

## The Sacred Garden Versus the City of Man

Fukuoka City Mixed-Use Apartment Building  
Kiushu, Japan, 1988-89

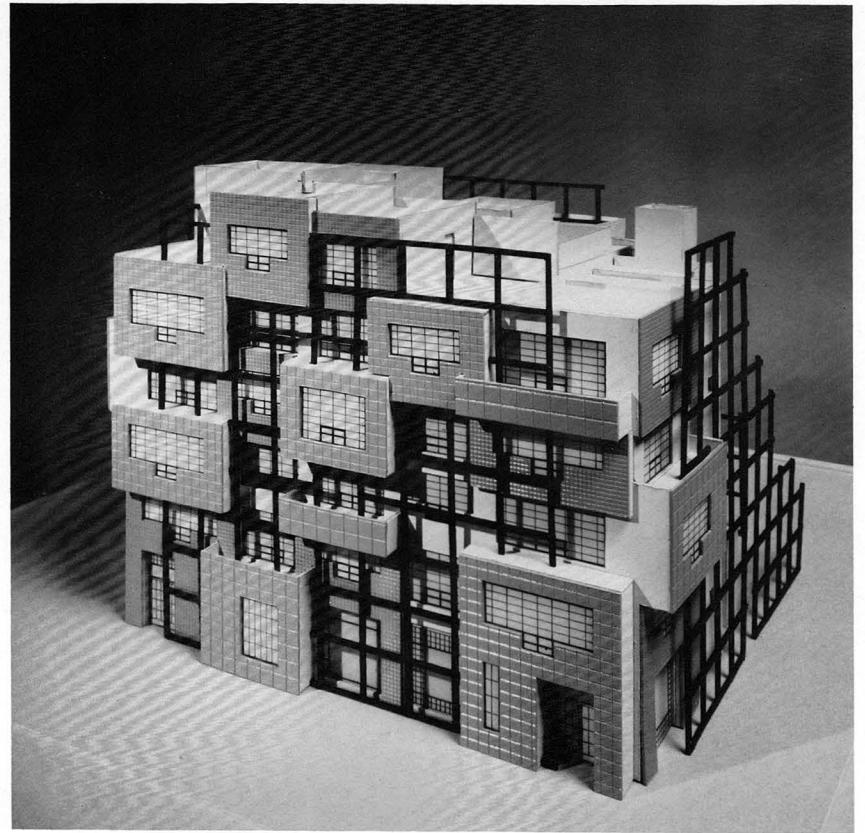
Stanley Tigerman

The desire to unravel the myths of origin is expressed in humankind's ceaseless effort to attain parity with the sacred garden by displacing it with the city of man. The determination to end our exile and be readmitted to Eden is played out in the envisioning of structures designed to give expression to nostalgic dreams of heaven. Continuous denial does not deter our efforts to regain entrance and assuage that sense of loss. The hopefulness represented by such reiterative projects is inherent to the practice of architecture.

