

The philosophy

Art unites people transcending spoken language, bringing people together regardless of origin, creed, age, gender, etc. Its contribution to a city's development is undeniably palpable, providing people with an invaluable opportunity of expression and interaction.

The intention of the New National Art Museum is precisely to build bridges, providing a space for established interaction between people and art.

We think Public life is also directly influenced and enhanced by art.

Therein lies the concept of making the museum an extension of the city rather than a new building. The creation of a plaza creates an extension of the pier and Radhusplassen.

The Relation to Oslo

Rather than suggesting a mere architectural object the proposed building will be a system of occupation where the sense of the public life is present- an integral part of the city.

The project will blend in with the current skyline of Oslo, planned with a sensible architectural vocabulary, respectful of place and time. The currently existing buildings, Nobel Peace Prize Centre and Ministry of Foreign Affairs Centre, are an opportunity to create something unique on the site. The new building shall embrace the site creating a scenario for the existing buildings, highlighting their presence.

The connection with the plaza, the extension of the city

The addition of the proposed "L" shape building creates a central open space for different activities that can take place in the museum's programme or other civic activities. This new plaza will be a complement to the existing Radhusplassen and the activity in the surrounding pier. The volume of the new building is intended to welcome people into the new art plaza. In it will lay the historical trail of the site, thus creating increased empathy in regards to its history.

A reference to the old railways is eloquently expressed in the landscape design by a sequence of lighted spots on the ground, reminding us of the history behind the site as they shine through the night.

Programmatic distribution

The museum's areas are distributed as a response to the route that visitors follow through the exhibition areas. The primary layout allowed the accommodations for the service routes perfectly. After rising from the lobby to the first exhibition area, one tours through the north wing towards the south wing where all the rest of the exhibitions are located. The route takes you level per level, exhibition after exhibition, through an electric ramp system to the top floor. Here, one enters the north wing again, walks back to the main elevator axis and down to the lobby. The rest of the building is comprised by vaults, workshops and administration offices.

Material and Surfaces

The three basic materials being proposed are stone, wood, and glass, all of local presence and blending naturally with the city. These materials offer thermal properties. The use of these materials will also give the museum an organic, local quality and identity, differentiating it among the museums of the world.

The new building will be covered in wood. The wood frames will interact with the facades, its solids and voids reflect different rhythms and thus create surfaces enriched with the architectural vocabulary of the city. The humbleness of the material will also express the fact that the museum shall not impose in the area; it should rather be a building one could think of as home or a house in the city.

Glass will also play an important role in the new building and plaza. A glass curtain wall will create an atrium acting as a direct relationship between interior and exterior space, producing a reflection of the surrounding buildings. The atrium will be used as a corridor on the lower level and will extend to the height of the building. This curtain wall, combined with the voids created in the interior wood façade, will create break areas with views of the plaza and the pipervika bay in all levels. From the plaza users will be able to see the internal activities and flow of people in the building.

Environmental Targets

The proposed building utilizes a double façade system. The exterior facade will be the before mentioned glass curtain (which will optimize natural lightning and help regulate interior temperature), taking advantage of natural ventilation, which can be controlled depending on the needs presented by different weather scenarios. This external facade also permits the recollection of sun rays for warmer winters. This solution will also allow lower energy operating costs throughout the life of the building.