

Minimum Documentation Fiche 2015

composed by regional working party of: Docomomo Italia /Campania, Italy

01. Picture of building



Depicted item: University of Calabria
source: (Rykwert, 1995)
date: 1995

1. Identity of building

1.1 current name of building	Università della Calabria (delle Calabrie)
1.2 variant or former name	UniCal / Campus di Arcavacata
1.3 number & name of street	31c, via Pietro Bucci
1.4 town	Rende (Quattromiglia), Cosenza
1.5 province/state	Calabria
1.6 zip code	87036
1.7 country	Italy
1.8 national grid reference	39° 21' 29.41" N 16° 13' 32.17" E
1.9 classification/typology	University Campus
1.10 protection status & date	None

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2 History of building

2.1 original brief/purpose

University of Calabria is one of the most important Italian macro-structural constructions in the second half of the twentieth century. A "landscape architecture" at regional scale (3.6 Km) that, despite had numerous difficulties in execution, is an attempt to combine geography and architecture. This work, relevant for its size and design, is mainly representative design and theoretical research by Vittorio Gregotti one of the most important leaders and animators of the current Italian architectural debate.

2.2 dates: commission/completion

Competition	1972
Commission	1973
Completion	first phase 1979

2.3 architectural and other designers

Team leader: Vittorio Gregotti

Design Team: Vittorio Gregotti, Emilio Battisti, Hiromichi Matsui, Pierluigi Nicolin, Franco Purini, Carlo Rusconi Clerici, Bruno Viganò

Whith: Spartaco Azzola, Vera Casanova, Cristina Castello, Raffaello Cecchi

2.4 others associated with building

Lucio Gambi (geographer); Laris (urban design consultants); Giuseppe Grandori, Alfredo Castiglioni, Gilio Ballo, G. Colombo (structural engineering); Tekne (site management)

2.5 significant alterations with dates

The realization has had complex events. After 1979 the artistic direction of Gregotti was hired by the performer who has produced numerous alterations to the project but have not altered the general idea on a large scale.

2.6 current use

The system of buildings has retained the original destination until now.

2.7 current condition

Medium/Good

3. Description

3.1 general description

The project, result of an international competition by invitation in 1973, regards the new Campus of University of Calabria in addition to the first settlement: Arcavacata's multifunctional building (by Pica Ciamarra). The proposed solution at geographical scale - for an extension of 3.2 km - organizes departments and lecture halls attached to aerial route that connects train station and motorway. Squares with equipment and community services are placed at the cusp of the soil. The infrastructure connection - vehicular, pedestrian and for plants network - sets an aligned quota through river Crati's valley, crossed by many slopes and ridge roads. The department blocks (25,80 x 25,80 meters) and lecture halls clinging to this axis, measure different morphology of the ground below them by their height.

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3.2 construction

The complex has a mixed structure largely prefabricated. The infrastructural axis consists of a steel spatial truss denoted by a triangular base that supports both the vehicular road and the pedestrian. The grid beam is based on gables in reinforced concrete and steel fitting "hairpin" pulvinos. The exterior walls and the interior stiffening ones of laboratories and departments blocks are in reinforced concrete while slabs and pillars are in metallic carpentry with prefabricated panels. The lecture halls have a steel structure with precast panels for horizontal floor while the exterior finishes are made in insulated metal sheet.

3.3 context

At geographical scale the context is river Crati's valley, characterized by degrading hills with roads on the top and plantations on the ridges between deep furrows. The amplitude of the intervention modified substantially this complex geography bringing it back to a measure and reformulating the whole structure.

4. Evaluation

4.1 technical

The intervention, due to size, architectonic and technique relevance and consequences on the disciplinary debate about the modifications of morphological structure and geographical regional scale, assumes a very considerable value. The technical input and the innovativeness of typological solutions adopted in relation to the possibility of building the first Italian campus (residences for students, departments, classrooms, common and collective spaces), make it a unique example of highest interest.

4.2 social

At the social level, the campus created a strong integration between transmission of knowledge activities and recreation and inter-subjective exchange places (multi-functional centres, theatres, sport centres) and housing. This patchwork of multipolar relationships made the complex a really interesting "locus" of integration not only for students and professors but also for the whole district and the entire Calabria region.

4.3 cultural & aesthetic

The campus as well as being representative of a particular season - the macro-structural - of the European architecture and of the critical review of Rationalism's outcomes outlined a new approach to the theme of university building. The architectural features of the volumes of the departments are particularly innovative in the contrast between sober and regular openings, the considerable complexity of the sections and steel parts of the elevated classrooms. Also the details of the connections between different parts - e.g. the bridge and the stands - have a highly plastic effect. As Hiromichi Matsui, one of the authors of the project, noted: «[...] Vittorio Gregotti chose the expression "geography of architecture" as a basis for large-scale planning, and the University of Calabria is a clear example of how this expressions to be interpreted [...] The act of designing structures for a university extends beyond the combination of structures required to function as a university; the more pertinent issue concerns a study which aims to realize a series of views and to clarify the human and cultural context.» (Matsui, 1984)

4.4 historical

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Indeed, the decision to found University of Calabria (1972) dates back to the late sixties with localization and planner studies developed by Politecnico di Milano (Stellario D'Angiolini, Canella) and arises from a remarkable intuition of Beniamino Andreatta (economist and Italian politician) - University's founder in close collaboration with leading cultural figures as Giorgio Gagliani, Pietro Bucci and Paolo Sylos Labini - to build a campus on the Anglo-Saxon model after the construction of the first poly-functional settlement in Arcavacata. According to Censis ranking, UniCal is among the best "big universities" and one of the top 100 universities for computer science according to the Academic Ranking of World Universities.

