

Figure 3.28 James Stirling, Leicester Engineering Building, Leicester University, 1964, Second floor plan. From *Architectural Review*, 2/64, p. 66.

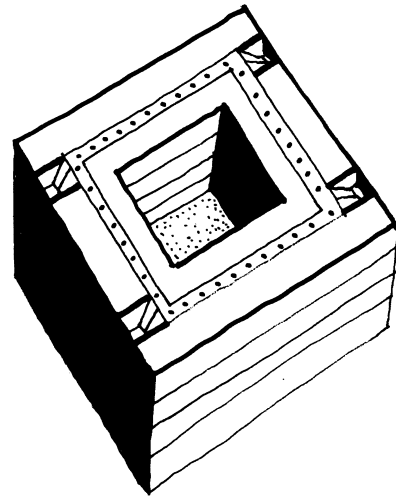


Figure 3.30 'Race-track' courtyard plan, dual aspect.

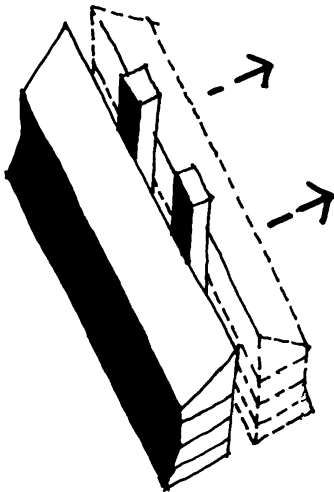


Figure 3.29 Linear plan, single/dual aspect.

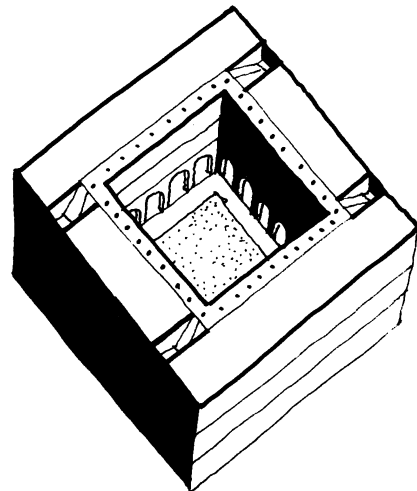


Figure 3.31 'Race-track' courtyard plan, single aspect.

atrium, or covered courtyard, will itself assume a circulation role (**Figure 3.32**).

Unless the 'architectural promenade' is to be celebrated as a means of clarifying the building's organisation (this will be discussed later), there will be pressure on the designer to minimise circulation routes. Clearly, this pursuit presents some difficulties when faced with a linear building, but there are devices which an architect can use to minimise the apparent length of the inevitable corridors and galleries which result from such a type.

Horizontal circulation

Essentially, such devices will serve to punctuate these routes by variations in lighting, for example, which may well correspond to 'nodes'

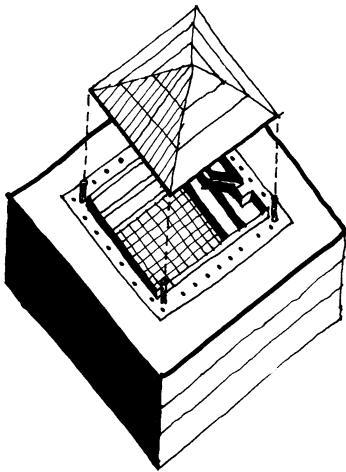


Figure 3.32 'Atrium' courtyard plan.

along the route like lobbies for vertical circulation (**Figure 3.33**). Further punctuations of the route can be achieved by 'sub-spaces' off the major route which mark the access points to cellular accommodation within the building (**Figure 3.34**). Such 'sub-spaces' may also provide a useful transition between the route or concourse, and major spaces within the building.

Circulation routes also have an important role in helping us to 'read' buildings. First, there is a hierarchy of routes in any building and this can be used to clarify the functional plan so that diagrammatically, patterns of circulation are tree-like with primary concourse (trunk) and secondary corridors (branches) (**Figure 3.35**). But it is also essential that these routes are punctuated by events which also help us to 'read' the building's three-dimensional organisation. Reiterated references to major events within the building also help the user to 'read' and comprehend the functional plan; these 'structuring points' may be nodes of vertical circulation or major public spaces like foyers, concourses, or auditoria (**Figure 3.36**). Patterns of circulation also allow us to orientate ourselves within the plan by not only engaging with major internal events, but also with those outside; views out onto the site or into courtyards provide a constant reference to the user for purposes of orientation.