



Ara Pacis Museum

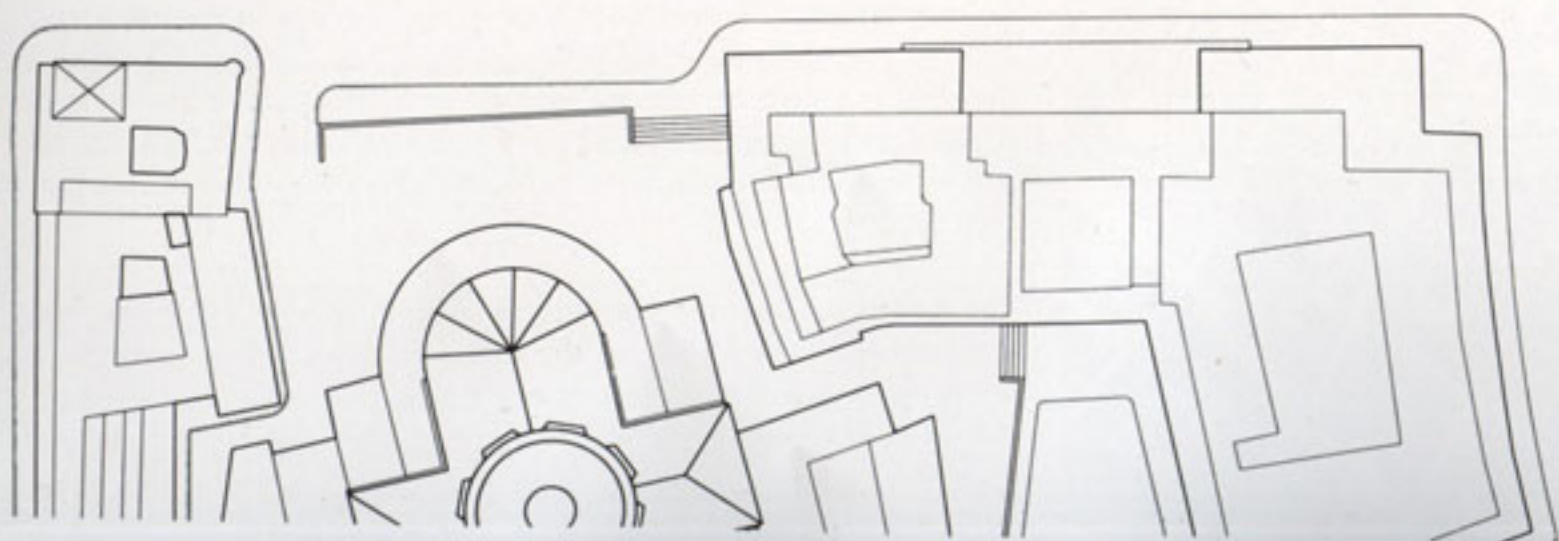
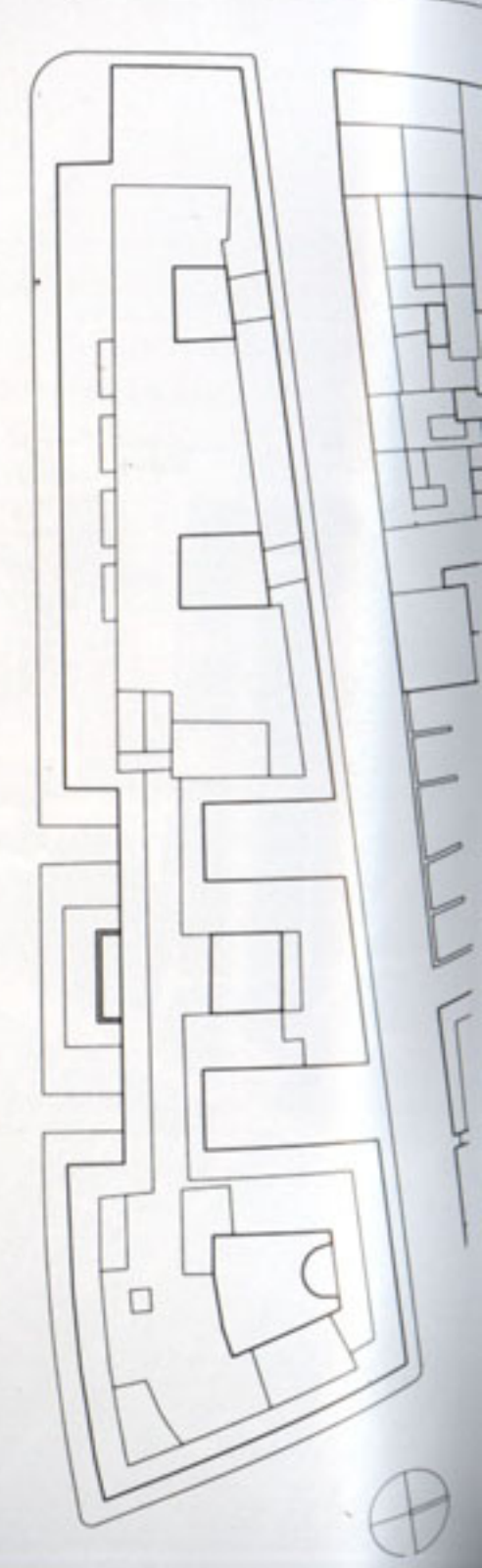