4.5 general assessment

Ultimately University of Calabria's complex is a paradigmatic example and reference for construction/foundation of a modern university in a reliable and foundational relationship with anthropogeographical landscape. The campus aims to define the backbone of a wider city-region. The most outstanding feature is the need to refer to a clear "settlement principle" which correspond clear constructive arrangements and related architectural features, appropriate to represent the university institution. UniCal also achieves a perfect adherence to the theoretical positions by Vittorio Gregotti that has been master of Italian architectural debate for the last 50 years.

5. Documentation

5.1 principal references

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MANOLESI D., *Il luogo e la cultura del luogo nell'architettura contemporanea. Il luogo come principio di legittimazione del progetto*, Quaderni del Dottorato di Ricerca in Composizione Architettonica, Rome: Gangemi, 1995.

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MORPURGO, G., *Gregotti & Associati. L'architettura del disegno urbano*, Milan: Rizzoli, 2008.

PURINI F, *L'edificio scolastico come modello conoscitivo*, 2010
http://www.treccani.it/scuola/dossier/2010/150anni_istruzione/purini.html

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TAFURI, M., *Il progetto per l'Università delle Calabrie e altre architetture di Vittorio Gregotti*, eds. I. Rota, Milan: Electa, 1979.

Archives

Archivio Civico Comune di Milano, Milan, Italy

Archivio Progetti Iuav, Venice, Italy

Gregotti Associati - <http://www.gregottiassociati.it>

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5.2 visual material attached

- 01_Gregotti Unical_ Campus preliminary model (Morpurgo, 2008).
- 02_Gregotti Unical_ Modular scheme of the settlement system (Tafuri, 1982).
- 03_Gregotti Unical_ General Plan (Tafuri, 1982).
- 04_Gregotti Unical_ Bird view of the project in Crati river's valley (Morpurgo, 2008).
- 05_Gregotti Unical_ Study sketch with various levels of paths (Mandolesi, 1995).
- 06_Gregotti Unical_ Perspective of one of the squares (Rykwert, 1995).
- 07_Gregotti Unical_ View of pedestrian, plant and vehicular support pillar (Morpurgo, 2008).
- 08_Gregotti Unical_ Departments plan and axonometry with construction techniques (Morpurgo, 2008).
- 09_Gregotti Unical_ Detail section of the blocks and profiles (Morpurgo, 2008).
- 10_Gregotti Unical_ View of the pedestrian and vehicular bridge (Morpurgo, 2008).
- 11_Gregotti Unical_ Study drawing of lecture halls facades. (Morpurgo, 2008).
- 12_Gregotti Unical_ Type section on lecture halls (Rykwert, 1995).
- 13_Gregotti Unical_ View of terraced lecture halls of the Department of Chemistry (Rykwert, 1995).
- 14_Gregotti Unical_ Current view of the pedestrian path
(http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Università_della_Calabria#mediaviewer/File:Unical-ponte.jpg)
- 15_Gregotti Unical_ General view of the Campus
(http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Università_della_Calabria#mediaviewer/File:Panorama_Unical.jpg)
- 16_Gregotti Unical_ Current view of the complex
(http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Università_della_Calabria#mediaviewer/File:Unical-cubi.jpg)

5.3 rapporteur/date

Renato Capozzi_University of Studies of Naples_Department of Architecture/ March 2015

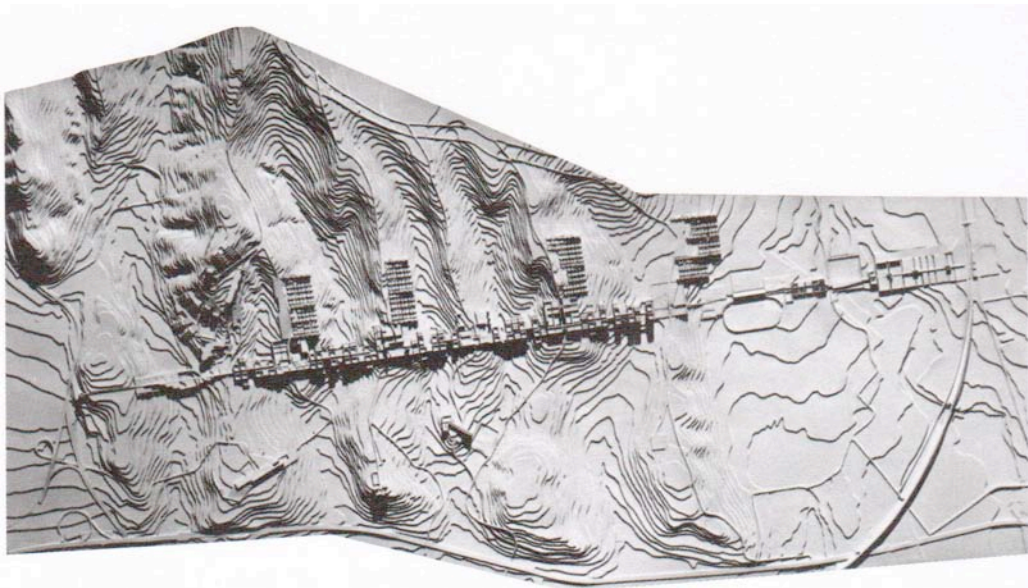
6. Fiche report examination by ISC/R

name of examining ISC member: date of examination:

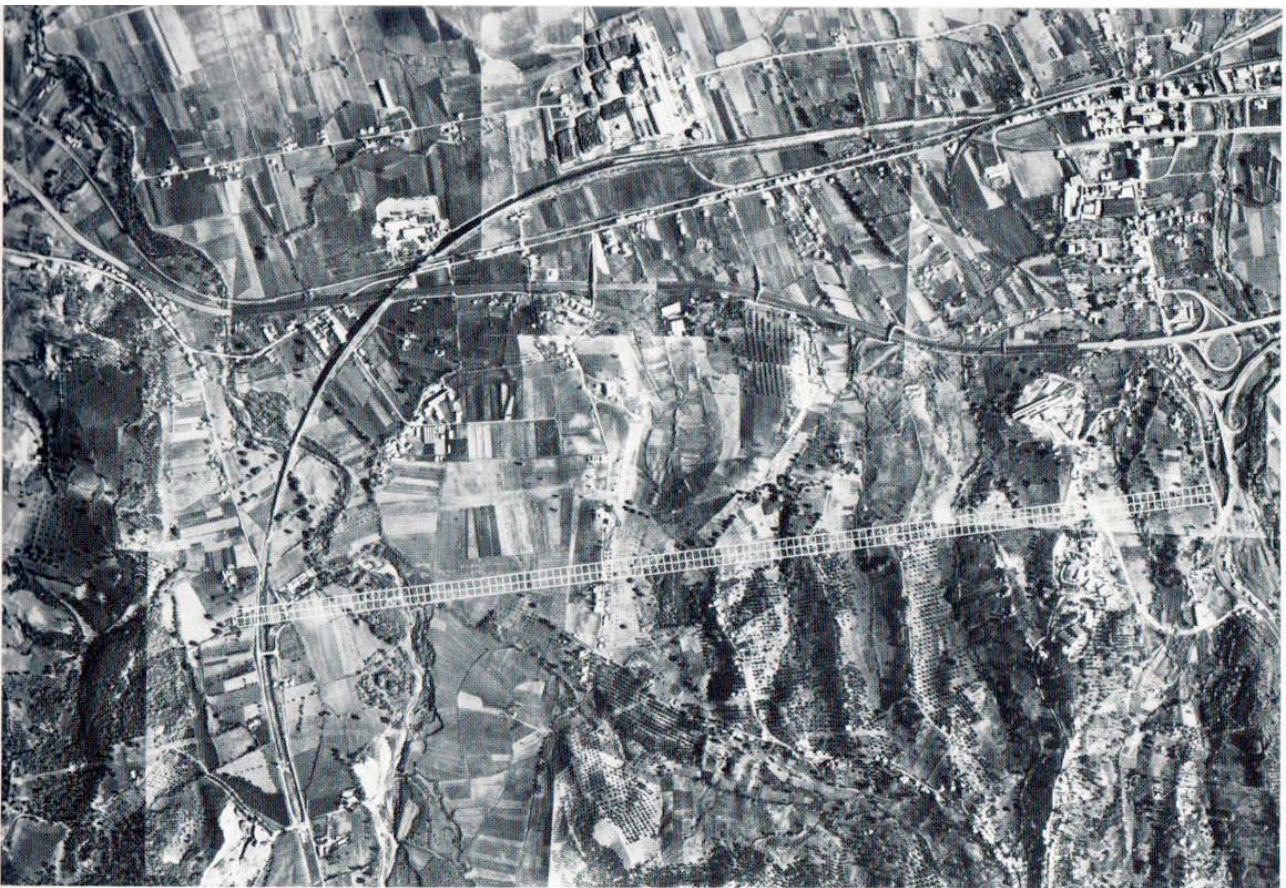
approval:

working party/ref. n°: NAI ref. n°:

comments:



1 Campus preliminary model



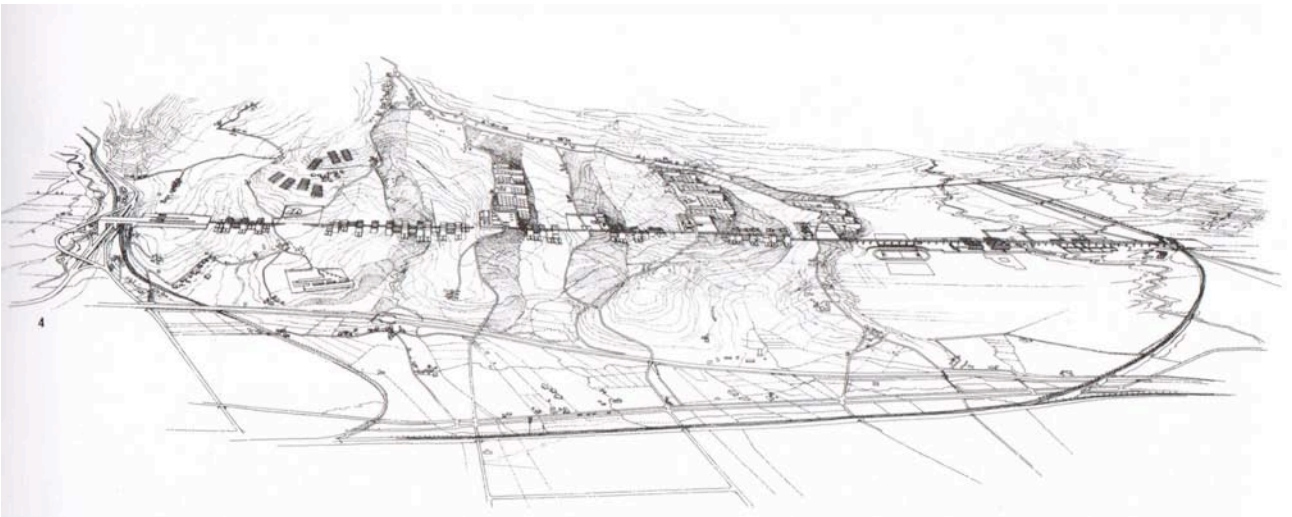
2 Modular scheme of the settlement system

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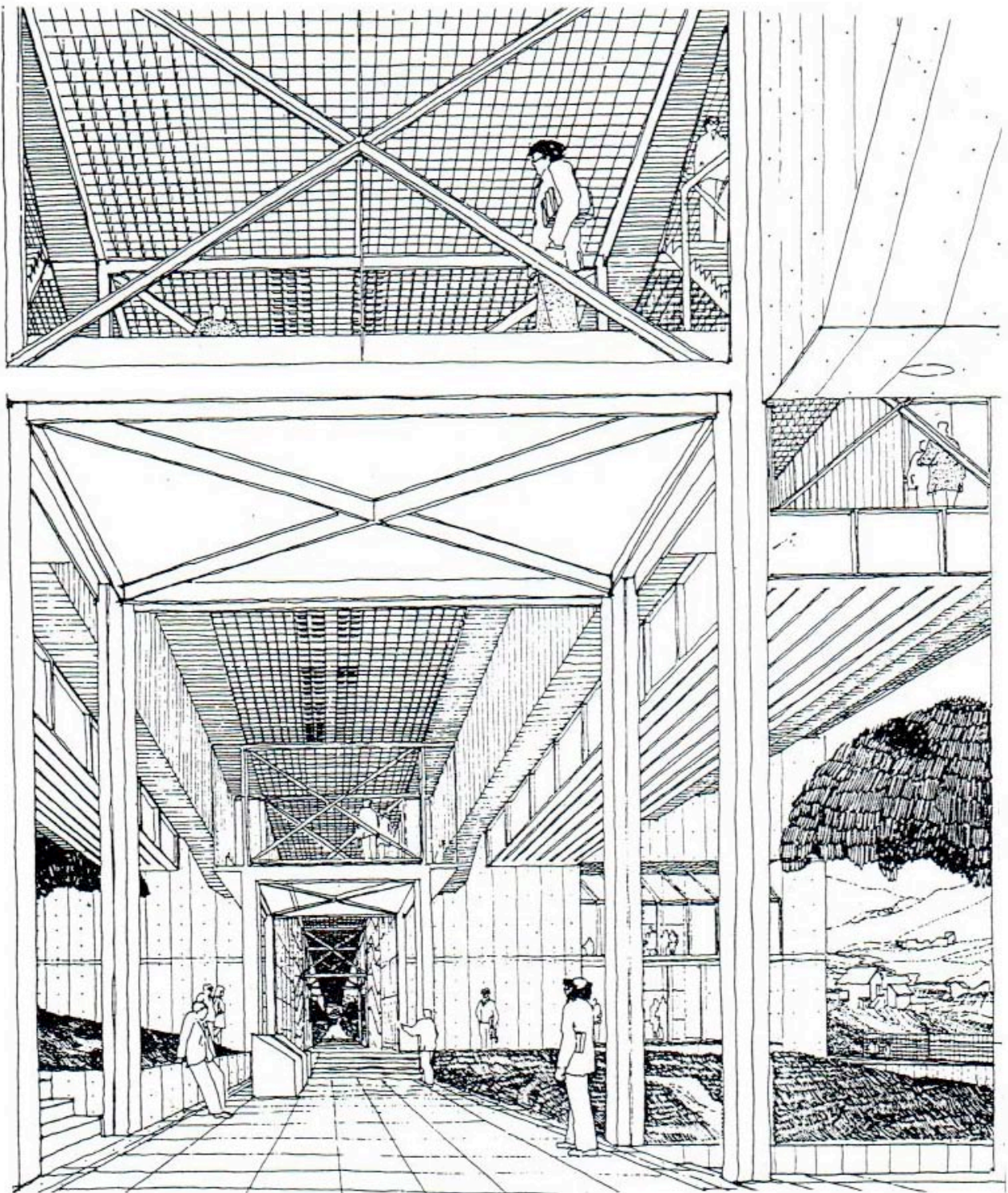
3 Generale plan



