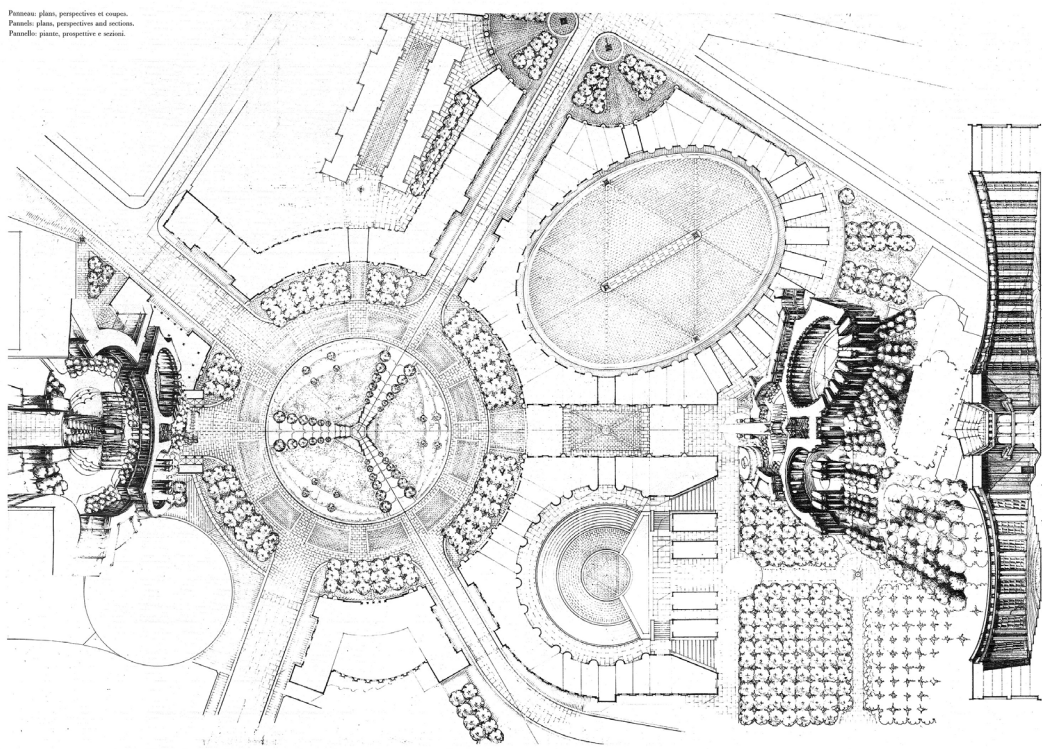




# Les Echelles du Baroque

## ARCHIVAL DATA

|               |                                                                       |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DATE          | 1979 (design) 1985 (realization)                                      |
| PLACE/ADDRESS | XIV Arrondissement-Montparnasse, Paris                                |
| COLLABORATORS | Peter Hodgkinson, Xavier Listosella, Patrick Dillon, Thierry Recevski |
| CUSTOMER      | S.A.G.I Société d'aménagement et de gestion immobilière               |
| SOURCES       | RBTA Archive                                                          |

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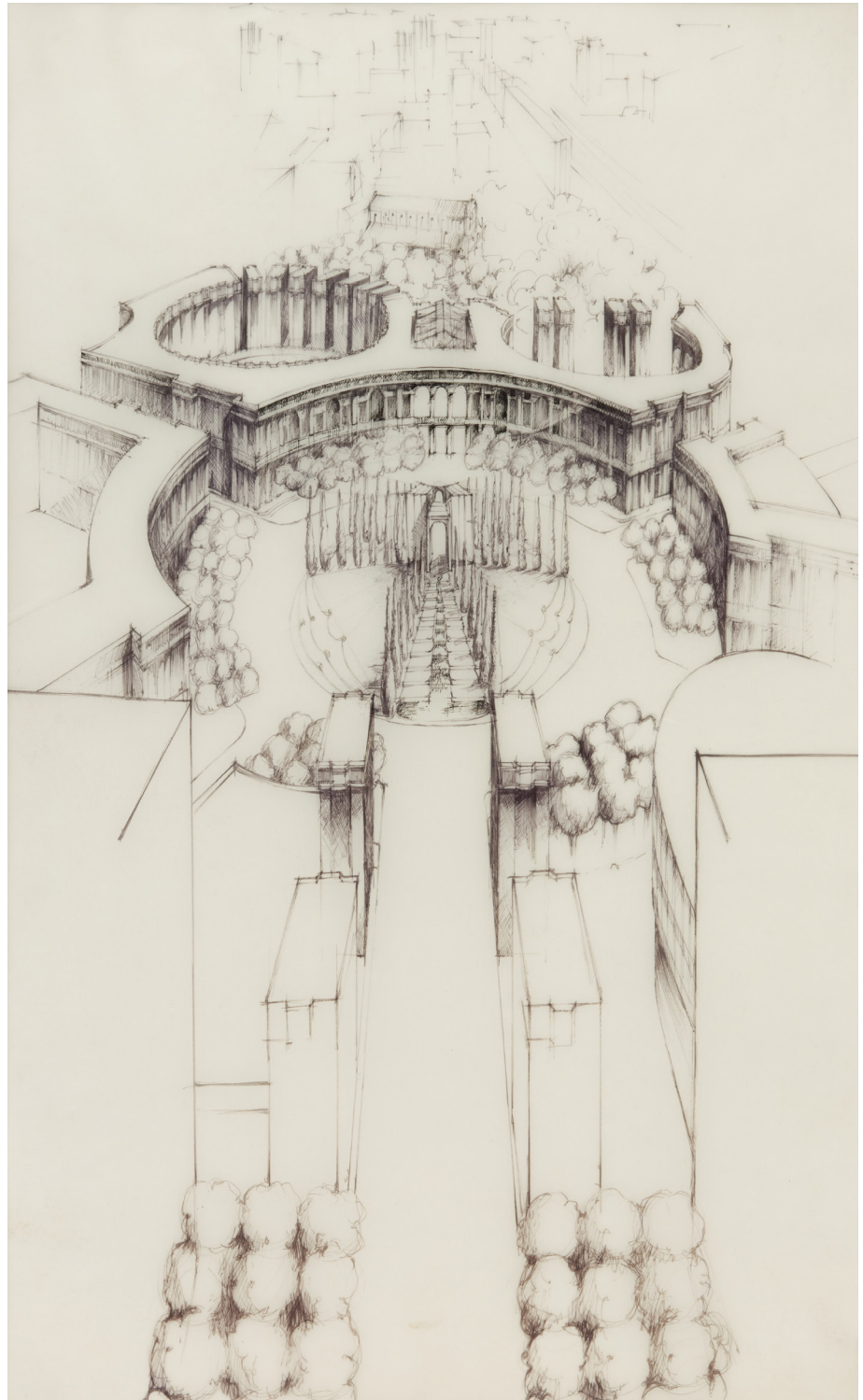


