



**ARK-A3001 Design of Structures\_Basics**  
**Design with Forces**

**Toni Kotnik**

Professor of Design of Structures

Aalto University  
Department of Architecture  
Department of Civil Engineering

truss  
distribution of forces in space  
relation column-plate  
structural design thinking



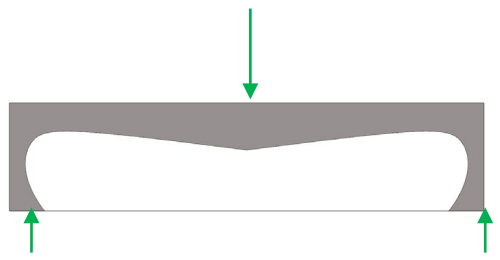
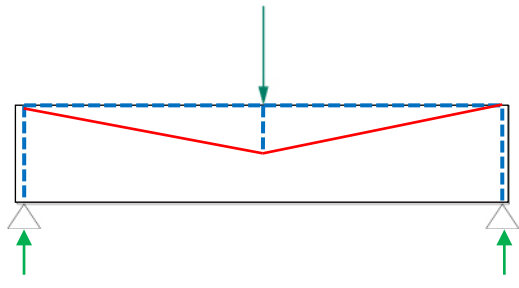
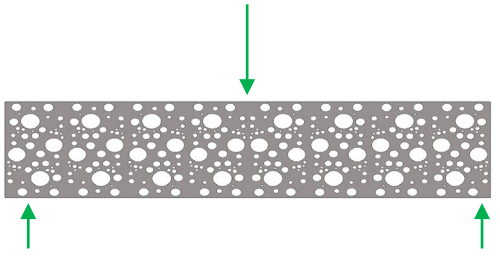
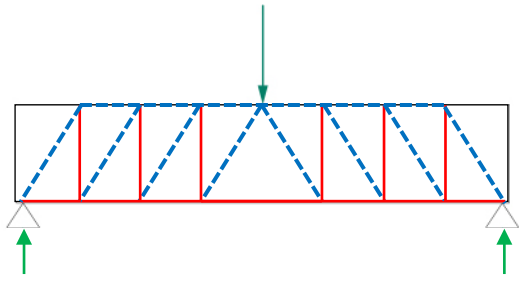
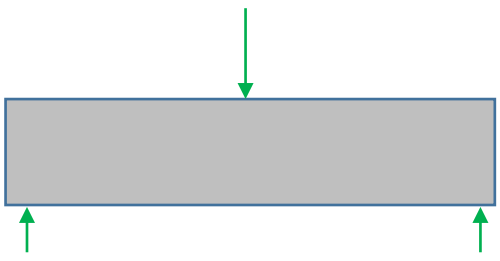
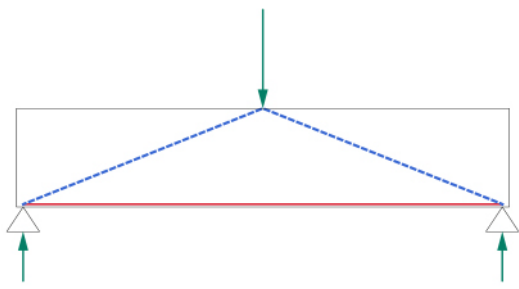
**ARK-A3001 Design of Structures\_Basics  
Force Distribution**

**Toni Kotnik**

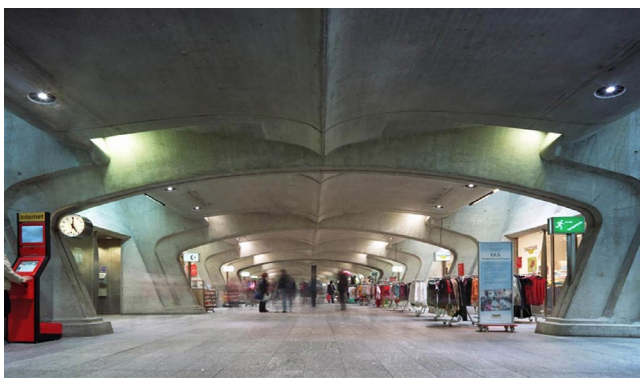
Professor of Design of Structures

Aalto University  
Department of Architecture  
Department of Civil Engineering

# Design Freedom



for a load condition many **different** correct **solutions** for the flow of inner forces are possible!

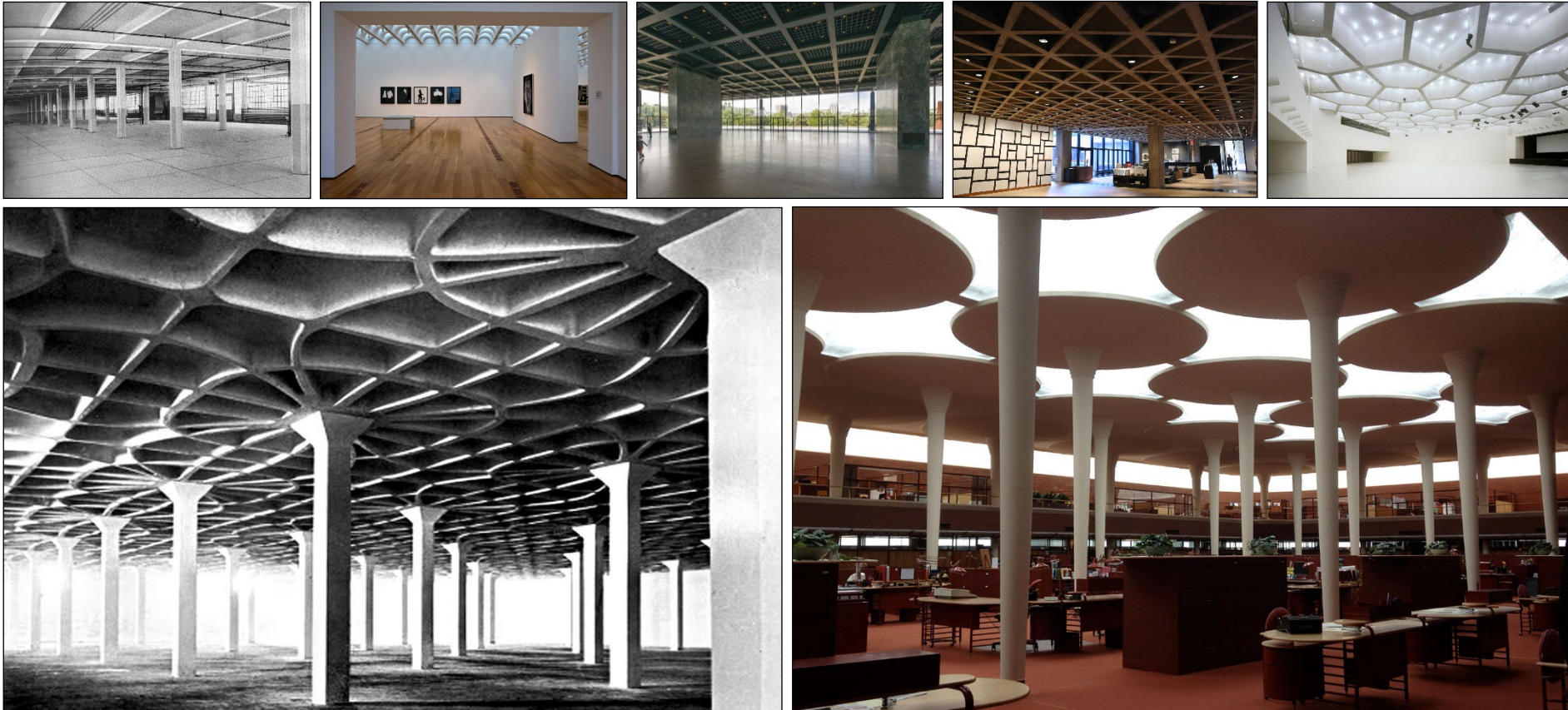


each distribution of inner forces can provoke a different design solution

# Design Freedom

How do inner forces flow?  
What does this mean for design?

structural design is primarily a question of **design thinking**,  
it is a creative & intellectual process!



# Efficient Design Solution



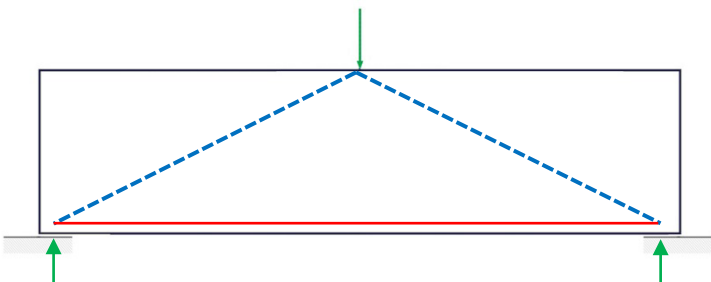
Gerkan, Marg & Partners: Airport  
Stuttgart, Germany, 2004

# Optimized Truss

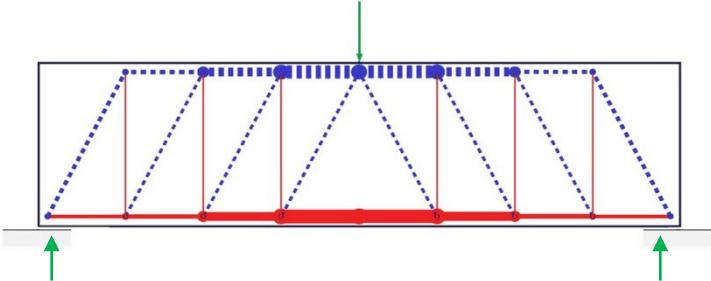
the load is transferred through the material into the support points

inner forces are forces inside the material produced by the load

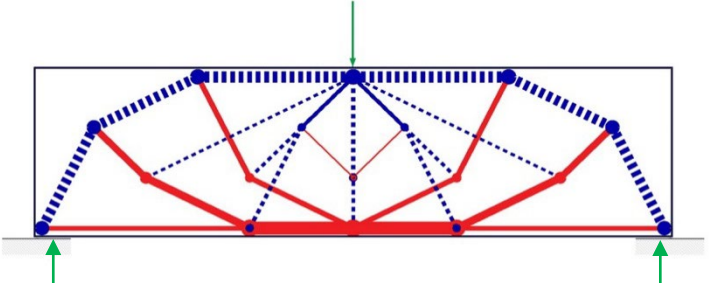
**consequence:** material is needed only where inner forces are flowing



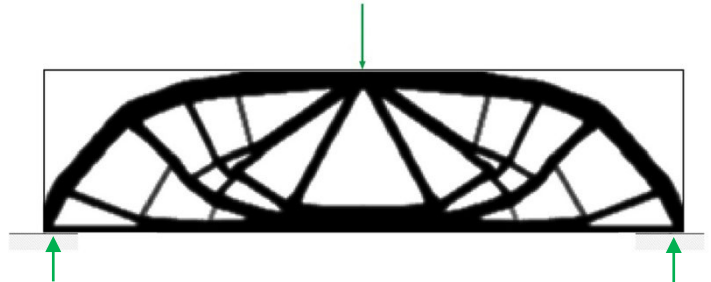
inner flow in beam



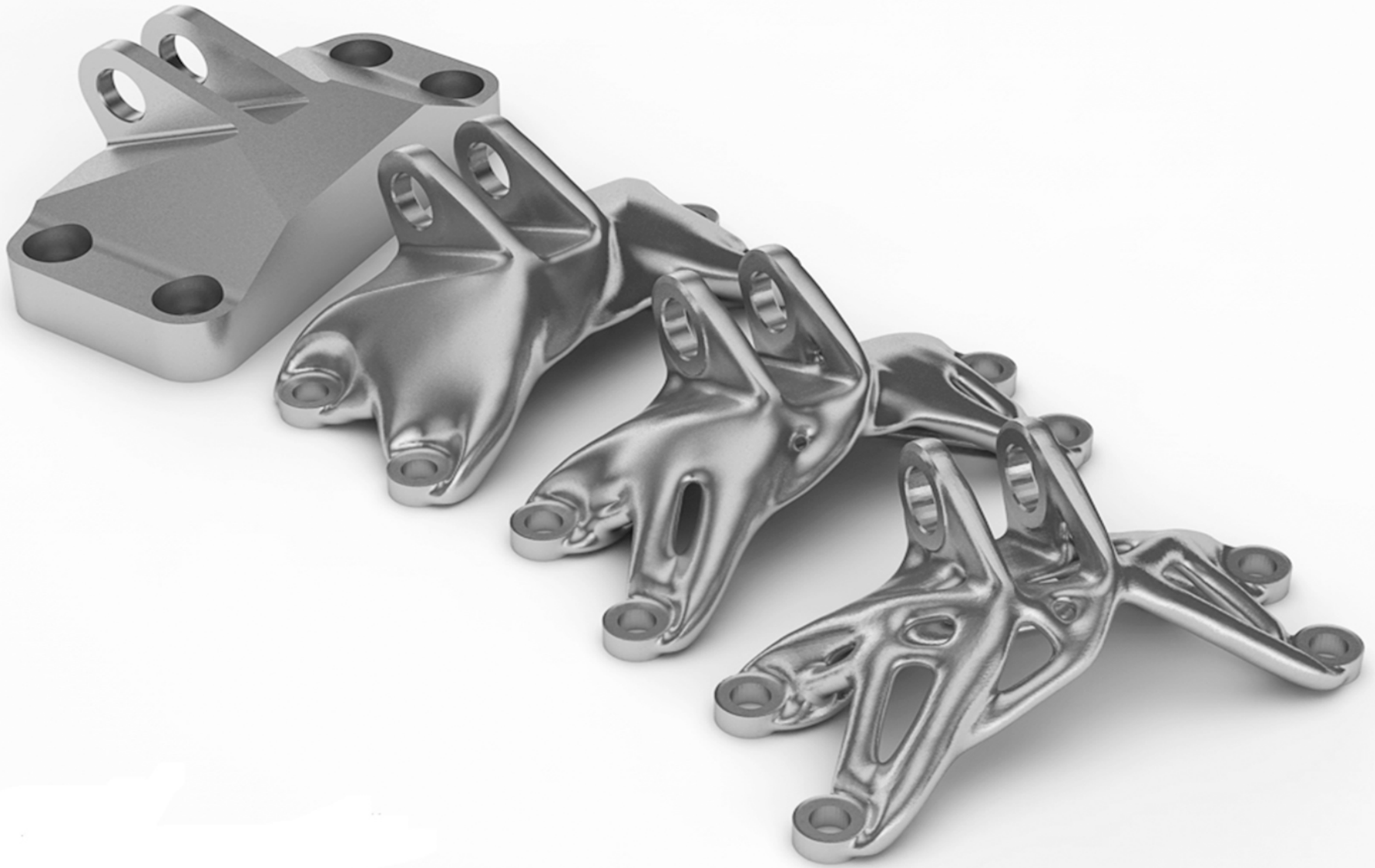
inscribed truss



optimized inscribed truss



optimized truss structure

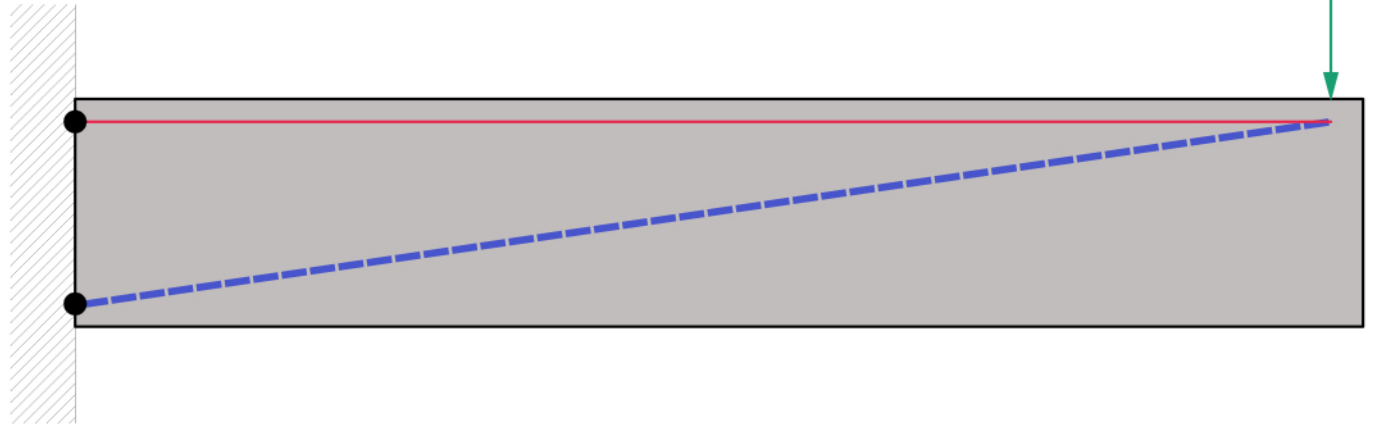


topologically optimized anchor point

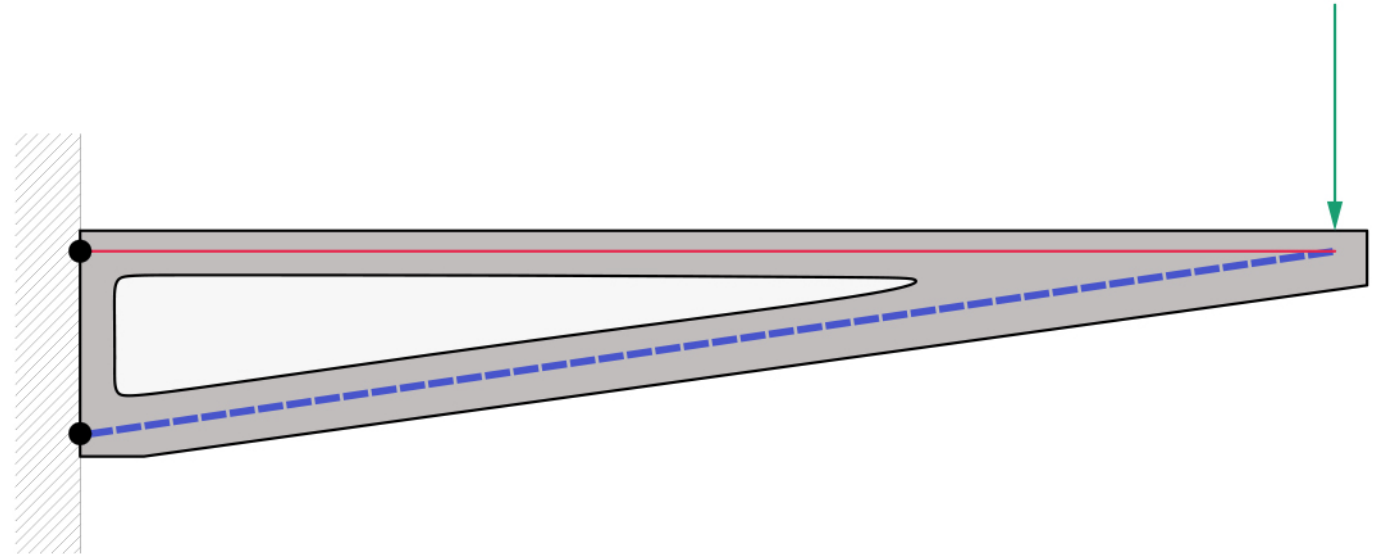
# Shaping of Elements

the load is transferred through the material into the support points

inner forces are forces inside the material produced by the load



**consequence:** material is needed only where inner forces are flowing





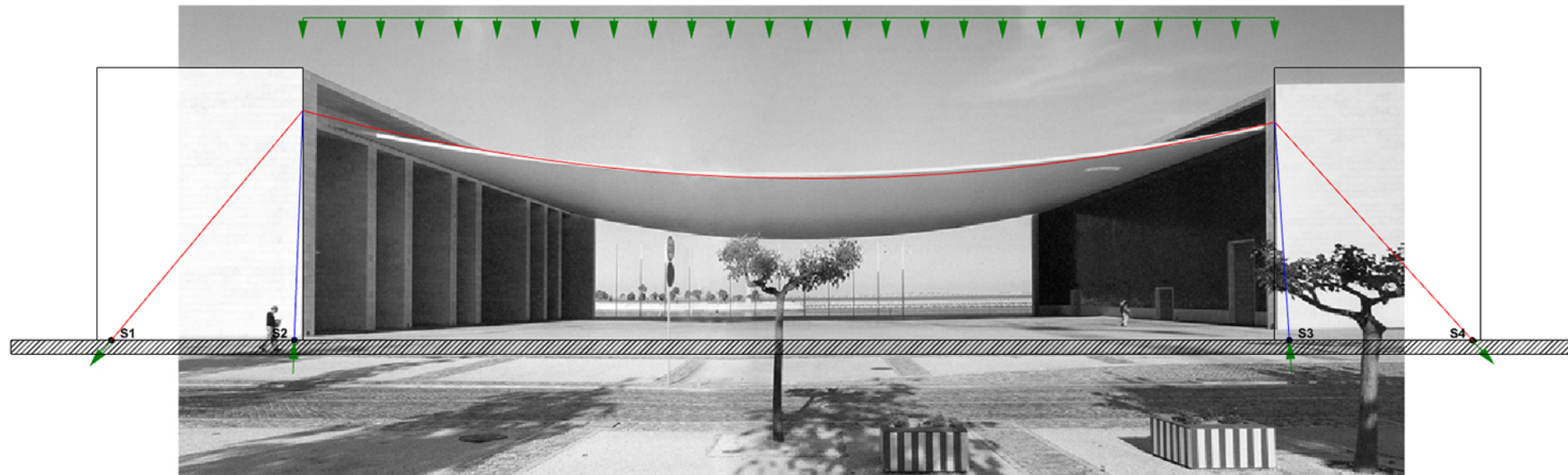
# Shaping of Elements



Norman Foster: Maggie's Cancer Center  
Manchester, UK, 2016

# Shaping of Elements

## Shaping of Structures

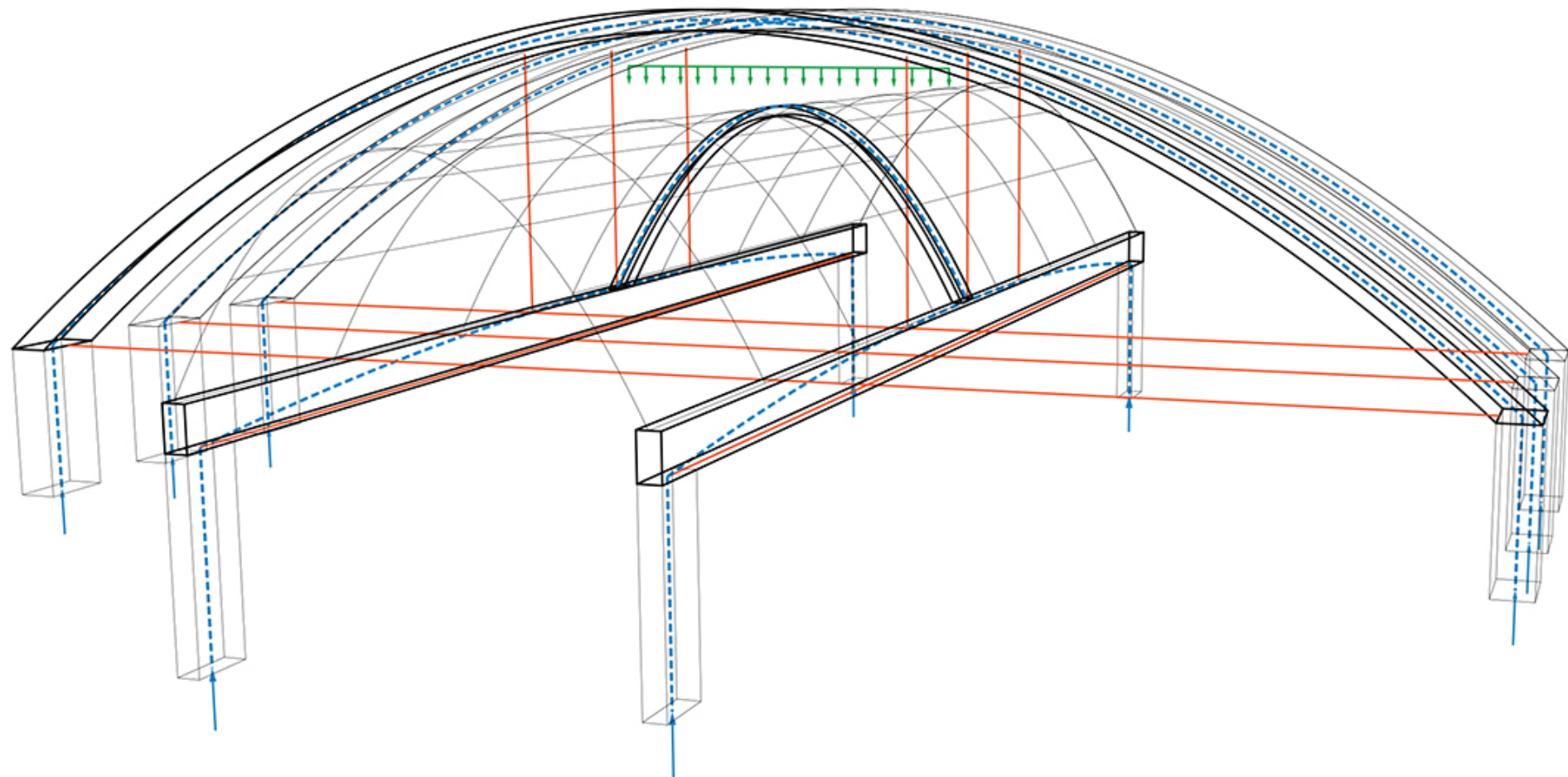


Alvaro Siza: Expo-Pavilion  
Lisbon, Portugal, 1998



EMBT: Renovation, Santa Caterina Market  
Barcelona, Spain, 1997 - 2005

# Shaping of Structures



EMBT: Renovation, Santa Caterina Market  
Barcelona, Spain, 1997 - 2005



structural design is primarily a question of **design thinking**, it is a creative & intellectual process!

