

Museum Square

Oslo is a city with prominent squares. The ambition of this project is to complete that urban intentionality with *the* new Museum Square. A plaza of 82 x 82 meters that invites the public to continuously perceive and understand Art. Rather than conceiving an isolated entity, the building complies with the existing city, and engenders the city as a Public Museum; the center of Oslo as a grand, classic, public Museum.

A 21.50 meter wide squared ring organizes functions of the Museum in a processional sequence. This organization is enhanced by a long cantilever, spanning over the top of the existing -preserved- buildings within the site, and completing the square. A stepped form is unveiled in the main facade, and internally 'mirrored' to allocate the exhibition areas of the Museum, into a loop. The rest of the programs commit functionally to this basic principle.

The Museum Square is the contemporary product of understanding and conforming to the diverse historical stages of the city of Oslo. Its traditional yet extraordinary form, as well as its configuration and height, represent a modern interpretation of the past. The adjacent proposed government building -lower than the City Hall twin towers- would become a recent counterpart to that building and a background for the Museum.

As technology has evolved, the project is able to reinvent the classic museum courtyard typology, framing space three-dimensionally. As sustainability is vital today, the project uses standardized elements and is organized in flexible modular compartments. As city representation is crucial, the project will become the most recognizable archetype creating a dialogue between cultural heritage and future development.