

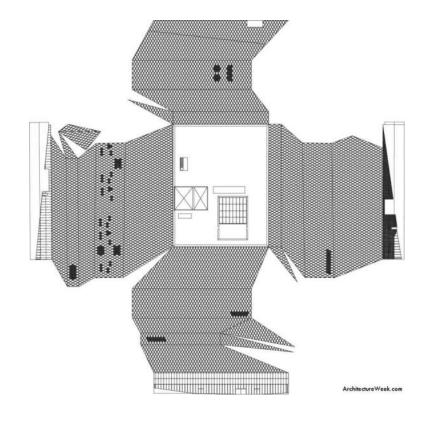
Denise Scott Brown Las Vegas , NV 1966 Flat-ish.

Photographic perception and the built environment

Buildings are manifold.



Drawings tend to be flat.

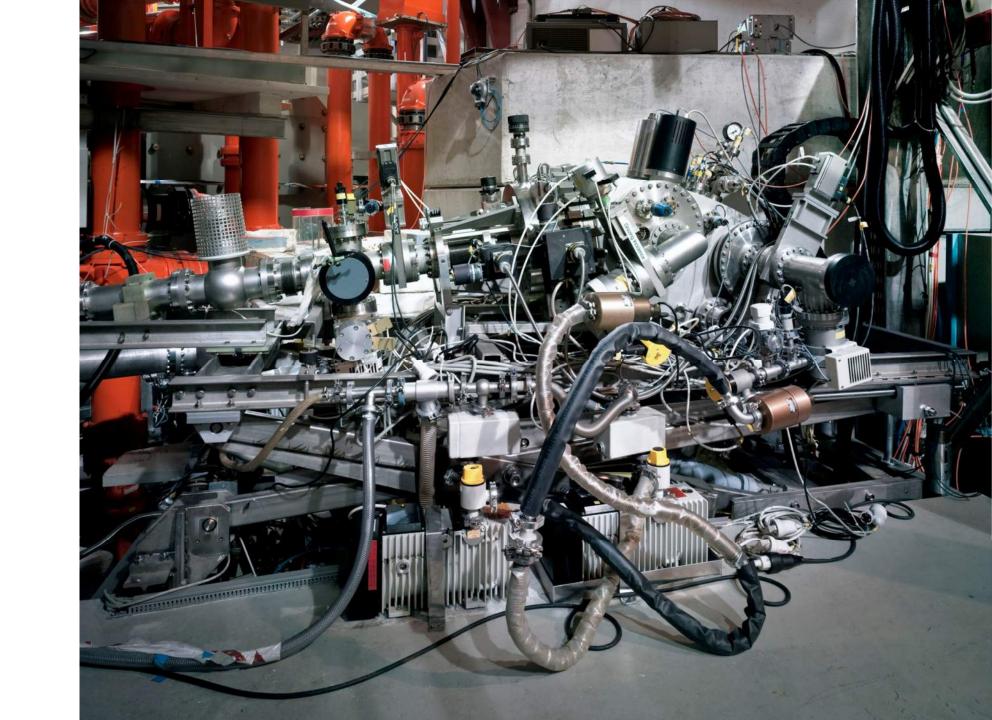


Photos alternately resemble the manifold, the flat, or even a composite of both ... they are multi-stable.



Luigi Ghirri Rimini, 1977 from the series 'In Scala' (In Scale)

How is Photographic Perception like Quantum Mechanics?

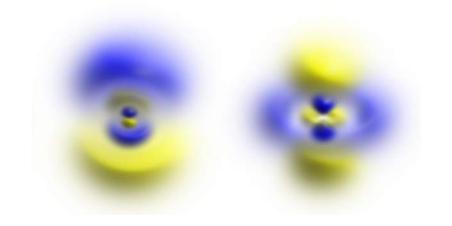


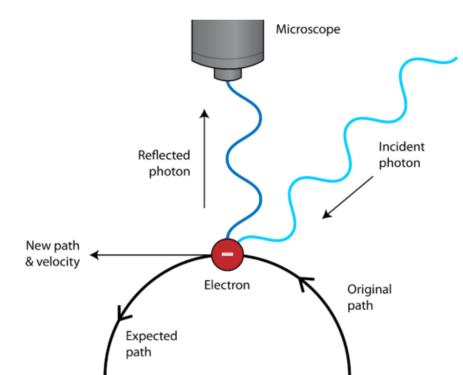
Thomas Struth
Grazing-Incidence-Spectrometer,
Max Planck IPP, Garching, Germany,
2010

Quantum multi-stability:

Subatomic particles are infinite places at once within a 3D standing wave. ("wave-particle duality")

... a discrete particle appears only when its *trace* is *observed* photographically.





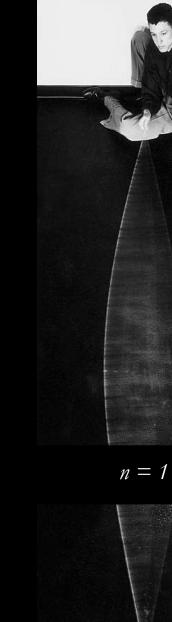
... confounding!

EINSTEIN ATTACKS QUANTUM THEORY

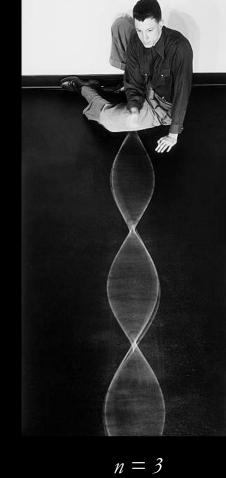
Scientist and Two Colleagues Find It Is Not 'Complete' Even Though 'Correct.'

