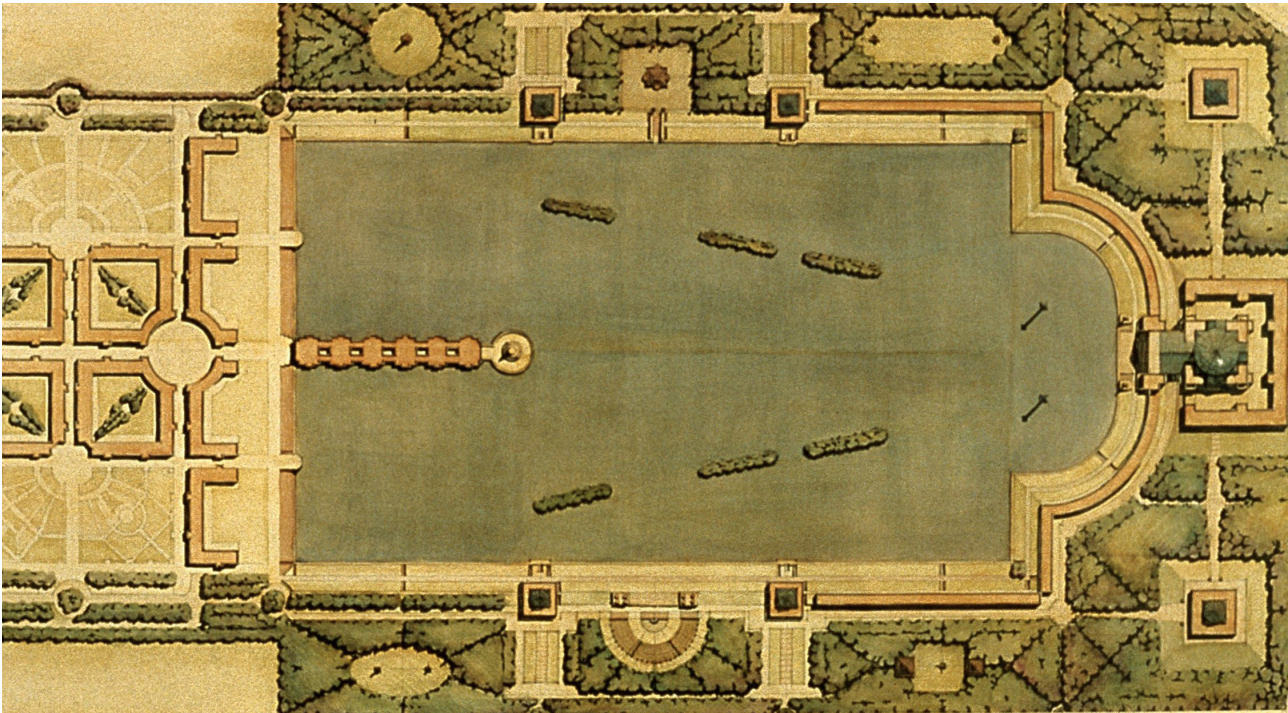




Les Arcades du Lac

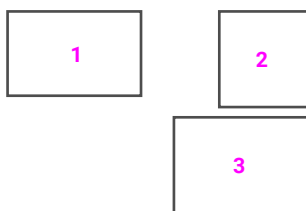
ARCHIVAL DATA	
DATE	1974 (design) 1982 (realization)
PLACE/ADDRESS	Saint Quentin en Yvelines (Paris)
COLLABORATORS	Bernard Torchinsky, Patrick Guenard, Peter Hodgkinson, Xavier Listosella, Omar Migliore, Ramón Collado
CUSTOMER	Foyer du Fonctionnaire et de la Famille. Les Arcades du Lac: Société d'HLM- Les 3 F. Le Viaduc: Société de HLM-CNH 2000. Les Templettes: S.C.C/C.N.P.
SOURCES	RBTA Archive

