

OPEN CORE

The museum complex forms a quarter with strong urban characteristics. Three massive stone blocks carefully integrated into the surrounding urban structure border the Central Square which is the focal point of the whole museum. Stone facades facing the surrounding city follow the street alignment.

The prominent Media Wall facing Pipervika defines the western edge of Rådhusplassen and provides an unconventional and respecting background for the existing Vestbane Railway Station buildings.

The plan also contains attractive public spaces and pathways for pedestrians and cyclists through the museum complex. An ascending diagonal route connects inner parts of the lively Aker Brygge and Dronning Maud's gate. A pedestrian parkway between the museum complex and Government office block connects Dokkveien and Dronning Maud's gate.

The Government office block is situated in the northern part of the site along Munkedalsveien. It is a simple and robust bridge/deck structure covering the E 18 ramp with a two storey high podium from which three higher masses ascend with typical office dimensioning.

Media Wall

The Media Wall is a massive work of art symbolizing the art museum. Distinguishable from the cityscape, it constantly communicates with the public. The exhibition halls have glassed openings functioning as break areas towards Pipervika through the Media Wall. The exterior of the Media Wall is designed to display electronic works from the collections or visiting artists. To emphasize its unconventional nature the Wall is in fact a monumental vertical garden which reflects seasonal variation.

Central Square

The Central Square can facilitate various artistic expressions of varying duration, in which passersby may also participate: performances, audiovisual art, concerts and happenings. Sculptures and landscape art can be exhibited there. It is a recreational space with outdoor seating and serving during the summer. The square is always accessible and an attractive meeting place for the citizens and tourists.

The visitor areas

The Western Railway Station has been converted into an airy and lucid lobby/entrance hall with glass roofing and a top height of 12 meters. From the lobby orienteering oneself to the Museum's other functions is facile. Monumental stairs lead to the Central Square and to the exhibitions.

The multifunctional hall and the media hall are side by side in connection with the lobby.

Two separate shops are located in the museum. The bigger one is in connection with the entrance hall and the smaller one is in the northern block opposite the Government office block.

The café/restaurant remains in the Local Station building functioning independently with its own entrance, outdoor serving areas etc. Parts of the serving areas are situated in the lobby.

Exhibition spaces

Being neutral and robust, the exhibition halls can accommodate a variety of exhibition forms and presentation techniques. The exhibition spaces are arranged so that they can be easily rearranged. Storage vaults situated on the street level and second floor are connected with the exhibition halls and can be easily converted into exhibition space. The minimum free height in the exhibition halls is 4.5 meters. The largest exhibition hall has a free height of over 10 meters in order to accommodate large, bulky installations, projections and changing exhibitions.

Parking & service

Separate entryways exist for transportation of art, goods and services. Closed-off loading and unloading facilities for objects and artworks are situated in the cellar (+ 2.70)

Each part of the museum site is fully accessible for visitors with impairments. Bicycle and baby carriage parking, situated near the main entrance, are convenient.

Security and safety

Security zoning and security organization have been planned according to the competition programme.

Escape routes: the museum facilities have a command system in place and escape routes.

Sustainable engineering and design/ Financial assessment

Following factors work towards optimizing the energy efficiency of the edifice. The building is compact - the area of its outer rim is small compared to its total volume. Solar panels cover the whole area of the roof. Advanced HVAC systems are to be used in the museum. Harvesting of warm air happens with heat exchangers and the possible cooling down or heating is operated with sea water. With the new system configuration, heating and cooling is allowed to be used of low grade (free-of-charge) in nearby systems. Materials used on the facades are long-lasting and need little maintenance. The load bearing system is made of reinforced concrete possible cast in situ or precast elements.

The Museum Complex is technically quite a basic building structure. The four stories high complex has good area efficiency and its spaces are completely above the flood level.

Floorage summary

Total gross floor area of the Museum is 43 345m² of which 3544m² is situated in existing station buildings.

According to the total functioned floor space 33 610m² the achieved gross floor space factor is 1.29.

Total gross floor area for the Government office block is 29 000m².