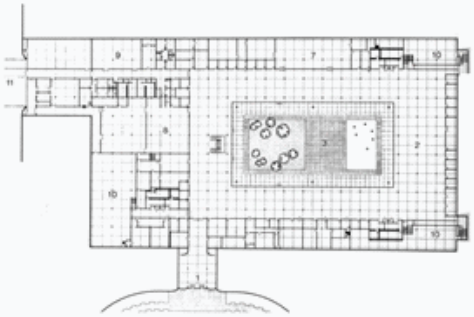

General view of the building. Only the upper floor seems to emerg from the ground.
Plans (lower floor, upper floor).

The big partnerships have always enjoyed the notions of collaboration when they have a similar approach to the problem of architecture. By the very nature of such undertakings, some of these acts of collaboration have been more successful than others. Boots Headquarters in Nottingham, England have been a flourishing case of 1965 collaboration between Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (USA) and York, Rosenberg, Mardall (England).

This building, in which about 1,300 people work, is situated on a former storage site in an industrial estate 10 minutes by car from the town center. The move had been decided despite the fac that, in recent years, a number of new buildings had been erected at the old location in the town center.

Because of the large site it was possible, in designing the building to assign a predominant role to such considerations as economical construction methods and efficient organization of work. the result was a low-rise, two-story building with an interior court, covering an area of 146 x 88 mt. About one-half of the lower floor is below natural ground level and another quarter is concealed behind a sloped in- filling of excavated soll so that upper floor is the only one visible. Its structural steel frame consists of cruciform columns and of truss girders bridging bays of 29,30 mt. side length. Surrounding the interior court at upper floor level is a continuous openplan office area. At one of the short ends of the building, this area is flanked by a group of individual offices for executive, conference and other ancillary rooms as well as two minor open-plan office spaces.

The lower floor has a reinforced concrete structure with mushroom-type columns at 7,32. This close spacing was acceptable as there was little need for flexibility for the facilities to be accommodated here.

Key elements in the open-plan offices are free-standing natural oak carrels with 1,73 mt. high walls which, like the building itself, conform to a module of 1,83 x 1,83 mt.
The steel framework is painted black, forming a contrast to the bronze anodized aluminum window frames and to the grey granite used for cladding of the base.