

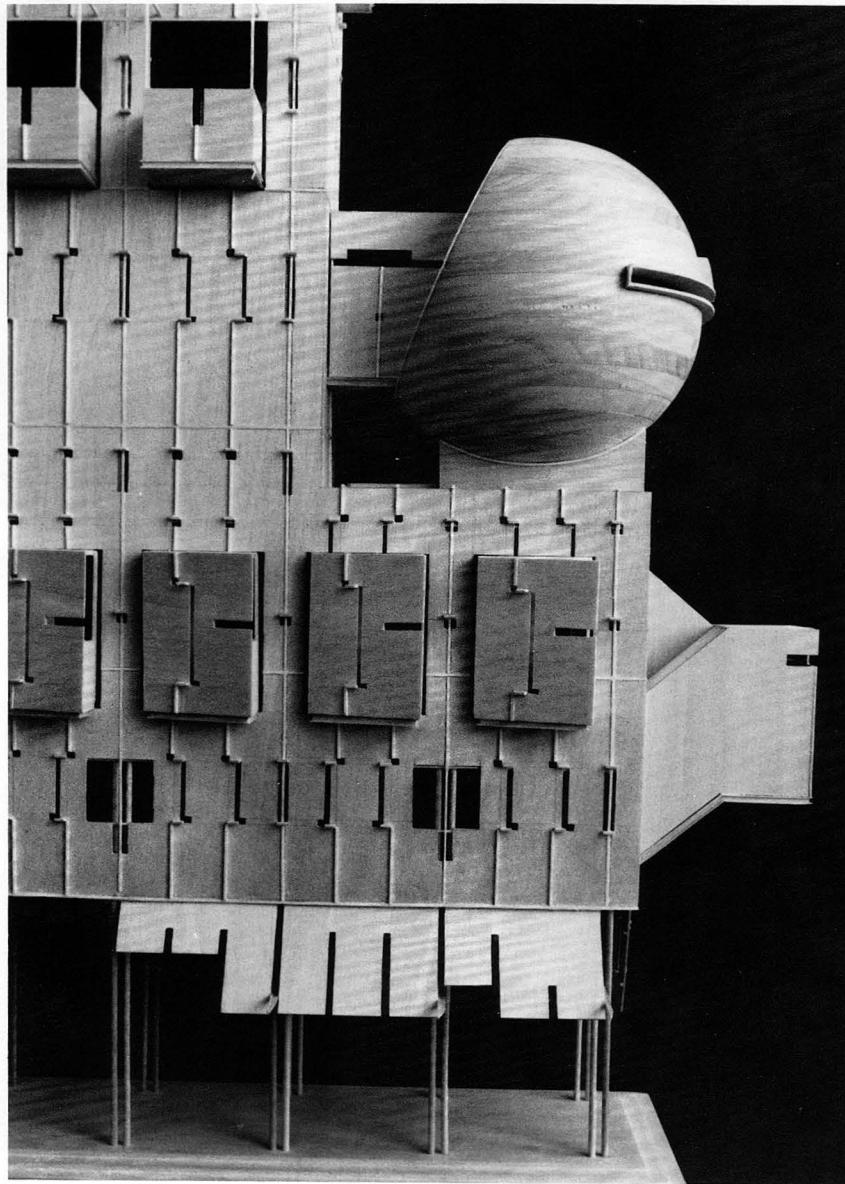
Tower of Silence

D-Space / K-Project Dentsu Co. Tokyo, Japan

George Ranalli

This project is a monument for a major automobile manufacturer in Tokyo, Japan. The monument stands in the atrium space of a new office building, and the area around the void was designated as an automobile showroom for company products. The program did not assign any special function to the monument except that it be a symbol of the company in its form, potential use, and material.