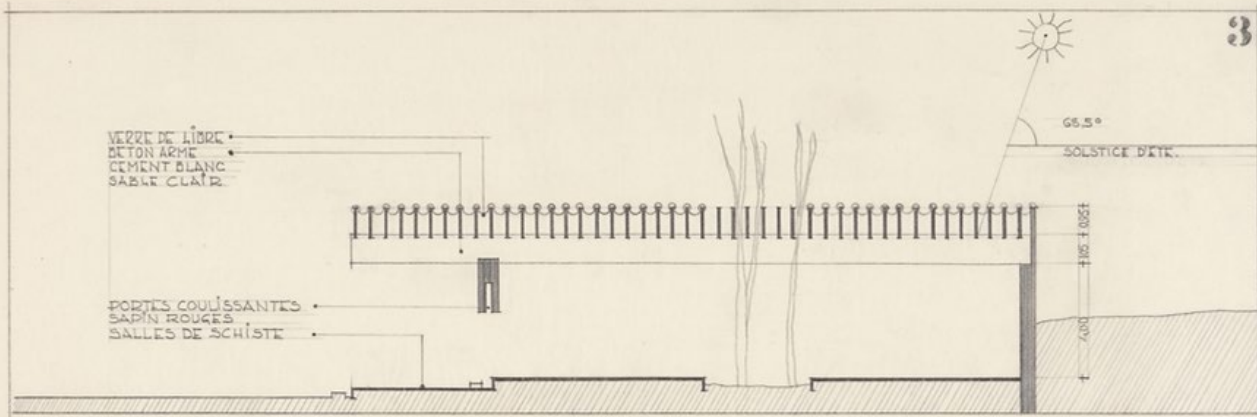
EMBT: Renovation, Santa Caterina Market  
Barcelona, Spain, 1997 - 2005



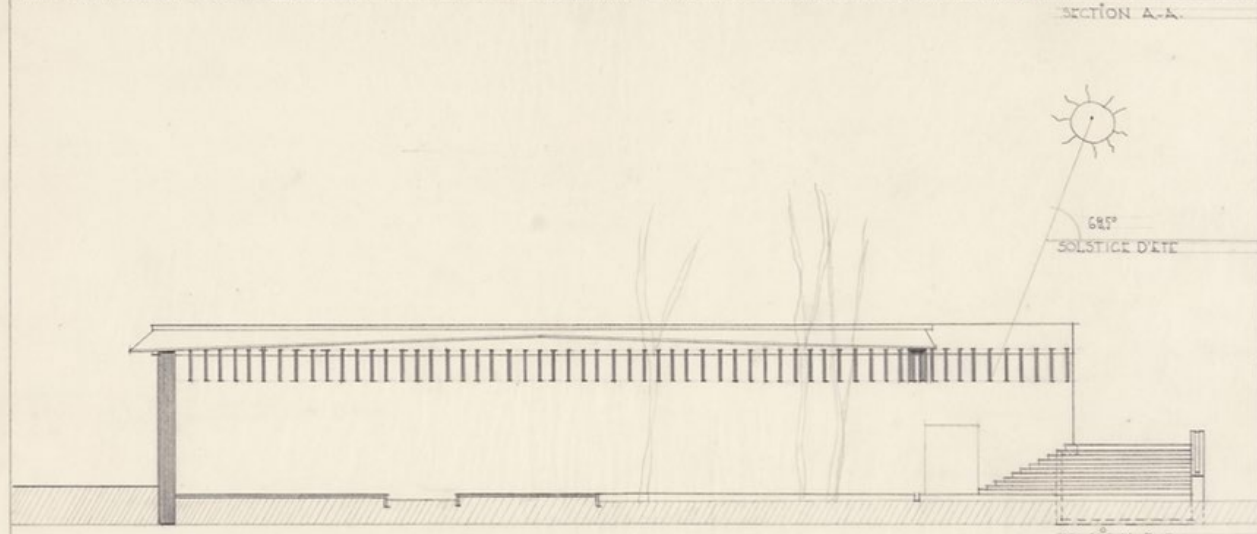
Sverre Fehn: Nordic Pavilion  
Venice, Italy, 1962



Sverre Fehn: Nordic Pavilion  
Venice, Italy, 1962



SECTION A-A.

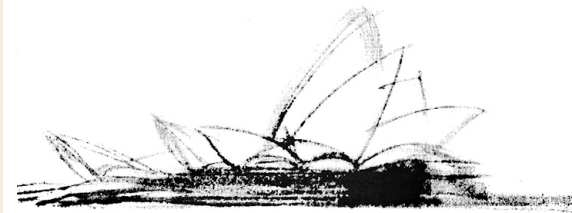


SECTION B-B.

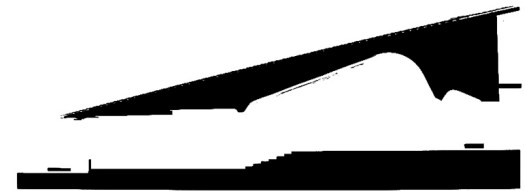
LE PAVILLON NORDIQUE A VENICE SECTIONS 1:100 OSLO 12-5-59 SVERRE FEHN ARCHITECTE H.N.A.A.



Jørn Utzon: pagoda sketch, 1962



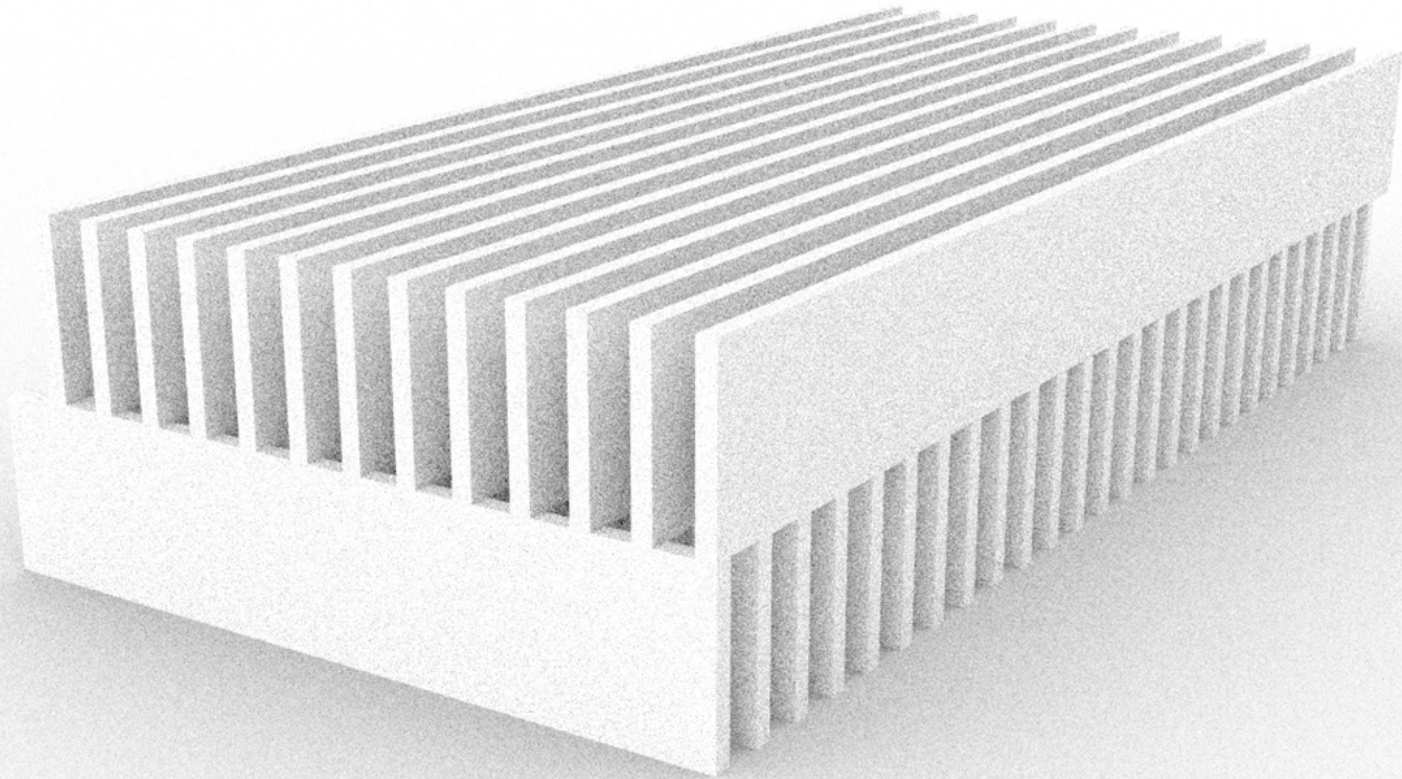
Jørn Utzon: Sydney Opera sketch, 1959



Alvar Aalto: Maison Louis Carré model, 1962

Sverre Fehn: Nordic Pavilion Venice, Italy, 1962





Sverre Fehn: Nordic Pavilion  
Venice, Italy, 1962



Sverre Fehn: Nordic Pavilion  
Venice, Italy, 1962



Sverre Fehn: Nordic Pavilion  
Venice, Italy, 1962



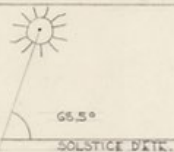
Sverre Fehn: Nordic Pavilion  
Venice, Italy, 1962



Sverre Fehn: Nordic Pavilion  
Venice, Italy, 1962

between open & closed

VERRE DE LIBRE  
BETON ARME  
CEMENT BLANC  
SABLE CLAIR



between beam & wall

PORTES COULISSANTES  
SAPIN ROUGES  
DALLES DE SCHISTE



SECTION A-A.

architecture in nature & nature in architecture



between wall & no wall

SECTION B-B.

LE PAVILLON NORDIQUE A VENICE SECTIONS 1:100 OSLO 12-5-59 SVERRE FEHN ARCHITECTE H.N.A.W.

Sverre Fehn: Nordic Pavilion  
Venice, Italy, 1962

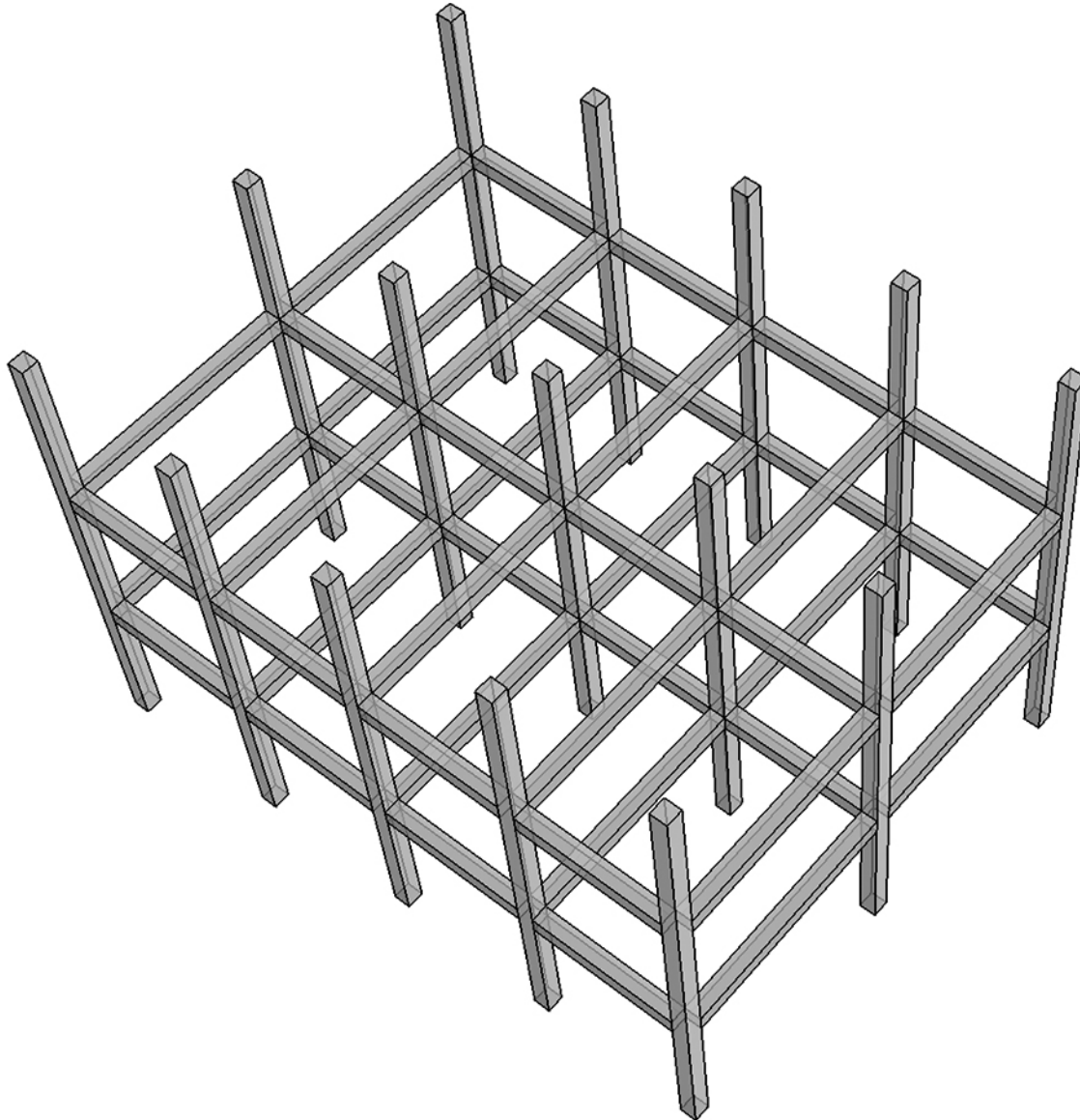
*“No matter how good an architect you are, if you have no chance of expressing your poetic idea in structures, you lack the very foundation of architecture. The structure is a language, a way of expressing yourself, and there should be a balance between thought and language. Every story has a structure.”*

