



Art house

What is contemporary art; How can we make a shell and let people express the true meaning of art there; Contemporary art is the gift that artists give to people. Is the way they compose their feelings making them existent for everyone. Artists want space with no visible boundaries. They want their space to be unlimited. They want laboratories that are changing with the progress of their projects. Spaces that transformed from

a point to outer space.

The design of an outer shell that will house contemporary art is limited. It consists a boundary to the artistic expression .

Our design must be unlimited and free in the city's urban boundaries as the artists' soul.

If over ground space is limited as it is guided from the urban law there is always the underground space that offers us the freedom of space, the unlimiteness of its depth.

We will design the underground spaces as a continuity of the on ground space. To do this we will make a very strong joinery that makes them unseperated. The joinery is the empty space that unifies the whole. The design of the empty space is the designing of its virtual boundaries. Boundaries that permit air, vision, sound, and people to come in touch and communicate.

Looking the plot at first sight

Adjacent buildings form the environment create the need of a different existence. The unexpected. The creation of a different building.

A building as an experience. Not a visual one but a living one. Beirut is a city with different kind of buildings. In the variety and in the significant buildings to come the art home consists a no building. It is a building in the earth. A building that is hidden in the tortured earth of the Lebanon capital.

It has one and only view. The sky.

The closeness with a skyscraper makes the comparison unequal .

The centre . The centre of art. A building that embraces the visitor and the creator holding them in close relation. There are no obstructions .

A building that tells a story, giving shape to the unexpected.

Inside the void has its own space.

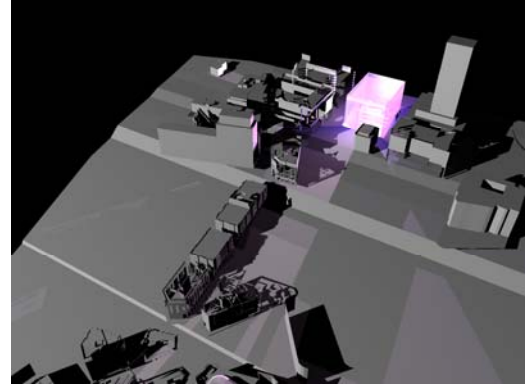
A building that goes down instead of up. Isolation. Far away it goes. The surroundings disappear as the visitor is coming inside.

First sketch lines are section lines. An empty hole comes next to the future high rising adjacent buildings.

Movable and unmovable will be joined to make the new house of art.

Everything will be placed in this cube that its vertical limits comes forty meters above the ground to seventy meters under the ground and its horizontal boundaries are established from the site's limits. All the limits are visible.

What happens inside the cube is the question that people is coming to find. You cannot imagine. It is not like a building. It is not like something useful and functional. Nothing comes in our memories when we look at it. Opposite morphology.



A continuous descending. The underground building gives 'unlimited space'.

The difference between inside and outside. The building as a container of art . Deep inside the earth.

The earth and the sky. Art, artists and people are joined together in this buildings that is sink in the earth.

Construction

The underground construction is reinforced concrete with beams, columns and horizontal surfaces . All aerial corridors and staircases are made of reinforced concrete too.

Glasses of different transparency are used for the vertical surfaces indicating the functions of the House.

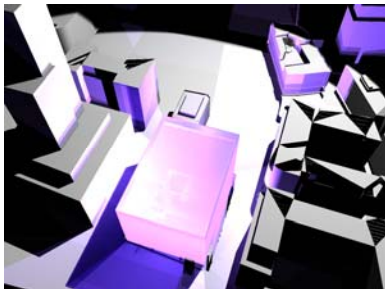
The above ground construction has a metal skeleton that supports two surfaces of changeable fiberglass controlled by electronic system.

The House of Arts will be designed based on principles of thermal comfort, indoor air quality and energy consumption saving. To achieve this target, the following designing steps will be followed:

Concerning the thermal comfort of the indoor areas two methods will be used. Firstly the underground placement of all the functions reduce the heating losses and the cooling loads all over the year. In such way the facilities spaces will be less affected from the external climatic conditions through the season's changes. Secondly, the use of a large number of side openings, bellow the ground level, will permit the natural ventilation as well as cooling of the interior spaces. Trough these openings, the outdoor air will flow, in order to refresh the inside environment, reducing the contaminants concentrations and creating indoor air quality. Specifically, for the garage areas where the CO concentrations are in high levels, mechanical ventilation will support the natural ventilation. For the winter period where heating will be needed, a floor heating system will be used. This proposed system, except for its high efficiency, will succeed a more uniform temperature distribution near the places of interest (at human level) due to the height of the interior of facilities spaces.