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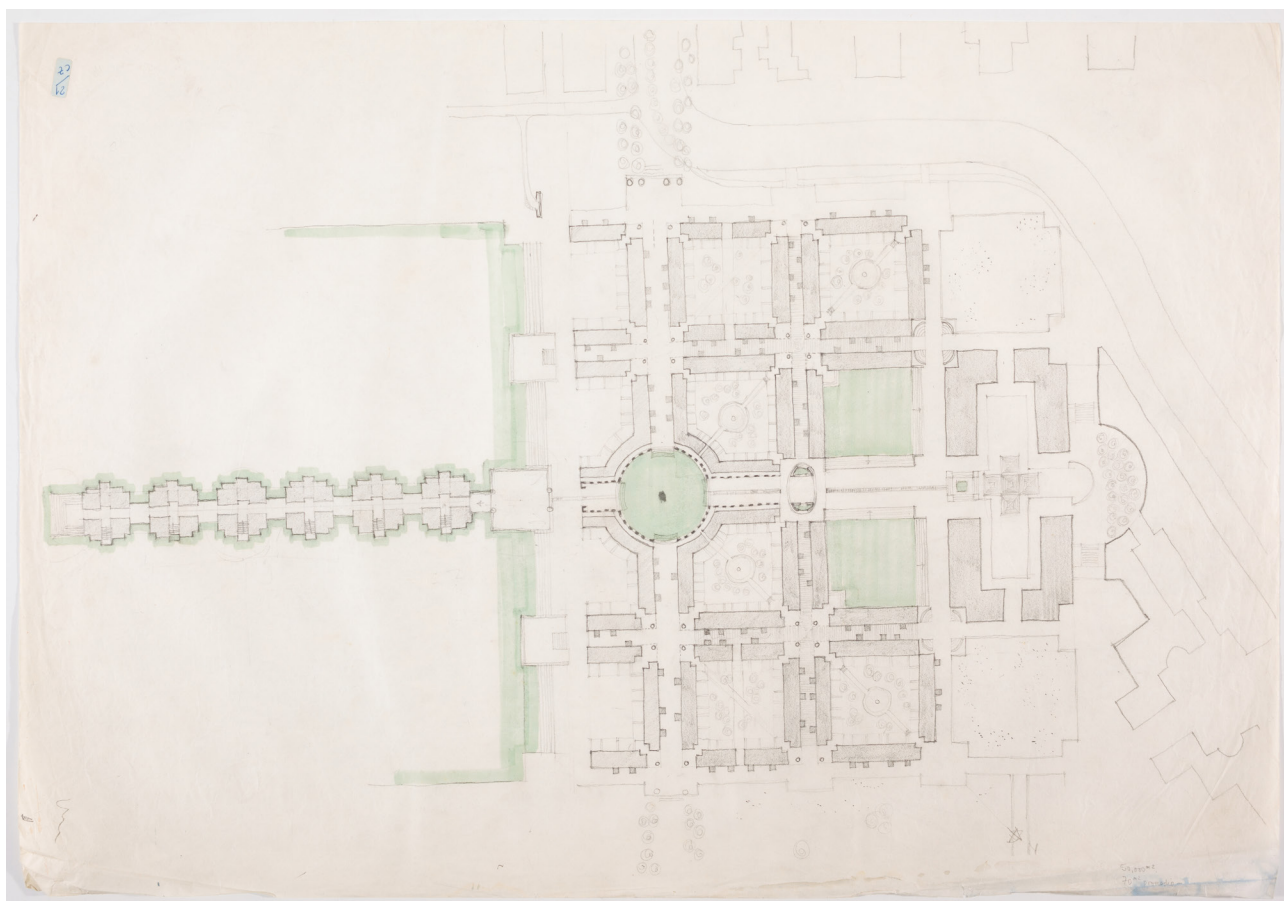
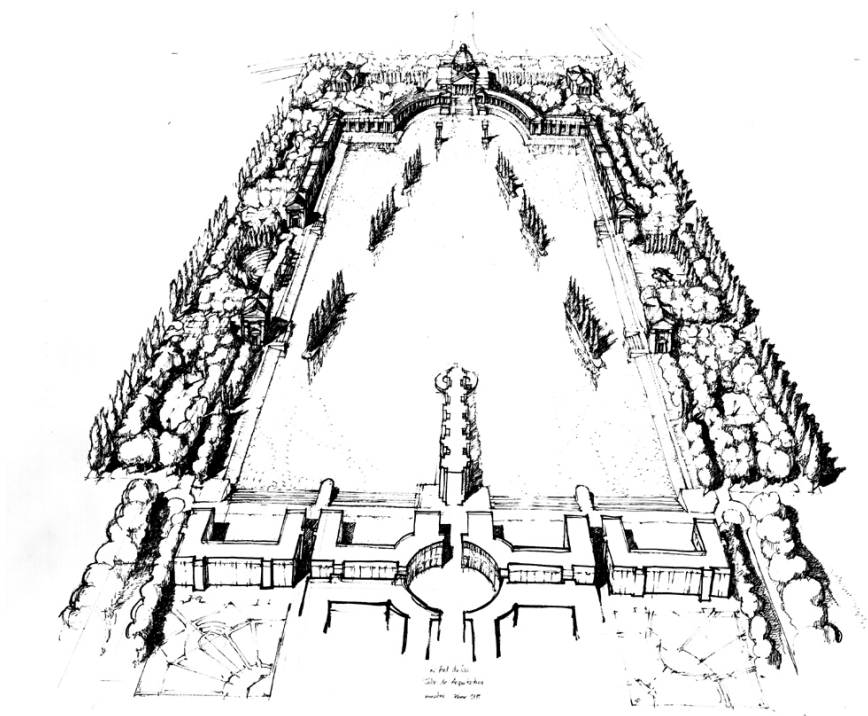
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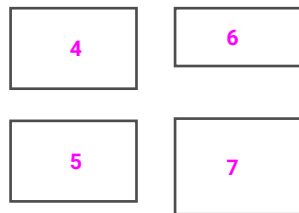
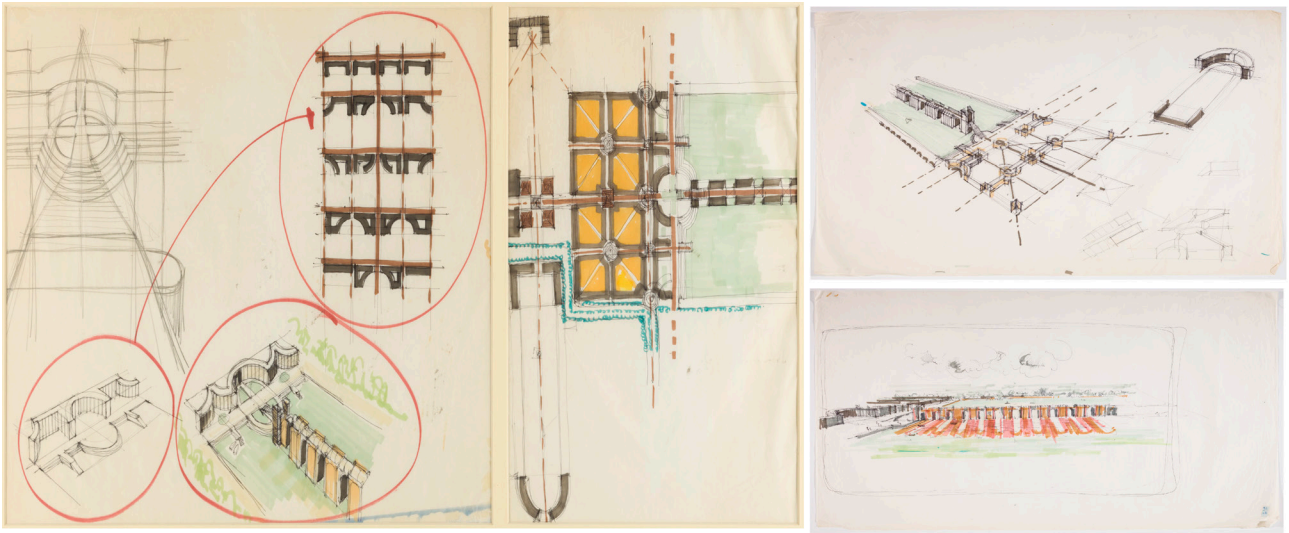


