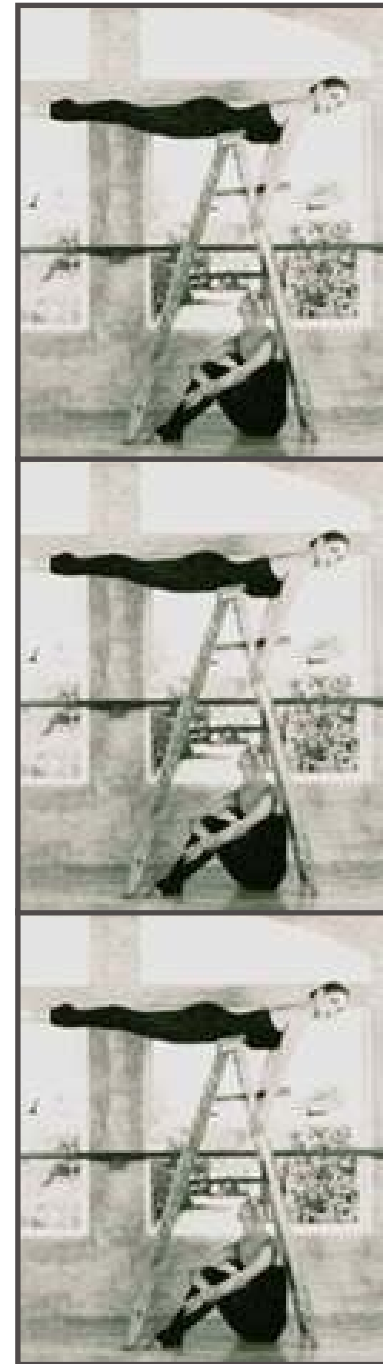


# design influences



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### Concrete construct

The **Headquarters of K.J. McNitt** is situated in **Oklahoma City, USA**. The company specializes in precast concrete tilt-up slabs and used the building as an advertisement for the company's expertise. Slabs are cast in formwork on the ground, then craned or winched into a vertical position, they are propped until stiffening elements, like the roof and internal walls, were in place. At this stage the props can be removed. In this building the props are retained. To further emphasize the nature of the construction process, each 7m high panel is separated from the next by an 200mm wide glazed gap. The joints emphasize the separateness of the panels and their thinness.

4 | 1

- 1 From north, with pipe props left in position as buttresses, making an order which emphasises the articulation of the slabs and the nature of the structure.
- 2 South-west corner.

(Architectural Review, October 1997; p56-59)

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1



2

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### Leading the Dance

The **London Contemporary Dance School** is to be found at The Place in the King's Cross Partnership area. Glass balconies between landings act as stretching zones, so that silhouetted dancers in motion, figures superimposed one above the other, can be seen from the street. This tower is the centre's shop window, advertising its presence to the neighbourhood. Studio walls on the north are made out of glass bricks which diffuse light, while maintaining privacy. For the dancers these studios are introverted places for **intense concentration**, but any sense of claustrophobia is dissipated by the subliminal impression of light, air and the reflection of sprung floors and mirrored walls.

1 glazed stair tower with stretching areas gives access to the studios on the right.  
2 studio with glass brick wall to the north and sprung floor.  
3 studio with a folding central dividing screen.



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### Play House

Located in Surrey, **Frensham Heights** caters for activities from dance to orchestral music, conferences to drama, and three year olds to A-level students. A highly flexible environment was needed. The building is unpretentious, simply detailed and sits comfortably in its historical setting. Staging can be arranged in a variety of layouts to suit the performance space required.

4|5

- 1 main foyer and bar area with staircase access to first floor auditorium
- 2 main entrance with control room projecting at first floor level

(The Architects Journal, January 2001; p28-34)

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### Wozocos

The building is situated in **Amsterdam-Osdorp**, in the Netherlands, designed by **MVRDV**. It is a block of 100 apartments for the elderly. Only 87 of the 100 planned homes could be built without blocking the sunlight to the neighbouring buildings. It was decided to hang the other 13 on the northern facade, literally suspending them in the air.

4 | 7

- 1 south facade with enclosed balconies
- 2 west facade with protruding apartments to the north

(Cerver, F.A. 2000; p850)

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1

2

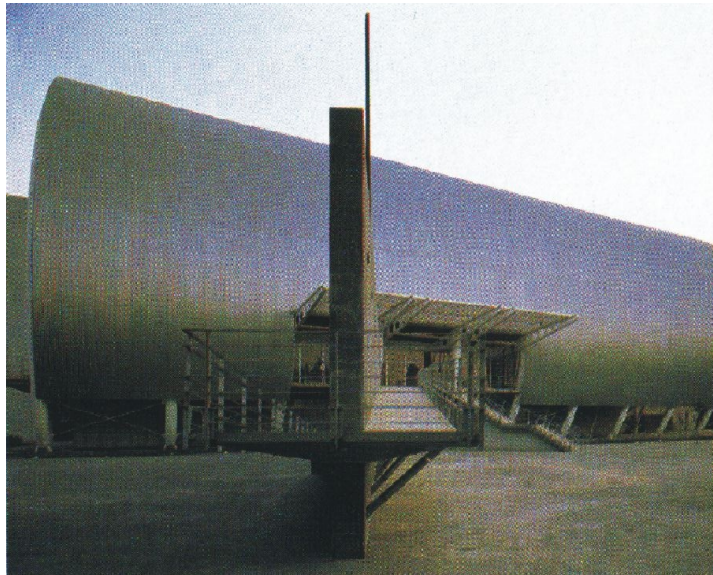
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### School of Dramatic Art

The building is located in **Avenida Rio Churubuscu, Mexico City**. The site is dominated by constant traffic and noise. The largest element of the building is its tubular metal roof. Designing on an urban scale, it is sufficiently abstract and monolithic to be recognized from a considerable distance and from a moving vehicle. Beneath the roof a collection of areas and planes contain and define the various activities, spontaneously and arbitrarily. The virtual chaos conceals an order derived from the specific function and **expression of each space**.



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1



2