For the whole building, main functions and parking spaces, computational fluid dynamics (CFD) simulations will be conducted in order to describe the air and contaminant flow field and compute the placement, and the size of the openings as well as of the mechanical installations.

For the control of all the above designing parameters as, temperature, air velocity, lighting efficiency, contaminants concentration and energy demand, a building management system (BMS) will be applied.



Form

The building 's outer cell is formed by a transparent cube. An empty mass.

Above ground emptiness, in ground completeness.

The art house is a shining cube as it concerns the urban development. It is invisible from far above. You have to come close you have to look for it. The need for exploration. The cube. A white cube that changes with the light. It changes colors with the sun. During the night it is transformed to a bright cube that shines in the darkness. It is then that the inside of the building is getting visible from the city. The cube is becoming a transparent surface. The light is coming from the inside areas of the Art House.

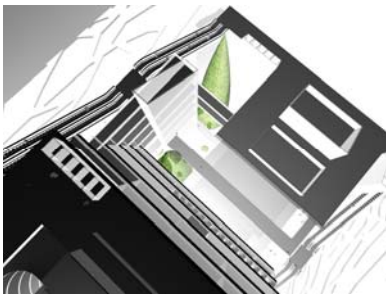
Functions

The functions are placed from the ground level and following a continuous descending they reach the depth of -70 meters.

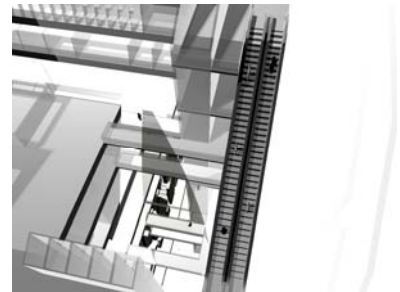
Moving escalators join the more crowded areas. From the reception to the cafeteria with the shops to the exhibition and then to the grand Hall.

All other functions have access through the twenty elevators that are placed in four different areas . In the four corners of the House of Art staircases can be used in case of emergency .

The restrooms with the kitchenettes or the butleries are placed together in a tower and have easy access through corridors that join them with the elevators and the functional spaces .



The building is full of inside views. Side walls function as electronic screens , as canvas for artistic expression. Huge surfaces in vertical direction.



Performance Hall

The Large Performance Hall is placed in the lowest level. It has easy access from the escalators and ten elevators. The stage and the adjoining rooms have access from other ten elevators.

Parking area

On the first under the ground floors we place the car park areas. Cars like people are moving under the ground and their movement is visible from the whole. Everything is clear and visible. The parking area has a vertical development. Two different parallel spiral ramps are used for car parking. Next to every functional area there is a parking space.



Foyer

The spiral ramp is transformed in the level -40metres to a foyer that starts from the exhibition area and continues to the performance halls.

The green element

When the construction reaches its lower point it meets the earth. On the lower level next to the Large performance Hall a botanic garden with water places and a few big trees is created. This botanic garden generates an autonomous oxygen system for the whole space. A micro climate brings fresh oxygen around the place. If the natural solar light is not enough for the planting artificial lighting system will be used.

Mobility.

Functions can change place according to the current needs. The only permanent elements are the horizontal levels and the circulation network. All vertical walls are made with temporary partitions.

Transportation

A structural network begins above the ground and goes deep in it. The transportation system. High speed elevators, escalators, transparent staircases,. Everything moves. Air, light, people, art moves through this space. Different speeds of movement in every direction.

The above ground structure is like a transparent building, clear in its function. It points the direction to underground happenings. From the top of the transparent construction you can feel the depth and the long way to the inner space. You can feel from above what happens inside, you can see. You want to go into and find the continuity of the art generation. High speed elevators direct people vertically and sharp the emotions. Going down the optical vision gets dramatically as the construction gradually gets deeper and deeper.

Direct sun light finally disappears and it is transformed into the light of art. The whole project is a great experience for the emotions and for the physical body.

