

From Building towards Landscape

Erich Mendelsohn and a Reconstitution of Geographical Forms, 1919-1929

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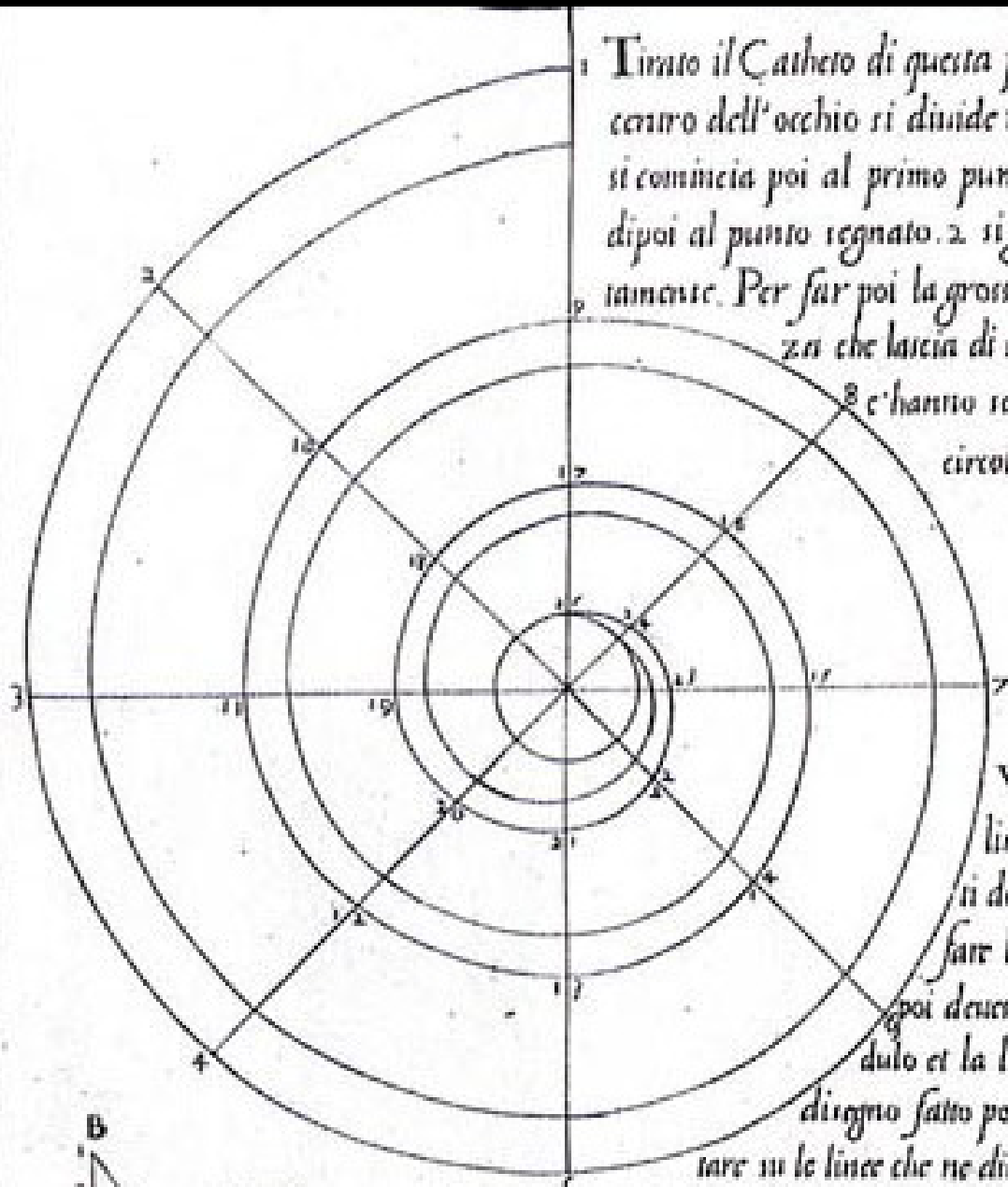
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St. Jerome by Caravaggio

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Tirato il Catheto di questa prima uoluta et un'altra linea in Squadro, che passi per il centro dell'occhio si divide il detto occhio nel modo segnato di sopra nella figura A. et si comincia poi al primo punto segnato. 1. et si gira col compasso una quarta di circolo dipoi al punto segnato. 2. si gira l'altra quarta et con procedendo si fa i tre giri compiamente. Per far poi la grossezza del listello si come egli è la quarta parte della larghezza che lascia di sopra il primo giro con s'ha da partire ciascuna di quelle parti 8 e hanno seruito per centri in 4. et girando poi altre. 12. quarte di circolo con quelli centri sarà fornita.