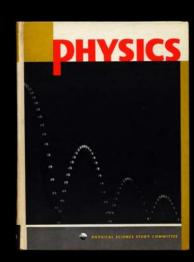
Berenice Abbott

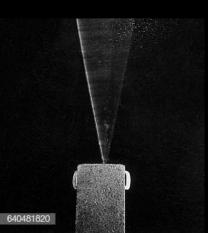
1-dimensional standing waves through string
(analogous to quantum energy level 'n')
1958 - 1961



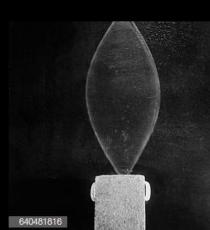








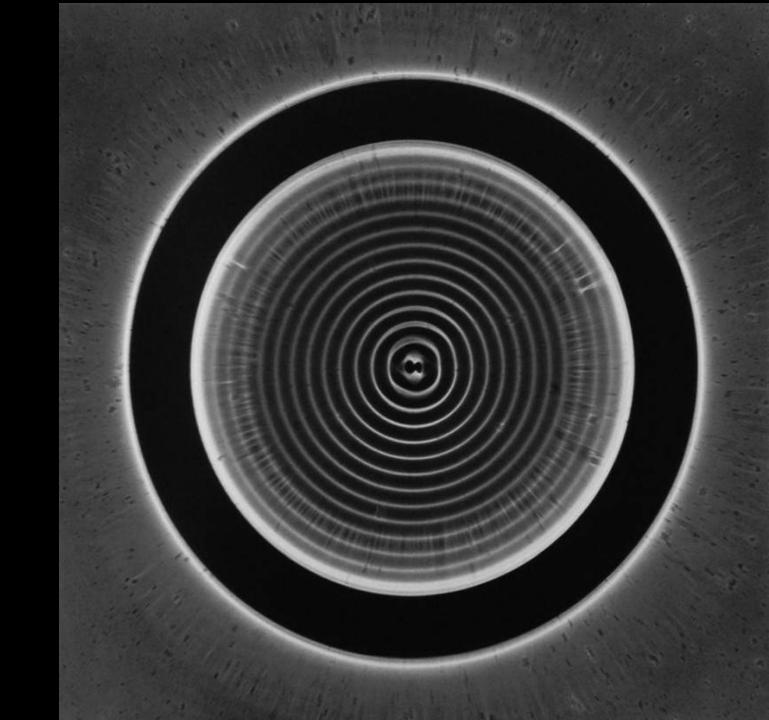




Berenice Abbott

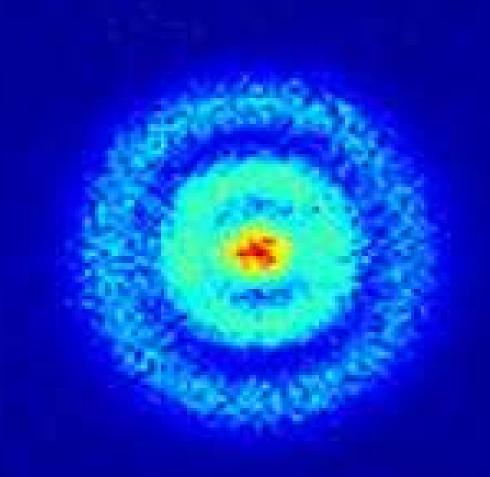
2-dimensional standing wave in ripple tank

1958



Traces of a hydrogen atom, flattened in time and space:

(A composite photo of 100,000+ discrete electron collisions.)





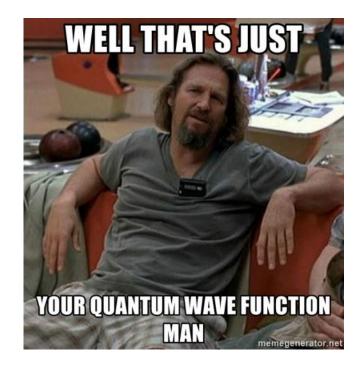
A quantized view of *photographic mechanics*:

the smooth 'waves' of reality are recorded in pieces and 'mapped' onto a 2D plane.

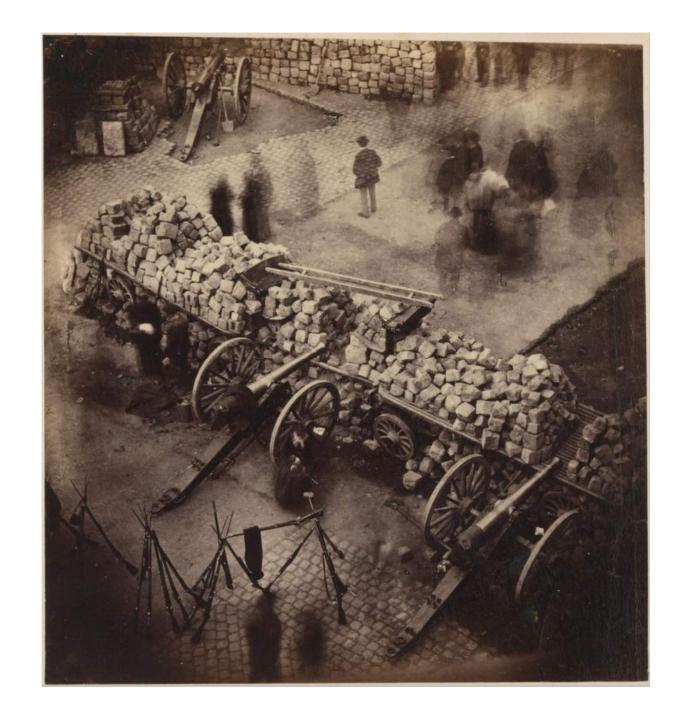
David Hockney Pearblossom Highway, 11-18 April, 1986 #1 1986

So by analogy to quantum mechanics ...