The design, "Tower of Silence," is for people visiting the building and moving through the six floors of automobiles. It offers a respite from the activity, lights, and sounds of the atrium space. The tower can be entered at various levels in the space in order to accommodate people on each floor. People move into bridges across the void and into the interior of the tower. Once inside, the individual can roam into any of a series of chambers which protrude out beyond the skin of the structure, and sit in privacy and quiet looking out to the city beyond. A spherical theatre is situated at the middle of the structure where small groups can

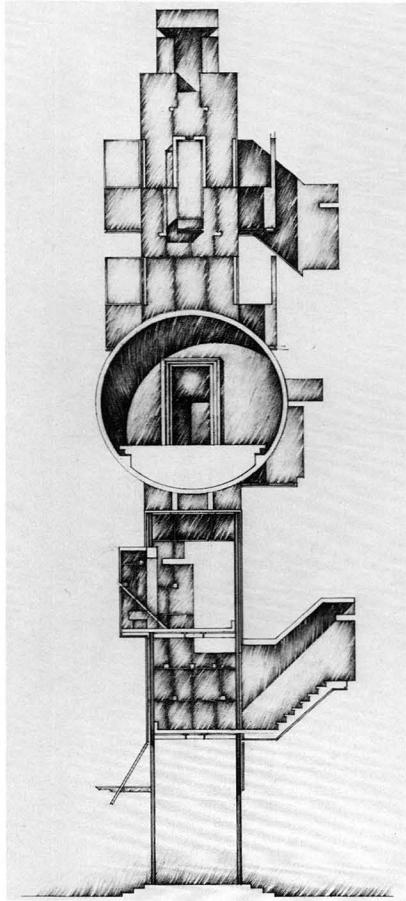


Detail of Monument

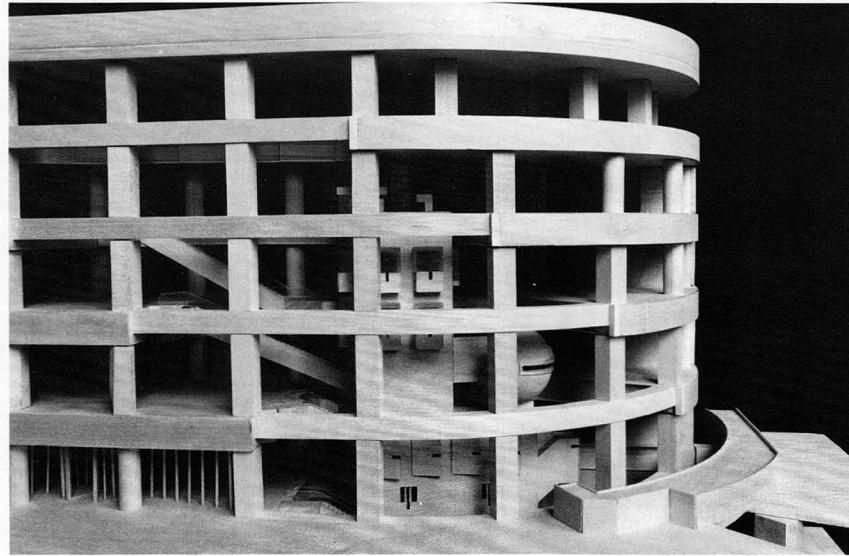
gather for collective activities.

The structure is supported by paired steel columns with horizontal steel at various levels. The skin is made of sheets of white 2000X material produced by Formica. The sheets are cut into shapes and mounted to the frame with small horizontal steel elements extending through the skin. In addition, vertical ribs of 2000X are used to add stiffness to the sheets. Bridge and stair elements are designed as smooth volumetric shapes while the spherical theatre is cast in a formwork.

