

## Overall measures and intentions

**Relation with surroundings.** The orientation of the new additional buildings housing the new museum functions and the necessary access structures correspond to the situation of the railway buildings of the Vestbanen worth preservation and the general geometry of the site. These building volumes act as a plinth, the base for a rectangular all-embracing roof structure that also serves to house the exhibition spaces. The roof structure appears to hover over the complex like a cloud, and acts as a large-scale sequence to the city and the open sea. The simple geometry and the raw materials of the new supplementary volumes echo the unrefined and straightforward milieu of the harbour area on the Oslo Fjord.

**Development opportunities.** The exterior space covered by the roof structure is public and freely accessible. An original urban space is created that establishes a direct context to the adjoining open urban spaces (Radhusplassen, Fritjof Nansens Plas, Akershus Festning). The urban planning arrangement of the buildings within the city ground-plan and the arrangement of the buildings themselves allows the site to be traversed, reinforcing the constant enlivenment of the urban space. Attractive cultural and recreational amenities in the transitional zone between the city and the museum extend the lively atmosphere along the Akker Brygge and guarantee additional public bustle on the site.

**Heritage values.** All of the buildings currently on the site are integrated into the overall concept and are reused for different museum uses (foyer, café, shop, administration, canteen). The concept of architectural integration transforms them into an important integral part of the new museum.

## Architecture

**Urban space.** The urban space suspended in between the buildings joins all of the functions and entrances to the various different sections of the museum at ground level. The wide arch of the cantilevered roof offers all-year-round protection against the elements. The incisions in the roof structure and the overall internal height provide ample light, artificial light illuminating the urban space at night. The complex acts to create a unique and distinctive atmosphere.

**Silhouette.** The floating roof enriches the city's silhouette. Whilst the two towers of the town hall lend the overall outline a vertical emphasis, the museum provides a horizontal one. Both landmarks are intrinsically linked, but without competing with each other.

**Museum Organisation.** The "artificial cloud" symbolically becomes a protective canopy for exhibitions, depots, workshops and administration. These functions simultaneously act as the load-bearing supports of the museum. The rectangular, seemingly floating roof rests protectively over both the old and the new buildings and the unique multi-functional urban space. By this free-floating enclosure of the museum strikes an independent, distinctive and self-conscious tone for both the museum and the city. At the same time the process explicitly depicts the different functions within the various buildings.

**Exhibition Levels.** The exhibitions are housed within the floor plan. Three patios and a running, alterable daylight-roof optimally illuminate the rooms. An all-round foyer provides access to all the spaces, serves as a lobby and enables a breath-taking panoramic view of the city and the harbour.

**Façades.** The exterior façades of the exhibition floors are entirely glazed. Sunshading is provided by shading devices integrated into the façade construction. The arrangement of the façades of the base volumes corresponds to the closed and open surfaces of the spaces behind them and their needs or requirements. The goal of giving the volumes a homogenous and large-scale expression is realized by means of a diffuse facing layer of differently structured metal gauzes which, with the exception of the grand entrance area, envelop each of the respective building volumes.

**Construction, Statics.** The roof is formed as a large steel three-dimensional load-bearing structure (virendeel truss), resting on a total of ten access towers. Luminous ceilings and service spaces are integrated into the accessible structure. The structures underneath it are conventional reinforced-concrete skeleton constructions. The direct construction form is braced only by the access towers, producing a flexible floor-plan organisation that can be subsequently altered (e.g. depot floor-spaces). With the exception of a small number of service installation rooms, the design dispenses with museum basements. The shallow foundations guarantee sufficient spacing to the motorway tunnel below. All of the functions, especially the exhibition and depot spaces, are located above the high-water mark k+2.6m.

**Technical Service Installations.** The organisation of the technical service installations is centralized via the technical space in the basement. Smaller decentralized rooms serve special functional requirements. The air exchange required for the air-conditioning and the ventilation takes place via the ideal flow spaces between the roof structure and the building volumes.

**Flexibility, Fire Lobbies.** Due to the simple construction and an additional support grid pattern, the floor plan of the individual building elements can be very flexibly partitioned and adjusted to fit new requirements. The individual exhibition and storage rooms simultaneously serve as fire lobbies that can be secured independently of each other.

**Government Offices.** The new building comes to a stop at the entrance slipway to the E18. In urban planning terms the building plugs into the neighbourhood and forms a back for the museum building. The height of the building matches the museum's base buildings. The parking spaces for the users are arranged beneath the ramp.

## Universal Design

**Access.** The exhibition floor spaces of the collection are housed in a running storey in the roof structure, whilst the rooms for temporary exhibitions are located on the ground floor. The library, seminar and event rooms are likewise located in their own building and accessible from the urban space. The event rooms and the spaces for special exhibitions can be operated independently of the museum. Large sets of lifts connect the two main levels with each other. Additional service lifts provide operational access to all the levels and parts of the building.

## Environment targets

**Environmental ambitions.** The building is constructed according to the latest technical standards concerning energy efficiency, energy production, materials, insulation and the recycling of resources.

