

Laguna Gloria Art Museum

Venturi, Rauch and Scott Brown

Venturi, Rauch and Scott Brown has completed schematic designs for the Museum's new building in downtown Austin. The 82,000 gross sq. ft. museum, which concentrates on 20th century American art, will serve as a focal point for its immediate neighborhood, visually and through its various programs.

The front facade of the museum will stretch along Fourth Street from Guadalupe to San Antonio, and will consist of a large limestone panel supported on a giant order of flat columns and surrounded by a colorful stone and tile border. The flaglike panel is creased and curved back at its ends to create a small entrance courtyard on the east and a corresponding courtyard at the western end for a dining patio for the museum restaurant.

On the ground floor inside is a glassed-in gallery that is parallel to the sidewalk and stretches from courtyard to patio. It contains the lobby and will feel like a part of the sidewalk — making the transition from outside to inside gradual and inviting. Opening on to the lobby gallery along the rear of the site is a series of spaces containing the museum store, information, orientation and service areas, elevators, and the restaurant.

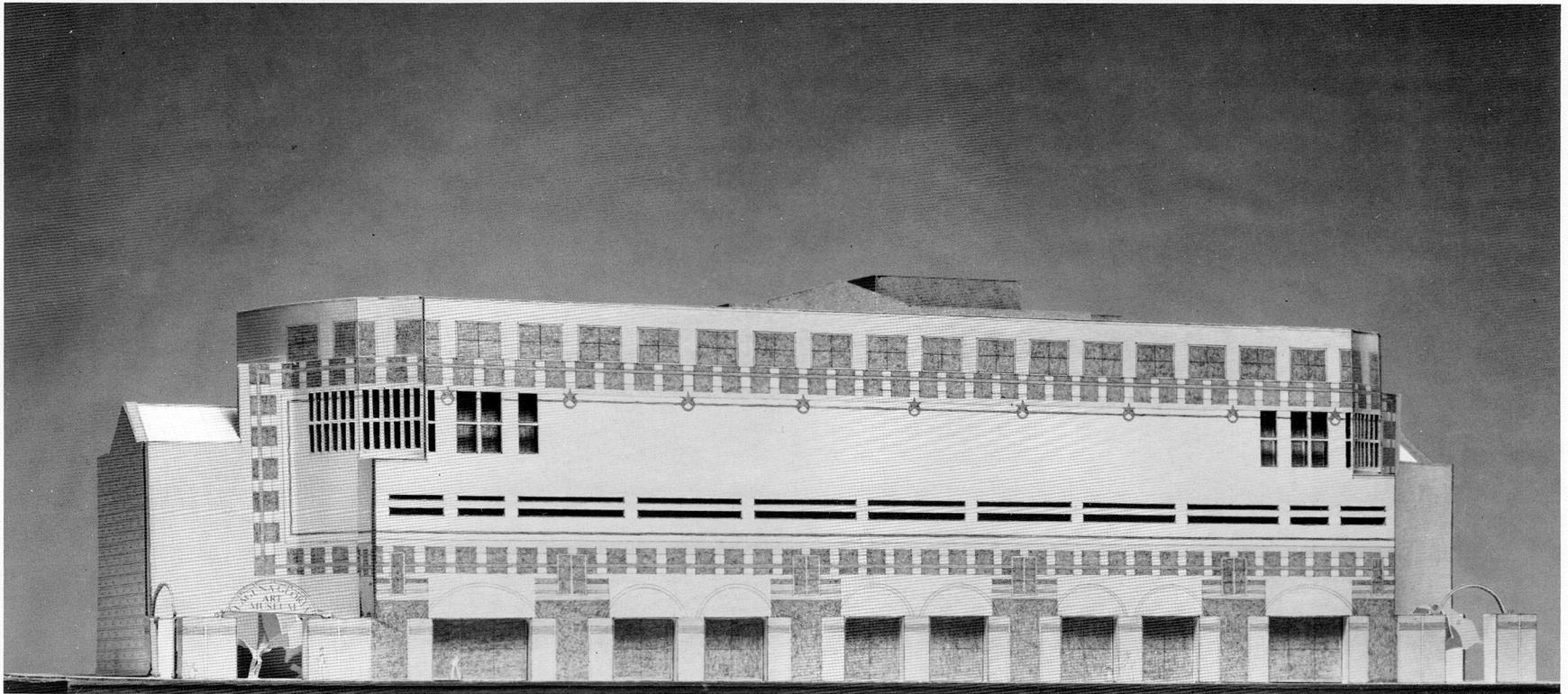
On the second floor are two parallel series of galleries in the long configurations traditional to art galleries, fortuitously dictated here by the elongated shape of the site. The front galleries are designed