Sverre Fehn



Sverre Fehn: Nordic Pavilion  
Venice, Italy, 1962

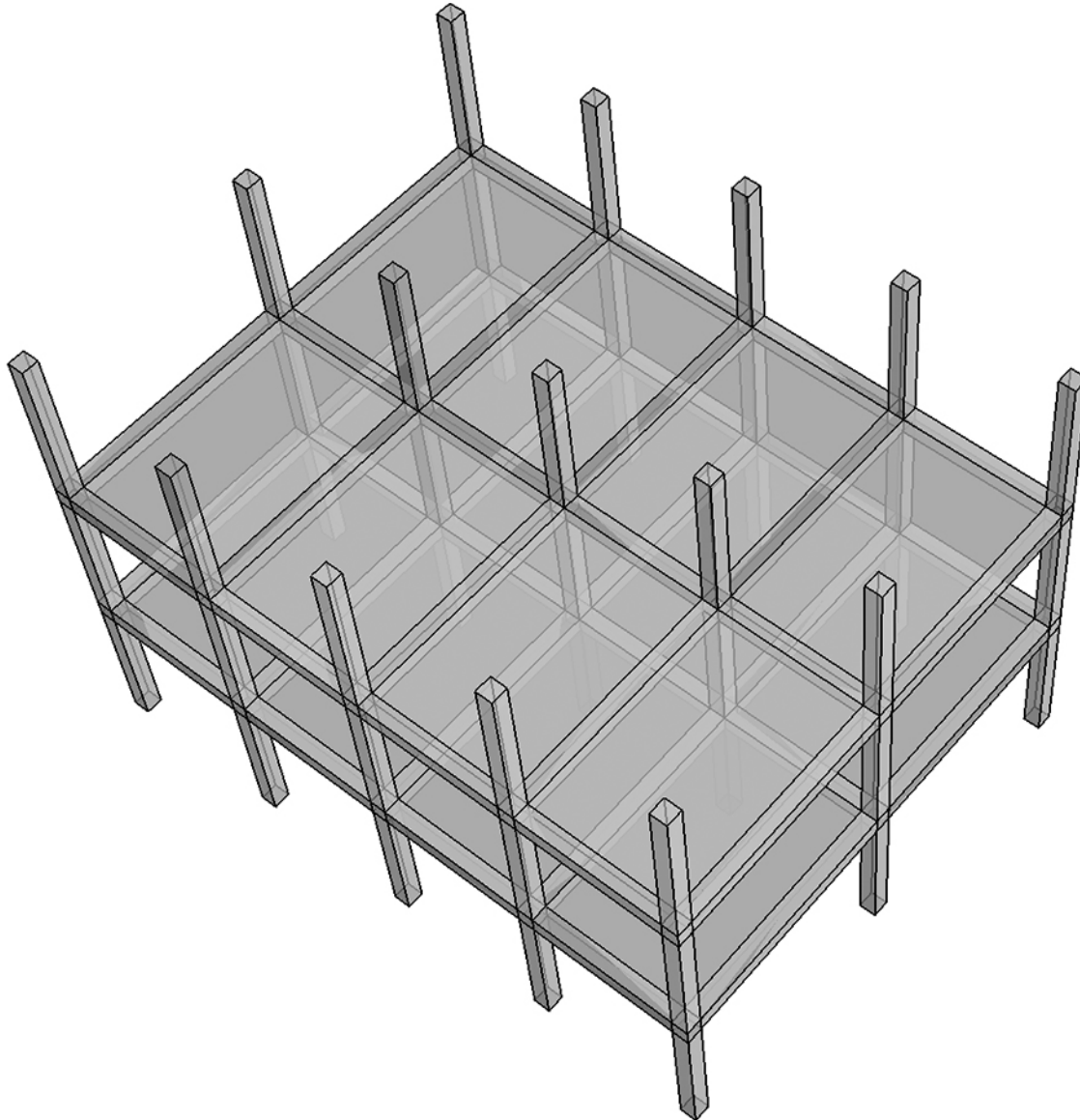
# Generic Structural Concept



structural grid

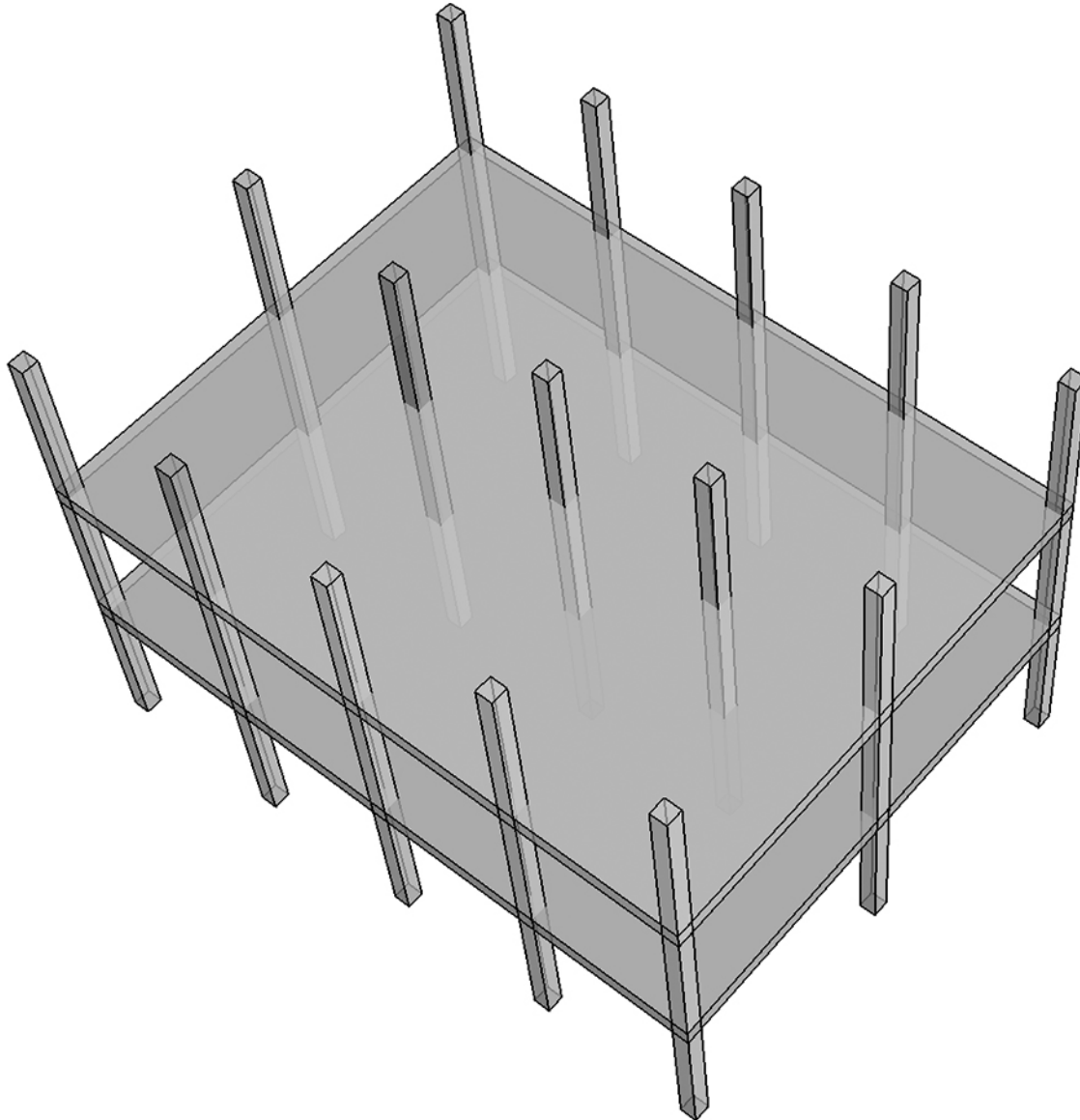


# Generic Structural Concept



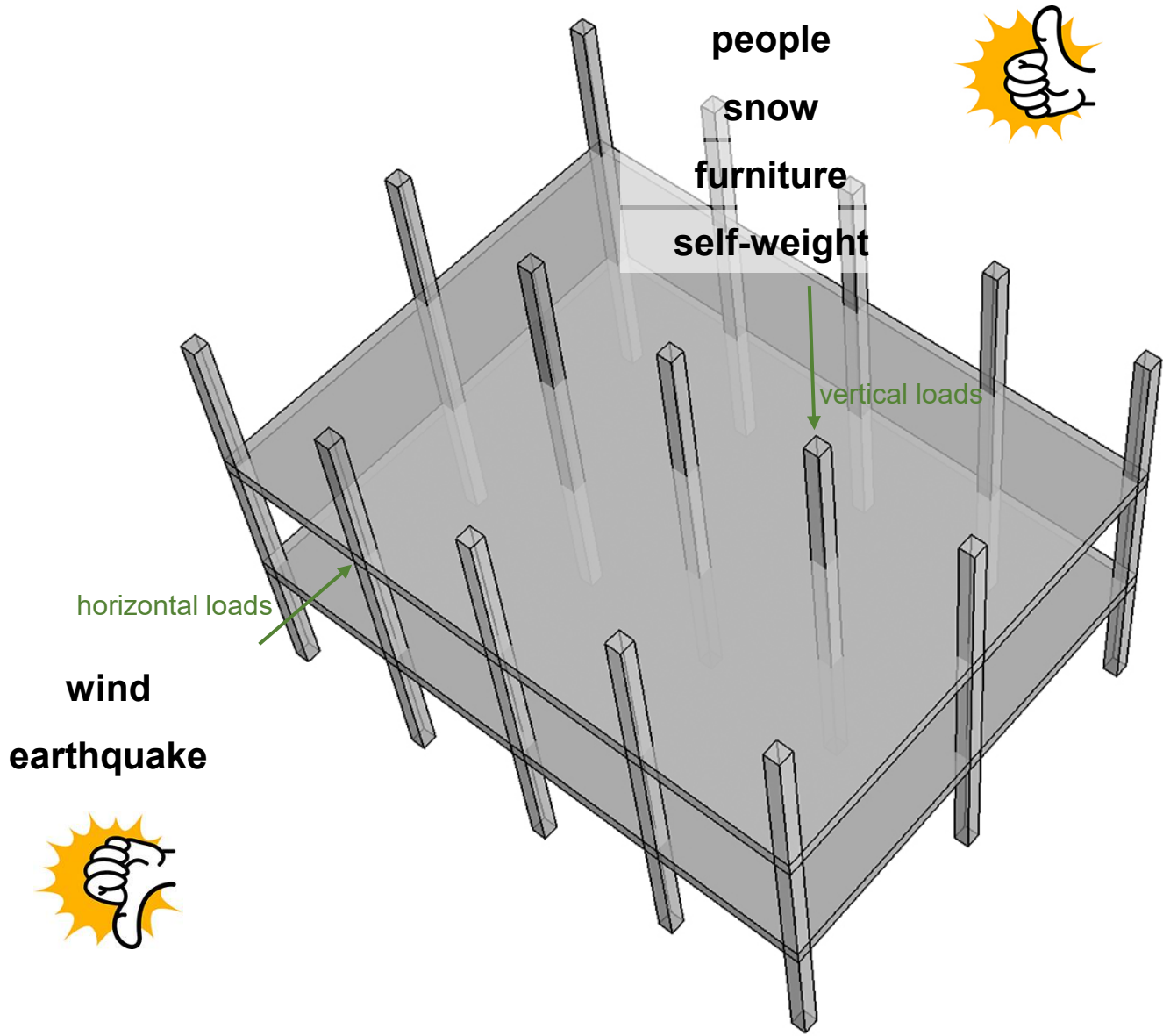
structural grid with infill

# Generic Structural Concept



structural grid with infill  
as column-plate combination

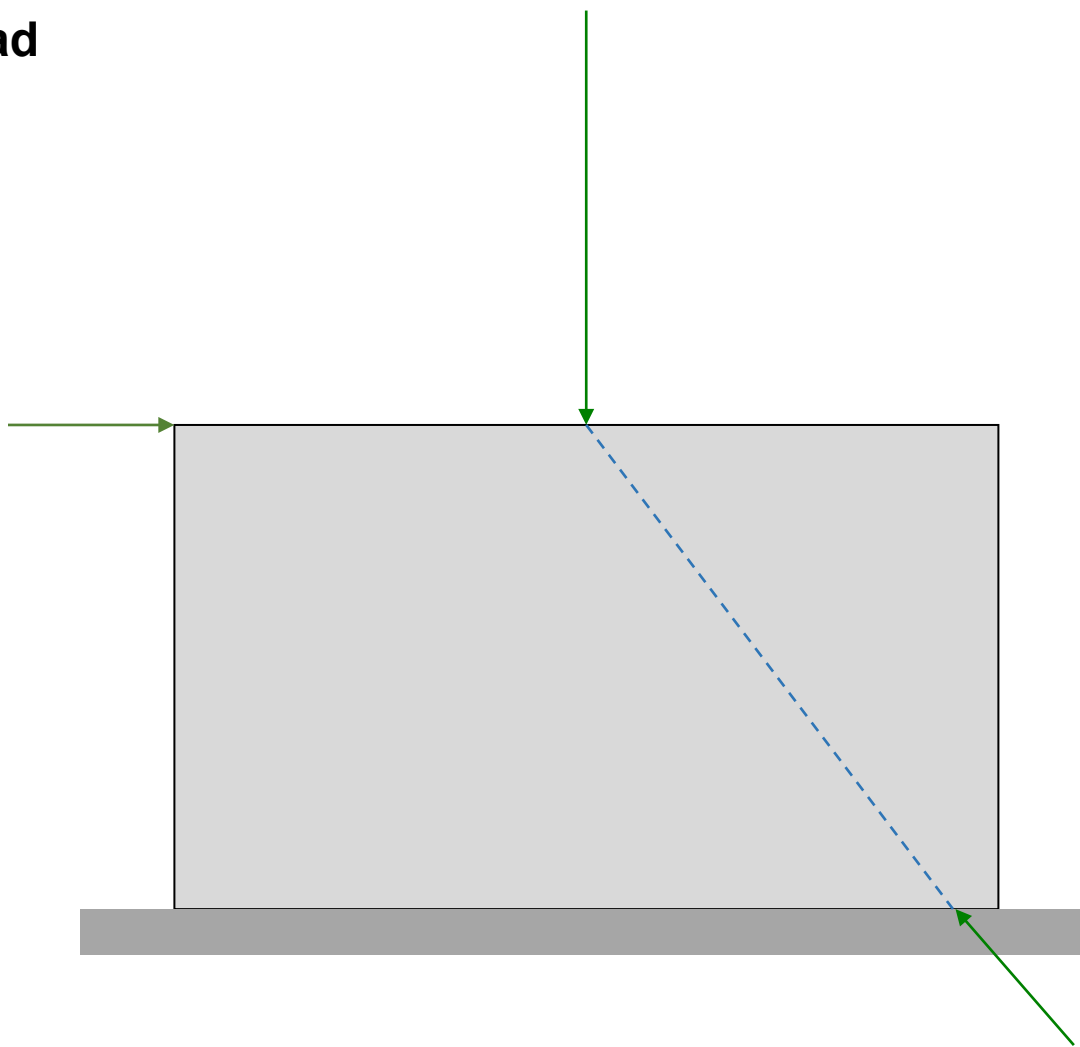
# Generic Structural Concept



wind  
earthquake

structural grid with infill  
as column-plate combination

# Lateral Load



redirected by self-weight of wall

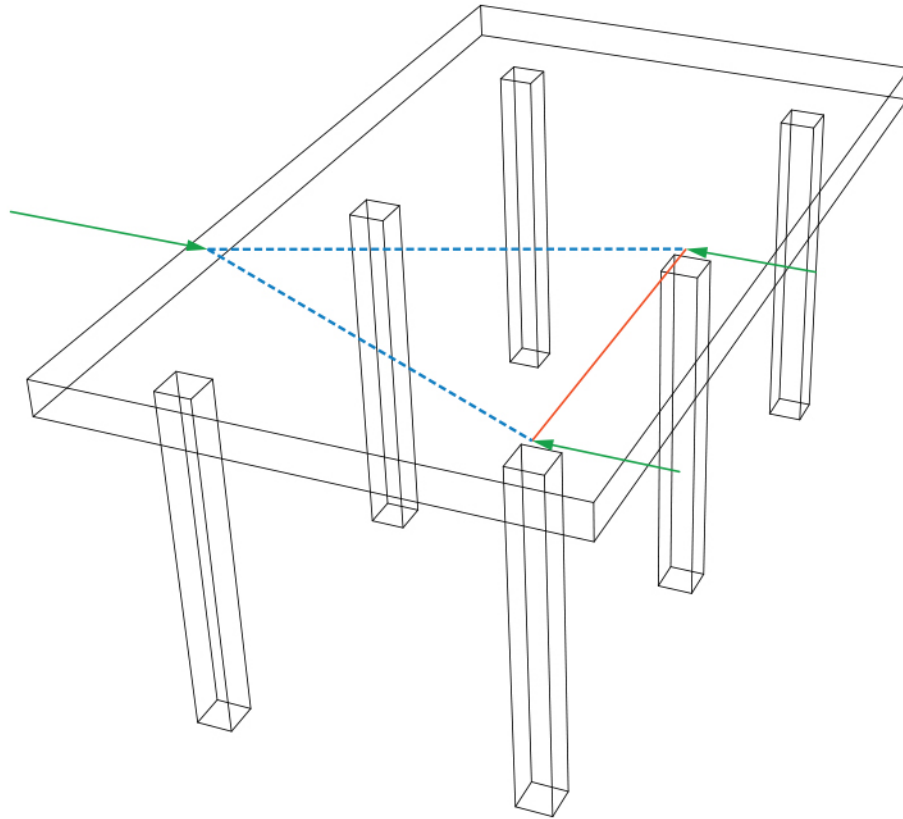


Temple E, Selinunt  
Italy, around 460-450 BC

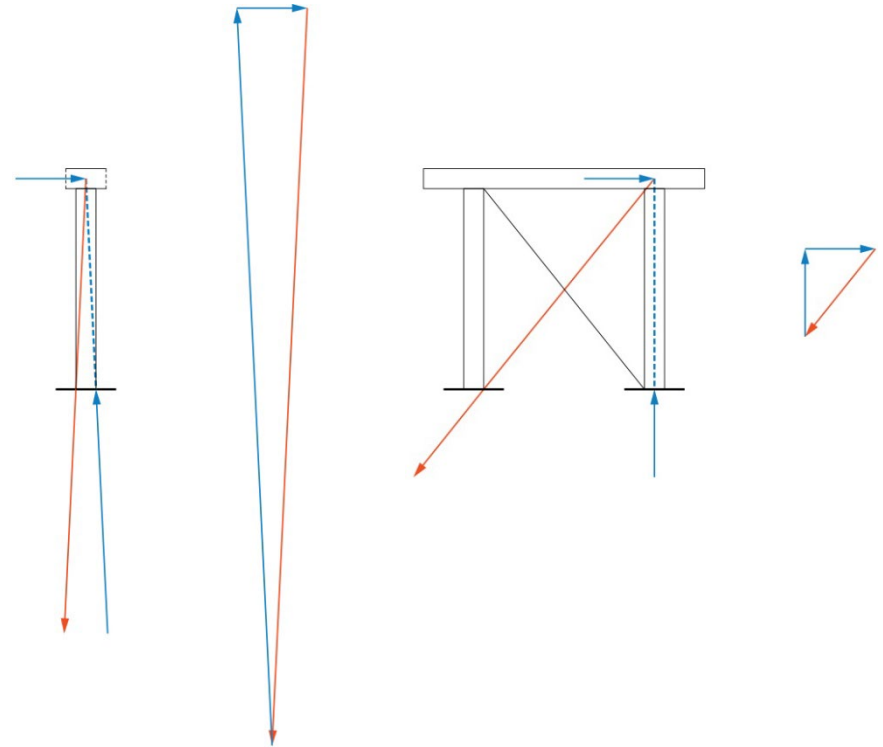


Flying buttress of Church Saint-Pierre  
Chartres, France, early 13th century

# Lateral Load

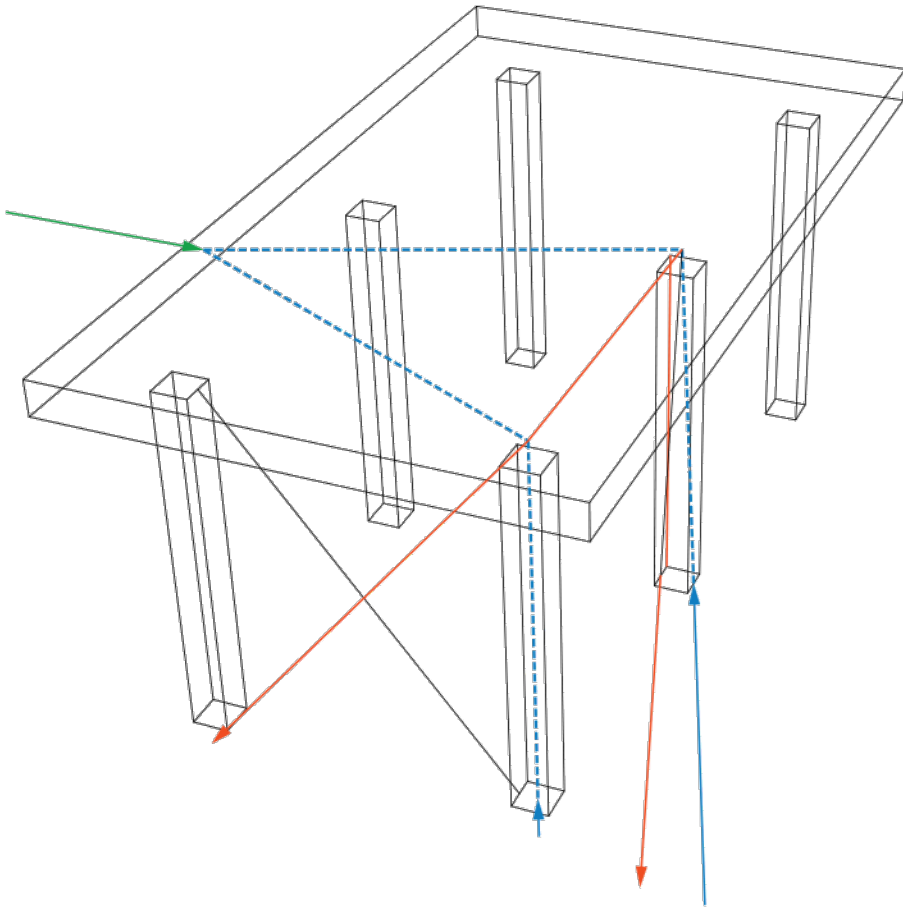


wide spreading of forces is required to achieve wall-like behavior



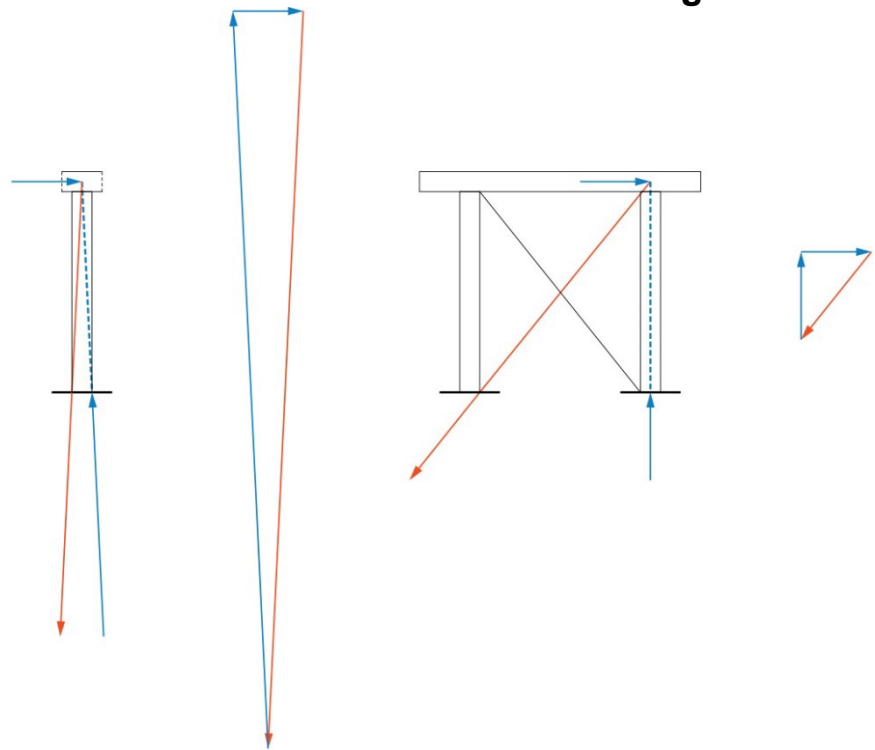
distribution of horizontal forces into space

# Lateral Load



wide spreading of forces is required to achieve wall-like behavior

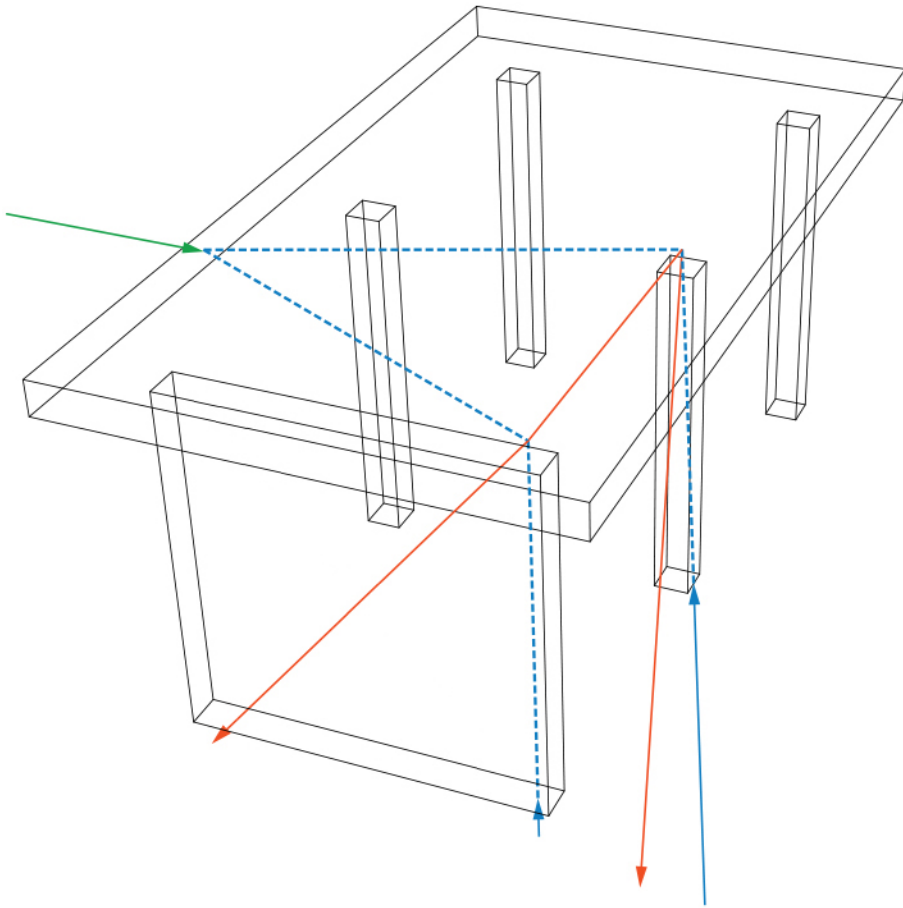
## cross-bracing



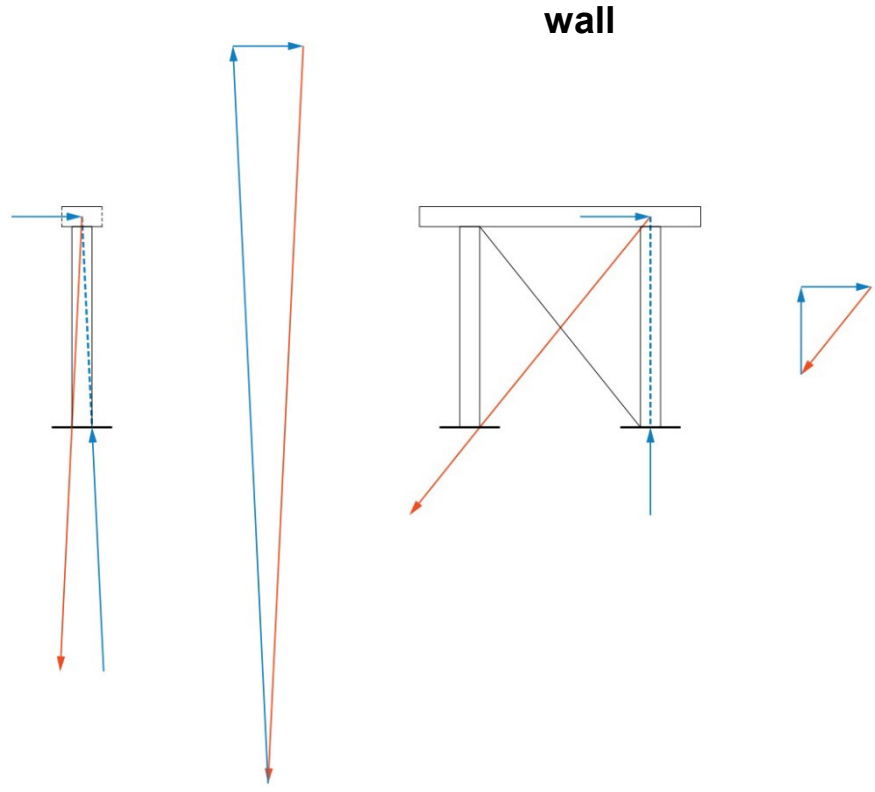
distribution of horizontal forces into space