- Our perception and the perceived world are mutually in-forming.
- 'Flat-ish' photographic vision expands our lived perception, but also remains uncannily alien to it.



What does this mean for the building scale?



Pierre-Ambrose Richebourg

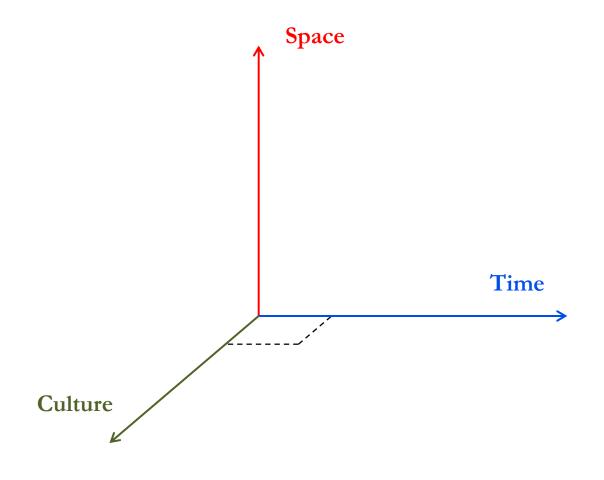
Barricades of the Commune, April 1871. Corner of the place Hotel de Ville and the rue de Rivoli,
1871

The built environment is manifold along at least 3 axes ...

... Photographs tend to *flatten* one axis to direct emphasis elsewhere.

... this is done by manipulating:

- Optics (lens)
- Framing
- Exposure
- Lighting
- Point of view / situation











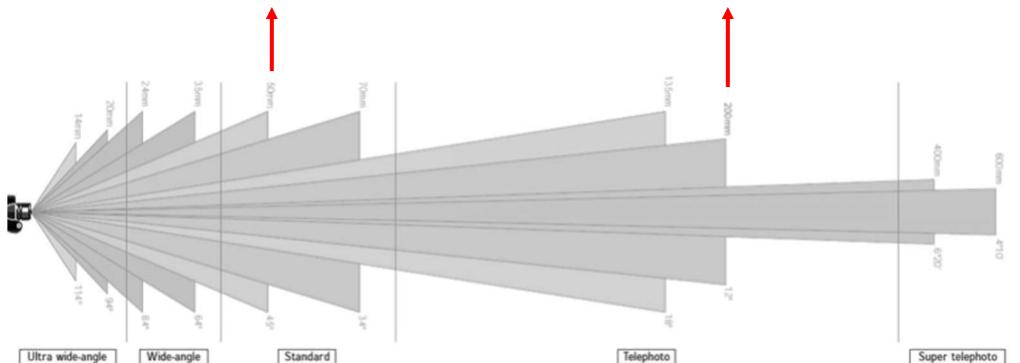






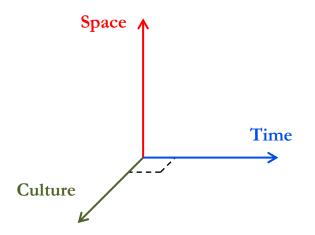


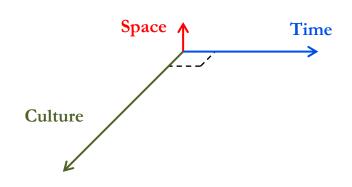












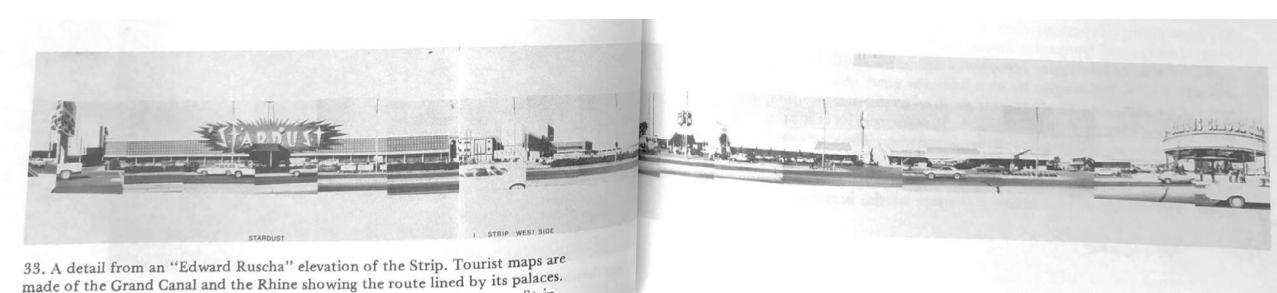


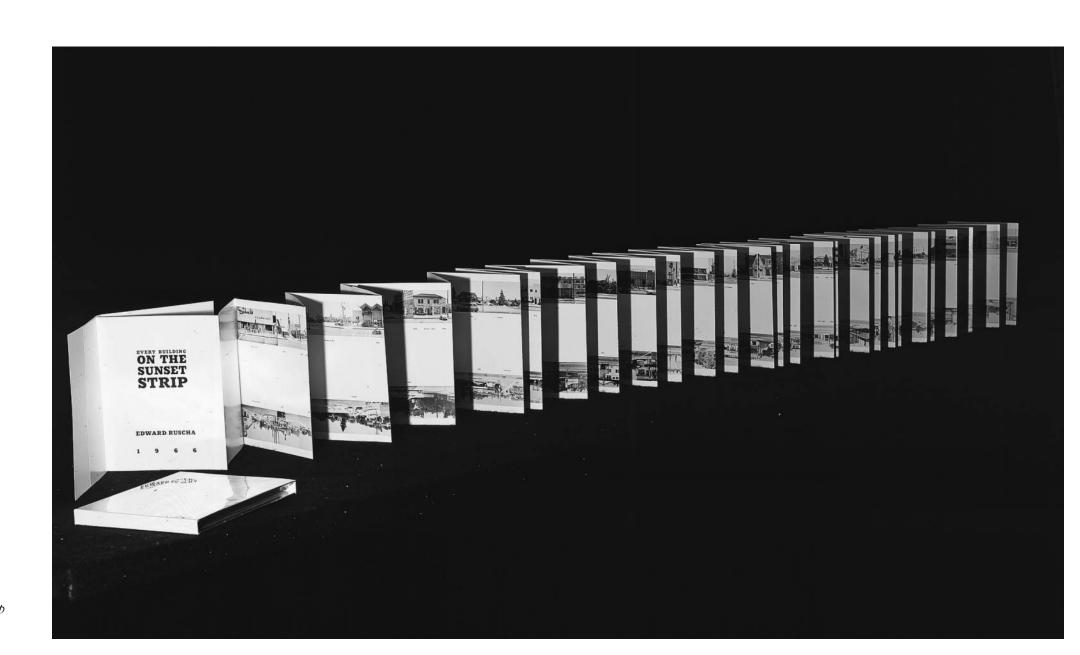
Denise Scott Brown Signs, Las Vegas 1966



Denise Scott Brown Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica 1966





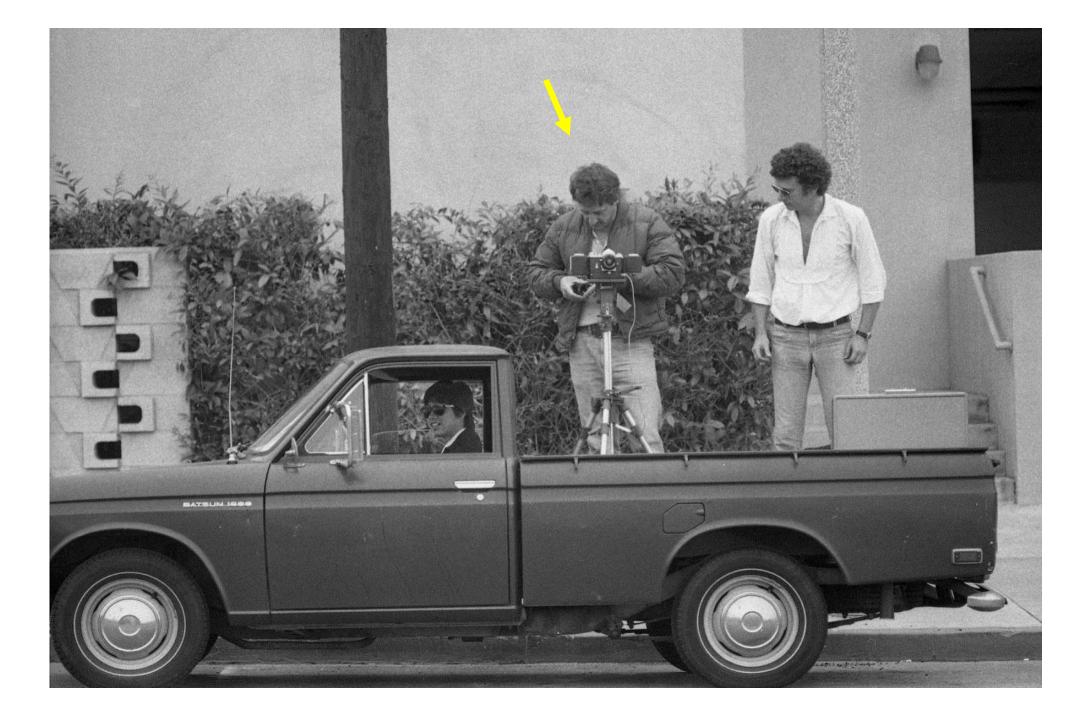


Ed Ruscha

Every Building on the Sunset Strip

1966





Ed Ruscha

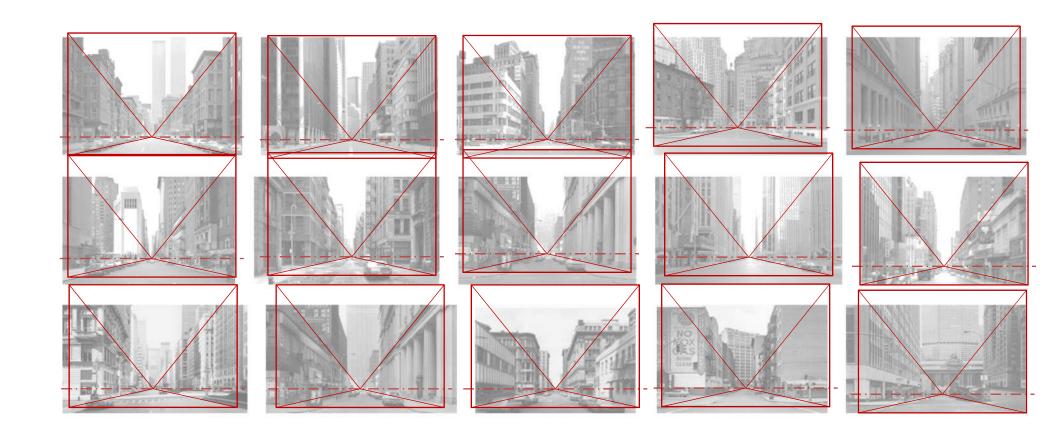
Every Building on the Sunset Strip

1966





Bernd & Hilla Becher Fachwerkhauser (Gable-sided Houses) From "Anonymous Sculptures" 1970