4 Bird view of the project in Crati river's valley

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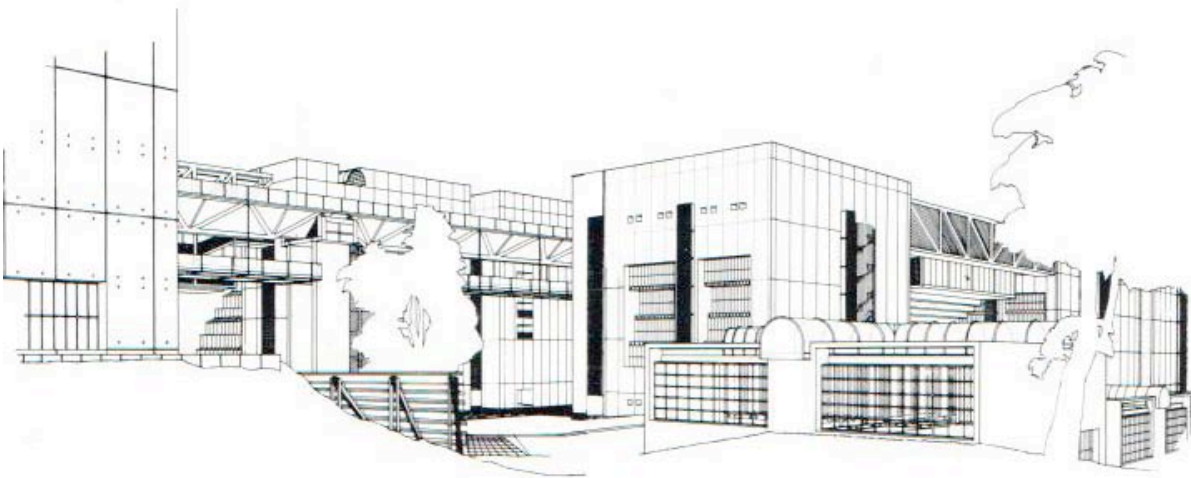
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5 Study sketch with various levels of paths

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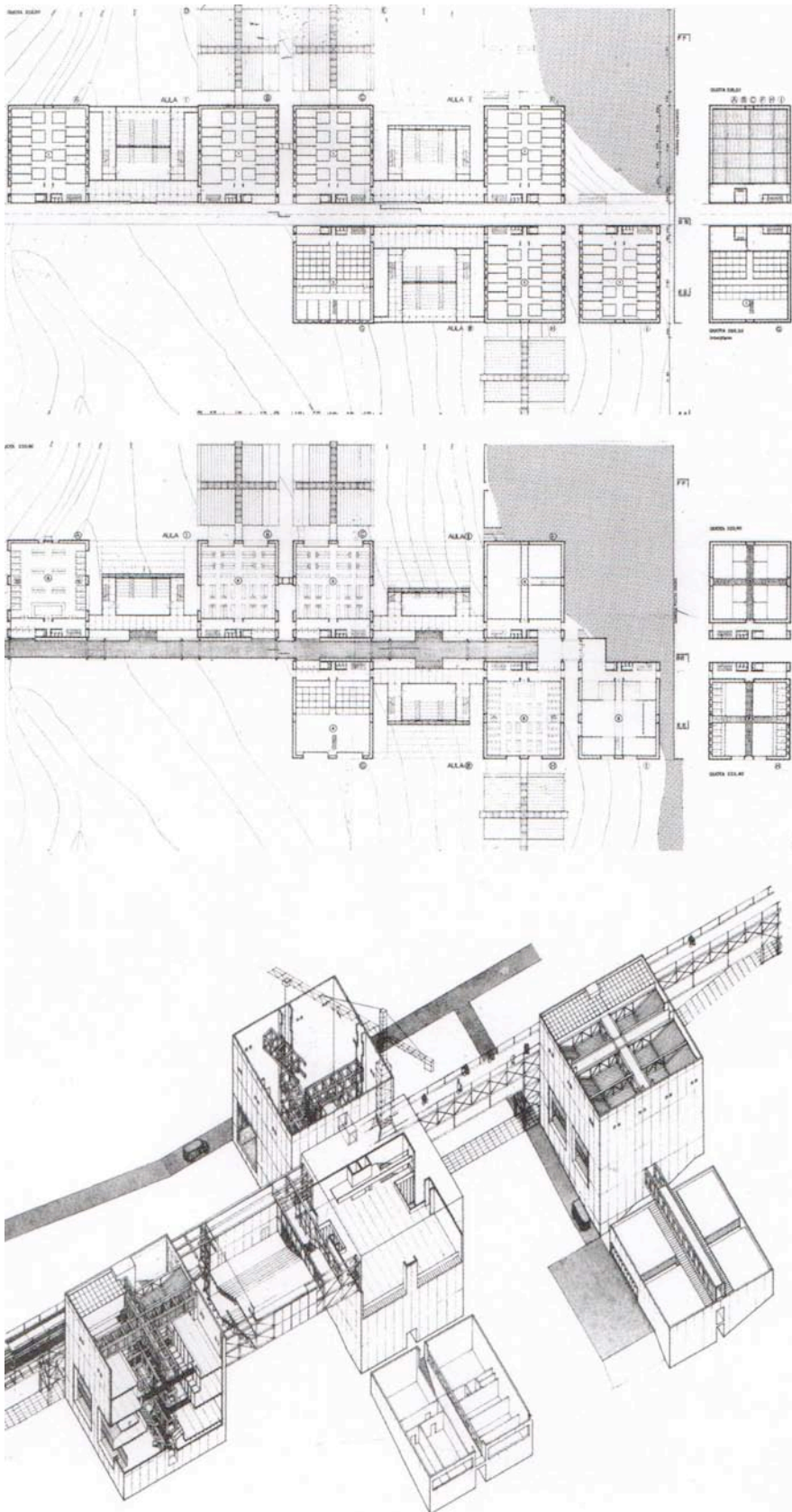
6 Perspective of one of the squares



