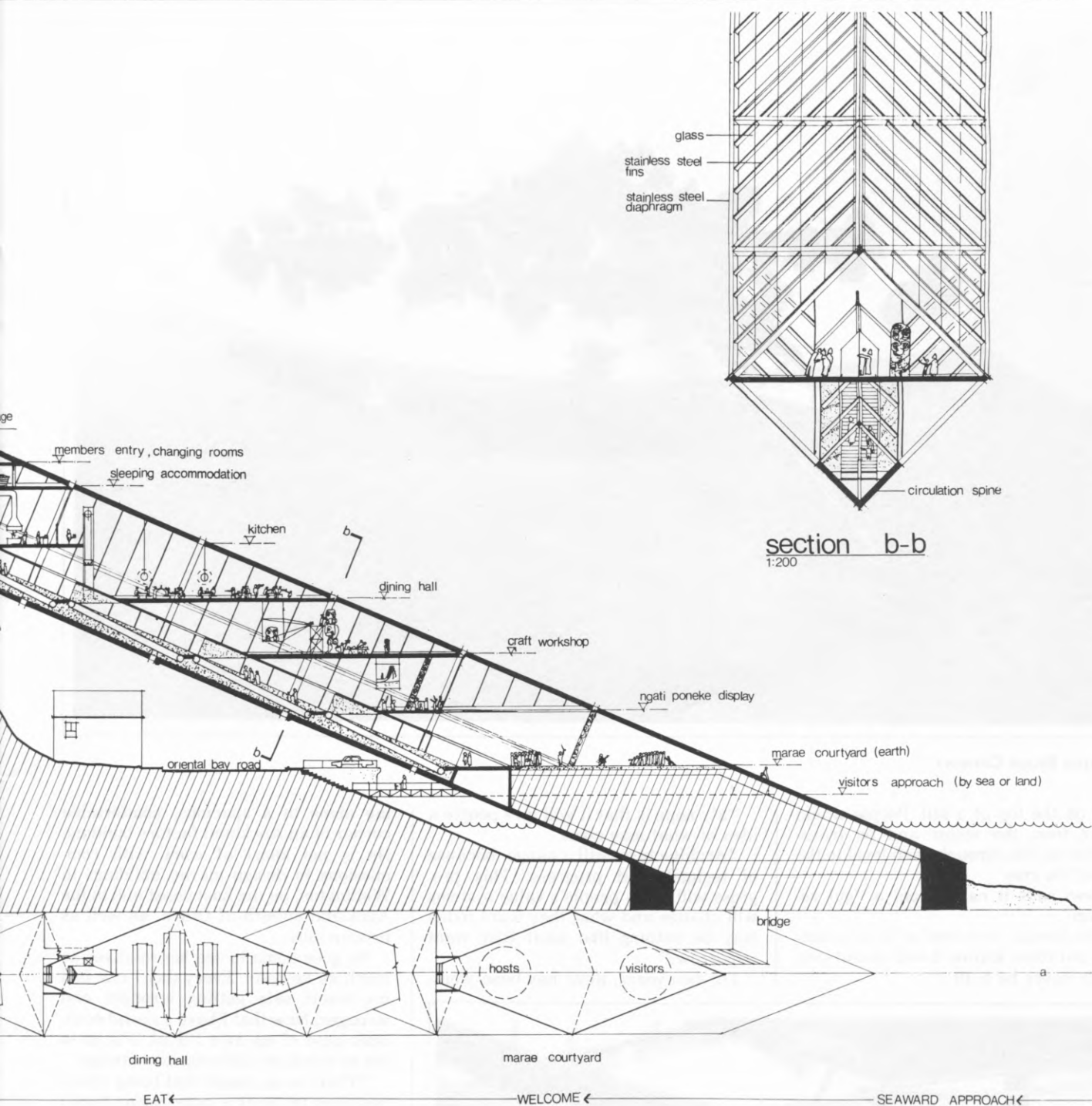




teacher, Rewi and some of his mates went to Wellington Polytechnic to study engineering. Once qualified he joined a city firm of architects and engineers. It was 1972, Rewi stayed at the firm for five years doing engineering draughting.

It was while he was at the firm that his colleagues began noticing just how talented the young draughtsman was.

"They obviously had the sensitivity to see what I was capable of. They encouraged me to apply to go to the Auckland School of Architecture, it was

something I always wanted to do but hadn't dared to think seriously of."

Academically Rewi's marks had been "modest" but he knew he could draw.

"All Maori people have inherent within them certain skills and it's important that we be given an opportunity to express them in a public realm.

"I think generally we are beginning to realise that the system is not made for academics."

He applied to the School of Architecture and was accepted.

"When I first arrived I went to the

dean and he assured me that I had not been chosen purely on the basis of being Maori. I said to him I must be accepted on the basis of the drawings I had submitted and if it was otherwise it would have been an insult to me personally."

During those student days, Rewi won a Japanese company's competition to design a building for the year 2001.

His design, based on the concept of a canoe or ship's prow, was an unreal mixture of steel and glass. Shooting out of the Wellington harbour its tip would