Volendo fare la uoluta nel modo qui sotto disegnata tirati la linea detta Catheto la quale sarà alta parti. 16. d'un modulo. 9. parti deueno restare di sopra del centro et parti. 7. di sotto et in detto centro fare la diuisione della circonferenza in parti. 8. come è disegnata. Dipoi deueni fare il triangolo. B.C.D. che la linea. B.C. sia parti 9 d'un modulo et la linea C D sia parti. 7 et perche si può uedere, et conoscere per il disegno fatto per numeri parui che basti a saperlo formare. Dipoi deueni rapportare in le linee che ne diuidono la circonferenza della uoluta li punti della linea. B.C. come si uede per numeri segnati. Et nel girare poi da un punto all'altro si troua il centro metendo il piede fermo del compasso sul punto segnato. 1. et allargandolo sino al centro dell'occhio della uoluta si tira un poco di circonferenza dentro a detto occhio.



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ALPENREISEN UND WÜSTENWANDERUNGEN: ENVISIONING LANDSCAPES OF EARLY MODERNITY

The seventeenth and eighteenth centuries brought with them profound changes in the perception of the natural environment that served to fundamentally reshape the spatial organization of the built environment. Reports and representations of monuments and landscapes, from the mountainous Alps to the deserts of Egypt and the Middle East were catalogued in archaeological tomes or appropriated for architectural treatises by architects such as Fischer von Erlach, William Chambers, and Etienne-Louis Boullée.

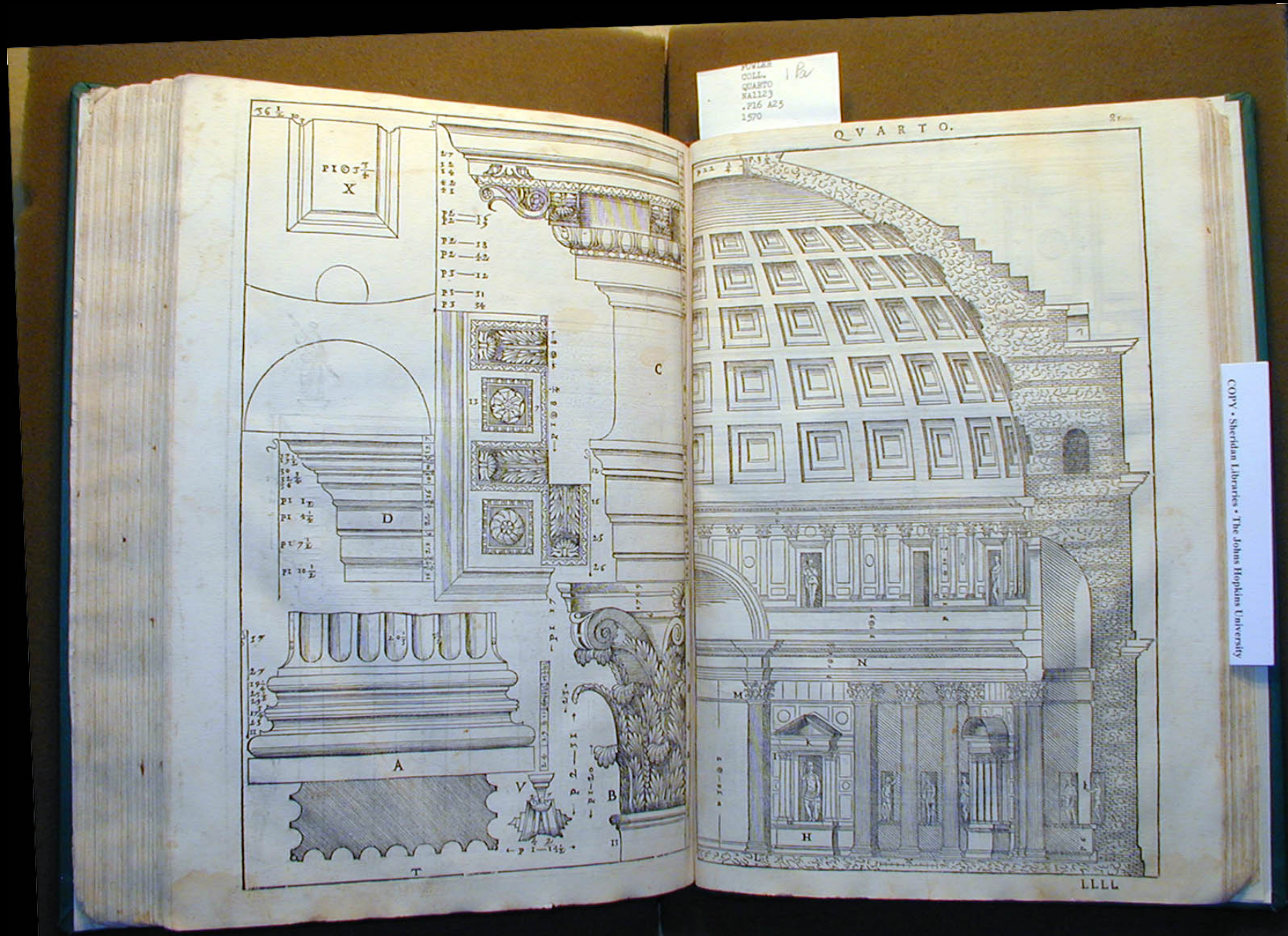
This importance of these ‘voyages of discovery’ as spatial narratives is not to be underestimated and strategies of eliding the spatial configurations of the