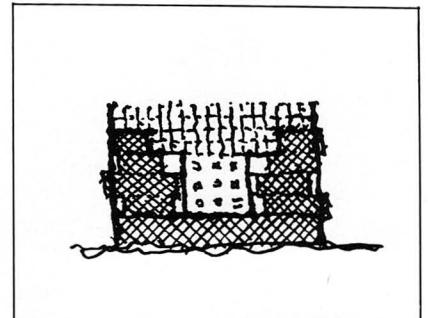
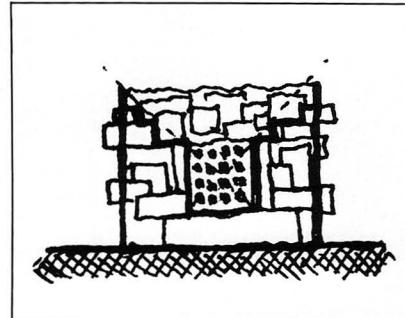
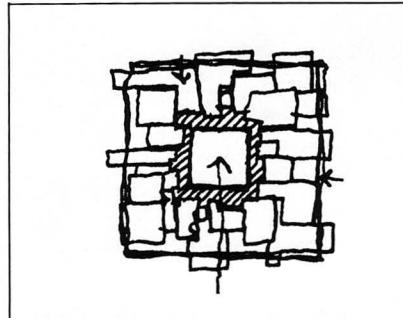
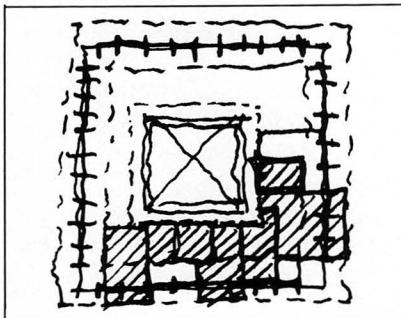
Early in 1988 Michael Graves and Stanley Tigerman were approached to participate in the Momochi District Reclamation Project in Fukuoka City on the island of Kiushu. The architects were each asked to design and oversee the construction of an apartment project, to be completed in time for the Asian-Pacific Exposition in May 1989.

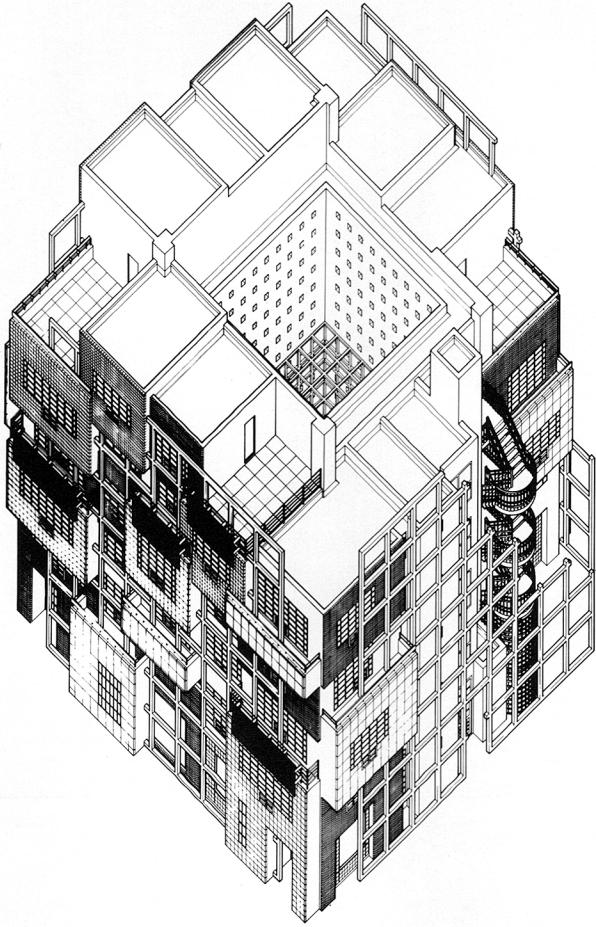
Part of a larger, experimental housing project, the building has eighteen apartments distributed over six stories, with

retail spaces located on the ground floor, as specified by the program. The structure is responsive to the shifting angles of the sun so crucial to housing developments in Japan. The lobby provides the only access to a square, central garden, the perimeters of which are bounded by the building while it is open to the sky. The three apartments on each floor are reached by circumnavigating this central space. The effectively inaccessible garden is a metaphor for the garden of Eden, a nostalgically sought-after original, and is marked as such by its white grid. The exterior two-by-two-meter black grid is posited as a failed attempt to reconvene this original. Marked by gray ceramic tiles of different sizes, the apartments vary in their individual responses to functional concerns. The optimism intrinsic to architecture informs this design, but in the context of contemporary dislocative tendencies.