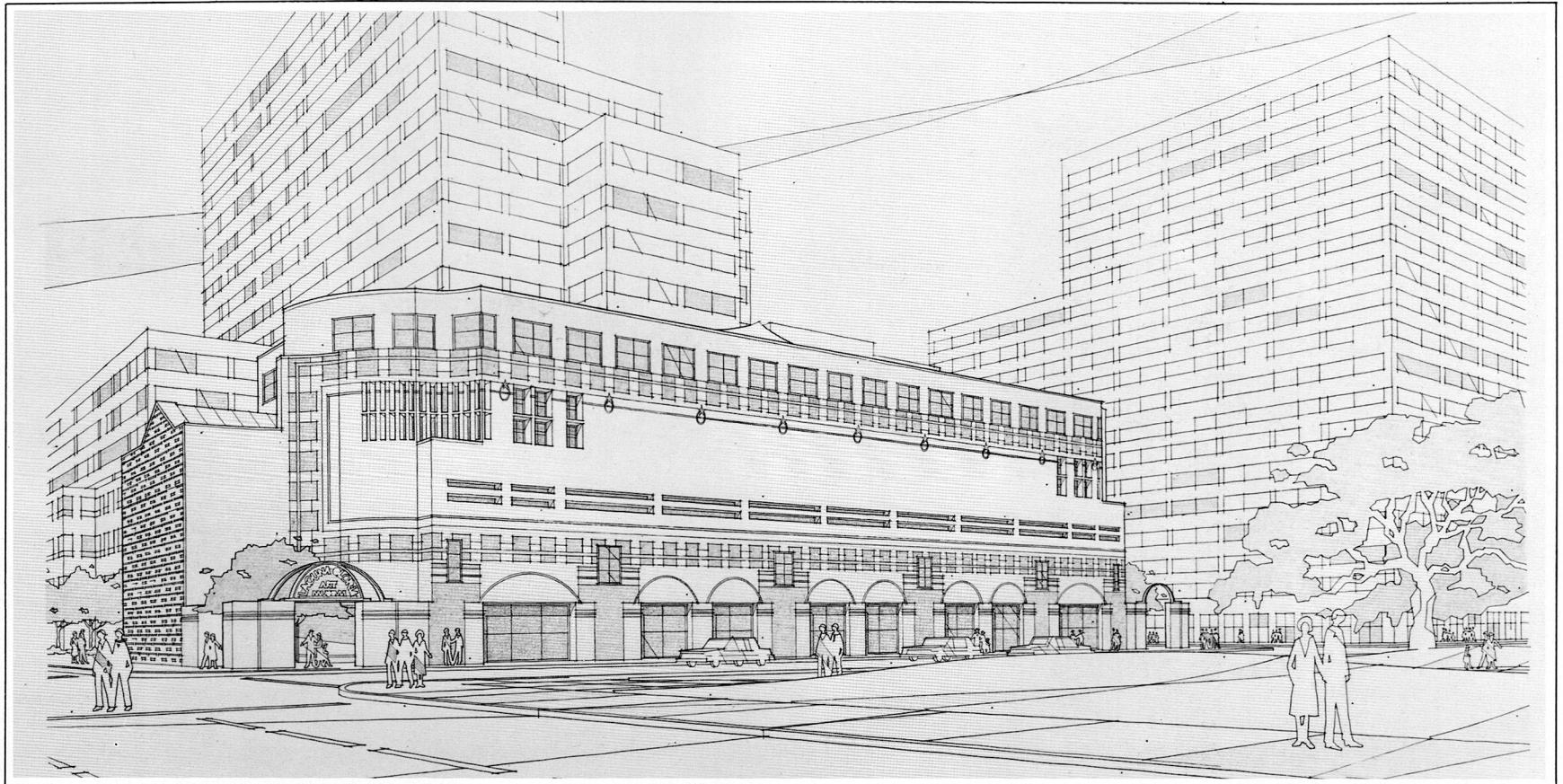
Model

to receive natural northern light indirectly from high windows; occasional small windows at eye level invite you to look out intermittently on the beautiful park and skyline beyond. These galleries contain a certain architectural character but they permit a flexibility of shape, size and lighting appropriate for a contemporary art gallery. The series of galleries to the rear are absolutely neutral in character and dependent entirely on artificial lighting except at the ends where clerestory lights modulate natural light from above. The outer ends of each series of galleries are joined by places to sit and rest and look outside.

The upper two floors contain more gallery space, a classroom and children's activity area, art handling, storage, curatorial space, and administrative offices. The basement contains further storage and service areas and also a theater and lobby approach by an ample and gracious stair.



Fourth Street Elevation



Perspective View