

# VII

## A THIRD PRINCIPLE

### *Avoidance of Erasure*

Although many have claimed that polemicists of the international style thrived off of eliminating ornament from modern architecture, Johnson and Hitchcock proposed a more nuanced argument about its use in the early twentieth century. Their claim that ornament was becoming obsolete was based on two primary suppositions: first, that it was becoming difficult, if not impossible, to recreate the ornament of the past with great care given the limits of industrial production; and second, that the popularity of detailing natural materials as finished surfaces was leading toward a new sensibility for ornament, a trend whose form had yet to be finalized in the international style. So, in actuality, Johnson and Hitchcock hoped for a new approach to architectural