

# LAHORE UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

*Murlidhar Dawani*

## Project Data

**Client:** The National Management Foundation.

**Architects:** Habib Fida Ali, Husnain Lotia, Ali Naqvi, Mansoor Ghanchi

**Structural Consultants:** Progressive Consultants, Lahore.

**Electrical Consultants:** M. Ayub and Associates, Karachi.

**Mechanical Consultants:** A. Saadat and Company, Karachi.

**Phase I:** Academic Block, Student Housing (3 blocks).

**Site Area:** 60 acres.

**Academic Block Area:** 150,000 sq. ft.

**Student Housing Area:**

13,156 x 3 floor = 39,468 sq. ft.

39,468 x 3 block = 118,404 sq. ft.

**Cost:** Rupees 150 million = US\$ 6.50 million.

**Completion:** Phase I: Academic block, Student housing (3 blocks): 1992.

The Lahore University of Management Sciences, a privately funded and run University devoted to Management and Business Administration is currently located in rented premises in Gulberg, a residential but increasingly commercial suburb of Lahore. To fulfil their aims in establishing a centre of excellence rivalling the finest in the world, the University acquired a parcel of land of some 60 acres on the outskirts of the city.

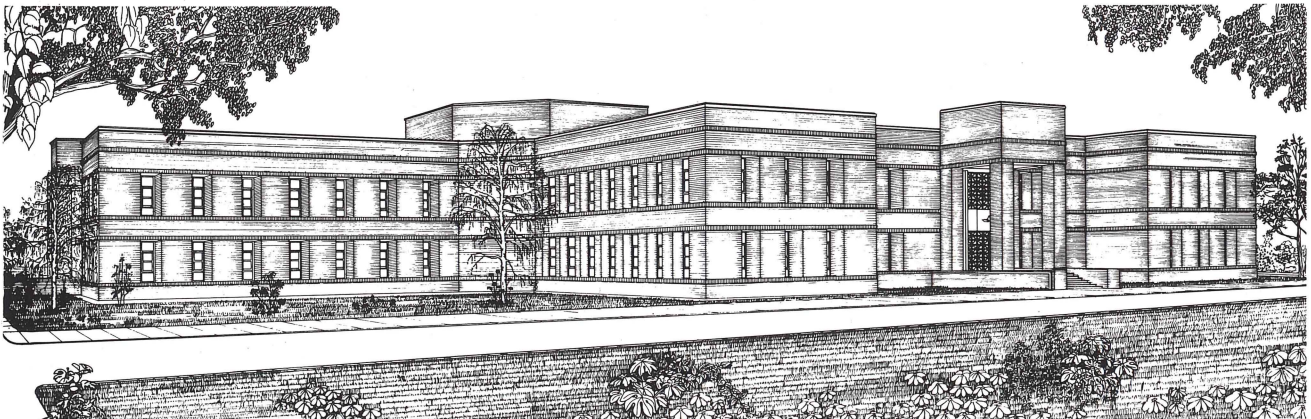
The plot of land has been divided roughly into three major parallel sectors. The central sector is the teaching area, with the Graduate School of Business Administration in the first phase to be built now, and space for future faculties all around it. To one side is the student housing, and on the other, housing for faculty and staff.

Construction will begin in December

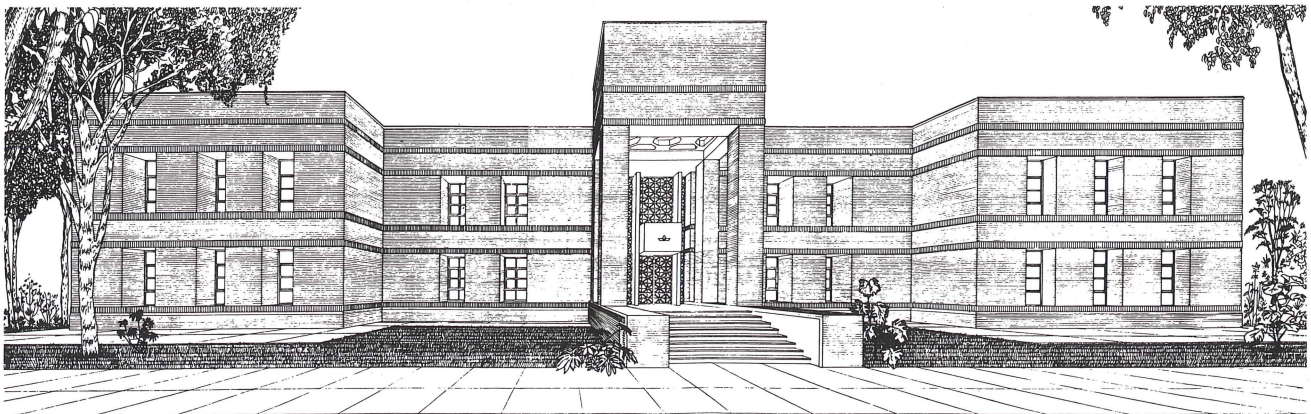
1990. The first phase of development includes the Graduate School of Business Administration and the Executive Development Centre, which offers intensive short duration specialized courses for business executives and working professionals.