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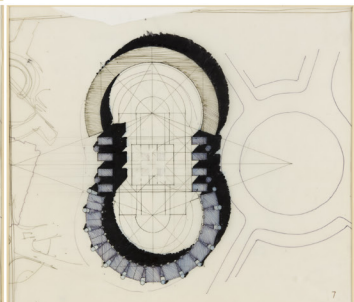
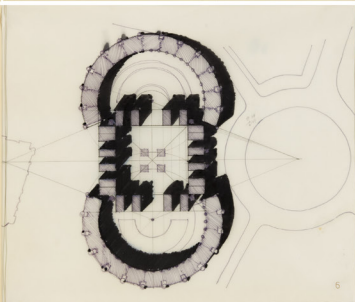
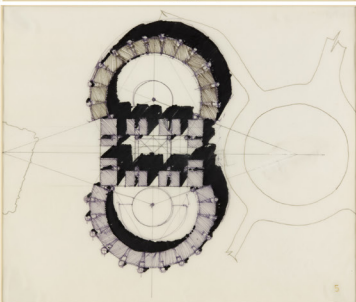
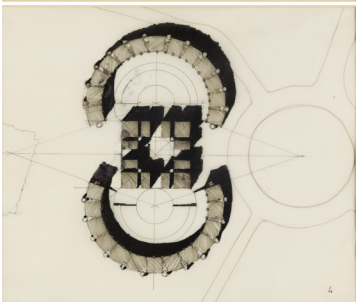
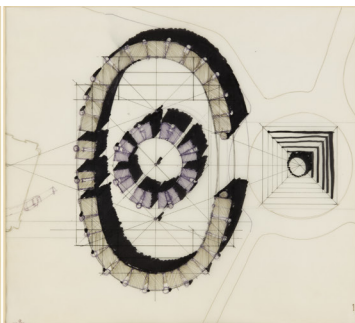
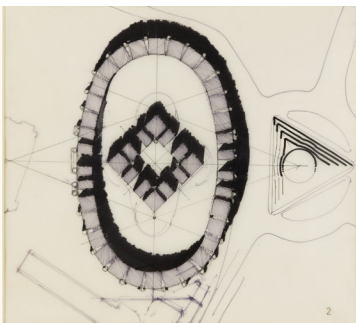
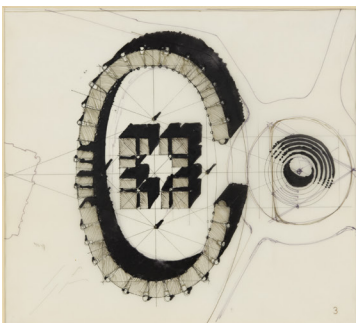
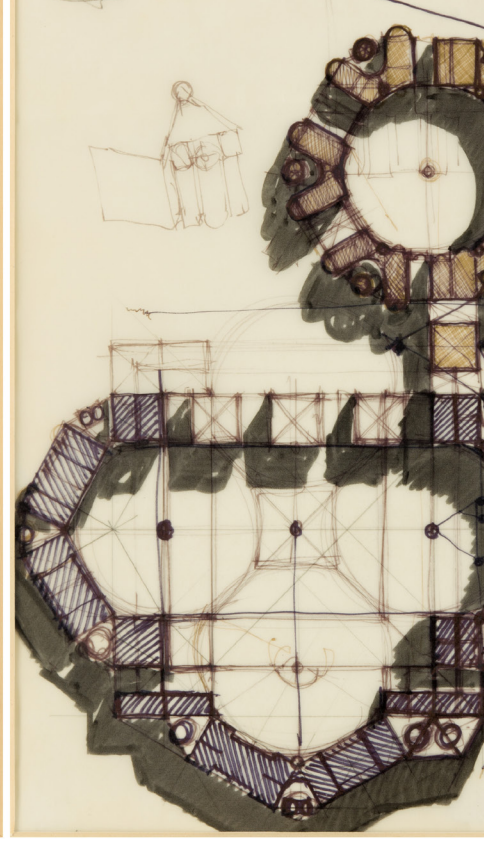
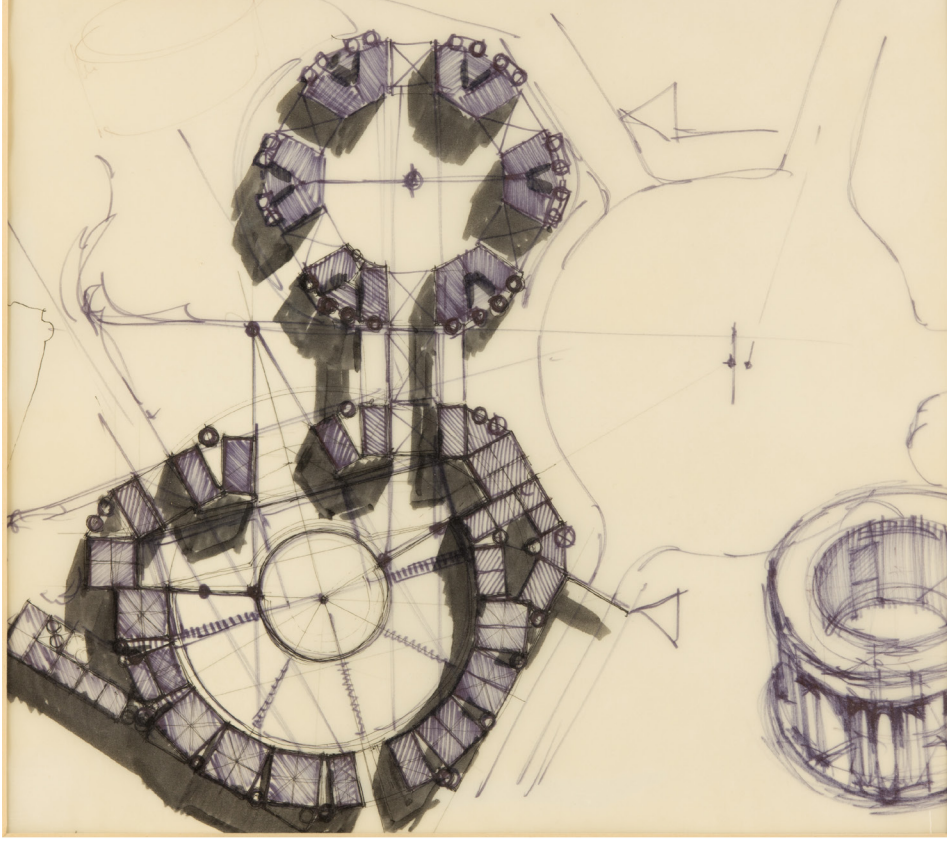
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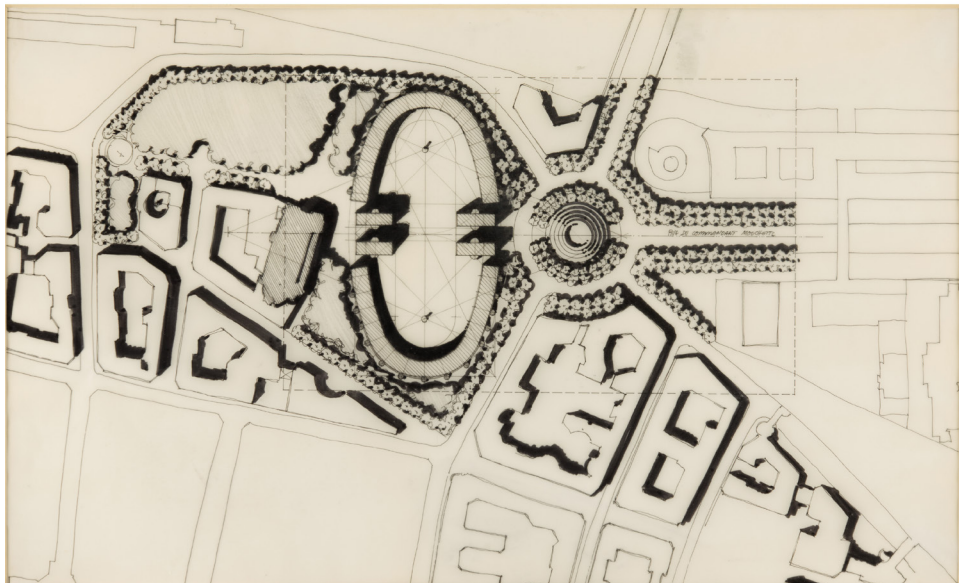
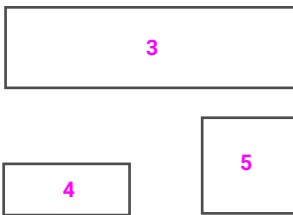
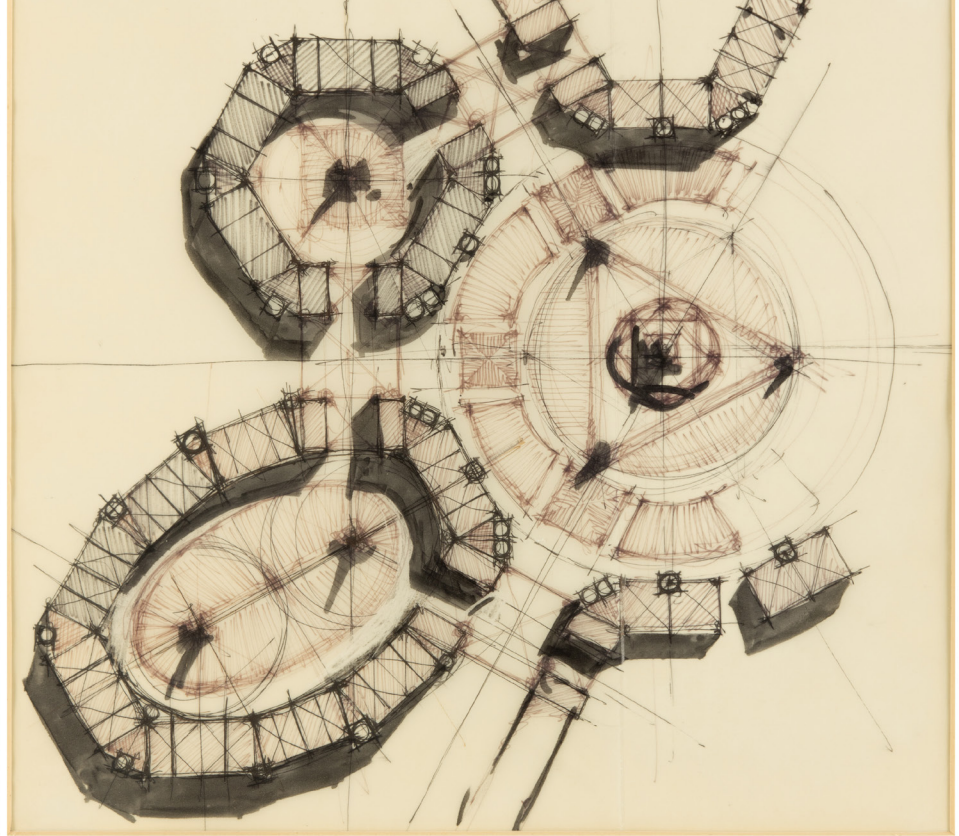
IMG.1: Les Echelles du Baroque, site plan, perspectives and sections sketches.  
IMG.2: Les Echelles du Baroque, aerial perspective sketch, BTA Archive..





