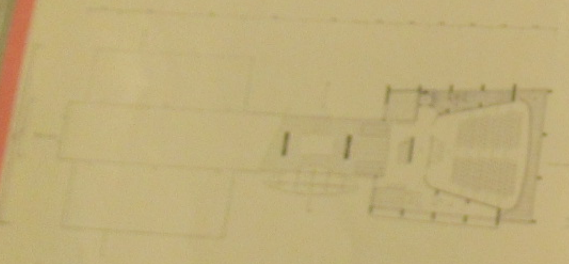


West wing of first floor consists of offices readily accessible through row of entrance doors in center. This traffic does not disturb apartments on the east wing's two first floors.

Roof, floors, and pillars of office block.

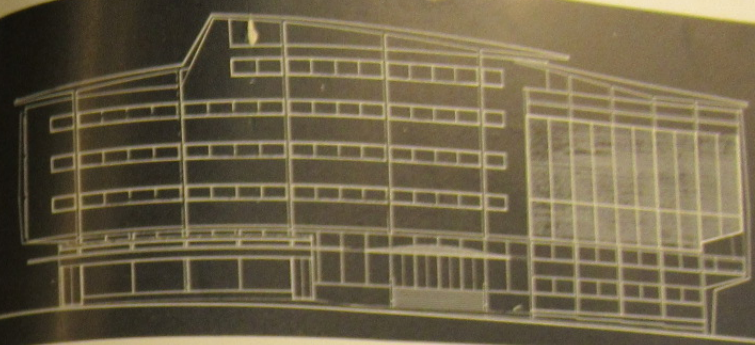


Interiors to come

### Interior implications of reinforced concrete

ROD PARISI, IN COLLABORATION WITH PULFIO CAPPELLUCCI AND SILVIO GONZI, 1950

Auditorium wing



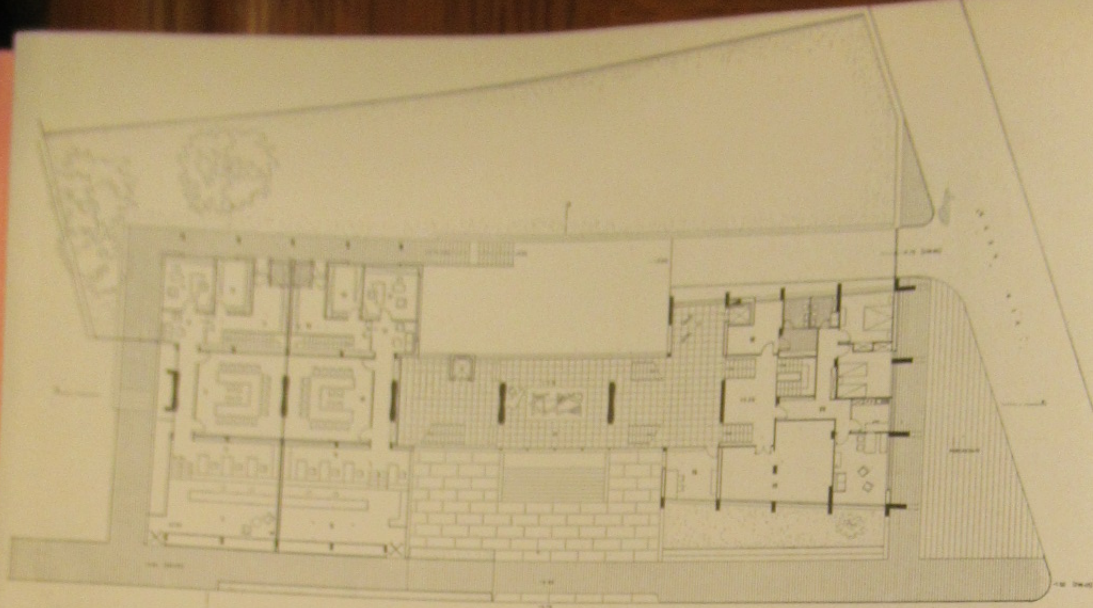
Different parts of the building are expressed not only by the shape and position of architectural masses, but by function. Immediately above are the two floors of living quarters for personal, and above that, the dining, banqueting auditoriums.

It is not likely that anyone in the United States will attempt the daring, reinforced-concrete forms of this building, recent winner of a national Italian competition. But with other materials and methods we are moving towards the same kind of interiors—free of load-bearing partitions and columns—flooded with daylight.

We do not yet think in terms of combining different functions in a single urban shelter like this, however, where we have a group of showroom-offices easily accessible to the public on the street floor, a few apartments for administrative personnel half a floor up and down but well away from noise and interior traffic, a tall block of commercial office floors, and an auditorium.

