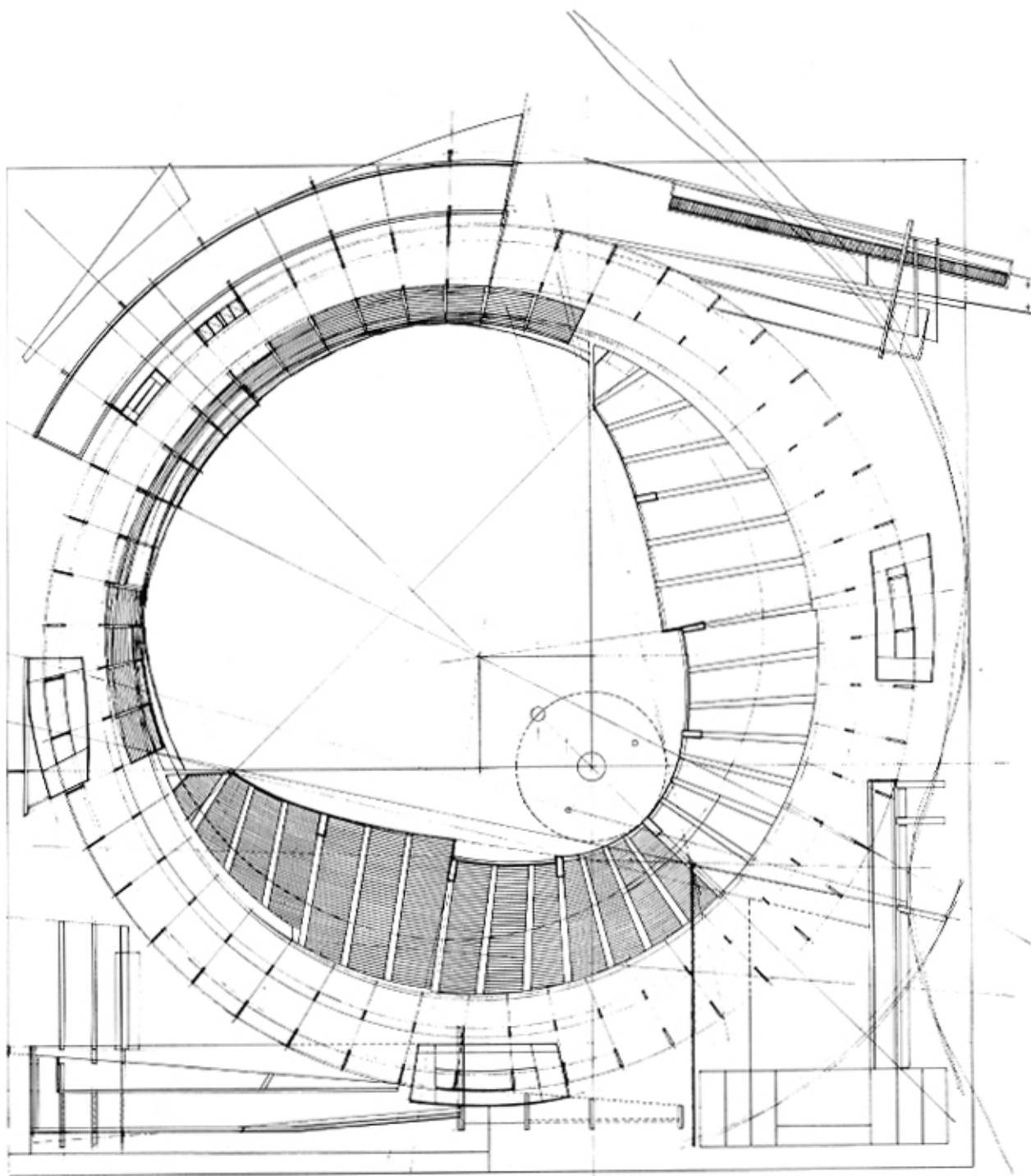


Take Time for Paradise: The Baseball Park in the City Center

Critic: Alex Wall

701 STUDIO, FALL 91



This project is a speculation on a current urban and cultural phenomenon - the creation of a downtown baseball only facility - located in the city center accessible to public transport and pedestrians. This trend is a reaction against sterile design of the stadia built in the 1960's and 70's to serve the utterly opposing geometries of baseball and football and sit in the middle of vast parking lots. This project has as much to do with mythology as an enlightened urban point of view. The approach through inner city neighborhoods to the ivy covered walls of Wrigley Field, Chicago and Fenway Park, Boston refers to the lost urban ambience of American cities.

Although the specifications are technical, the problem is to engage the ideas of image, myth, and popular culture. The failure of many recent structures was not to exploit the stadium as theater, baseball as a ritual, and the spectators as a community. If you choose to engage the antique ideal of a synthesis of physical and intellectual culture in an ancient building type, please pay attention to contemporary attributes such as boing, the cult of numbers, and the instant replay.

Thus objective and subjective experience are joined. The idea of the urban baseball park is to be reclaimed in its most literal sense in the service of an American culture of myth and passion.