

Vestbanen Oslo

The National Museum of Oslo is designed to integrate the museum experience as a part of Oslo daily life. The museum not only functions as a storage space of visual arts in terms of collective memory; but also as a landmark building that will be articulated into the collective memory of Oslo evoking the city image in the urban landscape. The museum will be a meeting point composed of the exterior and interior spaces for exhibitions connecting the seafront development of Aker Brygge with the shopping and recreation axis leading from National Theater.

In **urban context**, the main concept of the museum is created by transforming the high potential Vestbanen from an unspecified urban **void** into a transparent **solid** mass by preserving the green ring of trees. The symbolic shape of the building is an interpretation of the green ring for sustaining the urban continuity of the environment. The urban continuity is to be achieved as historical, spatial and functional continuity of the Vestbanen site. The historical buildings at the site, Nobel Peace Center and Station Building, will be conserved and the space between the museum and historical buildings is designed as the common space of both buildings.

In **architectural context**, the museum is planned as a multi-layered project in which the museum functions are interpreted as layers juxtaposing and overlapping to each other. The main concept of museum is a skin that shelters the private space of the museum as storage and workshop area and the semi-private space of the museum as exhibition areas and the public space of the museum as outdoor exhibition area. In addition to the open public space in front of the museum, the exterior space is lifted up to the roof taking advantage of the best views of the city and the seafront with fjords from above. The museum functions shaped with rational forms are enveloped with a transparent surface surrounded by trees. Thus, the exterior and interior space of the museum is connected visually by the transparent surface. The preliminary program that define the museum is designed with optimal functionality. The museum is designed considering universal design principles with easy access to all of the museum functions at the interior and exterior. Instead of creating an urban square, an enclosed urban space is created at the interior with strong visibility from the environment. The historical buildings at the site, Nobel Peace Center and Station Building, are interpreted as urban heritage and integrated to the Sculpture Garden in front of the museum. Thus, the historical buildings act as building art exhibited in the public space of the museum in addition to the visual art collection of the museum.

In **environmental context**, the museum is designed with optimal climatic performance. ArtEco is interpreted as environment sensitive building of art, nature and technology. The green ring not only functions for the spatial continuity in urban landscape, but also functions for energy conserving by winter and summer time. Recycled building materials as special wood, metal and glass are used in the museum.