

The Salk Institute

ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT

The Salk Institute is Named after Dr. Jonas Salk, Inventor of the Polio Vaccine. He commissioned Louis Kahn to design the institute in 1959 with the vision of an intellectually inspiring environment that would act as a catalyst for scientific research and discovery.

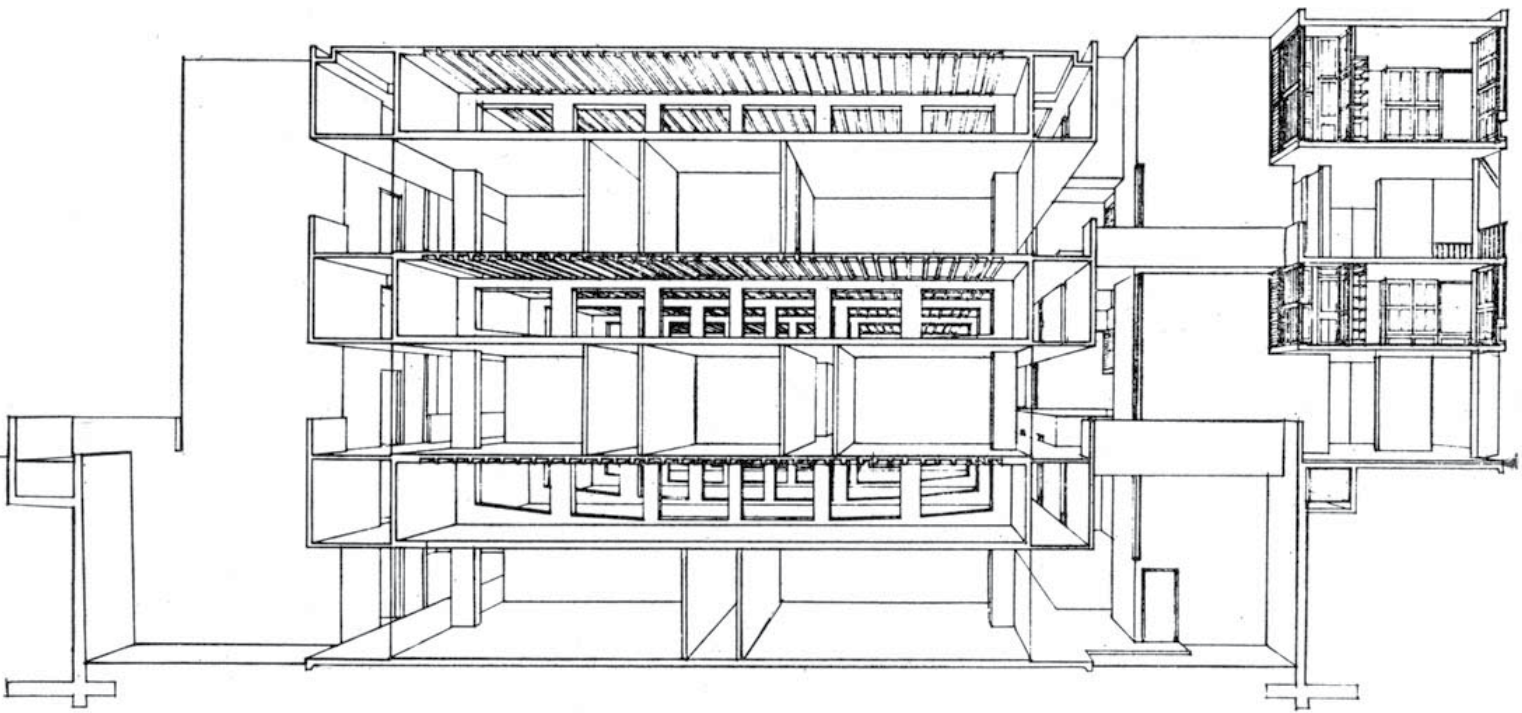
The complex is composed of two symmetrical buildings that mirror each other with an open plaza in the centre. A small stream of water flows down into the ocean to connect the complex to the ocean. Each building has six stories with the lowest two stories underground to meet local building codes.



ABOUT THE ENCLOSURE SYSTEM

The material make-up of the building consists of concrete, teak, glass and steel. The concrete was placed using a pour in place method that was used in Roman architecture. After poured, The concrete received no further treatment aside from the lead plugs used to fill the form work holes. Teak was chosen for its low maintenance and durability but also its ability to show wear and reflect the history of the building as it aged.

Kahn designed three specific floors at a slightly shorter height on every other floor, it is meant to be used for the constantly changing mechanical units for the laboratories. these three floors have custom concrete trusses that allow for easy removal and replacement of the tanks and machines.



ABOUT THE ARCHITECT

Louis Kahn was one of the United State's greatest architects. He created a name for himself by combining Modernism with ancient styles in a refined way. He accomplished this in the Salk Institute by creating a simple intelligent design.



BIBLIOGRAPHY / SOURCES

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Teak

The second most prominent material used for the structure. Used for its durable and water resistant qualities. The material is only used on the slightly detached office pods to denote a different program space.



Travertine

The material used on the courtyard below the concrete structure. This is a form of limestone that has a slight fibrous pattern. The specific color and grain chosen was meant to be similar to the concrete mixture used. These very different materials are juxtaposed in the final design and create a relationship that makes them seem equal in value



Lead

Used to fill the circular holes in the concrete created when the scaffolding and form work is put in place and the concrete is poured around it. Lead was chosen as the material for the "plug" form because Kahn wanted a metal like look without the rust and staining caused by metal.



Concrete

This is the primary material used as the facade and structure of the institute. The mixture is a specific ratio of water to concrete with aggregate that classifies it as pozzolan concrete. The limits of the material were not completely known when Kahn decided to use it, and months of planning were required to figure out how much he could span and how the form could be poured.