Berenice Abbott from "Changing New York" 1935



Thomas Struth Crosby Street New York 1978



Thomas Struth
Dey Street
New York
1978



Thomas Struth West Broadway New York 1978



Robert Wright
West Broadway Tribeca, NY
(after Struth)
New York
2015





Thomas Struth
National Gallery I
London
1990





Diego Velazquez Las Meninas 1656

Thomas Struth

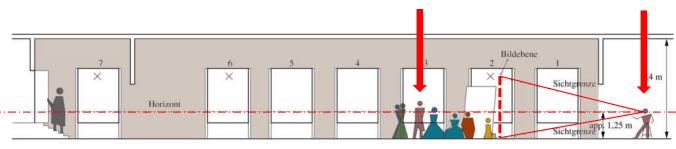
Museo Del Prado 4

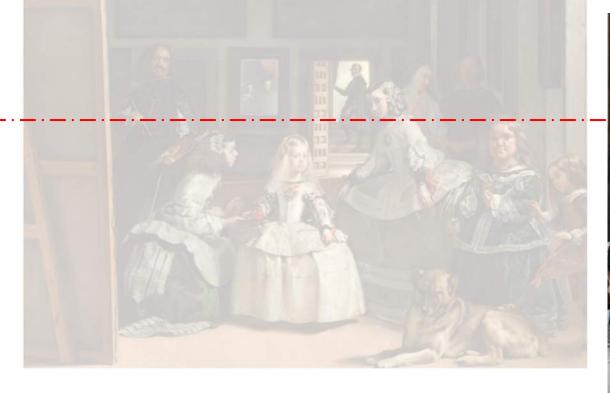
Madrid

2005

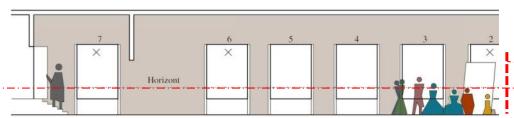




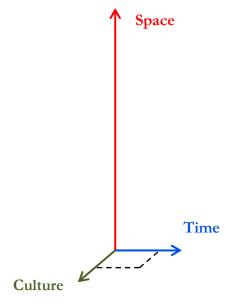














Thomas Struth

Audience 7 (Galleria Dell'Accademia)

Florence
2004

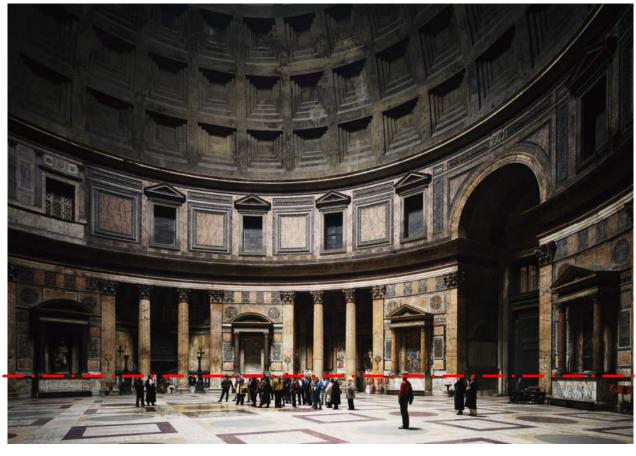
Thomas Struth

Audience 4 (Galleria Dell'Accademia)