Six great steel pylons embedded in the core of the street-level unit enable it to

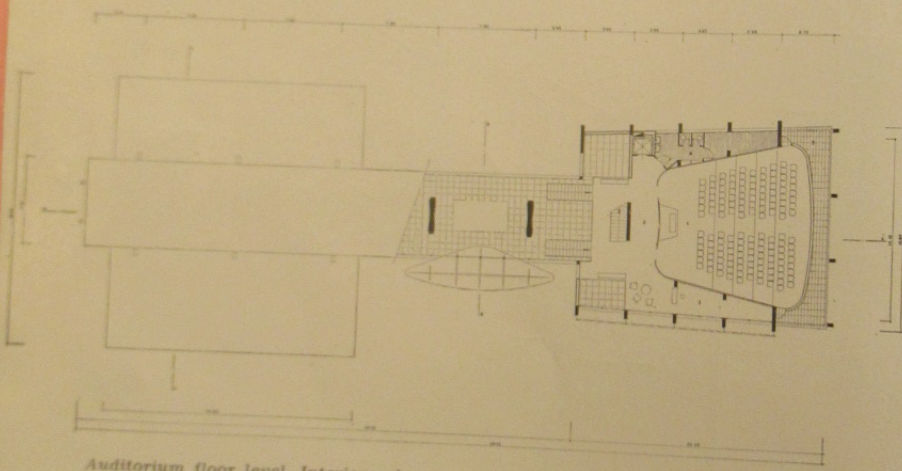
carry the tall office block above. The office block has a supportive system of its own which obviates the necessity for interior columns of any kind—slender, wedge-shaped, reinforced concrete pillars outside the walls. Separation of the two units is emphasized by the west overhang of the narrower upper block, and by the lower unit's hipped, overlapping concrete roof that leaves space for a terrace and for chesseries to which light just the roof's down-slope into the top-placed conference rooms. The third unit, the auditorium wing, faces into a trapezoid at the east end of the building. Terraces and protected roofs which Parisi likes to provide, enhance the sculptural drama of the building mass with sudden changes of pitch and view-like overhangs. Absence of inside columns, variety of ceiling heights and fenestration patterns gives the big building not one but several characteristic interior effects.



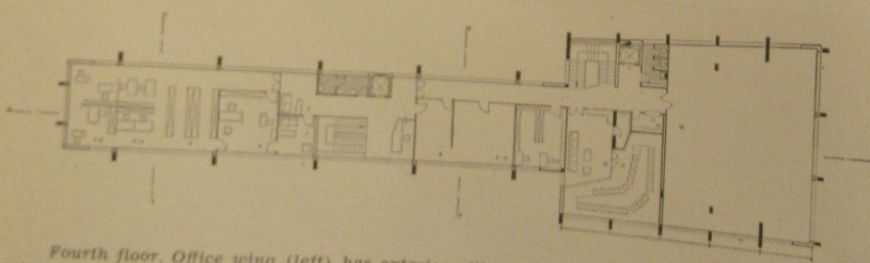
West wing of first floor consists of offices readily accessible through row of entrance doors in center. This traffic does not disturb apartments on the east wing's two first floors.



Street floor. Note steel pylons in center.

