

THE FRINGE

Once again Oslo does an impressive leap forward to bring its cultural treasures right to the city's fjord. After the cultural buildings at Björvika - the realized, and the ones to come - now the National Museum at the old harbour, facing the city hall and Radhusplassen, brings even more cultural importance to the inner city waterfront of "Fjord City".

Like a fjord's folded and diversified coastline, the new National Museum complex fringes vis a vis the old listed buildings. The different Volumes seem to dance around the Nobel Peace Center.

The Fringe - urban

At the area at Vestbanen two highly different urban scales meet: the rather small listed buildings of the former Station, i.e. nowadays the Nobel Peace Center, and the surrounding office and retail buildings.

The Fringe dissolves from west to east. In respect to the listed buildings the museum maintains enough distance, so that the Peace Center still stands its own ground. The square between the museum and the Peace Center as it develops will be a lively, vibrant place, bordered by Cafes, boutiques, Tourist Info, and the Museum shops.

From the square level the floor swings up to level 1 which contains the museums main entrance and foyer. Level 1 with the foyer, and the outdoor areas for sculptures, connects to the square like a terrace and can be read as a continuation of the square.

The Fringe - architecture

The appearance which is aspired is individualistic, but not fashionable. The museums architecture shall rather provide a timeless container for art, than to be an exhibit itself. The architecture follows a simple principle which arranges a complex combination of function and rooms. Alongside Munkedamsveien the building has a straight back, containing workshops, service rooms, and offices. Easterly the exhibition space develops in differentiated stapled volumes.

Hence that principle the public, and the non-public areas easily can be separated. Nevertheless the concept implies the possible visual connection between workshops and public.

The offsets of the stacked volumes containing the different exhibitions open the building. Openings, gaps and voids bring light to the inner building and connecting views to the city. Between two exhibition areas the different volumes overlap. In this in between space visual connections are staged. The intersectional space itself forms the "breakrooms".

Additionally some large openings celebrate the city's views along the promenade. A particular roof terrace on the older art section sports spectacular views on harbour, museum square and Radhusplassen and marks a possible end of the promenade.