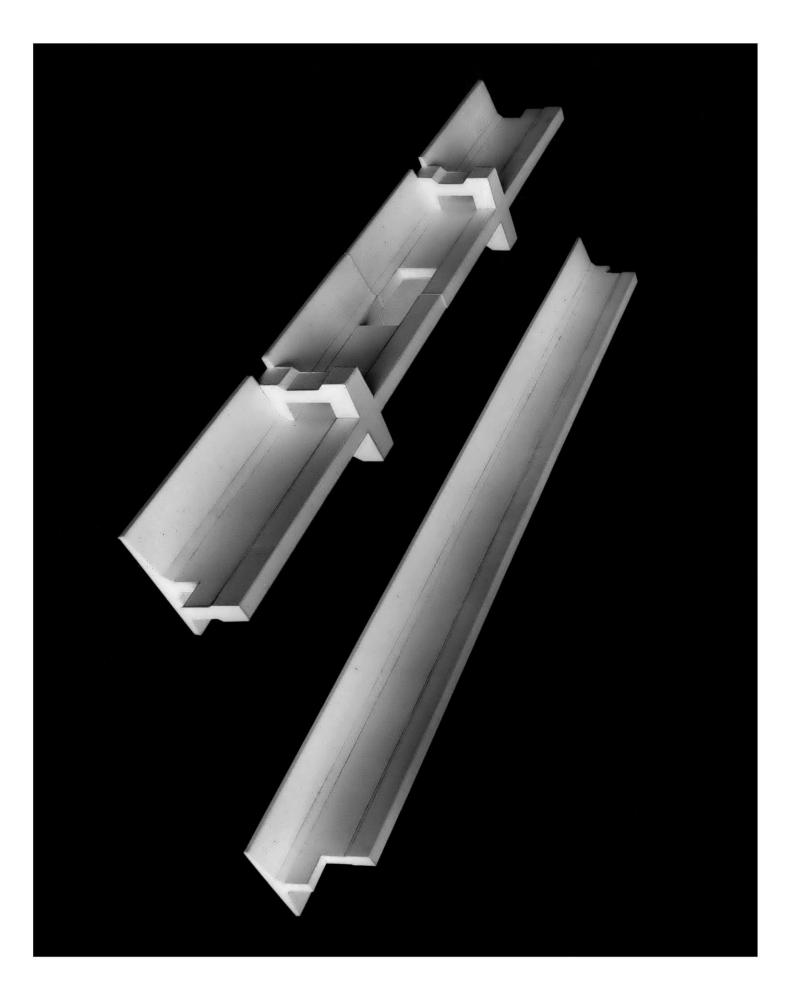
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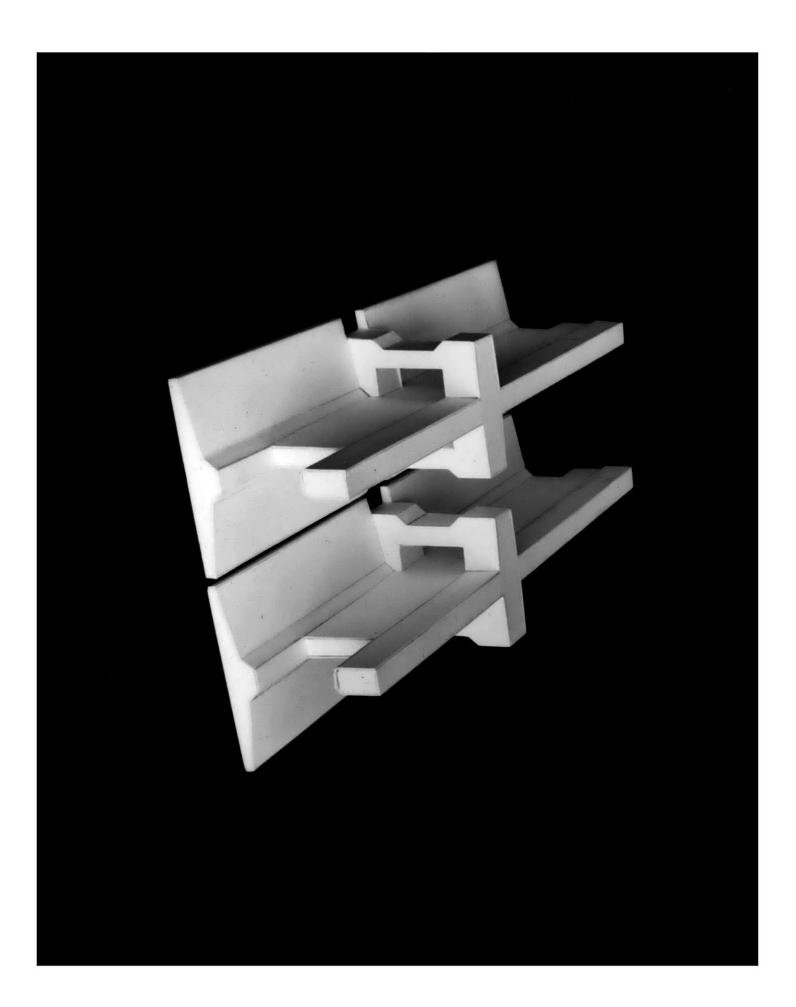
