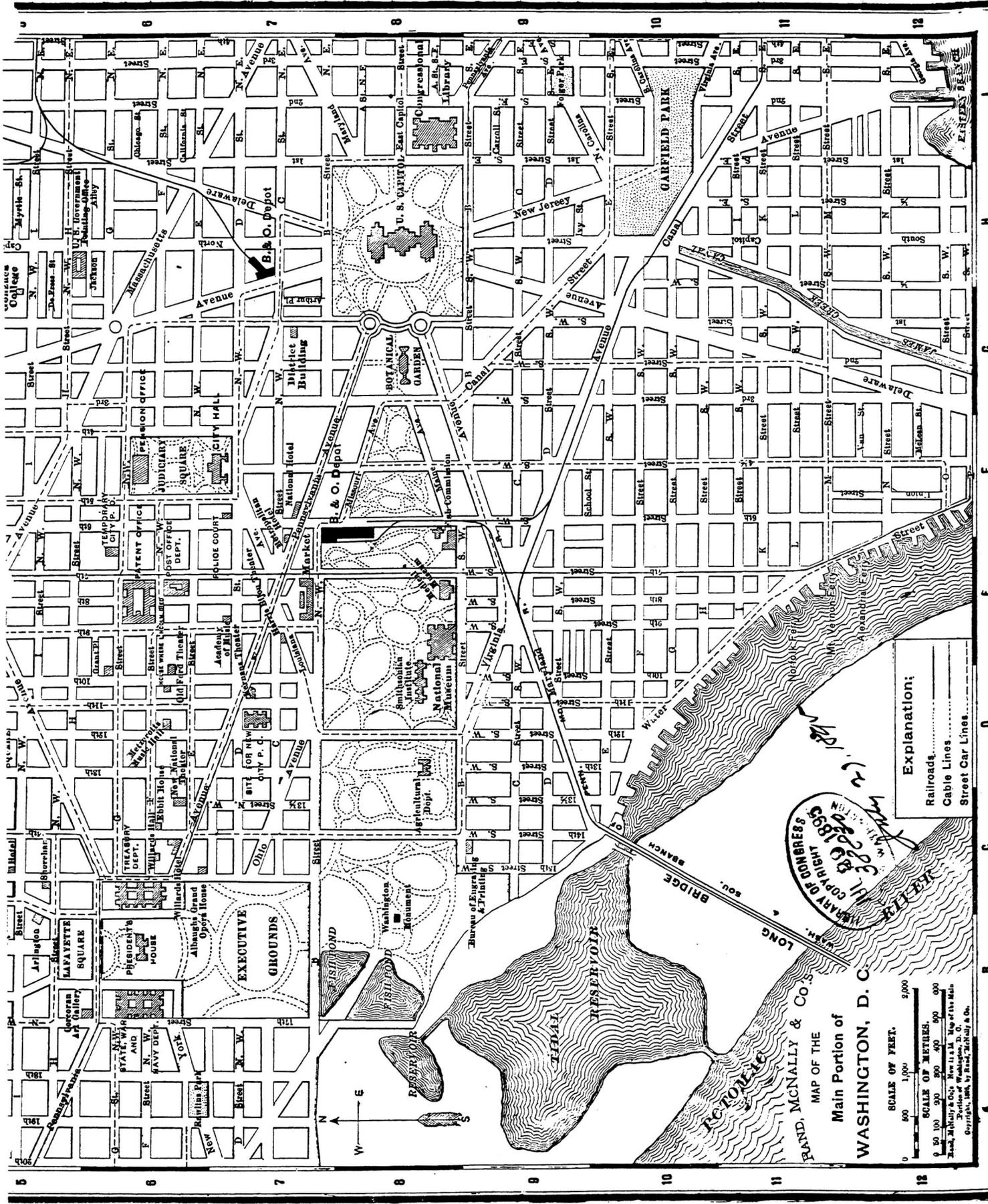




CHAPTER III







**Explanation:**  
 Railroads.....  
 Cable Lines.....  
 Street Car Lines.....

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SCALE OF FEET.  
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 MAP OF THE  
 Main Portion of  
 WASHINGTON, D. C.

Illustration No. 2-5

Subject: District of Columbia, Map of the City of Washington  
(Washington, DC: Norris Peters Company, 1898)

Date: 1898

Description: Portion of map showing HUD site (see blocks 411 and 435).

Source: Library of Congress, Maps and Geography Division

### CHAPTER III

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING AS ORIGINALLY BUILT

##### INTRODUCTION

The purposes of this description of the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Building as originally built are:

To document the original appearance of the building as conceived and executed.

To provide a base against which the effects of age and later alterations can be measured.

To provide information on original materials which are no longer extant.

Primary sources for the description include original drawings, original specifications, construction photographs and photographs taken immediately after construction of the building, and construction correspondence. Copies of original construction drawings and finish schedules dating from 1964 to 1968, and alteration drawings dating from 1968 to the present housed on microfilm in the General Service Administration Technical Library were used. Construction of the building required over 500 drawings; a list of those consulted are included in the bibliography of this report. Original specifications for the project were also consulted. Photographs taken by professional photographer Ben Schnall of Hewlett, New York in 1968 provided information on the building exterior, entrance and elevator lobby areas, cafeteria, and library. Finally, construction correspondence located in the Papers of Marcel Breuer in the National Archives of American Art and in the HUD building files provided valuable information about original building features and finishes changed during the course of construction.

Overall, the exterior of the building retains its original design character, although the entrances and east plaza have undergone significant alterations. On the interior, significant interior spaces including the lobbies, corridors, main conference room, administrator's suites, executive office suites and library, as well as some offices have remained relatively unchanged since their construction. Other significant spaces, however, have been substantially altered, including the cafeteria, the private dining room, and the smaller conference rooms. The latter have been converted to general office usage.

Original photographs taken shortly after the building's completion by professional photographer Ben Schnall have been reproduced at the end of this chapter. Where no original photographs exist of significant spaces in the building, as-built descriptions have been cross-referenced to current photographs in Chapter IV (Existing Conditions Survey). Original floor plans have been reduced and are included at the end of this chapter (Illus. Nos. 3-30 through 3-43).

**SITE AND LANDSCAPING**

The Housing and Urban Development Building was constructed on a narrow five and one half acre rectangular site in the Southwest Quadrant of Washington, two blocks south of the National Mall. The building was designed to face east across Seventh Street and was bounded by D Street to the north, a proposed frontage road for the Southwest Freeway to the south, and the proposed L'Enfant Plaza building on the west. When the building was constructed it was bounded by the GSA Regional Headquarters to the north, and the Southwest Freeway to the south. Construction of the Department of Transportation building to the east across Seventh Street was underway at the same time as the HUD Building.

The site was on one of the last remaining plots to be developed in the Southwest Washington Redevelopment Area, a Federally funded urban renewal scheme. The area, originally occupied by rowhouses, several churches, and a grocery store, was cleared to make way for new construction. The site was shown as Lot 60, Squares 411 and 435 on city maps with Eighth Street, E Street and the alleys closed off to create the site and the creation of a frontage road to be constructed by the DC Redevelopment Land Agency (Illus. Nos. 2-5 and 2-6). Besides residential and commercial districts, other buildings in the vicinity included L'Enfant Plaza, the Forrestal Building, the Tenth Street Mall, and a future subway stop.

The building occupied the entire width of the site which was 368'-7-1/2" deep. It was designed with the edges of all four end walls butting against the east and west property lines (see Illus. No. 2-9) and the curved facades pulling back in away from the boundaries (Illus. No. 2-10). The site was virtually flat. The street right of way on Seventh Street was 98'-8". Ninth Street was 110' away.<sup>1</sup> At the time the HUD Building and Department of Transportation Building across Seventh Street were constructed, both Seventh and D Streets were slightly widened to accommodate the anticipated increased traffic flow.<sup>2</sup>

Designed in the shape of a double-"Y" or an elongated "X" with a central core curving out to diagonal wings, the ten story building is 588'-1/2" long and 368'-7-1/2" wide (Illus. No. 2-11). The rectangular central portion is 146' wide and 180' long. The curving wings are each 76 feet wide. The building is 129'-9" high, encompassing ten stories, and is capped by a 28'-6" high penthouse. There are two basement levels below the main building and a three-level underground garage beneath the entrance plaza. The building

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<sup>1</sup>Presentation Drawing No. 7, "Transverse Section," by Marcel Breuer and Associates and Nolen-Swinburne and Associates, June 17, 1964 (see Fig. 2-15).

<sup>2</sup>Presentation Drawing No. 1, Title Sheet and Location Map, Housing & Home Finance Agency Office Building, Washington, DC by Marcel Breuer and Associates and Nolen-Swinburne and Associates, June 17, 1964 (see Fig. 2-9). The location map shows existing and proposed new roads and construction.

contains 1,352,500 gross square feet, with more than 700,000 square feet of office space for between 4,300 and 6,000 employees.

### LANDSCAPING SCHEME

Two original landscaping drawings called "Planting Plans" were issued, one by Marcel Breuer and one by GSA. The original drawing by Marcel Breuer & Associates and Nolen, Swinburne & Associates, dated April 14, 1965, show nineteen 18-20' willow oaks on the west elevation with grass ground cover; two 18-20' Japanese pagodas on the D Street (north) elevation with 1170 English ivy plants; eleven 18-20' Japanese pagodas with over 10,000 English ivy plants spanning the south elevation. A virtually identical drawing was issued by GSA, dated March 24, 1969, with the only difference being the elimination of the grass shown by Breuer's drawing along the Seventh Street and D Street sidewalks (see Illus. No. 3-1).

The Japanese pagoda (or "Sophora Japonica") is a rounded, wide spreading ornamental shade tree with open compound leaves. It blossoms in late summer with large pyramidal clusters of yellowish pea-like flowers which frequently remain on the tree all winter. The tree has an excellent ability to withstand city conditions.<sup>3</sup>

The willow oak (or "Quercus Phellos") is widely used for ornamental planting and as a street tree because of the fine texture of its foliage. Reaching up to 50 feet in height, the tree is conical with dense branching. The leaves are two and a half to five inches long, narrow and pointed at both ends like those of a willow tree, with slender side branches.<sup>4</sup>

According to occupants of the building and news sources of the day, the landscaping was not done when the building was completed. The rear courtyard was not landscaped until 1974-1976, when the walkway to the L'Enfant Plaza building was added.<sup>5</sup>

Current landscaping around the building is similar to that of the original designs. However, due to the addition of the walkway to L'Enfant Plaza, the playground and handicapped ramp, the west elevation has eleven instead of nineteen willow oaks. A number of smaller tulip magnolias and flowering plants have been added.

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<sup>3</sup>Donald Wyman, Trees for American Gardens (New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1979), pp. 428-429.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 408.

<sup>5</sup>Lawrence O. Houstoun, Jr., "Evaluation: Housing the Department of Urban Development," AIA Journal, April 1977, pp. 55 and 57.

SEVENTH STREET (EAST) ELEVATION - THE PLAZA

Along Seventh Street, the front elevation of the building was approached from a large monumental plaza paved in coarsed, random-sized rectangular natural cleft New York bluestone flagging (Illus. Nos. 3-44, 3-45, 3-47 and 3-48). The materials were supplied by Peter Bratti Associates of New York City. The original drawings show hexagonal concrete pavers, which had been requested by the General Services Administration in an attempt to keep construction costs down. However, when the bids came in \$4 million under the budget, Marcel Breuer and Herbert Beckhard attempted to upgrade the project, substituting bluestone for concrete. Breuer and Beckhard had wanted to use a heavy stone, 2-1/2" thick, set with open joints, so that the stone could be lifted for repairs. Nolen, Swinburne & Associates, however, preferred a thinner stone, 1-1/2" thick set in mortar and grouted into place.<sup>6</sup> The stone was to be laid in a "European Bond" pattern with courses varying from 1'-0" to 2'-6". The long or continuous joints of the stone was to run perpendicular to Seventh Street (east and west) and the broken joints were to run perpendicular to D Street (north and south).<sup>7</sup> According to Herbert Beckhard (and as shown on the original drawings), the original stone did not contain any "reds or purples."<sup>8</sup> Two inch thick "Foamglas" cellular glass insulation Kraft paper was approved for use under the plaza paving;<sup>9</sup> Peterson Iso-Flex Thixotropic Urethane No. 907 in "Mortar Gray" was approved for expansion joints in the paving.<sup>10</sup>

In the center of the plaza, adjacent to the street, were two ramps which serve as an entrance and exit to the underground garage parking. The railings alongside the ramps were genuine wrought iron supplied by Lockhart Iron and Steel Company for Potomac Iron Works, Inc.<sup>11</sup>

Pyramidal precast concrete bollards, called "stanchions" on the original drawings, divided the plaza into a pedestrian area close to the building and a driveway pick-up area. The bollards, supplied by the American Stone Company, were 2'-5-3/8" in diameter, designed

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<sup>6</sup>Interview with Herbert Beckhard at the HUD Building, June 8, 1994.

<sup>7</sup>Letter to Mr. Thomas Bradford, Chief, Design & Construction Division, GSA from Herbert Beckhard, Marcel Breuer & Associates, July 12, 1966.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid.

<sup>9</sup>Letter to John McShain, Inc. from Stephen G. Lesko, Chief, New Construction Branch, August 29, 1967.

<sup>10</sup>Letter and Product Literature sent to John McShain, Inc., July 27, 1967.

<sup>11</sup>Letter to John McShain, Inc. from Howard C. Turner, Construction Engineer, December 10, 1968.

to fit exactly onto the hexagonal concrete paving, and 21 inches high<sup>12</sup> (Illus. Nos. 3-5, 3-44, 3-45 and 3-47).

Seven light fixtures consisting of 18 inch diameter aluminum globes on which 55 spot and flood lamps were attached were mounted on 13'-6" tall precast concrete light standards<sup>13</sup> (Illus. Nos. 3-4, 3-45, 3-46 and 3-47). Manufactured by Art Cement Products of Springfield, Massachusetts, they were set along the edge of the driveway area formed by the stanchions. The globes were designed by Marcel Breuer and Herbert Beckhard and had 55 lamp units: 31 75-watt floodlights and 24 100 watt spotlights, equally spaced on an 18 inch cast black anodized matte black aluminum sphere and recessed into each fixture.<sup>14</sup>

A 76 foot tall ceremonial reinforced concrete sculpture, referred to as the "banner," marked the main entrance to the building at the southern end of the plaza (Illus. No. 3-49). Construction of the banner was an alternate to the original design contract; it was built shortly after the completion of the building in 1969. The banner had 1'-6" tall, 18 gauge satin finish stainless steel letters near the top of the structure which read "Department of Housing and Urban Development" (Illus. No. 3-2). The original contract drawings show polished sanded granite letters reading "Housing and Home Finance Agency,"<sup>15</sup> but as the Department of Housing and Urban Development was established in 1965 while construction was underway, a revised drawing showing the current stainless steel letters was issued on November 14, 1966.<sup>16</sup> A final drawing showing the plan, section and details of the banner was issued and approved by the General Services Administration on January 27, 1969.<sup>17</sup>

The banner consisted of two parts: a rectangular concrete base, 20' x 4' x 8'-6" high; and a 20' wide x 2'-8" deep x 76' high rectangular slab of concrete which sat perpendicular atop the base. The banner was formed with vertically placed tongue and groove boards varying in width from four to six inches and was divided into six sections with 1-1/2" x 3/4" deep negative pour joints. Five of the six sections were 10'-9" high; the other section which contained the letters was 14'-3" high. On the back of this section of the banner, 10'-9" below the top of the banner and 45'-0" above the base, was a 14'-1-1/2" high x 6'-0" deep section of concrete which sat parallel to the base. It had spotlights

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<sup>12</sup>"Plaza Details - Plaza Features," Drawing No. 5-6, GSA Drawing No. 32, April 14, 1965.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid.

<sup>14</sup>"Exterior Lighting Details - Sheet 1," 9-E-53, April 1, 1965, Joseph R. Loring & Associates, Consulting Engineers.

<sup>15</sup>Drawing 5-73, April 1, 1965.

<sup>16</sup>"Revised Banner Lettering," Drawing 11-104, November 14, 1966.