The GSBA is located in a large two-storeyed 150,000 square foot building. Cruciform in shape, this building comprises the business school featuring lecture halls, discussion rooms, faculty offices, cafeteria, as well as the university's administrative areas. These areas, separated according to function, are in four wings grouped around a central courtyard. Housing blocks for some 200 students will also be built in the first phase. A typical block, two and three storeys, consists of single rooms arranged around courtyards.

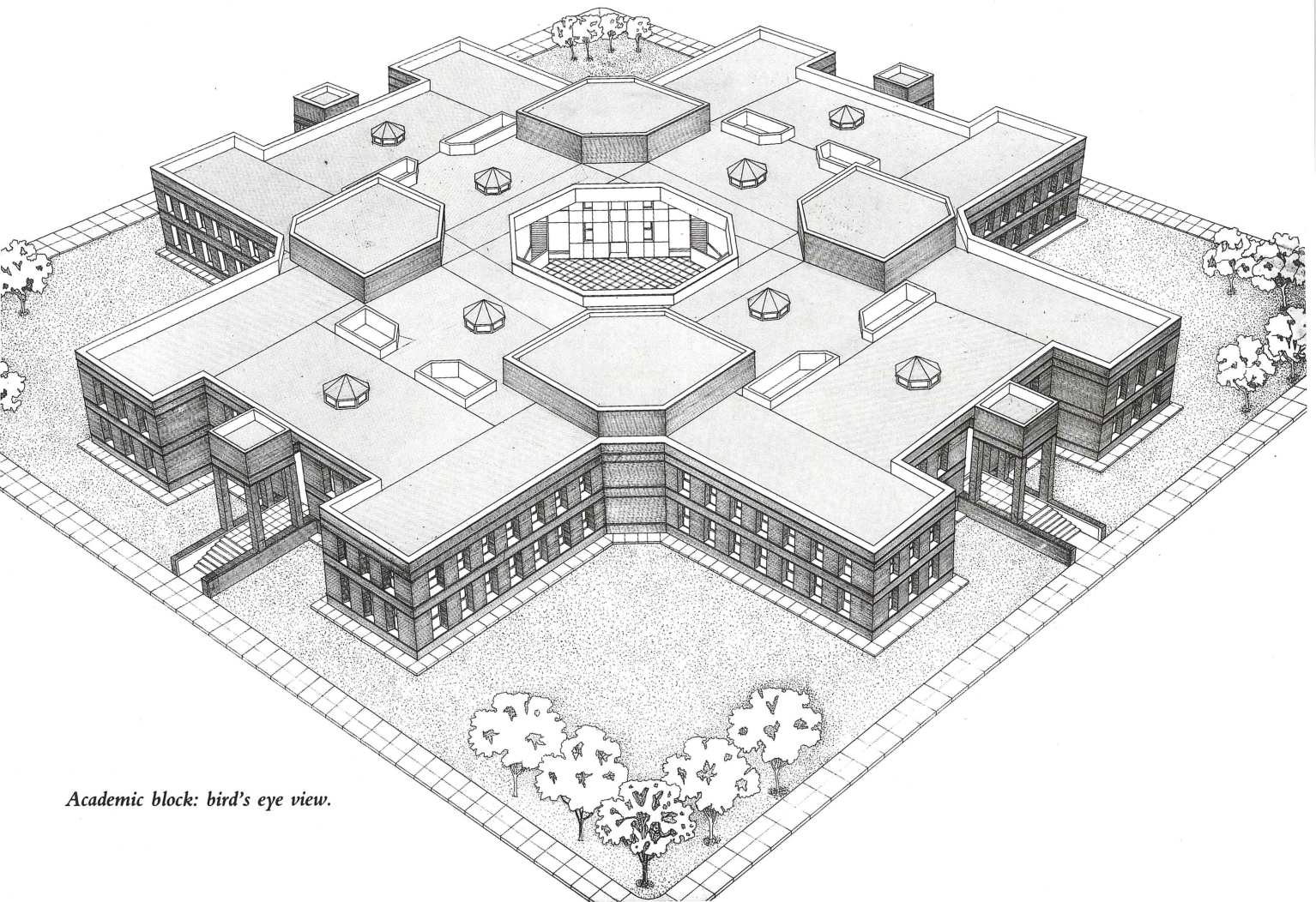
All the buildings are planned as low rise



Above & below: Academic block.



