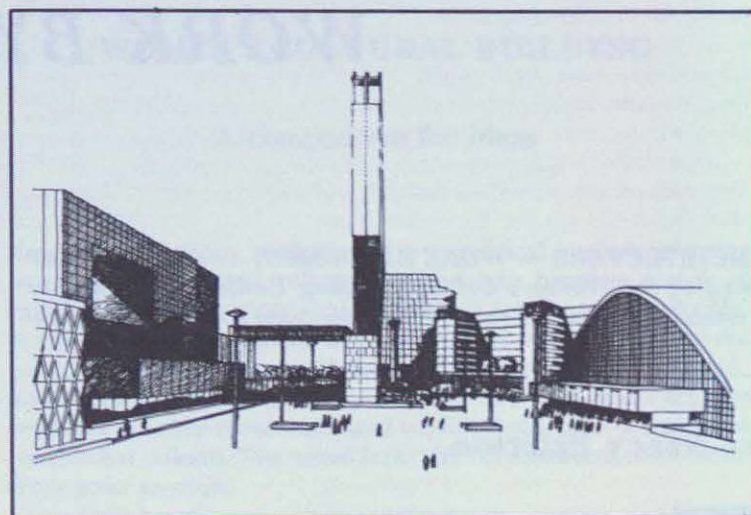
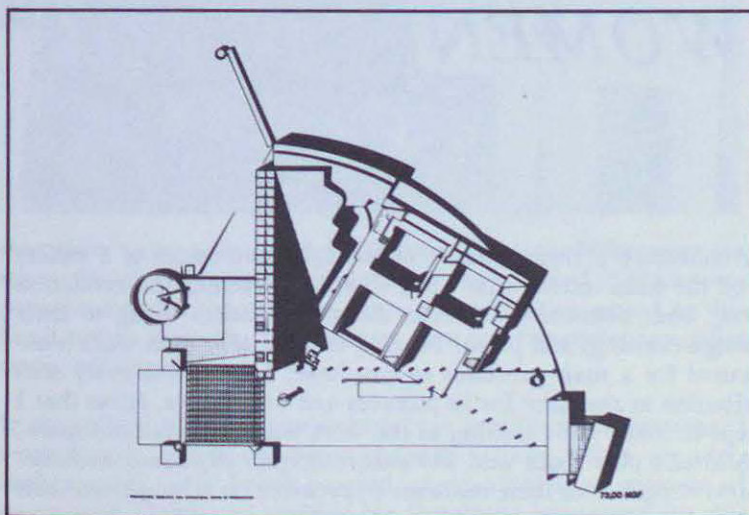
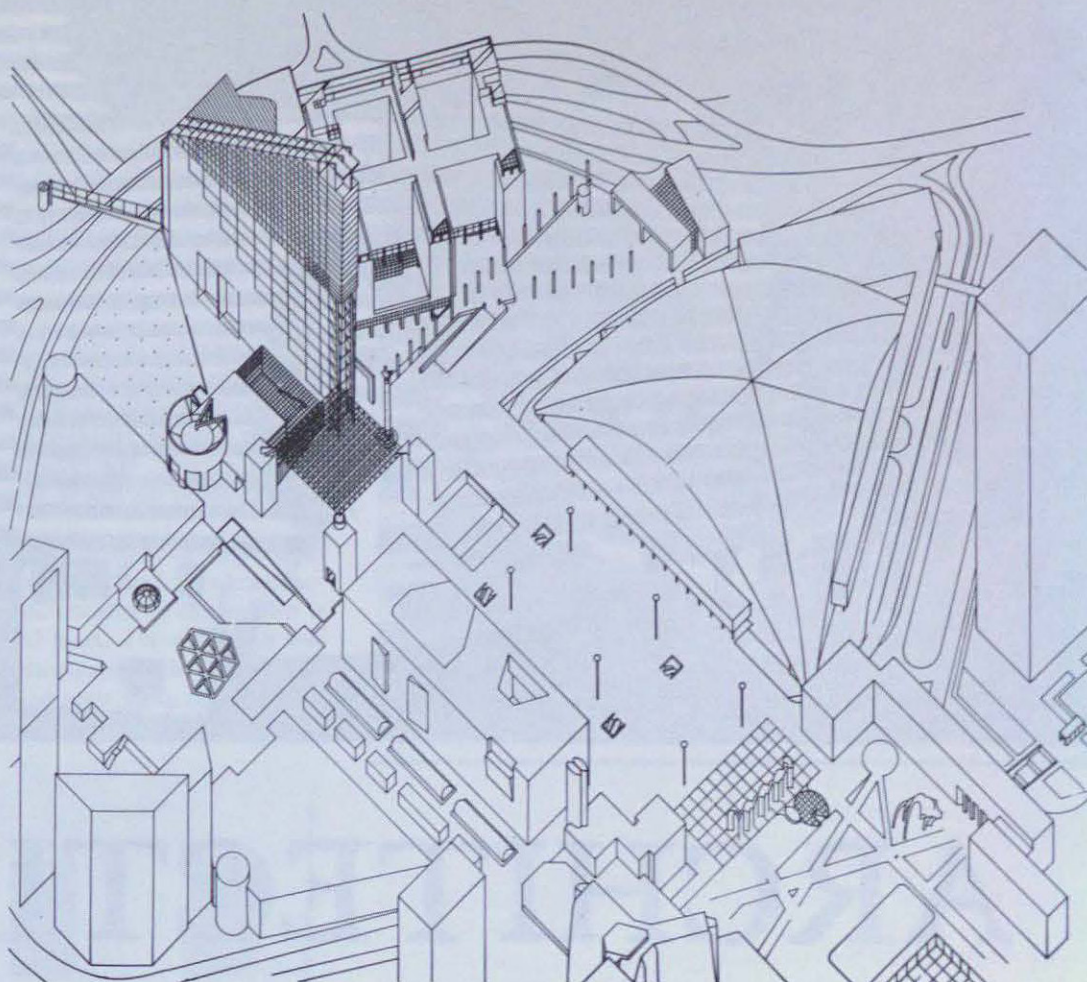


**Tête
Défense
Competition,
Paris
France**

**Crang
and
Boake
Architects**



**DESIGN CONCEPT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
CENTRE OF COMMUNICATION; MINISTRY OF TOWN
PLANNING AND HOUSING; AND MINISTRY OF THE
ENVIRONMENT**

The French government, through the International Union of Architects, recently initiated a design competition for a one-million square foot complex to house the International Centre of Communication and the Ministries of Town Planning and Housing, and the Environment to be located in the Defense District of downtown Paris.

Close to 900 registrations were received from around the world, including 18 from Canada. Crang and Boake Architects, Toronto, were among the four finalists and received a second prize.

The site is located at the west end of the Avenue Charles de Gaulle,

a historical axis of the city. The Louvre is located at the far end of the avenue and the Arch de Triumpe is in the middle.

Crang and Boake set out to interpret the aspirations of contemporary French society; ensure the continuation of the process of revitalizing the District; and provide a countervailing culmination to the vista. The concept also accentuates the metamorphosis of architectural styles to be found along the length of the avenue.

The Parisian street, square, park, garden and obelisk were reinterpreted in a contemporary vein. A dynamic tension between high and low elements of the complex was deliberately sought to emphasise the contemporary and future viewpoint of the complex. Suggested exterior cladding included polished stone, aluminium and glass.

Illustrations courtesy of Crang and Boake, Architects.