

NEW MUSEUM COMPLEX
FOR THE
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART

OSLO - NORWAY

JUNE 2009

BRIEF

The Site

We have studied the history of the Site in the context and over several decades of time.

The place, at the heart of the City, had numerous functions, all in strong connection and relation with public and designed for public.

Nevertheless, having great quality and huge potential being the location, the Site envisioned a secondary usage as train tracks or parking lot.

Now, we have tried to build our scheme in such a manner that the Site becomes an urban hinge-connector-destination-background-seafront-place to be.

The Pedestrian Impact

Located adjacent to the City Hall Square and Pipervika Marina harvesting The Main Line Station (Nobel Peace Center at the moment) and Local Station Building the Proposal connects a pedestrian route leading from The National Theatre to the Aker Brygge seafront development, to the City Hall and the Marina.

Our proposal brings pedestrians together under an immense roof, trying to give them the option to either experience the New Museum and enjoy its facilities, or to pass by/through the complex having the outdoor visual experience and possible the outdoor temporary exhibitions in place.

We very much liked the idea of a Maelstrom (**Malstrom**) – our motto – like in all Norwegian stories, of a large, powerful whirlpool that is absorbing you inside from all sides, ejecting you out in a different world of fantasy and unknown.

The New Museum

Having the starting idea in such a strong connection with the Site we have tried to implement a series of connector qualities to the building, keeping in mind the historical context.

- a. A strong diagonal becomes background for the historical buildings and responds to the City Hall proximity
- b. A large funnel brings people in from the west downtown area, from under the plaza and from the Theatre pedestrian route distributing them on several platforms depending on the interest and exhibit space. The funnel then becomes a lobby, a connector, an avangarde for the exhibitions and a meeting place
- c. A wing over the main functions interacts with the street intersections having a roof that can be accessed and experienced from the street level

malstrom

- d. Underground parking and service access from the Enga under the motorway E 18 is connected to the future office building on top of the ramp.
- e. All sensible amenities have been located over the flood level
- f. A large plaza has been sculpted behind the Main Line Station to bring visitors in at different levels without altering the perception of the heritage space which can be experienced all around the plaza
- g. Future floating aRT PODS can be located in the Marina, connected with floating bridges by the main Museum entrance.

The Concept

Architectural strategies for the object itself are also in strong relation with the environment.

- a. Good northern lighting for the exhibition spaces
- b. East-West direction filters the light through the massive funnel into the split levels
- c. Roof Garden to visually link the Museum and the Office building
- d. Plaza entrance to encounter visitors regardless of the weather
- e. Good access from all sides for Fire Department
- f. A simple and efficient selection of materials
- g. Strong security systems operable unidirectional using the concept of "intruder locked in"
- h. Heritage humbling design as backdrop for historical monuments
- i. Linear skyline in the Marina