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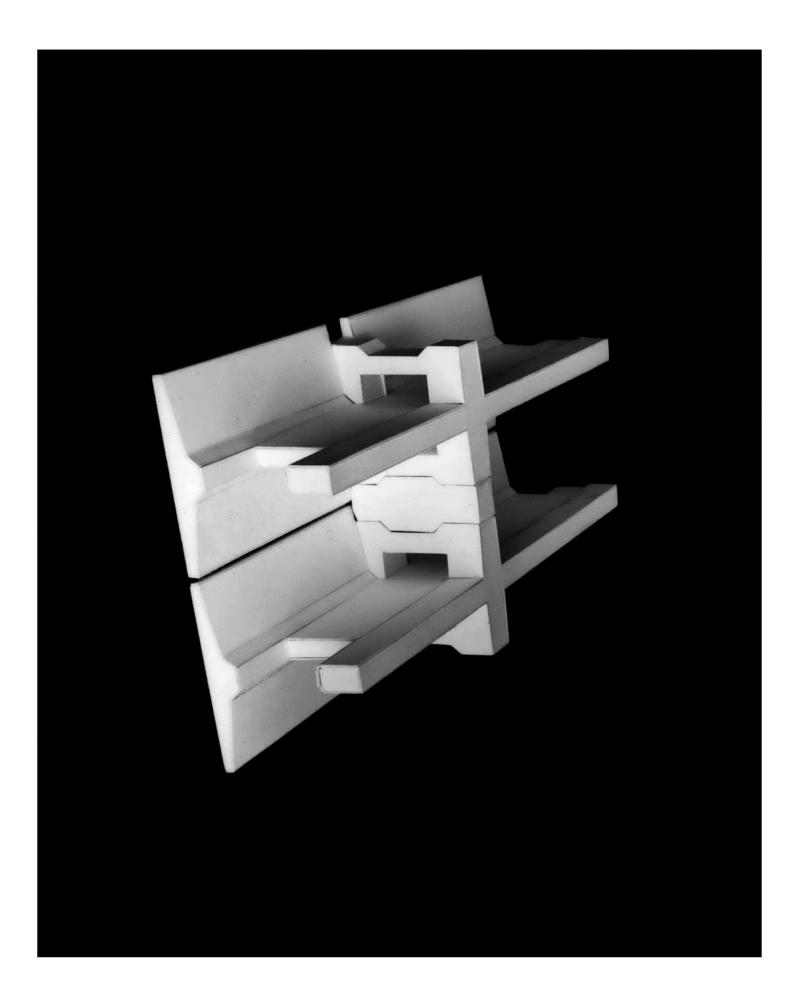


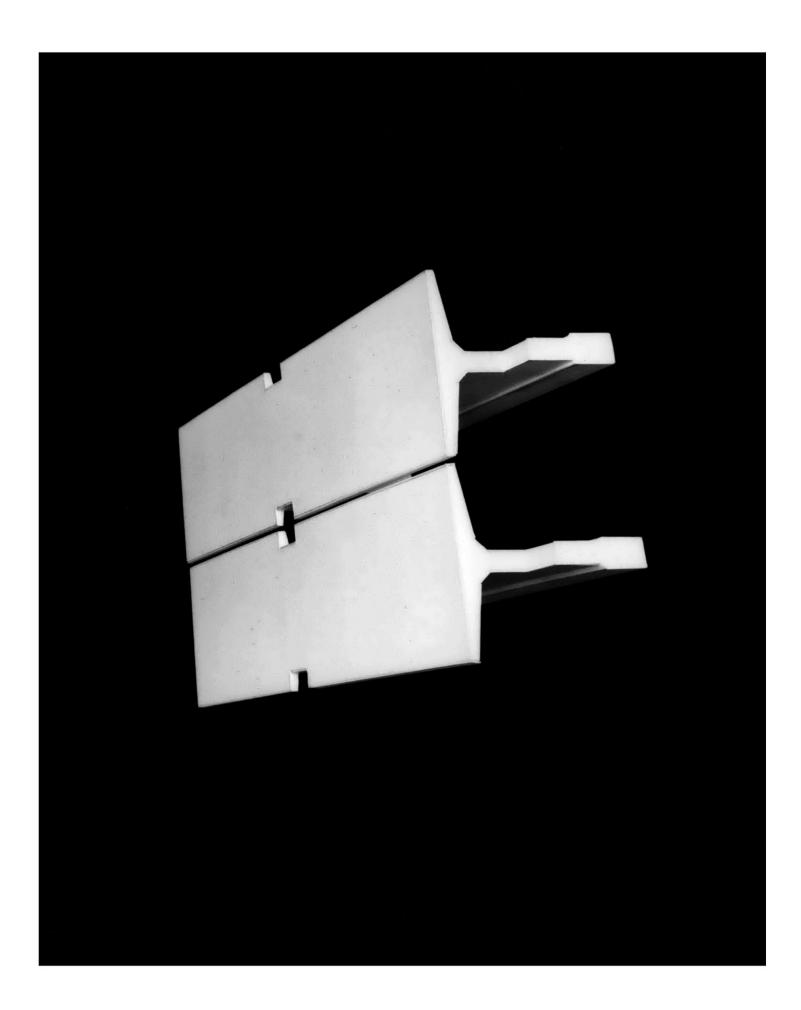