7 View of pedestrian, plant and vehicular support pillar

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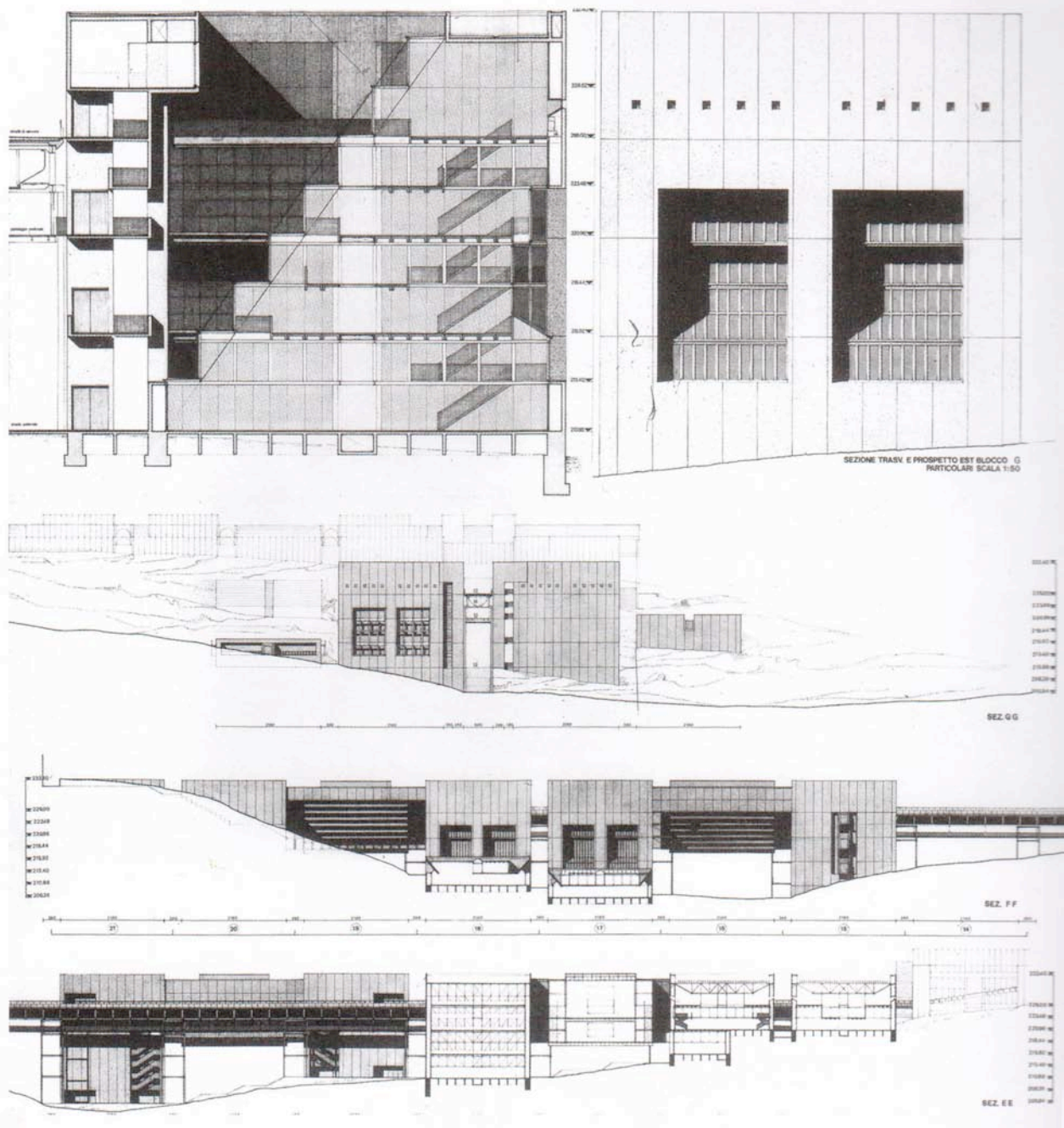
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8 Departments plan and axonometry with construction techniques.