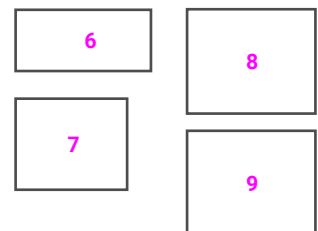
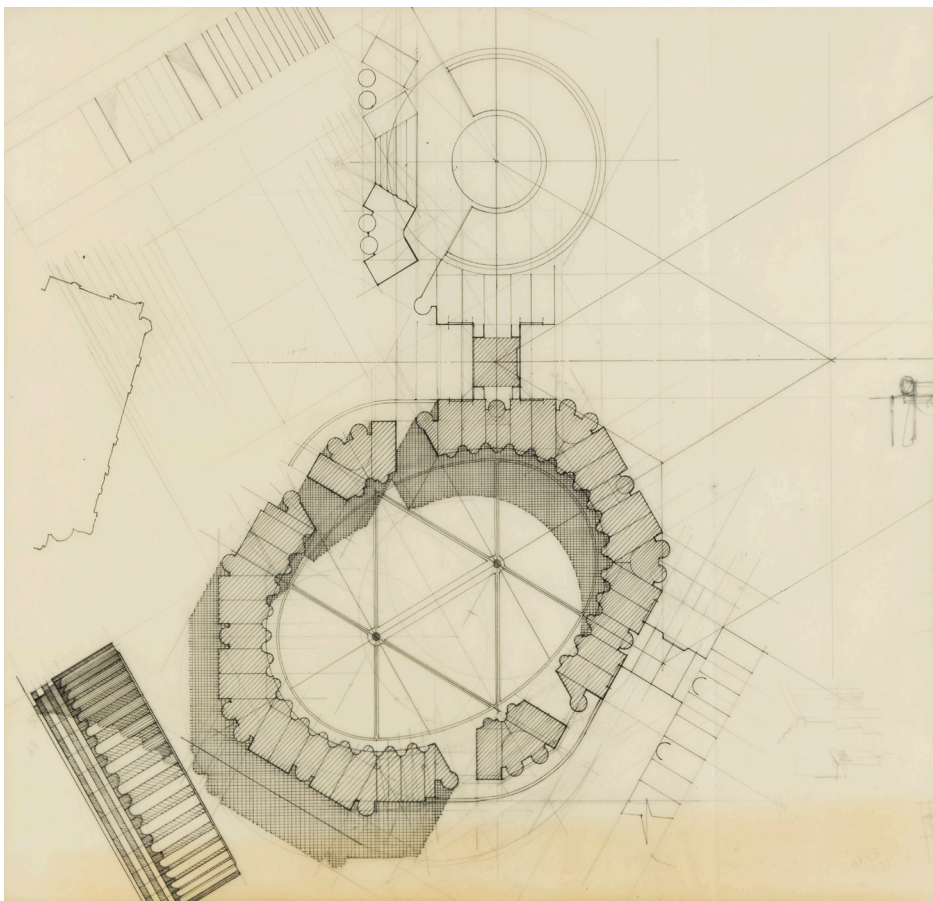
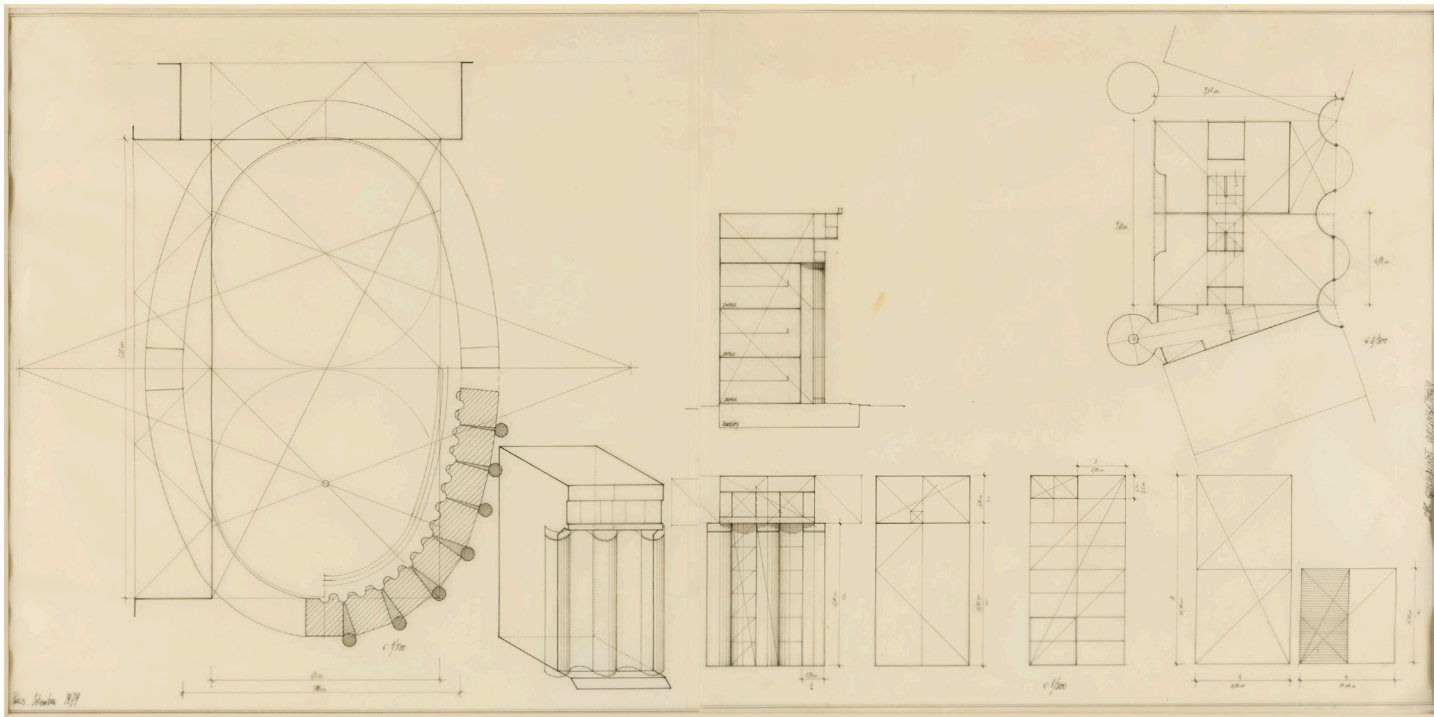






