

ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN

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*Inaugural
Issue*

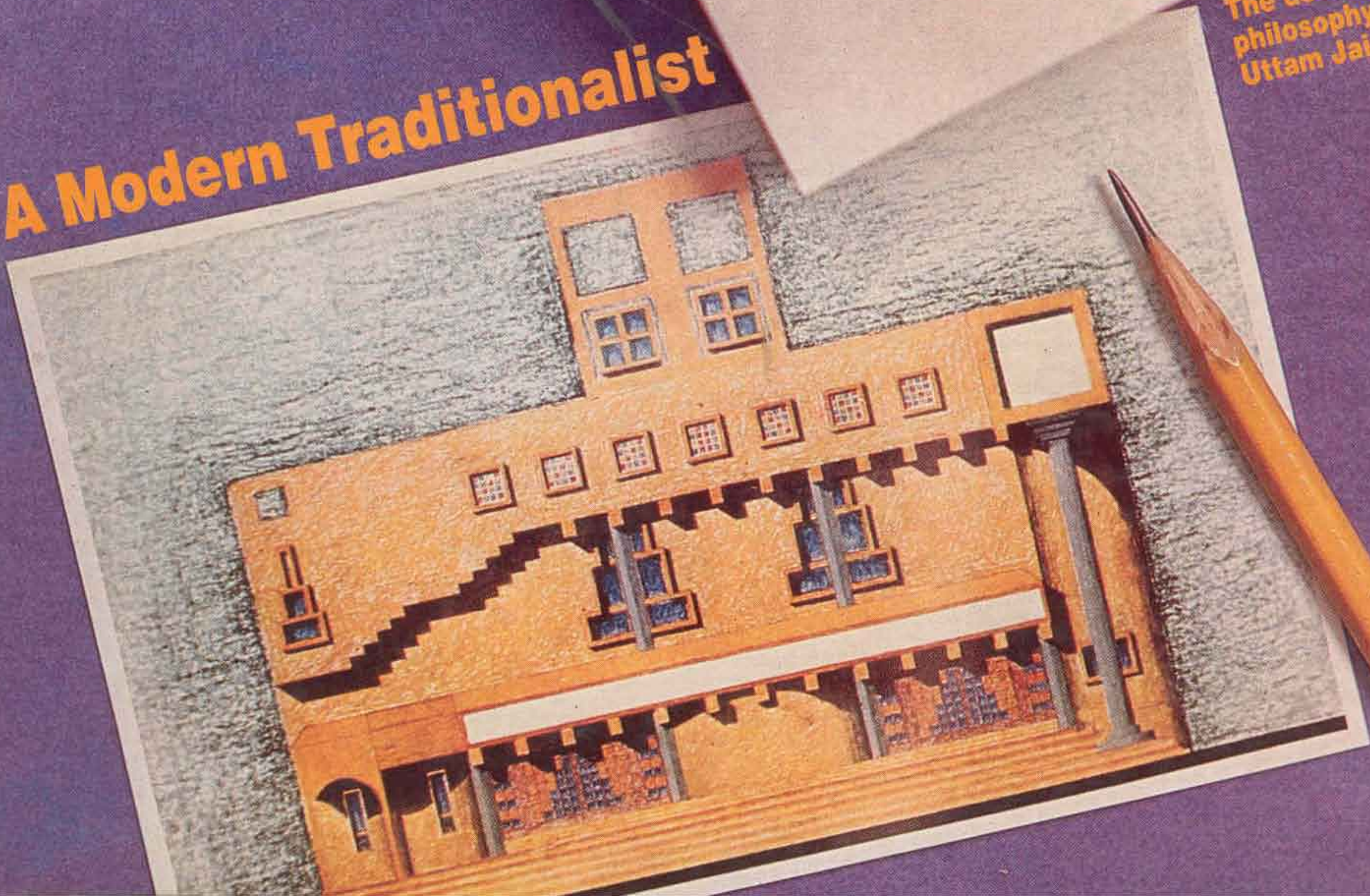
**K.T. Ravindran
on Vernacular
Architecture**

**Interview with
Ravindra Bhan**

**Profile of the
School of
Architecture
& Planning, Madras**

A Modern Traditionalist

**The design
philosophy of
Uttam Jain**



Primary School

Architect: **Hasmukh C. Patel**

OBVIOUSLY built without rigid cost constraints, the school dispenses with dimensional difference between usable space and circulation areas. The entire structure is built over a 8.2 m-square grid, resulting in courtyards and corridors which are as generous as the classrooms and other functional areas. The disposition of the classrooms creates an atmosphere of informality within the framework of a

simple and fixed structural system, comprised of cruciform exposed brick columns tied at the roof level by channel beams of reinforced concrete. Larger spaces, where required, are created by combining four bays, omitting the central brick pier and roofing over with four funicular shells supported on internal cross beams. Murals created from building materials become the visual focus of the open spaces.