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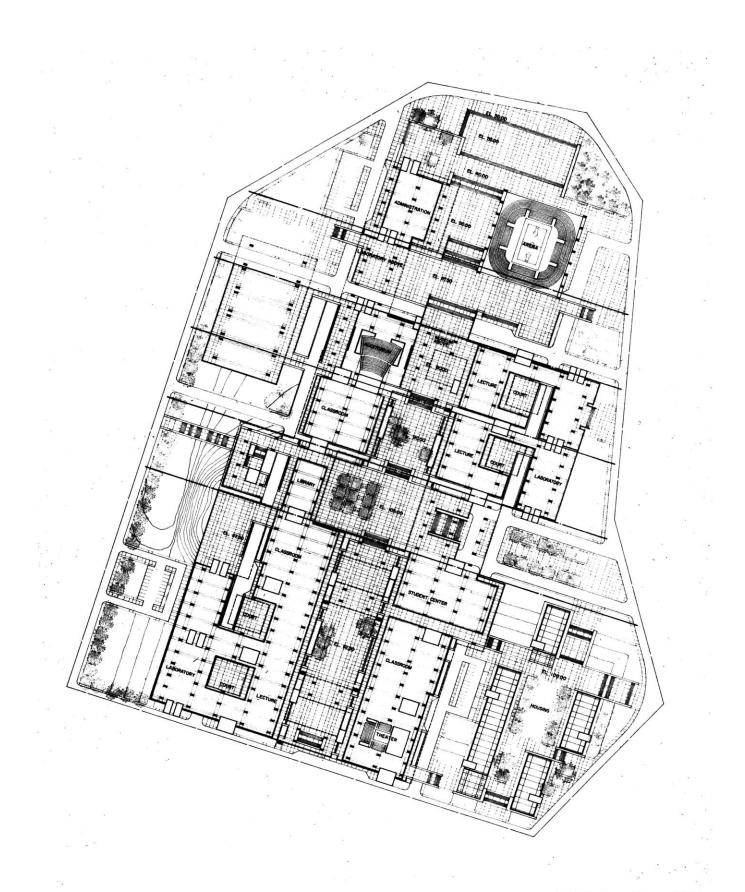




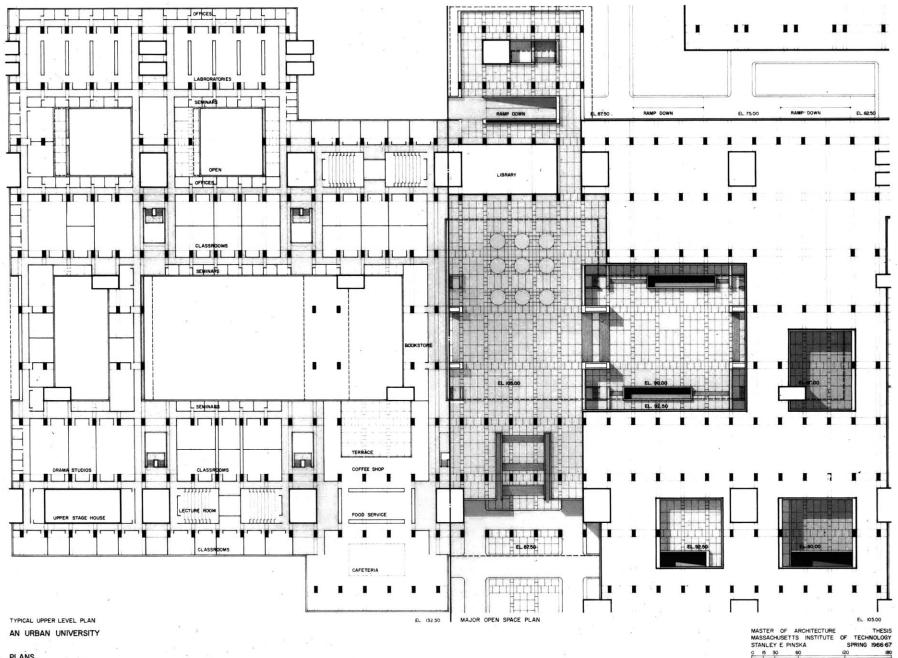


