

GRAND PRIZE AND FIRST PLACE: EUROPE AND AFRICA

PUERTA DE TOLEDO

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After the day sinks in the city, the human being looks for the isolation of his environment; that's why the city windows are empty like a stage without life. This provokes a space reevaluation, which is neither city nor dwelling, a sacred gap which is dominated by the light, marking the beat of this microclimate.

BUILDING WITH THE VOID

A microvolume (light patios) of constant proportions transported parallel to itself, around a macrovolume (building) guarantees direct sunlight any day of the year. It separates the inside-world (patio) from the outside-world (city) with walls whose thicknesses are the macrovolume dimensions.

In the resting mass are distributed the apartments, looking out to the patio. The galleries are part of the grid limits. Four vertical communication shafts connect all the apartments. With the aim of giving the grid the maximum resolution, apartments have been conceived for families of two to three members. A gap is filled in an area of increasing lodging demand.

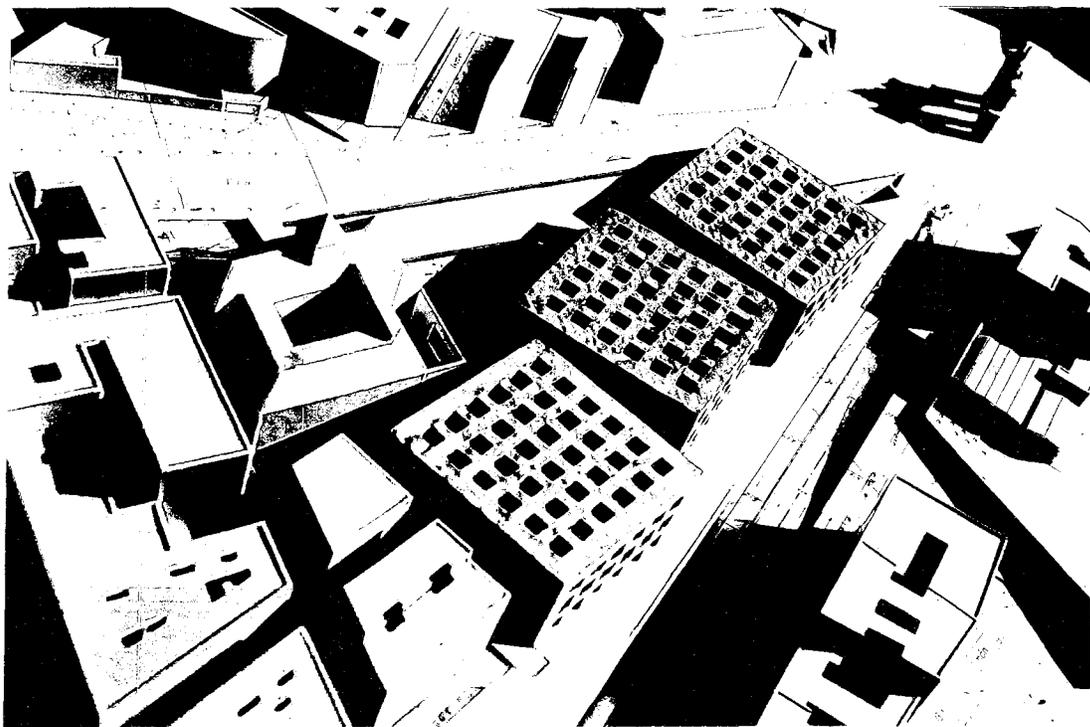
The structure consists of two series of steel porticos, which confer the idea of a rigid box. The construction system is one of prefabricated panels opaque to the city, transparent to the patio.

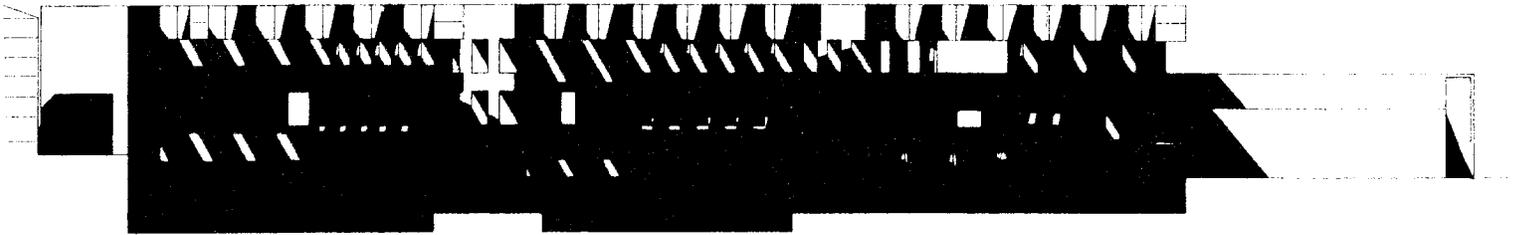
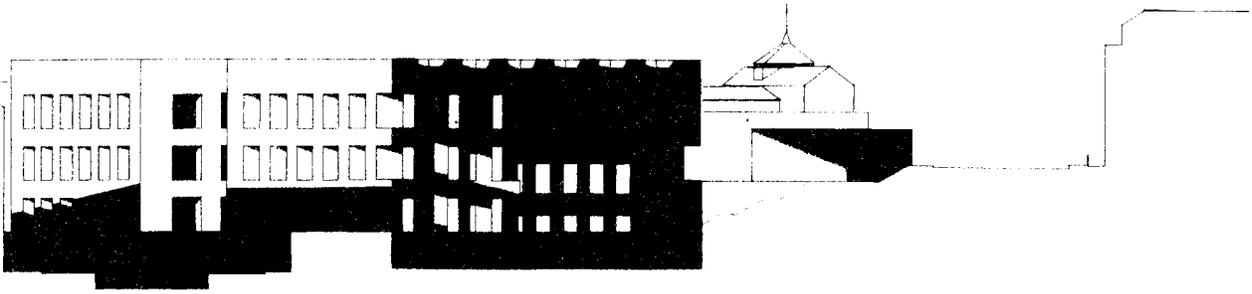
The whole building is governed by the same internal proportion. This is generated from any of the upper microvolumes as a spiral that substructures it in equal portions. Services follow a pattern according to the human movement.

JURY COMMENTS

A brilliant idea beautifully presented, this scheme displays a strong new interpretation of the problem of housing in combination with creating open spaces that can be put to many uses. It's very original in how it creates a lattice or basket of cross-ventilating units enclosing this great empty space. It's heroic, but because of the way the light is manipulated it also creates a character scaled to the individual—it's a space that would have an incredible quality in terms of light. The most telling part is the large section, and the idea that you can mentally fill that space with so many different types of events and experiences, creating small-scale opportunities while at the same time making a heroic gesture. The scheme is completely convincing in what it does.

As a general comment, the schemes that we have favored have generally made public space as effectively as they make private space, and this project in particular exemplifies this direction.





1 COMMON SERVICES (LAUNDRY, BATHS) 2 TELEPHONE, RECYCLING POINTS, KITCHEN 3 PATH 4 VERTICAL GRID APARTMENT ACCESS LEVEL 5 VERTICAL GRID APARTMENTS UPPER LEVEL 6 END GRID APARTMENT ACCESS LEVEL 7 EDGE GRID APARTMENTS UPPER LEVEL 8 HORIZONTAL GRID APARTMENT ACCESS LEVEL 9 HORIZONTAL GRID APARTMENT UPPER LEVEL 10 PATIO/STAIRWAY ETC.

ACSA/OTIS ELEVATOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION 1995-96 URBAN HOUSING PUERTA DE TOLDO