## BUILDINGS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH



*Academic block: bird's eye view.*

low slung structures, to offer the minimum visual bulk to the flat green landscape of tilled fields around. Reinforced concrete frames clad totally in locally available brick, coupled with the varying heights of the different buildings, will evoke, it is expected, images of the rural landscape of closely massed red brick forms rising out of a brilliant green, billiard-table-flat base, so typical to the rural scene of the Punjab.

*Habib Fida Ali*

**T**he challenge facing the present generation of architects in Pakistan is to acknowledge and appreciate prevailing modern ideas, while exploring the notion of regionalism and vernacular tradition. The majority of buildings in Pakistan lack character and continuity with the past, and are not appropriate to the local society and culture. Among professionals there is

a serious intent to embark on traditional vocabularies and at the same time reflect current modernity.

Habib Fida Ali's University of Management Sciences in Lahore is a significant step forward in the development of an architectural vocabulary characterized by local tradition and conscious of its modernity. A devotee of the Le Corbusier brand of architecture for over 20 years, Habib Fida Ali has finally discovered his roots. The recent influence of architects such as Luis Barragan of Mexico and Geoffrey Bawa of Sri Lanka, and his experience as a member of the Aga Khan master jury in 1983, have changed his ideas about architectural theory. The new project uses a blend of western technology and local materials and tradition.

The influence of regionalism in architecture, which is an increasingly important issue in developing countries,

is a natural response to western hegemony. It is part of a broader movement towards greater cultural awareness. In this context the modernist values of Habib Fida Ali are a good influence. Habib Fida Ali studied at the Architectural Association in London. He returned to Pakistan in 1963 after practising for a few years in London and joined the architectural firm of William Parry and Associates. In 1965 he established his own office. Until the mid-seventies his work was limited largely to higher income houses, interior designs, and relatively small-scale commercial projects.

Habib Fida Ali's first big opportunity came in 1975 when, after winning a limited competition, he was asked to design the head office for Pakistan Burmah Shell. The result was met with acclaim, and the building proved a turning point in his professional career.

## BUILDINGS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Through this he identified a distinctive style. Fair-faced concrete façades, broken up by panels and grooves and windows, created substantial and monumental effects and were executed with excellent workmanship, fine detailing and a strong sense of proportion. This building became a hallmark of Pakistan's contemporary architecture and led Habib Fida Ali to design other large building projects, such as the National Bank Building in Quetta, the 120-room extension of Hotel Midway House at Karachi Airport, and a 13-storey Sui Gas head office in Lahore. He continued the style he set in the PBS building, characterized by a bold and clear expression of structure, and a deep understanding of modern materials, function and aesthetics.

Habib Fida Ali was commissioned in 1982 to design the University of Management Sciences, a prestigious institution consisting of an academic block, executive development centre,

