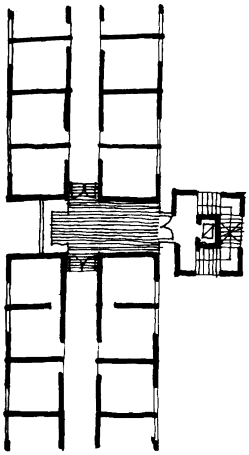

Figure 3.33 *Route 'node'.*

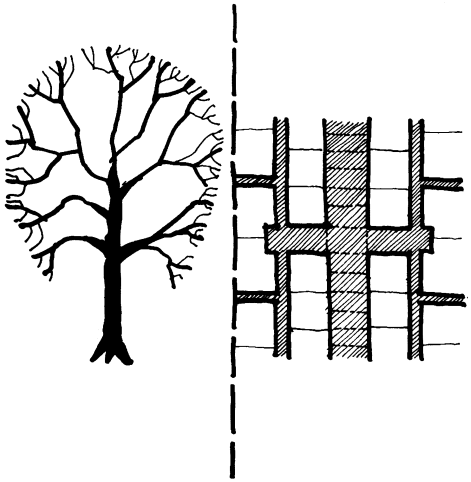

Figure 3.35 *Tree/circulation analogy.*

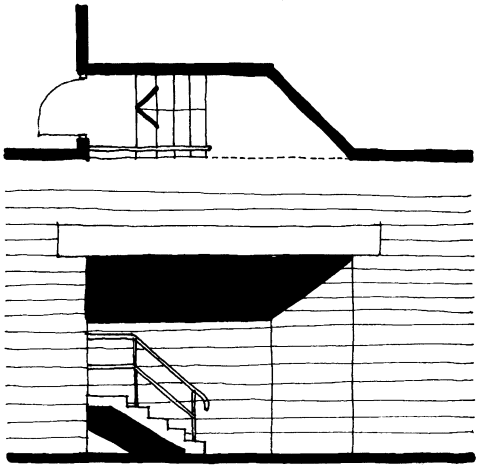

Figure 3.34 *'Sub-space' off circulation route, plan/elevation.*

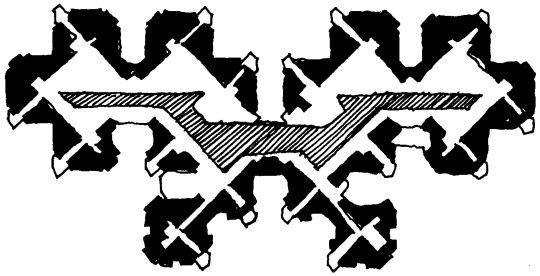

Figure 3.36 *Herman Hertzberger, Ministry of Social Affairs, The Hague, 1990. Upper floor plan.*

Vertical circulation

The location of vertical circulation also contributes substantially to this idea of 'reading' a building and clearly is crucial in evolving a functional plan. There is also a hierarchy of vertical circulation; service or escape stairs, for example, may be discreetly located within the plan so as not to challenge the primacy of a principal staircase (**Figure 3.37**).

Moreover, a stair or ramp may have other functions besides that of mere vertical circulation; it may indicate the principal floor level or *piano nobile* where major functions are accommodated, or may be a vehicle for dramatic formal expression (**Figure 3.38**).

And what form should the stair or ramp take? A dog-leg stair or ramp allows the user to re-engage with the same location on plan from floor to floor (**Figure 3.39**), whilst a running or straight flight configuration (including the escalator) implies vertical movement within some horizontal 'promenade' so that the user alights at different locations on plan (**Figure 3.40**) at each floor level. Should the stair or ramp be curved on plan, then a further dynamic element is introduced (**Figure 3.41**). Landings may not only punctuate flights, but if generous enough, may induce social contact as informal meeting places.

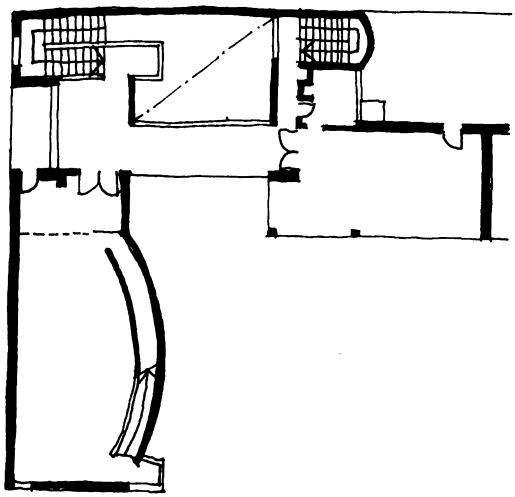

Figure 3.37 *Le Corbusier, Maison La Roche, 1923. First floor plan. From student model, Nottingham University.*

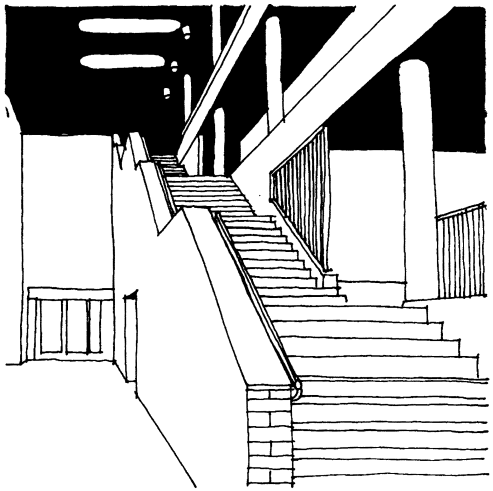

Figure 3.38 *Alvar Aalto, Institute of Pedagogics, Jyvaskyala, Finland, 1957. From* Alvar Aalto 1898–1976, *Museum of Finnish Architecture, p. 75.*