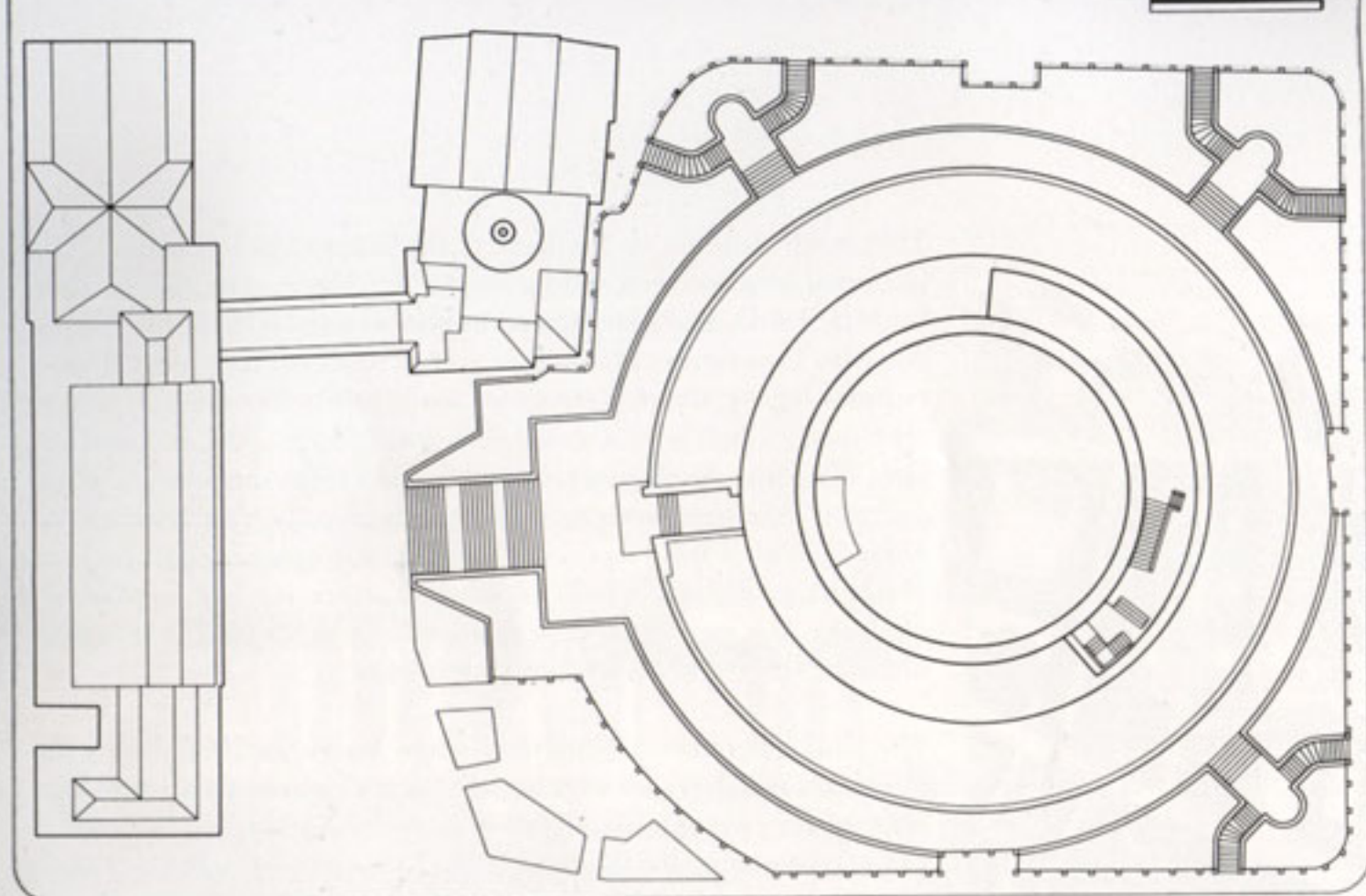
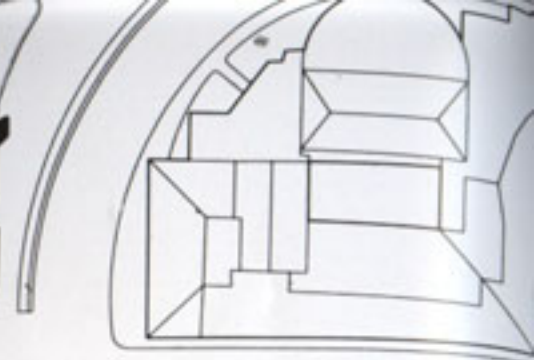
*Rome, Italy
1995–2000*



