

## Translucent

The void bring the hills to the fjord and draws light and life deep within the new cultural emblem of Oslo.

The building responds to dual orientation relating to the Norwegian landscape: to one side are the hills, forming the backdrop to the city of Oslo and to the other side there is the fjord, which is an extension of the sea, connecting Oslo to the world.

The urban ambition is to create a new cultural epicentre, which adds to the current waterfront developments of Oslo, whilst acknowledging and respecting the significance of the historical context of the site and surrounding civic landmarks.

Through understanding this condition we propose a bold move, and one which opens up great spatial potential. By extending the rectangular Radhusplassen through and beyond the two historic station buildings, the new museum responds to this greater vision of a public square and steps back from today's Nobel Peace Centre, allowing it space and preserving its architectural integrity.

The Norwegian landscape is solid and monolithic, but eroded and cracked in places. It offers a multitude of different spatial conditions with different degrees of exposure and enclosure from dark caves, canyons that open up and frame portions of the sky to elevated plateaus that offer panoramic views. It has been formed by glaciers, massive volumes of ice that reflect and refract and filter light according to their density and depth.

Responding to this concept the new museum is a play between light and dark, solid and void, an urban landscape inhabited by art, suspended between two different horizons. The translucent volume above the main Hall is a giant light filter by day, softening the contrast of the sky, but at night it is also a light emitter, and during the long winter nights the museum turns itself inside out and its glow is widely visible, creating an ever-changing immaterial landmark. The void cuts through the solid mass of the museum built of local stone, experienced as a sequence of framed views as one moves through the building from one side to the other.

This sequence of large exhibition spaces creates a route through all four exhibition areas and can be used individually or house an interdisciplinary exhibition. The main hall is not only shared by all parts of the museum, but also with the entire city, as both a public circulation route, the central foyer of the museum complex and a space for large scale installations and events that will create globally a unique identity for the new museum. Finally, the Elevated Library Podium connects the library with the coach drop off on Dronning Mauds Gate, but it also is a an outdoor area that offers spectacular unobstructed views of Pipervika, the City Hall and Akershus Festning.