<sup>17</sup>"Banner Plan, Sections and Details," Drawing No. 27-1, GSA Drawing No. 315, General Services Administration.

mounted on it and on the back of the banner to illuminate the building and its main entrance at night (Illus. Nos. 3-3 and 3-50). There were a total of 64 1000-watt lights mounted in a six inch deep cast outlet boxes. Twenty-eight were mounted on the banner wing (14 on each side) and 36 on the back of the banner (18 on each side of the wing). On the four corners set into the base of the banner were protective 4" x 4" x 1/2" hot dipped galvanized steel angles with "Y" shaped cast bronze corner guards with a bronze casting finish mounted on the exterior of the base.<sup>18</sup>

A 40' tall tapered black anodized aluminum flagpole was originally installed on the south end of the plaza at the edge of the driveway (Illus. No. 3-45).<sup>19</sup> Set into a concrete base, the flagpole had a 14" black anodized aluminum ball resting on top. In 1971, this flagpole was replaced with an 80' flagpole and another flagpole was installed at the north end of the plaza at the edge of the driveway. The new flagpoles were extra heavy cone tapered aluminum, 14" in diameter, with 14" black anodized aluminum balls on top. They were set into concrete bases with 5'-8" diameter black anodized cast aluminum collars.<sup>20</sup>

Breuer's presentation drawings, dated June 17, 1964, for the Seventh Street plaza shows a row of trees along the street, but no greenery on the plaza itself (see Illus. No. 2-13). When the building was completed, Ada Louise Huxtable, an architectural critic, called the plaza "severely stony. . . the kind of stunningly unrelieved masonry, artfully understood in urban terms, that makes certain European Medieval and Renaissance squares memorable."<sup>21</sup>

Major alterations to the Seventh Street plaza since its construction include: the removal and replacement of the original bluestone paving during a renovation of the entire east plaza in 1978; removal of bluestone paving in the driveway pick-up area and the concrete paving of driveway; removal of the concrete bollards which originally marked the driveway area; replacement of the 55-light aluminum globes with single glass globes; and the addition of concrete boxes with plantings.

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<sup>18</sup>"Banner Plan, Sections and Details," Drawing 27-1, General Services Administration, January 27, 1969.

<sup>19</sup>"Plan, Sections and Details, Installation of (New 80') Flagpoles," Drawing 27-33, September 9, 1971.

<sup>20</sup>Plan, Sections and Details, Installation of Flagpoles," Drawing 27-33, September 9, 1971.

<sup>21</sup>Ada Louise Huxtable, "The House That HUD Built," The New York Times, September 22, 1968, p. 38.

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### NINTH STREET (WEST) ELEVATION

The Ninth Street elevation was designed as a landscaped courtyard. The southern portion was an elevated area with metal vents providing ventilation to the service entrance below ground. The northern half was a landscaped recreational space for building employees and visitors.

As shown on the original drawings (see Illus. No. 3-1), the area fronting the building was divided into two spaces separated by the north wall of the loading dock area. A concrete retaining wall topped with a metal railing followed the curve of the south half of the facade and created a raised grass covered knoll on which seven large rectangular metal gratings for venting the underground service areas were sited. The original landscaping plan by Marcel Breuer & Associates and Nolen, Swinburne & Associates, dated April 14, 1965, and a similar plan issued by GSA on March 24, 1969, show nineteen 18-20' willow oaks on the west elevation with grass ground cover (Illus. No. 3-1). ← PS. 111

Upon completion of the building, this area was originally left barren; it is believed that the walkway and plantings were added between 1974 and 1976.<sup>22</sup>

The west elevation has been renovated and altered numerous times over the years. The original landscaping scheme has also been modified; it currently has eleven willow oaks, instead of the nineteen specified. Several smaller tulip magnolias and flowering plants have also been added. A playground for the day care center has been constructed on the north end of the elevation with a handicapped ramp to L'Enfant Plaza encircling it. Finally, benches have been placed along the edge of the pilotis.

### D STREET (NORTH) ELEVATION

The D Street (north) elevation was similar to the west and east elevations in form and design but was only two-thirds as long (Illus. No. 3-59). Along the north elevation was an asphalt driveway with parking areas located both outside the building perimeter on the asphalt paving and under the colonnade formed by the pilotis on the bluestone paving. The columns were protected on either side by pyramidal stanchions or bollards, approximately 19 inches tall, which had rectangular bases (Illus. No. 3-5).

Hollow patterned triangular precast concrete blocks five rows high with cast-in-place concrete end walls on each end formed screen walls on the north end of the plaza to hide the off-street surface parking (Illus. No. 3-59). The concrete blocks were manufactured by American Stone, Inc. According to direction by Herbert Beckhard, the blocks were

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<sup>22</sup>Lawrence O. Houstoun, Jr., "Evaluation: Housing the Department of Urban Development," AIA Journal, April 1977, p. 55.

to match the color of the poured concrete pilotis.<sup>23</sup> In addition, they were to be set with a mortar color matching the blocks, with only the slightest tooling of the joints permitted, "only as much as is required to take up the differential projection of the precast pieces. The new surface of mortar was to be struck off flush with the top course of the precast elements or brought up to the top of the wall and separated from the precast caps by a score joint. At the bottom, once again, the face of the mortar was to be brought out to the face of the precast."<sup>24</sup>

The original landscaping scheme for this facade by Breuer and Swinburne, dated April 14, 1965 (Illus. No. 3-1), calls for 1,170 English ivy plants on the corners and along a narrow edge strip along the sidewalk, with two 18-20' Japanese pagoda trees on each end of the strip. A light standard similar to that used on the east elevation was to be located adjacent to the street, centered on the building.

In 1970, two years after the completion of the building, GSA signed an amendment to Breuer and Swinburne's original contract for the design of two parking attendants' booths in the amount of \$1,500.<sup>25</sup> One booth was to be located on each of the north and south elevations of the building. The booths were of wood frame construction with a white stucco finish. They were hexagonal shaped and characteristic of Breuer's style in their simplicity and cubist composition.

With the exception of the removal of two bays on the easternmost section of the triangular block wall, the north elevation remains as originally constructed.

#### SOUTHWEST FREEWAY FRONTAGE ROAD (SOUTH) ELEVATION

Along the south side of the building was an elevated graded area with an asphalt parking lot outside the building, with additional parking spaces tucked behind the building pilotis (or columns) on the bluestone flagging (Illus. Nos. 3-54 and 3-55). Pyramidal concrete bollards or stanchions with rectangular bases (Illus. No. 3-5) were placed on either side of the columns.

At the west side of the south elevation, accessed from the frontage road for the Southwest Freeway, was a below grade entrance which opened directly off the frontage road into a service area (Illus. No. 3-56). The entrance was centered below the opening between the

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<sup>23</sup>Letter to Mr. John Glen, Nolen-Swinburne and Associates from Herbert Beckhard, Marcel Breuer and Associates, February 23, 1967.

<sup>24</sup>Memorandum of Job Visit, May 2, 1968, by Herbert Beckhard, Marcel Breuer and Associates.

<sup>25</sup>Letter to Marcel Breuer & Associates and Nolen, Swinburne & Associates from Gregory Cavanagh, Chief, Design Branch, General Services Administration, March 11, 1970, Papers of Marcel Breuer, Box 13, National Archives of American Art.

two westernmost pairs of concrete columns. A sidewalk ran along the eastern side of the entrance and connected with the sidewalk along the north side of the frontage road. Two signs reading "No Parking This Side" were mounted on either side of the walls, and a "Clearance 13'-1/2'" sign was centered on the bottom of the wall above the entrance. A concrete retaining wall with vertical tongue and groove formwork was constructed along the property line beginning on the south side and continuing along the west side (Illus. Nos. 3-56 and 3-57).

On the upper level, underneath the cantilevered end walls, hollow patterned triangular concrete blocks, identical to those employed on the north elevation, formed screen walls on the west end of the parking area again to block the off-street surface parking from L'Enfant Plaza.<sup>26</sup>

The original landscaping plan by Marcel Breuer & Associates and Nolen, Swinburne & Associates, dated April 14, 1965 (Illus. No. 3-1), shows eleven 18-20' Japanese pagodas, five in a center island, four along the outer edge, and two on the west side of the service entrance. Over 10,000 English ivy plants were used as ground cover on all unpaved areas. A cast concrete light standard, similar to the seven located on the east elevation, was located adjacent to the street and centered on the building.

A hexagonal shaped parking attendant booth, designed by Marcel Breuer & Associates and Nolen & Swinburne in 1970, was placed adjacent to the service road on the south elevation. The booth was constructed of wood with a stucco finish and painted white.

With the exception of a metal railing along the landscaped strip in the parking area and replacement of the original parking attendant booth, the south elevation remains as originally constructed.

### **STRUCTURAL DESIGN**

The layout of the building inspired an unusual structural design. It relied on a system of interior concrete columns and beams with a precast concrete outer skin. This skin also served as a bearing element. The sides of the precast concrete units acted as a row of exterior columns. The interior structure of the building consisted of lines of cast-in-place, rectangular, concrete columns, which varied in dimension from 29" x 16" to 24" x 30". These supported 24" to 29" beams. The paired columns and beams followed the curving shape of the building. The first row was set approximately 30 feet inside the line of load-bearing precast concrete units at approximately 20 feet on center. This provided large open areas and allowed greater interior flexibility in wall partitioning. At the center of the main portion of the building were three additional rows of columns and beams. The

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<sup>26</sup>See previous section on North elevation for thorough description of materials.

lines of columns followed the shape of the building and also served to establish the locations of the corridors.<sup>27</sup>

Spanning between the window wall units and the first row of columns were precast, prestressed double-tee concrete planks, with a five inch non-structural concrete topping to accommodate the underfloor electrical ducts. A total of 352 double-tee planks were used on each floor. The inner central bays were of "T" design, cast-in-place with metal pans.<sup>28</sup>

The building had two service cores, one at each end of the central portion of the building, at the intersection of the two "Y"s. The reinforced concrete walls, containing elevator shafts, stairs and toilets, were designed to withstand the total shear stress imposed by wind and lateral loads. The two cores served as the major anchors for the building and acted as box girders cantilevered upwards from the foundations to the roof.<sup>29</sup>

The ends of the four wings of the building were braced by projecting concrete stair towers. The end walls were cantilevered from this, extending up nine stories from the second floor. The end walls added some additional lateral stiffness to the stair towers; both were eight inches thick and faced with granite panels. The walls acted independently of the precast floor and wall units; they were not connected.<sup>30</sup>

The massive curvilinear building was constructed of both cast-in-place and precast reinforced concrete. A huge, heavily reinforced (up to No. 18 bar) concrete mat, 4'-6" to 6'-6" thick supports the structure which sits on sandy, silty soil.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>27</sup>"Structural Concept," The Department of Housing and Urban Development Building, Financial Records, Project Book 1, "DHUD," no date, Papers of Marcel Breuer, Box 7, National Archives of American Art.

<sup>28</sup>Ibid.

<sup>29</sup>Ibid.

<sup>30</sup>Ibid.

<sup>31</sup>Ibid.

## **BUILDING EXTERIOR**

### **WALLS**

The main facades of the building were designed as a series of load-bearing precast concrete window wall units, fabricated for both appearance and for structural function. The building contained a total of 1,584 load bearing precast concrete window units, each three feet thick and weighing 12-13 tons. The precast units contained heating and air conditioning units, piping, and served as the structural system of the exterior walls. The window modules, similar to Le Corbusier's signature *brise soleil*, were deeply faceted inward towards the plate glass windows. They conserved energy by providing shading. The interior wall surfaces were flush with no projections for ease of connection of interior partitions. The precast concrete units tapered out beneath each window to provide an open triangular space for fan coil units for the heating and air conditioning systems.

Three different panel types were shown on the original drawings, Panels "A", "B" and "C" (Illus. No. 3-8).<sup>32</sup> Panels "A" were 10'-0" wide and 11'-10-1/2" high and were used on the second, third and fourth floors; Panels "B" were 10'-0" wide and 12'-0" high and were used on the fifth through eighth floors; Panels "A" were used again on the ninth floor; and Panels "C" were 10'-0" wide, 17'-0" high and were used on the tenth floor only. The 1/2 inch horizontal and vertical joints between the precast panels were filled with "Intraplast-C, Retarding and Expanding Grouting Aid," a non-shrink grout manufactured by the Sika Chemical Corporation of Passaic, NJ.<sup>33</sup> At the completion of construction, the building exterior was sealed with Products Research Company (PRC) two-component "Rubber Calk" sealant, a two-part, polysulfide rubber compound in "Stone" color.<sup>34</sup>

The sides of the precast concrete window units sloped in sharply towards the window at the top and sides of the opening, while the slope at the panel below the window was very gradual. On the top of the panel, 6 inches out from the edge of the window, was a drip edge or reveal, 1/2 wide and deep, cast into the unit to prevent water from running onto the glazing. The width of the mullions varied to reflect changes in structural and mechanical requirements from the top to the bottom of the building. On the first three floors, the two adjoining units formed a mullion face 2'-10" wide; the fourth through the seventh floors had a 1'-2" mullion face; and the top two floors returned to the larger dimension. The columns were wide and solid at the bottom for structural reasons, and

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<sup>32</sup>"Architectural Cast Stone Panels, Elevations, Sections and Details," Drawing 5-10, April 1, 1965.

<sup>33</sup>Transmittal of Technical Information for "Intraplast-C" to Chief, New Construction Branch and Geo. Wnek, Materials Engineer from James R. Harris, Jr., October 3, 1966.

<sup>34</sup>Letter and Technical Data Sheet sent to John McShain, Inc., July 27, 1967.

wide and hollow at the top because of the air conditioning system. The air conditioning system was a down-feed system with the greatest air volume at the top.<sup>35</sup>

The units were attached atop each other by notches and welded plates. Other welded plates were used for attachment of the concrete floor planks. The mullions were pierced during casting to provide pipe-chases, and after assembly, the mullions formed actual columns running vertically up the sides of the building on 10 foot centers around the entire perimeter of the building.<sup>36</sup> Specifications called for all reinforcing steel less than two inches from the surface to be hot dip galvanized after fabrication to prevent staining and discoloration of the exterior.

The weight of the exterior concrete window panels of the building was carried by a concrete frame of 44 exterior, chamfered cast-in-place exposed concrete pilotis. The pilotis or columns were 17 feet high, 40 feet long and 4 feet thick.<sup>37</sup> They were spaced on 40 foot centers and were cast in wood plank-lined steel forms that left an imprint on the concrete surface. This provided texture to contrast with the smooth precast window wall units above. Although the construction specifications for the cast-in-place concrete required zinc-coated steel spacers and chairs, non-corrosive reinforcing supports were not used. As a result, when the building was originally constructed, the columns had a "rusting condition" which were caused by exposed steel supports on the smooth faces of the concrete.

The pilotis were cast monolithically with their girders, a considerable formwork job, since they varied in dimension from 2'-9" wide at the base to 12' wide at the base of the girder. The girder itself was 40' long and averaged five feet deep. Total height from the ground to the top of the girder was 16'-9"; each pour required 56 cubic yards of concrete.<sup>38</sup> The large concrete pilotis tapered downward to the ground with angular faces. The faces of the concrete had formwork marks in a diagonal and uneven tongue and groove pattern, while the angular faces had a smooth plywood form finish. The concrete beams had similar formwork marks and tapered upward from the centerline of the columns with a reveal at the third points.

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<sup>35</sup>"Window Unit Details," The Department of Housing and Urban Development Building, Financial Records, Project Book 1, DHUD, no date, Papers of Marcel Breuer, Box 7, National Archives of American Art.

<sup>36</sup>Ibid.

<sup>37</sup>As specified in Section 5, Samples of original specifications, "Specification and Bidding Forms, Housing and Home Finance Agency," (Washington, DC: General Services Administration, 1965), p. 5-7.

<sup>38</sup>"Structural Concept," The Department of Housing and Urban Development Building, no date, Financial Records, Project Book 1, "DHUD", Papers of Marcel Breuer, Box 7, National Archives of American Art.

At the ground level, the walls of the building were set back, leaving an open arcade or colonnade on all sides between the concrete trees and the wall. This offered shade and protected access to the building. The exterior concrete pilotis formed the colonnade, a distinguished visual one-story base for the building. These paired concrete columns capped by reinforced concrete beams supported the upper floors. The colonnade was paved with the same bluestone as the plazas. It had an overhead soffit of white cement plaster with a sand finish, metal access panels, and recessed exterior light fixtures (see Illus. Nos. 3-51 and 3-58). The ground level exterior walls of the building behind the colonnade were constructed of concrete faced with gray honed French Creek "Cherry Hill" granite. This stone matched that on the end facades of the building wings.

At the roof level, a 28'-6" high mechanical penthouse was centered between the two cores of the building. The penthouse was constructed of exposed concrete divided by joints. It garnered a wood form finish and had large aluminum mill finished louvers. The architects' original design intent had been for the penthouses to be clad in granite, similar to the end walls and ground floor; the General Services Administration was concerned, however, that this would add too much to the cost of the building.<sup>39</sup>

## WINDOWS

There were 1,584 windows on the four facades of the building, one in each precast concrete unit. Each of the glass windows was identical in size (6'-4" wide by 3'-9" high), and was centered slightly above the middle of the precast concrete unit. The window frames were black anodized aluminum. The windows were designed to pivot vertically.<sup>40</sup>

A change order during construction requested that 1/4" float glass be installed rather than the 1/4" polished plate glass originally specified.<sup>41</sup> A black color tape sealant system, manufactured by The Tremco Manufacturing Company of Cleveland, Ohio, was approved for use in glazing the window unit sash channels. The system included the use of Tremco 440 black tape and black color "Mono-Lasto-Meric Sealant."<sup>42</sup>

Each window from the second through the tenth floors contained two inch wide baked-on gray flexible steel Venetian blinds, with 1-1/2 inch wide gray tapes and gray nylon cords.