<https://doi.org/10.6092/issn.2611-0075/22317> | ISSN 2611-0075
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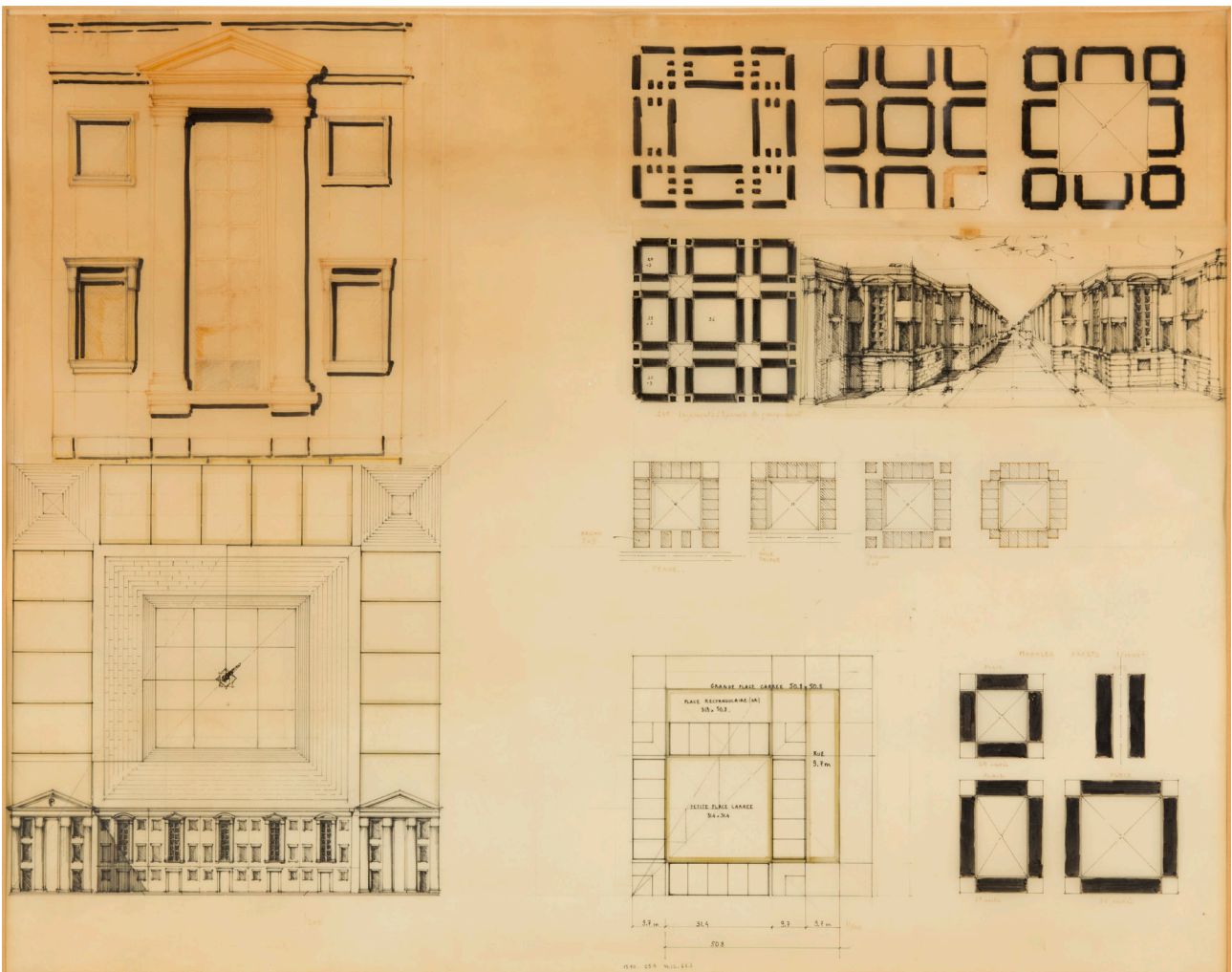
IMG.1: Le Lac (Les Arcades du Lac, Le Viaduc and Les Temples du Lac): master site plan, ink and watercolour on paper. IMG.2: Le Lac: aerial perspective, sketch. IMG.3: Les Arcades du Lac and Le Viaduct: site plan, coloured pencil on paper, BTA Archive.