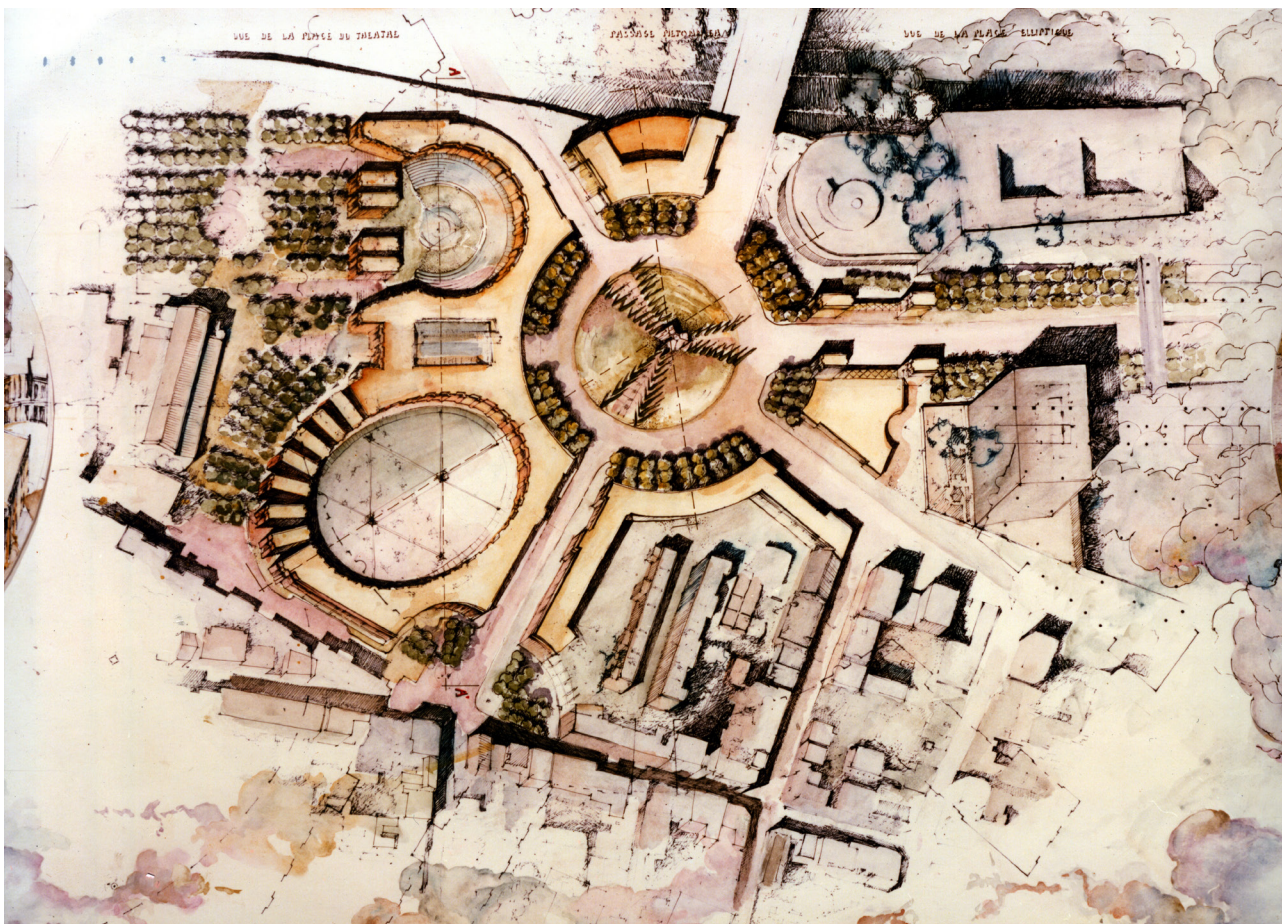
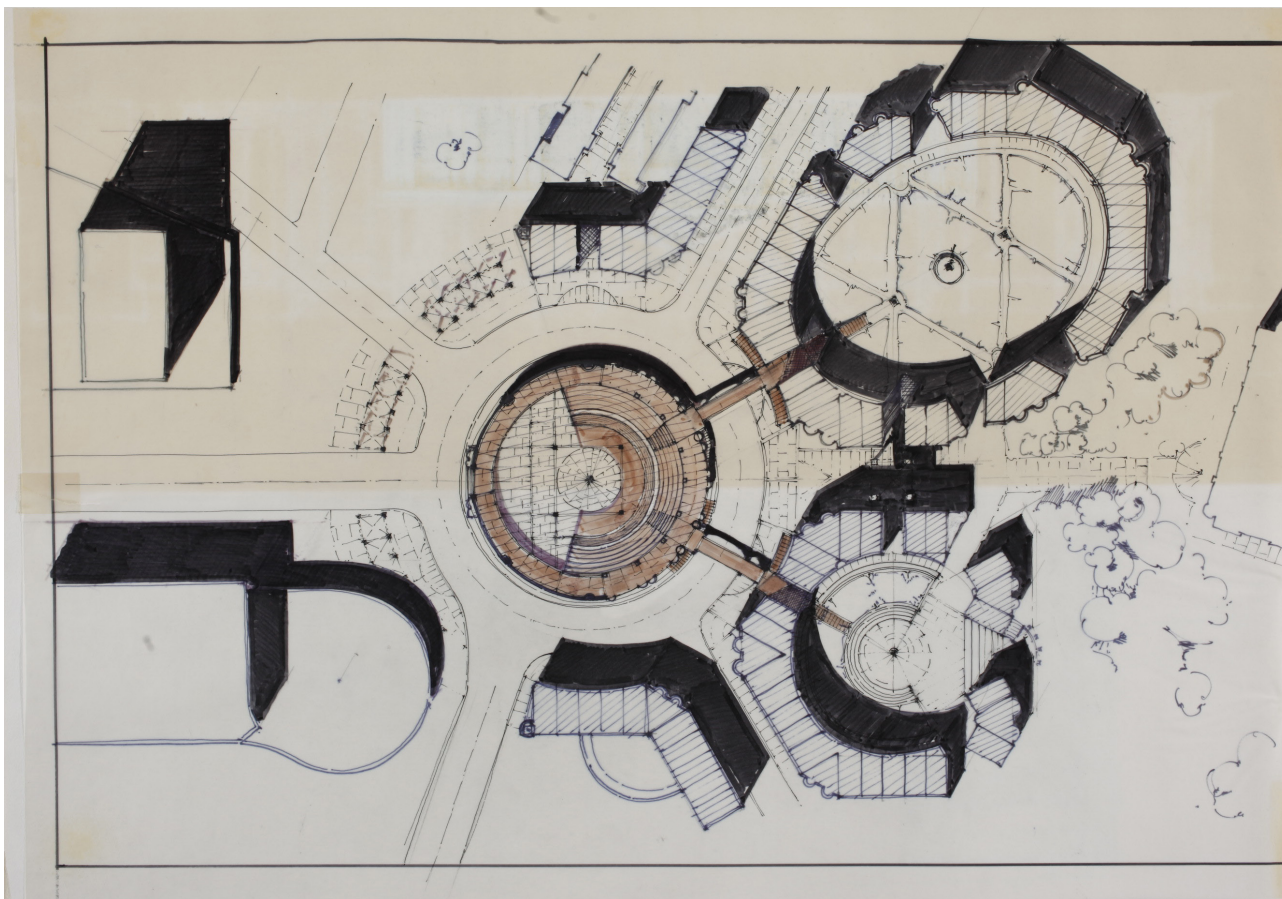
IMG.3: Les Echelles du Baroque, morphological site plan studies, coloured pencil sketches; IMG.4: Les Echelles du Baroque, typological plan studies, coloured pencil on paper; IMG.5: Les Echelle du Baroque, site plan studies, BTA Archive..