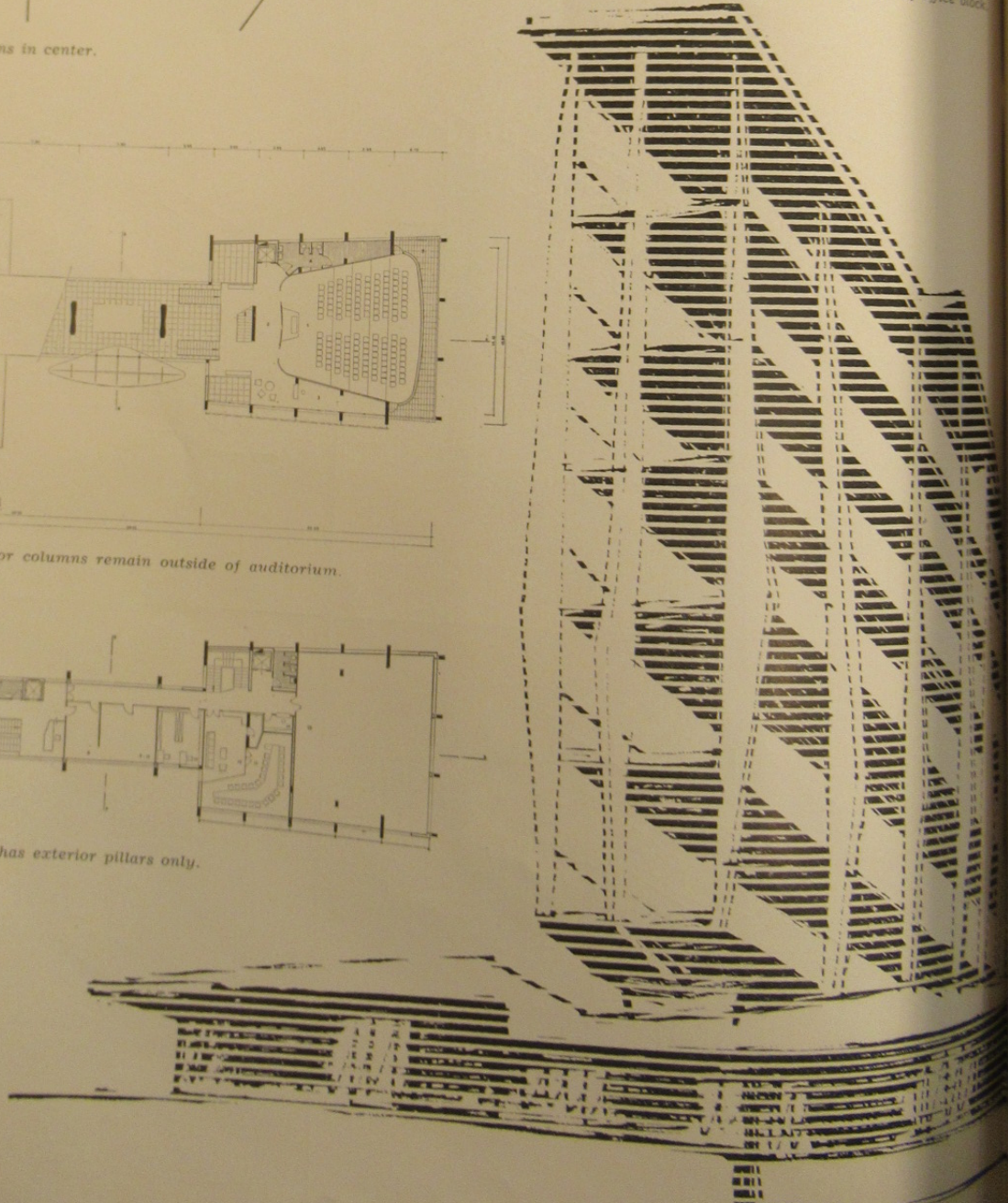


Auditorium floor level. Interior columns remain outside of auditorium.

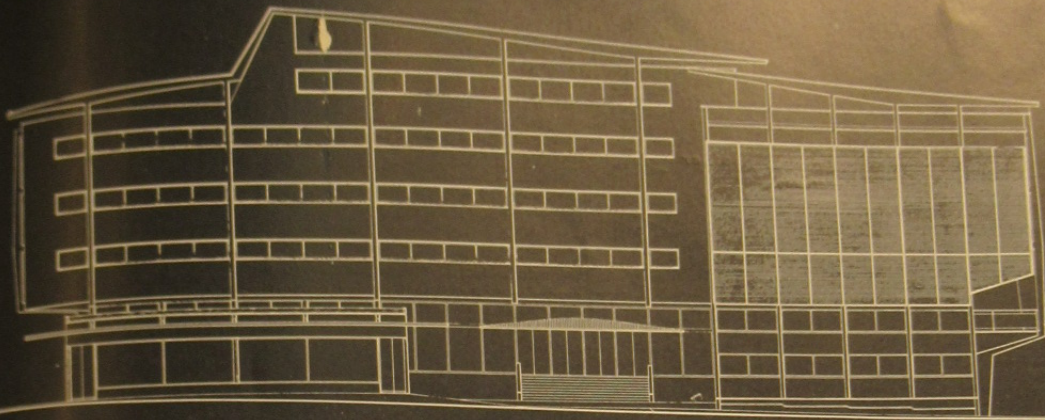


Fourth floor. Office wing (left) has exterior pillars only.

Roof, floors, and pillars of office block.



West perspective



113, p. 1  
853/54

of first floor  
offices readily  
through row of  
floors in center.  
does not dis-  
ments on the  
two first floors.

pillars of office block.

Different parts of the building are expressed not only by the shape and position of architectural masses, but by fenestration. Immediately above are the two floors of living quarters for personnel, and above that, the flaring, louvered auditorium.