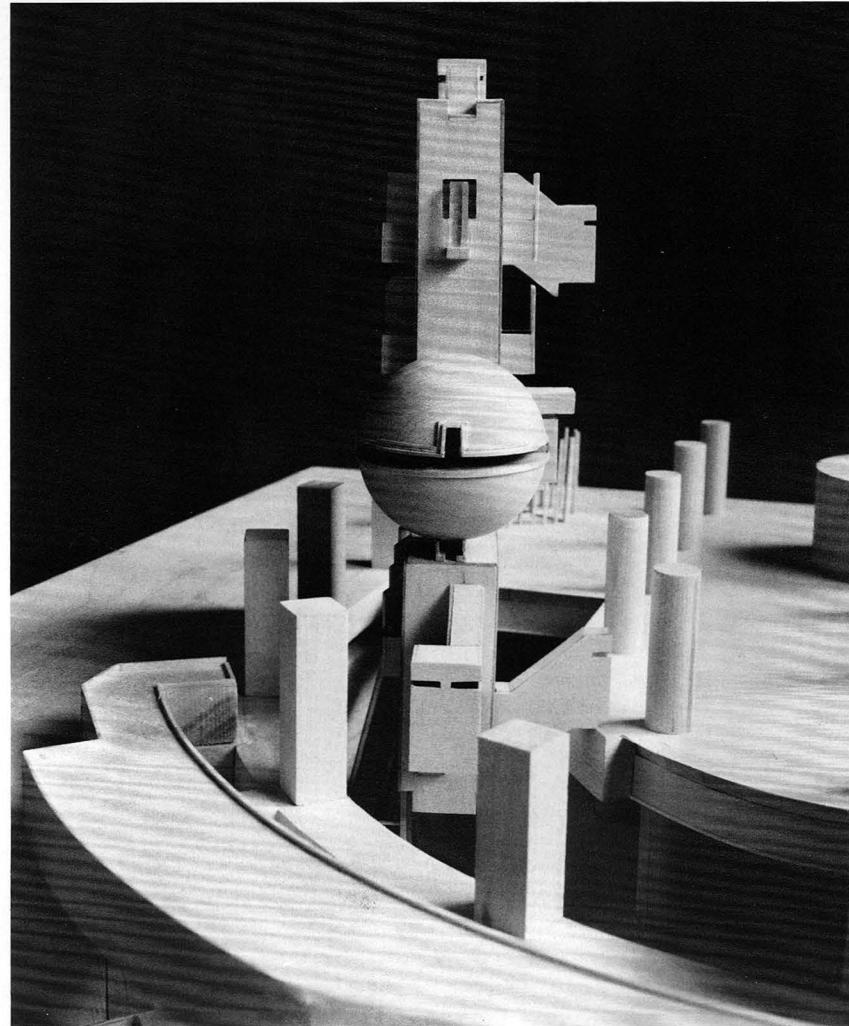
"Tower of Silence" is meant to express the most positive relationship possible between the viewers and this manufacturer. It is meant to stand as a symbol of the company and of the people who occupy it in that it is an inhabited monument, and it therefore, metaphorically, belongs to the people who use the rooms inside. As construction, it attempts to fuse structure, form, program and material into a synthesis of a progressive vision.



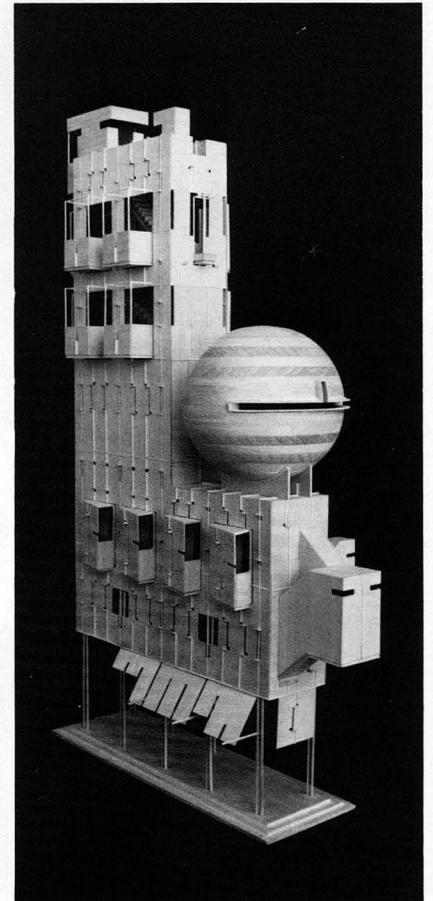
Section



Model of Monument in Existing Building



View of Model in Existing Building



Model of Monument