

Counterpoint

The general suggested architectural concept: two-storied horizontal extent “A Kite” with exhibition spaces on the altitude of 20 meters above the level of the estimated site. In this extent all the exhibition halls and the main spaces for museum items storage are allocated. “A Kite” is a challenge to common perceptions about physical gravitation and it represents a universal image, which is new for the urban landscape of Oslo.

The essential advantages of such a solution:

- 1) creation of a new outstanding focus for historical center of the city in combination with maximally respectful attitude to the existing historical complexes and development, keeping the habitual view points and the “urban tissue”;
- 2) creation of additional precious space and panorama view space for the urban environment on the landscaped roof of the museum, provided with an access for people from the ground level with the help of special “landscape” elevators;
- 3) creation of the ground level for free move of city residents and creation of additional pedestrian esplanade on the level of the ground-floor roof;
- 4) active architectural counterpoint to historical architecture and environment;
- 5) possibility to effectively include the government office building as a building-extension of a tunnel for highway in the rear of the site;
- 6) maximally effective protection from floods;
- 7) maximally effective safety of museum funds and the nearness of the repository with the exhibition spaces;
- 8) high quality of a new environment at the site – additional landscaped areas, well ventilated areas, parking for bicycles, effective navigation for visitors and pedestrians in the center of the city;
- 9) intertextual urban environment taking into account the “historical memory”: in marking the improvement of the roof and in forming the ground-floors the idea of the existing round square is kept; in architectural geometry of the museum building the system of coordinates for surrounding streets and for the line of the quay are connected;
- 10) high expression in notion of function of the National Museum of Architecture and Design;
- 11) use of energy-saving double front elevation to save energy for heating, illumination and ventilation, use of penetrating top light to save energy for illumination;
- 12) Maximally planning flexibility of the exhibition spaces with high possibility for changing exhibitions;
- 13) The structural layout of “The Kite” is an integrated hard space structure divided into two levels. The structure leans on a four-storied extent (offices, studios, library, etc.), made in a shape of a cover with a stiffening core (stairs-and-elevator unit). “The Kite” in a place of maximal consoles (outraches) is fixed by 4 “landscape” elevator shafts.
- 14) Effective arrangement of necessary premises in accordance with the functional program (in square meters):
 - Total area of the museum: 36 300
 - Including useful space of the museum: 33 900
 - Total area of the roof: 12 600 including landscaped areas: 5 500;
 - area of esplanade (without footlights): 3 700;
 - the area of the landscaped ground level: 4 900
 - Total area of government office building: 19 000.