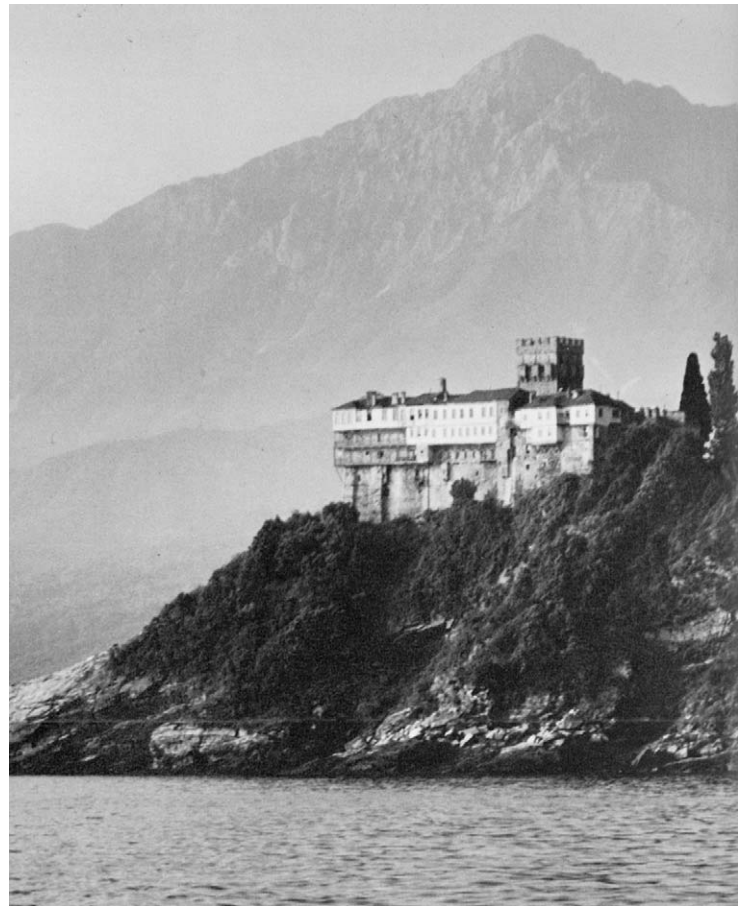
very considerable model shift by going back to the monasteries on Mount Athos. He had visited these in 1911 and recorded them in sketches. The shift was from recognised but rejected central European monasteries to remote Greek Orthodox examples. It is very likely, on the other hand, that the Athonite monasteries were over the centuries designed on the basis of an accepted and largely inevitable typology.

It is essential to acknowledge that the recognition of what becomes the starting problem can occur both within and

Right
Monastery of Stavronokita, Mount Athos, Greece, 16th century



outside architecture but more often than not manifests itself as a problem in architecture irrespective of its origin. Thus social housing may stem from political initiatives but its design soon evolves as an architectural issue and in fact, through association, style may become coupled with political views. We start with a verbally stated problem but very soon have to shift into non-verbal thinking.

In a very different way Buckminster Fuller's harnessing of technology to produce lightweight – frequently air-deliverable – buildings arises from a criticism of existing building methods and a general belief in the economy of materials. The model that he adopts from his earlier naval experience is the ship as a self-contained structure. A lecture by Buckminster Fuller was also like a mariner's tale of wondrous worlds. He also adopts great circle navigation as the basis of his geodesic geometry. In other words, the P_1 to P_2 sequence is a description of a sequence, of a process, and in no way either the prescription of a particular solution or the enforcement of a starting point. It simply states that there *is* a necessary starting point and that a sequence develops from that recognition of a problem.

The Popperian sequence has, moreover, the virtue of allowing both verbal and non-verbal thinking to play their part with different emphasis at different stages. The TS stage, the stage of design, is likely to be dominated by non-verbal thinking. In functionalism, on the other hand, verbal thinking is given priority during the defining problem recognition stage.

One of the further important strong points of the theory is that there is an internal consistency since the various steps of the sequence can be carried out in architectural terms, namely through drawings. We are not dependent on any correspondence between verbal or numerical prescriptions and architectural results. This consistency tells us nothing, however, about content; there is no inevitability of a successful outcome or that architectural poetry will flower. What the theory does suggest