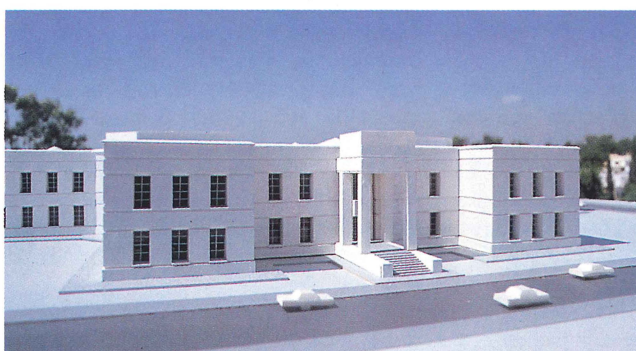
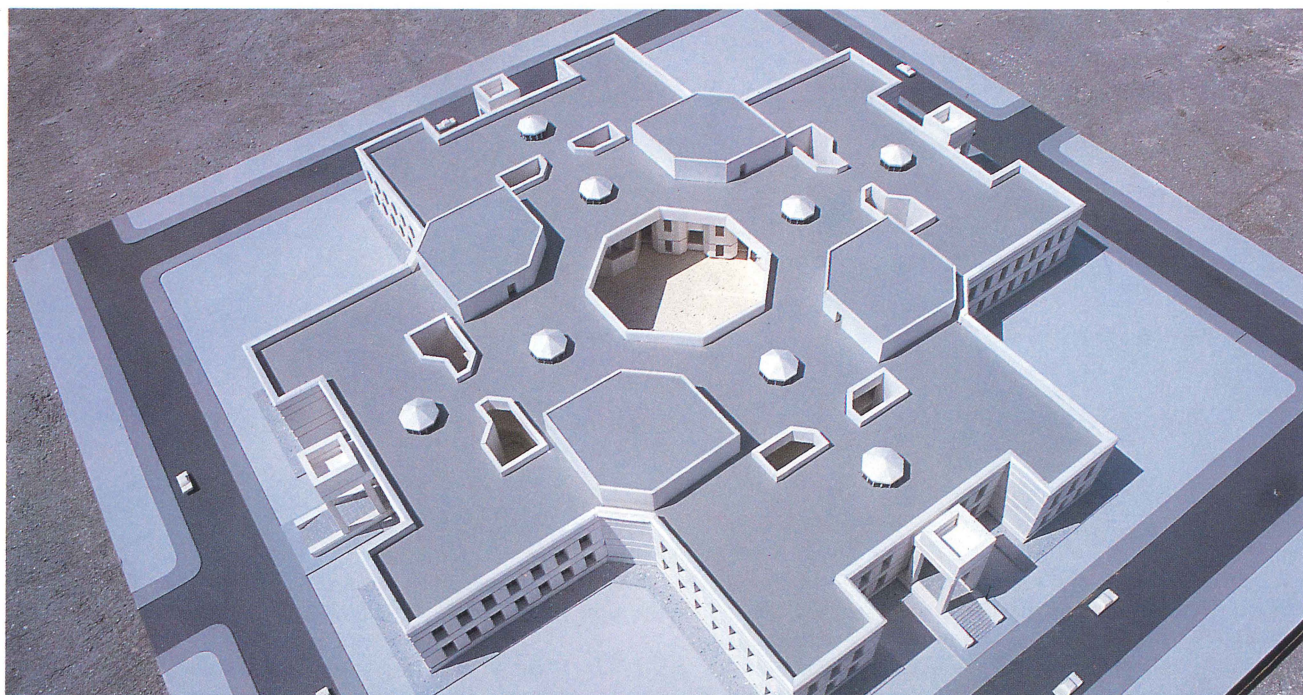
student housing, faculty housing, staff housing and a mosque to be built on a 67 acre site in the centre of Lahore. Here he had an opportunity to put into practice his fascination with the architectural tradition of the sub-continent.

After winning the commission, he went to study the top management schools in different countries; not only to see the architecture but also to appreciate methods of teaching and the way in which they function. This helped him immensely in designing the University. He states, "The requirements for a management school were very specific; for example, classrooms, discussion rooms, the library, computer centre, reprographic centre, and the faculty and management area. Instead of separating them, which was very common, I have set them into one specific building. I wanted to have integration not only of the elements, which I have achieved through very strong form, but of the students and

the faculty. This will create a pleasant and vigorous academic atmosphere and would be practical and functional too, as most of the spaces will be air-conditioned."

