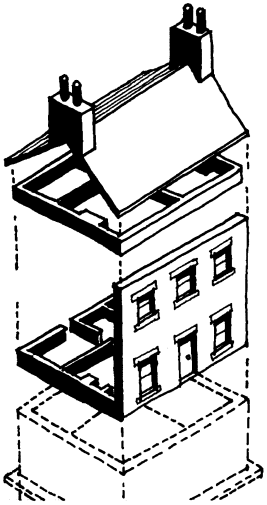

Figure 2.7 *The Five Points, Traditional House. Author's interpretation.*

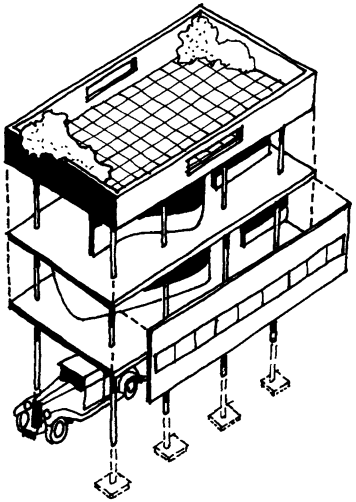

Figure 2.8 *The Five Points, Reinforced Concrete House. Author's interpretation.*

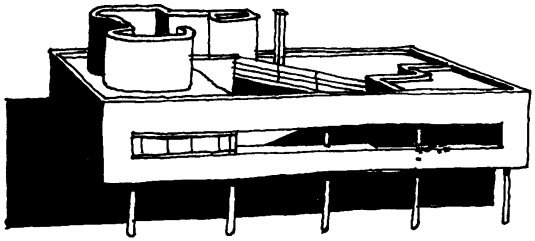

Figure 2.9 *Le Corbusier, Villa Savoye, 1931. From student model, Nottingham University.*

equally direct formal expression in his Richards Medical Research Building at Philadelphia completed in 1968 (**Figure 2.10**) where massive vertical shafts of brickwork enclosed the 'servant' vertical circulation and service ducts in dramatic contrast to horizontal floor slabs of the (served) laboratories and the transparency of their floor-to-ceiling glazing.

The adoption of modernism and its new architectural language was also facilitated by exemplars which were not necessarily underpinned by such transparent theoretical positions. The notion of 'precedent', therefore, has always provided further conceptual models to serve the quest for appropriate architectural forms. Such exemplars often fly in the face of orthodoxy; when Peter and Alison Smithson completed Hunstanton School, Norfolk, in 1954, they not only offered a startling 'courtyard-type' in place of the accepted Bauhaus 'finger plan' in school design (**Figures 2.11**, **2.12**), but at the same time offered a new 'brutalist' architectural language as a robust

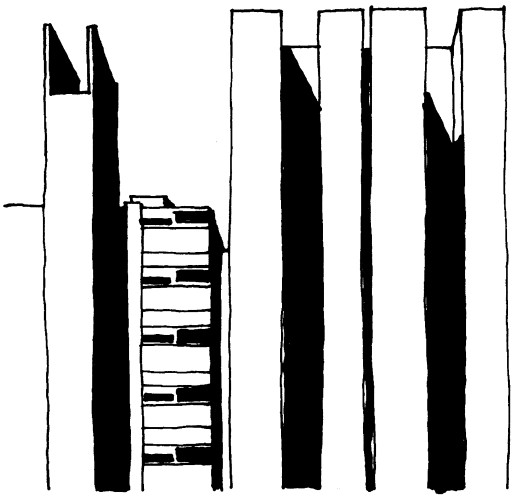

Figure 2.10 *Louis Kahn, Richards Medical Research Centre, University of Pennsylvania, 1961. From* Architecture Since 1945, *Joedicke, J., Pall Mall.*

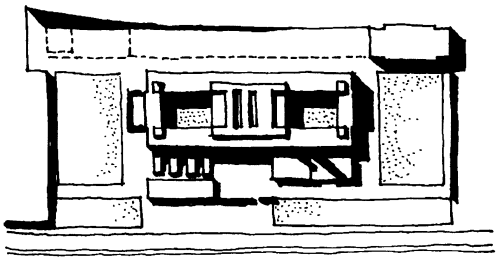

Figure 2.11 *Alison and Peter Smithson, Hunstanton School, 1954. From* The New Brutalism, *Banham, R., Architectural Press, p. 32.*

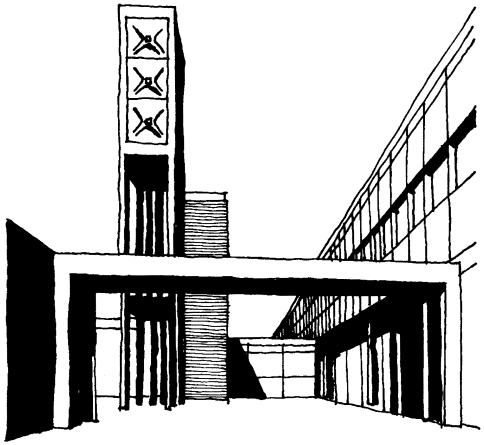

Figure 2.12 *Alison and Peter Smithson, Hunstanton School, 1954. From* The New Brutalism, *Banham, R., Architectural Press, p. 34.*

alternative to the effete trappings of the Festival of Britain.

And within this complex picture loomed a burgeoning technology which further fuelled the modernist's imagination. Architects were quick to embrace techniques from other disciplines, most notably structural and mechanical engineering and applied physics to generate new building types. The development of framed and large-span structures freed architects from the constraints of traditional building techniques where limited spans and load-bearing masonry had imposed variations on an essentially cellular plan type. Now architects could plan buildings where walls and partitions were divorced from any structural intrusion.