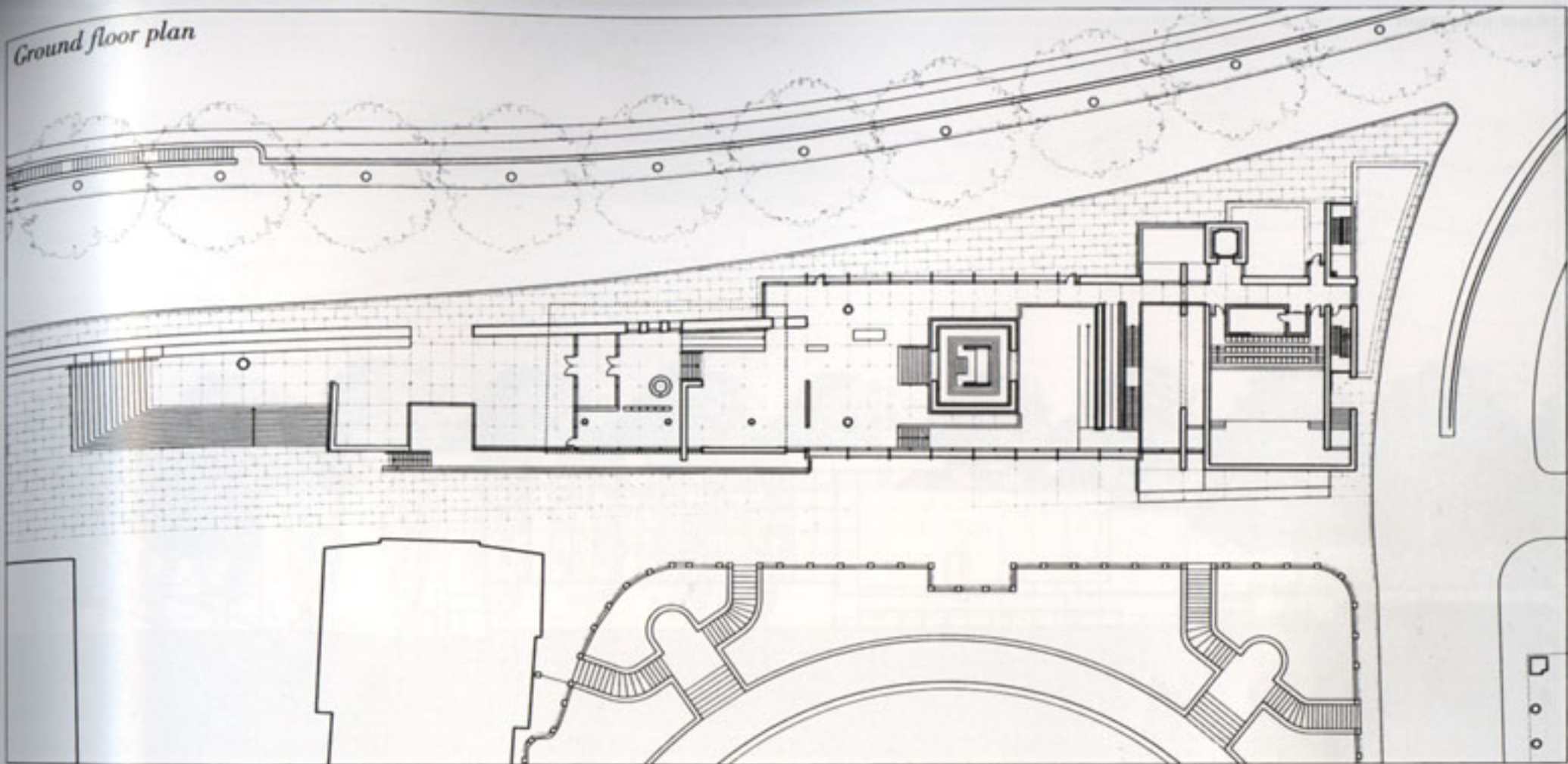
This small museum on the bank of the Tiber river has been designed as a renewed setting for the Ara Pacis, a sacrificial altar built in 9 A.D. and now located on the western edge of the Piazza Augusto Imperatore. Planned as part of an effort to protect Rome's cultural legacy, the new structure replaces the monument's present enclosure, which is in a state of advanced decay. The proposal consists of a long, single-story, glazed loggia elevated above a shallow podium. This structure provides a transparent barrier between the embankment of the Tiber and the existing, circular perimeter of the Mausoleum of Augustus. In addition to protecting and displaying the altar, the new pavilion will accommodate a small exhibition space, a museum shop, and a 150-seat auditorium.