# Lateral Load

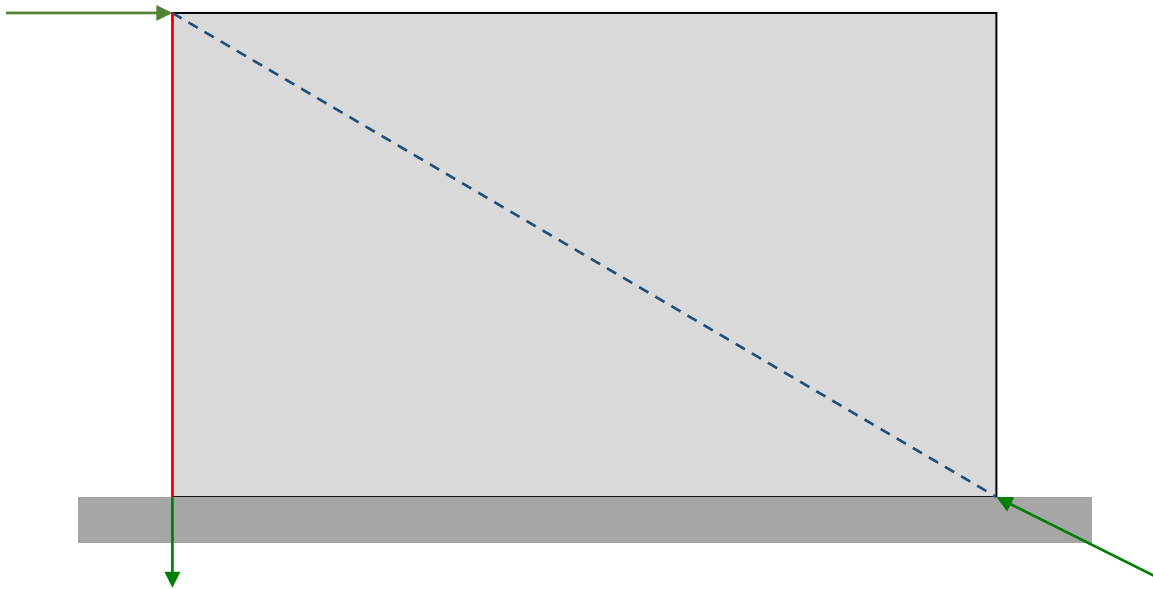


wide spreading of forces is required to achieve wall-like behavior



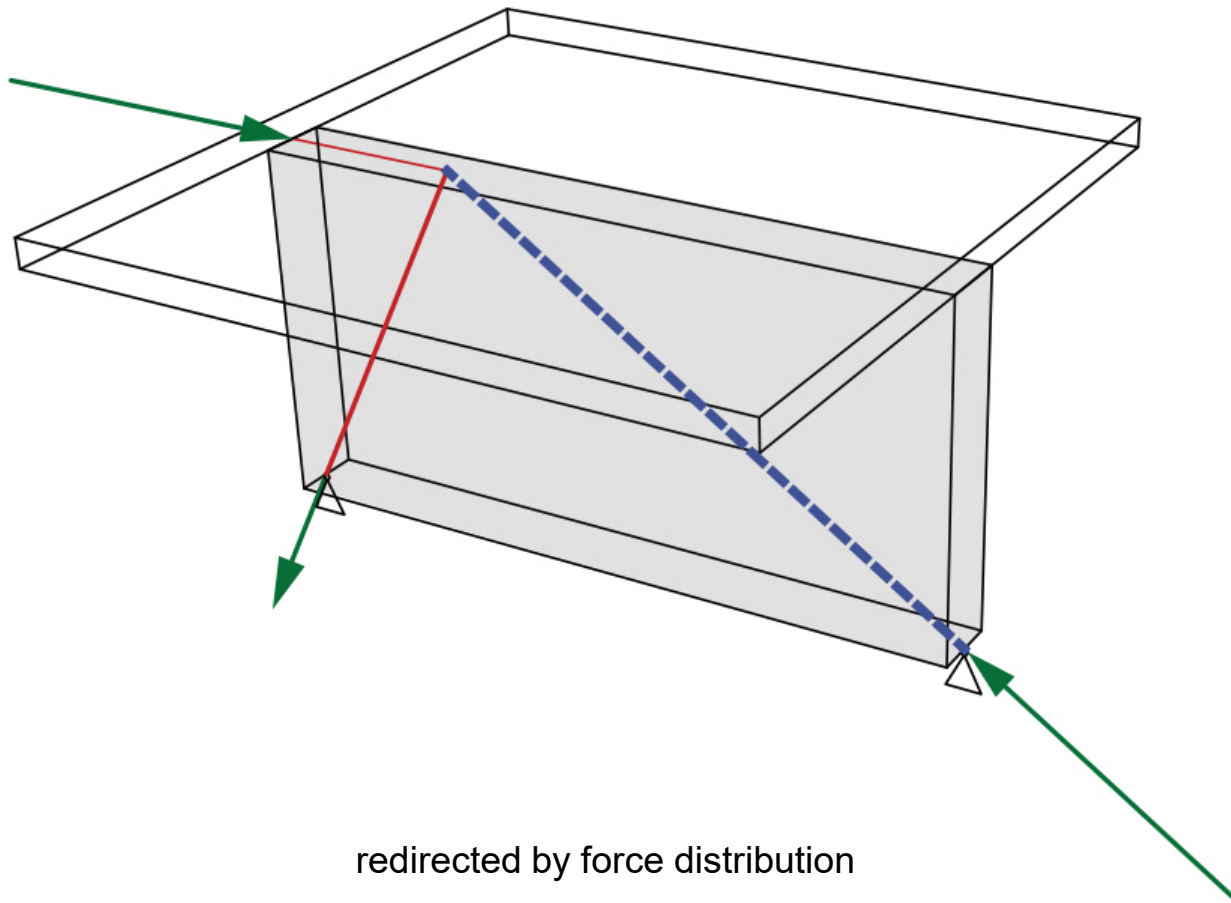
distribution of horizontal forces into space

# Lateral Load



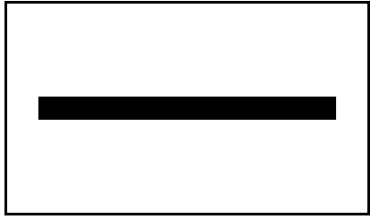
redirected by force distribution

# Lateral Load

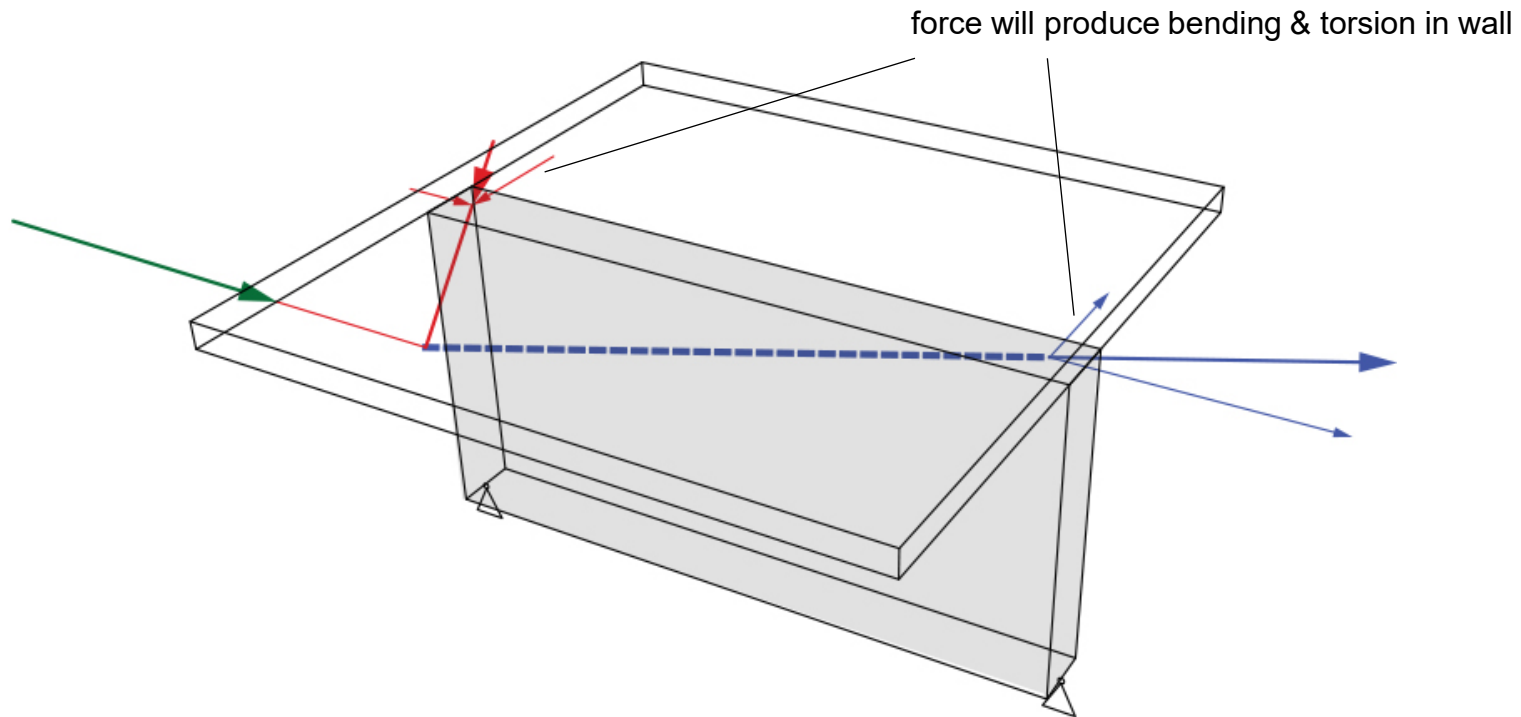


redirected by force distribution

# Lateral Load

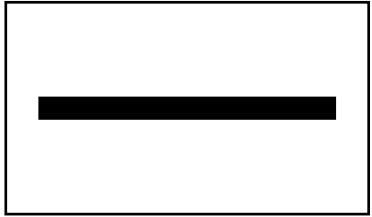


one wall is not enough to ensure equilibrium in the plate



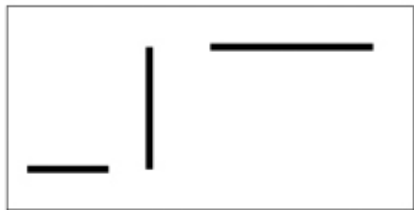
redirected by force distribution  
within plate

# Lateral Load

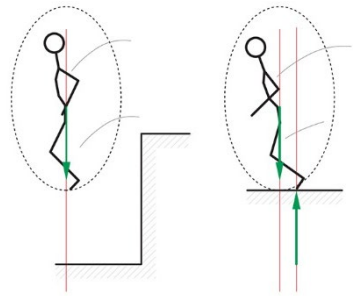


one wall is not enough to ensure equilibrium in the plate

how many wall are required to ensure equilibrium in the plate against horizontal loads?

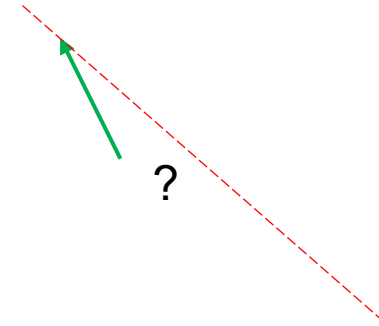
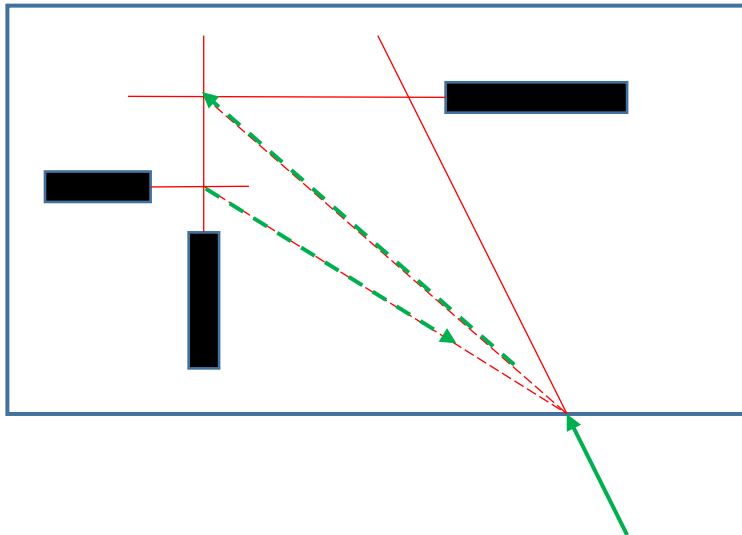
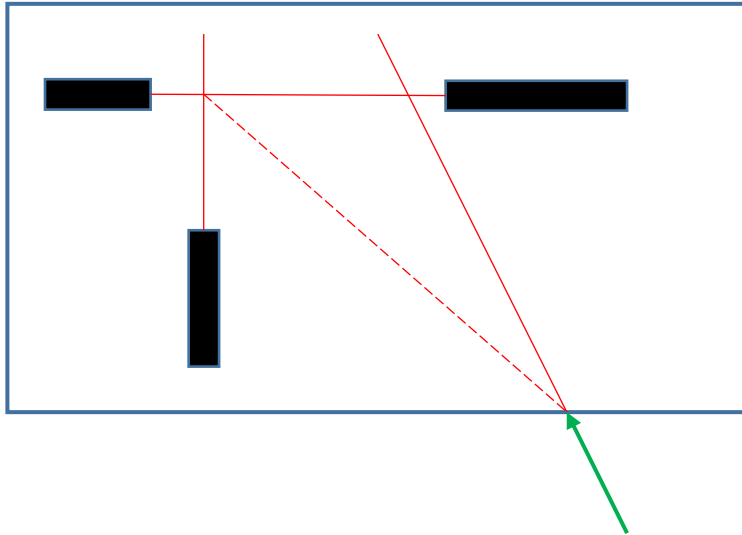


the forces add up to zero  
the line of action of the forces intersect in one point

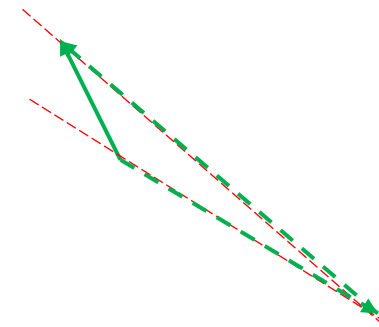


**three** walls (respectively directions) that do not intersect in one common point are required to ensure equilibrium in the plate

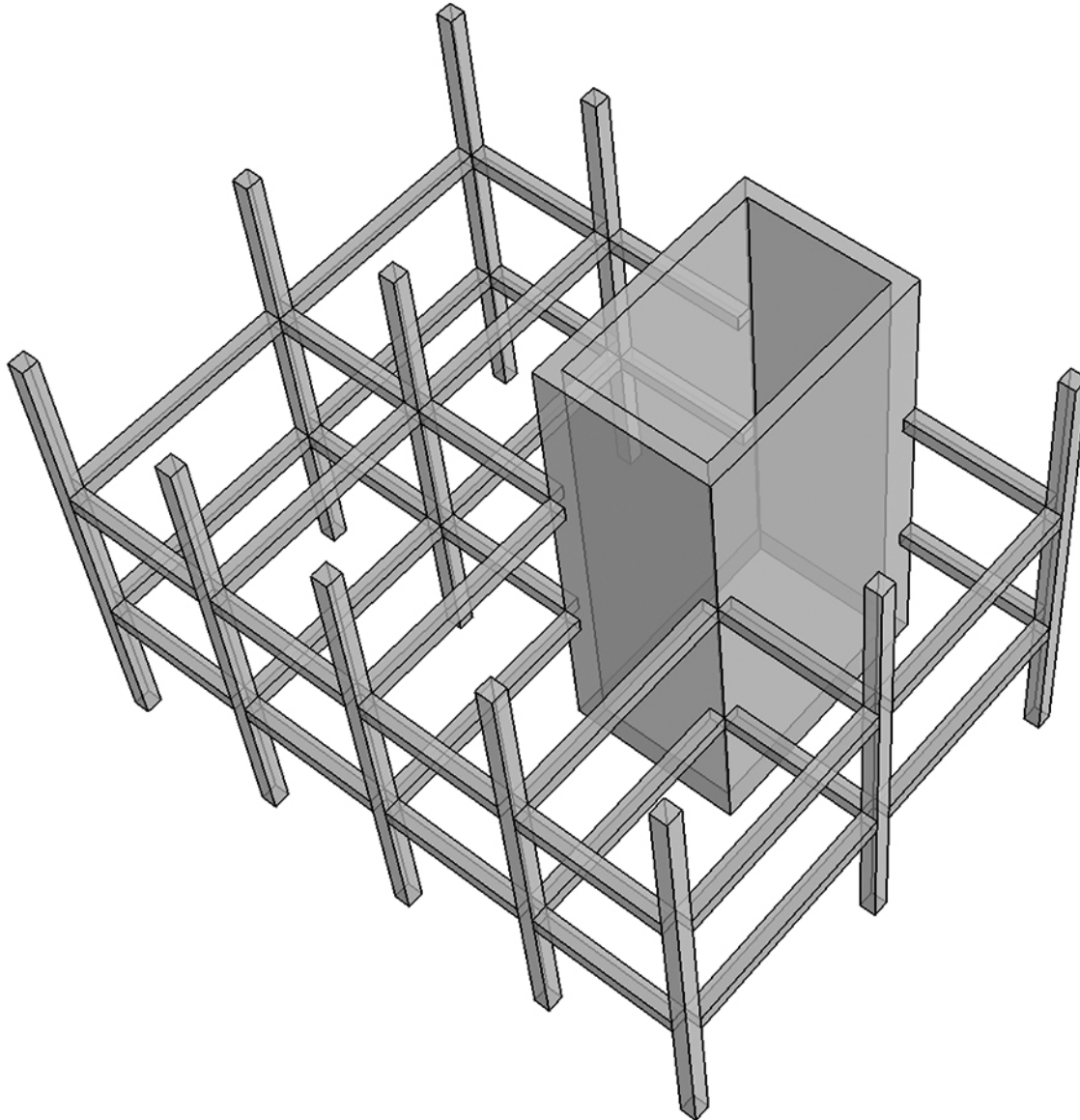
# Lateral Load



**three** walls (respectively directions) that do not intersect in one common point are required to ensure equilibrium in the plate

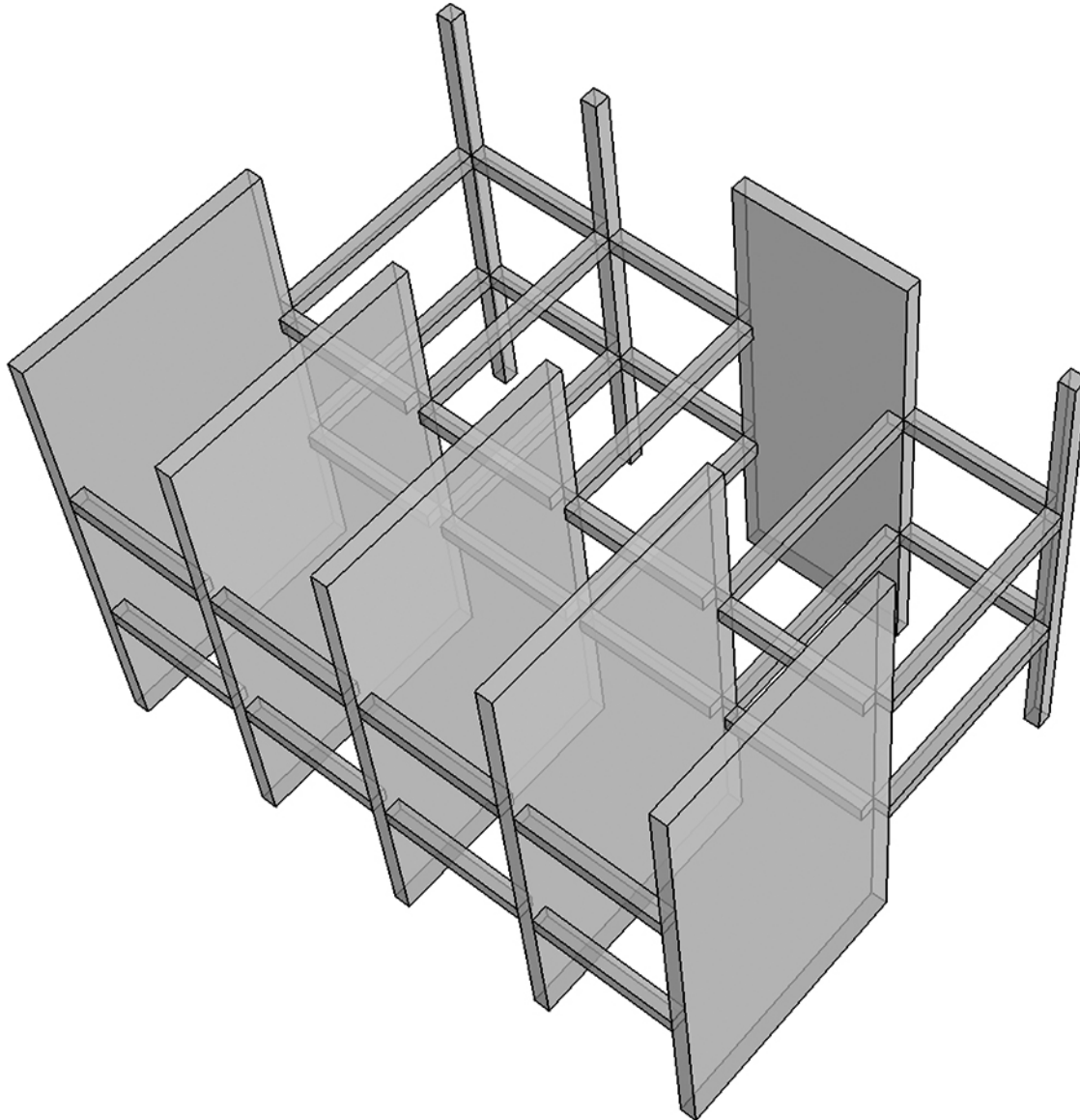


# Generic Structural Concept for Lateral Load



structural grid with core

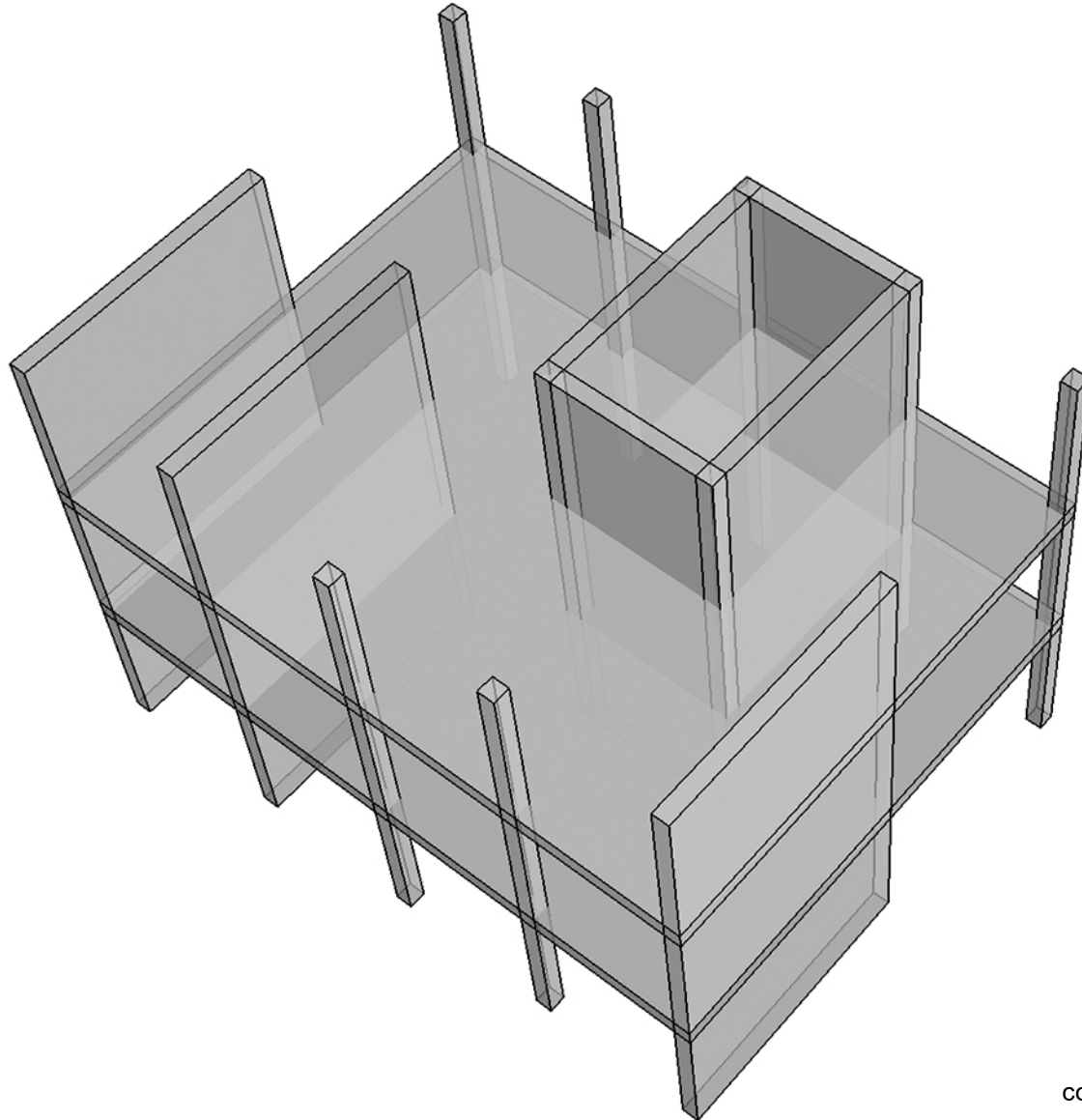
# Generic Structural Concept for Lateral Load