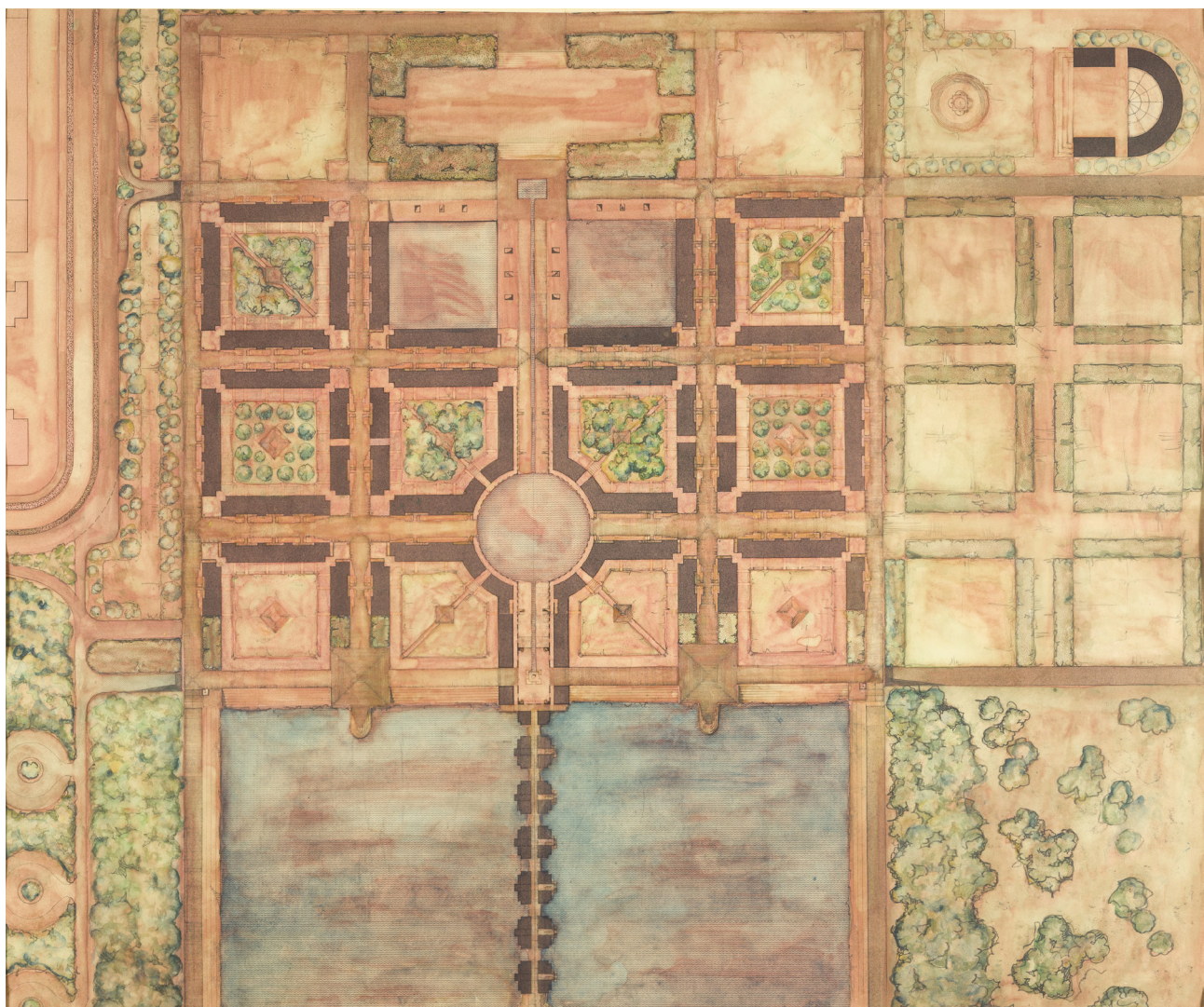


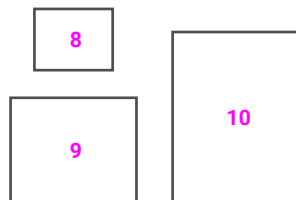


IMG.4: Les Arcades du Lac: partial site plan; IMG.5: Les Arcades du Lac: master plan, Oct. 1978; IMG.6: Les Arcades du Lac and Le Viaduc: study plan and perspective sketches, coloured markers and pencils on paper; IMG.7:

Les Arcades du Lac: typological studies, plan, elevations, and perspective sketches, BTA Archive.