Florence
2004







Thomas Struth
The Pantheon,
Rome, IT
1990





Ezra Stoller Seagram Building (Mies van der Rohe) New York, NY



Ezra Stoller John Hancock Center (SOM) Chicago, IL 1967



Ezra Stoller Dulles Terminal (Eero Saarinen) Washington, D.C. 1967

Ezra Stoller Dulles Terminal (Eero Saarinen) Washington, D.C. 1967

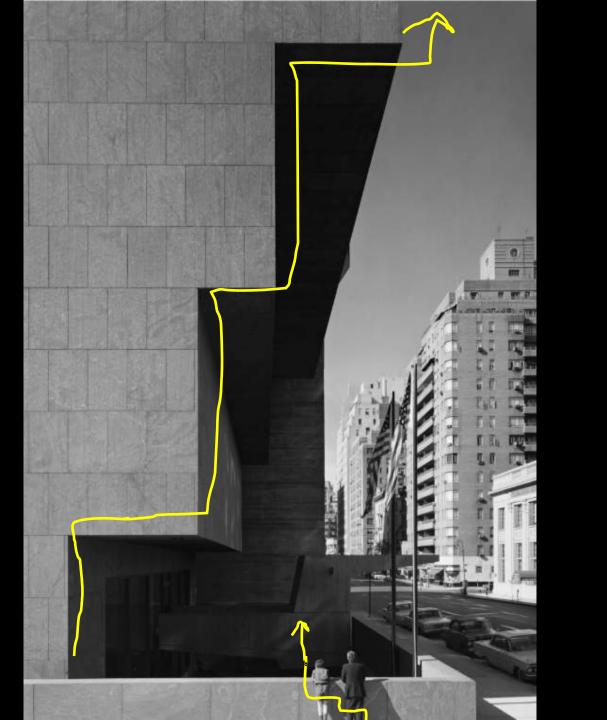


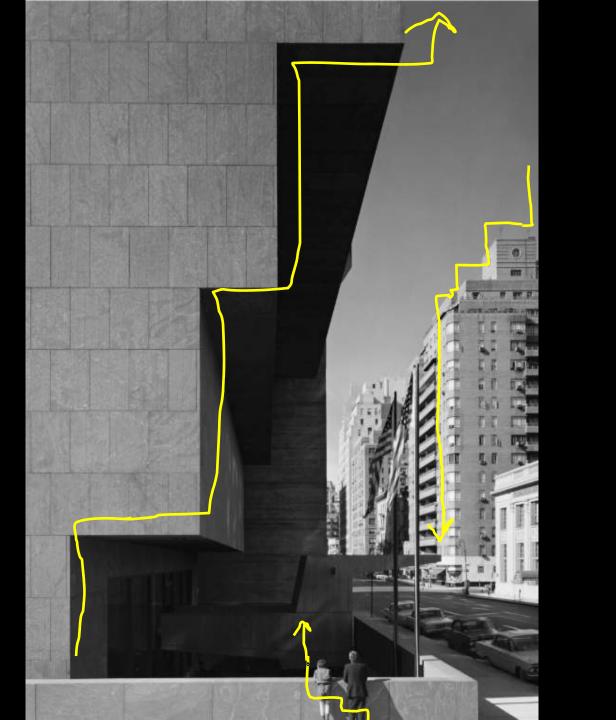


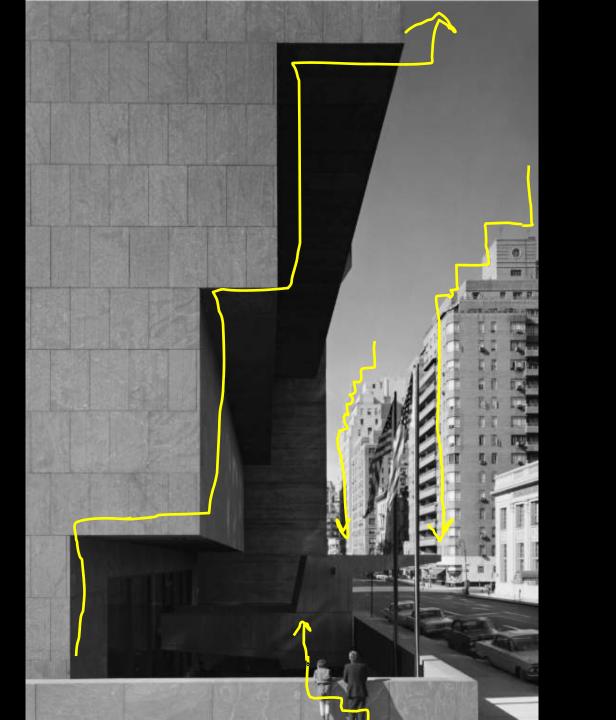


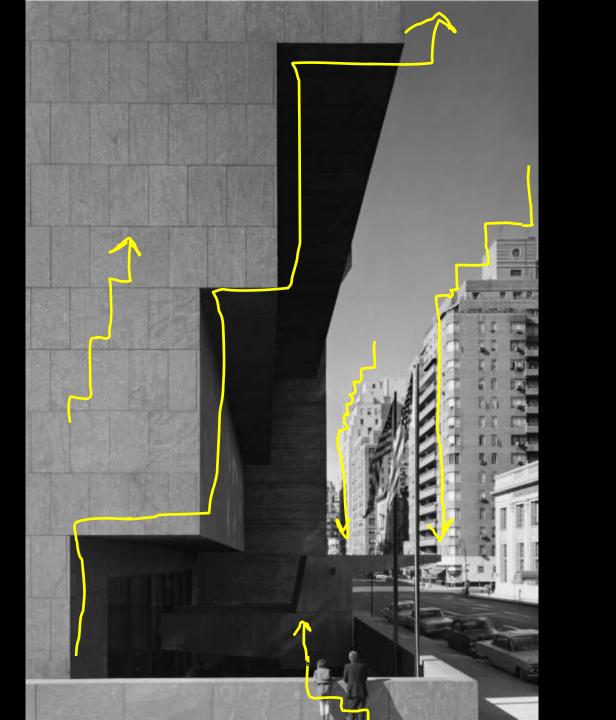
Ezra Stoller
Whitney Museum of American Art (Marcel Breuer)
New York, NY
1966