Owner:
St. Xavier's High School,
Ahmedabad

Architects:
Messrs. Hasmukh C. Patel,
Ahmedabad

Consultants:
Vakil Mehta Parikh Sheth
(Engineering)
Himmat Shah (Murals)

Prime Contractor:
H.K. Construction Co.,
Ahmedabad

Covered Area:
5300 sq.m

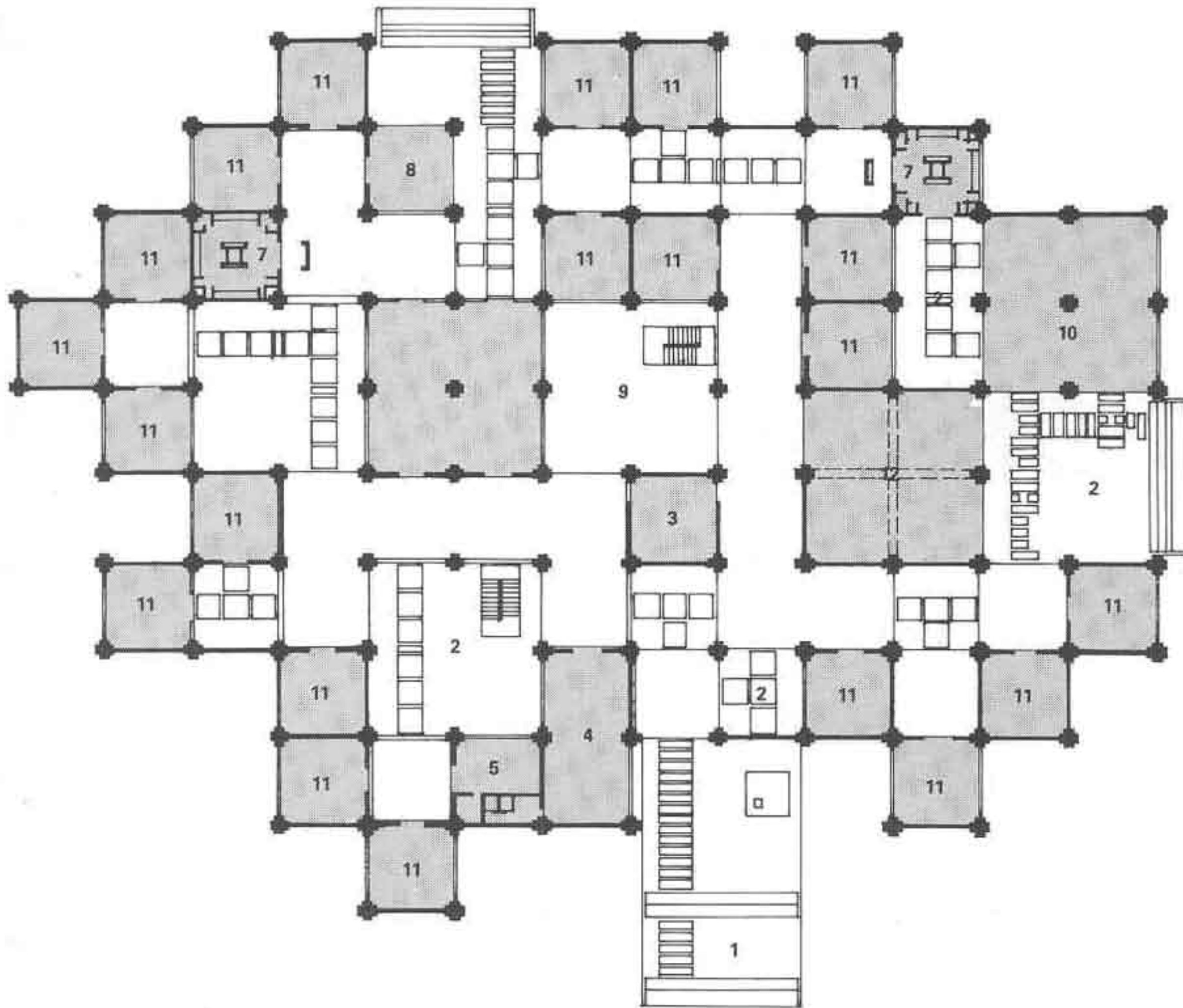
Year of Completion:
1973

Cost:
Rs 30 lakhs

Corridors as generously proportioned as classrooms dilute the distinction between study, play and circulation spaces.