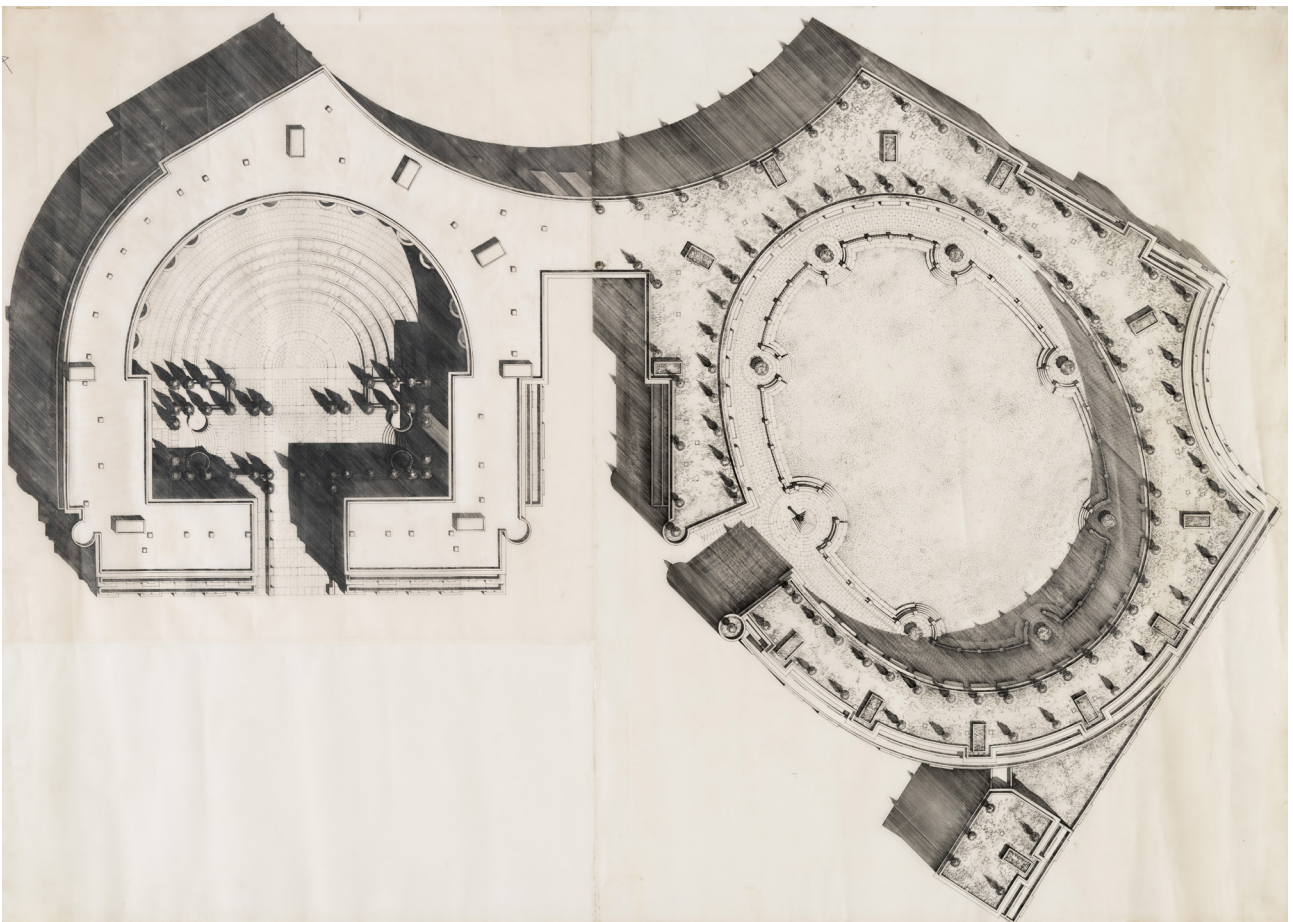
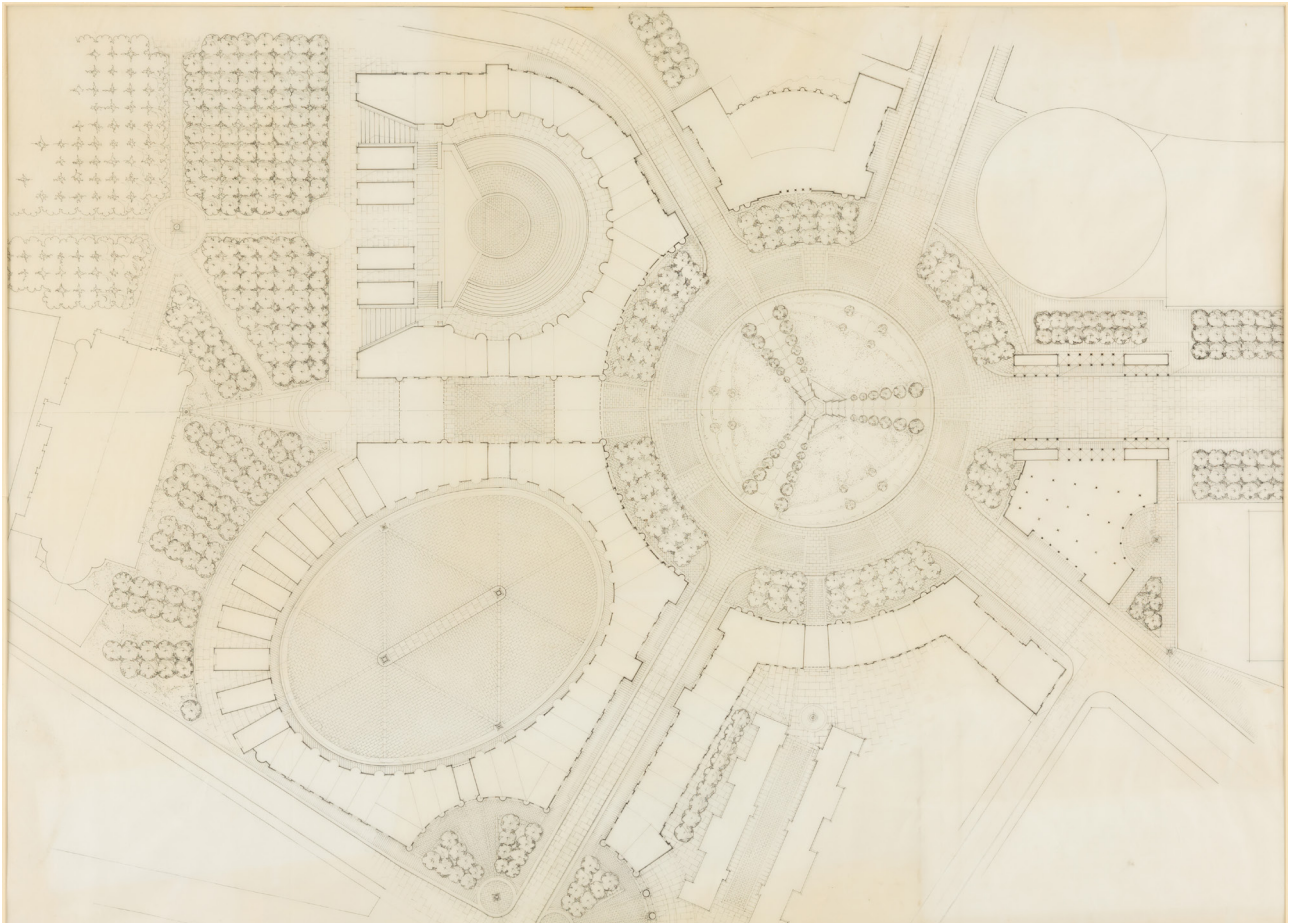


IMG.6-7: Les Echelles du Baroque, master plan studies, geometric layout plan, section and elevation details; IMG.8: Les Echelles du Baroque, master plan study, ink and coloured markers on paper; IMG.9: Les Echelles du Baroque, site perspective study, ink and water-colour on paper, BTA Archive..

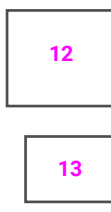
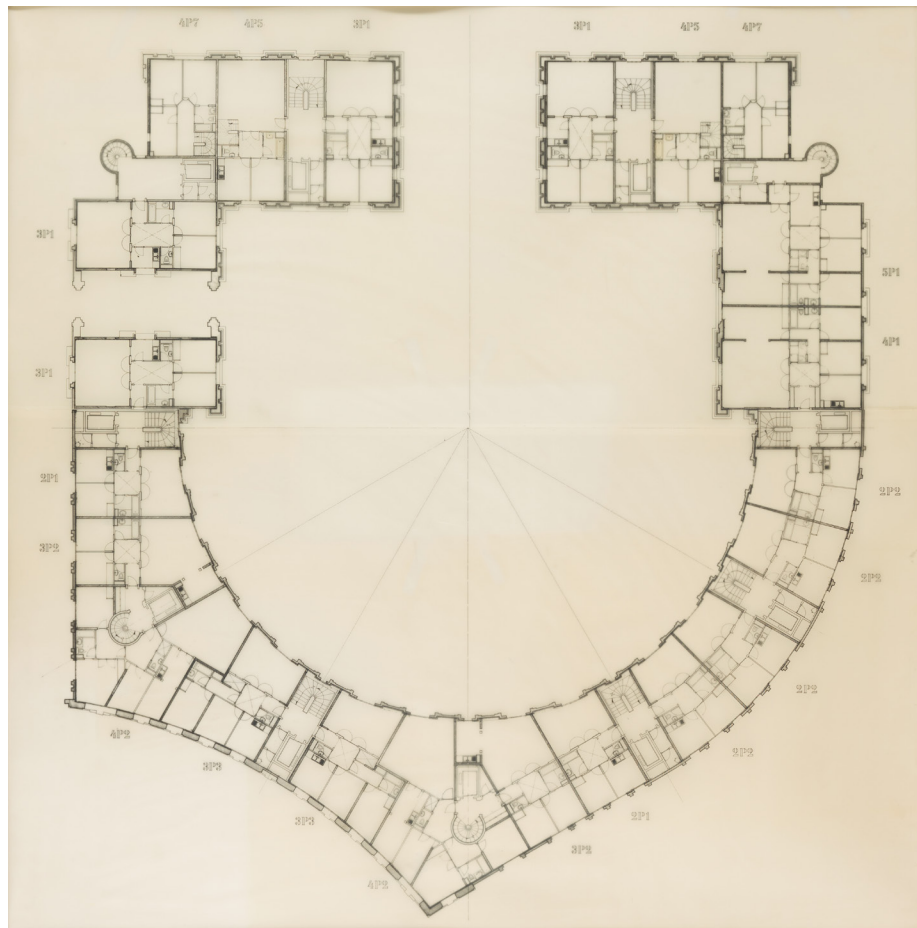




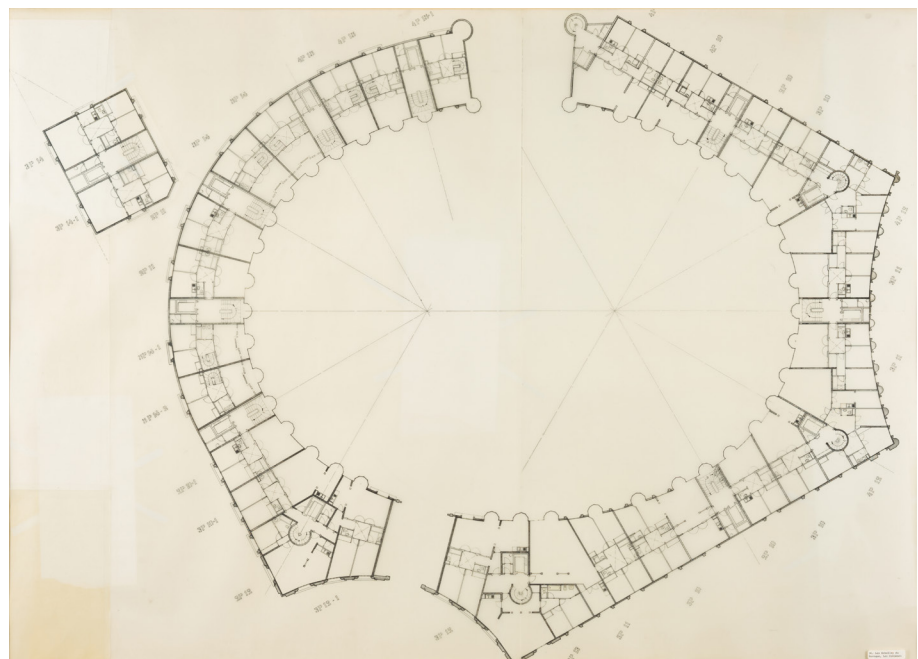








IMG.10: Les Echelles du Baroque, site plan study; IMG.11: Les Echelles du Baroque, final roof lever floor plan; IMG.12: Les Colonnes: typical floor plan; IMG. 13: L'Amphitéâtre: typical floor plan, BTA Archive.