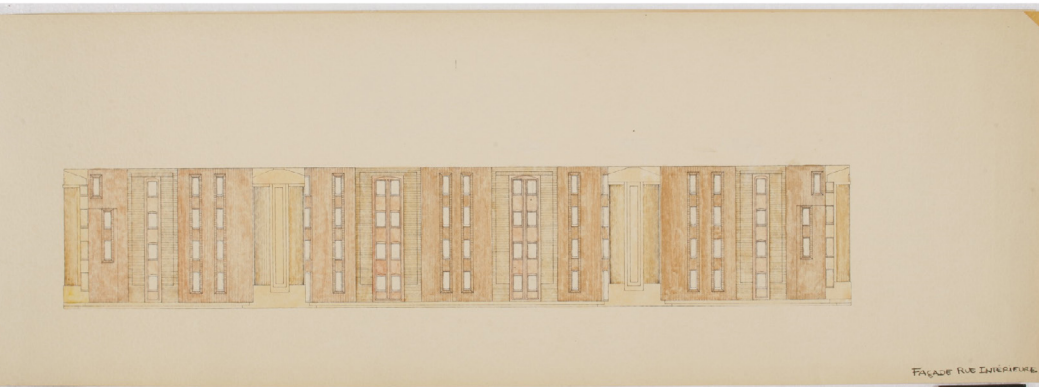
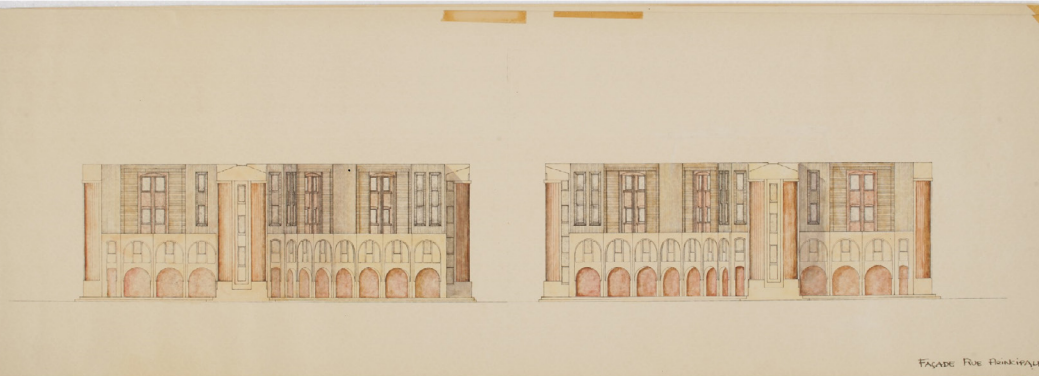
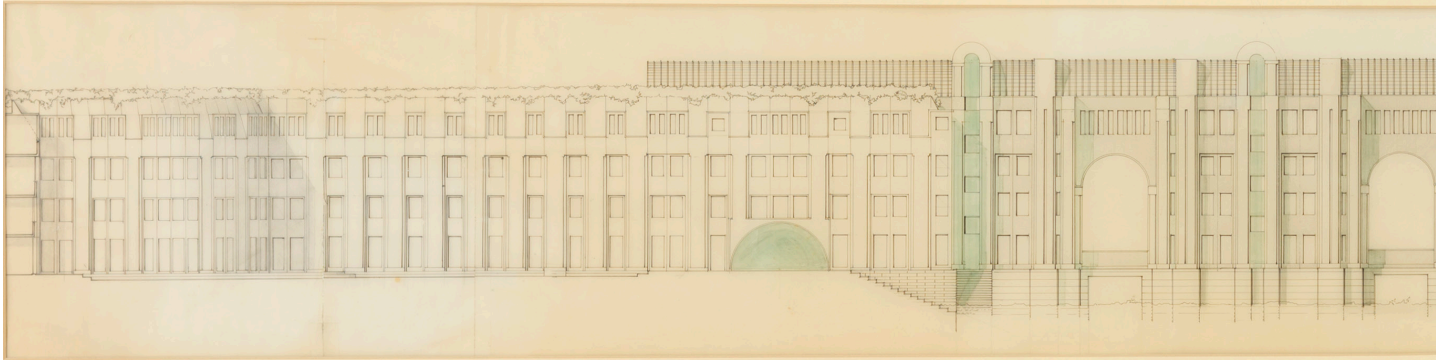
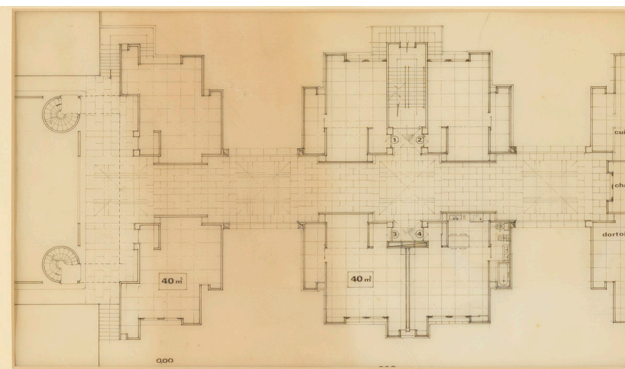
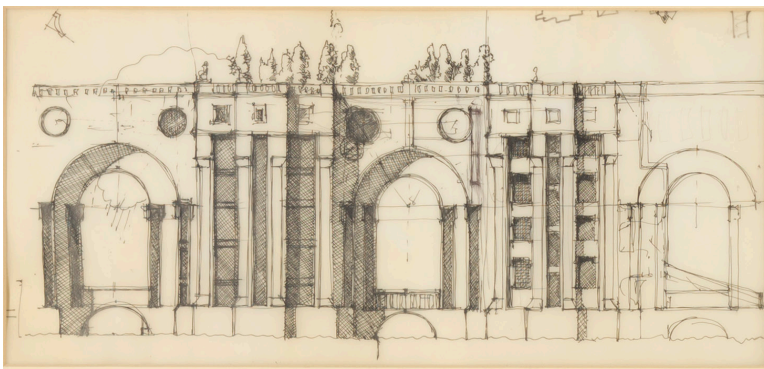


