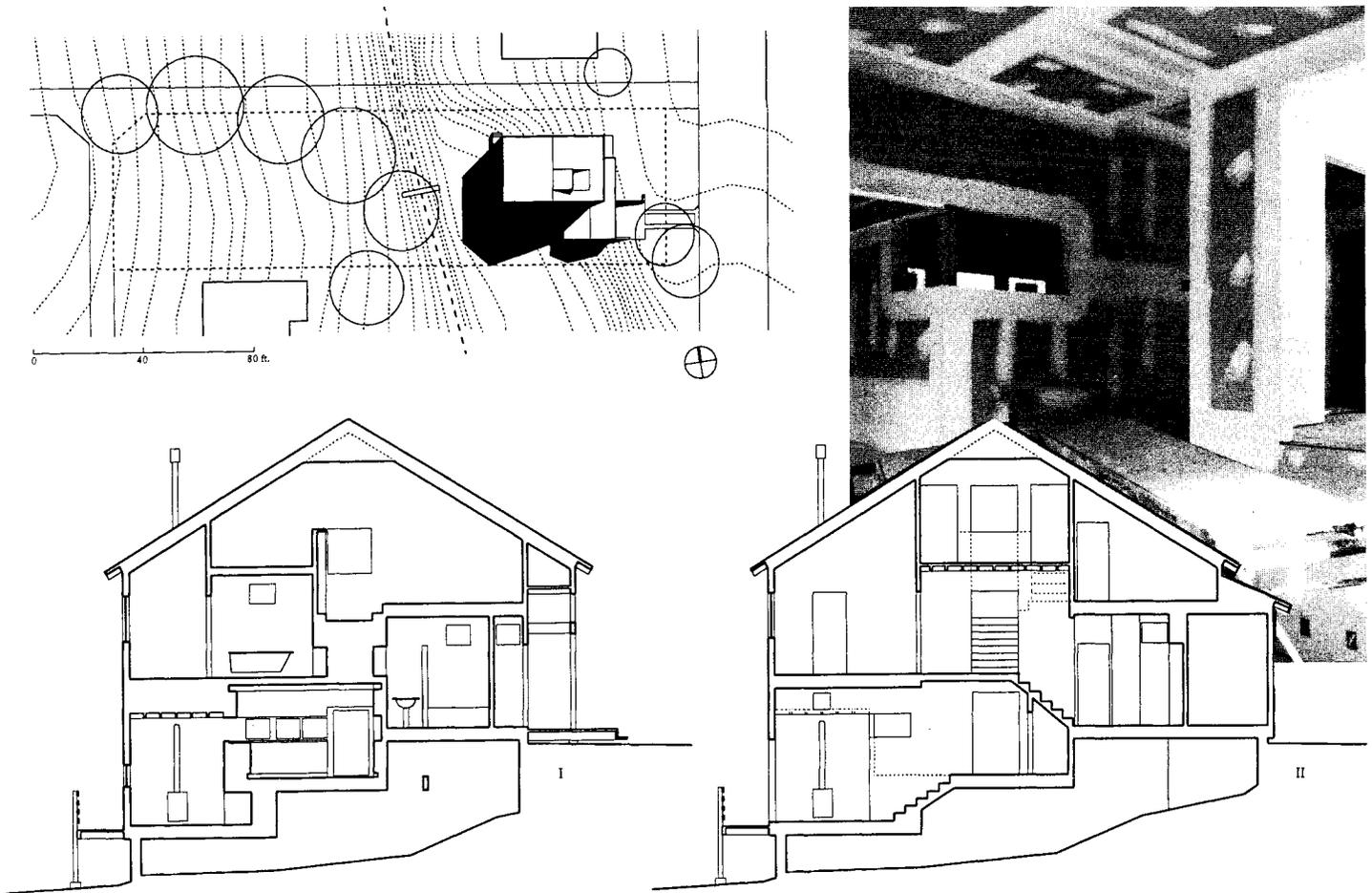


# A Plan of Volumes<sup>1</sup>

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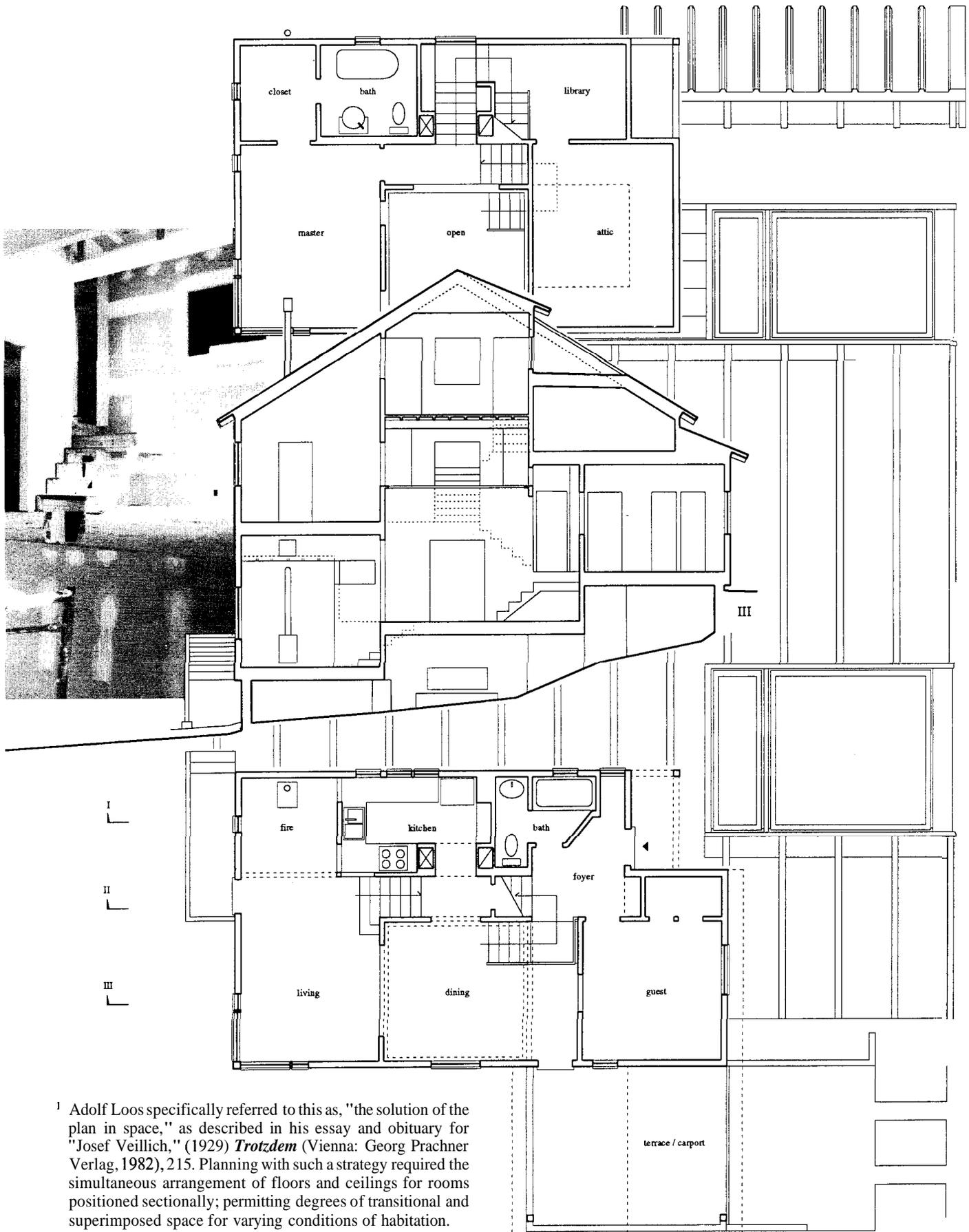
*This house, recently completed in a post-war neighborhood in Charlotte, North Carolina, was an exercise in spatial definition as well as displacement. Conceived primarily in the vertical dimension, the project sought to suspend the conventions of plan-making in favor of exploring the open and often ambiguous nature of the section. Consecutive slices through a benign exterior form resulted in interior volumes positioned on six varying levels, totaling 1,600 square feet.*

## LINES OF SIGHT

Traversing the foyer, a visitor steps down toward a room while the ceiling swells to a 16 foot height. Over one shoulder, perched high overhead, a shuttered opening allows private observation of the space. Opposite this location, a proscenium-like aperture enframes a room beyond.

A visual axis stretching between these openings infers a space that is static, perhaps classical. Yet this apparent symmetry is blurred by a winding series of stairs, and the visitor, slipping out of this room, descends along its edge to another level below. To the right, a wood stove radiates from an alcove of small measure. To the left, a large room expands. Beyond, a panoramic landscape colors a corner window. Standing at this window, the visitor becomes aware of an oblique journey, a diagonal and downward trajectory of foyer, proscenium, and window piercing the entire volume of the house.

The sequence has ended, yet the eye, now restless, continues to wander. The upward gaze of the visitor scans other possible routes, boundaries, and levels, but these are obscured behind ceilings and soffits. The position is relinquished and the visitor ascends.



<sup>1</sup> Adolf Loos specifically referred to this as, "the solution of the plan in space," as described in his essay and obituary for "Josef Veillich," (1929) *Trotzdem* (Vienna: Georg Prachner Verlag, 1982), 215. Planning with such a strategy required the simultaneous arrangement of floors and ceilings for rooms positioned sectionally; permitting degrees of transitional and superimposed space for varying conditions of habitation.