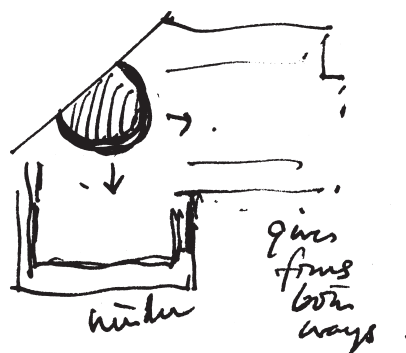


parts of the room — to keep them separate, and yet unite them — it occurred to me, after looking and looking and looking, that a single great cylinder would have a relation to both and yet would give each one a better shape by itself. This sounded crazy, but when we made a small plasticine model of a cylindrical fireplace it looked rather good.

To check it, we built the fireplace in cardboard, in the room itself, with all the kitchen cabinets (coming later) in cardboard too, so we could judge how calm and simple it would be possible to make it.

It worked.



Position of kitchen fireplace as a cylinder: It gives a focus to both parts of the room, separates them, and joins them.



35 / THE KITCHEN FLOOR

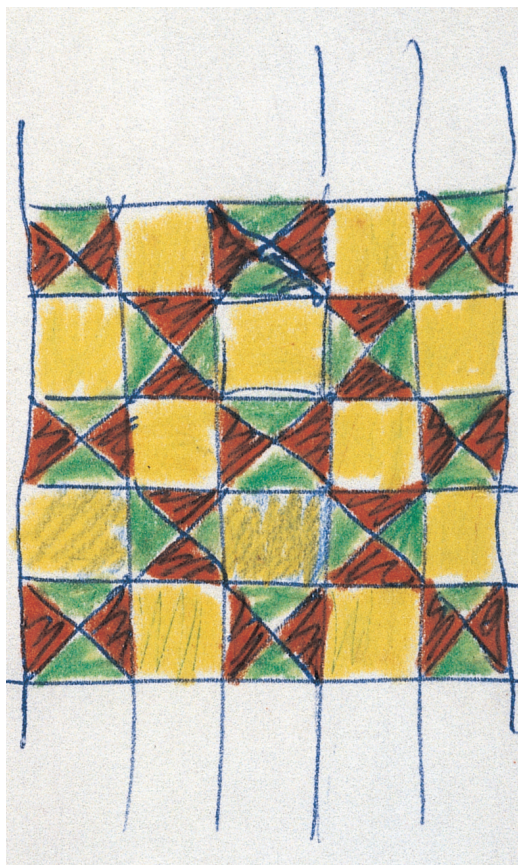
THE NEXT CENTERS, TO SUPPORT THE KITCHEN, WERE CENTERS MADE IN THE FLOOR.

We always had intended to build one of our terrazzo floors in the kitchen. To make the cost of it feasible, we were going to do the styrofoam work (where the pattern gets set) with help from apprentices. We would place the marble dust professionally. Chris Upham himself was then going to grind the floor.

Stephanie mentioned her hope for green and red and yellow. That night, I made a small sketch of red, yellow, and green triangles. Shawn Bradbury, then one of my apprentices, made full size paintings to check the color in position. It worked very well. We settled the scale. Finding the exact colors for the green, red, and yellow wasn't so easy.

The rest was just hard work.

But after all the color effort, when it came to the actual placing of the material, we had the wrong mix for the green. The green came out too dark. It ruined the design. Randy did dozens of experiments to get a sealer which made the green lighter. He then painstakingly applied that special lightening sealer to all the green triangles (several hundred of them); this brought the balance back, and it works fairly well.



My first colored sketch of the floor design: red, green, and yellow

THE PROCESS OF CREATING LIFE



Three colored mockups on butcher's paper, to try on the floor of the actual room in order to determine the best scale for the floor pattern



Styrofoam forms from the making of the kitchen floor, in preparation for the first colored terrazzo to be poured into the voids between the pieces of styrofoam (white)