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9 Detail section of the blocks and profiles

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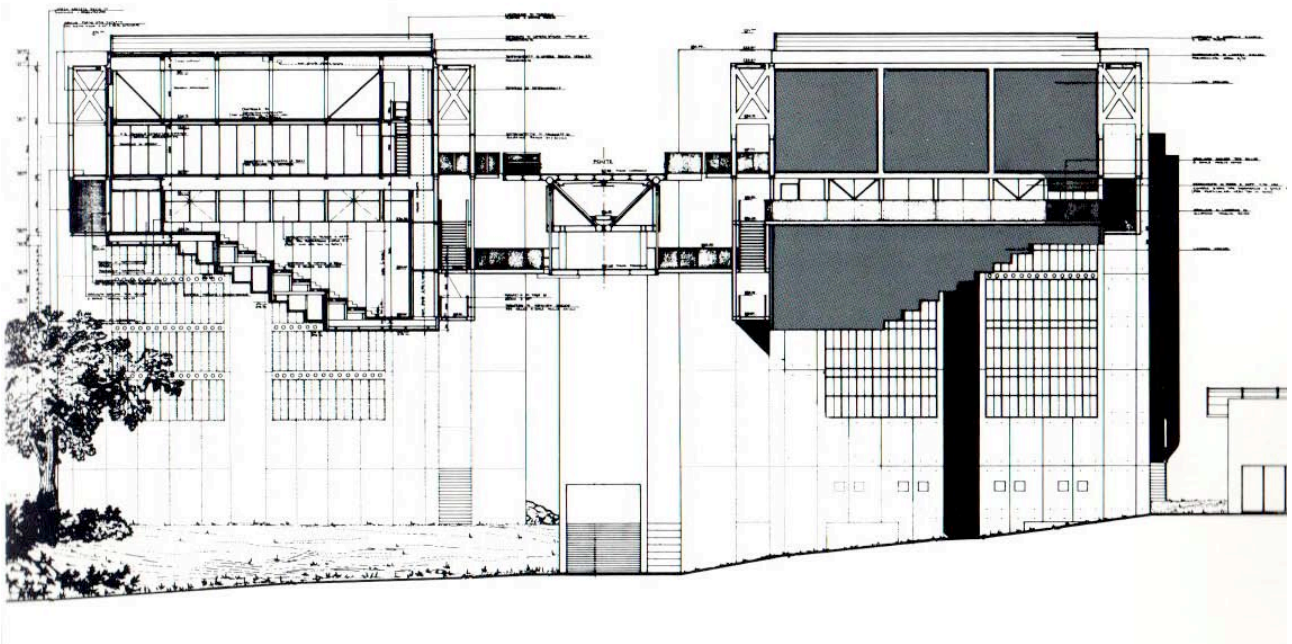
10 View of the pedestrian and vehicular bridge.



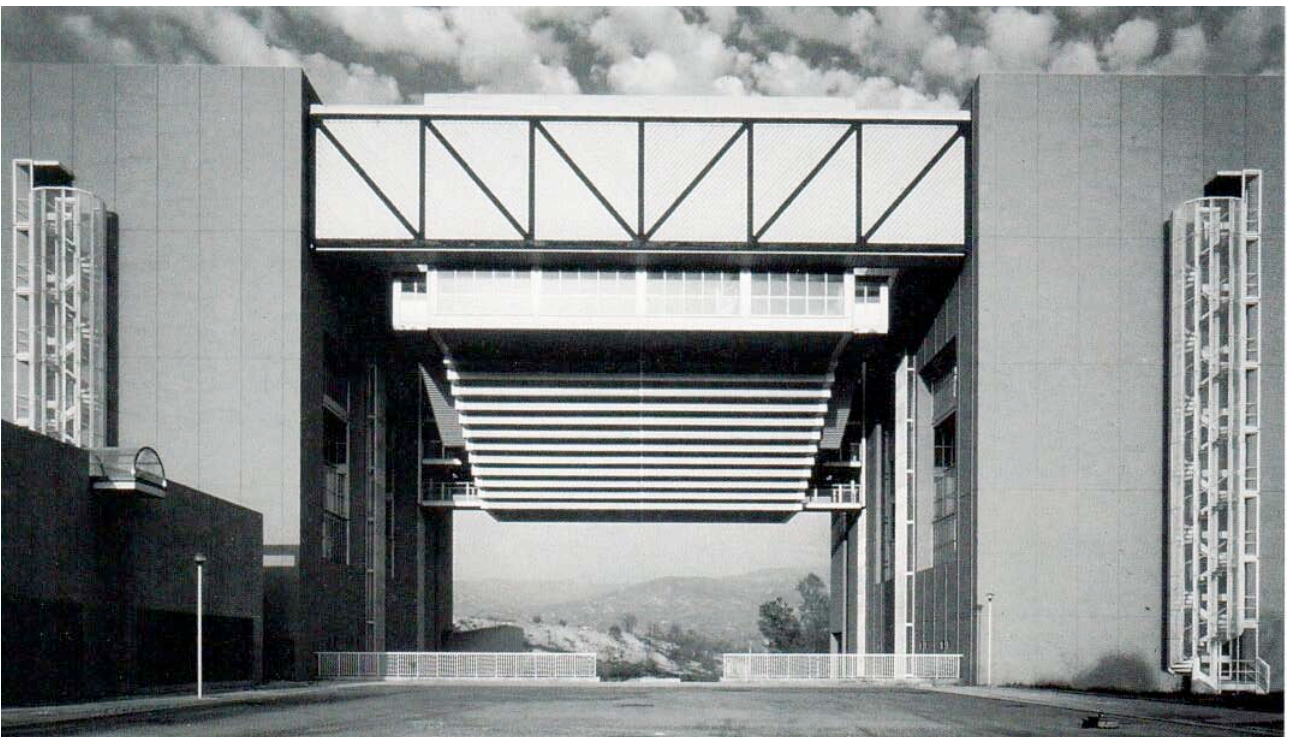
11 Study drawing of lecture halls facades