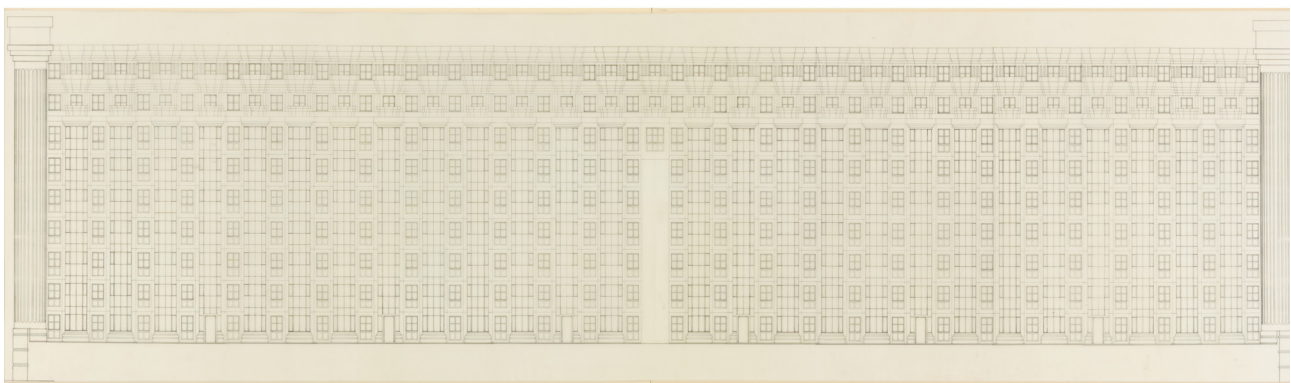
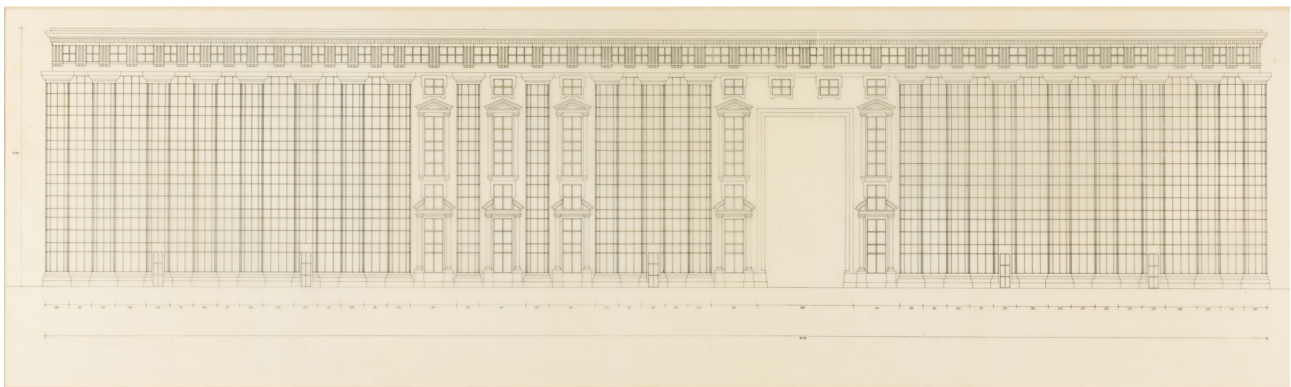
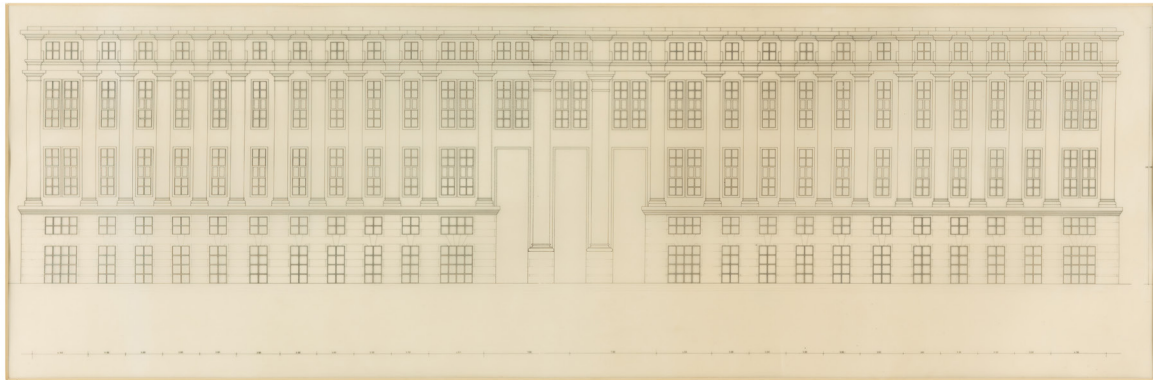