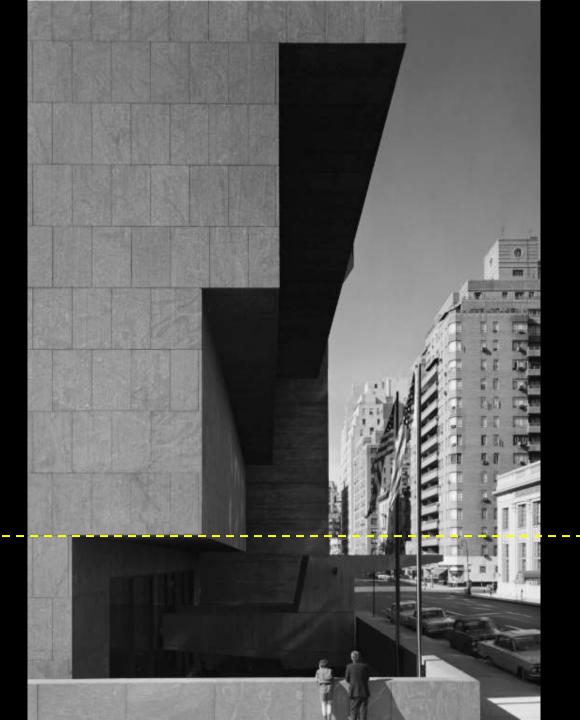








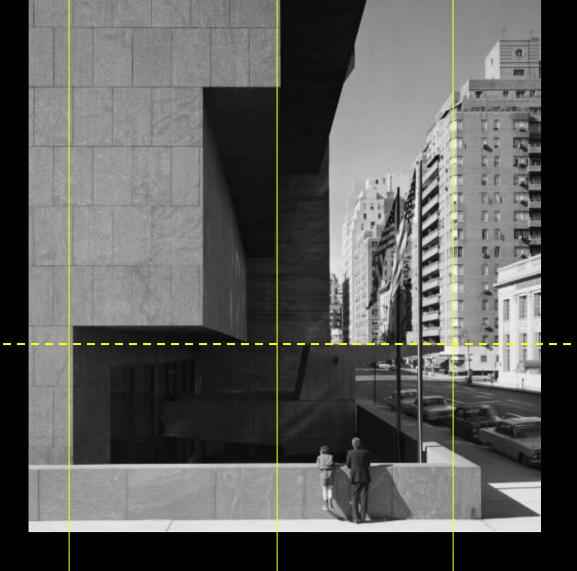




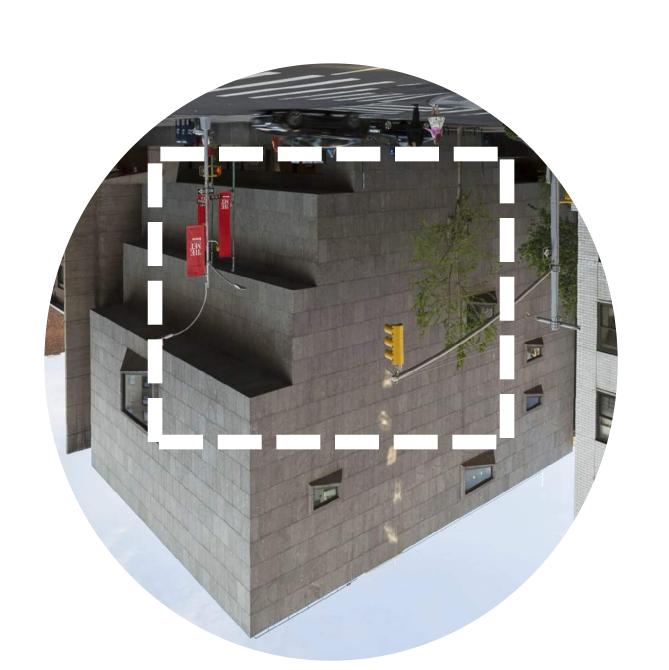
piano nobile



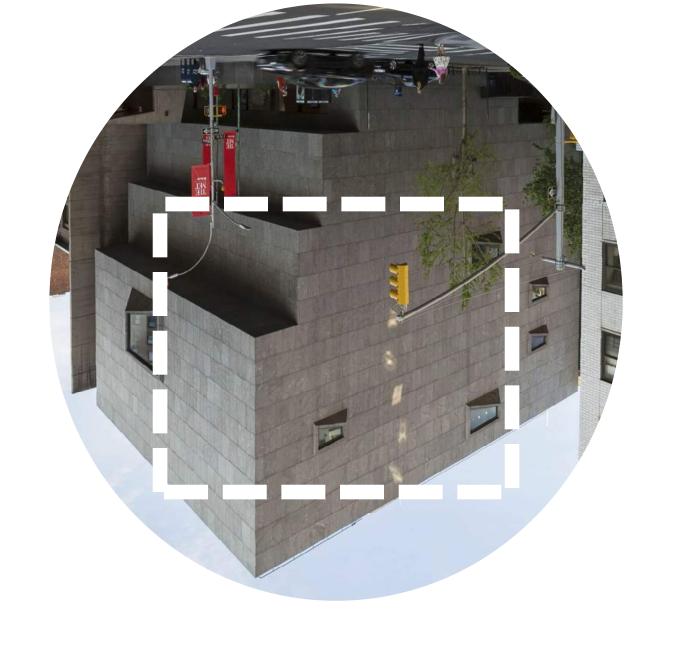




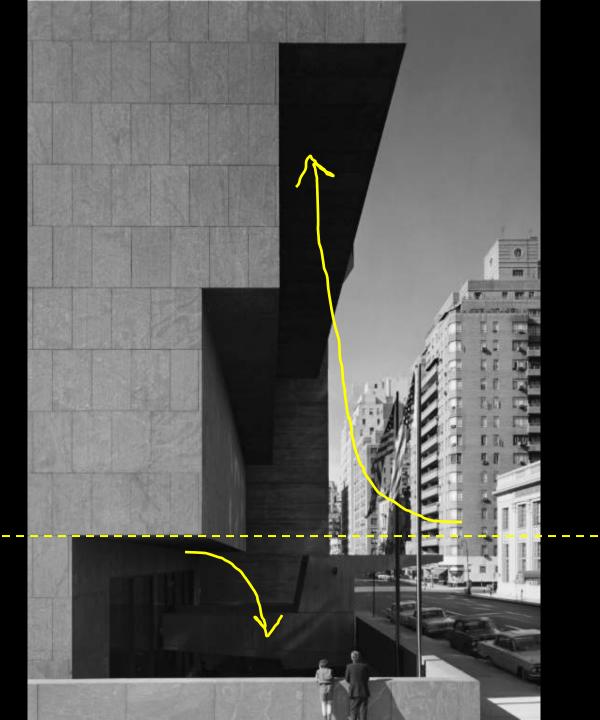
piano nobile

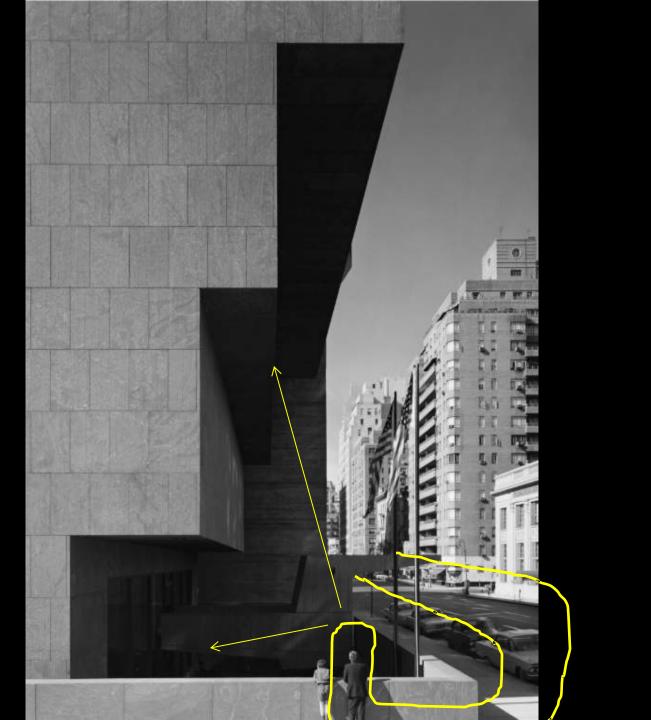














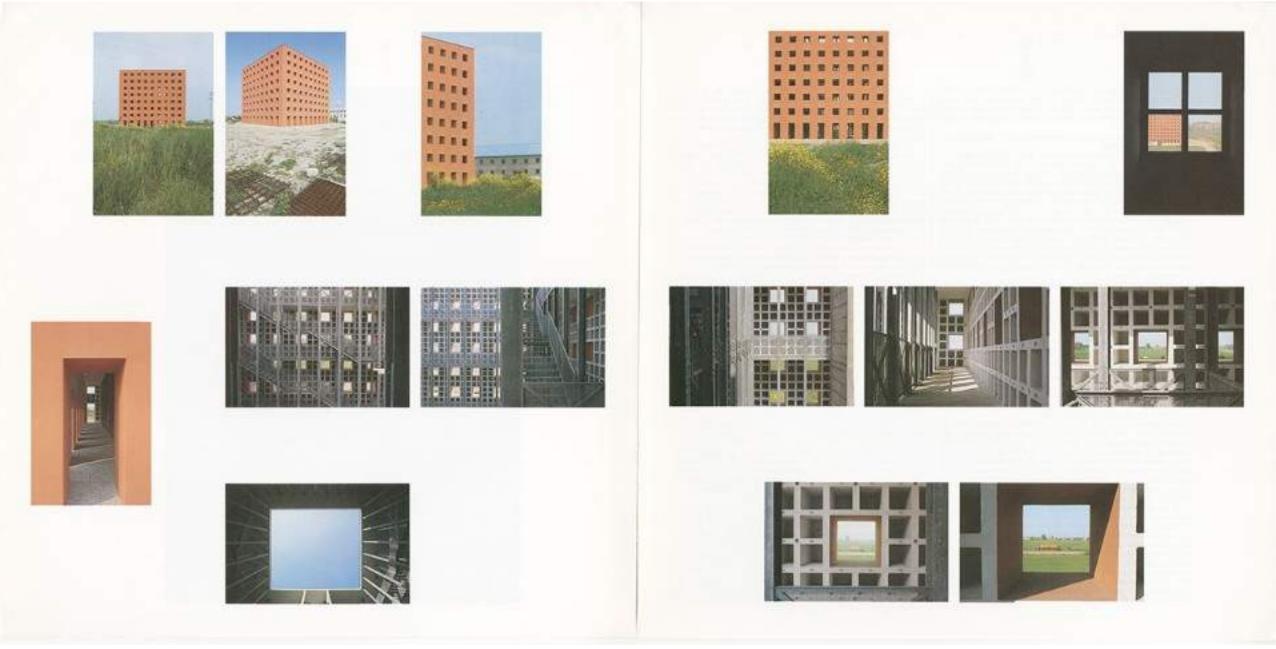




Luigi Ghirri Roma, Pantheon, 1982



Luigi Ghirri Cementery at San Cataldo (Aldo Rossi) 1986



Luigi Ghirri Cementery at San Cataldo 1986



Luigi Ghirri Cementery at San Cataldo 1986



Luigi Ghirri Cementery at San Cataldo 1986



Alex Webb Boqillas, Mexico 1979

From the Book: "La Calle"



Alex Webb Leon, Mexico 1987

From the Book: "La Calle"



Alex Webb Tecate, Mexico 1995

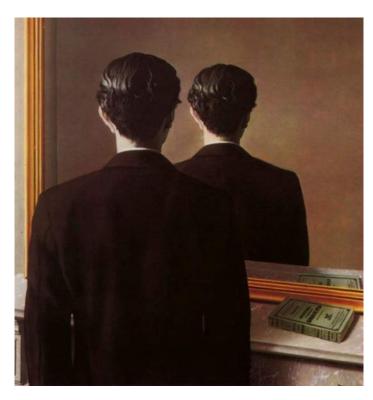
From the Book: "La Calle"



Alex Webb *Tijuana, Mexico* 1997

From the Book: "Crossings: Photographs from the US-Mexico Border"





Rene Magritte *La reproduction interdite*1937

FIN.