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<sup>39</sup>Interview with Herbert Beckhard at the HUD Building, June 8, 1994.

<sup>40</sup>Presentation Drawing No. 7, Transverse Section, June 17, 1964 (see Fig. 2-15).

<sup>41</sup>Letter to Chief, New Construction Branch from James R. Harris, Jr., April 4, 1967, referencing C.E. Proposal Request #150.

<sup>42</sup>Letter to John McShain, Inc. from Stephen G. Lesko, Chief, New Construction Branch, February 14, 1967 and accompanying product literature from The Tremco Manufacturing Company, Cleveland, Ohio.

Although the finish schedule specified the blinds be white, the original design intent of Marcel Breuer and Herbert Beckhard was to make the blinds dark gray so that they would not be so visible from the exterior of the building. Thus, the windows "would always be negative."<sup>43</sup> The Venetian blinds were manufactured by Globe Products Company and had baked-on gray color flexible steel slats, 2" wide x 0.007" thick. They also had gray color woven cotton tape, 1-1/2" wide with 3/8" wide cross straps; gray color nylon braided cords; baked-on gray color steel bottom and headrails; and vertical operation mechanisms and brakes.<sup>44</sup>

#### SEVENTH STREET (EAST) ELEVATION

The Seventh Street (east) elevation of the building, including the stair tower end walls, was 588'-0-1/2" feet long, curving out to diagonal wings (Illus. Nos. 3-6, 3-45 through 3-48). At the base of the building were paired concrete pilotis which were capped by reinforced concrete beams (Illus. No. 3-53). The large concrete columns tapered downward to the ground and had angular faces and concrete formwork marks in a diagonal tongue and groove board-width pattern. The concrete beams had similar formwork marks and tapered upwards from the centerline of the columns with a reveal at the third points. The concrete columns and beams supported 504 precast window units (56 window units across the face, and nine rows from the second through the tenth floors). These spanned the entire length of the facade. The window units were deeply faceted inward towards the plate glass to conserve energy and provide shading. Window frames were black anodized aluminum. The facade had a flat roof. A concrete double story mechanical penthouse capped the upper floor.

At the end of the curved wing walls of the facade were cantilevered end walls. These contained protruding rectangular blocks which housed stair towers. The walls were unfenestrated cast in place concrete walls with a steel frame, faced with large gray honed French Creek "Cherry Hill" granite. The granite panels were anchored with six stainless steel anchors per panels and had stainless steel weep holes.<sup>45</sup> Concrete pits at the corners of the building contained lights for illuminating the stair towers.

At ground level, the walls of the building were set back, which left an open arcade or colonnade on all sides between the concrete pilotis and the wall (Illus. No. 3-51). This offered shade and protected access to the building. The exterior concrete pilotis formed the colonnade, a distinguished visual one-story base for the building. The colonnade was paved with the same bluestone as the plazas. It had an overhead soffit of white cement

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<sup>43</sup>Interview with Herbert Beckhard at the HUD Building, June 8, 1994.

<sup>44</sup>Letter to John McShain, Inc. from O. A. Waldrop, Chief, New Construction Branch, May 27, 1966.

<sup>45</sup>Ibid.

plaster with a sand finish and recessed metal access panels and exterior light fixtures. The ground level exterior walls of the building behind the colonnade were constructed of concrete faced with gray honed French Creek "Cherry Hill" granite. This stone matched the end facades of the building wings, except adjacent to the entrances, where the concrete was bushhammered.

The cornerstone, made of polished French Creek "Cherry Hill" granite, was located on the center of the east facade on the first floor level. It was laid on November 10, 1966 and read, "United States of America, Lyndon B. Johnson, President; General Services Administration, Bernard L. Boutin, Administrator, 1964." According to the original specifications, a 12" x 8-1/2" x 3-1/2" 16 ounce copper document box was set below the cornerstone in the wall.<sup>46</sup>

The Seventh Street elevation had two entrances, the building's main entrance on the south side and another entrance on the north. The entrances had two sets of 1/4" clear flat polished glass and black anodized aluminum frame revolving doors. These were flanked by single glass and aluminum frame doors which opened out on either side. The revolving doors had horizontal cross bars mounted 3'-6" from the door bottom; the single doors had rectangular push bars. The entrances were set into glass curtain walls made up of 3/8" polished plate glass panels and black anodized aluminum frames. Two additional openings, adjacent to each of the main entrances, led into fire stairs and down to the garage and basement levels. These doors had black anodized finish aluminum doors and frames.

Both the north and south entrances have been altered since the building's construction: the doors have been replaced with power-operated doors; a portion of the aluminum and glass curtain wall has been replaced; and bicycle racks with cast iron fences have been installed.<sup>47</sup> Expanded metal enclosures and doors have been installed around the basement stair openings adjacent to the entrances and around the fire stair openings. Spotlights and exposed conduit have been added to the beams above the pilotis.

#### NINTH STREET (WEST) ELEVATION

The Ninth Street (west) elevation of the building was similar in architectural form to the east elevation (Illus. No. 3-7). It was 588'-1/2" long, including the stair tower end walls, curving out to diagonal wings (Illus. No. 3-57). At the base of the building were paired concrete columns. These were capped by reinforced concrete beams. The large concrete pilotis tapered downward to the ground and had angular faces and concrete formwork

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<sup>46</sup>"Cornerstone with Document Box," Standard Detail Drawing No. 6-6-1, July 21, 1947, Specifications and Bidding Forms for Housing and Home Finance Agency Office Building, Project No. 49924, Contract No. GS-03B-14597, Volume I of III, April 29, 1965.

<sup>47</sup>"Power Door Details, HUD, Forrestal, F.B. 108" Drawing 3-2, General Services Administration, August 28, 1973.

marks in a diagonal tongue and groove board-width pattern. The concrete beams had similar formwork marks and tapered upwards from the centerline of the columns with a reveal at the third points. The concrete pilotis and beams supported 504 precast window units (56 window units across the face, and nine rows from the second through the tenth floors) spanning the entire length of the facade. The window units, essentially *brise soleil*, were deeply faceted inward towards the plate glass to conserve energy and provide shading. Window frames were black anodized aluminum. The facade had a flat roof. A concrete double story mechanical penthouse capped the upper floor.

At the end of the curved wing walls of the facade were cantilevered end walls which contained protruding rectangular blocks (Illus. No. 3-57). These housed the stair towers. The walls were unfenestrated cast-in-place concrete with a steel frame and were faced with large gray honed French Creek "Cherry Hill" granite. The granite panels were anchored with six stainless steel anchors per panels through stainless steel weep holes.<sup>48</sup> Concrete pits at the corners of the building contained lights for illuminating the stair towers.

At ground level, the walls of the building were set back, leaving an open arcade or colonnade on all sides between the concrete pilotis and the wall (Illus. No. 3-58). The colonnade was paved with the same bluestone as the plazas and had an overhead soffit of white cement plaster with a sand finish, metal access panels, and recessed exterior light fixtures. Parking spaces for approximately 18 automobiles were provided under the colonnade at both the north and south ends of the elevation.

At the north and south ends of the facade, the ground-level exterior walls of the building behind the colonnade were constructed of cast in place concrete faced with gray honed French Creek "Cherry Hill" granite. This matched the end facades of the building wings. On either side of the cafeteria were panels of bushhammered concrete; the walls at the first floor opening into the cafeteria were 3/8" polished plate glass panels with black anodized aluminum mullions (Illus. No. 3-58). The area under the colonnade was paved with bluestone. It had an overhead soffit of white cement plaster with a sand finish, and recessed metal access panels and light fixtures.

The west facade had five entrances to the building: main entrances at the north and south ends of the facade which led into the north and south lobbies, and three entrances into the cafeteria. Doors for all entrances were 1/4" clear flat polished glass set into black anodized finish aluminum frames with aluminum push bar panels located on the inside of the doors and aluminum push plates on the exterior of the doors. The entrances on the northern and southern ends had three doors with large glass transoms above, and concrete headers atop the transom. The main entrance to the cafeteria was similar to the main north and south entrances, with two doors with glass transoms above and a concrete header atop the transom. Two secondary entrances to the cafeteria were single glass doors set in black anodized finish aluminum frames.

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<sup>48</sup>Ibid.

The west elevation remains as originally constructed with the exception of the northwest entrance to the building which has been altered several times, first by the installation of automatic doors, and in 1994 by the addition of a stainless steel air lock vestibule.

#### D STREET (NORTH) ELEVATION)

The D Street (north) elevation was similar in architectural style to the west and east elevations but was only two-thirds as long (372 feet), curving out to diagonal wings (Illus. Nos. 3-6 and 3-59). At the base of the building were paired concrete pilotis, capped by reinforced concrete beams. The large concrete tree columns tapered downward to the ground and had angular faces and concrete formwork marks in a diagonal tongue and groove board-width pattern. The concrete beams had similar formwork marks and tapered upwards from the centerline of the columns with a reveal at the third points. The concrete columns and beams supported 288 precast window units (32 window units across the face, and nine rows from the second through the tenth floors). These spanned the length of the facade. The window units were deeply faceted inward towards the plate glass to conserve energy and provide shading. Window frames were black anodized aluminum. The facade had a flat roof. A concrete double story mechanical penthouse capped the upper floor.

At the end of the curved wing walls of the facade were cantilevered end walls which contained protruding rectangular blocks enclosing stair towers. The walls were unfenestrated cast in place concrete walls with steel frames, faced with large gray honed French Creek "Cherry Hill" granite. The granite panels were held down by six stainless steel anchors per panels through stainless steel weep holes.<sup>49</sup> Concrete pits at the corners of the building contained lights for illuminating the stair towers.

At ground level, the walls of the building were set back, leaving an open arcade or colonnade on all sides between the columns and the wall. This area was used for sheltered access to the building as well as for automobile parking.<sup>50</sup> The exterior concrete columns formed the colonnade, a distinguished visual one-story base for the building. Concrete bollards or stanchions were placed on either side of the pilotis to protect the columns from vehicular traffic. The colonnade was paved with the same bluestone as the plazas and had an overhead soffit of white cement plaster with a sand finish, metal access panels, and recessed exterior light fixtures. The ground level exterior walls of the building behind the colonnade were constructed of cast-in-place concrete faced with gray honed French Creek "Cherry Hill" granite which matched the end facades of the building wings.

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<sup>49</sup>Ibid.

<sup>50</sup>Presentation Drawing No. 2, Ground Floor Plan, Marcel Breuer and Associates and Nolen-Swinburne and Associates, June 17, 1964, shows parking spaces for 30 automobiles underneath this elevation.

The north elevation remains as originally constructed except that spotlights have been added to the concrete beams above the pilotis.

#### SOUTHWEST FREEWAY FRONTAGE ROAD (SOUTH) ELEVATION

The south elevation mirrored the north elevation in composition, size and shape (Illus. Nos. 3-7, 3-54 and 3-55). It was 372 feet long and curved out to diagonal wings. At the base of the building were paired concrete pilotis, capped by reinforced concrete beams. The large concrete columns tapered downward to the ground and had angular faces and concrete formwork marks in a diagonal tongue and groove board-width pattern. The concrete beams had similar formwork marks and tapered upwards from the centerline of the columns with a reveal at the third points. The concrete pilotis and beams supported 288 precast window units (32 window units across the face, and nine rows from the second through the tenth floors). These spanned the length of the facade. The window units were deeply faceted inward towards the plate glass to conserve energy and provide shading. Window frames were black anodized aluminum. The facade had a flat roof with a concrete two story mechanical penthouse capping the upper floor.

At the end of the curved wing walls of the facade were cantilevered end walls which contained protruding rectangular blocks. These enclosed stair towers. The walls were unfenestrated cast in place concrete walls with steel frames, faced with large gray honed French Creek "Cherry Hill" granite. The granite panels were anchored with six stainless steel anchors per panels through stainless steel weep holes.<sup>51</sup> Concrete pits at the corners of the building contained lights for illuminating the stair towers.

At ground level, the walls of the building were set back, leaving an open arcade or colonnade on all sides between the columns and the wall.<sup>52</sup> Pyramidal concrete bollards (stanchions) were placed on either side of the pilotis. The exterior concrete pilotis formed the colonnade. The colonnade was paved with the same bluestone as the plazas and had an overhead soffit of white cement plaster with a sand finish, recessed metal access panels, and exterior light fixtures. The ground level exterior walls of the building behind the colonnade were constructed of cast in place concrete faced with gray honed French Creek "Cherry Hill" granite which matched the end facades of the building wings.

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<sup>51</sup>Ibid.

<sup>52</sup>Presentation Drawing No. 2, Ground Floor Plan, Marcel Breuer and Associates and Nolen-Swinburne and Associates, June 17, 1964, shows parking spaces for 30 automobiles underneath this elevation.

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### STAIR TOWER END WALLS

The ends of the four facades were terminated by unfenestrated cast-in-place steel frame concrete end walls. The end walls were braced by projecting rectangular concrete stair towers, from which were cantilevered the four end walls which extended from the second floor to the roof. The end walls and stair towers were constructed of eight inch thick concrete.

The concrete walls were faced with large gray honed French Creek "Cherry Hill" granite. The original drawings called for "Cold Spring - Charcoal Black; French Creek - Fox Hill Black; or Georgia Granite - Jet Mist" thermal textured (flamed) granite with gray joints for the first floor and end walls.<sup>53</sup> John McShain, the building contractor, first submitted French Creek Granite Company's "Fox Hill" for approval, but as the quarry was "very heavily committed until spring," the "Cherry Hill" granite was approved for use instead.<sup>54</sup> "Cherry Hill" thermal textured granite was approved for use on the wall facing for the end walls and the first floor core. Polished "Cherry Hill" granite was approved for the cornerstone and banner letters.<sup>55</sup> The joints in the granite facing were finished with a surface raked back 1/4" from the face of the stone.<sup>56</sup> The granite panels were anchored with six 20 gauge by six inch dovetail stainless steel anchors per panel through stainless steel weep holes.<sup>57</sup> These were manufactured by The Weston Company.<sup>58</sup>

The end walls were been repointed and repaired in 1972, and again in 1993.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>53</sup>"End Wall Granite Facing - Alternate 'L'," Drawing 34-1, May 4, 1965.

<sup>54</sup>Letter to Thomas A. Bradford, Construction Engineer from John A. Glen, Nolen-Swinburne and Associates, November 2, 1965.

<sup>55</sup>Letter to John McShain, Inc. from John A. Glen, Nolen-Swinburne and Associates, November 3, 1965.

<sup>56</sup>Letter to James R. Harris, Jr., Chief, Design & Construction Division from John A. Glen, Nolen-Swinburne and Associates, April 24, 1967.

<sup>57</sup>Transmittal of sample to Chief, New Construction Branch from Thomas A. Bradford, Construction Engineer, August 12, 1966.

<sup>58</sup>Letter to John McShain, Inc. from O. A. Waldrop, August 19, 1965 approving sample of 20 gauge dovetail anchor slot.

<sup>59</sup>"Elevation and Detail, Granite Repairs," General Services Administration, January 14, 1972. The drawing shows removal of all defective mortar and sealant joints, sealing all granite panels, pointing all joints, installing new weep holes, and installing new 1/2 inch x 7" stainless steel anchors after realigning granite panels on all four end walls.

ROOF

The roof was flat with the exception of a 28'-8" high mechanical penthouse. The penthouse walls were exposed concrete divided by joints with wood form finish.<sup>60</sup> In the center of the penthouse, the walls had large aluminum mill finished louvers on the east and west elevations. The penthouse had two levels at the elevator machine rooms; the rest of the penthouse was one story with a very high overhead clearance for pipe and duct space.

The original roof materials used were manufactured by the Barrett Division of The Allied Chemical Company. They included a crystal asphalt primer, plastic asphalt base elastigum cement, anchorbond special asphalt cement, plain asphalt saturated 30 pound felt, perforated asphalt saturated 15 pound felt, mineral surface 90 pound roll roofing and asphalt saturated woven cotton fabric.<sup>61</sup>

The roof has been replaced several times since the building's construction, once in 1973 or 1974, in 1988, and again in 1992-1993, when a new liquid membrane roof, "Inverted Roof Membrane Assembly" (IRMA), was installed.

On the south end of the building was an observation deck overlooking the Washington Channel, southwest Washington, and Capitol Hill. This was accessible from the southeast lobby core stairs. The deck was not built originally, but was added shortly after the building's completion in 1970. The area was originally laid with a redwood deck with flat wooden benches;<sup>62</sup> an architectural critic noted in 1977 that although "the view at the 11th floor level is among the best in Washington. . . regular use is discouraged because there are no barriers to shield diners from the wind. Nor do the benches have backs."<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>60</sup>The architects for the project, Marcel Breuer and Herbert Beckhard, had planned that the penthouse would be clad in granite, similar to the end walls and first floor core, however, this was not carried out.

<sup>61</sup>Letter to John McShain, Inc. from Chief, New Construction Branch, October 13, 1966.

<sup>62</sup>"Plan & Detail," Drawing 27-20, June 26, 1970.

<sup>63</sup>Houstoun, p. 55.