structural grid with shear walls

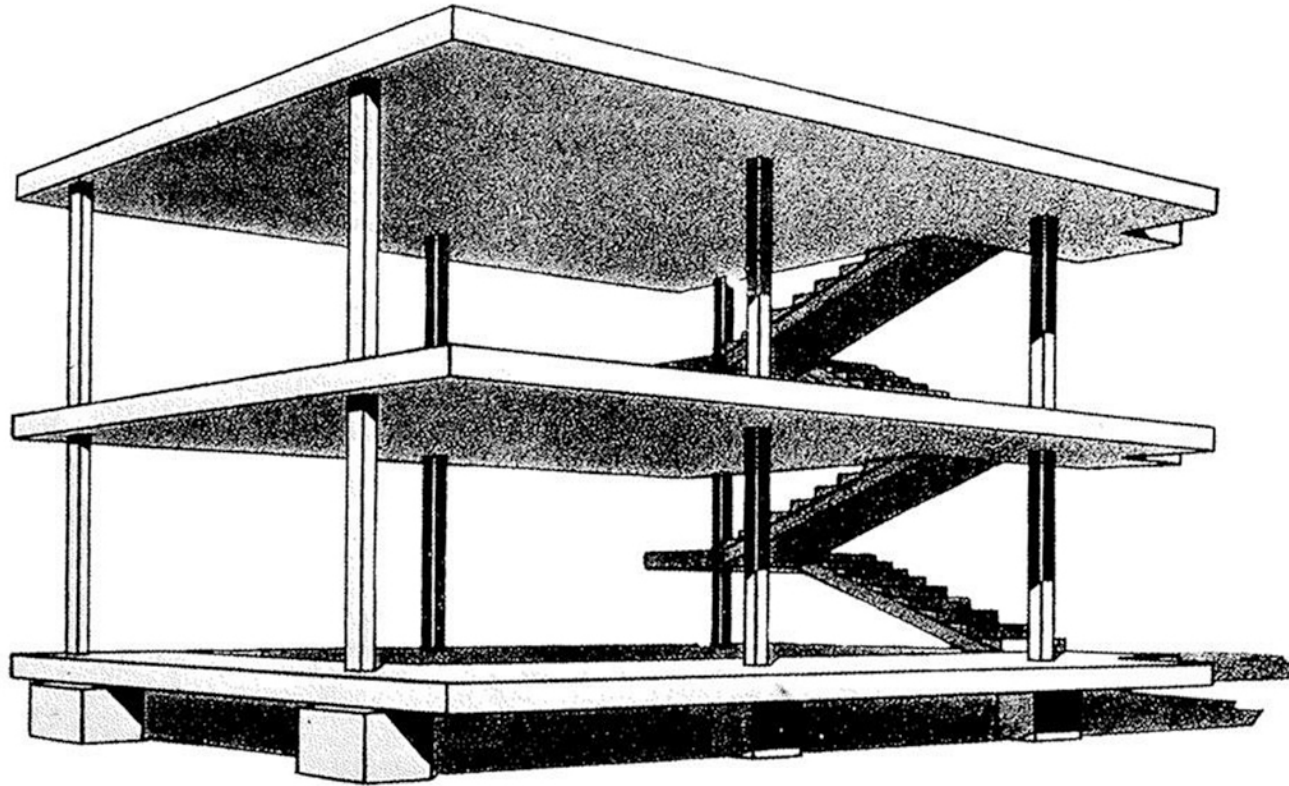


# Generic Structural Concept for Lateral Load



combination of core and shear wall

# Generic Structural Concept for Lateral Load



## Five Points Towards A New Architecture

Le Corbusier, 1924

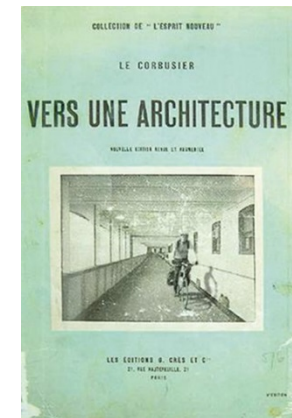
The supports

The roof gardens

The free design of the ground-plan

The horizontal window

The free design of the façade

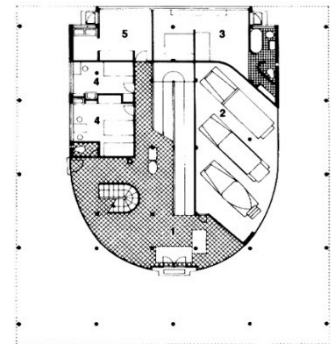
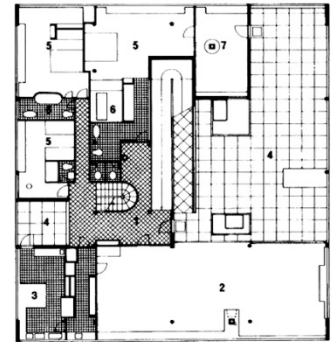
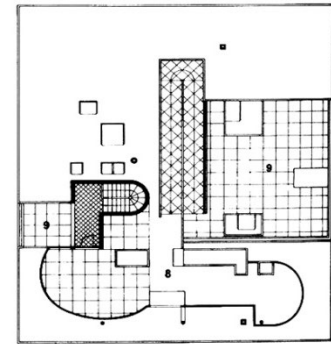


Le Corbusier: Dom-ino House, prototype, 1914



Le Corbusier: Villa Savoye  
Poissy, France, 1931

# Architectural Solutions for Lateral Load

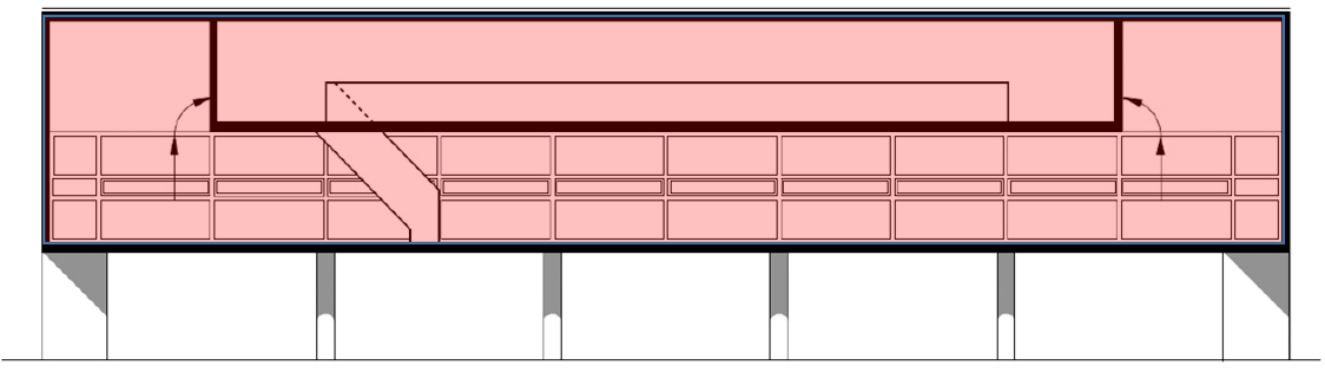
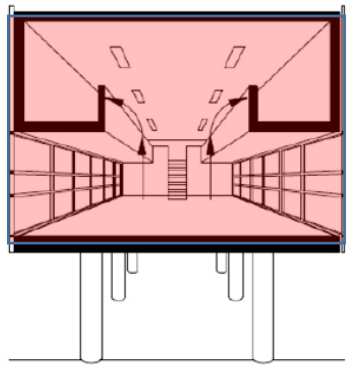
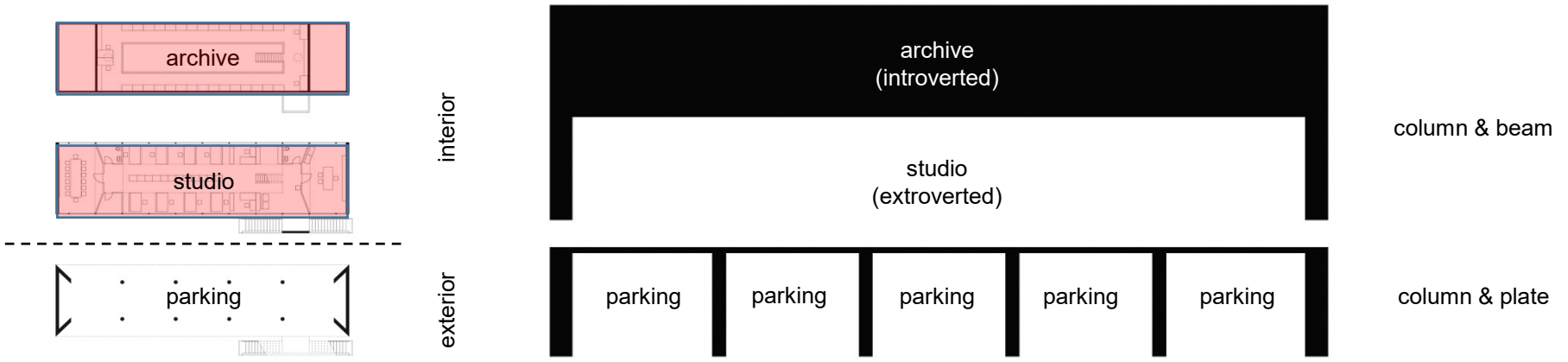


Le Corbusier: Villa Savoye  
Poissy, France, 1931



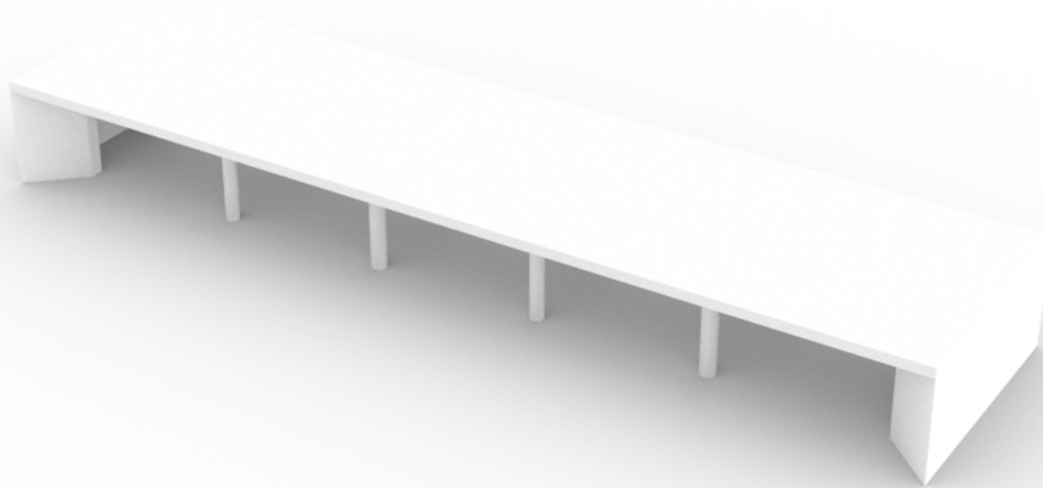
Livio Vacchini: Office  
Locarno, Switzerland, 1985

# Lateral Stability



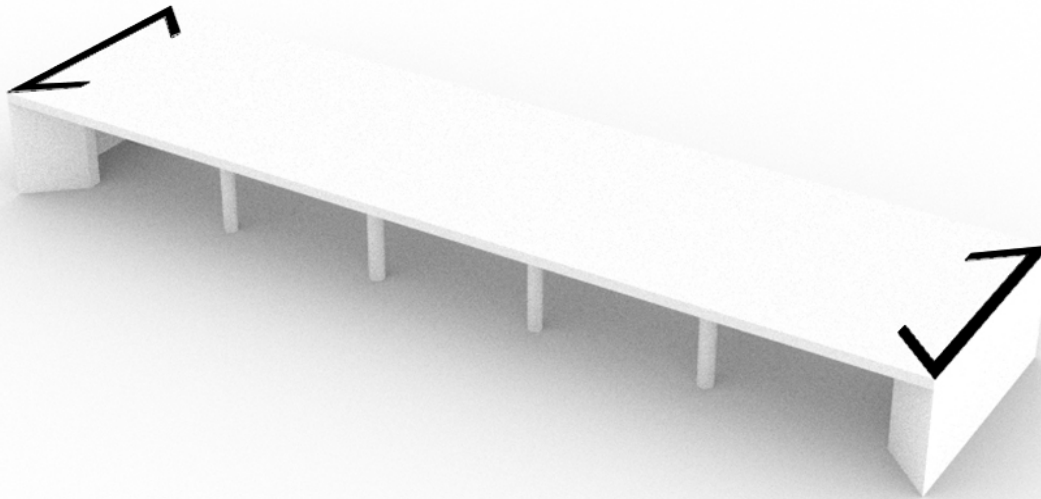
Livio Vacchini: Office  
Locarno, Switzerland, 1985

# Lateral Stability



Livio Vacchini: Office  
Locarno, Switzerland, 1985

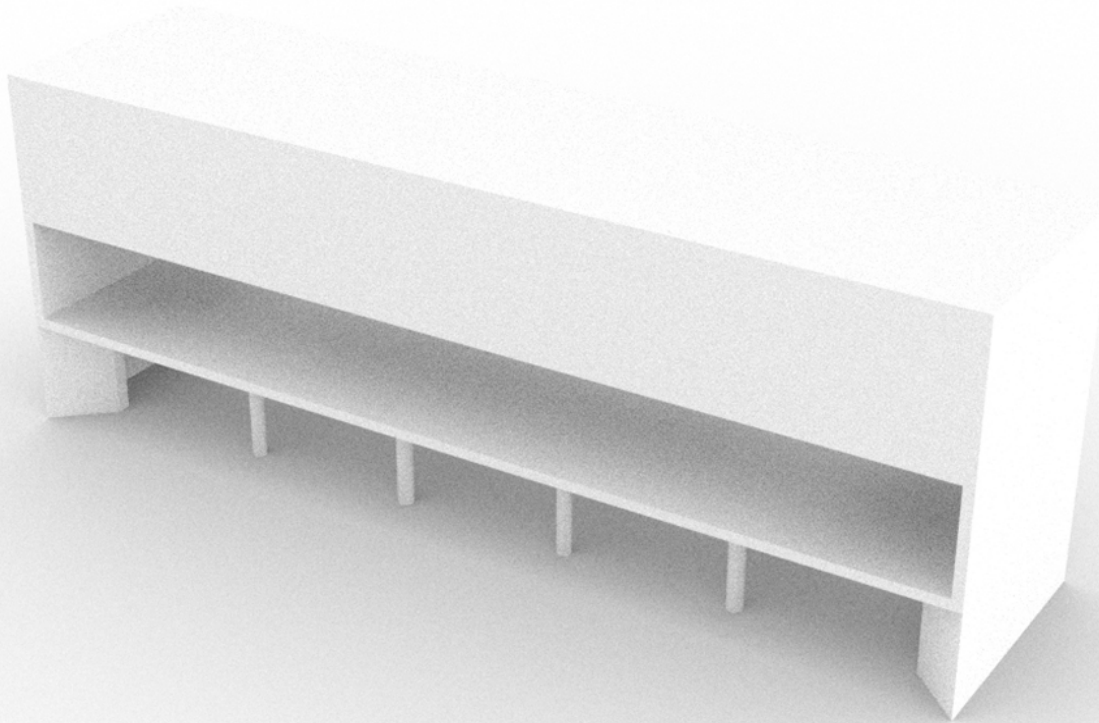
# Lateral Stability



Livio Vacchini: Office  
Locarno, Switzerland, 1985

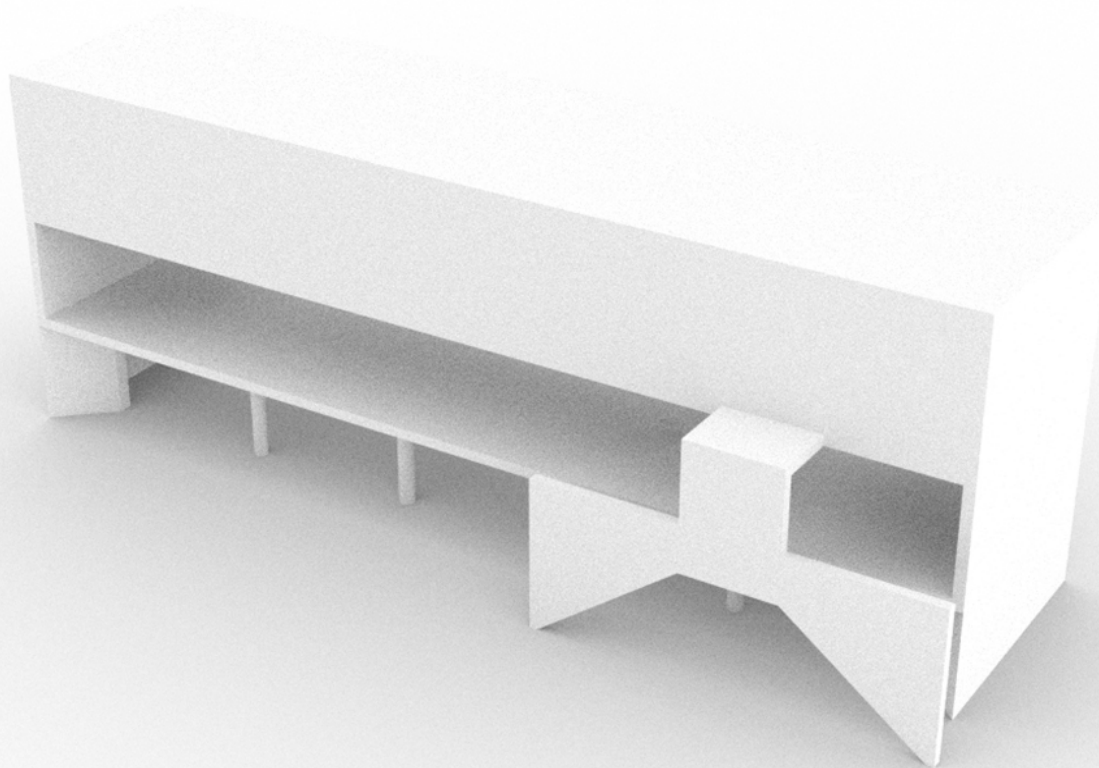


# Lateral Stability



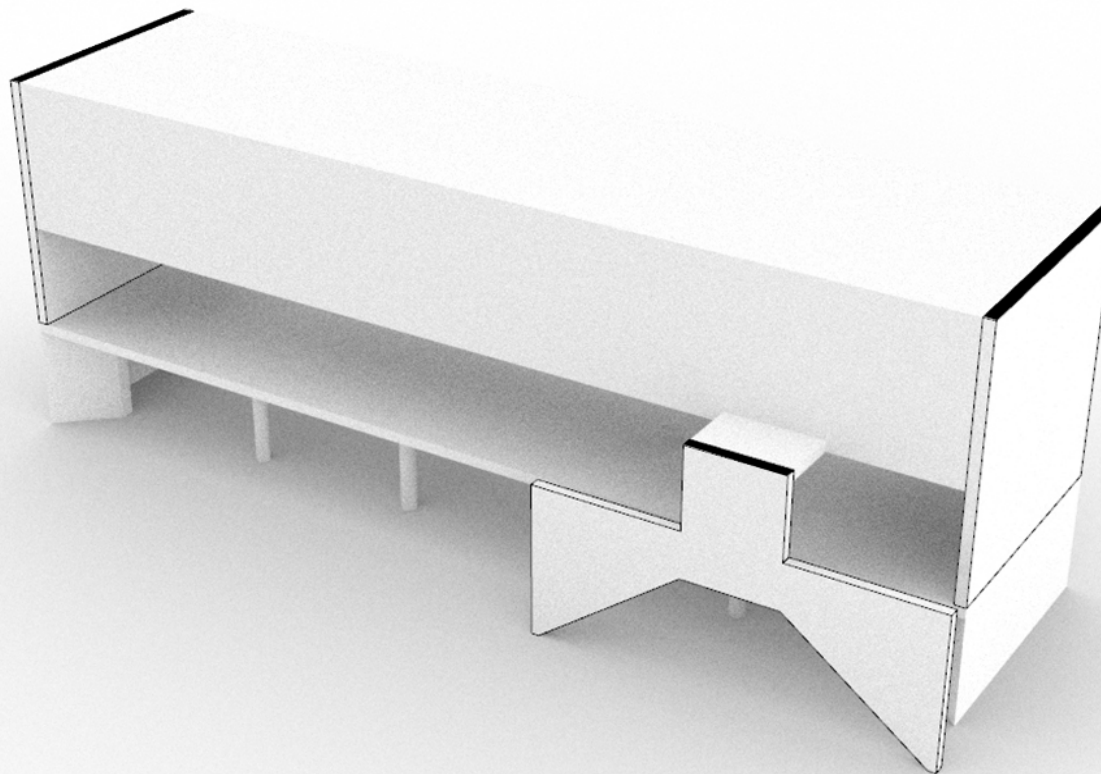
Livio Vacchini: Office  
Locarno, Switzerland, 1985

# Lateral Stability



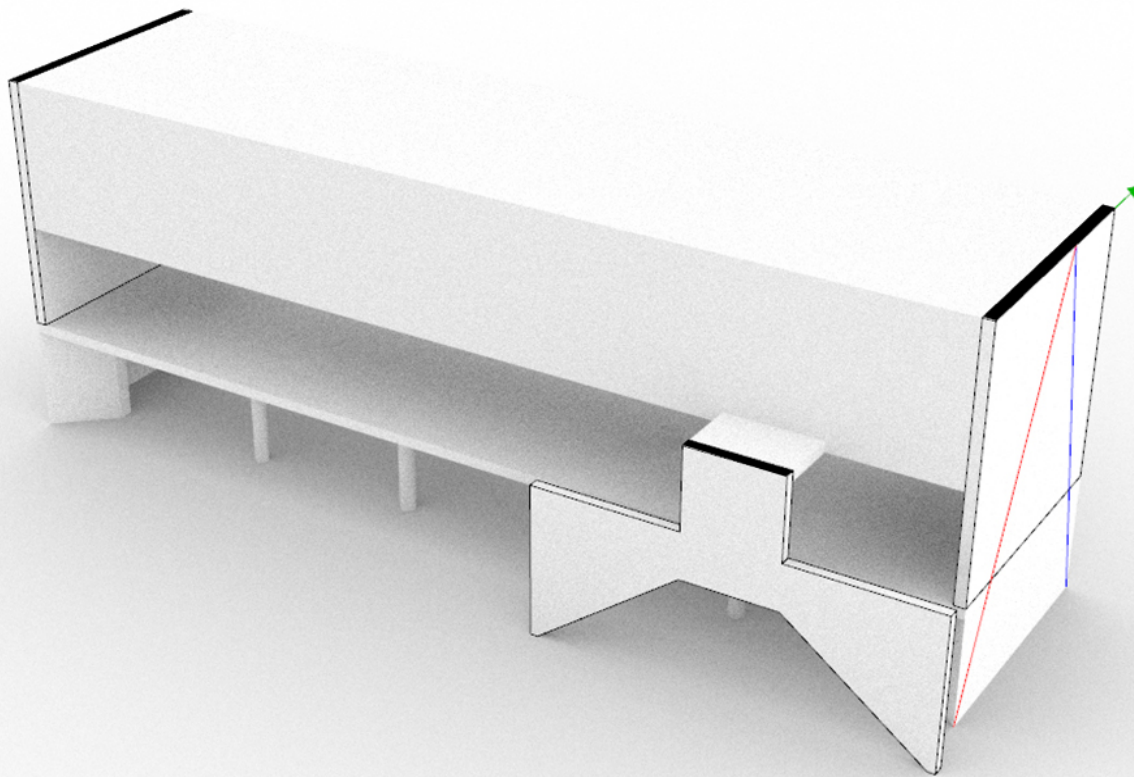
Livio Vacchini: Office  
Locarno, Switzerland, 1985

