



National Museum at Vestbanen, Oslo

White lanterns on the skyline

Like a series of white, luminous and translucent blocks that seem to have detached themselves from the city, the new National Museum is an extraordinary place that relates to the sky, the fjord and the cityscape of Oslo. Like walking through a geological structure made of light, or a white and translucent landscape, it is designed to offer an environment that is spectacular and luminous both during the day and at night.

The architectural design uses a limited range of materials, including white stone and sanded or clear glass for the external facing and brass and light-coloured wood. Clear or opal glass is used for the interiors.

The museum is like a white lantern on the skyline of the port and is beautiful and glittering both in winter and in summer and during the day and at night.

It has been designed as a destination for the widest possible public, attracting people of every generation, at every hour of day and night.

The base, designed to be continuous with the public space, extends the urban space to the heart of the museum. The monumental stairs located on the base between the blocks are designed to function as small amphitheatres turned towards the city. Spaces of this sort allow all types of event to be hosted. Inside the museum, the volumes are freely structured and spaces can be changed at will according to the kinds of exhibition design required.

The project takes the shape of a landscape background to the two conserved buildings. This landscape, in white stone throughout, is designed to set off the two Nobel Prize buildings, enhancing them both by day and at night.