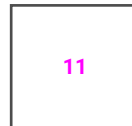
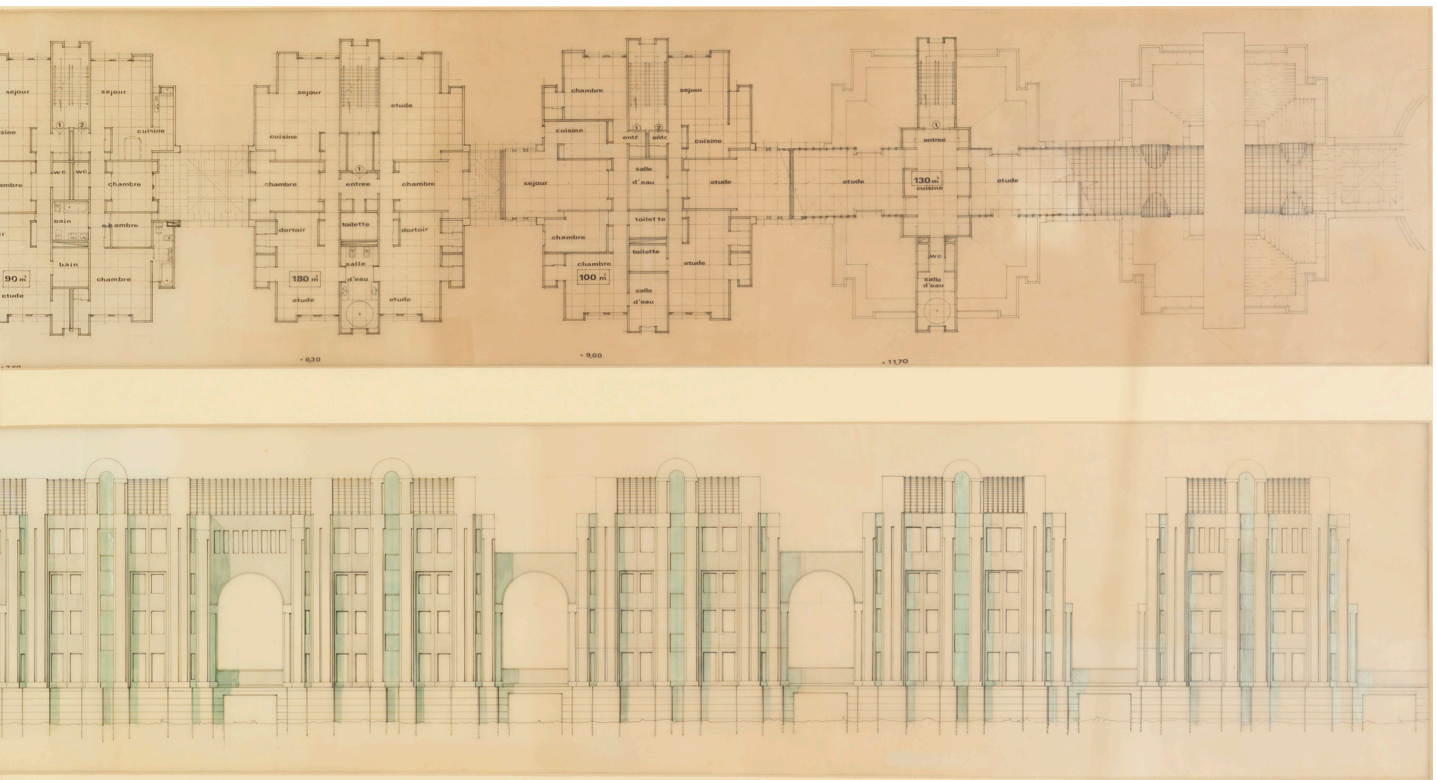


IMG.8: Les Arcades du Lac: partial ground level plan; IMG.9: Les Arcades du Lac: partial site plan, ink and watercolor on paper; IMG.10: Les Arcades du Lac: aerial birds eye perspective, streets view and squares per-

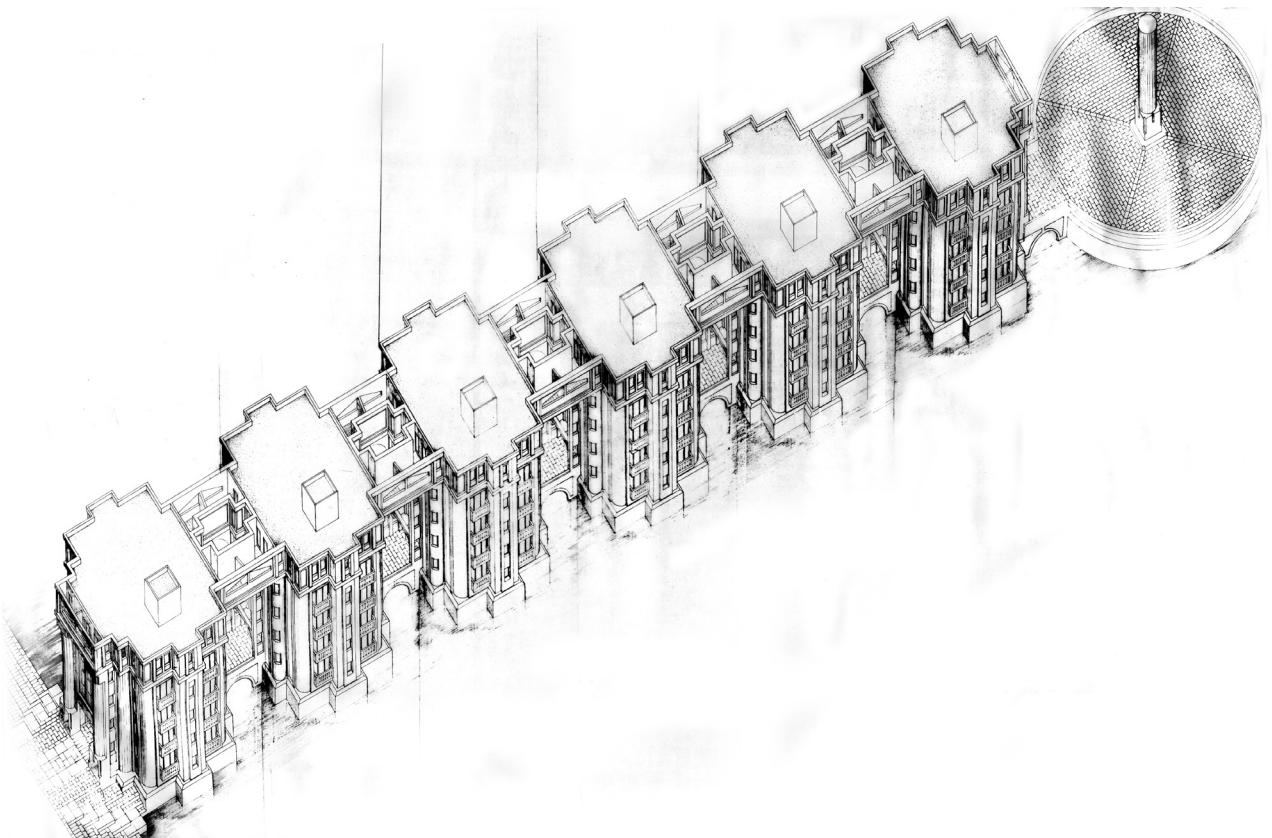
spective sketches, ink and watercolour on paper, BTA Archive.