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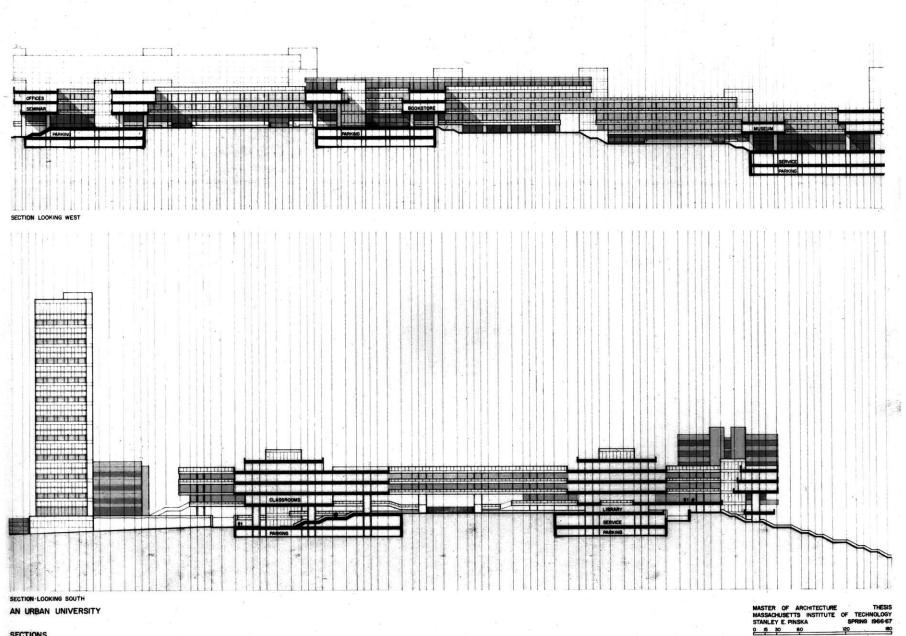
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