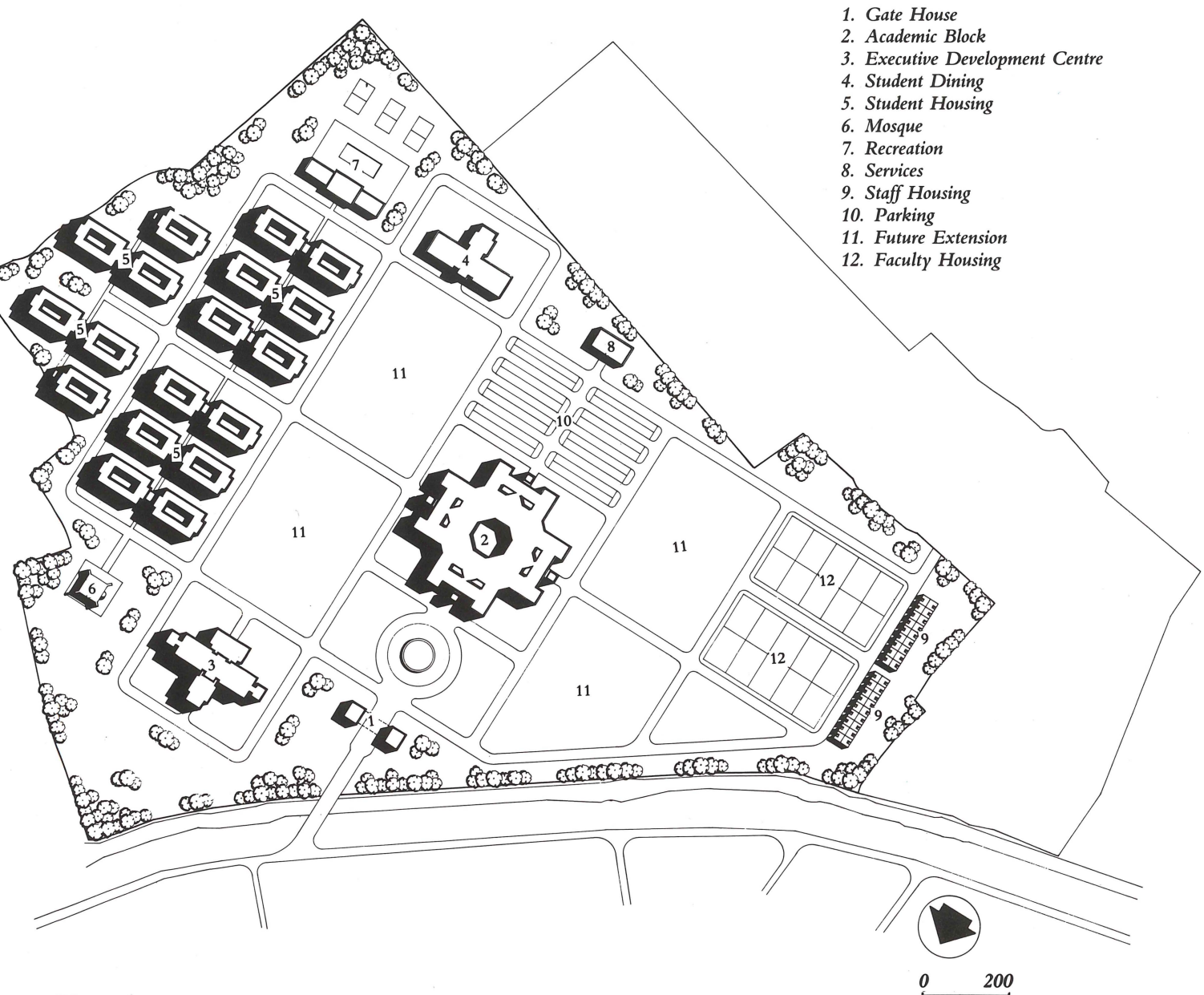
The handling of spaces, which divide the functions into four parts under the same roof, and the integration of open and partially covered courtyards, is excellent. They are not only the transitional spaces between air-conditioned and non air-conditioned areas, but also a source of natural light and air in the building. The separation and incorporation of students, faculty, management, visitors and their activities is considered and accomplished beautifully. This is a current architectural expression that accommodates the prerequisites of modern life and enhances the cultural authenticity of the traditional environment of Lahore.

Habib Fida Ali, trained in the modernist tradition, has attempted to reflect historical tradition in a modern idiom. He has moved away from the PBS brand of



*Three views of the model for the academic block, showing the cruciform shape formed by the four academic areas, grouped around a central courtyard, and the tall porticos.*

## BUILDINGS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH



Master plan

international architecture and has come closer to home. The University of Management Sciences provides all the facilities required in a modern educational building. Yet, traditionally inspired elements such as form, courtyards, materials, and detailing have been carefully amalgamated to the design, which has captured the spirit of vernacular architecture and combined it with the present-day style.

The school is essentially a cluster of semi-independent blocks assembled around the central courtyard. In developing an anomalous site, an axially-based layout has been followed, which has helped to regulate the site in a formal manner. It appears that the fundamental concept for the master plan has been the orientation of the mosque, which faces west. The business school is the largest