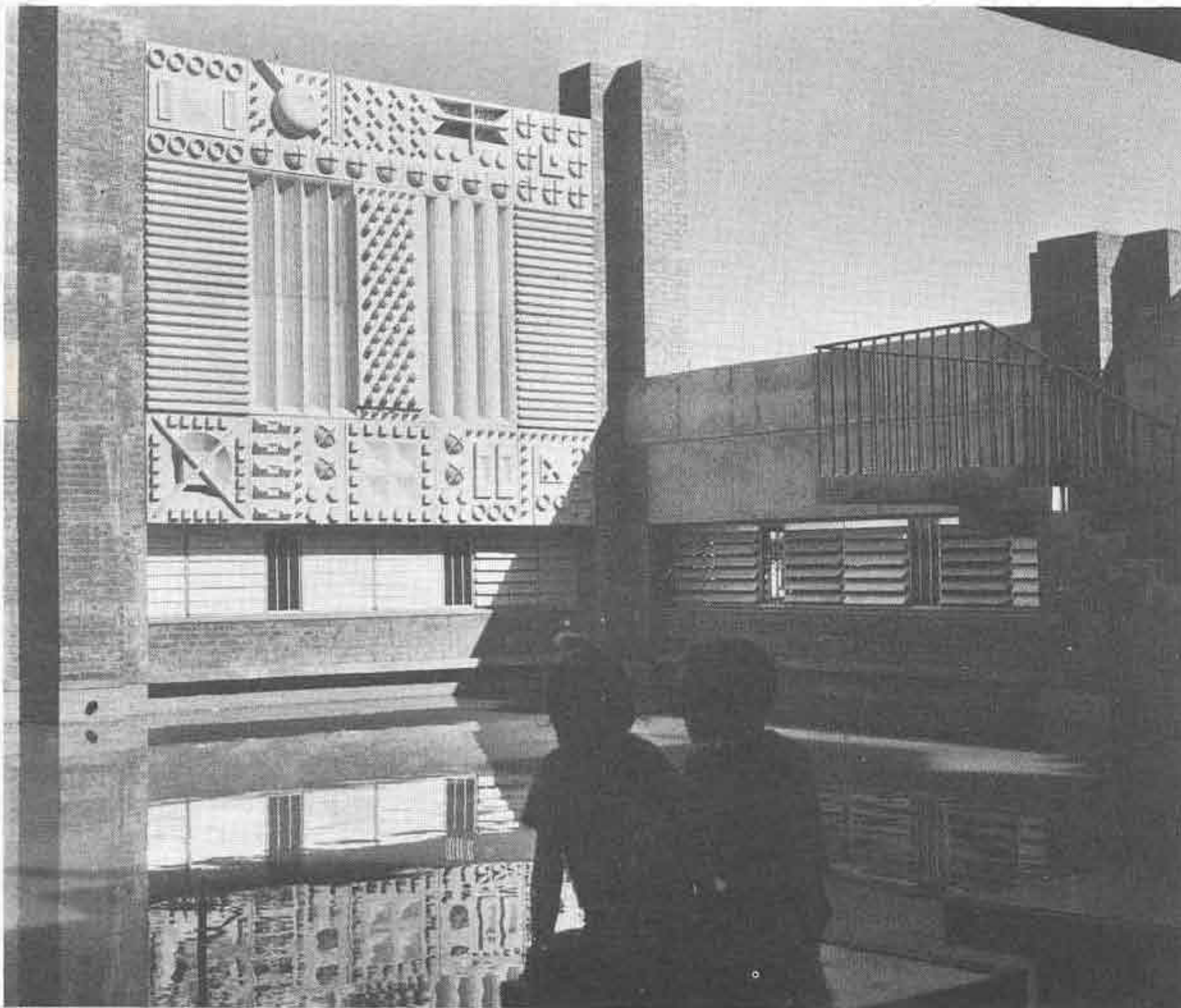
COURTESY HASMUKH C. PATEL





- GROUND FLOOR PLAN
 1 ENTRANCE
 2 COURTYARD
 3 PRINCIPAL
 4 STAFF
 5 HEALTH ROOM
 6 ARTS AND CRAFTS
 7 TOILET
 8 READING ROOM
 9 WATER POOL
 10 KINDERGARTEN
 11 CLASS ROOM
 12 MULTIPURPOSE HALL

COURTESY HASMIKH C. PATEL



Himmat Shah's mural and its softened mirror image in the water body takes some of the text-book medium out of geometry for young learners.