

# UC Berkeley

## Places

### Title

Clearings

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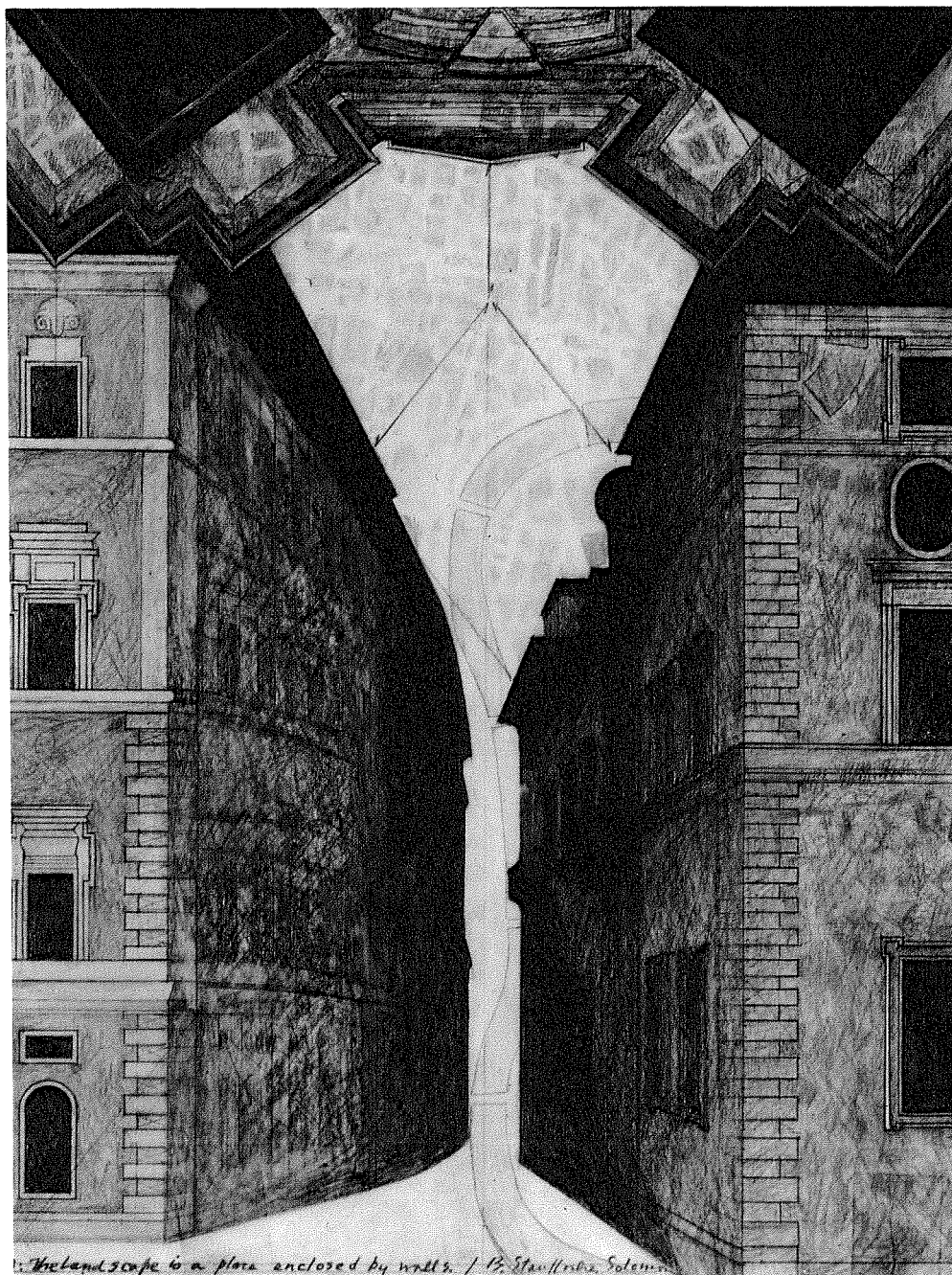
## Clearings

### Barbara Stauffacher Solomon

A native Venetian can get lost on the straight streets of Turin. Someone born within sight of the Pacific needs sky and horizon. In Rome she seeks clearings, places, where the streets are pushed open to the sky.

