

## **Nasjonalmuseet for Kunst, Arkitektur og Design**

**Motto: Urbanity**

### **Synopsis**

Our design concept is guided by two overarching urban design strategies: First, to offer western enclosure to the expanse of City Hall Square and second, to provide a meaningful role for the historic former Railroad Stations in a new setting.

The massing of the L-shaped National Museum – together with the future Government Office Building – is calibrated to provide the desired western enclosure to City Hall Square without compromising the scale and density of the surrounding city fabric. A public outdoor area between the National Museum and the historic structures facilitates outdoor exhibitions, arts festivals and performances. The former railroad stations act as intermediaries between the more intimate Museum Plaza and the City Hall Square. Like pavilions in the park, the historic structures become immersed in the activities that surround them.

The architecture of the National Museum is contemporary in spirit and in substance. Its building forms are shaped by its strategic organization in two distinct wings. An eight story Museum wing along Dokkveien houses the museum galleries and halls on its lower levels and the storage vaults above. A five story “Operations” wing in front of the future Government Office Building along Munkedamsveien accommodates the main entrance and auxiliary programs. Ample terraces on the fourth level of each wing offer panoramic views of City Hall Square, Akershus Fortress and Pipervika. An optional sculpture garden on the rooftop of the Museum Wing could be used seasonably. Bow-like building features at the end of each wing are functionally conditioned by diverging space programs. They can also be interpreted as bows of ships commemorating Norway’s legendary history as a seafaring nation.

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