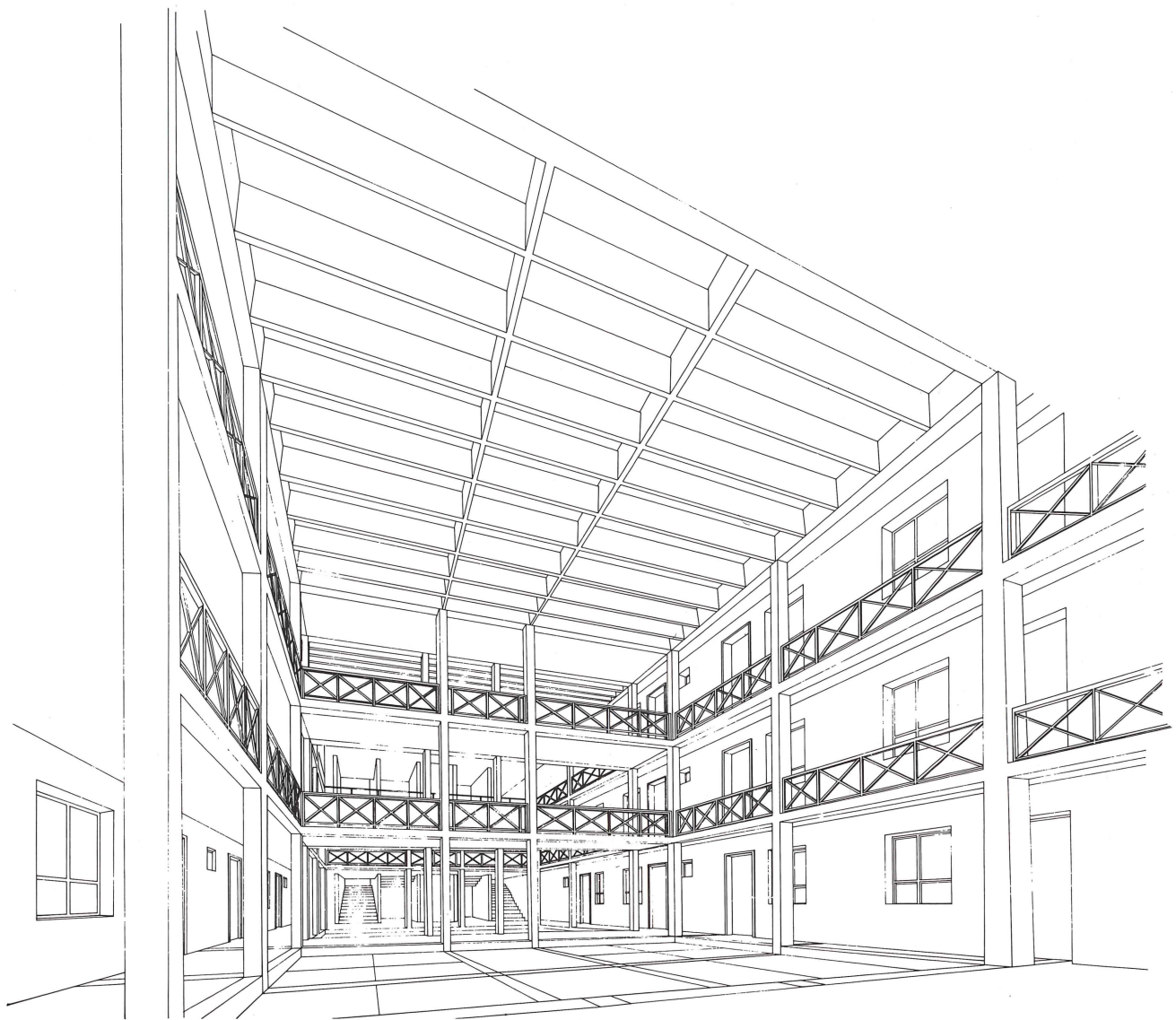
block and occupies a central location in the master plan.

Habib Fida Ali has designed this building seeking a built environment as an outcome of the culture, tradition and the physical, social, and economical resources of a society. A sympathy with the character of this region is expressed through traditional geometry following a strict symmetry. Here, for the first time in his work, Habib Fida Ali has not applied his theory that form should follow function.