Roman hilltops view the world, but in the center of Rome there are no horizons. Monuments block vistas. Heavy cornices compress the sky and cut the light into long, tight shapes. The sky becomes a precious commodity. Needing this rare light, Romans have persistently used clearings to catch the sky's brilliance. Places/piazas/voids: The city is a network of inhabited walls enclosing the mirror images of streets and city pastures.

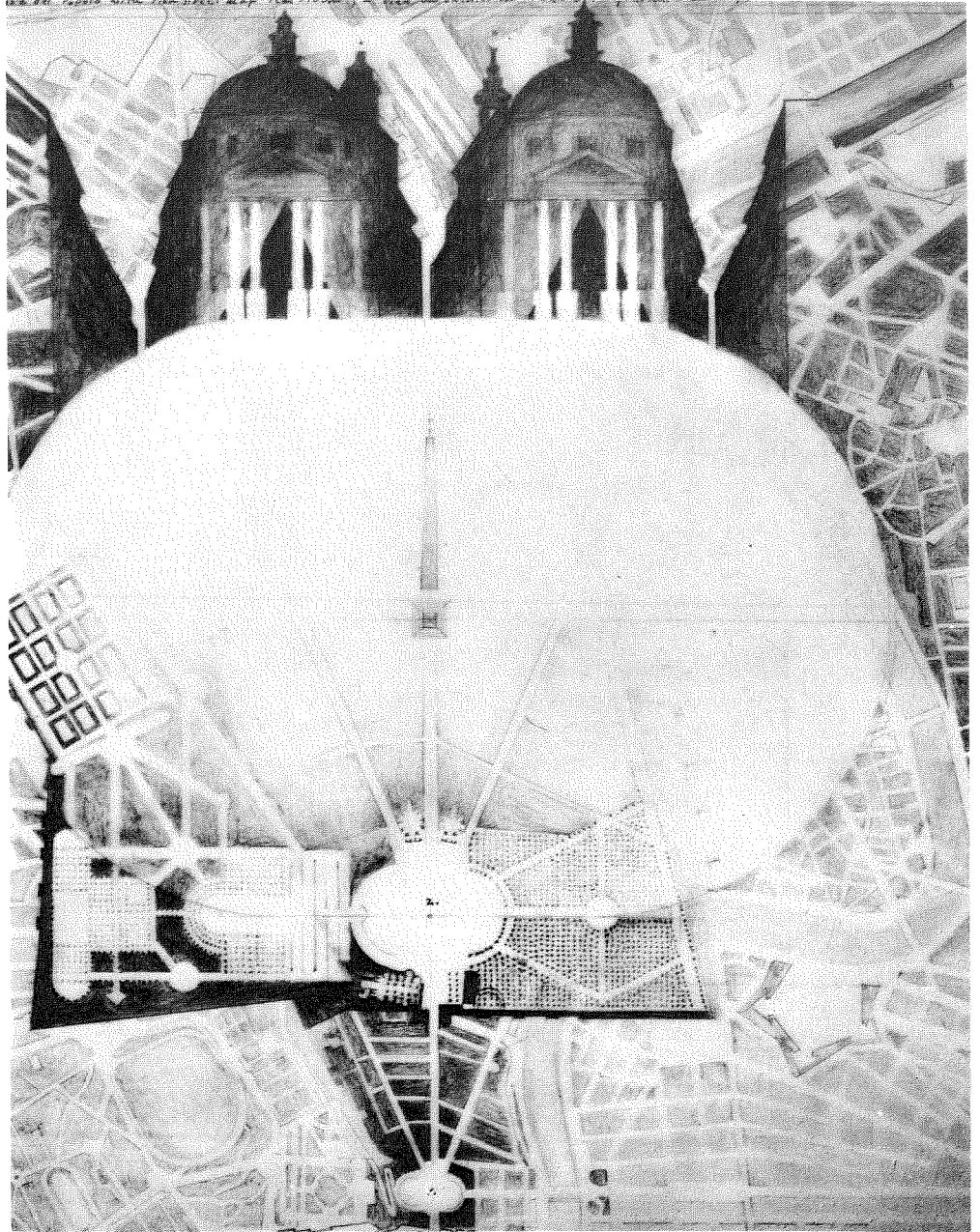
These four drawings are about clearings.