IMG.11: Les Arcades du Lac: principal and internal streets elevations and Lake facade section; IMG.12: Le Viaduc: study sketch, typical plan and façade elevations; IMG.13: Le Viaduc: axonometric perspective, BTA Archive.





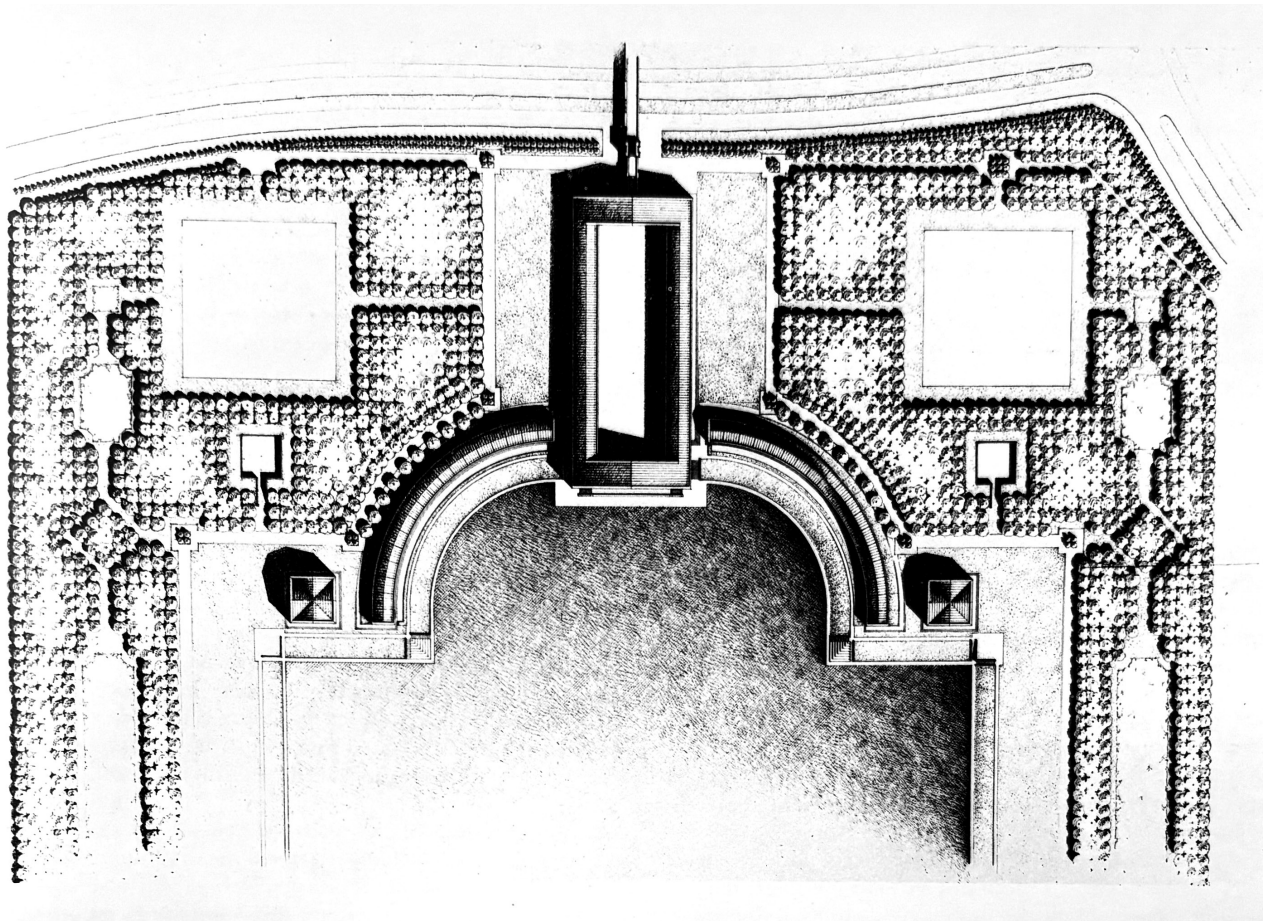
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IMG.14: Les Arcades du Lac, general perspective view, ink and watercolor on paper; IMG.15-16: Les Arcades du Lac, internal and external street perspective sketches, BTA Archive.



