

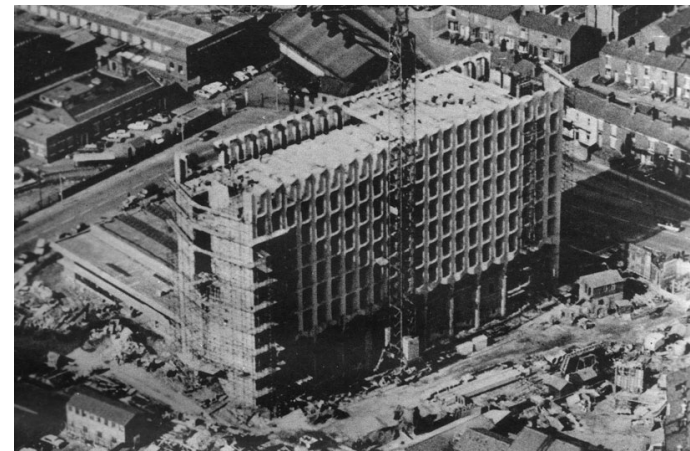
2.4 Historical Context

Hexagon Tower was completed in 1971, and was designed by R. Seifert & Partners for Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI). The existing tower, comprised of basement plus 13 storeys, was one of four towers originally planned for ICI as a campus of research laboratories.

The building is a tower and podium configuration, with the podium containing a machine hall. The tower is constructed in an innovative and considered manner that marries an architectural language developed by R. Seifert & Partners from the early 1960s (see section 2.6 for further detail) with the requirements of the brief provided by ICI: the tower is formed from pre-cast concrete façade modules, sculptural in form that include deep voids which when stacked together to create vertical services distribution routes.

Precast concrete beams are then laid between modules facing one another on the east and west facades to create column-free space with horizontal service routes formed in the ceilings and floors.

Historic Photographs / Images source:
mainstreammodern.co.uk



Photograph during construction.



Historic photograph from rooftop



Existing mini mosaic tiles



Historic Photograph: Original Interior



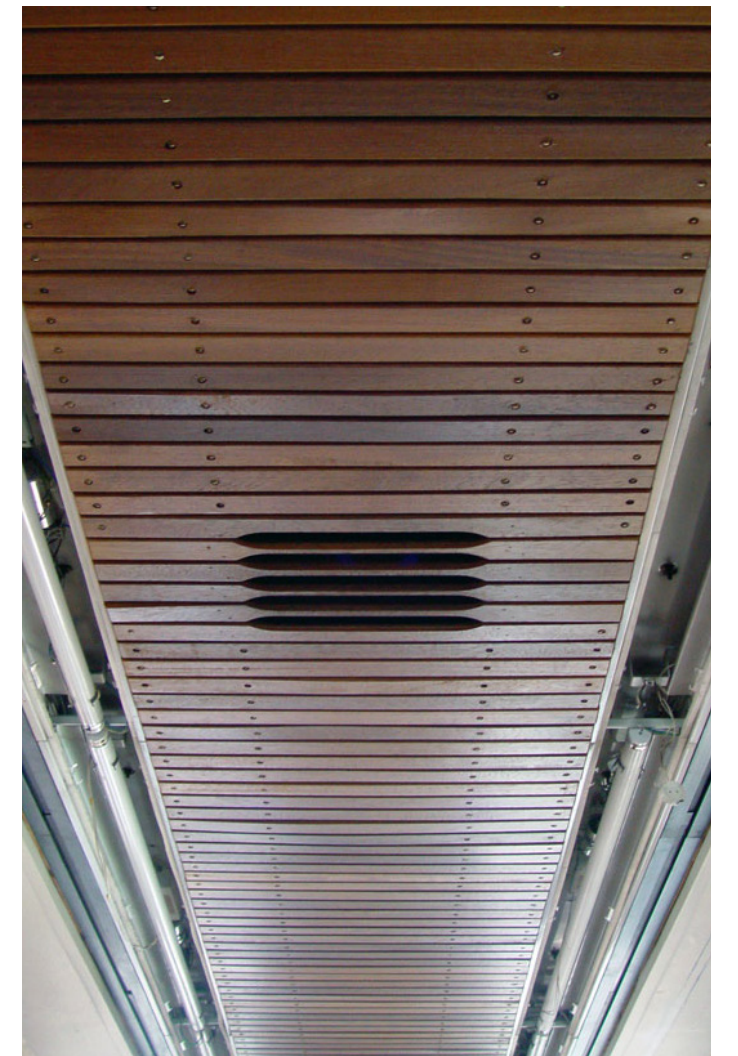
Historic Painting of the proposed development showing 4 towers rather than 1.



Historic Photograph: Original floor fucts and services located within facade voids



Historic photograph from time of completion



Historic photograph of ceiling ducts

2.5 Building Structure

At Hexagon Tower R. Seifert & Partners utilised a construction system based upon precast concrete elements to form the external façade and primary structure of the building.