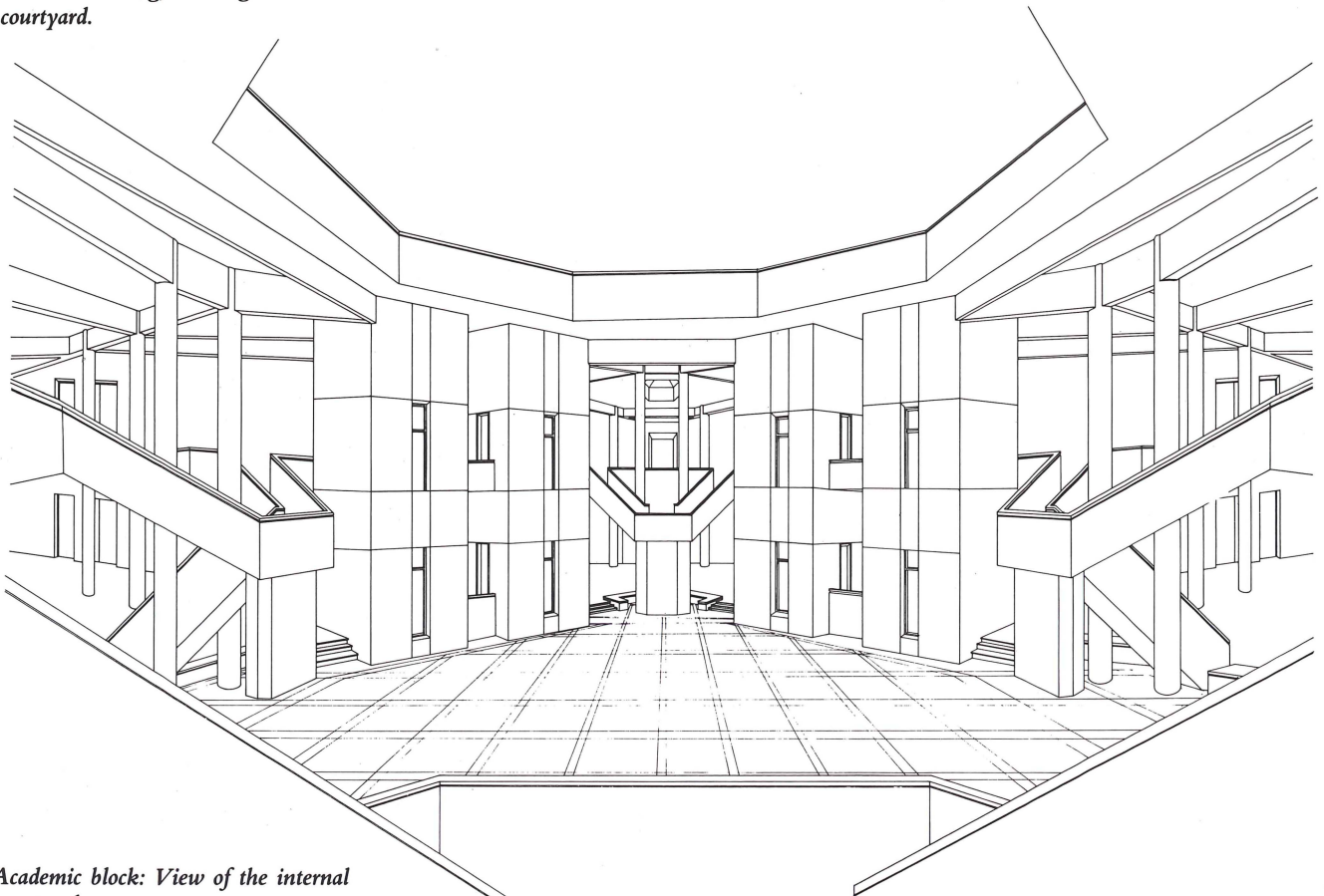
This is a symmetrical form expressing the discipline and geometry in planning which further symbolizes the walled city's image and its four gates in four wings. The scale of Moghul architecture is respected by keeping the height of the buildings to two storeys. Since Lahore is a city of gardens, special consideration has

been given to the outer and internal landscape. Covered, semi-covered, and open spaces with little ornamentation, are weaved around artistically in traditional brick, displaying greenery and water. This creates an agreeable social and intellectual environment, providing a pleasant atmosphere for informal gatherings and activities. The ingenuity of the design is that it fulfils function, environmental needs and academic goals and creates an uncomplicated environment with a new image without disguising the past.