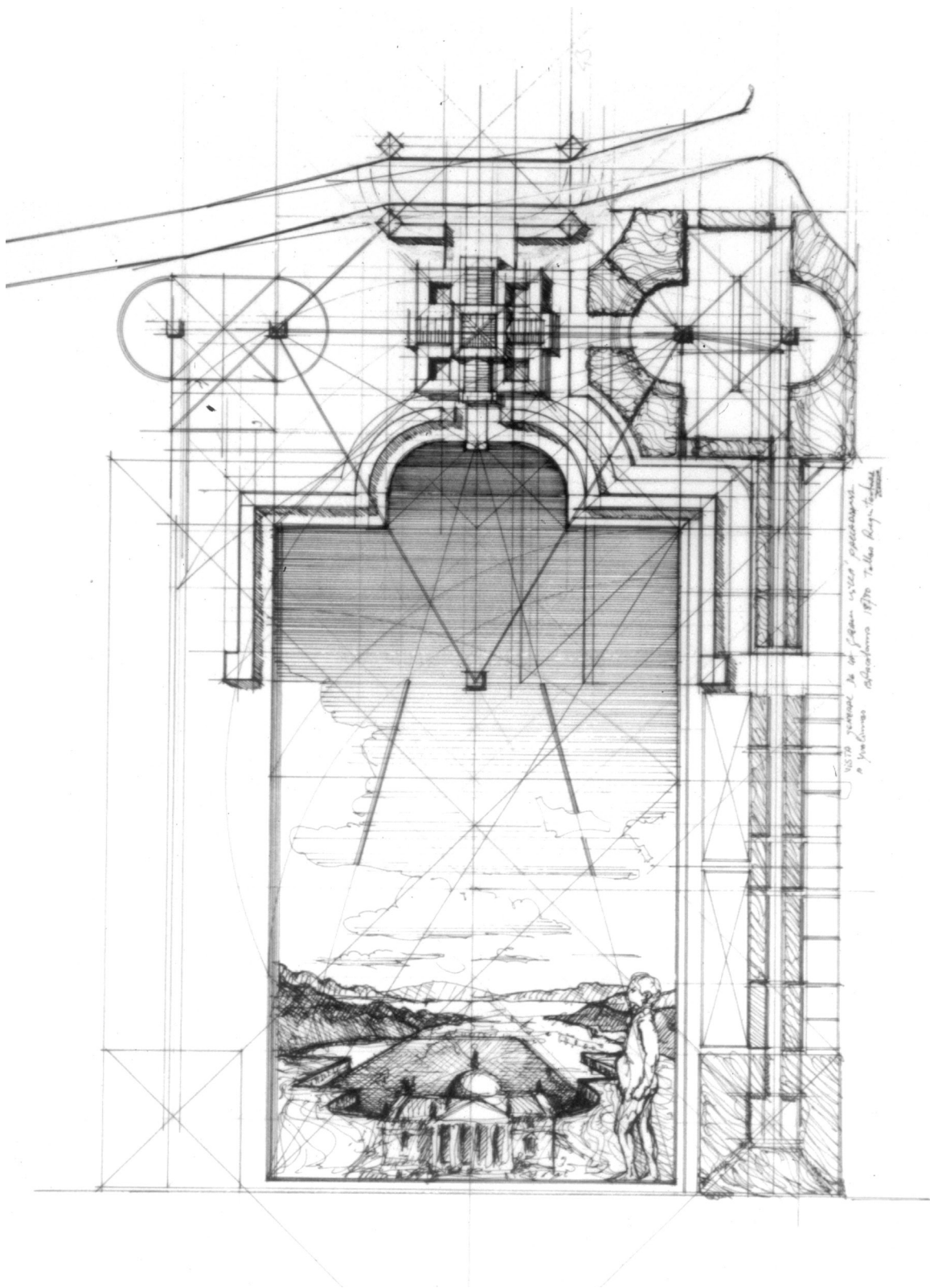


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IMG.17: Le Viaduc: picture of the model;
 IMG. 18: Les Arcades du Lac, prefabricated elements, layout elevations; IMG. 19: Les Temples du Lac, general plan, BTA Archive.



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IMG. 20: Les Temples du Lac, plan geometry and perspective sketch, BTA Archive.

Selected extracts from the RBTA project description

This, the first major project by the Taller de Arquitectura to be built in France, forms part of the Villes Nouvelles policy which the French government adopted for the outskirts of Paris: whole towns created from scratch in order to ease the congestion in the city centre and promote orderly growth, while avoiding as far as possible the creation of mere suburbs. As well as being the first of Bofill's constructions in France, this scheme constitutes a significant landmark in the history of the Taller de Arquitectura. The point of departure was established as being the relationship between technology and architectural history. The form and distribution of the blocks of apartments is based on the elements of a French Garden, introducing a considerable change of scale and transforming the hedges into buildings. This layout made it possible to generate the public spaces, basic to the formation of the town: the street and the square; the street as the place of circulation, and the square, as the place for meetings and get-togethers. Thanks to the large underground car park which links all the blocks together, all of the streets are exclusively pedestrian, some of them flanked by porticoes. The simplicity of the orthogonal organization is amply justified by the functional efficiency, all the more so in times of crisis such as the period from which the scheme dates. The compositional analysis of the French Garden was not restricted to a reproduction of its forms, but was a genuine attempt at creating a Garden City, in which the vegetation and the lake play a fundamental part. The notable presence of the lake prompted the construction of aqueduct and the form adopted for new blocks of housing built out over the water in a return to the famous French tradition of building castles on bridges, especially in the Loire region. "Les Arcades du Lac" contains 389 subsidised apartments grouped in four square blocks with a spacious interior courtyard, accessible from the street. The buildings consist of a ground floor and three upper floors. All apartments have dual orientation. The stairs are located in pavilions which project out from the façade, providing access to two doors per landing and leading down to the carpark. The program includes public spaces with plazas and gardens on the shores of the artificial lake. "Le Viaduct" a complex of 74 apartments, was actually built out over the artificial lake. Access to the apartments is at ground level, by way of a pedestrian street composed of the little bridges which communicate the ground floors of each of the six blocks. The vertical circulation nuclei occupy the central part of the north façade, and all of the rooms are exterior. Thus we have simply accomplished this exercise as the first model of a complex series of projects to be developed further on. We know that like every primary model, it is easily reproduced, and we know by inheritance, the danger of the divulgation of simple models. This is the reason why the project contains some totally subjective elements, and that, based on this first example, we have developed a series of complex exercises where the technological and cultural requirements have become more complicated.