## **BUILDING INTERIOR**

The Housing and Urban Development Building contained ten stories, a double penthouse, a basement, and a sub-basement with three levels of underground parking located under the east plaza. Designed in the shape of a double-"Y" or an elongated "X" with a central area curving out to diagonal wings, the building was symmetrical in plan with a building core containing an elevator lobby located at each of the north and south ends.

### **PUBLIC SPACES**

#### **FIRST FLOOR**

The first or ground floor was smaller than the upper floors of the building, as it was set back behind the pilotis that carried the structural wall above (Illus. No. 3-32). At the north and south ends of the floor were the building cores which contained the entrance and elevator lobbies. The area between the two cores housed the cafeteria on the west side and the serving and kitchen area on the east side.

#### **Main Entrances**

The original main entrances, located on the northeast and southeast corners of the first floor, were constructed with two 1/4" clear flat polished glass and black anodized finished aluminum revolving doors (Illus. No. 3-13). These had two 1/4" clear flat polished glass and black anodized finish aluminum outswinging aluminum doors on either side, with 3/8" polished plate glass curtain walls set in black anodized aluminum frames to the left, right and above the doorways, and poured concrete headers above. Centered above the aluminum and single entrances were two large 3/8" polished plate glass panels. On the southern side of entrance was a narrow 3/8" polished plate glass wall (1'-10") and on the north side of the entrance were two 3/8" polished plate glass panels which were 7'-8" wide and one which was 3'-8-1/2" wide, which looked into the lobby area. The northeast lobby entrance was a mirror image of the southeast entrance.

Both entrances have been altered over the years with the removal of the revolving doors, the addition of new power doors and signage, and new aluminum and glass curtain wall assemblies.

#### **First Floor Entrance Lobbies**

The two lobbies at the north and south ends of the building were similar in materials to the exterior of the building, with concrete walls and bluestone flagging (Illus. Nos. 3-14, 3-15, 3-60 and 3-63). The walls were of curved exposed bush-hammered concrete and had pour joints running horizontally and control joints vertically. Where the walls met the ceiling, a 1-1/2" x 3/4" deep negative joint was carried at the hung ceiling line throughout the lobby, including the area of the recessed lighting trough. The joint was

located such that when the hung ceiling was in place, a 3/4" x 3/4" reveal resulted.<sup>64</sup> At the intersection of the concrete walls and bluestone floor, the wall had a four inch high smooth finish recessed concrete base.

The flooring was one inch thick, natural cleft New York State bluestone flagging. It had a "full color range, with the exception of reds and purples," and had pitched edges.<sup>65</sup> The stone was random size rectangular pieces, typically 18 by 24 inches, laid in a running bond pattern with gray grout joints.<sup>66</sup> Although original specifications called for a sealer application of warmed paraffin and water solution followed by a coating of butcher wax,<sup>67</sup> construction correspondence indicates that the bluestone was to be sealed with "an application of RB Sealer [an acrylic sealer] as supplied by Dixie Janitorial Supply Company" and "upon drying, a final coat of Butcher's Wax . . . applied and buffed."<sup>68</sup>

The original ceilings were of white cement plaster with control joints. Along the curved wall behind the reception desk and along the wall in front of the display case in the lobby area was a recessed light trough which contained lighting fixtures, with two additional recessed fixtures located 4'-9" apart, directly above the reception desk, 5'-4" away from the wall (Illus. Nos. 3-26 (Type "E") and 3-60).

In the southeast lobby on the left as one entered the doors was a narrow, deep-set "guard's observation window." This was a fixed 7'-2" high by 1'-4" wide glazed opening into the Guard's Room, a space located behind the lobby. On the wall were hung two natural anodized aluminum medallions of the "Great Seal."<sup>69</sup> The guard's window opened into an guard's station located behind the lobby.

The original reception desk in the southeast lobby was designed by the design team as an amendment to the original contract (Illus. Nos. 3-17 and 3-60).<sup>70</sup> Designed in an "L"

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<sup>64</sup>Letter to Mr. A. Giraldi, Chief, Design and Construction from Herbert Beckhard, November 18, 1966.

<sup>65</sup>"Bluestone - Interior Flooring," Specification Section 40-03, page 40-2, General Services Administration.

<sup>66</sup>Ibid.

<sup>67</sup>"Waxing of Bluestone," Specification Section 40-08, page 40-3, General Services Administration.

<sup>68</sup>Letter to John McShain, Inc. from H.F. Offenbacher, Chief, New Construction Branch, November 12, 1968.

<sup>69</sup>Letter from John A. Glen, Nolen-Swinburne & Associates to Norman C. Harper, Chief, Design and Construction, GSA, December 7, 1965.

<sup>70</sup>Letter to John McShain, Inc. from T.L. Dunn, Chief, Design and Construction Division, August 23, 1968 re Change Order No. 158, dated April 9, 1968 for \$5,480.

shape, the corner of the desk was located 2'-0" from the curved lobby wall and sat approximately 5'-0" inside the column in the lobby.<sup>71</sup> The desk was faced with polished Cherry Hill granite from the French Creek Granite Company. All exposed edges were eased (rounded slightly) and all joints were to be hairline, of epoxy cement, using 1/2" diameter metal dowels, 4" long. The desk top, cabinets and drawers were constructed with grey plastic laminate (Formica #956 or equivalent). Cabinet door hinges were continuous exposed piano-type hinges. Drawer pulls were four inch wide wire pulls. Each had a stain chrome finish.<sup>72</sup>

Lounge areas were located on the north side of the southeast lobby and the south side of the northeast lobby, just inside the main entrance. Both lounge areas originally contained benches, display units, plants, drapery and carpeting, which were selected by the architects from the Federal Supply Catalogue.<sup>73</sup> Although the color scheme is not known, the drapes were pleated, of heavy fabric, and ran floor to ceiling. They also covered the wall behind the guard's desks, the windows in the lounge areas, and the glass transom above the entrance doors. The display cases had 1/4" polish plate glass on the front and 3/4" plywood on the back with 1/4" compressed cork bonded to the plywood and opened to the lounge area (Illus. No. 3-16).<sup>74</sup> The cases were 1'-4" deep, set in a recess in the bushhammered concrete wall with the glass area 4'-0" high by 8'-0" wide.<sup>75</sup> An early undated photograph shows a floral scene with cherry blossoms in the background, mounted in the display cases. Above the display case was a light trough in the ceiling, containing recessed metal light fixtures.

Original fabric in the entrance lobbies has been modified over the years: large carpet runners cover the bluestone flagging, which has been marred by multiple layers of wax, and the original granite guard's desk and white cement plaster ceilings have been removed. In the lobby areas, the display cases are empty and the rear plywood panel has been removed. Finally, the furniture and carpeting have been modernized and drapes have been removed. However, the original drapery hardware remains at the intersection of the walls and ceiling.

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<sup>71</sup>Sketch of Reception Area (G-1), "Revised Location of Reception Desk," WSK-52, September 26, 1967, with a note: "This sketch modifies Drawing 11-106," C.E. #197.

<sup>72</sup>Drawing No. DX-1 sent to John McShain from Gene Quattrone, Nolen-Swinburne and Associates, May 2, 1968.

<sup>73</sup>Letter to Marcel Breuer and Associates and Nolen Swinburne and Associates from the General Services Administration, October 21, 1966, Project No. 49924, Amendment No. 8 for \$9,750.00 for design services for main lobby and cafeteria areas, Papers of Marcel Breuer, Box 13, National Archives of American Art.

<sup>74</sup>"Lobby Display Cases," Specification Section 31-29, page 31-9, General Services Administration.

<sup>75</sup>"Entrance Lobby Details," Drawing 5-35, Marcel Breuer and Associates and Nolen-Swinburne and Associates, April 1, 1965.

### Elevator Lobbies

The north and south elevator lobbies each contained eight elevator banks, men's and women's restrooms with curved vestibule walls, telephone alcoves, building directory boards, mail collection boxes, skeleton dial clocks, "UP" and "DOWN" indicators, and stainless steel wall hung ashtrays (Illus. Nos. 3-15, 3-61 and 3-63). Natural cleft New York bluestone flagging, laid in 18 to 24 inch random size rectangular blocks with gray grout joints covered the floors. It was finished with "an application of RB Sealer [an acrylic sealer] as supplied by Dixie Janitorial Supply Company" and "upon drying, a final coat of Butcher's Wax . . . applied and buffed."<sup>76</sup> Ceilings were originally white cement plaster with joints and recessed lighting fixtures. Along the elevator banks, one fixture was centered in front of the elevator door 2'-0" out from the doors, with two additional fixtures 4'-0" from the door, spaced 1'-11" off center from the first fixture. Other recessed light fixtures were located in the lobby along the directory boards, outside the toilet rooms and telephone alcoves, and in each of the toilet room vestibules and telephone alcove. The ceiling also contained diffusers, located 3'-0" out from the wall.

In both the north and south elevator banks on the ground floor, the bushhammered concrete had vertical control formwork marks and a distinctive horizontal chamfered pour joint midway up the wall; the eight elevator hoistway openings had the same chamfered joint between the top of the doors and metal transom panel above. The sides of the elevator openings were splayed. The elevator doors and frames were originally painted a dark gray (see Chapter V, Paint Analysis).<sup>77</sup> Above the doors were originally mounted single "UP" and "DOWN" indicator arrows (Illus. No. 3-21).

Each elevator lobby contained a 12 inch painted aluminum skeleton dial clock made of a light gray cover plate, light gray numerals and blue hands. In the south lobby the clock was located on the north elevator bank between elevators #6 and 7, and in the north elevator lobby the clock was placed on the south elevator bank between elevators #10 and 11. The clocks were mounted 12'-0" above the finished floor. An undated early photograph of the lobby shows a skeleton clock mounted above the elevators with a light colored center, hands, and numbers mounted directly on the exposed concrete wall,<sup>78</sup> correspondence during construction specifies "numerals and aluminum plates . . . to be light gray (#17886), and the hands only to be blue (#15123)."<sup>79</sup> Sixty (60) surface dial

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<sup>76</sup>Letter to John McShain, Inc. from H.F. Offenbacher, Chief, New Construction Branch, November 12, 1968.

<sup>77</sup>Drawing 5-2, "Color Schedule," April 14, 1965.

<sup>78</sup>Undated photograph of elevator lobby, US Department of Housing and Urban Development Files, Room 5162, Office of Thomas B. Curbean, Chief, Space Operations Architect.

<sup>79</sup>Letter to Mr. John Glen, Nolen-Swinburne from Kenneth Cohen, Marcel Breuer and Associates, February 22, 1967.

clocks were specified and were to be installed throughout the building, of these ten (10) were skeleton dial clocks.<sup>80</sup>

The directory boards were set into 11'-0" wide by 3'-9-1/2" high recesses in the concrete (Illus. No. 3-16).<sup>81</sup> The boards, with 1/4" polished plate glass, 6'-2" wide and 3'-3" high, were called "Rubberline," and were manufactured by Lamb Sign and Directory, Inc. They had 3/16" thick hardboard backing and 1/4" thick grooved dark gray color rubber facing adhered to the back. The doors and tubular frames for the boards were 1/8" thick extruded aluminum with a black anodized finish.<sup>82</sup>

The mail collection boxes, located between the building directory boards and the first elevator on the north wall of the south lobby and the south wall of the north lobby, were of black anodized finish and were manufactured by Cutler.

In a 3'-0" wide by 1'-8" deep niche in the west corner of the south elevator lobby next to the women's rest room stood a bronze bust of the late Catherine Wurster, a pioneer in public housing and other urban programs in America (Illus. No. 3-62). The sculpture was designed by her friend, modern sculptor-architect Oscar Stonorov. The bust sat on a French Creek granite base, measuring 24"w x 19"d x 35h". This bust was the only artwork included in the original design of the building.

From the north elevator lobby to the GSA building management storage, and likewise to the south, original contract drawings called for fixed glass panels to be adjacent to an operable 1/4" tempered clear flat polished glass and black anodized aluminum frame door. Due to the location of a duct, however, a change order was issued during construction to substitute 4" concrete block with 5/8" plaster for the glass panel shown on the original drawings. On the lobby side, the panels were painted to match the door frames (see Illus. No. 4-48).<sup>83</sup>

Exits to the west courtyard were located on the west side of both elevator lobbies and had three doors with 1/4" clear flat polished tempered glass and black anodized aluminum doors and frames. A large 3/8" polished plate glass transom spanned across the three doors. The transom was topped by a concrete header. The doors had aluminum horizontal panic bars on the inside and push plates on the exterior.

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<sup>80</sup>Specification Section 64-03a5 called for sixty (60) 12" surface clocks.

<sup>81</sup>"Entrance Lobby Details," Drawing 5-35, Marcel Breuer and Associates and Nolen-Swinburne and Associates, April 1, 1965.

<sup>82</sup>Letter to John McShain, Inc. from O. A. Waldrop, Chief, New Construction Branch, May 13, 1966.

<sup>83</sup>Letter to John McShain, Inc. from James R. Harris, Jr., Construction Engineer, June 6, 1967 re C.E. Request Proposal No. 169 and Letter to Mr. John Glen, Nolen-Swinburne and Associates from Herbert Beckhard, Marcel Breuer and Associates, May 12, 1967.

Original fabric in the elevator lobbies has been modified over the years: large carpet runners cover the bluestone flagging, which has been covered with multiple layers of wax. In addition, the original skeleton clocks, "UP" and "DOWN" indicators, and stainless steel wall hung ashtrays have been removed. The southwest entrance remains as originally constructed, although signs have been added indicating that the doors are closed. Finally, the northwest entrance has been altered with the addition of power door operators and a stainless steel airlock vestibule between 1993 and 1994.

### Elevators

Finishes on the original elevator cabs were rosewood plastic laminate walls on three sides. The front wall and doors were of stainless steel. The wall had a stainless steel main car operating panel to the left of the door; a stainless steel auxiliary car operating panel on the right of the door; and a stainless steel car position indicator above the doors which spanned the width of both elevator doors. The floors were shown on the drawings to be resilient floor tile. The cabs had a 12 gauge aluminum metal ceiling with recessed incandescent light fixtures access panel and a ventilating unit finished to match stainless steel (Illus. No. 3-18).<sup>84</sup>

During an elevator modernization in 1993-1994, the rosewood plastic laminate walls on three sides, ceiling and floor finishes were replaced, with the stainless steel front wall and doors remaining. The old relay logic controls were replaced and the hoist machinery was completely rebuilt.

### Public Toilet Rooms

A pair of men's and women's toilet rooms was located on the west sides of each elevator lobby, on the north side of the north lobby and the south side of the south lobby, west of the elevator banks. The toilet rooms had a vestibule with curved bushhammered concrete walls and bluestone floors. The vestibule ceiling is plaster in which is centered a recessed incandescent light fixture, Type D-1. The restrooms had dark gray 1" x 1" unglazed ceramic mosaic tile floors with gray portland cement grout, 4-1/4" x 4-1/4" light gray ceramic tile walls set in a vertical ashlar pattern with white grout joints, steel-enameled toilet partitions, white porcelain fixtures with wall hung sinks, and satin finish stainless steel accessories. The tile was manufactured by Keystone Ridgeway Company and supplied by Peter Bratti Associates, Inc. of New York.<sup>85</sup> The first floor toilet rooms were originally designed with one stall handicapped accessible. According to the original color schedule, which used Federal Standard Specification 595 colors, the walls were

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<sup>84</sup>"Elevator Cab Details," Drawing 5-28, April 14, 1965.

<sup>85</sup>Letter to John McShain, Inc. from Harry P. Rode, Jr., Peter Bratti Associates, Inc., November 22, 1967.

originally painted gray (color #26440) with ceilings painted white (color #37886) (see Chapter V, Paint Analysis).

Finishes in the toilet rooms remain as originally constructed, although paint colors have been changed.

#### Telephone Alcoves

A dual bank telephone alcove was located on the north side of the south elevator lobby, and on the south side of the north elevator lobby on the first floor (Illus. No. 3-14). The alcoves had a 4'-0" wide opening and were 2'-3" deep and 10'-2" long.<sup>86</sup> They had plaster ceilings with recessed fluorescent lights, masonite walls with 1/8" diameter holes one inch on center,<sup>87</sup> and bluestone floors, similar to the elevator lobbies, with a 4" gray vinyl cove base. The alcoves contained formica shelves located beneath the telephones, with color "Micarta No. 91-M-18 Oxford Gray."<sup>88</sup> The architects also requested that the walls be painted to match the shelf.<sup>89</sup>

The alcoves remain essentially as originally constructed, although some of the original acoustical tile ceiling and shelves have been replaced.

#### Freight Elevator Lobbies

Freight elevators were located in the northeast and southwest core areas of the building, behind the passenger elevator banks and core stairways. On the first floor, there was only one freight elevator lobby which was located in the southwest core. The lobby had 12" x 12" x 1/8" smooth finish vinyl asbestos tile, manufactured by Johns-Manville Travertine Tile (Centurian, 79AV-1), a four inch vinyl base, exposed concrete walls, and acoustical tile ceiling. The elevator doors and frame were baked enamel steel, painted a dark gray color which matched the passenger elevators (see Chapter V, Paint Analysis). Position indicators with directional arrows were centered above the elevator doors and call buttons were located 4'-0" above the floor.