The altar was removed from the Campo Marzio in 1938 during the Mussolini era. In order to relate the altar's present position to its original site, we applied a system of regulating lines to the new project. Bisecting the distance between the present center of the mausoleum and its original site yielded a four-square urban grid that was used as a proportional frame to reorganize the piazza and its surroundings. An artificial obelisk is used as a historical reference on the north-south axis through the altar. The space housing the altar is top-lit by adjustable monitor lighting, while the loggia-pavilion is faced in stone and steel-framed plate glass. The overall syntax refers discreetly to the Italian Rationalist architecture of the 1930s.

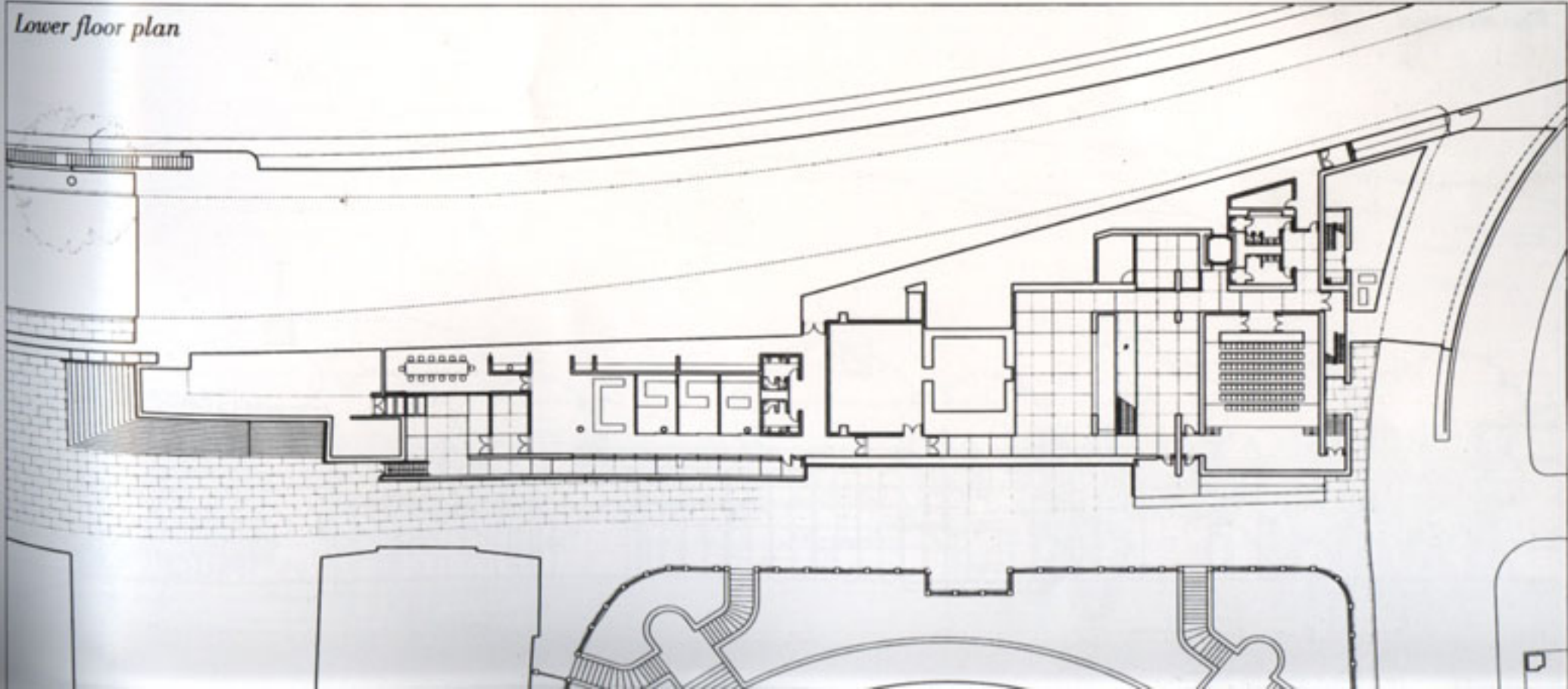
The design for the new Ara Pacis Museum complex will be an integral part of a master plan for the Augustan area. The area will be converted to a pedestrian zone, and traffic circulation surrounding the mausoleum and the Ara Pacis will be modified appropriately.