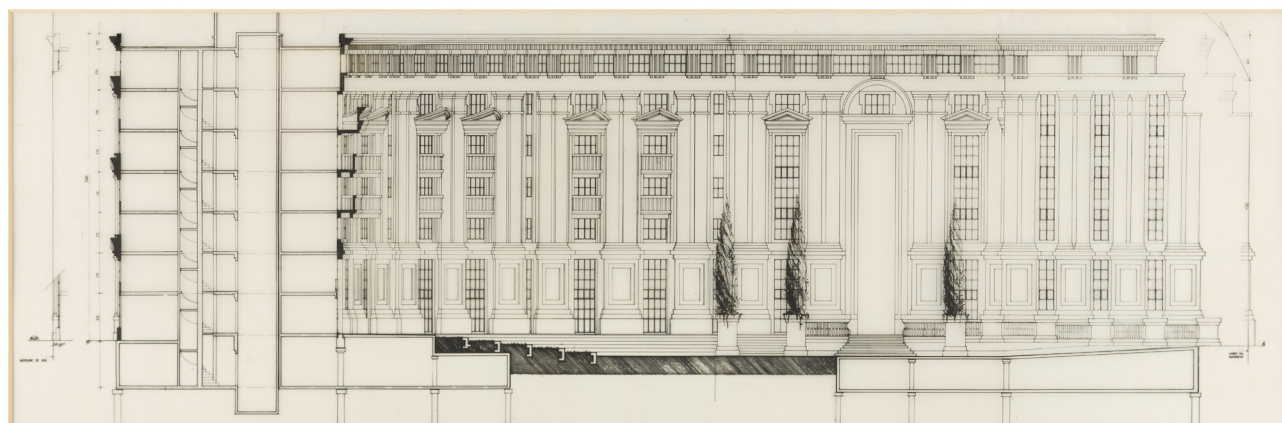
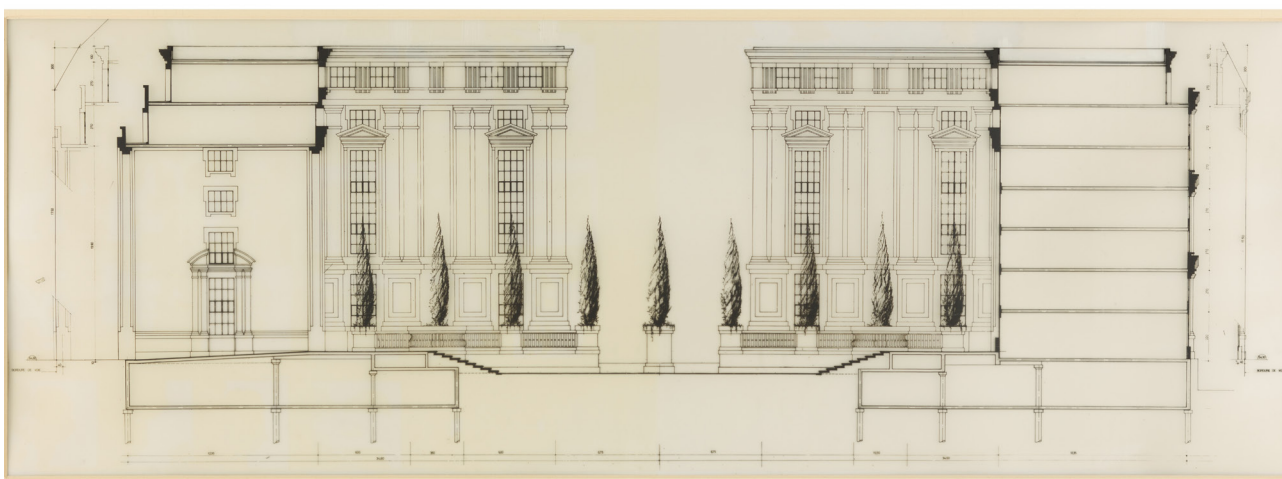
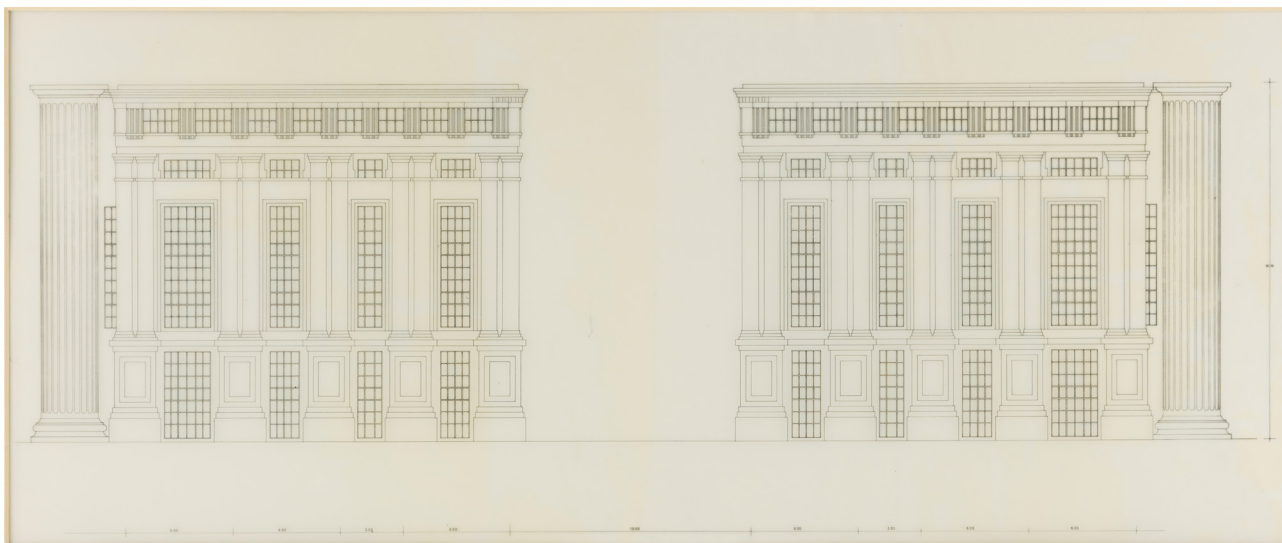
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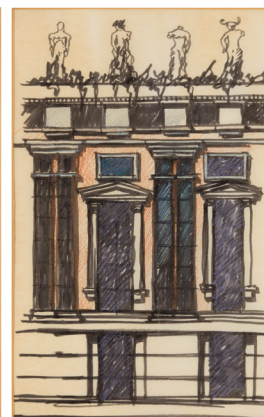
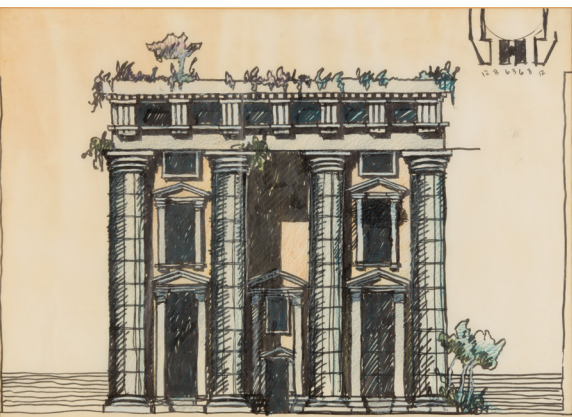
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IMG.14: L'Amphitéâtre: exterior and courtyard facade elevations;  
 IMG.15: Les Colonnes: exterior and courtyard section-façade elevations,  
 BTA Archive.