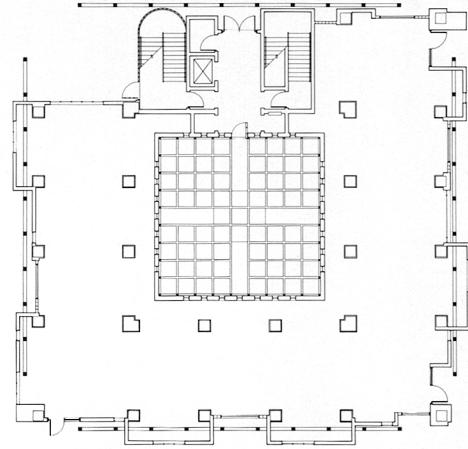


model

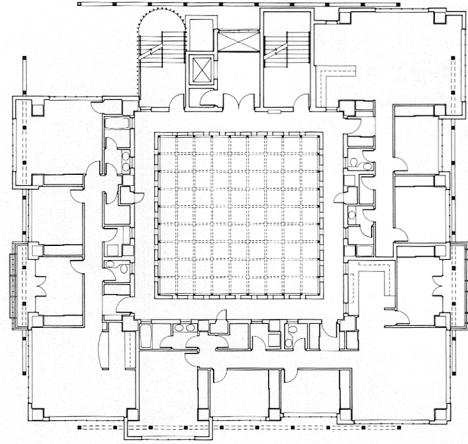




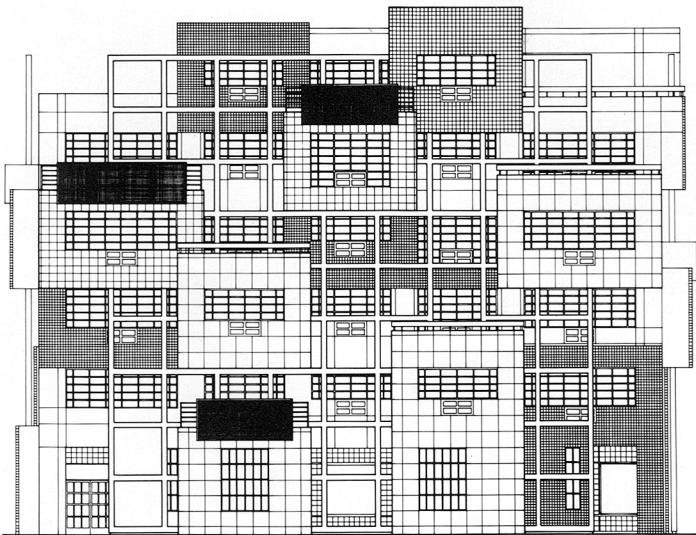
axonometric



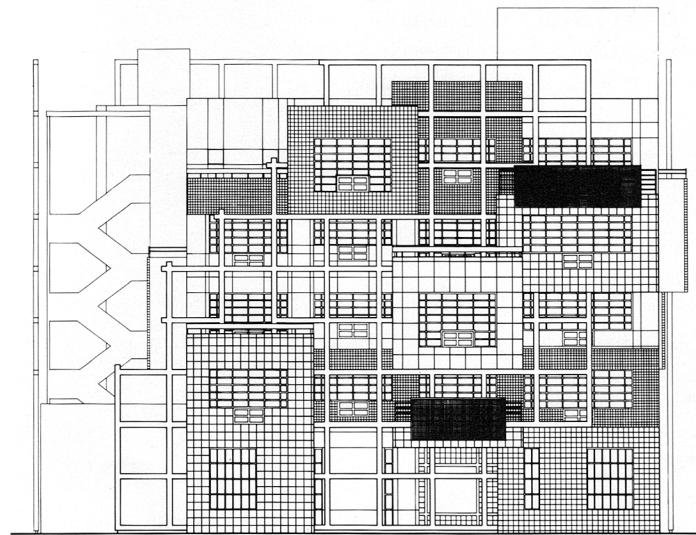
ground Floor



second Floor



elevation



elevation