



The 'Straits' is a proposal for new iconic museum on an important waterfront site in downtown Oslo. The proposal will create a dynamic new landmark building for Oslo and complete the Pipervika district as an urban composition including City Hall, Plaza, Marina and Akershus Fortress.

The building will incorporate the new national museum of art architecture and design together with government buildings.

The Museum building will locate behind the Nobel building which will be 'placed' on a flooded landscape with artificial islands. The proposed office accommodation will be to the north of the site towards the commercial district. The space between the building forms will create a canyon to give breathing space and let in light. Both buildings join at podium level.

The form of the museum is conceived as a series of cranked 'straits' approached via a landscaped ramp from the south and off the Pipervika plaza. This terraced, flooded landscape will provide a new public space with views and evoke the hemi boreal nature of Norway. The 'straits' are designed to draw in the user towards the museum and create an exciting extension to the plaza.

Once inside the building the sense of scale is evident through the full height eccentric void and extensive lobby. The galleries which are placed on the upper levels are glimpsed from below and the hierarchy of galleries is expressed in vertical chronological order with older art at the base. Archiving is at level 0 below the entrance level but above flood level. Technical and administrative rooms are the canyon spaces and lit where appropriate.

The user orientates through the gallery with the void creating a constant reference point for ease of use. The public spaces are lit naturally while the galleries have controlled light.

Externally the form of the museum is expressed as extruded forms with skeletal structures and in filled textured brick panels for opacity and glazing for transparency. The building form results in terraces at each level either for gallery or public use i.e. Sculpture gallery. In contrast the office building uses a skeletal frame but has the cladding externally and a tapered form.