The freight elevator lobby has had a new acoustical ceiling installed and elevator doors and frames have been painted.

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<sup>86</sup>"Typical Elevator Lobbies Elevations & Details," Sheet 5-39, April 1, 1965.

<sup>87</sup>Letter to John McShain, Inc. from T. L. Dunn, Chief, Design and Construction Division, June 24, 1968 re Credit Proposal No. 236.

<sup>88</sup>Letter to Mr. James R. Harris, Jr., Construction Engineer from John A. Glen, Nolen-Swinburne and Associates, March 14, 1968.

<sup>89</sup>Ibid.

Cafeteria

The ground floor of the building had an employee cafeteria dining room located along the entire west side of the building (Illus. No. 3-64). The west side of the room had floor to ceiling 3/8" polished plate glass windows set in black anodized aluminum frames. These windows overlooked the Ninth Street courtyard and L'Enfant Plaza. The main exterior cafeteria dining room entrance was centered on the east-west center line of the building in the glass wall (Illus. No. 3-19). It was flanked by a splayed exposed concrete wall and soffit which opened into the dining area. Each splayed wall enclosed a building column at its end. The entrance had two 1/4" clear polished glass and anodized aluminum frame doors and a 3/8" polished plate glass transom above the soffit. Across from this entrance was a pair of columns which were enclosed in plaster.

Two secondary exits with single 1/4" clear polished glass and anodized aluminum frame doors and frames also opened to the exterior. One was located 60'-0" north of the center line, and an identical one was placed 60'-0" south of the center line.<sup>90</sup> The door frames were set in exposed concrete frames with concrete headers above.

Original drawings show the east, north, and south interior walls were plaster with a three foot high ceramic mosaic tile wainscot (Illus. No. 3-20).<sup>91</sup> In the north and south walls, entrances with steel double doors set in steel frames led to the elevator lobbies; above the doors were exposed concrete panels. On the west wall were two openings which led from the north and south serving areas. Also on the west wall were pilasters at the location of each structural column, which also had a 3'-0" high ceramic mosaic tile wainscot and plaster above.

The 55 foot wide by 220 foot long eating area had two 30 foot long plaster walls dividing the dining room into three distinct spaces. Paired round exposed bushhammered concrete columns, 2'-10" in diameter, ran the length of the room, creating a natural corridor through the space.

According to the original color, the plaster walls were originally painted white (color #27875). The exterior wall space between the windows and around the three entrances on the west entrance and the north and south entrances were exposed concrete.

According to the original finish schedule, the cafeteria dining room was originally to have had 9" x 9" olive green travertine vinyl asbestos tile flooring. However, during construction a decision was made by the Deputy Commissioner of the Public Buildings

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<sup>90</sup>Letter to John McShain, Inc. from Thomas A. Bradford, Construction Engineer, May 5, 1966.

<sup>91</sup>"Cafeteria: Elevations & Details," Sheet 5-38, April 1, 1965.

Service of the General Services Administration to carpet the room instead.<sup>92</sup> A photograph of the space when the building was first completed shows dark colored carpeting (Illus. No. 3-64).

Original ceilings were 24" x 24" rough finished acoustical tile, 3/4" "Glacier Acoustone" manufactured by U.S. Gypsum Company.<sup>93</sup> This was interrupted by vents and ceiling mounted light fixtures. The fixtures consisted of 84 3'-6" diameter shallow flat finish baked white enamel reflector recessed into the ceiling with a faceted aluminum pendant mounted bulb (Illus. No. 3-64). These are shown as Fixture Type "G" on the original drawings (Illus. No. 3-27).<sup>94</sup> Four recessed incandescent wall washers, Fixture Type H-1, were cast into the concrete soffit above the west cafeteria entrance.

A contract amendment was issued to Breuer and Swinburne for "setting-up stands and water stations; selection of all furnishings; color coordination of all furnishings and surfaces; and selection of drapery material for the cafeteria."<sup>95</sup> The cafeteria table tops were specified to be "Micarta #86M34 grey micromesh low-glare" plastic laminate.<sup>96</sup> The water stations had a satin finish stainless steel top, Micarta No. 91-M-18 Oxford Gray Satin finish access panels on the ends, and hinges doors on the sides. The units contained water stations, silverware holders and condiment dispensers with integral tray sides.<sup>97</sup>

Almost all of the original fabric in the cafeteria has been modified or altered: two 30 foot partition walls have been removed; carpeting, furnishings, ceilings and light fixtures have been replaced; original exposed concrete columns have been painted and wooden capitals added; the main entrance to the exterior has been closed off and made into a cart storage area; and secondary exits to the courtyard have been locked.

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<sup>92</sup>Confirmation of Approval of Change Order No. 57 to Assistant Commissioner for Design and Construction from Roy S. Eckert, Regional Director, Public Buildings Service, October 11, 1968 and letter to Mr. J. Rowland Snyder from John A. Glen, Nolen-Swinburne and Associates, April 5, 1967.

<sup>93</sup>Letter to U.S. Acoustics, Inc. from U.S. Gypsum Company, May 8, 1968.

<sup>94</sup>Drawing 9-E-51, Lighting Fixture Details - Sheet No. 1, April 14, 1965.

<sup>95</sup>Letter to Marcel Breuer & Associates and Nolen, Swinburne and Associates from General Services Administration, October 21, 1966, Project No. 49924, Amendment No. 8, in the amount of \$9,750.00, Papers of Marcel Breuer, Box 13, National Archives of American Art. According to the letter, all furniture, floor coverings and draperies were to be selected from the Federal Supply Catalogue.

<sup>96</sup>Memo re Job Visit - March 8, 1968 by Herbert Beckhard, Marcel Breuer and Associates.

<sup>97</sup>Drawings No. CW-2 and CW-3, (no title), June 2, 1967, GSA Drawing Nos. 366 and 367, Robert L. Cahn Associates.

### Serving Areas

Two serving areas and the kitchen occupied the east half of the first floor between the north and south entrances. The two serving areas were located north and south of the kitchen and led from the north and south lobbies into the cafeteria. The original finish schedule specified both the walls and five round building columns located in the serving areas of each area to be 1" x 1" white ceramic mosaic tile laid in a vertical ashlar pattern with white joints 8'-2" high, plaster walls above painted white (color #17875), and acoustic aluminum ceilings. Doors were wood with steel frames. Although the flooring was originally specified to be 9" x 9" olive green travertine vinyl asbestos tile, during construction a change order was issued to make the areas behind the serving areas quarry tile with the rest of the floor to be "Provincetown Blue" vinyl asbestos tile.<sup>98</sup>

The original vinyl asbestos tile flooring in the serving areas has been replaced and new automatic control gates and railings have been added.

### Cafeteria Kitchen

The kitchen was centrally located on the eastern portion of the ground floor with a serving area at each end. It had 6" x 6" fawn gray quarry tile floors with gray joints; 4-1/4" x 4-1/4" white high gloss ceramic tile walls six feet high with white portland cement grout joints in a vertical ashlar pattern, with a bullnose cap; plaster walls; rectangular columns running the length of the room; and an acoustic aluminum ceiling. The walls were originally painted white (color #17875).

Minor renovations were made to the cafeteria kitchen in 1984. This included alterations to the men's and women's restrooms and new doors to the women's room and dry storage area.<sup>99</sup>

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<sup>98</sup>Letter to Mr. Gus Bengtson, Chief, Design & Construction Division, GSA from John A. Glen, Nolen-Swinburne and Associates, July 17, 1967.

<sup>99</sup>"Remodel Cafeteria Kitchen," Drawings 5-A-1 and 3-A-1, March 28, 1984.

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**FLOORS 2-10**Upper Floor Elevator Lobbies

The walls of the upper level north and south elevator lobby walls were similar to the first floor north and south lobbies, with bush-hammered concrete with formwork marks and horizontal and vertical chamfered concrete pour joints (Illus. No. 3-21). Horizontal joints were located 5'-0" from the floor. The bases were 4" high recessed smooth finish concrete. The floors were 12" x 12" gray random spatter smooth surface vinyl asbestos tile, Color No. 79AV-1 Centurian, manufactured by the John Manville Company.<sup>100</sup> The ceiling in front of the elevators was white sand finished plaster @ 10'-6" above the floor. The plaster ceiling at both sides of the elevators sloped down to meet the lower corridor ceiling. Above the recessed bank of elevators doors was a concrete soffit, above which were fluorescent lights to indirectly light the higher lobby ceiling. Cast into the soffit are four recessed light fixtures. These recessed incandescent fixtures are not shown on the original drawings but are similar to Fixture Type F (Illus. No. 3-26). The baked enamel steel elevator doors and frames were originally painted a dark gray (see Chapter V, Paint Analysis).<sup>101</sup> Above each door was mounted a rectangular single stainless steel plate with plastic "UP" and "DOWN" indicator arrows and a gong. Call buttons were located centered between the elevator doors, 4'-0" from the floor.

Typical original service spaces in the core areas surrounding the elevators included a dual bank telephone alcove, mail chute, fire extinguisher cabinet, vending alcove (in the north core area only), janitor's closet, mechanical closet, drinking fountain, and two pairs of men's and women's restrooms, one on either side of the elevator banks.

Large floor to ceiling color photomurals were added in 1972, several years after the completion of the building, on the walls opposite the elevator lobbies on the second through tenth floors. Although these were specified on the original tenant space drawings,<sup>102</sup> another drawing from 1972 showing framing details and location indicates that the murals were not installed until this time.<sup>103</sup> The original murals depicted Urban Development and Housing themes; these gave way during Secretary Kemp's

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<sup>100</sup>This tile was approved for use in all areas of the building to have vinyl flooring except the cafeteria, staff dining room, serving areas and snack bar. Letter to Mr. Charles Blumenthal, John McShain, Inc. from O.B. Printz, Printz Floor Company, November 13, 1967.

<sup>101</sup>Drawing 5-2, "Color Schedule," April 14, 1965.

<sup>102</sup>"Architectural - Second Floor Plan" through Architectural - Tenth Floor Plan," 11-202 - 11-210, December 23, 1966.

<sup>103</sup>"Mural Location Plan," no drawing number, June 1, 1972.

administration to public monuments and patriotic symbols.<sup>104</sup> The murals were designed to be interchangeable between the north and south banks.

#### Freight Elevator Lobbies

Freight elevators were located in the northeast and southwest core areas of the building, behind the passenger elevator banks and core stairways. The freight elevator lobbies on each floor had 12" x 12" gray random spatter smooth surface vinyl asbestos tile flooring, Color No. 79AV-1 Centurian, manufactured by the John Manville Company.<sup>105</sup> They also had four inch vinyl bases, exposed concrete walls, and 12" x 12" acoustical tile splined ceilings. The elevator doors and frames were baked enamel steel, painted a dark gray color matching the passenger elevators (see Chapter V, Paint Analysis). Position indicators with directional arrows were centered above the elevator doors and call buttons were located to the right of the elevator doors, 4'-0" above the floor.

The lobbies have new acoustical tile ceilings installed in 1991-1992; the elevator doors and frames were also repainted in 1994.

#### Public Toilet Rooms

A pair of men's and women's toilet rooms were located on the north side of the north elevator lobby and the south side of the south elevator lobby on the second through tenth floors. The toilet rooms had painted steel doors with steel frames opening into a vestibule, dark gray 1" x 1" unglazed ceramic mosaic tile floors with gray portland cement grout, 4-1/4" x 4-1/4" light gray ceramic tile walls set in a vertical ashlar pattern with white grout joints, plaster walls and ceilings above, steel-enameled toilet partitions and white porcelain fixtures with wall hung sinks. According to the original color schedule, the walls were originally painted gray (color #26440), while the ceilings were painted white (color #37886) (see Chapter V, Paint Analysis).

#### Telephone Alcoves

Dual bank telephone alcoves were located in the elevator lobbies on the second through tenth floors, on the north side of the south elevator lobbies and the south side of the north elevator lobbies. The alcoves had acoustical tile ceilings with recessed fluorescent lights,

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<sup>104</sup>Jay Maurice Thai, "Reconnecting - HUD's Staff, Mission, and Building - Thoughts Following the Painting of Concrete," n.p., n.d.

<sup>105</sup>This tile was approved for use in all areas of the building to have vinyl flooring except the cafeteria, staff dining room, serving areas and snack bar. Letter to Mr. Charles Blumenthal, John McShain, Inc. from O.B. Printz, Printz Floor Company, November 13, 1967.

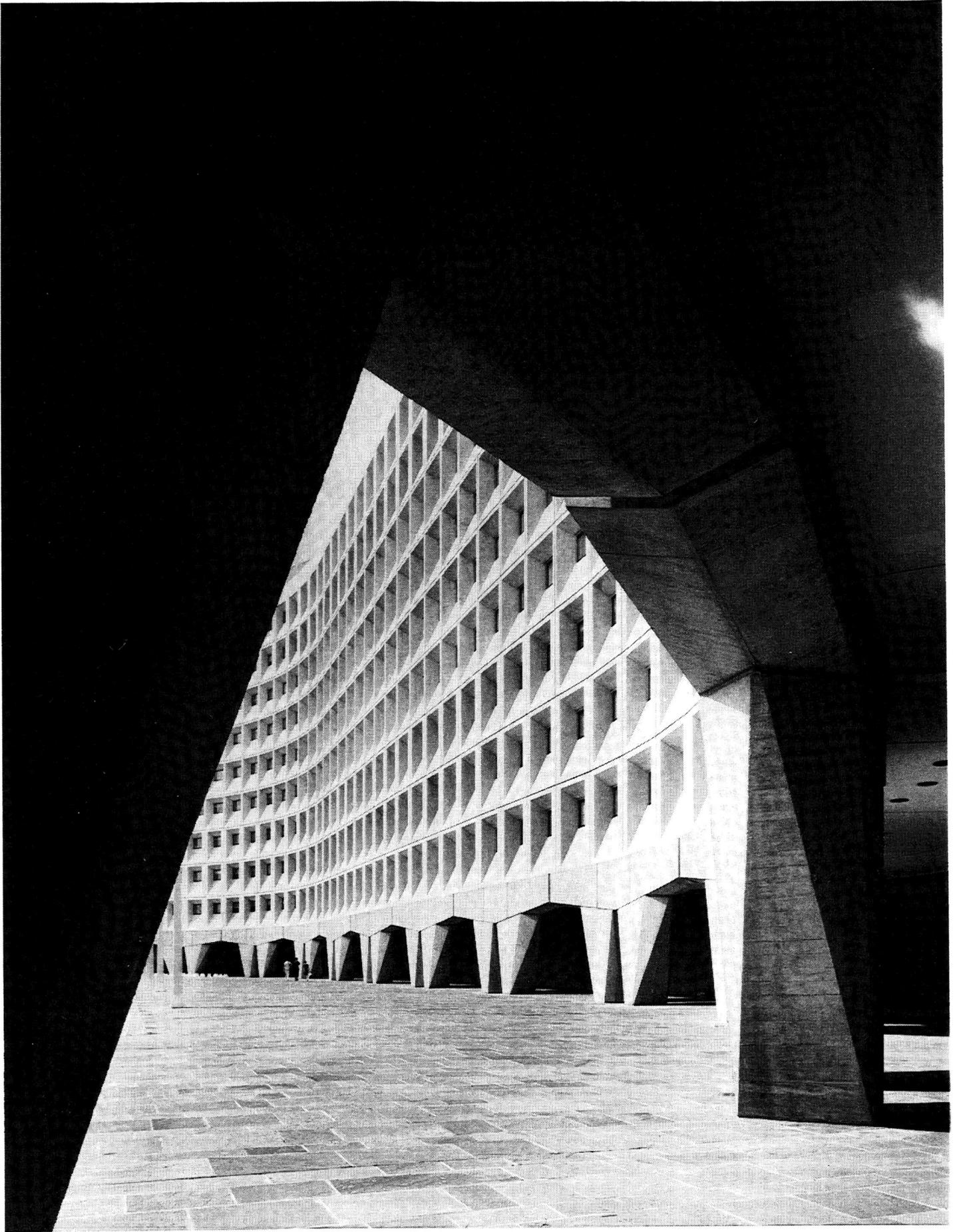


Illustration No. 3-49

Subject: Housing and Urban Development Building, Seventh Street (East)  
Elevation

Date: Unknown

Description: Concrete "banner" which sits perpendicular to its base. Note lights mounted on rear of the banner which light the building, lights on the base of the banner which light the front of the banner, and the original 55-lamp fixture to the left.

Photographer: Ben Schnall, Hewlett, New York

Source: Box 23, Papers of Marcel Breuer, National Archives of American Art Storage Facility (also located in General Services Administration Technical Resources Center, 7th and D Streets SW, Washington, DC).



Illustration No. 3-50

Subject: Housing and Urban Development Building, Seventh Street (East)  
Elevation

Date: Unknown

Description: Back view of "banner" showing 64 1000-watt lights mounted on rear.