natural and built environments continued through early modernist projects such as the Alpine architecture of Bruno Taut and his circle. These strategies of elision and transposition challenged dualistic constructs of modernity (ancients vs. moderns, sacred vs. profane, culture vs. technology, etc.), and consistently invigorated modes of architectural production.

Much recognition has been granted to the interrelationship of natural and built environments in the areas of aesthetics, ideology, and colonization. More recently, an important emphasis has been developed in the area of visual culture. The interest of this session is to take a somewhat different tack: **to examine the ways in which treatises on natural environment served as prescriptions or inscriptions as spaces of presence or absence, setting the stage for the idealization of some and the desecration of others.** Unlike the oft-valorized Alpine travels, deserts often served as a source of continuous fascination for their architectural qualities and archaeological treasures but never fit comfortably into schema of aesthetic domestication or easily into the arenas of ideological projection and colonial appropriation. This session is particularly interested in exploring the extremes of mountainscapes and deserts as sites and countersites of early modernity.

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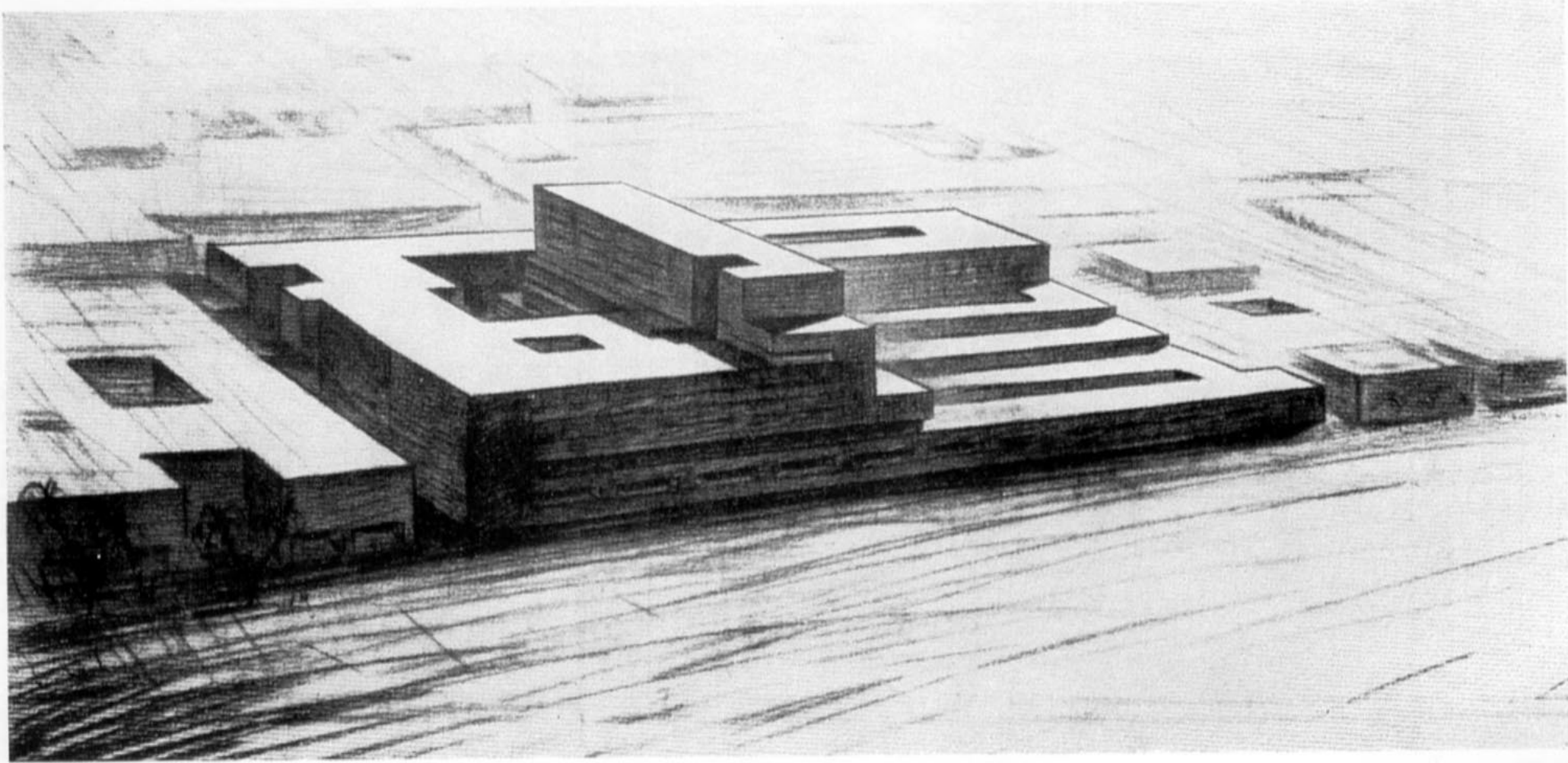
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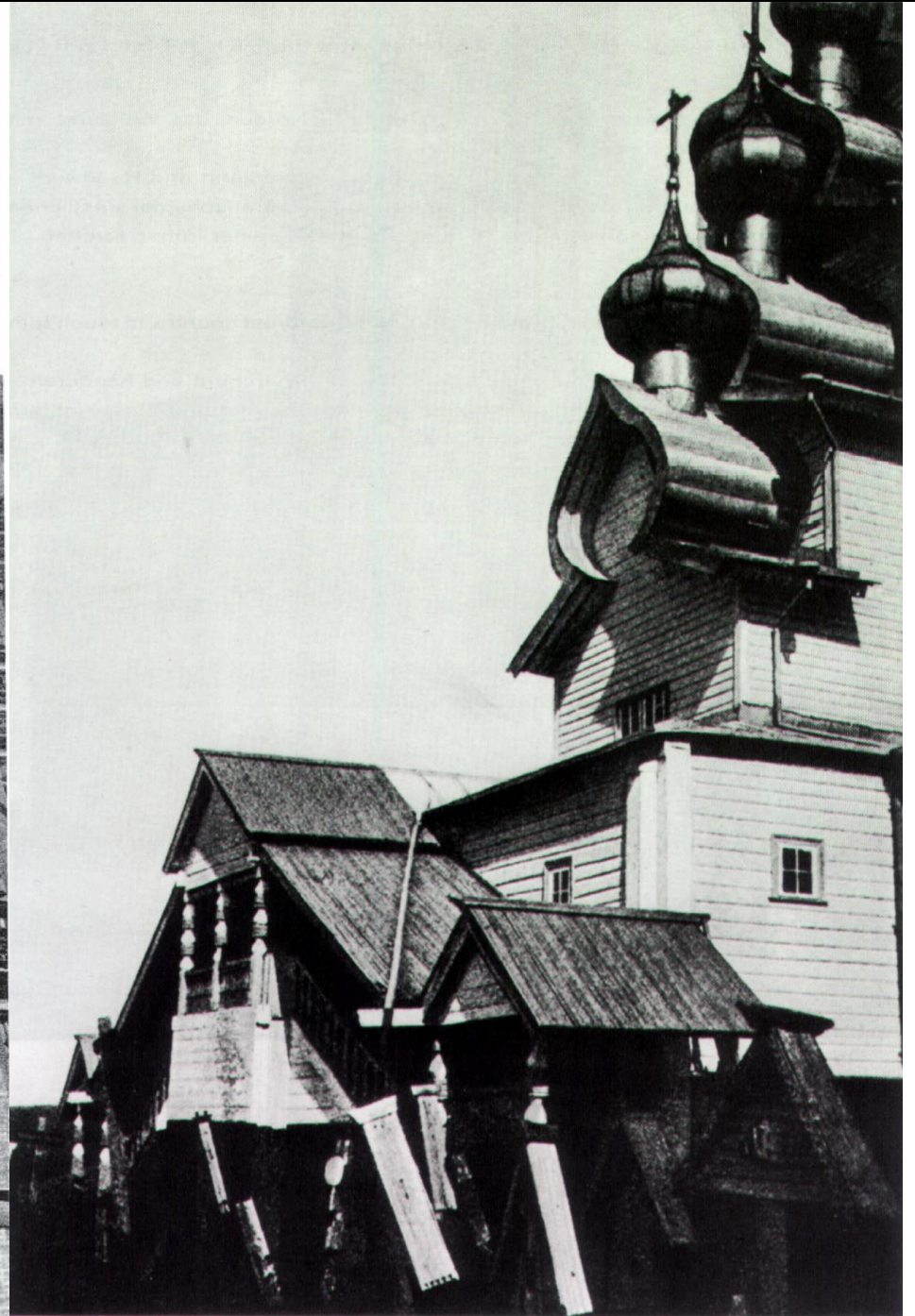
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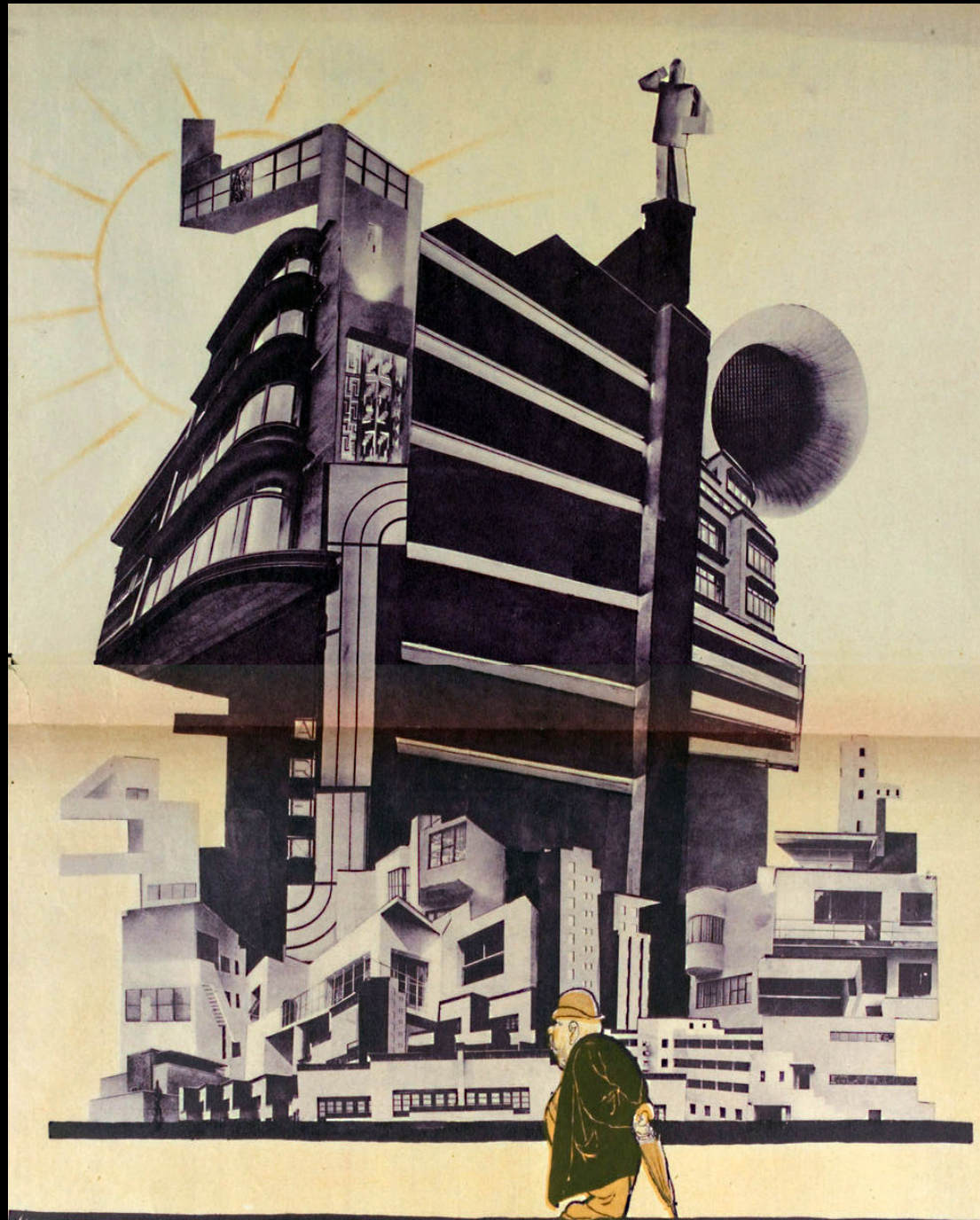
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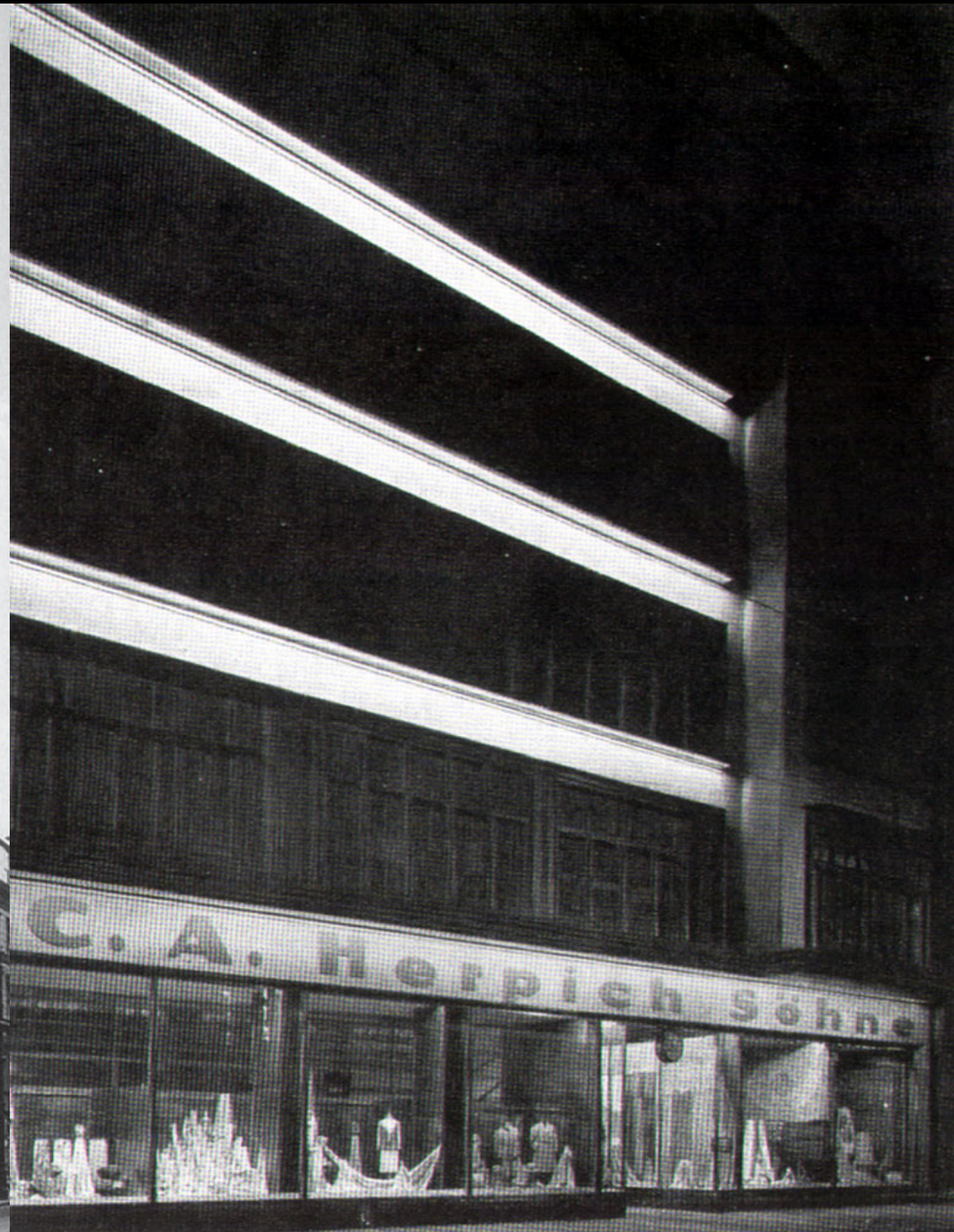