# Lateral Stability



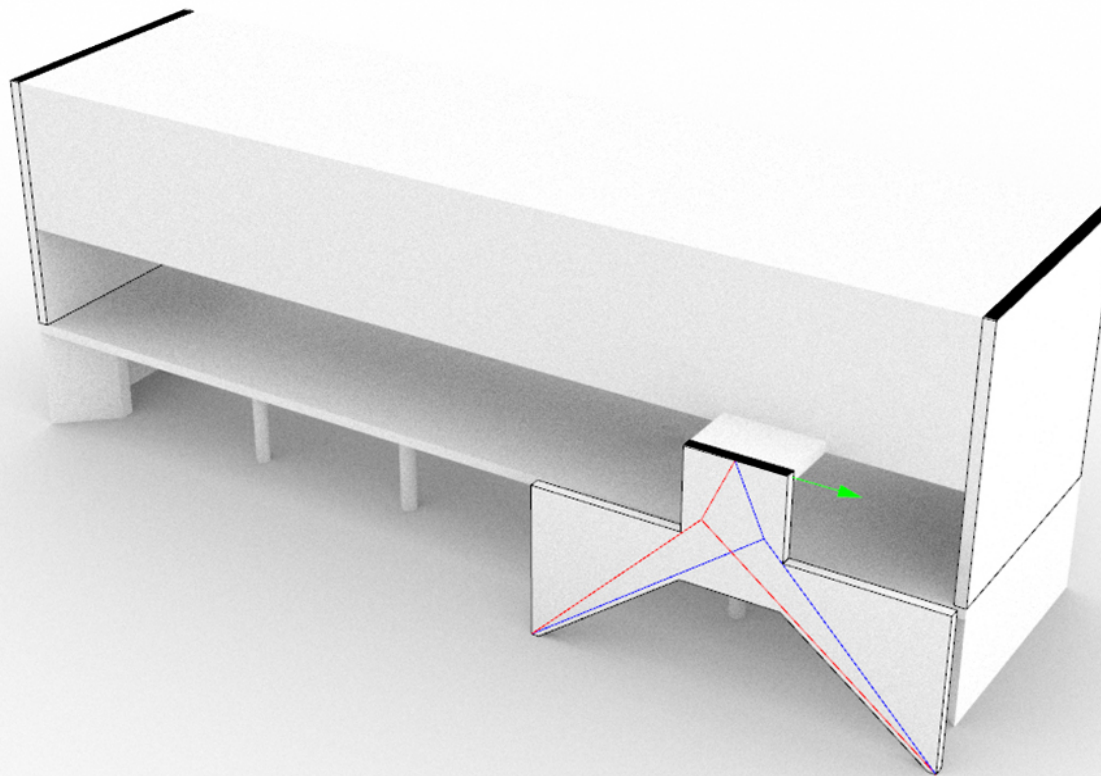
Livio Vacchini: Office  
Locarno, Switzerland, 1985

# Lateral Stability



Livio Vacchini: Office  
Locarno, Switzerland, 1985

# Lateral Stability

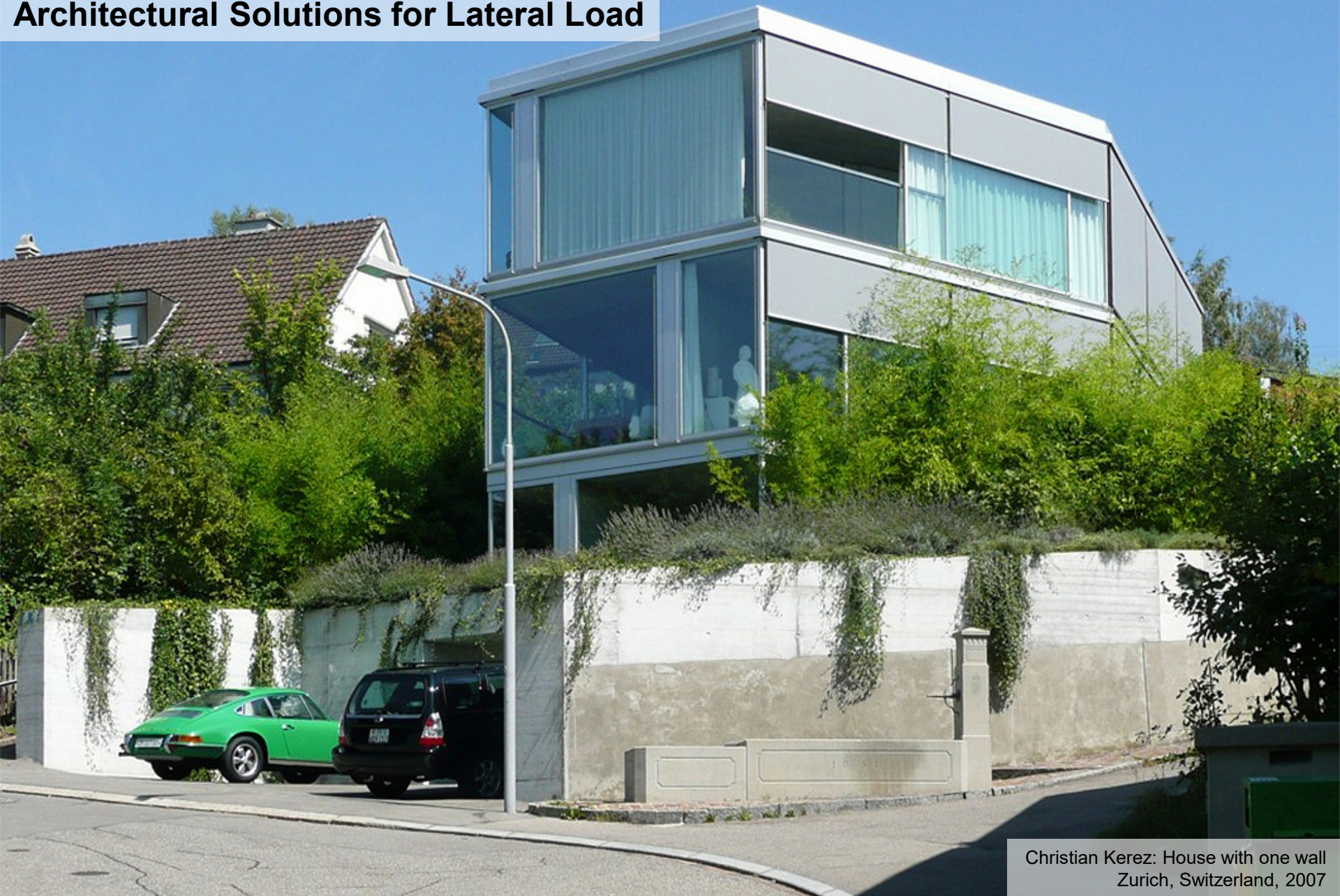


Livio Vacchini: Office  
Locarno, Switzerland, 1985

# Lateral Stability

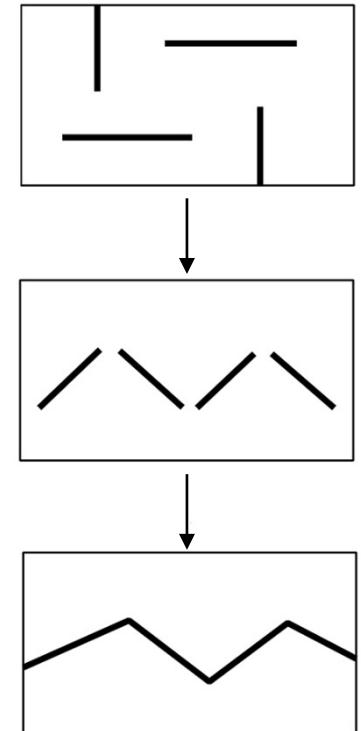
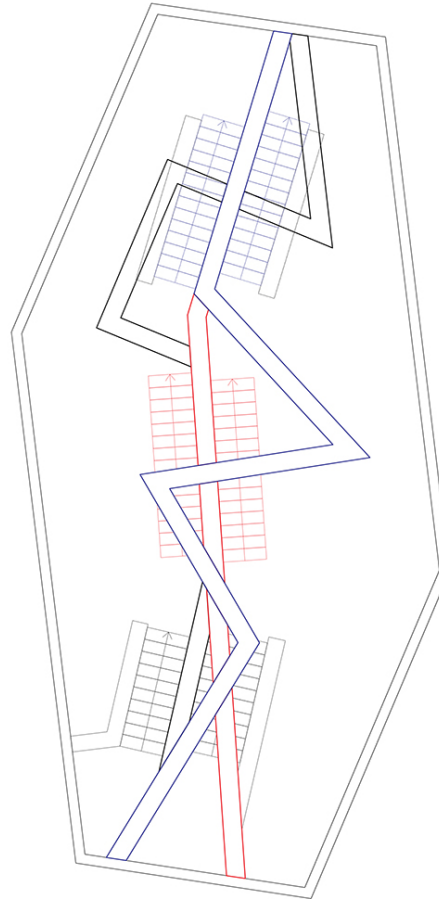


Livio Vacchini: Office  
Locarno, Switzerland, 1985



Christian Kerez: House with one wall  
Zurich, Switzerland, 2007

# Architectural Solutions for Lateral Load



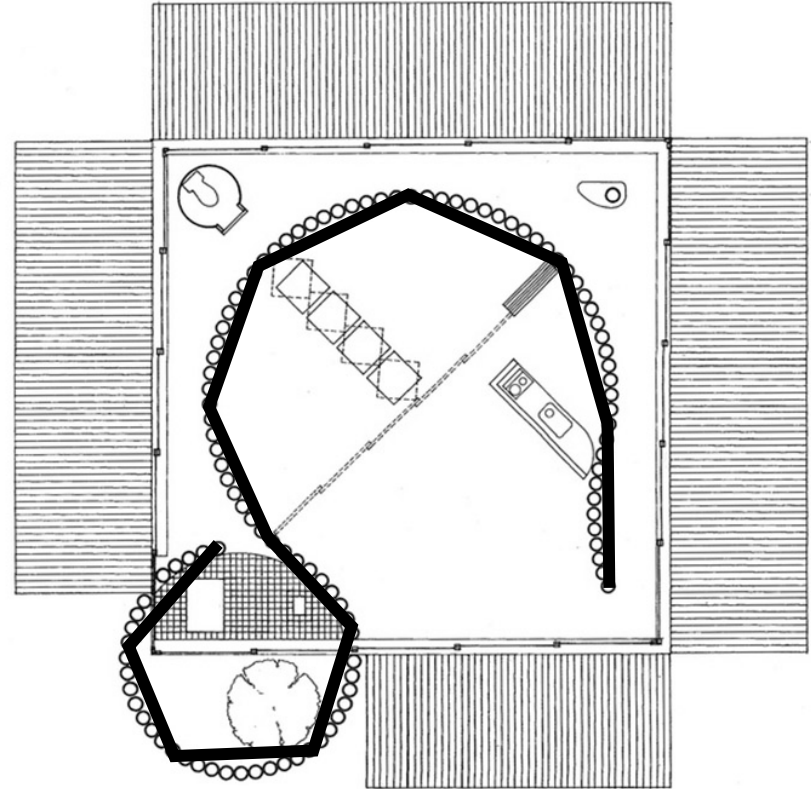
Christian Kerez: House with one wall  
Zurich, Switzerland, 2007





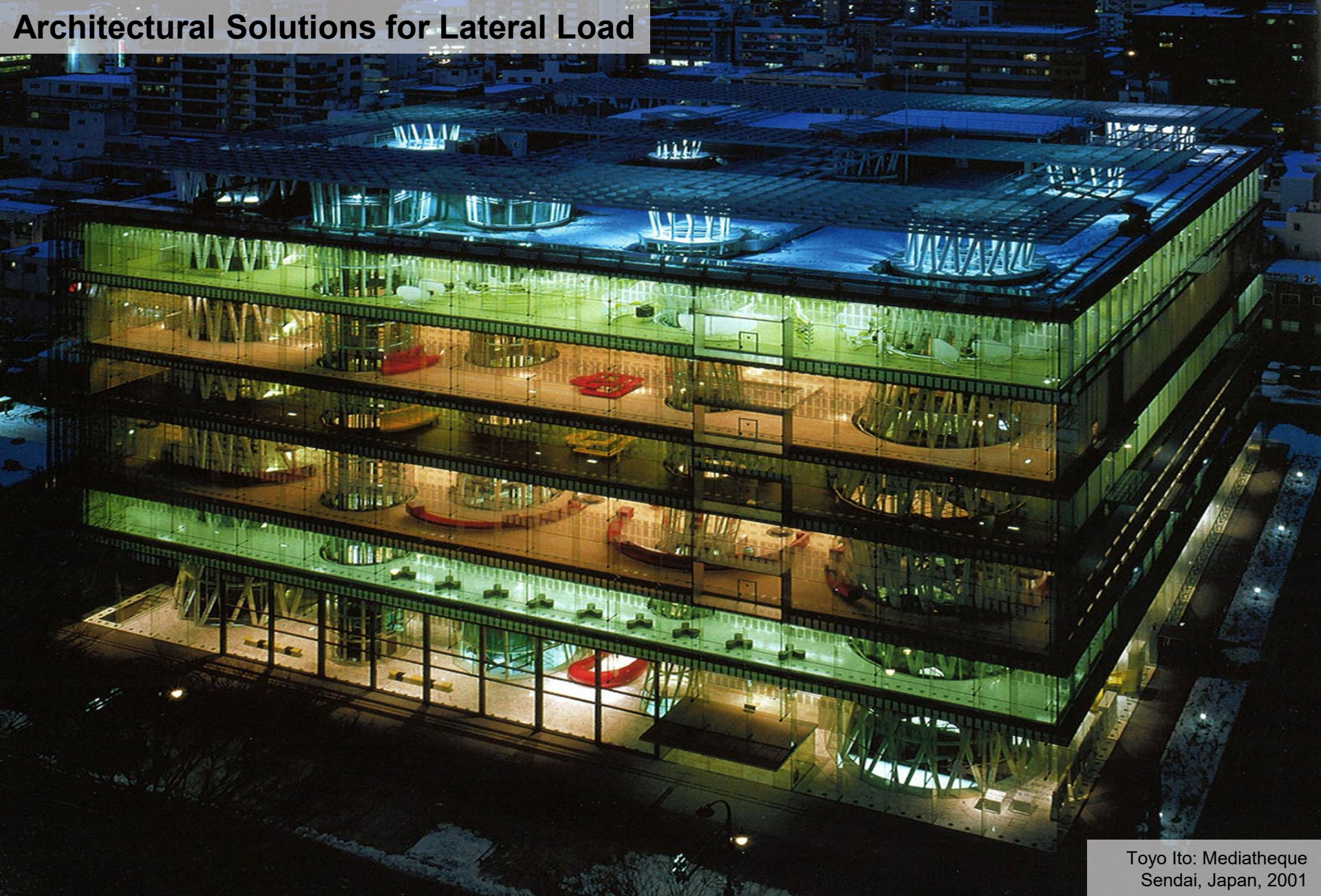
Shigeru Ban: Paper House, Lake Yamanaka,  
Yamanashi, Japan, 1995

# Architectural Solutions for Lateral Load

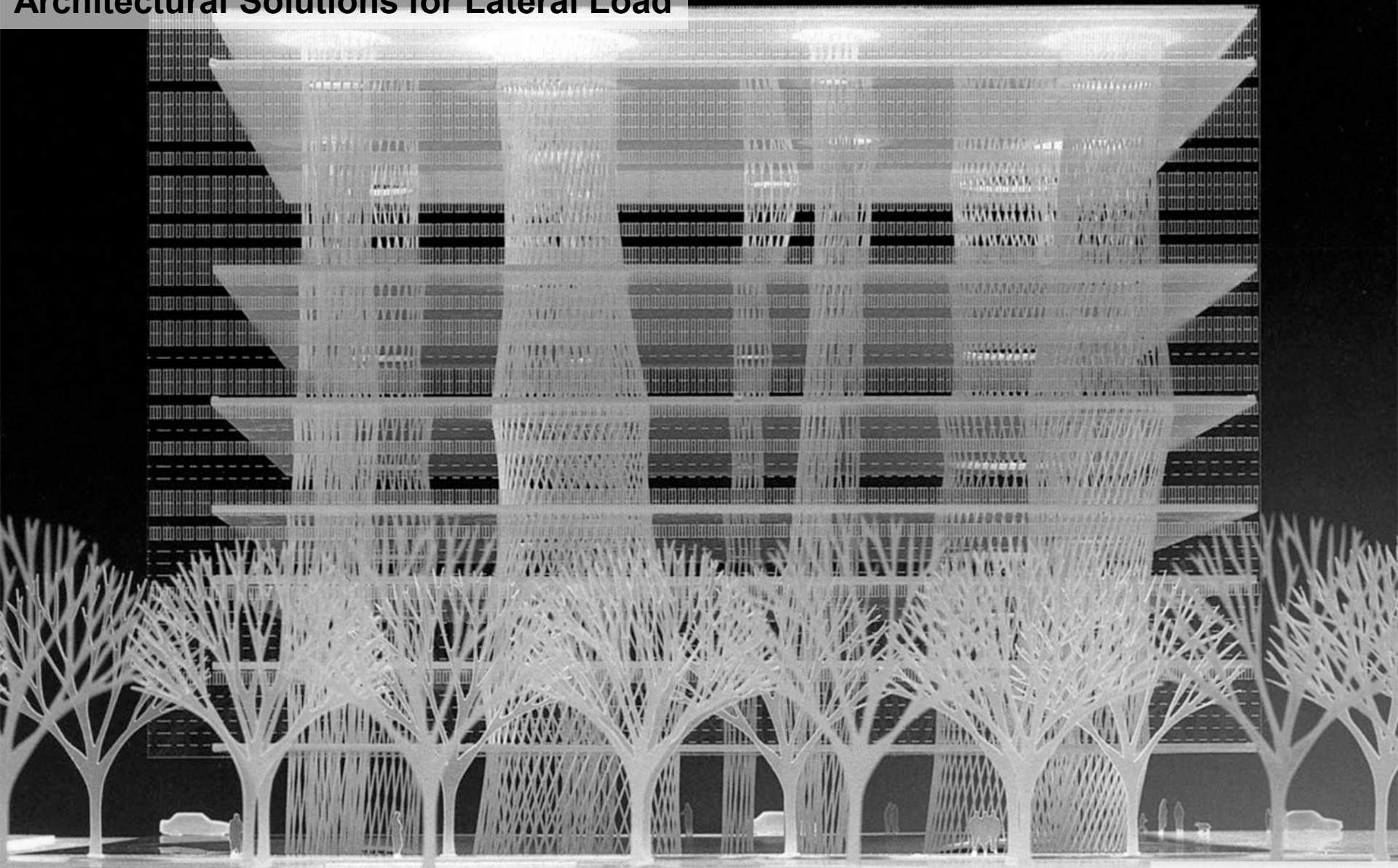


Shigeru Ban: Paper House, Lake Yamanaka, Yamanashi, Japan, 1995

# Architectural Solutions for Lateral Load

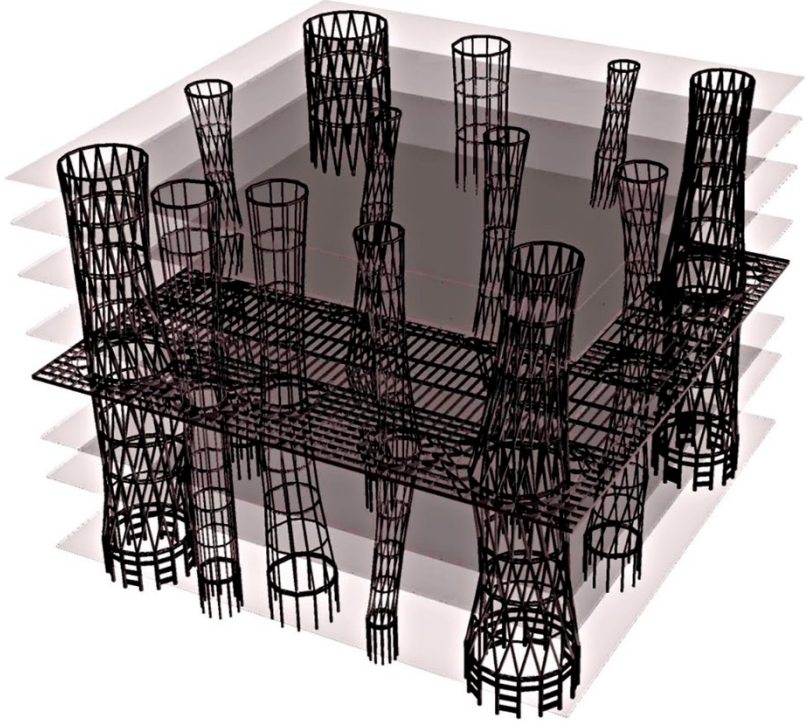
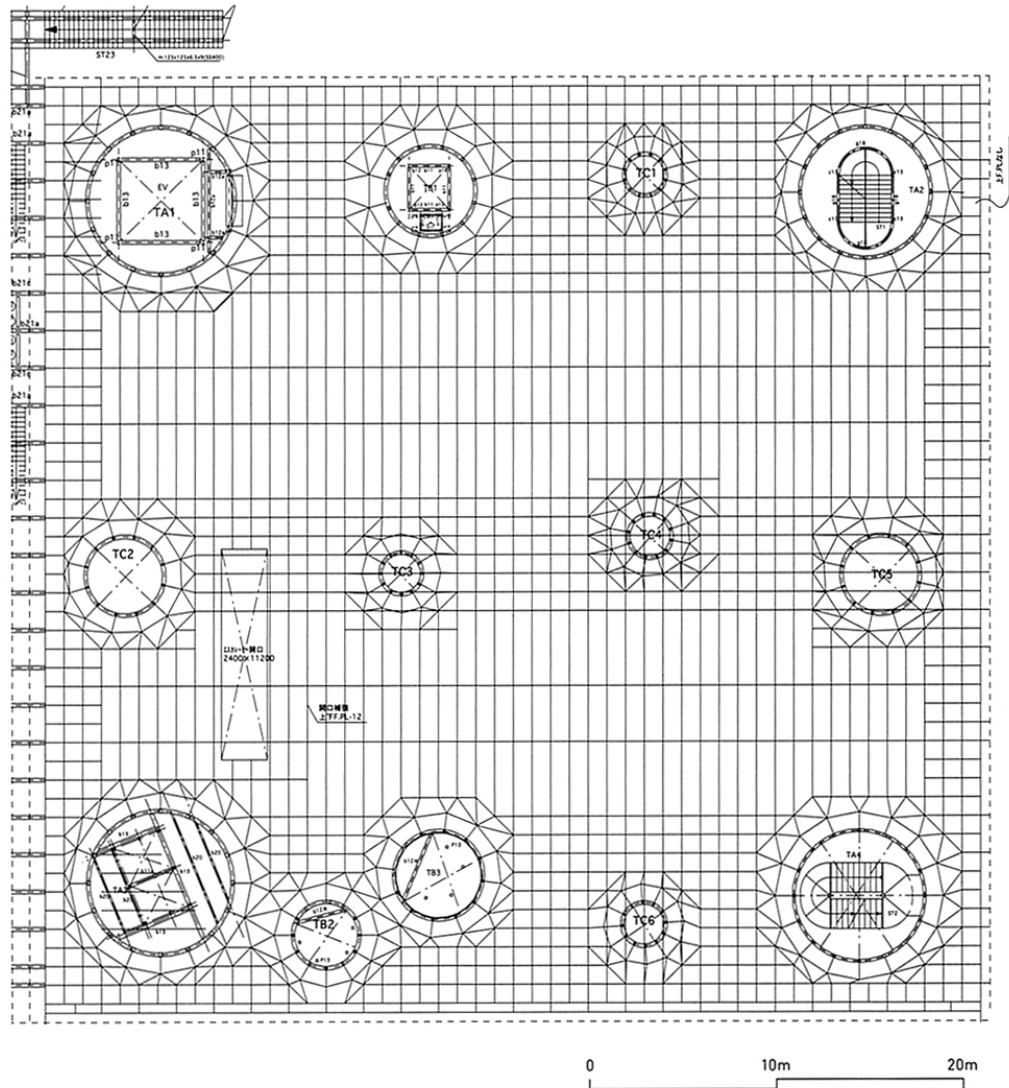


