

12th June 2009

Nasjonalmuseet for Kunst, Arkitektur og Design

MUSEUM CITY

746257

Concept - Summary

The City of Museums

Bringing together four distinct museological areas into one building, the National Museum of Norway will be a large building that could be daunting or confusing to the visitor. We have taken this issue as the starting point for our architectural exploration and propose a concept where the museum is seen as a city of cultural memory, with a series of four different Museums clustered around a central hall. We propose that the public, no matter which entrance they use, are brought to the same starting point and that this space is filled with "tasters" of what they can see in each of the areas and is the point of orientation between the different Museums.

We have called the building, the "Museum City".

The Public Galleries

Central Hall – 'Taster Gallery'

A place to meet and sample the variety contained within the building. As this space is not directly referred to in the brief, but does create a substantial amount of potential display space, it would be simple to make a modest reduction to the four main gallery areas.

The Gallery Courtyards: - Modern Art - Arts and Crafts - Historic Art

These spaces are smaller day-lit courtyards that give orientation to the sky and to the gallery spaces that spiral around. Each of the three spaces will have a different identity, so that it is clear which "Museum" they represent. We have explored the possibility that these are open landscaped spaces or possibly internal, with planting and a transparent ceiling. This will be determined during the second phase of design development depending on further detailed briefing.

As the galleries are located above the storage and workshop areas, the proposal allows the flexibility to integrate naturally lit spaces on both the first and second gallery levels. We have examined a number of methods to give flexibility between day-lit and 'blacked out' exhibition spaces.

Museum for Temporary Art Works

The temporary gallery is the only gallery that does not form its own "cluster" of rooms around a day-lit courtyard. As this gallery functions differently and may be separately charged, the gallery is able to be controlled and entered from the main entrance lobby and has its own discrete circulation system. The largest of the exhibition spaces has been placed level with the main hall at level 14.2m, so that this can be directly connected, forming a very large area for special displays.