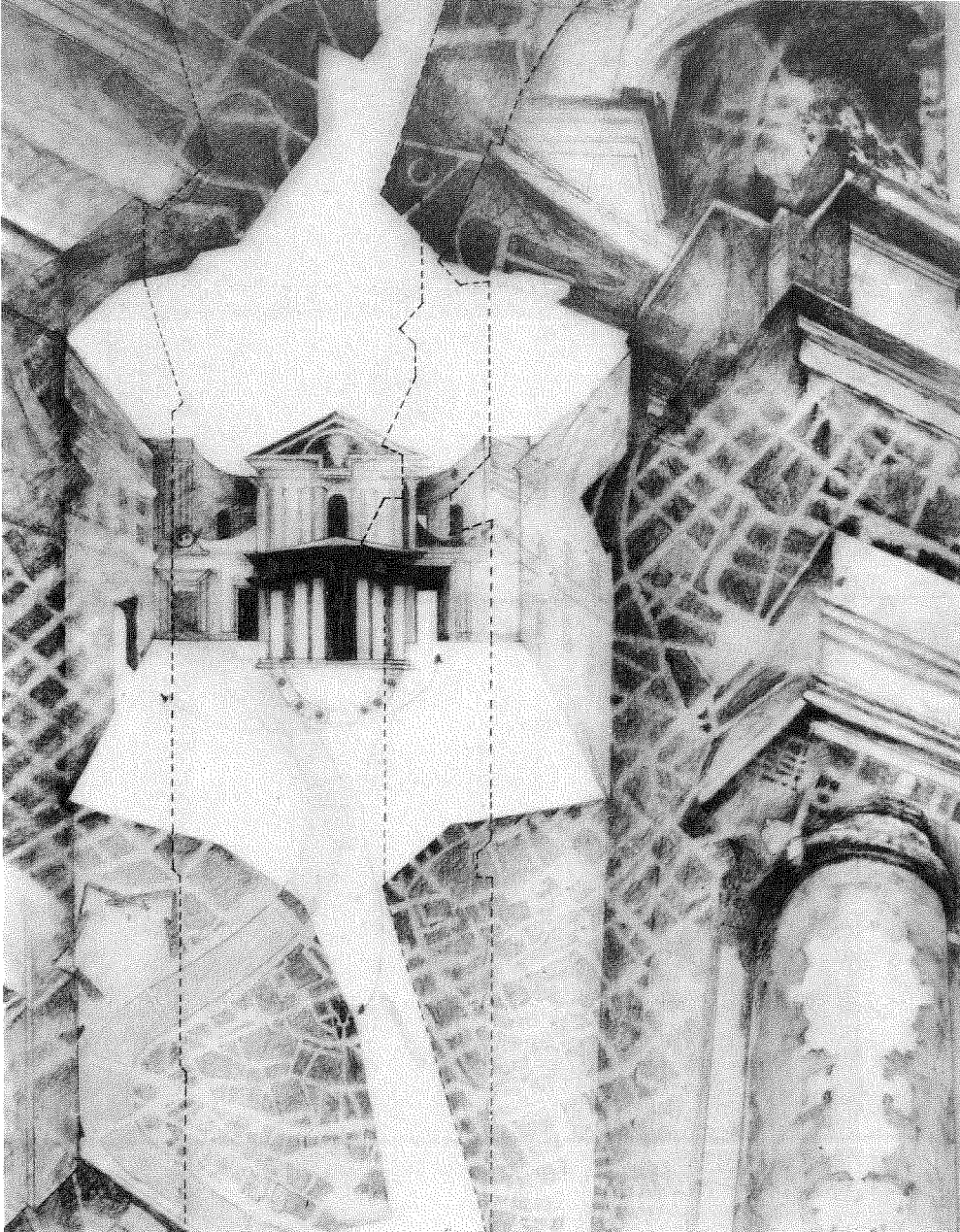
**Piazza San Eustacio:** A landscape is a place enclosed by buildings.



**Piazza Farnese:** Blue Mercury (flying from the Annibale Carracci interior ceiling above).



**Piazza del Popolo** was shaped to impress on visitors a blast of light and three vistas of Rome.



**The Piazza of S. Maria della Pace** was snatched from adjoining buildings for carriage traffic and a star-shaped sky illuming the facade and the viewer.