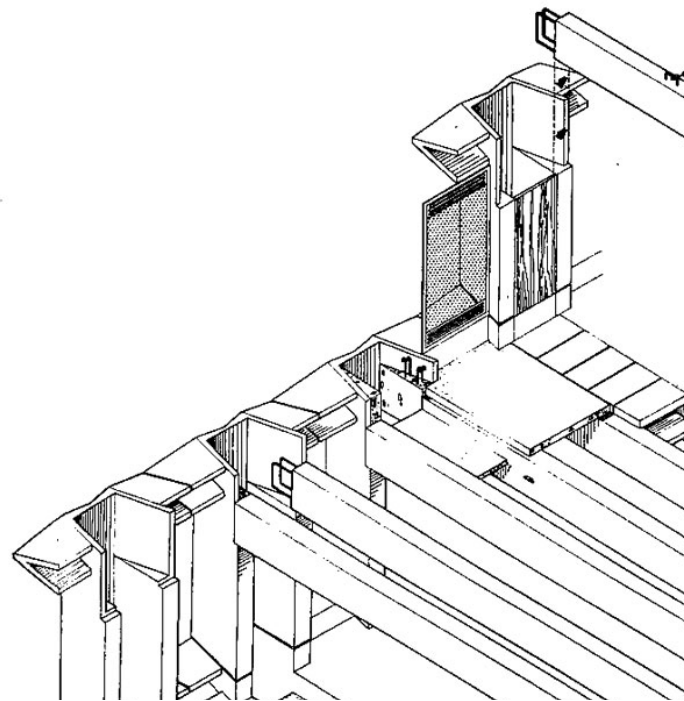
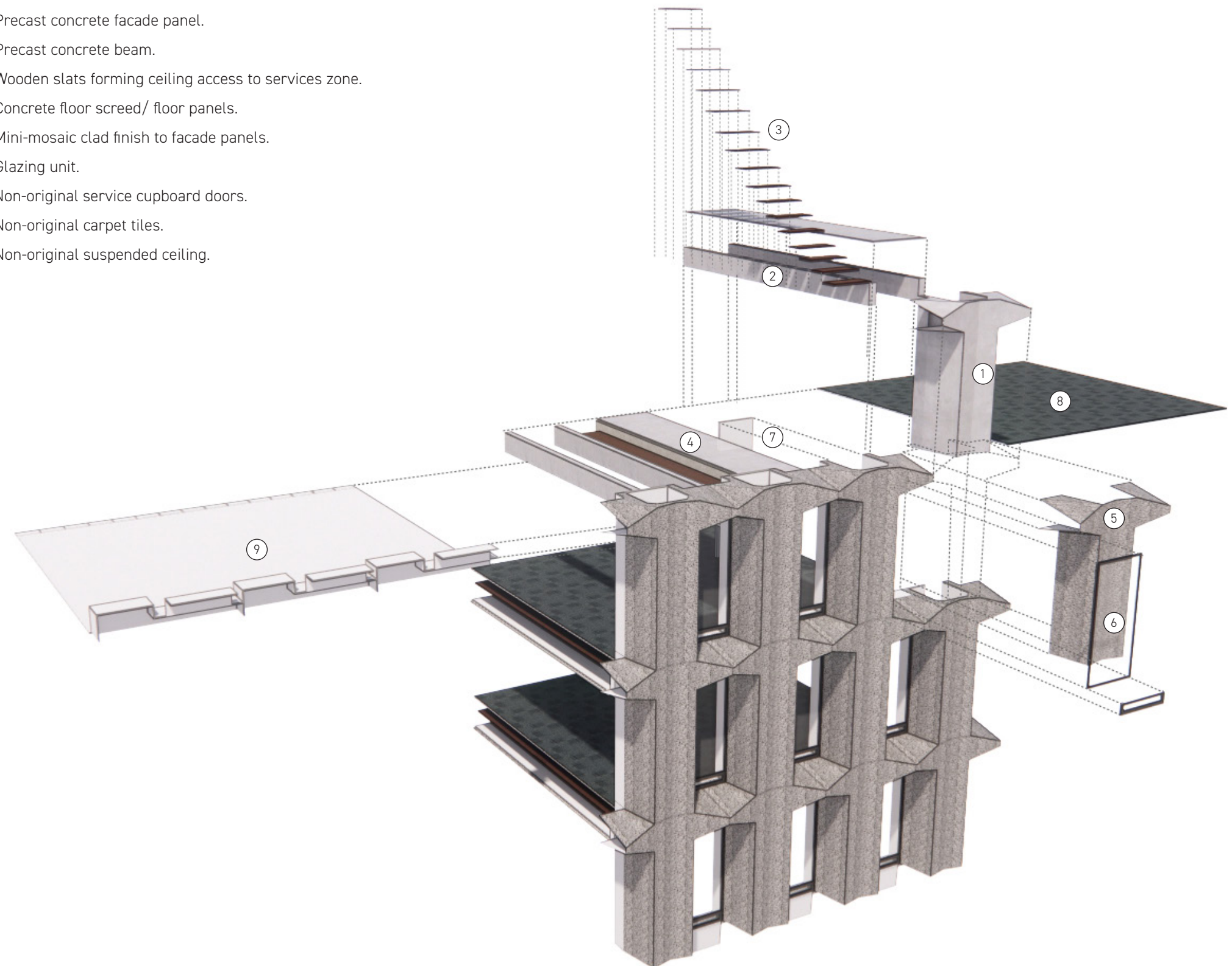
Precast concrete facade modules sit on top of piled foundations to form the external wall construction, with beams laid on the modules to the east and west facades to form a column-free floorplate.

The beams were then utilised to form a horizontal services zone within the ceiling/ floor zone with wooden slats laid to form access from below and either concrete screed or precast panels forming the floorplate above.

Once the façade panels were located in place they were clad in mini-mosaic tiles with a grey, flexible movement joint being installed between panels. Of note is the location of these joints, in particular the vertical joint located above the centre of the glazing. Once the precast façade panels are in place the opening is formed for the glazing which is then installed.

In addition to the above noted original construction system, post-completion amendments have included new service cupboard doors, new carpet tiles and a new suspended ceiling.

1. Precast concrete facade panel.
2. Precast concrete beam.
3. Wooden slats forming ceiling access to services zone.
4. Concrete floor screed/ floor panels.
5. Mini-mosaic clad finish to facade panels.
6. Glazing unit.
7. Non-original service cupboard doors.
8. Non-original carpet tiles.
9. Non-original suspended ceiling.



Archive Drawing showing Construction System