



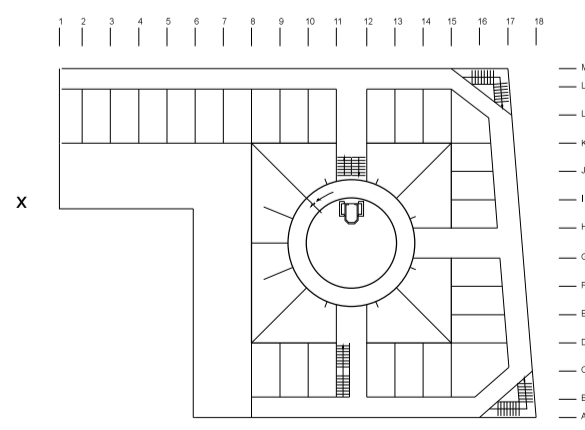
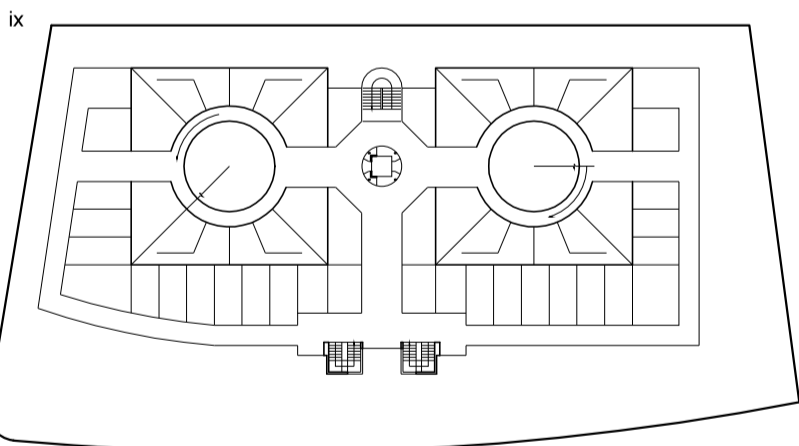
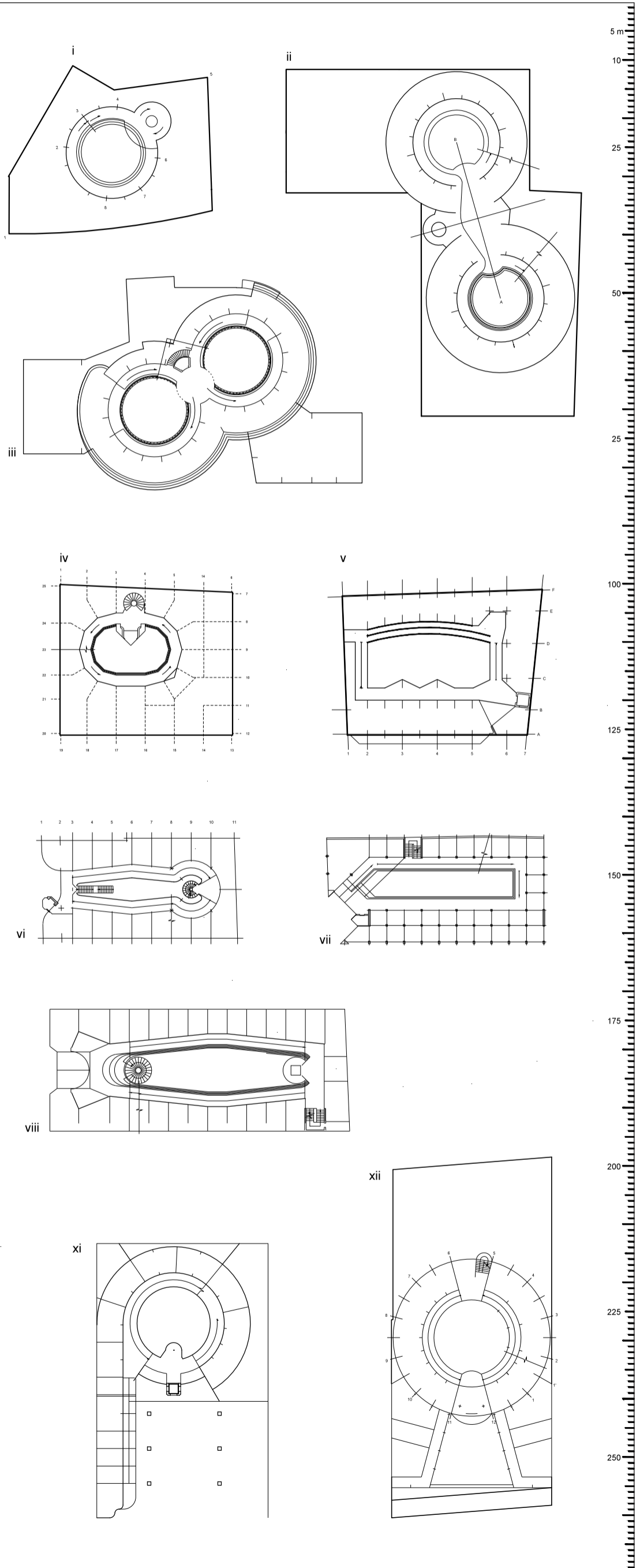
Following Koolhaas' scheme to build a retroactive theory for Manhattan, this ongoing Ph.D. research seeks to reinvent the theorem of a building arrangement named “Caracoles,” as an exercise to reattach the buildings to their implicit theory that took place in Chile during the '70s.

The relevance of these buildings is that they were the last evidence of a distinct connection between capitalism and architecture, based on the project's form and typological model. Under the name of “Caracoles,” which means snail, its spiral ramp arrangement was a shared geometry throughout society. They were autonomously grounded in the architecture project's shape against other architectural aspects' such as program, place, or materiality.

Architecture firms developed 44 “Caracoles” during economic inflation, between 1974 and 1982. If the free plan can be seen today as the place of flexible capital, the “Caracoles” were the reinvention of the typical plan as a scheme of profit. They rescaled the size of the capital investment and the form of administration in a time of crisis.

The retroactive theorem of the “Caracoles” is paradoxical. While its principle of the incline was conceptualized as space outside capital in France, they arose as the place for business under economic pressure in Chile. Under an atypical plan solution, they integrated the diagnosis of and solution to inflation.

However, in a moment where the value of money was unstable, architects designed “Caracoles” without being able to predict their near end. The “Caracoles” ceased to be built after the 80s crisis. Under the light of their current obsolete state, though, it can be interpreted that the “Caracoles” addressed a different profit paradigm: a scheme of capitalism not based on the exponential logic of its growth.



The “Caracoles's” geometry
Drawings by the author

- i** El Caracol, 1974
- ii** Dos Caracoles, 1978
- iii** Caracol Ñuñoa Centro, 1979
- iv** Caracol Bandera Centro, 1981
- v** Caracol Los Pájaros, 1982
- vi** Edificio Paseo Yungay, 1980
- vii** Caracol Portal Lyon, 1980
- viii** Caracol Plaza de Armas, 1979
- ix** Caracol Plaza Lo Castillo, 1981
- x** Caracol Eve, 1981
- xi** Caracol Lo Ovalle, 1980
- xii** Caracol Quillota, 1980