

KUNSTKRILL

Preliminary Remark

Our design for the National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design in Oslo represents our interpretation of the building's function in the context of its prominent location on Pipervika Bay and in dialogue with the stark beauty of the Norwegian landscape.

Landscape features

Norway's topography features long mountain ranges and fjell highland plateaus, which drop down steeply towards the fjords that cut deeply into the country's land mass. The whole length of Norway's west coast is characterized by these dramatic and often precipitous changes in geographical contours.

These landscape features are reflected in the building's silhouette. Its edges and corners have been designed to correspond to the structure of the urban areas they face. The building is therefore formed as a sculptural mass, which steps down from north to south towards the fjord, changing in widths and heights as it does so and thus inserting itself into the structure of the museum's urban context.

The exterior skin 'dissolves' into triangular glass panes, offset against each other by being inclined in different directions. This design feature underlines the building's character as a quotation of its natural and urban surroundings. Its associative moments and the diaphanous facades backed by 'dancing' window bands, express the nature of the Nordic landscape and the northern light with their particular energies.

Cityscape

The city of Oslo overlooks Pipervika Bay. The city and the bay mark and form the mouth of Oslo Fjord, whilst the city is towered over by Oslo's landmark City Hall with the Radhusplassen in front of it. The location at the beginning of the long fjord is the original 'first address' of this port and capital city. Here, people have been received; from here they have departed again. Towards the south, the impressive fjord panorama has opened out before or behind them. This dualism of a point of arrival on one side and a great vista on the other, of urban and natural space is translated into a dynamic architectural design for a national museum with a large-scale main entrance facing the city in the front and a huge south window, which seems to hover in space overlooking the fjord panorama, at the back.

With its entrance structure, the sculptural architectural volume is anchored in the city, so to speak, whilst continuing as a cantilever mass above the plinth and the turn-off from the E18. Thus the structure combines the moment of arrival with a first glimpse of the interior in an architectural gesture full of daring and originality.

The design thus not only preserves the building of the **Western Railway Station**, but also transforms it into a museum exhibit, a built witness to history, by 'embracing' the station building. The sculptural building mass with its geometry of diagonals forms a companion piece to the polygonal fortification architecture of **Akerhus Fortress** and thus turns the duality of City Hall and fortress into a harmonious triad.

The Office Building

The competition brief called for an office building. In our design this is part of the larger urban composition. The massive part of the building occupies the corner of Munkedamsveien and Dokkveien and merges into the plinth of similar materials towards the south-west. Like the northern section of the museum building, this corner is above the E18 turn-off. The office spaces of the ten-storey building overlook a central interior courtyard. They are accessed via a front entrance area on top of the plinth.