

ALPHA 23 – SUMMARY

NMMAAD - NATIONAL MUSEUM FOR ART, ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

The NMAAD will play a new key role in the cultural developments of the harbour area, and those of the whole city of Oslo. Its importance and symbolic significance to the Norwegian culture and history, exemplifies the importance of cultural activities in Norwegian society, and transferred it to architecture and urbanism, to collective spaces and their activities.

Our basic concept for the future of the Vestbanen site is based on three spatial elements:

- A Podium, which sounds into the different directions towards the boundaries of the site.
- Five small towers, called “Caskets”, which perforate the podium.
- A Backdrop (government office building), which represents the vertical back-bone to the horizontal podium.

A threefold design strategy acts a guideline for the new NMAAD:

Firstly, the NMAAD, together with the historic Vestbanen station buildings and the new government building becomes a strong public meeting place including valuable collective squares, pathways, gardens and outdoor exhibitions.

Secondly, the geometry of the architectural scale for the NMAAD responds to the larger urban scale of the existing urban fabric of the city of Oslo and the Oslo harbour area.

Thirdly the proposal is based on transformability. We suggest a rich spatial structure, which allows the most open and flexible organization for exhibitions and research for the future of this significant cultural centre.

Together the new NMAAD becomes an inviting attraction for the celebration, discussion and production of contemporary art, architecture and design in Norway and at the same time a place, which fosters the relation between the arts and the public, especially the people of Oslo during their everyday life.