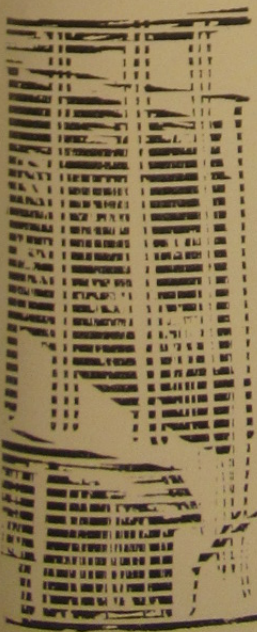
interiors to come

## Interior implications of reinforced concrete

ICO PARISI, IN COLLABORATION WITH FULVIO CAPPELLETTI AND SILVIO LONGHI, COMO

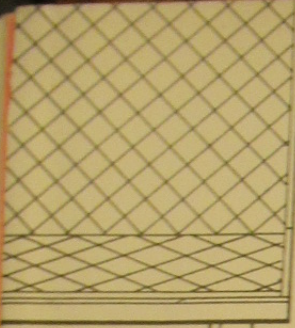


Auditorium wing

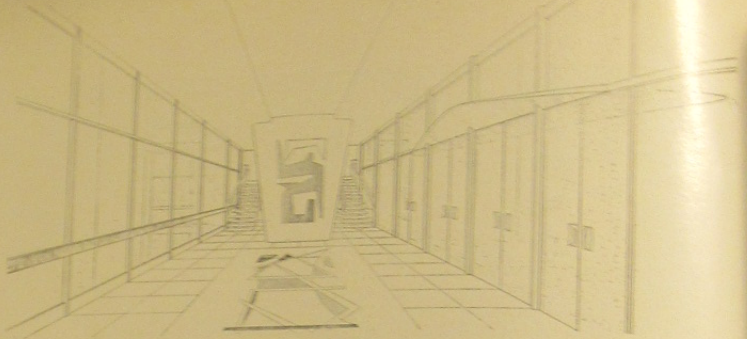


It is not likely that anyone in the United States will attempt the daring, reinforced-concrete forms of this building, recent winner of a national Italian competition. But with other materials and methods we are moving towards the same kind of interiors—free of load-bearing partitions and columns—flooded with daylight. We do not yet think in terms of combining different functions in a single urban shelter like this, however, where we have a group of showroom-offices easily accessible to the public on the street floor, a few apartments for administrative personnel half a floor up and down but well away from noise and interior traffic, a tall block of commercial office floors, and an auditorium. They are not pigeonholed in a monolith, but occupy individually articulated architectural masses integrated into a harmonious whole. Six great steel pylons embedded in the core of the street-level unit enable it to

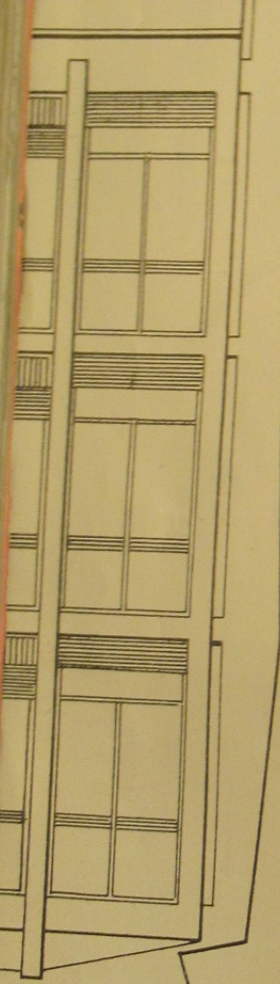
carry the tall office block above. The office block has a supportive system of its own which obviates the necessity for interior columns of any kind—slender, wedge-shaped, reinforced concrete pillars outside the walls. Separation of the two units is emphasized by the west overhang of the narrower upper block, and by the lower unit's hipped, overhanging concrete roof that leaves space for a terrace and for clerestories to admit light past the roof's down-slope into the deep-placed conference rooms. The third unit, the auditorium wing, flares into a trapezoid at the east end of the building. Terraces and protected roofs which Parisi likes to provide, enhance the sculptural drama of the building mass with sudden changes of pitch and visor-like overhangs. Absence of inside columns, variety of ceiling heights and fenestration patterns gives the big building not one but several characteristic interior effects.



The stair turns roof into a terrace, then rises steeply, dips again as another overhang.



Lobby. Entrance doors at right, stairs to auditorium in background. Mural covers one of six steel pylons supporting the office block above.



Narrow, deep, wedge contour of exterior concrete pillars.

Typical office interior on opposite page shows possibilities inherent in structural system and fenestration. Deep glass expanses on narrow east and west walls, with horizontal windows on long north and south walls control glare, admit floods of light. Height of sills allows maximum use of solid wall area. Parisi enhances sense of levitation inherent in columnless, partitionless interior by cantilevering or suspending stools, desks, lamps, lighting fixtures wherever possible.

Front half of west elevation, with canopy for street-level offices.

