

the building's support of the client's goals. An assessment of the building core functions relative to compliance with local and federal building and life-safety codes may also factor into planning.

Careful study of significant architectural features profoundly affects the development of an organizational concept. Often an outer/inner design strategy is most effective. Window placement and scale, for example, can establish a grid upon which an entire organizational concept can be built. In addition, the design team explores the client's quantitative data through a series of diagrams and studies.

Initial adjacency/bubble diagrams, massing/block and stack diagrams, and diagrammatic studies of specific space flesh out relative scale, key adjacencies, and spatial considerations of the various functional requirements. Bubble (adjacency) diagrams help the project team assess initial departmental or functional requirements and adjacencies. Blocking/stacking diagrams specifically illustrate spatial relationships of various functions in a multifloor configuration and could help a client determine, for example, which floor the main reception area should be located on. Finally, diagrammatic space standards explore room layouts and space sizes by drafting various studies based on proposed equipment and furnishings, relative furniture placement, and desired circulation space.

These initial studies are manifest in a series of studies which, when overlaid, fully illustrate the developing three-dimensional aspects of the organizational concept. The American Guaranty Corporation's organizational concept, illustrated on the following two pages, demonstrates this comprehensive analysis: layer one examines the base building and identifies the parameters of existing core functions; layer two identifies a building organizational system; and layer three's blocking diagrams articulate the allocation of the quantitative requirements. When completed, this organizational concept establishes the parameters within which potential design solutions must comply. This multilayered approach becomes an invaluable communications tool for the client team, internal team members, and outside consultants.

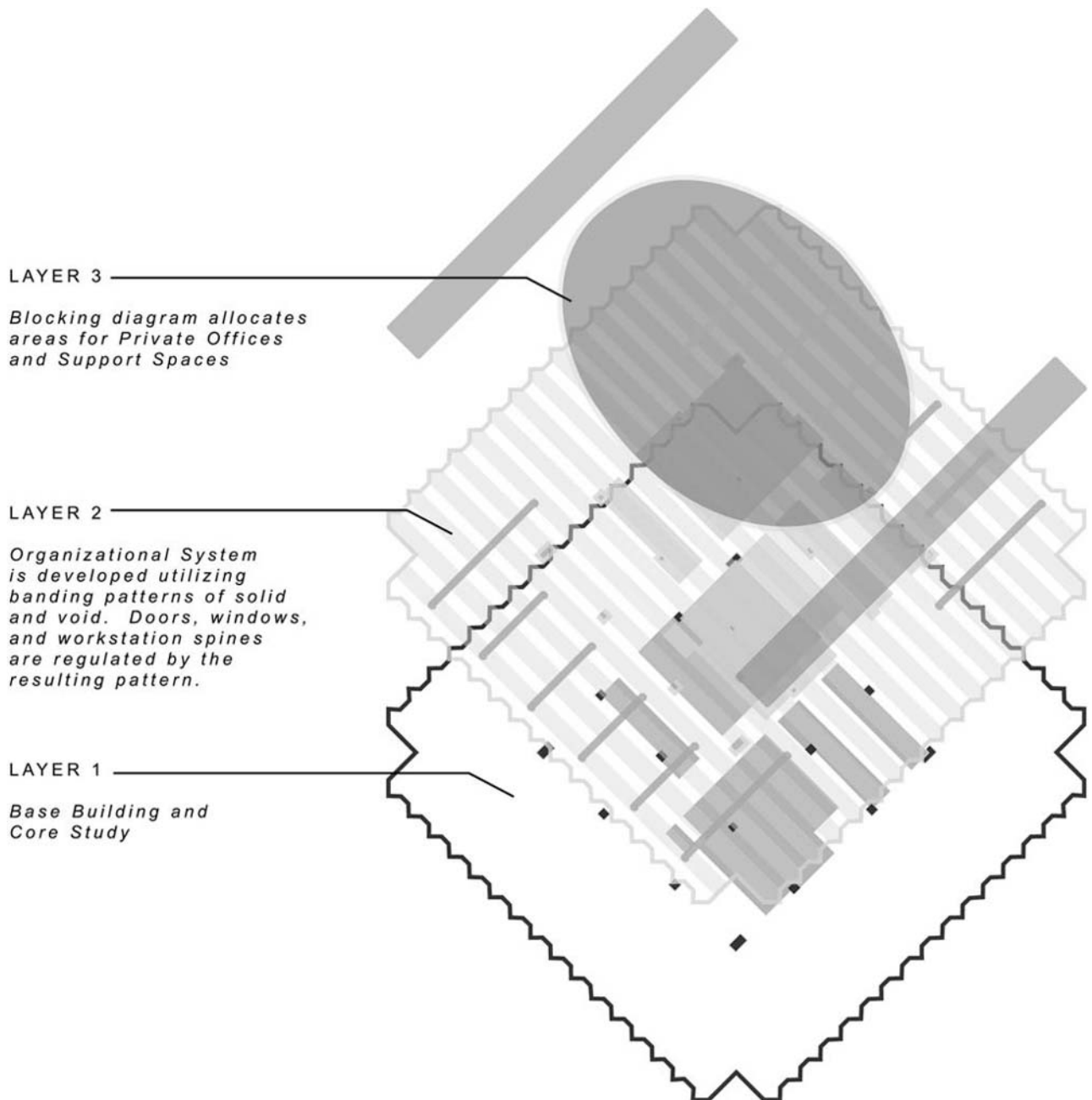


FIGURE 29-1
American Guaranty
Corporation's
Organizational Concept.

Extruded Organizational
Concept Plan