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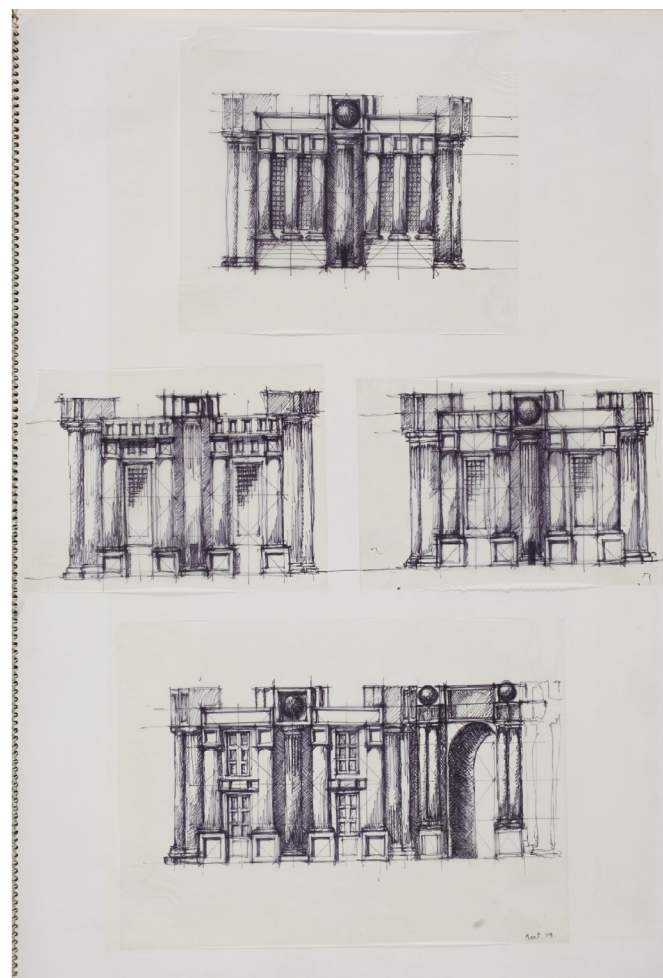
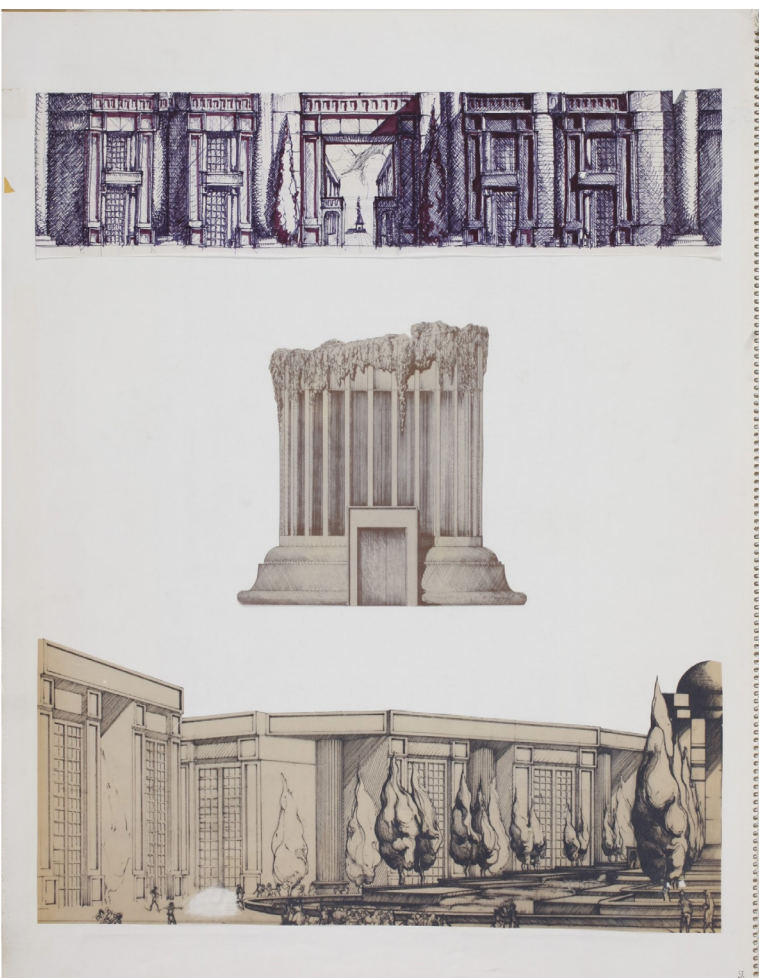
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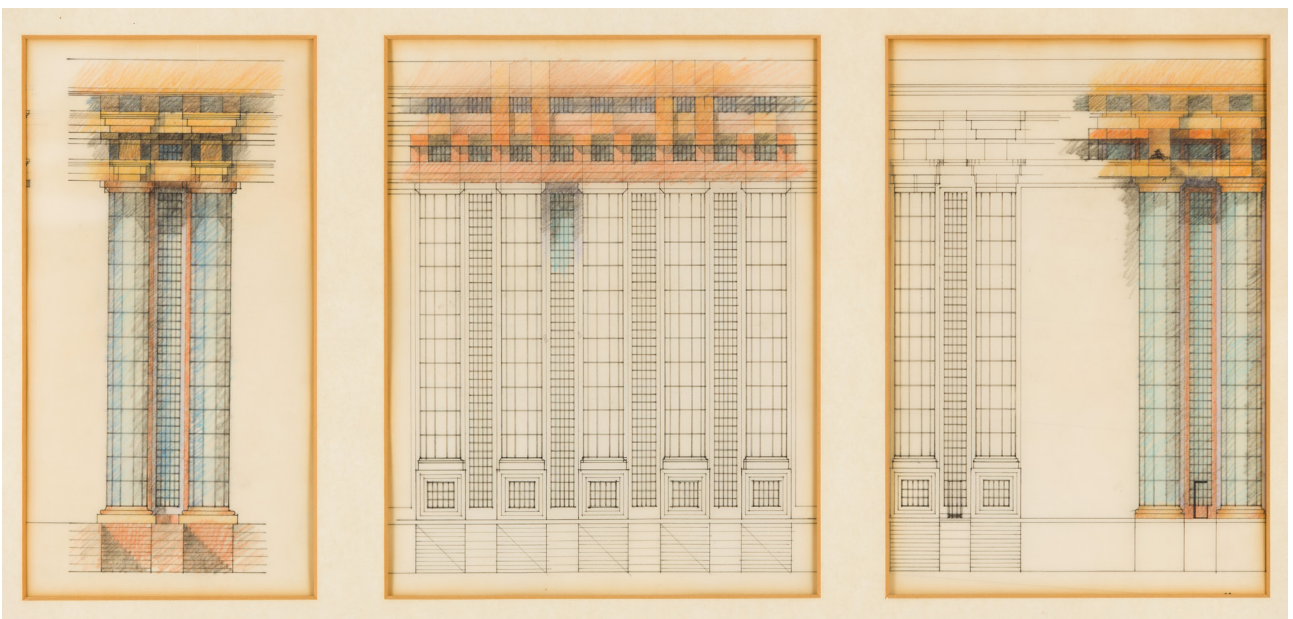
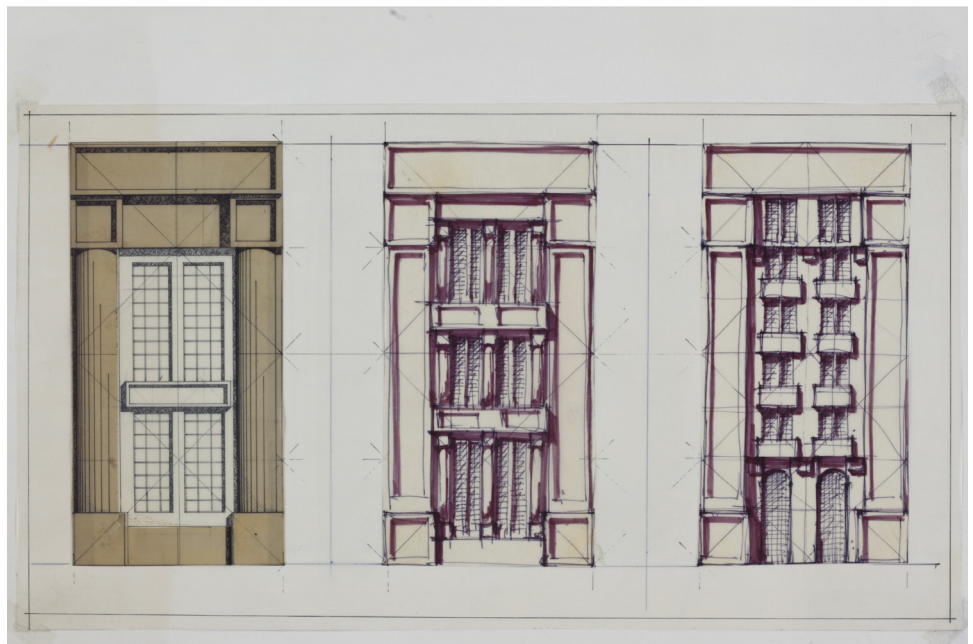
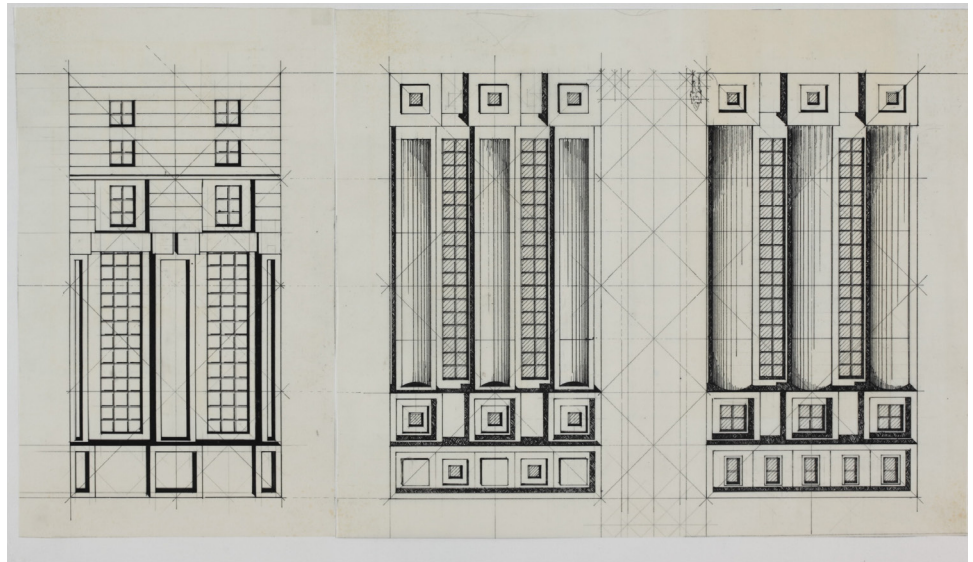
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IMG.16: Les Echelles du Baroque, facade studies, coloured markers and pencils; IMG. 17: Les Echelles du Baroque, facade studies and perspective sketches. Oct. 1979; IMG. 18: Les Echelles du Baroque, facade elevation studies, ink and colour-

ed markers on paper; IMG. 19: Les Echelles du Baroque, facade elevation study, ink and coloured markers on paper, BTA Archive.













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IMG. 20: Les Echelles du Baroque, facade elevation study, ink and coloured markers on paper, BTA Archive; IMG. 21: Les Echelles du Baroque, picture of the model..

## Selected extracts from the RBTA project description

The notable presence of the spectacular baroque monuments to be seen in so many cities asks to be understood in terms of their eminently scenic function, creating a theatrical background which testifies to the power of those who ordered their construction or provides a decoratively splendid setting in which the citizens can exhibit themselves.

The sense of the thoroughly established city communicated by the great baroque palaces led the Taller de Arquitectura to think of developing the model in order to create a grand urban monument capable of assuming a central role in the run-down Montpamasse district of Paris, in the process of a complete restructuring. Thanks to an adroit manipulation of the change of scale, the "Palace" contains two apartment buildings set around two interior courtyards, one elliptical, and the other in the form of a theatre.

The building's exterior gives no indication of the existence of the interior squares, opting instead to follow the layout of the urban grid, with a little square at each corner and a large circular plaza on the main facade. This plaza is flanked, too, by buildings by other architects who have followed on from the Taller's initial idea. The conversion of an existing street to serve as the main gateway into the complex has resulted in a considerable increase in the pedestrian space in the area.

Les Echelles du Baroque consist of 274 apartments, surrounding a circular plaza, and grouped around two interior courtyards, laid out in separate 7-storey buildings with distinct characteristics: L'Amphithéâtre and Les Colonnes. The ground floor of the two buildings is occupied by shops, and has an underground car park for 300 cars. L'Amphithéâtre was designed as subsidized housing, and Les Colonnes as apartments to be sold on the open market. The geometry of the apartments is based on a combination of modules. The basic module is 65 m<sup>2</sup> (77,7 sq. yards), equivalent to a three-bedroom apartment. All of the houses have dual orientation.

The interior facade of the houses which delimit the elliptical plaza takes the form of a curtain wall, with a rhythmic sequence of glass columns which makes it possible to provide every apartment with a glazed window bay. Some of the apartments are laid out over two levels, and have an interior balcony opposite the curtain wall.

In designing the building we have confronted two imperatives: to respect the urban context and to obtain a formal relationship with the interior spaces of the project. This has obliged us to deform the construction process of the building, but at the same time keep a rational structural system. The baroque allows the articulation of concave spaces, according to a system of composition which takes all points of view in space. Its application breaks the established rigidity of industrial systems.