Photographer: Ben Schnall, Hewlett, New York

Source: Box 23, Papers of Marcel Breuer, National Archives of American Art Storage Facility (also located in General Services Administration Technical Resources Center, 7th and D Streets SW, Washington, DC).



Illustration No. 3-51

Subject: Housing and Urban Development Building, Seventh Street (East)  
Elevation

Date: 1968

Description: View looking north under colonnade/arcade area formed by tree columns and building wall, adjacent to the plaza. Note the bluestone flagging, rough surface of the tree columns, and recessed lights, vent and access panels in the plaster cement ceiling.

Photographer: Ben Schnall, Hewlett, New York

Source: Box 23, Papers of Marcel Breuer, National Archives of American Art Storage Facility (also located in General Services Administration Technical Resources Center, 7th and D Streets SW, Washington, DC).



Illustration No. 3-52

Subject: Housing and Urban Development Building

Date: 1968

Description: Facade detail looking up from top of tree columns. Note change in mullion dimension from wide at bottom to narrow to wide at the top; this was done to reflect changes in both structural and mechanical requirements.

Photographer: Ben Schnall, Hewlett, New York

Source: Box 23, Papers of Marcel Breuer, National Archives of American Art Storage Facility (also located in General Services Administration Technical Resources Center, 7th and D Streets SW, Washington, DC).

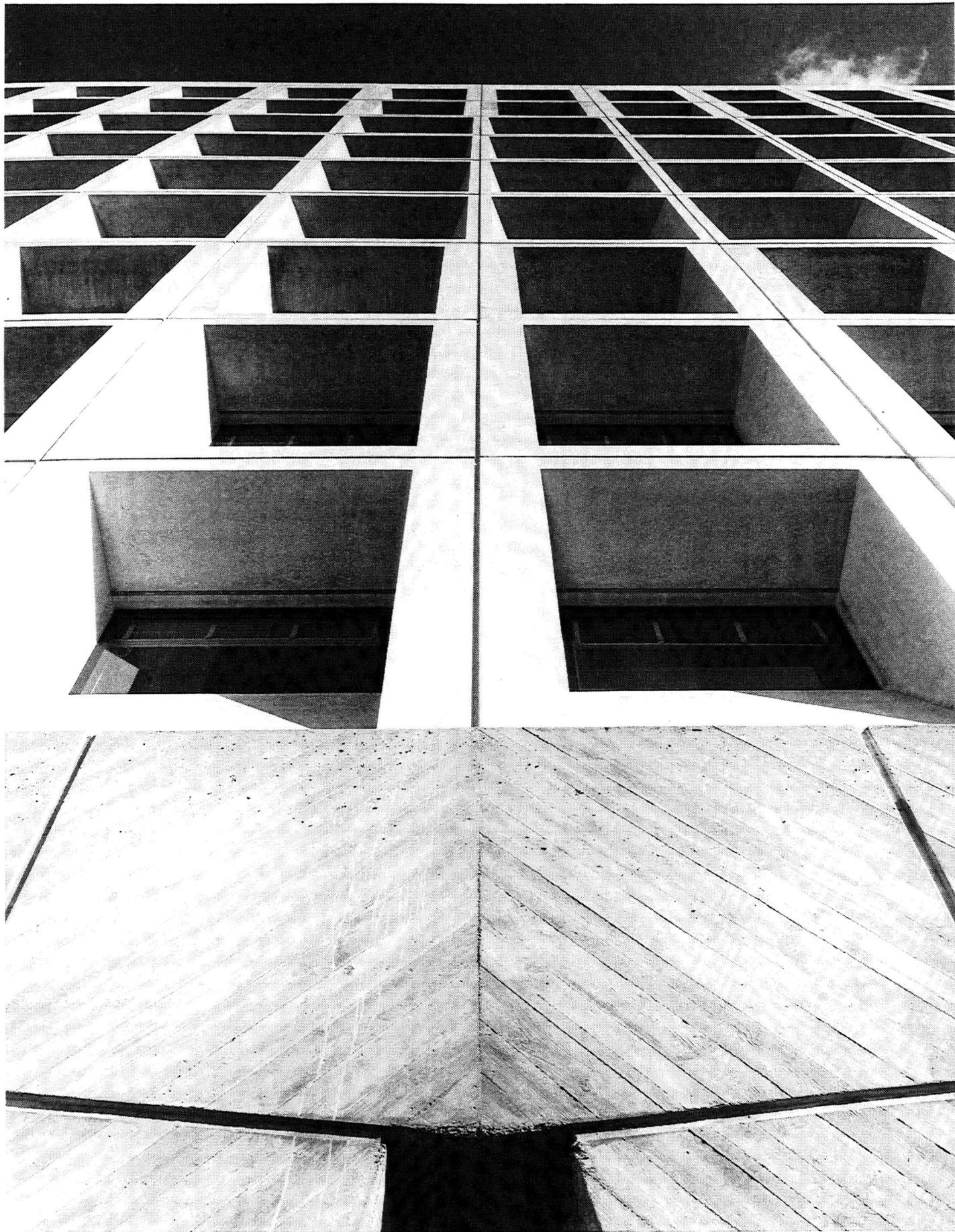


Illustration No. 3-53

Subject: Housing and Urban Development Building

Date: 1968

Description: Facade detail showing one of forty-four paired precast concrete tree columns which surround and support the building.

Photographer: Ben Schnall, Hewlett, New York

Source: Box 23, Papers of Marcel Breuer, National Archives of American Art Storage Facility (also located in General Services Administration Technical Resources Center, 7th and D Streets SW, Washington, DC).

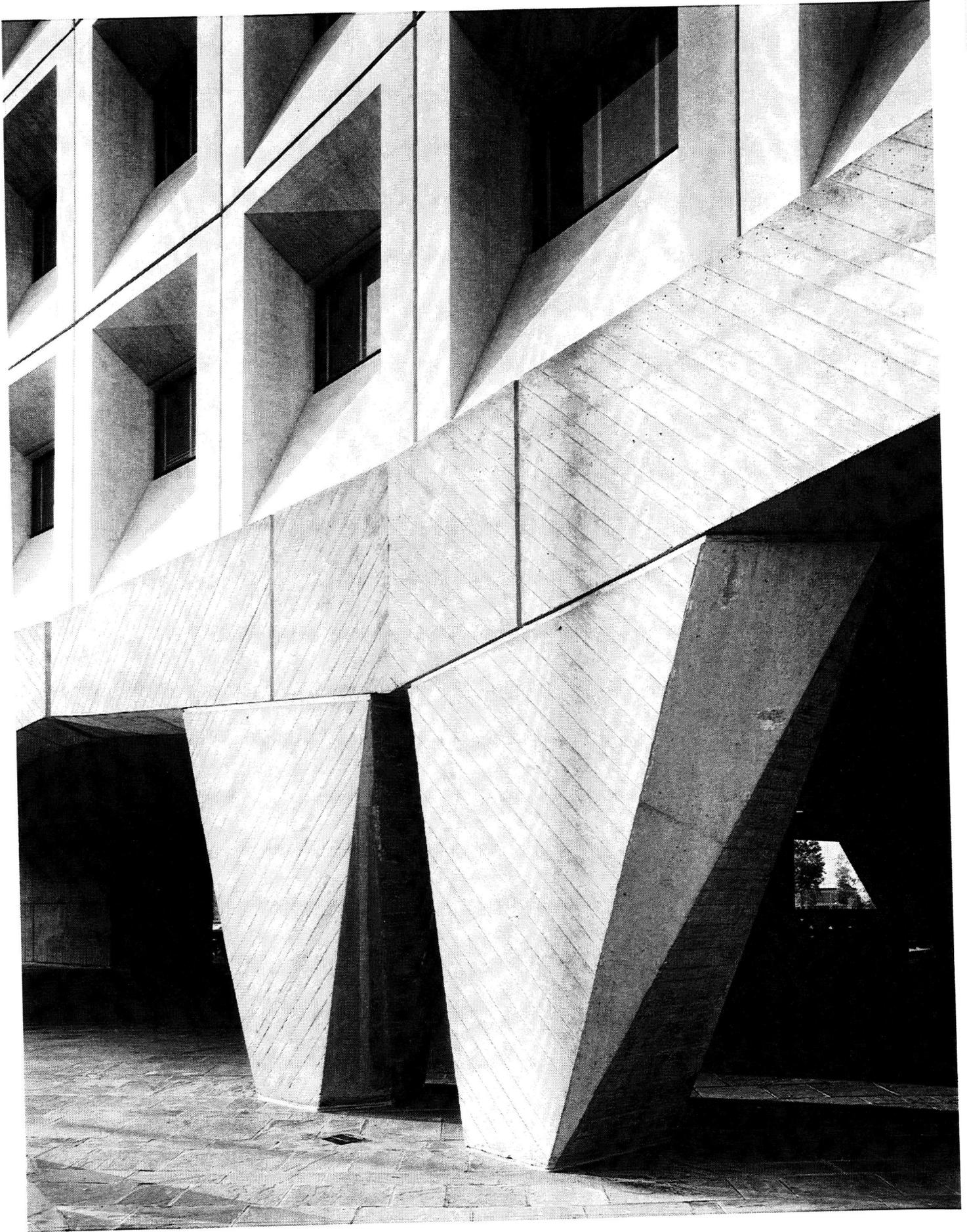


Illustration No. 3-54

Subject: Housing and Urban Development Building, E Street (South)  
Elevation

Date: 1968

Description: East end of elevation, looking west, showing south facade and outdoor parking spaces. Note the curved facade with granite faced end wall in the foreground, asphalt paved parking area with landscaped island, and concrete stanchions on either side of the tree columns, used to protect pedestrians and automobiles from bumping into the columns.

Photographer: Ben Schnall, Hewlett, New York

Source: Box 23, Papers of Marcel Breuer, National Archives of American Art Storage Facility (also located in General Services Administration Technical Resources Center, 7th and D Streets SW, Washington, DC).

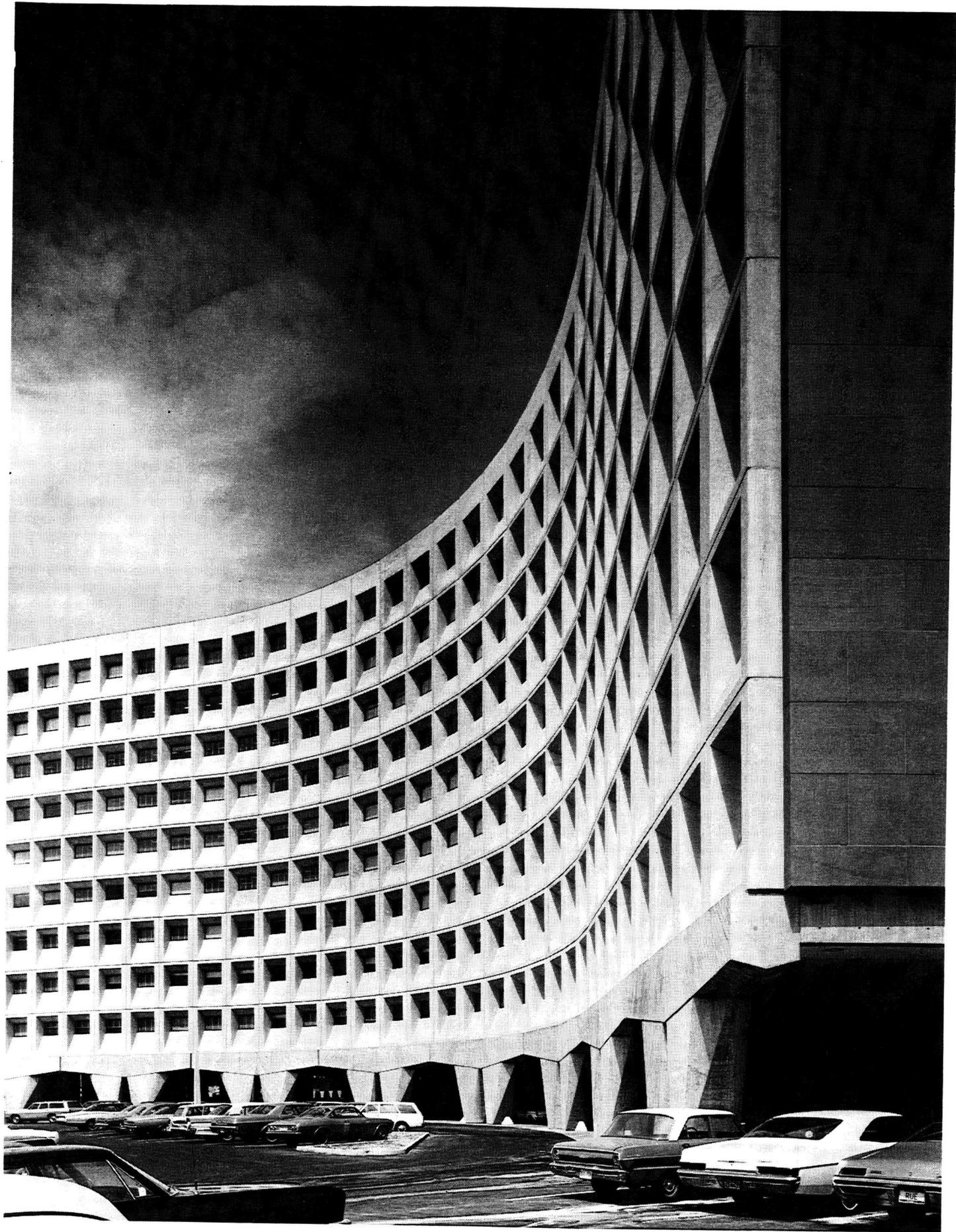


Illustration No. 3-55

Subject: Housing and Urban Development Building, E Street (South)  
Elevation

Date: 1968

Description: View looking west from under southeast end wall, showing facade, asphalt paved driveway and parking area adjacent to bluestone flagging, concrete light standard in landscaped area, and concrete stanchions protecting tree columns. The Southwest Freeway can be seen in the background. Asphalt paving was shown on the original drawings for both driveway and parking areas outside the building pilotis, with bluestone paving beneath the pilotis.

Photographer: Ben Schnall, Hewlett, New York

Source: Box 23, Papers of Marcel Breuer, National Archives of American Art Storage Facility (also located in General Services Administration Technical Resources Center, 7th and D Streets SW, Washington, DC).

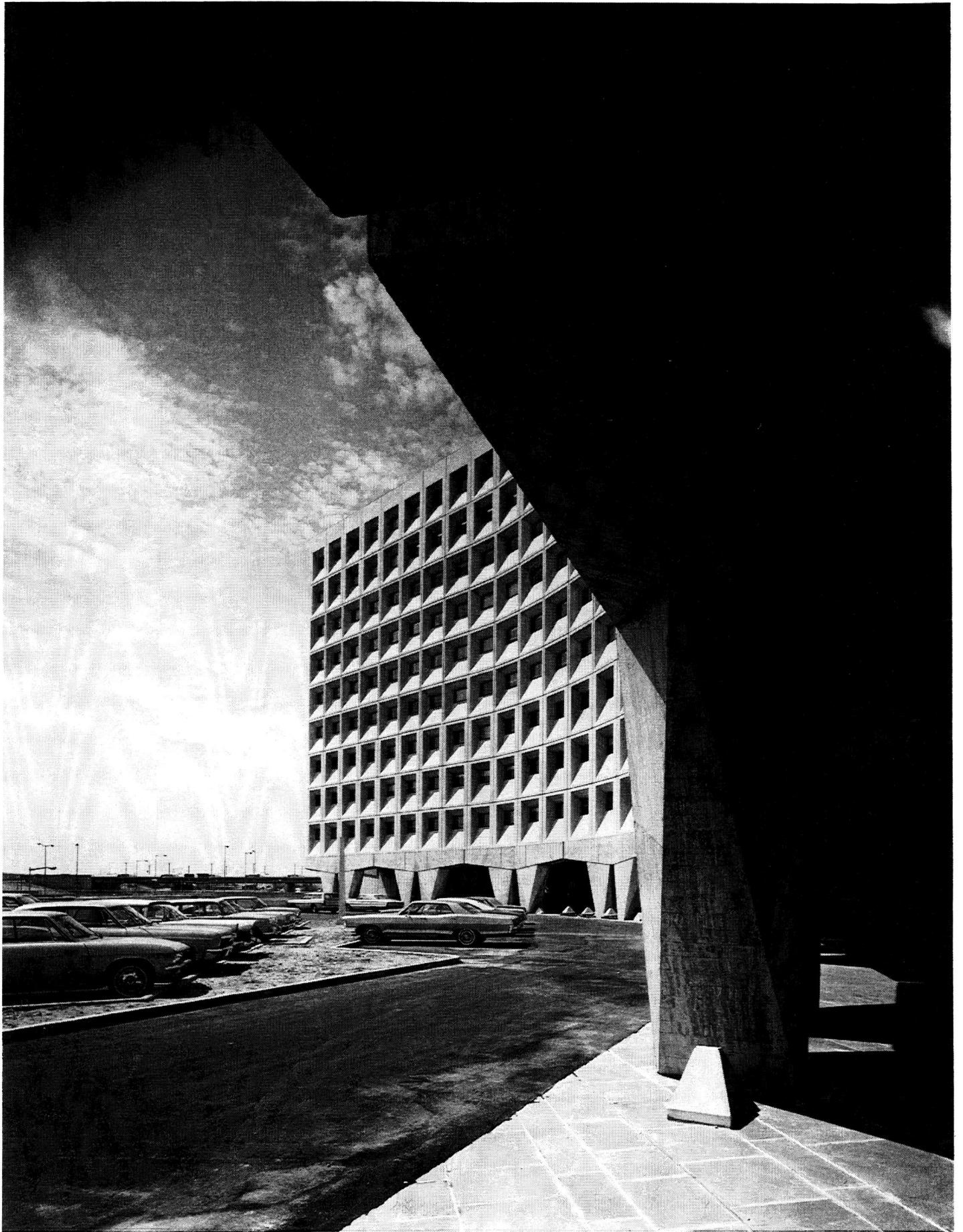


Illustration No. 3-56

Subject: Housing and Urban Development Building, E Street (South)  
Elevation

Date: 1968

Description: View looking north at southwest corner of building showing entrance to loading dock area located below grade off frontage/service road. Note how entrance is centered between tree columns.