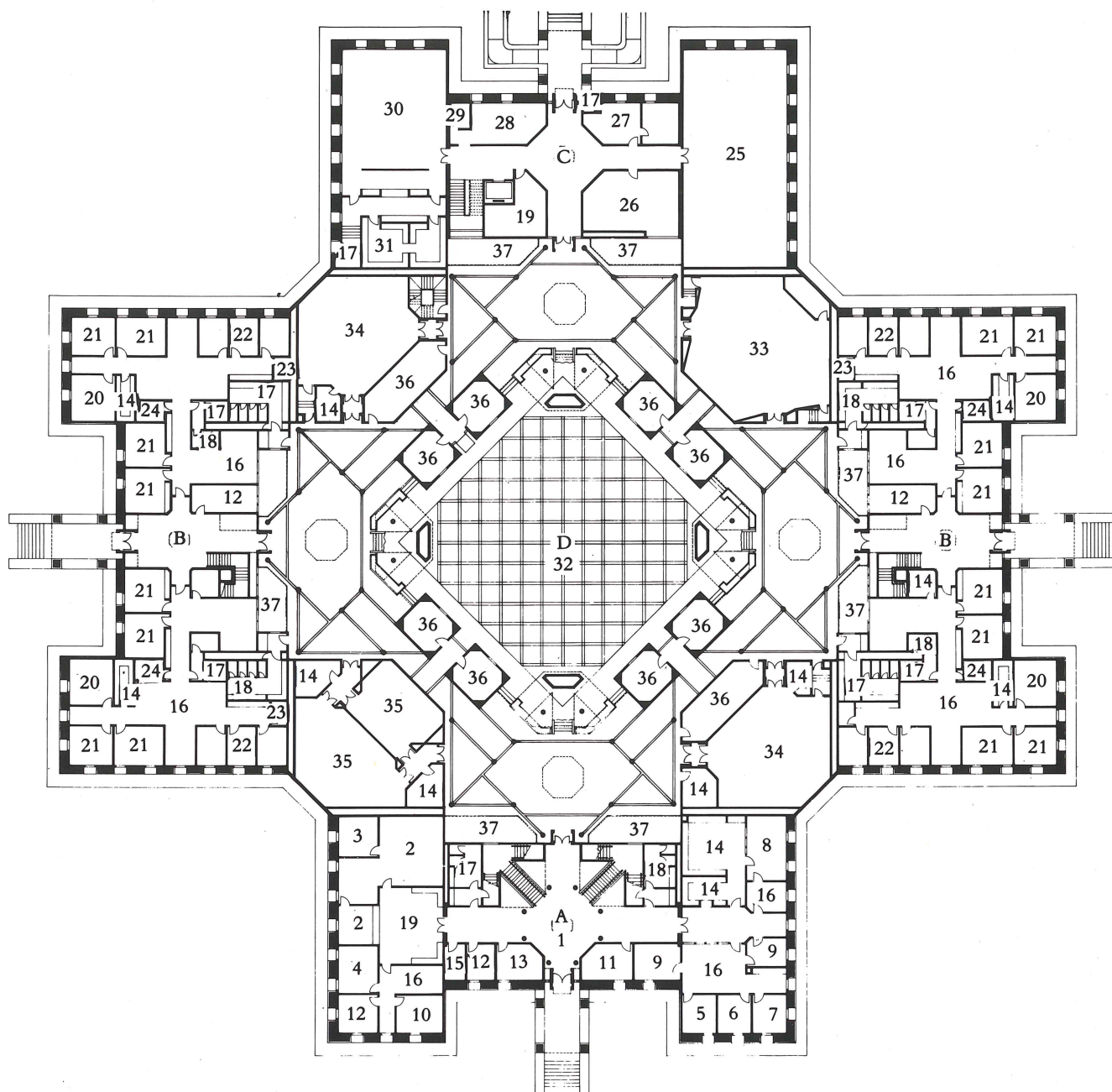
MURLIDHAR DAWANI GRADUATED FROM DAWOOD COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY, KARACHI, IN 1986 AS AN ARCHITECT AND STARTED HIS CAREER AS A CONSULTANT. IN 1989 HE JOINED THE FACULTY OF DAWOOD COLLEGE. HE HAS CONTRIBUTED TO SEVERAL JOURNALS AND MAGAZINES IN THE COUNTRY. 



*Student Housing, showing the internal courtyard.*



*Academic block: View of the internal courtyard.*



*Ground floor plan*

**A ADMINISTRATION BLOCK**

1. Main Foyer
2. Accounts
3. Accounts Manager
4. Administration
5. Alumni Relation
6. Student Affairs
7. Placement Officer
8. External Relation Manager
9. Interview
10. Spare
11. Reception
12. Office
13. Telephone
14. Record/Staff
15. Battery Room
16. Secretary
17. Gents Toilet
18. Ladies Toilet
19. Lounge

**B FACULTY WING**

12. Office
14. Record/Store
16. Secretary
17. Gents Toilet
18. Ladies Toilet
20. Senior Faculty Office
21. Faculty Office
22. Research Cell
23. Copier
24. Pantry

**C STUDENT CENTRE**

17. Toilet
19. Lounge
25. Reprographic Centre
26. Archive
27. First Aid
28. Prayer Hall
29. Ablution
30. Dining
31. Kitchen

**D CENTRAL COURT**

14. Store
32. Central Forum
33. Auditorium
34. Main Lecture Hall
35. Mid Size Lecture Hall
36. Discussion Room
37. Open Court