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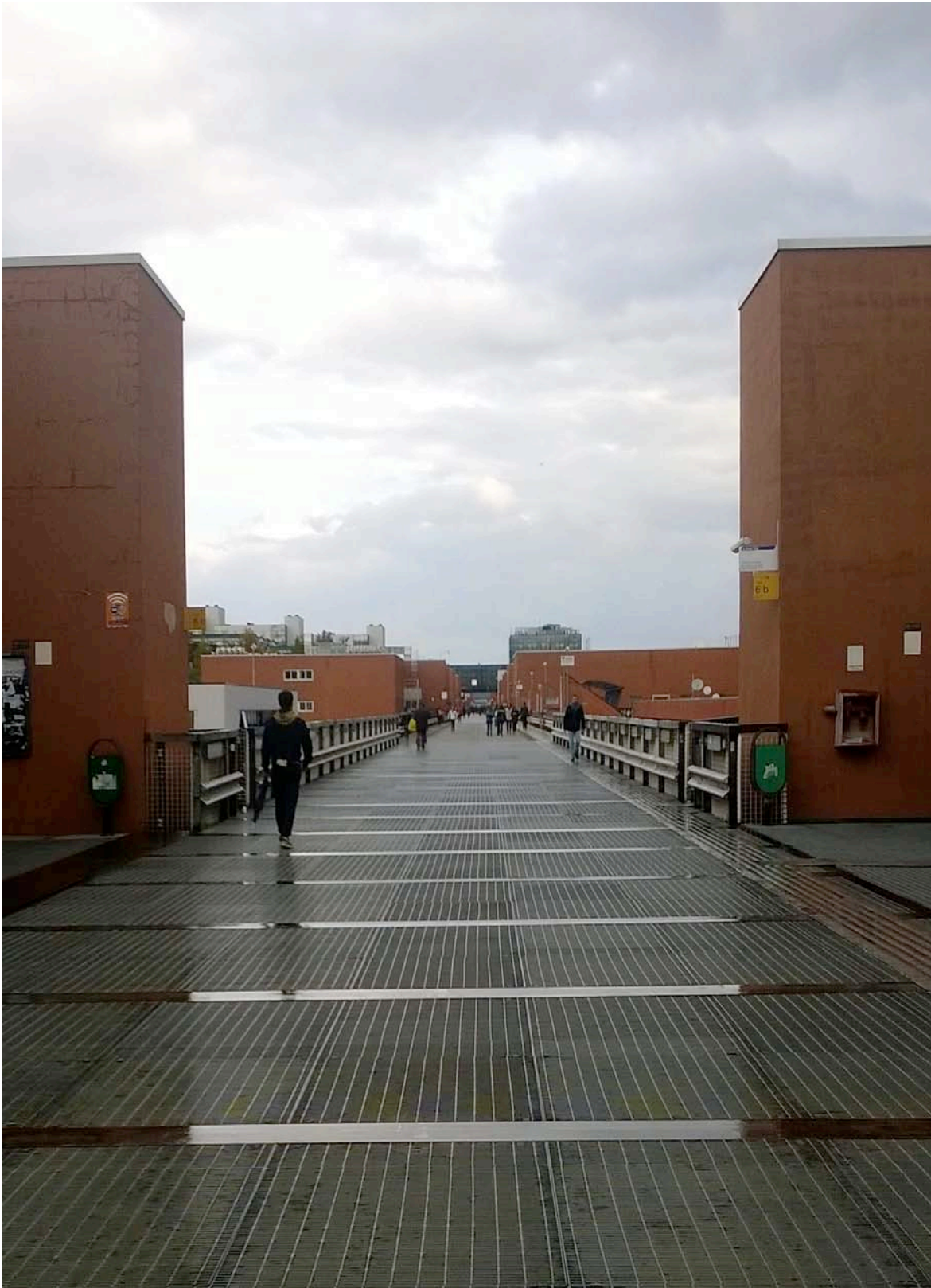
12 Type section on lecture halls



13 View of terraced lecture halls of the Department of Chemistry

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14 Current view of the pedestrain path

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15 General view of the Campus



16 Current view of the complex

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