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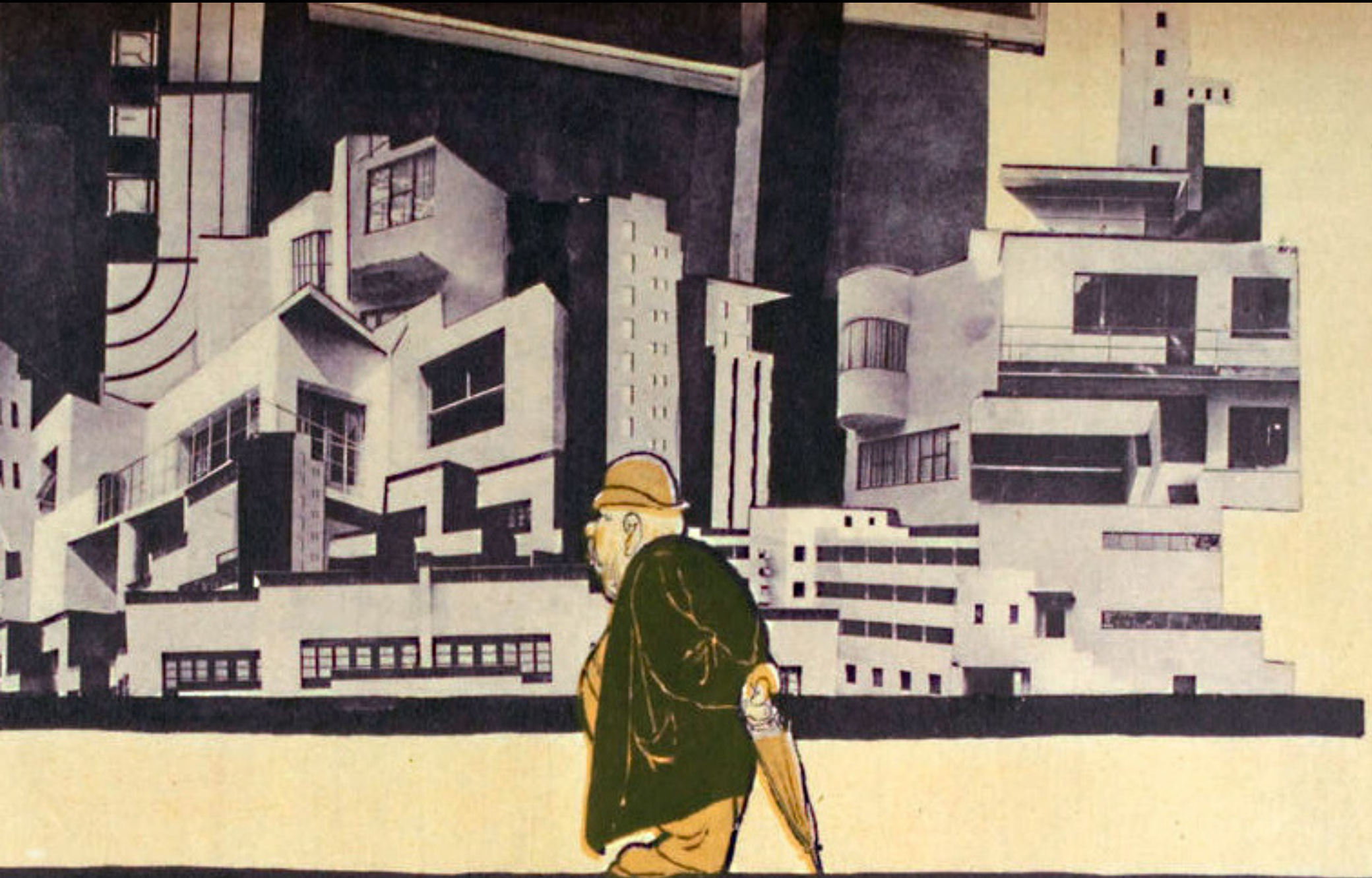
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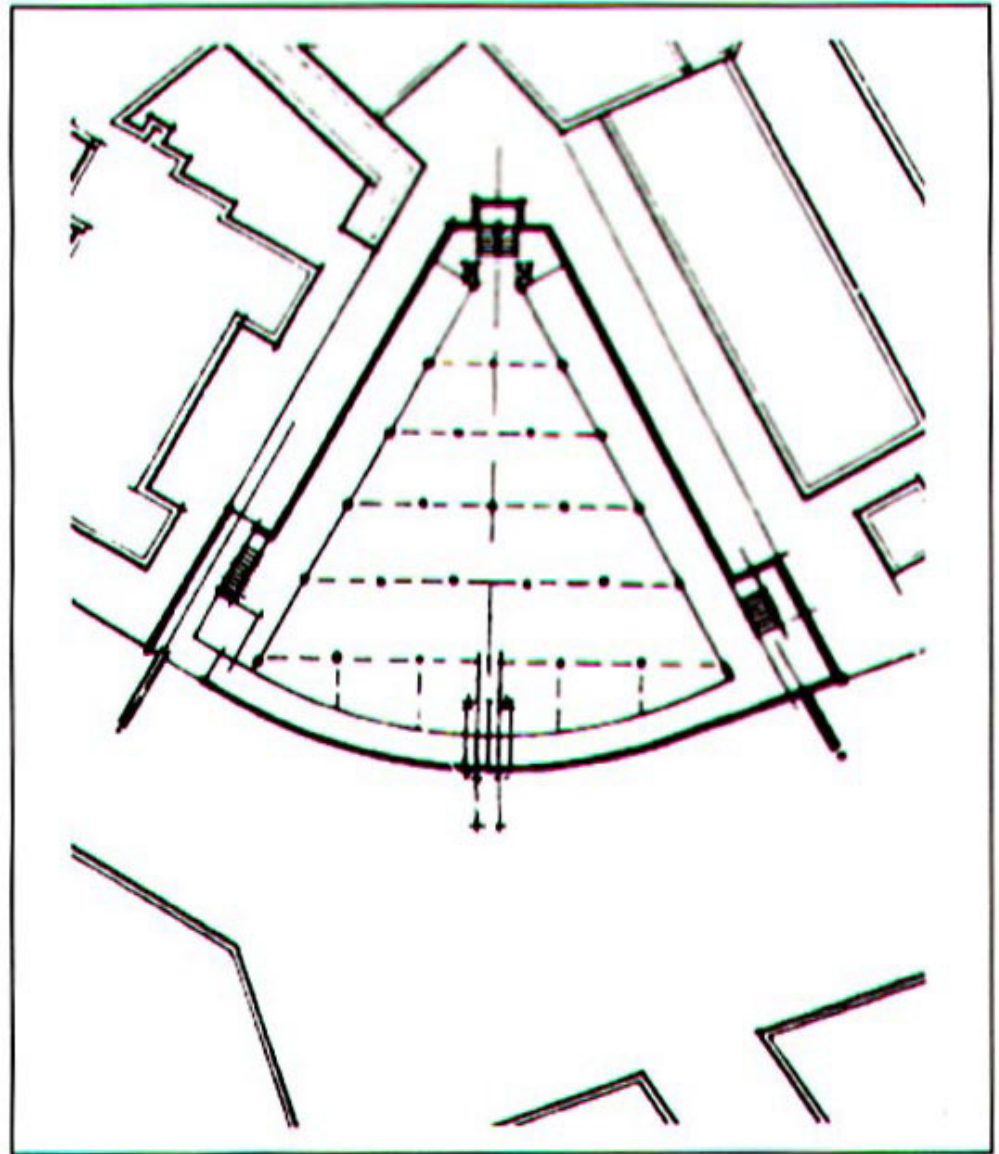
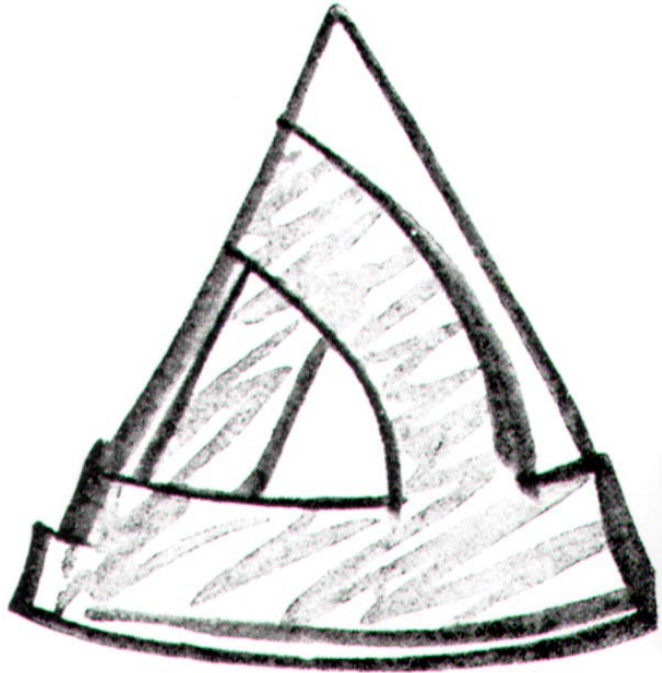
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**A landscape is a cultural image,
a pictorial way of representing, structuring,
or symbolizing surroundings.**

Denis Cosgrove and Stephen Daniels

The Iconography of Landscape

(New York: Cambridge University Press, 1988), p. 1.

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