Epicenter

The circular diffusion of waves is a well known phenomenon in physics. A stone for instance, when thrown in water results in movements in form of concentric circles. Similar to its example in physics, the New Museum Complex as an element which once set in place will have an impact on the cultural landscape not only of Norway but of Europe all over.

The collective memory of a city consists of different visual and mental models by which the urban environment has been recognized, depicted, and planned. In recent years the use of past reference in urban planning has been lost, which in turn causes detachment from residents towards their city. It is therefore useful to use the site's history as guidance in the design of its future.

The plot offers a remarkable circle of trees in its center which will be conserved and integrated in the New Museum Complex and structures the museum´s functional organization.

The urban planning challenge of the site is accomplished by its best integration within the context. Almost all functions are covered under a green surface, consisting of concentric rings with different inclinations which twist and turn around each other. The museum is conceived as a huge open landscape, accessible to everyone. Pedestrian access is possible from multiple directions. The New Museum Complex creates a respectful dialog with the City Hall, the Akershus Fortress and the City of Oslo in general.

Outstanding outdoor areas are created and form natural and attractive entry points for everyone; visitors, tourists and citizens of Oslo alike. The outdoor areas interplay well with the adjacent building volumes and enhance the value of space forming arenas for open air stages as well as providing interesting spaces for outdoor art presentations. The circle of existing trees is conserved and integrates itself in the interplay of twisted rings forming narrow fjords. The outdoor areas are open to the public at any time.

The delivery access for art and operations is located in the Enga area. Cars and trailers pass below the motorway ramp which links to Dronning Maudsgate. This entrance will also be used for staff.

The cultural heritage values of the two listed buildings are highly respected in our proposal. The buildings themselves are not touched at all but smoothly integrated in the interaction of green rings. The maximum height of the green talus is slightly higher than the maximum height of the Western Railway Mainline Station.

Development opportunities allow for a 30,000 square meter office block on the rear parcel of the site onto Munkedamsveien. The tower is comprised of eleven floors and has a total height of 47 meters.

Concerning its structural system the New Museum Complex is divided in two independent blocks, the inner circle and the outer circle. The inner circle is composed of a relatively complex roof structure of concrete, supported by rigid concrete walls in its perimeter. The outer circle works with a conventional concrete structure, having a rigid foundation box as basis.

The building's security consists of security zoning, flood protection and emergency exits. Security zoning works in concentric circles, having the lowest security zone in its center and the highest security zone in its perimeter. All storage vaults and permanent exhibition areas are located above the maximum flood level. Three fire protected cores help evacuating the building in case of an emergency.

Universal design is the key design principle for the New Museum Complex. Outdoor areas are easily accessible by moderately inclined ramps and taluses. Several elevators are located over the Museum Complex.

A low carbon footprint is achieved by distributing a high percentage of the building´s program under ground, covered by a green roof. These measures minimize energy consumption and maintain stable climatic conditions for exhibition areas. The result is an eco-friendly and energy-efficient building with a low carbon footprint.