

## **Urban Space for People**

The new National Museum creates inspiring urban space for the daily use of all people. A vast wooden platform "Urban Pier" gathers people onto its tarred surface. Like foliage of trees in a pocket park, the exhibitions hover above the urban space to provide shelter. A modern platform for active city life emerges. "Urban Pier" offers a place for outdoor exhibitions, gatherings and spontaneous events. It also functions as an outdoor auditorium with a harbour view. As an urban event, the museum will build a bridge between National Theatre and Aker Brygge.

## **Excellent Views**

The building offers excellent way to experience the city and Pipervika Bay. As one enters the museum, views are integrated into the spatial experience. From different levels, both outdoors and indoors, the framed landscapes become a part of the architectural experience of the museum.

## **Flexible Exhibitions**

The exhibition spaces are designed with an emphasis to create best possible environment to display the works of art. The arrangement of the exhibition spaces lends flexible proportions, various connections and diverse lighting conditions. The atmosphere of the spaces can be adjusted and transformed.

## **Emotional Experience**

To visit the museum gives a memorable emotional experience. One enters the museum through a cut in the Urban Pier. A high void opens towards the sky and leads up to the exhibitions. The view of the bay opens from high elevation. The visitors can freely choose the exhibitions to explore. They meet the works of art in a unique and independent way.

## **Friendly Landmark**

The new National Museum will form a contemporary architectural counterpart to Akershus Fortress, Station Buildings and Rådhusplassen square. Horizontal in its orientation, the new building will complete the composition of existing landmarks in the area. The architecture of the museum draws its inspiration from maritime history and surroundings of Oslo.

## **Museum for all of Us**

The new national museum is aimed to attract the broadest possible spectrum of user groups. Therefore, inspiring environment is created for both outdoor and indoor uses. The museum layout aims to optimize the functional solution of the National Museum. The basic solution is simple. The entrance functions are located on the ground level. The entrance foyer extends to level -1 through a long ramp/staircase towards temporary exhibitions. The vaults in the ground level can be used as exhibition spaces. The cafeteria opens towards the outdoor terrace and the Rådhusplassen square. The library is directly connected to the visitor's area but has also an independent entrance from Dokkveien street.

The new building follows a user-friendly 'universal design' principles. The entire building is laid out so that all visitors may follow a natural circulation pattern.

All permanent exhibition spaces are located on the same level. Each of the three museums forms its own "island" on the exhibition level. This ensures easy orientation. The circulation of the exhibition platform is non-linear; the visitors can freely choose the exhibitions to explore, and to therefore create a unique and independent program. Nevertheless, chronological, thematic, or precisely selective approaches are also possible. The galleries can be further divided and modified according to the needs of different exhibitions. Concentration on the works of art and easy installation of the exhibitions has been considered as a priority. The arrangement of galleries lends to flexible proportions and various connections. The spaces can be transformed into diverse scales, orientations and lighting conditions. If necessary, the galleries can be individually climate controlled or otherwise manipulated to accommodate delicate installations. A strong emphasis has been put on good connections and division into different security zones. The key is that the visitors can study the collections in a silent, peaceful atmosphere and enjoy spectacular views over the city of Oslo. The exhibitions can be extended outdoors onto the "Urban Pier". Various events can be staged on the "Urban Pier" from fairs and receptions to outdoor movies and performances.

## **Optimizing Work Conditions**

The new building aims to provide best possible working conditions for National Museum staff. Areas for deliveries/operations, artwork vaults, workshops and offices are located on three levels with easy connections. Daylight and views can be brought into almost all work spaces. The work spaces will be flexible and spacious. Staff and deliveries have their own entrances. The government office building is proposed above the Festningstunnelen off-ramp at the back part of the competition site. The office building volume is divided into smaller towers, connected with a circulation spine, gardens and glazed atrium spaces. The same basic concept, the gross area of the office building can be adjusted between 20 000 and 30 000 m<sup>2</sup> above ground.

## **Sustainable Construction**

The aim is to build the new National Museum in a sustainable way. Through the utilization of forward-looking solutions, the aim is to minimize carbon emissions, energy consumption, and environmental impact. This means both construction method and maintenance principles. The spaces are designed in the most efficient manner possible. The design will incorporate renewable energy sources. Solar panels on the roof power cooling devices in the hottest season. The electric panels feed electricity directly into the building network or store it in batteries. Natural ventilation is used to reduce the need for mechanical ventilation. Opening wall and ceiling hatches enhance natural ventilation, and the heat stress caused by the sun is reduced by the direction of facilities, the use of light surfaces and the structure of windows. The roof structure can be used to even out the heat load. Rain water is collected on the roof. Geothermal heating is also made use of. The construction materials are selected so that construction generates as few greenhouse gas emissions as possible. The loading, reuse and recycling of materials will be analysed for the entire life cycle of the pavilion.