Photographer: Ben Schnall, Hewlett, New York

Source: Box 23, Papers of Marcel Breuer, National Archives of American Art Storage Facility (also located in General Services Administration Technical Resources Center, 7th and D Streets SW, Washington, DC).

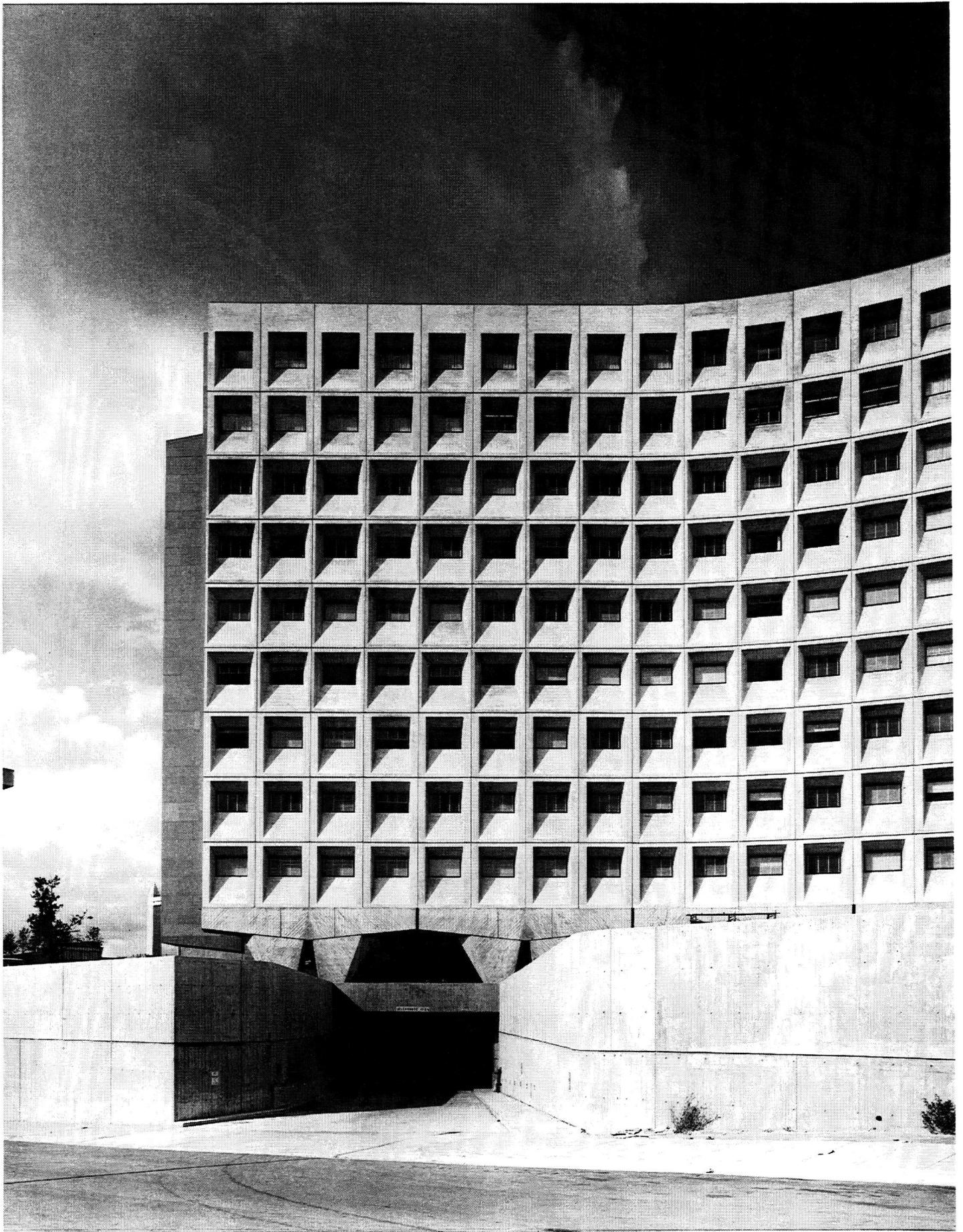


Illustration No. 3-57

Subject: Housing and Urban Development Building, Ninth Street (West)  
Elevation

Date: 1968

Description: View looking northeast, with south elevation to the right. Note the curvature of the west elevation, the granite faced end walls and protruding stair tower, and the concrete retaining wall on right.

Photographer: Ben Schnall, Hewlett, New York

Source: Box 23, Papers of Marcel Breuer, National Archives of American Art Storage Facility (also located in General Services Administration Technical Resources Center, 7th and D Streets SW, Washington, DC).

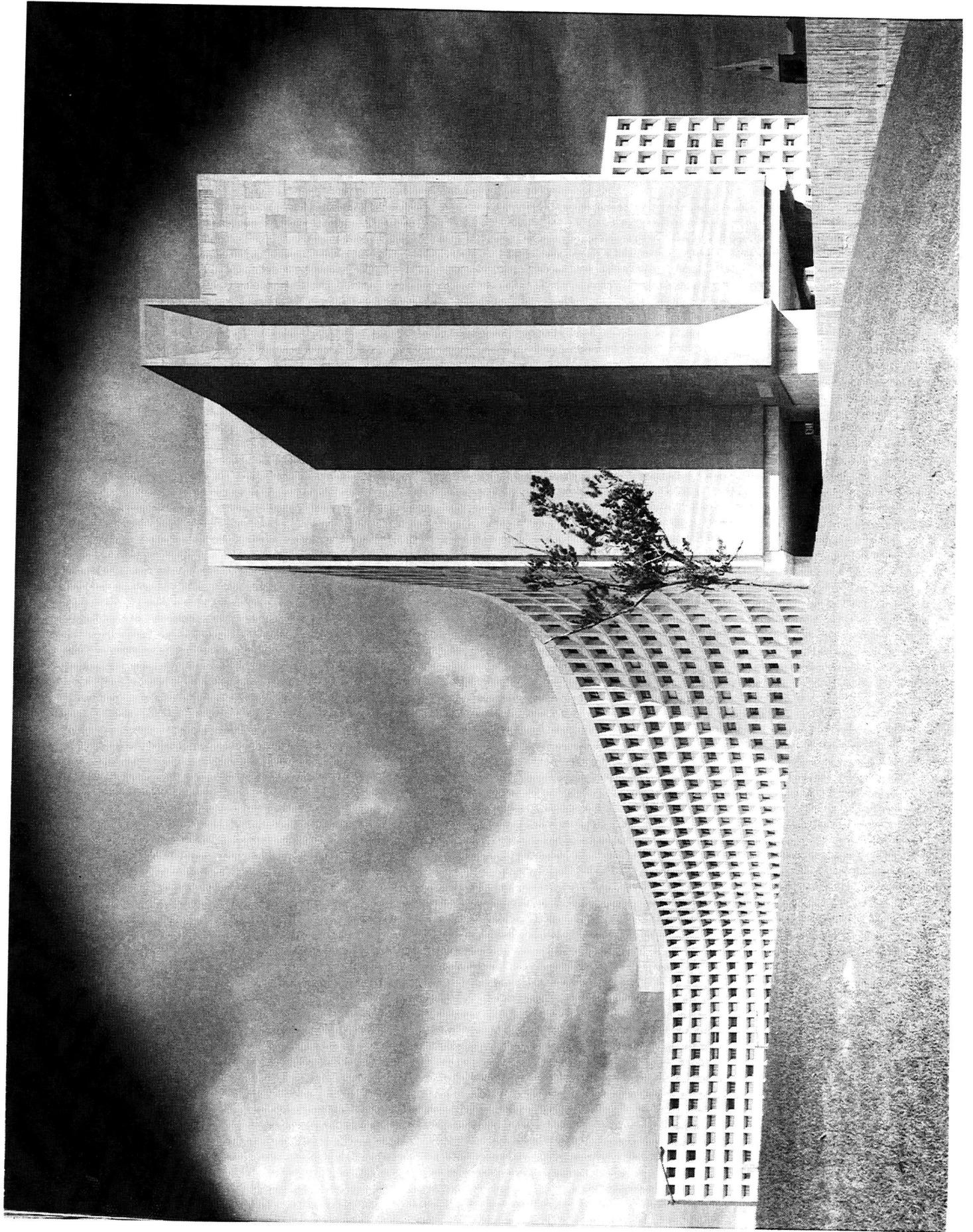


Illustration No. 3-58

Subject: Housing and Urban Development Building, Ninth Street (West)  
Elevation

Date: 1968

Description: View looking south under colonnade with tree columns on right, bluestone flagging, and view through glass and black anodized aluminum curtain wall into cafeteria on the left (note original furniture and ceiling light fixtures). The building has three entrances into the cafeteria, two single doors and a double door entrance; all have been closed off except for emergency egress.

Photographer: Ben Schnall, Hewlett, New York

Source: Box 23, Papers of Marcel Breuer, National Archives of American Art Storage Facility (also located in General Services Administration Technical Resources Center, 7th and D Streets SW, Washington, DC).



Illustration No. 3-59

Subject: Housing and Urban Development Building, Seventh Street (East) and D Street (North) Elevations

Date: 1968

Description: View looking southwest with Seventh Street (east) elevation on the left, granite faced end wall and stair tower in center, and D Street (north) elevation on the right. Note five-level triangular concrete blocks along D Street (north) elevation which were used on both the north and south elevations to block the parking areas from view. The section along D Street closest to Seventh Street has been removed.

Photographer: Ben Schnall, Hewlett, New York

Source: Box 23, Papers of Marcel Breuer, National Archives of American Art Storage Facility (also located in General Services Administration Technical Resources Center, 7th and D Streets SW, Washington, DC).

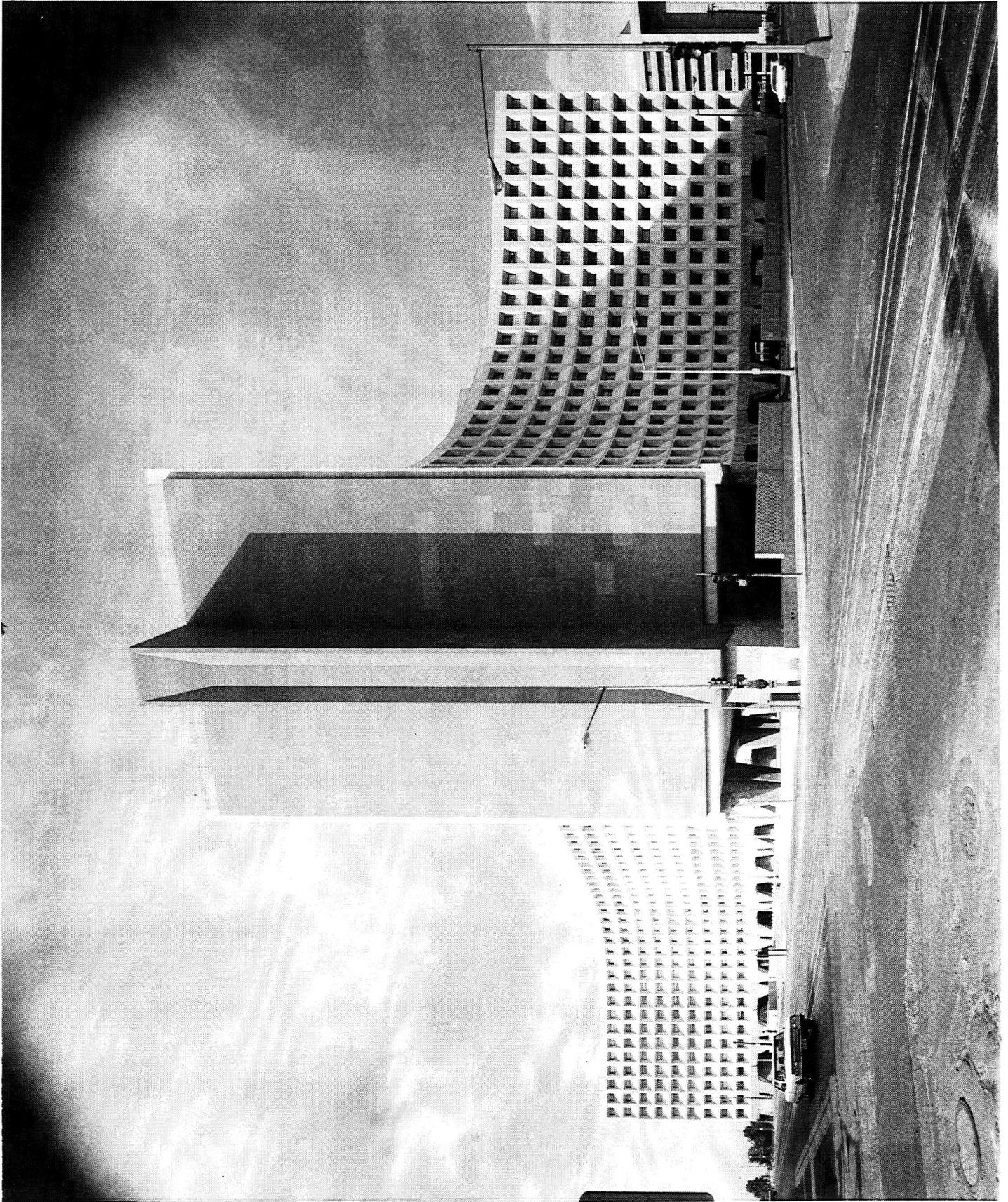


Illustration No. 3-60

Subject: Housing and Urban Development Building, Southeast (Main)  
Entrance Lobby

Date: 1968

Description: View looking southeast. Note bush-hammered aggregate concrete walls, bluestone floors, natural anodized aluminum "Great Seals," guard's observation window, granite guard's desk, white cement plaster ceiling with recessed light fixtures in lighting trough, and clock.

Photographer: Ben Schnall, Hewlett, New York

Source: Box 23, Papers of Marcel Breuer, National Archives of American Art Storage Facility (also located in General Services Administration Technical Resources Center, 7th and D Streets SW, Washington, DC).