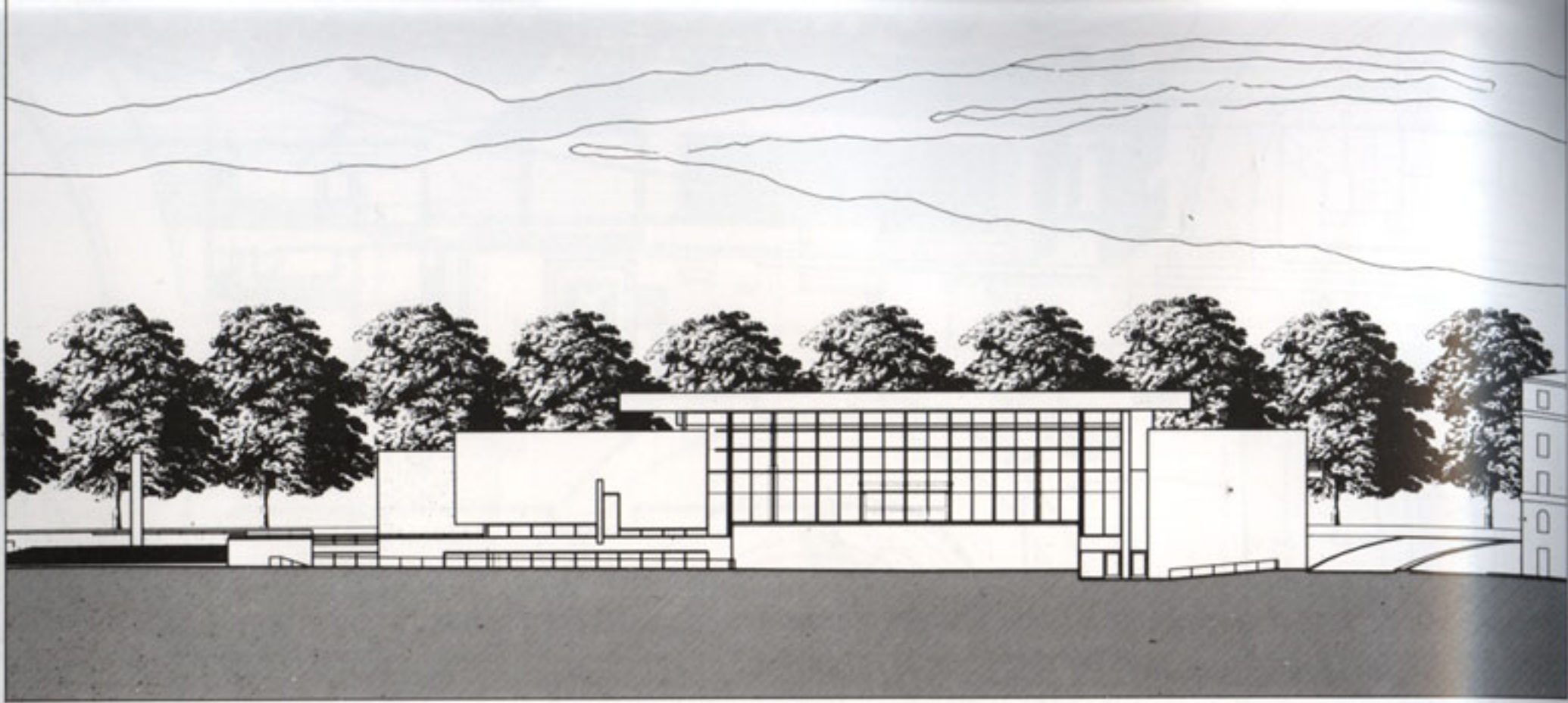


Ground floor plan