Toyo Ito: Mediatheque  
Sendai, Japan, 2001

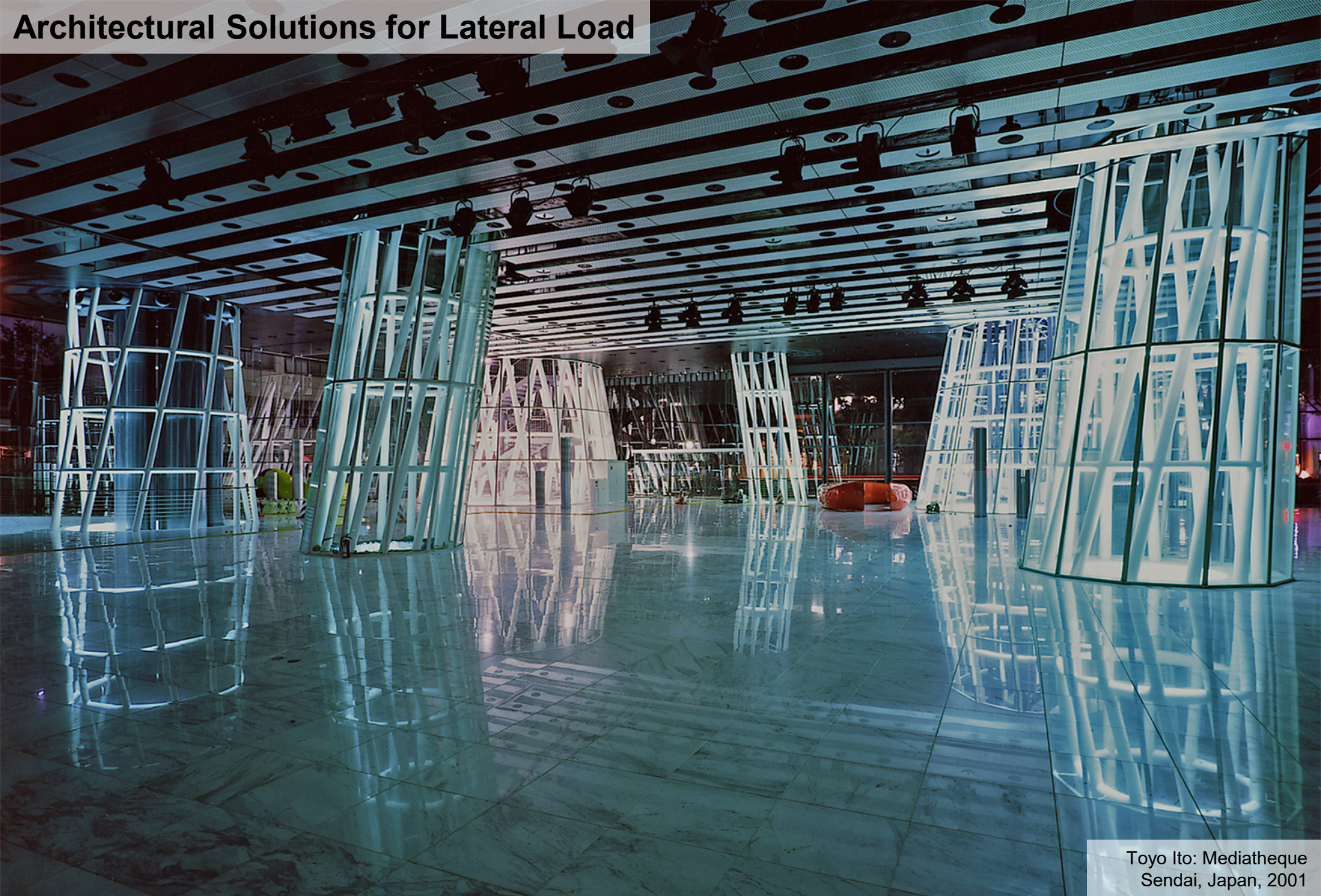


Toyo Ito: Mediatheque  
Sendai, Japan, 2001

# Architectural Solutions for Lateral Load

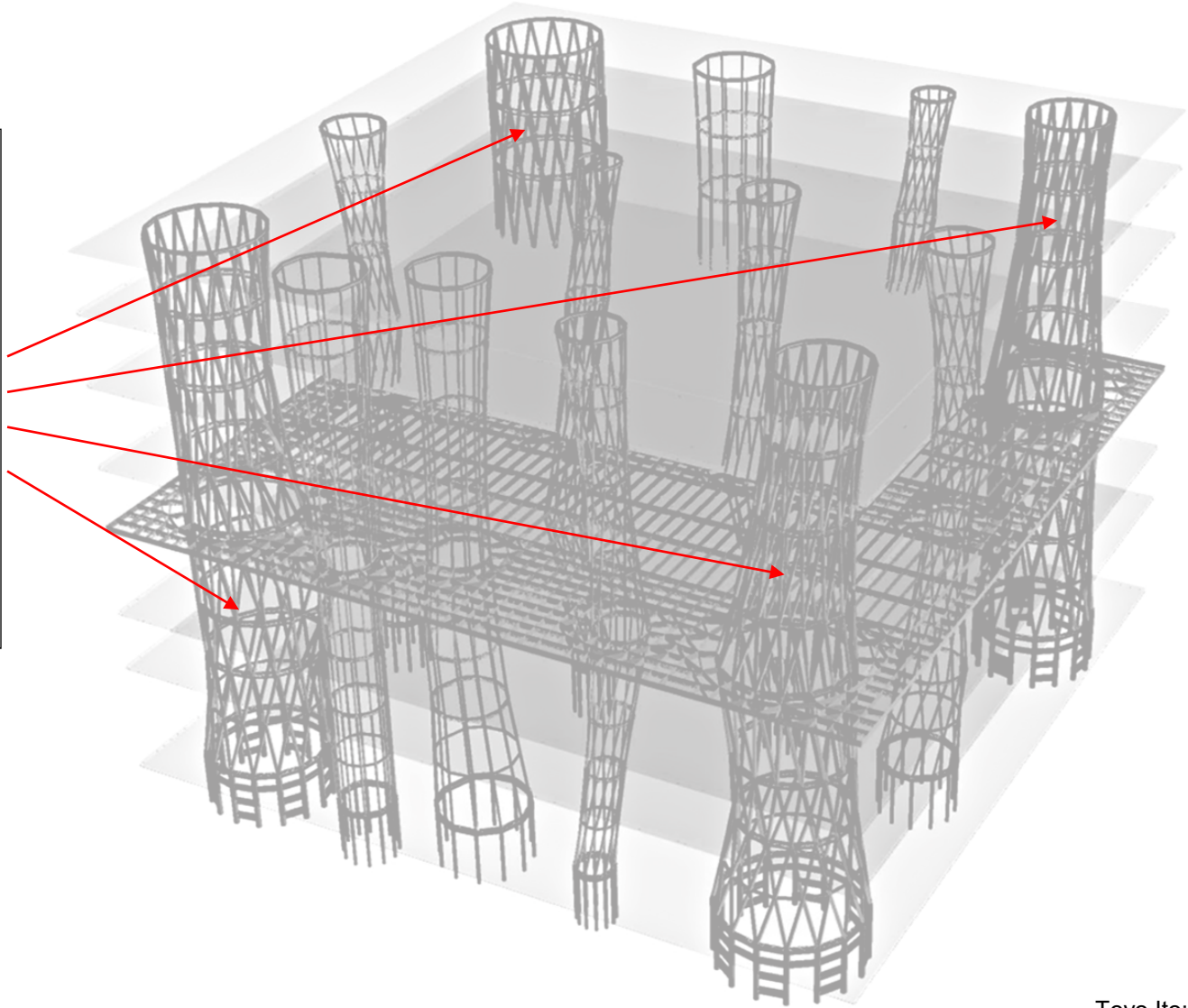
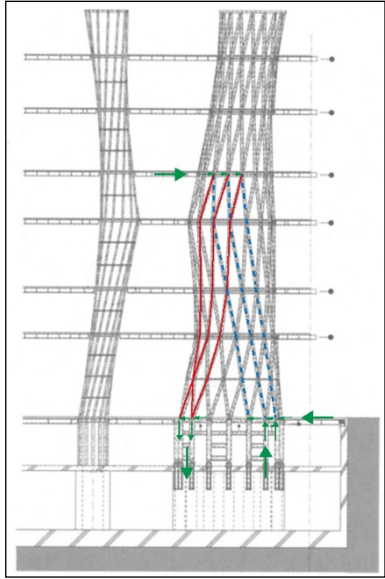


Toyo Ito: Mediatheque  
Sendai, Japan, 2001



Toyo Ito: Mediatheque  
Sendai, Japan, 2001

# Architectural Solutions for Lateral Load



Toyo Ito: Mediatheque  
Sendai, Japan, 2001



Michael de Haas: Aluminum Center of Netherlands, Houten, Netherlands, 2001



# Architectural Solutions for Lateral Load



Michael de Haas: Aluminum Center of Netherlands, Houten, Netherlands, 2001

# Architectural Solutions for Lateral Load



Rem Koolhaas: Villa dall'Ava  
Saint-Cloud, France, 1991

# Architectural Solutions for Lateral Load

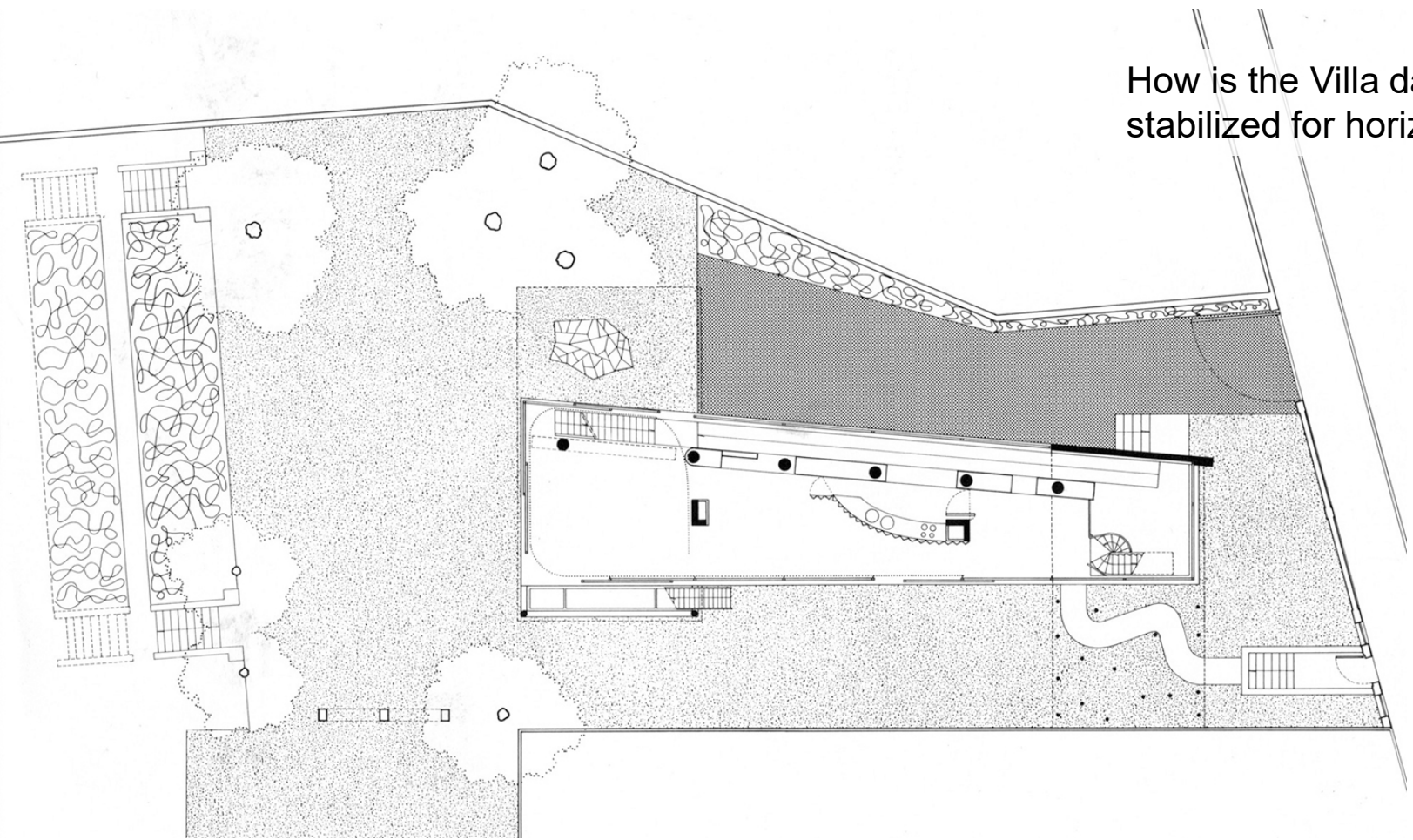


Rem Koolhaas: Villa dall'Ava  
Saint-Cloud, France, 1991

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFJ71mYYMXI>

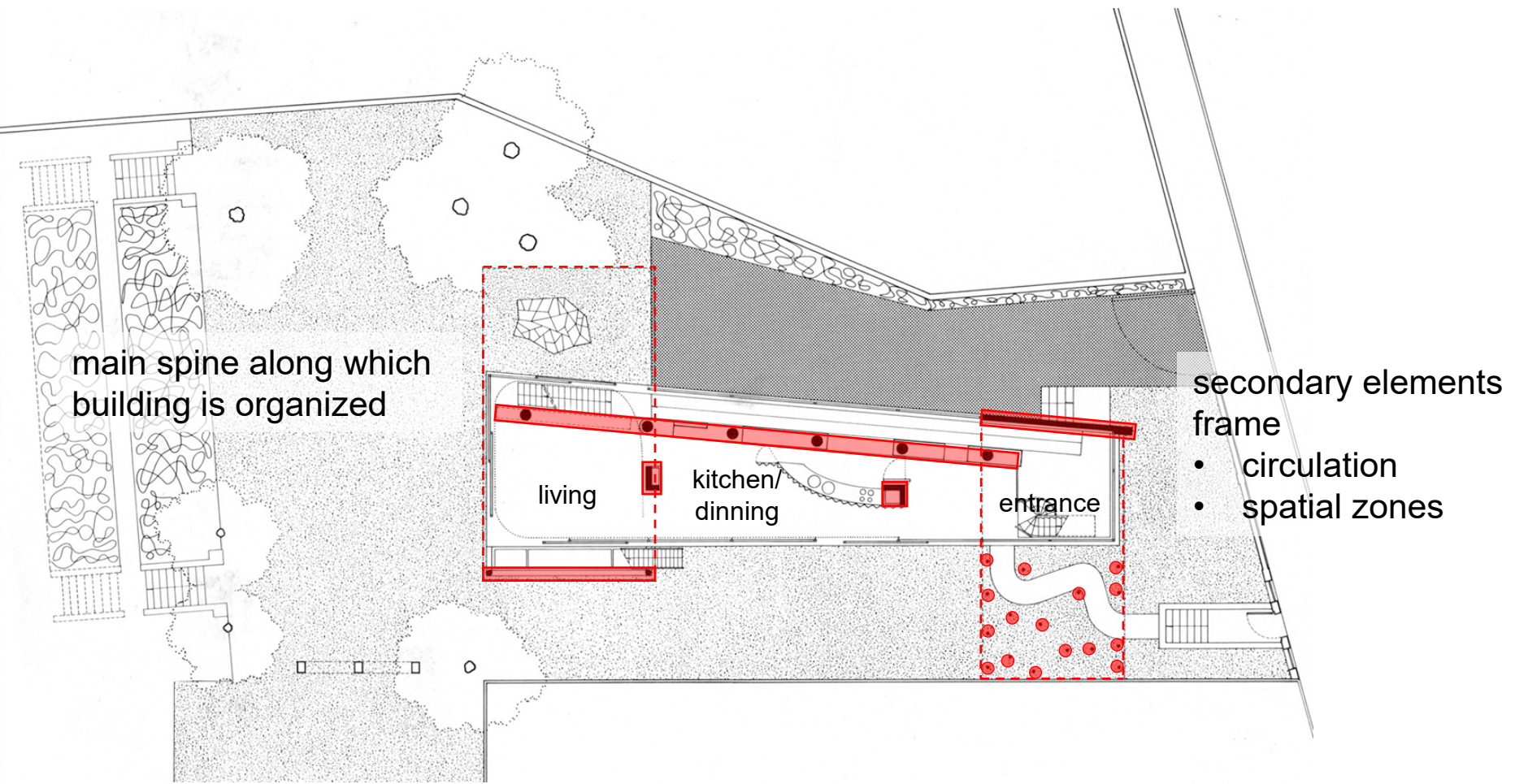
# Architectural Solutions for Lateral Load

How is the Villa dall'Ava stabilized for horizontal loads?



Rem Koolhaas: Villa dall'Ava  
Saint-Cloud, France, 1991

# Structure for Spatial Organization



Rem Koolhaas: Villa dall'Ava  
Saint-Cloud, France, 1991

# Structure for Spatial Organization



Rem Koolhaas: Villa dall'Ava  
Saint-Cloud, France, 1991

# Structure for Spatial Organization



Rem Koolhaas: Villa dall'Ava  
Saint-Cloud, France, 1991



# Structure for Spatial Organization



Rem Koolhaas: Villa dall'Ava  
Saint-Cloud, France, 1991

# Structure for Spatial Organization



Rem Koolhaas: Villa dall'Ava  
Saint-Cloud, France, 1991

# Structure for Spatial Organization



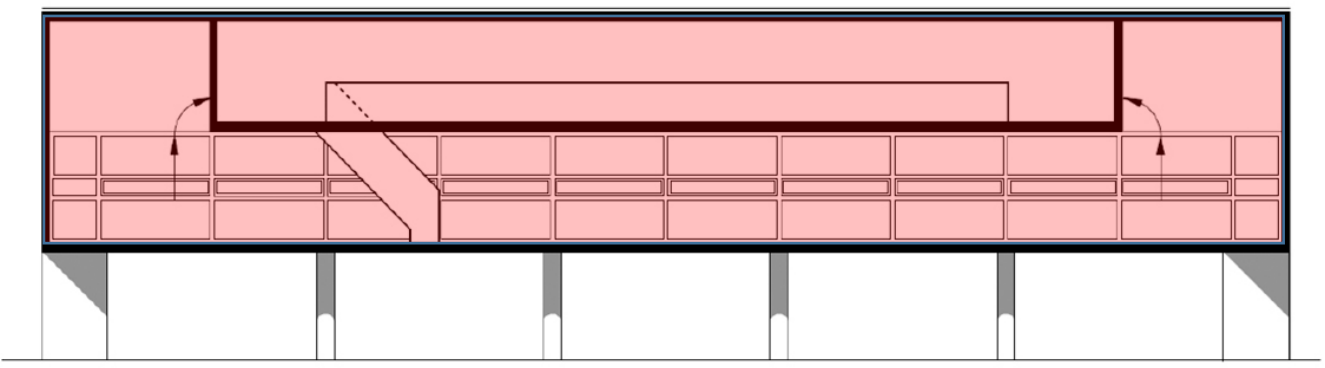
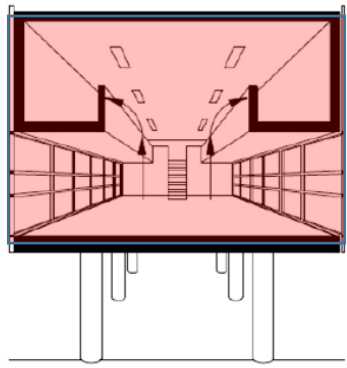
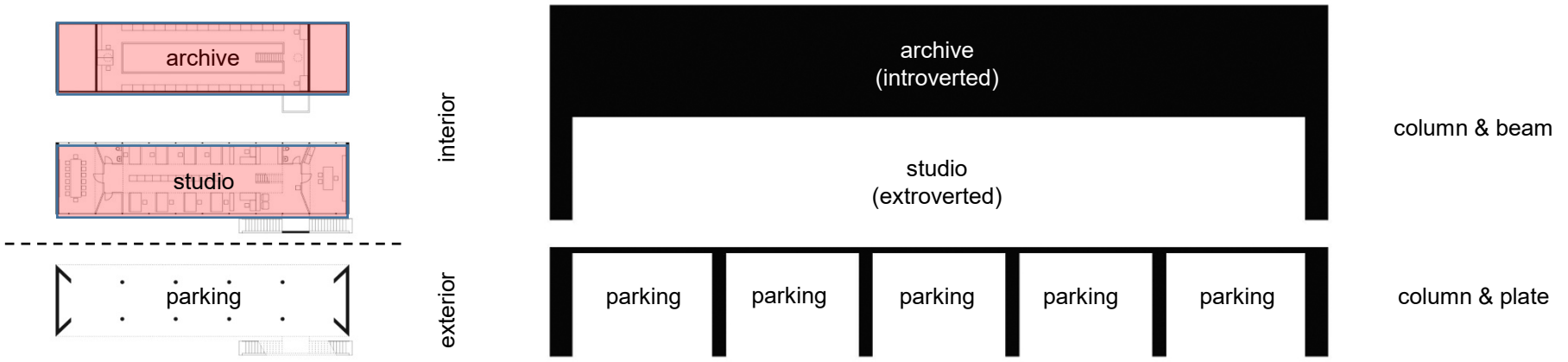
Rem Koolhaas: Villa dall'Ava  
Saint-Cloud, France, 1991

