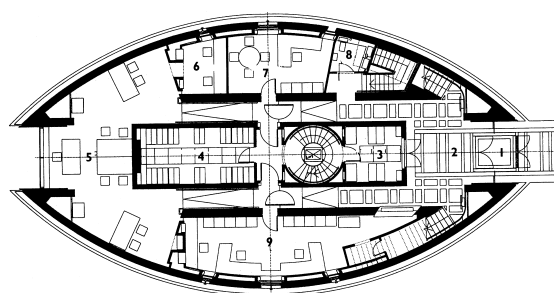


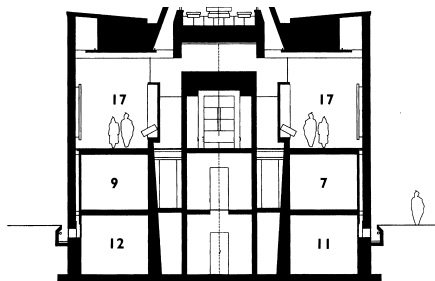
- 6 The services engineer's initial diagram encapsulating possible passive environmental control system for the repository
- 7 The idea of a passive system evolved from MJP's experience on Lancaster University's Ruskin Archive where a 'Russian Doll' system of a building within a building had ensured environmental stability for the collection
 - a The Ruskin Archive, external view
 - b Entrance level plan showing the archive storage at each end of the central rectangles
 - 1 porch
 - 2 entrance
 - 3 archive space
 - 4 archive space
 - 5 reading
 - 6 catalogues
 - 7 curator
 - 8 disabled lavatories
 - 9 loading bay
 - 10 lavatories
 - 11 plant
 - 12 storage
 - 13 gallery
 - 14 meeting
 - c Cross section clearly demonstrating the Russian doll principle
 - d Long section



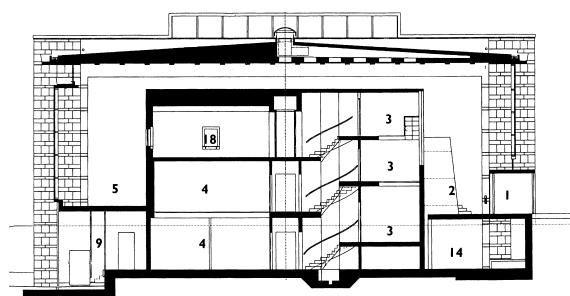
7a



7b



7c



7d

pedestrian entrance, exhibition space and the essential service core (boiler and new incoming utilities). The forecourt has the potential to be an outdoor display space. The portcullis-like ironwork of the gates underneath the *porte cochère* [Fig. 9] offers a first line of security and heralds a special place beyond.

The essence of the building is represented by three very different elements – repository, reading room and exhibition space [Figs. 10a–c and 11]. The exhibition space commands the forecourt, the reception and the front door: this most public space is a transparent double-height volume – a huge shop window. The reading room where the researchers' acts of discovery take place is a treasure chest – a metal-banded oak box with its lid (the roof) open to permit entry of north light and thus literally illuminate the process. The repository is a huge and necessarily blank box.

The repository

The repository is laid out as a 12m square with a central doorway – its shape and size determined by pragmatic requirements for means of escape from storerooms with a single exit. In section, the construction of the massive ribbed *in-situ* concrete floor derives from the needs of the heavy roller storage systems [Fig. 12a], the height of which is determined by ease of reach and the requirement for air circulation space above and beside – no shelving is placed against walls.

The repository 'box' is an intentionally scaleless, abstract cube raised on two columns that step over the enclosing stone wall of the courtyard [Fig. 12b]. The ground floor level contains photographic stores that have to be mechanically cooled whereas the upper levels accommodate the special passively controlled storerooms. This white render-faced strong box is raised off the ground both for