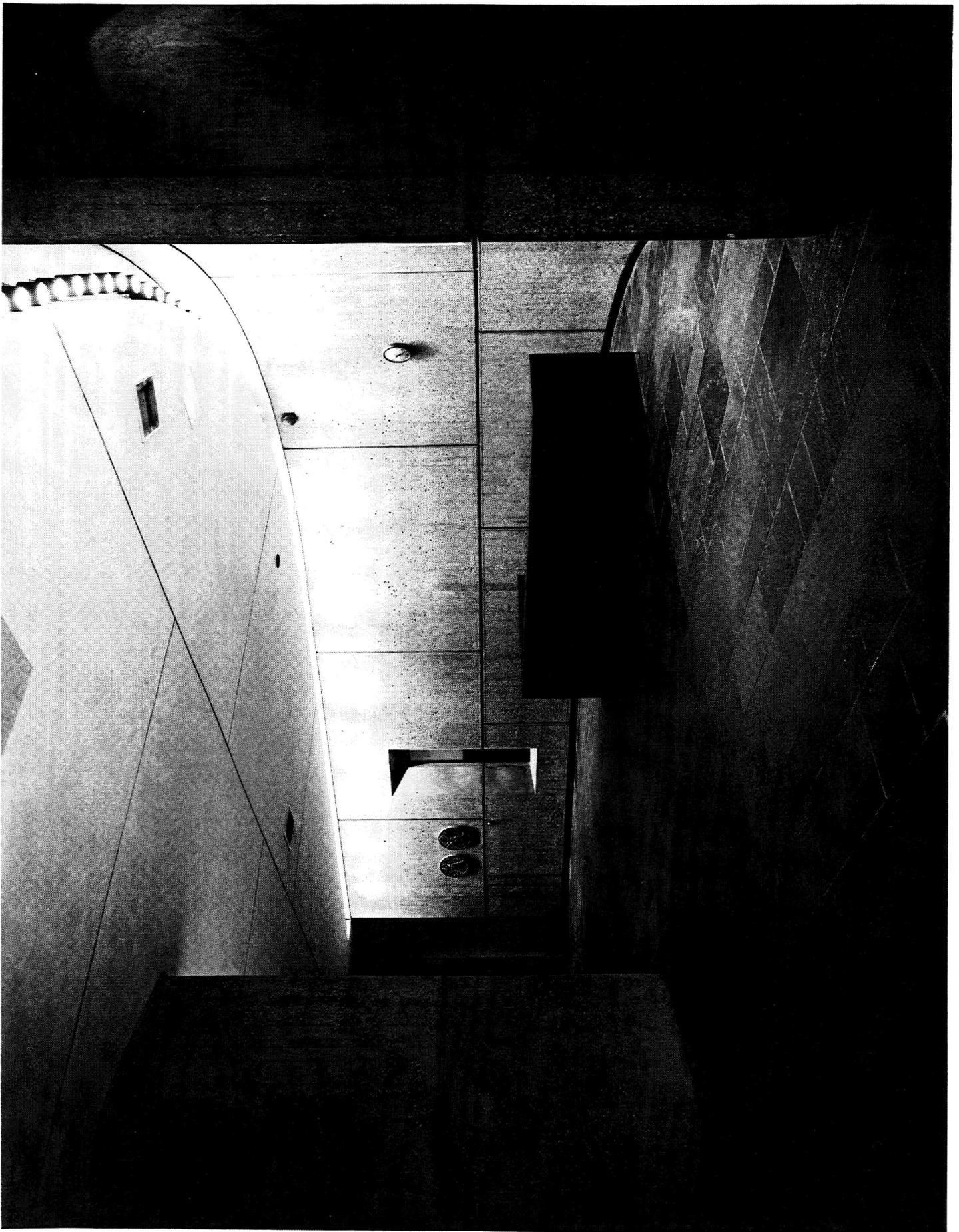


Illustration No. 3-61

Subject: Housing and Urban Development Building, South Elevator Lobby

Date: 1968

Description: View looking west, showing exposed bush-hammered aggregate concrete walls, entrance doors on west elevation, entry to telephone alcove, four elevator banks with doors painted dark gray, wall mounted stainless steel ashtray, single elevator "UP" and "DOWN" indicator lights, mail box and splayed side of the directory board surround. Note also white cement plaster ceiling with recessed lights and diffusers.

Photographer: Ben Schnall, Hewlett, New York

Source: Box 23, Papers of Marcel Breuer, National Archives of American Art Storage Facility (also located in General Services Administration Technical Resources Center, 7th and D Streets SW, Washington, DC).



Illustration No. 3-62

Subject: Housing and Urban Development Building, South Elevator Lobby

Date: 1968

Description: Bronze bust set in niche of Catherine Wurster, a pioneer in public housing and other urban programs in America, made by her friend sculptor-architect Oscar Stonorov. Just past the bust are the vestibules leading to the restrooms.

Photographer: Ben Schnall, Hewlett, New York

Source: Box 23, Papers of Marcel Breuer, National Archives of American Art Storage Facility (also located in General Services Administration Technical Resources Center, 7th and D Streets SW, Washington, DC).

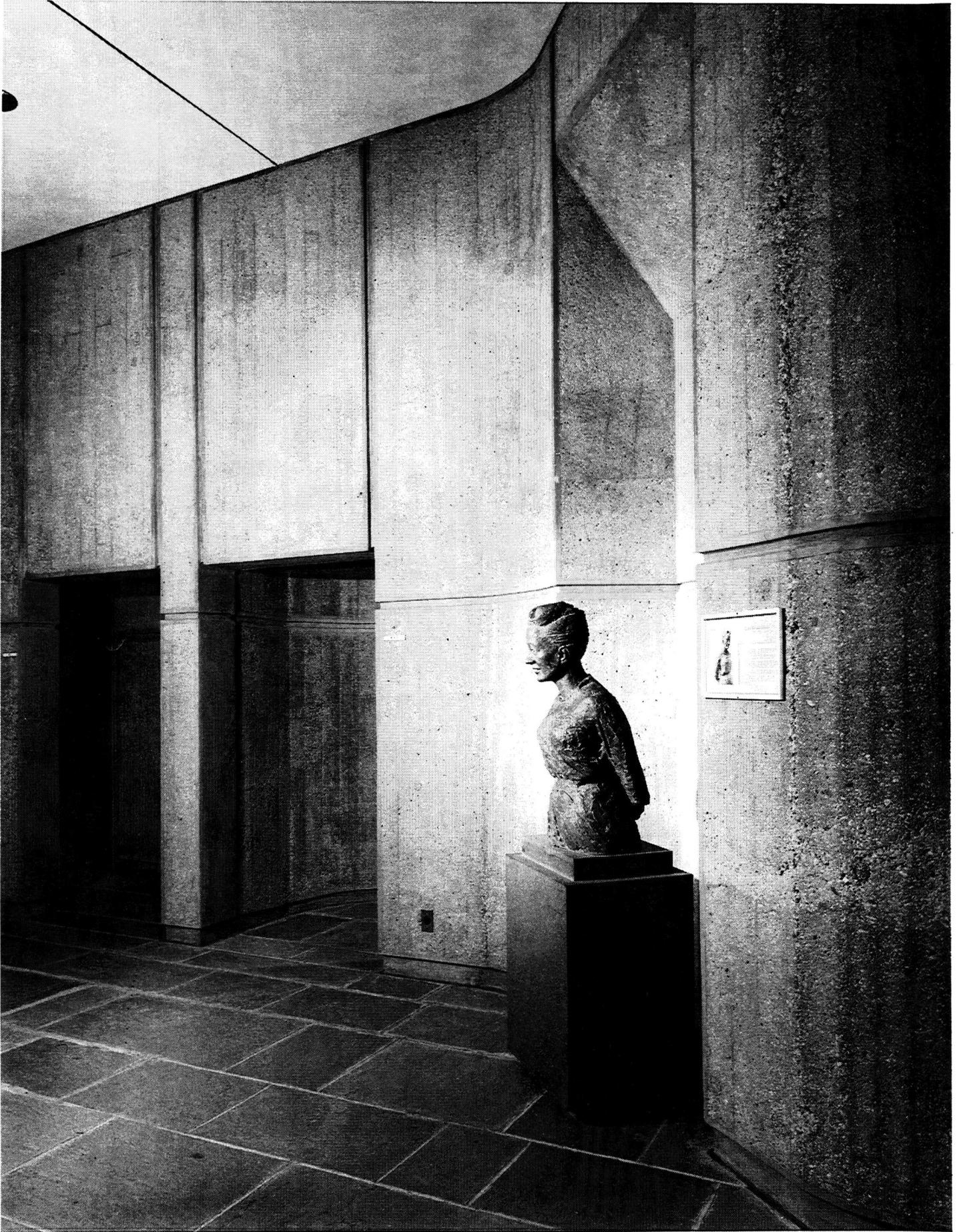


Illustration No. 3-63

Subject: Housing and Urban Development Building, Northeast Entrance Lobby

Date: 1968

Description: View looking west into elevator lobby. Note bush-hammered aggregate concrete walls, bluestone floors, white cement plaster ceiling with recessed light fixtures, diffusers, and recessed lighting trough along the curved wall, recessed black anodized aluminum finished mail box, and elevator doors with single indicator "UP" and "DOWN" lights above each door. To the left is the lounge area; the edge of the display case can be seen.

Photographer: Ben Schnall, Hewlett, New York

Source: Box 23, Papers of Marcel Breuer, National Archives of American Art Storage Facility (also located in General Services Administration Technical Resources Center, 7th and D Streets SW, Washington, DC).

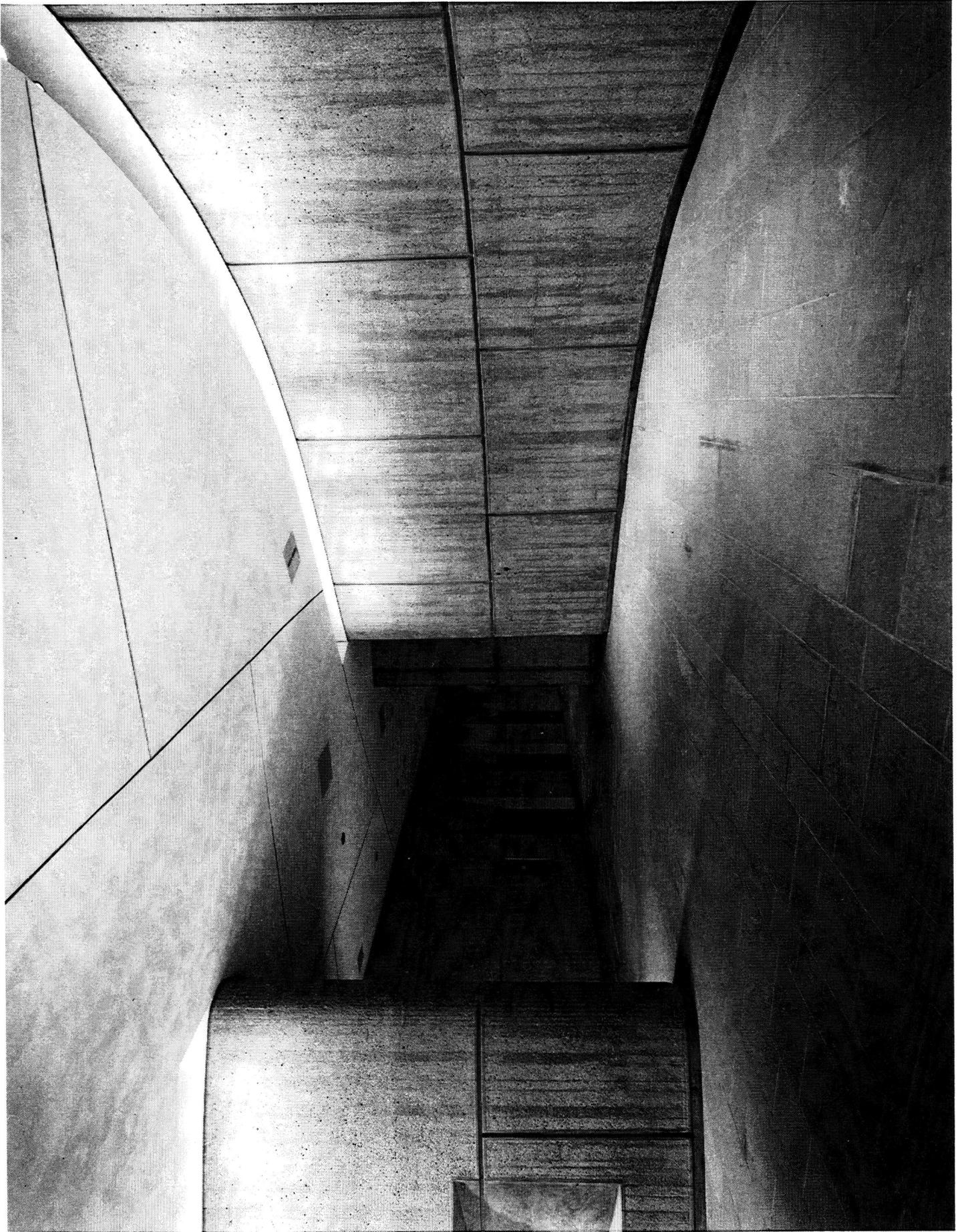


Illustration No. 3-64

Subject: Housing and Urban Development Building, Cafeteria

Date: 1968

Description: View looking south. To the right is the black anodized aluminum and glass curtain wall looking out onto the west elevation courtyard. Note the exposed aggregate concrete columns, plaster wall separating the eating area on the left, black carpeting, and 12" x 12" splined acoustical tile ceilings with ceiling mounted light fixtures. There were 84 original light fixtures recessed into the ceiling: 3'-6" diameter shallow dome reflectors with a flat white baked enamel finish with faceted aluminum over a pendant mounted bulb, shown as Type "G" on the original drawings.

Photographer: Ben Schnall, Hewlett, New York

Source: Box 23, Papers of Marcel Breuer, National Archives of American Art Storage Facility (also located in General Services Administration Technical Resources Center, 7th and D Streets SW, Washington, DC).

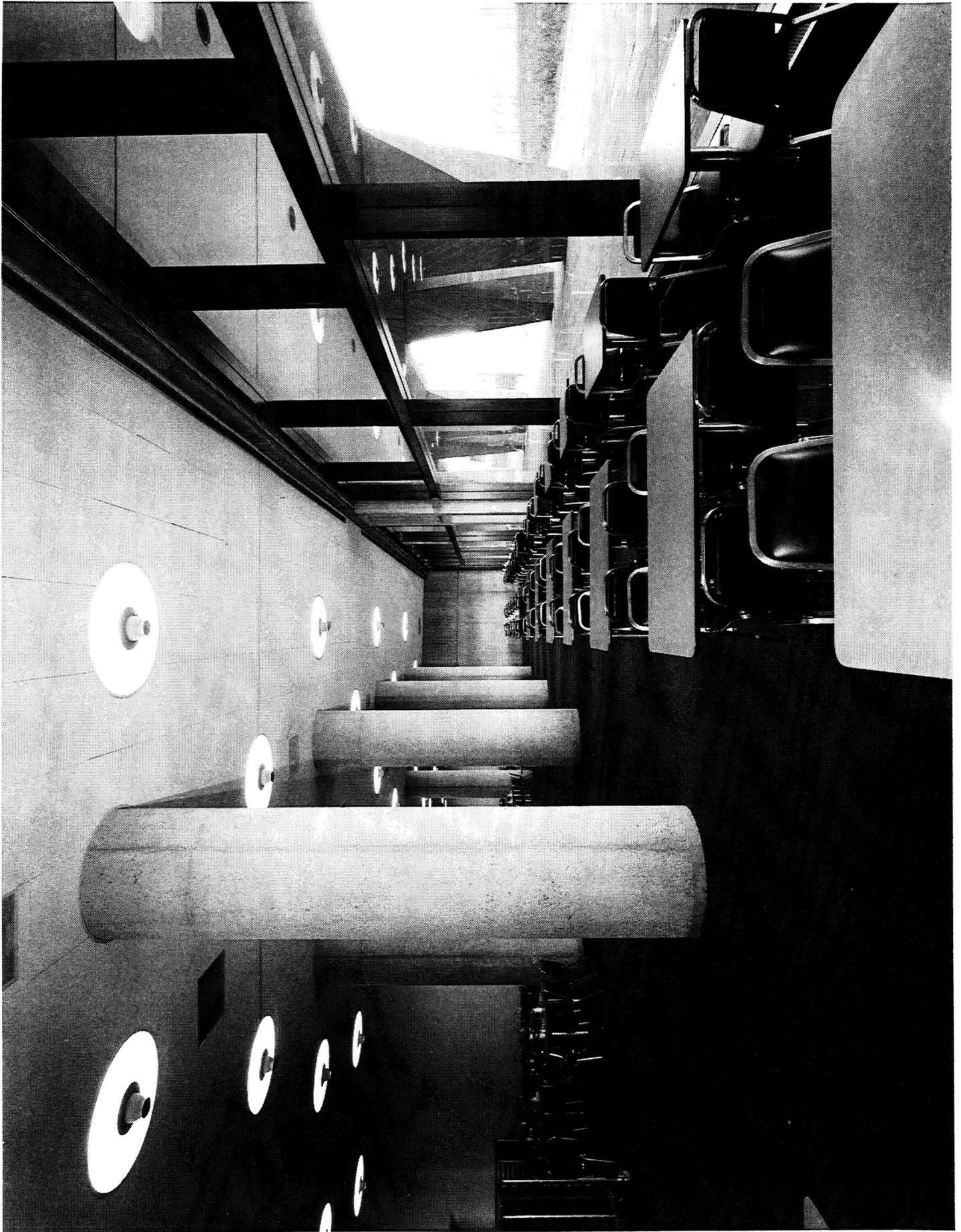


Illustration No. 3-65

Subject: Housing and Urban Development Building, Library (Room #8141)

Date: 1968

Description: Typical interior space. Note the rough finish acoustical tile ceiling with ceiling mounted PCB fluorescent light fixtures and diffusers. Original light fixtures also served as return air registers. The floor was a 12" x 12" gray vinyl asbestos tile floor which was covered with black carpet except at the far edge with a 4 inch vinyl gray cove base. Windows are vertical pivot black anodized aluminum window units with 2 inch wide Venetian blinds with 1-1/2 inch gray tapes and gray nylon cords. Mechanical units with registers and access panels are located below each window.

Photographer: Ben Schnall, Hewlett, New York

Source: Box 23, Papers of Marcel Breuer, National Archives of American Art Storage Facility (also located in General Services Administration Technical Resources Center, 7th and D Streets SW, Washington, DC).