# Structure for Spatial Organization

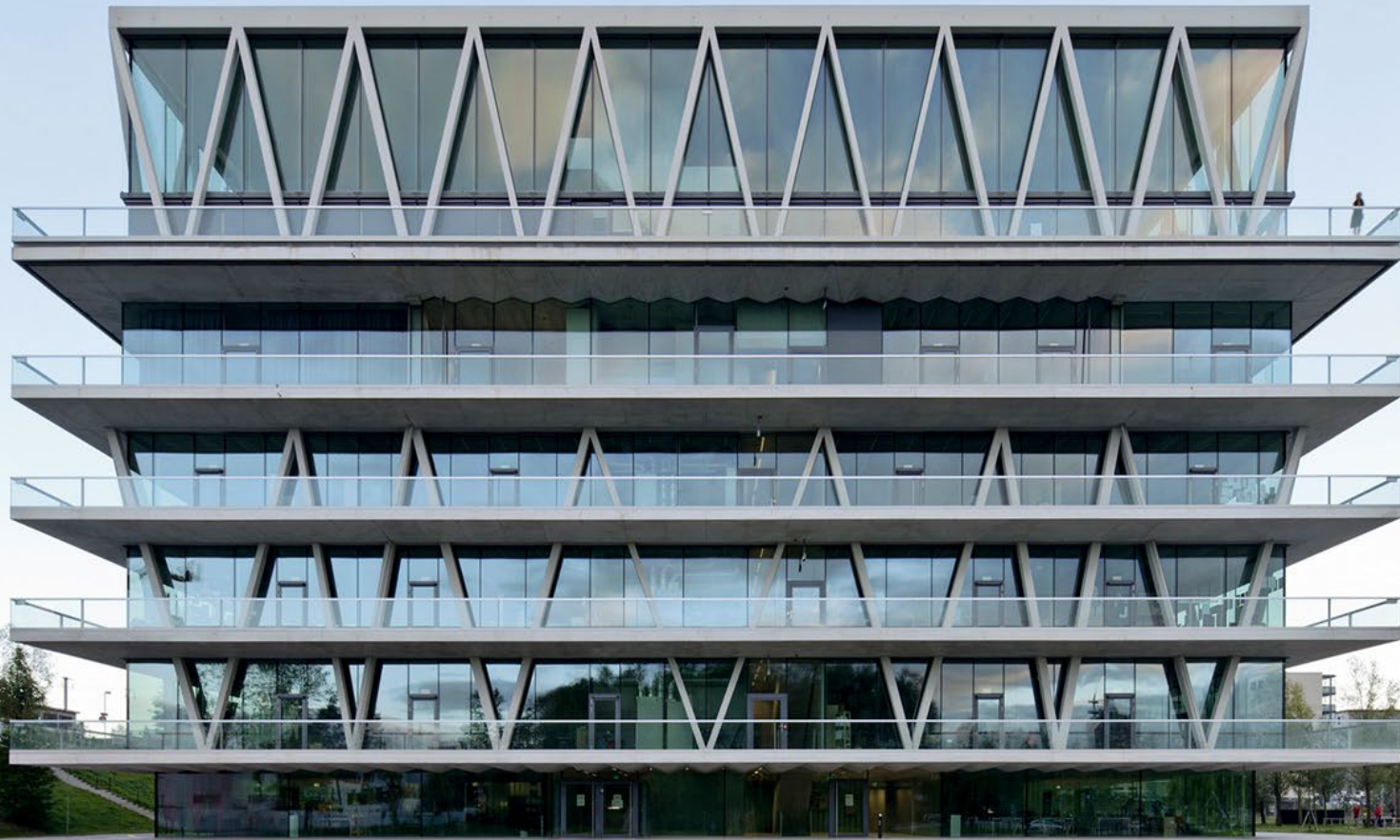


Livio Vacchini: Office  
Locarno, Switzerland, 1985

# Structure for Spatial Organization



Livio Vacchini: Office  
Locarno, Switzerland, 1985

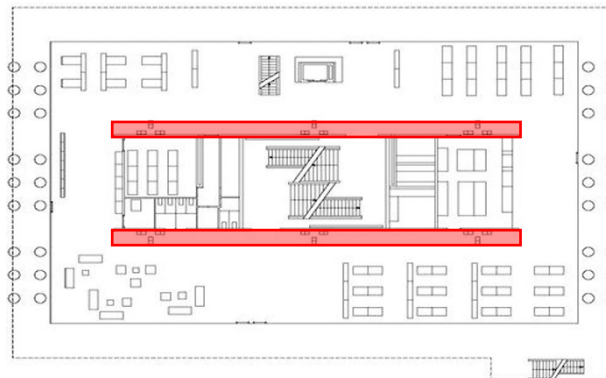


Christian Kerez: Leutschenbach School  
Zurich, Switzerland, 2009

# Structure for Spatial Organization



# Structure for Spatial Organization



Christian Kerez: Leutschenbach School  
Zurich, Switzerland, 2009



# Structure for Spatial Organization



Christian Kerez: Leutschenbach School  
Zurich, Switzerland, 2009

# Structure for Spatial Organization



Christian Kerez: Leutschenbach School  
Zurich, Switzerland, 2009



Shigeru Ban: Picture Window House  
Shizuoka, Japan, 2002

# Structure for Spatial Organization



Shigeru Ban: Picture Window House  
Shizuoka, Japan, 2002

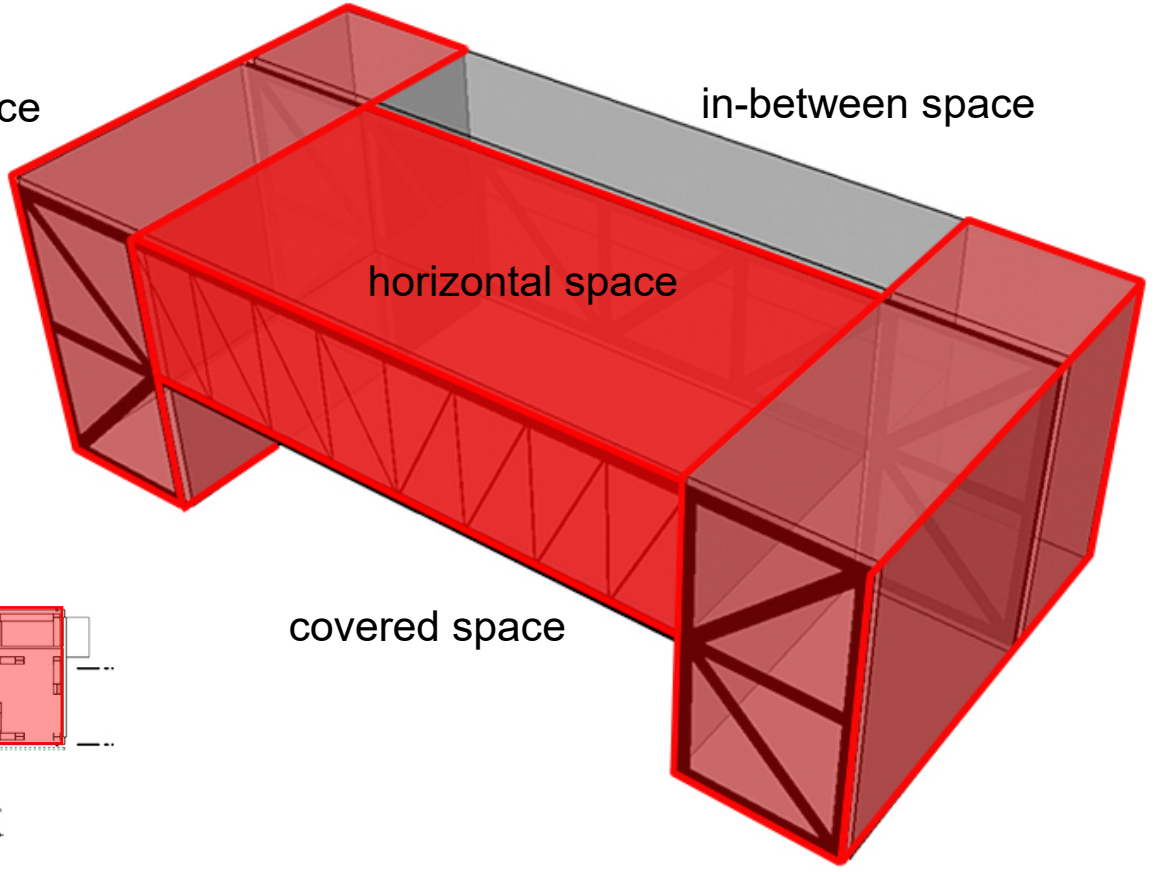
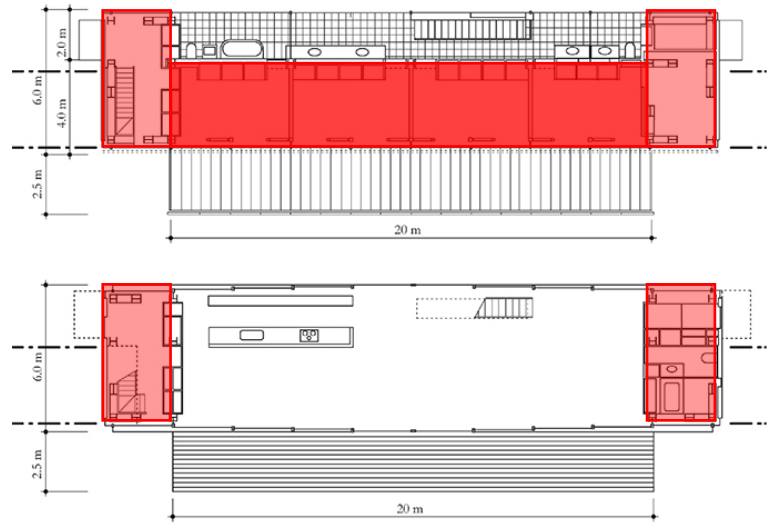
# Structure for Spatial Organization

vertical space

in-between space

horizontal space

covered space



Shigeru Ban: Picture Window House  
Shizuoka, Japan, 2002



OOPEAA: Kärsämäki Church  
Kärsämäki, Finland, 2004



OOPEAA: Kärsämäki Church  
Kärsämäki, Finland, 2004

# Structure as Concept



OOPEAA: Kärämäki Church  
Kärämäki, Finland, 2004

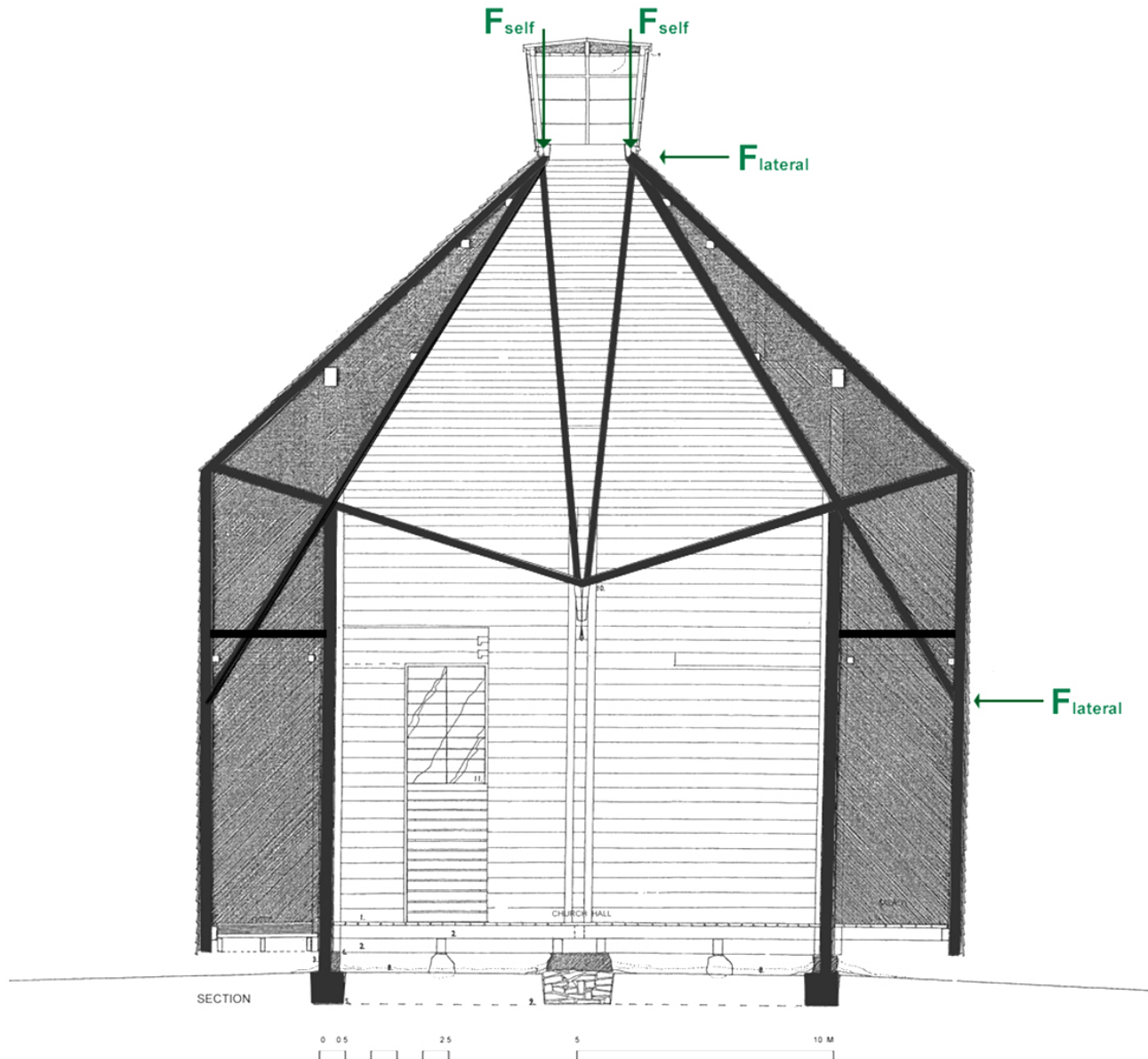


# Structure as Concept



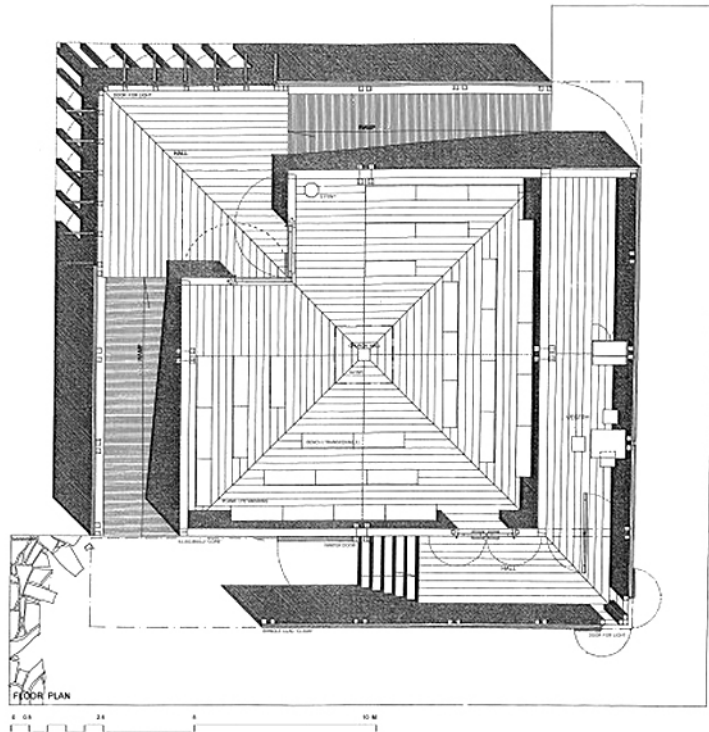
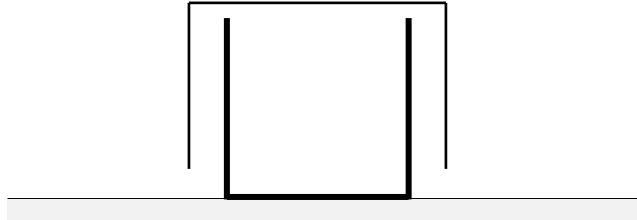
OOPEAA: Kärsämäki Church  
Kärsämäki, Finland, 2004

# Structure as Concept



OOPEAA: Karsämäki Church  
Karsämäki, Finland, 2004

# Structure as Concept



OOPEAA: Kärsämäki Church  
Kärsämäki, Finland, 2004

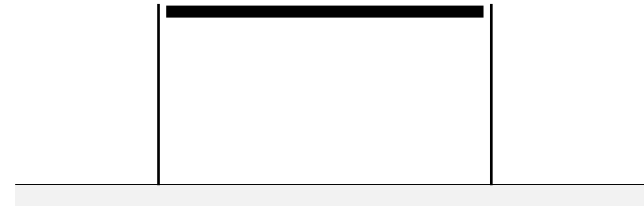


Mies van der Rohe: Farnsworth House  
Plano, USA, 1951

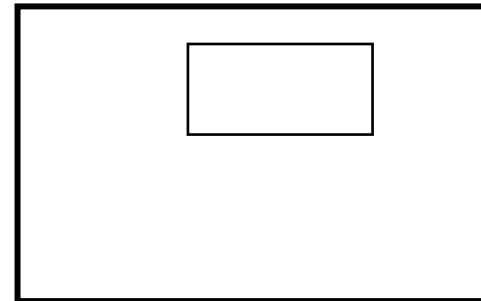
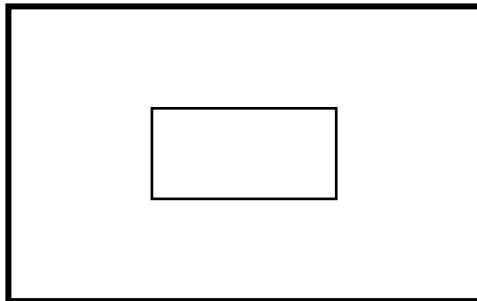


Mies van der Rohe: Farnsworth House  
Plano, USA, 1951

# Structure and Tectonic



what is the relation between  
two programmatic units?



Mies van der Rohe: Farnsworth House  
Plano, USA, 1951



Mies van der Rohe: Farnsworth House  
Plano, USA, 1951

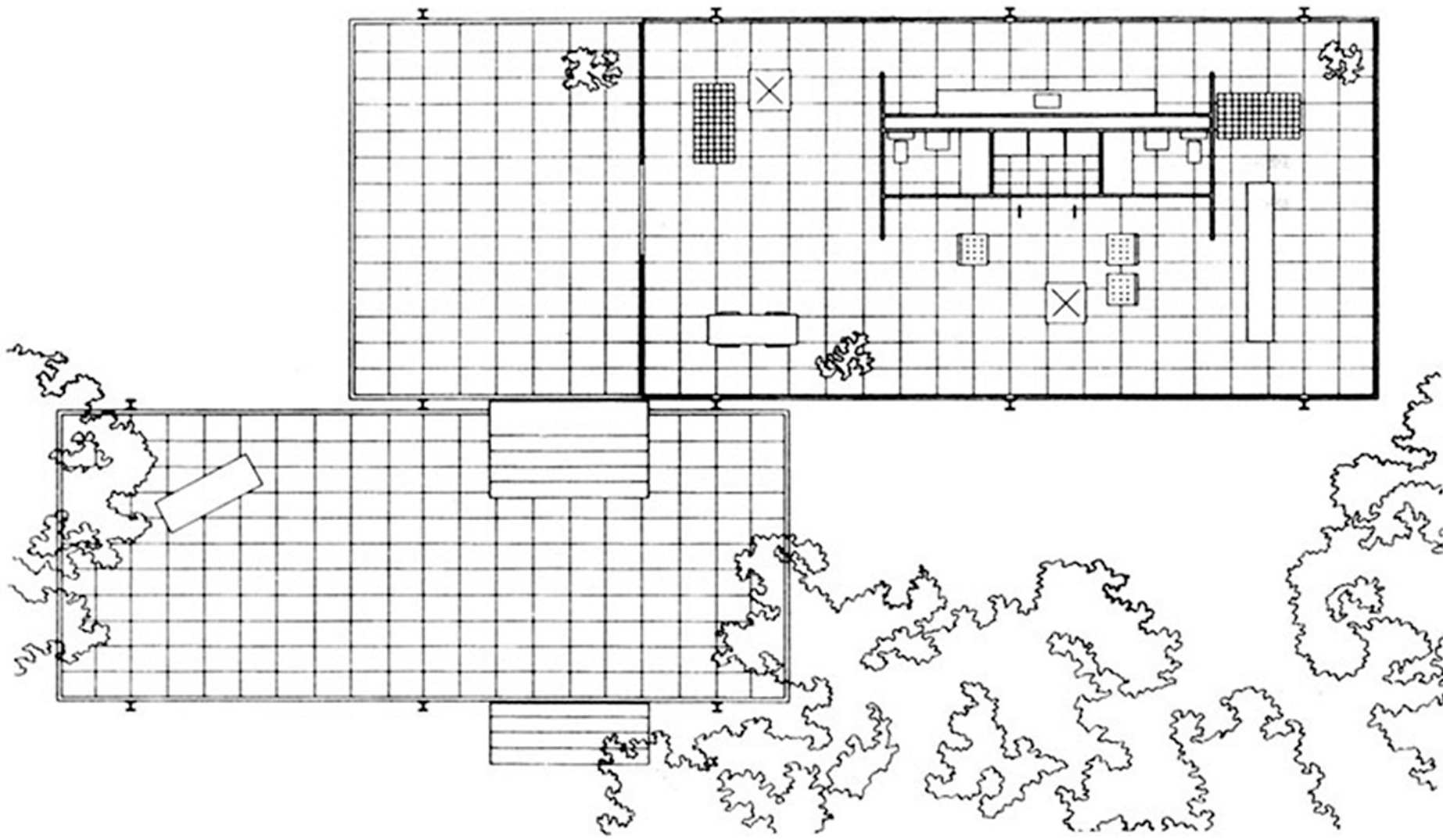
# Structure and Tectonic



Mies van der Rohe: Farnsworth House  
Plano, USA, 1951



# Structure and Tectonic



Mies van der Rohe: Farnsworth House  
Plano, USA, 1951

*“**Structure** as a more general and abstract concept refers to a system or principle of arrangement destined to cope with forces at work in a building, such as post-and-lintel, arch, vault, dome and folded plate. **Construction** on the other hand refers to the concrete realization of a principle or system – a realization which may be carried out in a number of materials and ways. ...*

*When a structural concept has found its implementation through construction, the visual result will affect us through certain expressive qualities which clearly have something to do with the play of forces and corresponding arrangement of parts in the building, yet cannot be described in terms of construction and structure alone. For these qualities, which are expressive of a relation of form to force, the term **tectonic** should be reserved.”*

Eduard Sekler

*“No matter how good an architect you are, if you have no chance of expressing your poetic idea in structures, you lack the very foundation of architecture. The structure is a language, a way of expressing yourself, and there should be a balance between thought and language. Every story has a structure.”*

Sverre Fehn

Mies van der Rohe: Farnsworth House  
Plano, USA, 1951



Peter Zumthor: Chapel  
Sogn Benedetg, Switzerland, 1989



Peter Zumthor: Chapel  
Sogn Benedetg, Switzerland, 1989

# Structure and Tectonic



structural design is primarily a question of **design thinking**, it is a creative & intellectual process!

Peter Zumthor: Chapel Sogn Benedetg, Switzerland, 1989

- three walls for lateral stability
- shaping of elements
- shaping of structural system
- organization of architecture
- support architectural concept
- structure as architecture
- structural tectonics



**ARK-A3001 Design of Structures\_Basics**  
**Design with Forces**

**Toni Kotnik**

Professor of Design of Structures  
Aalto University  
Department of Architecture  
Department of Civil Engineering

# Exercise: Building Analysis