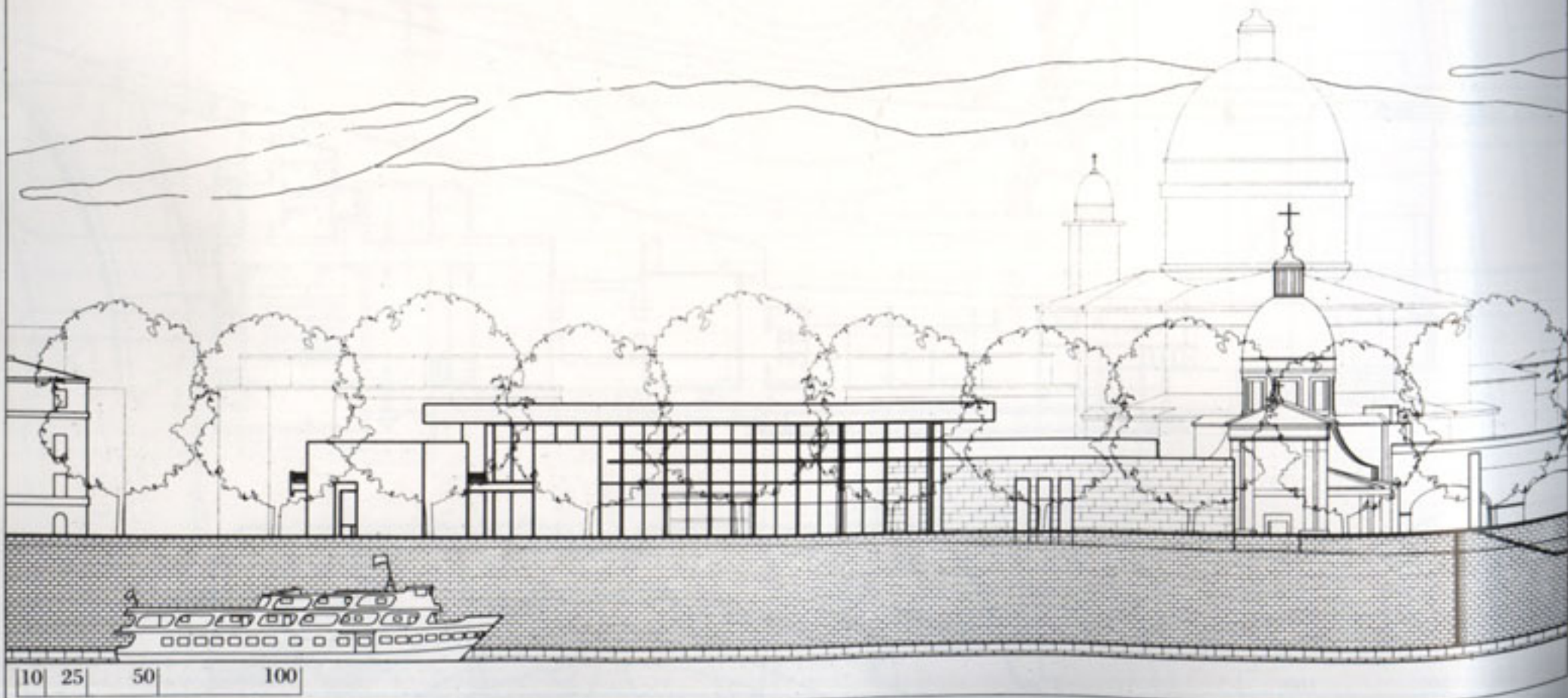


Lower floor plan

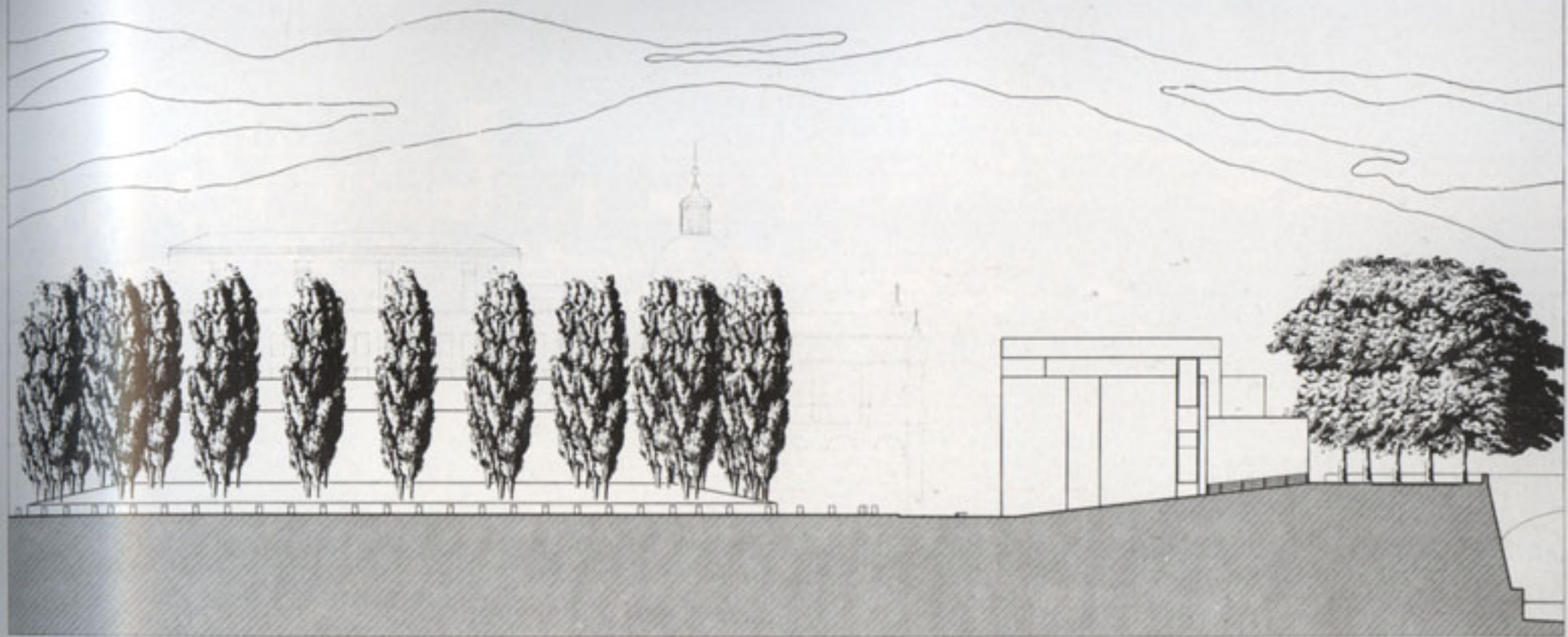




West elevation



North elevation



South elevation

