

House of Art and Culture

Respecting the site value, the House is designed through the manipulation of a stone cubical form. This design approach defines a new monument that takes its place gently into the urban fabric, interacting with the surroundings through allowing the urban landscape to merge into the building, carving a continuity of the visual & pedestrian paths. Serving rooted culture demanded the utilization of a local building material - stone, and the minimal settlement upon the ground for a continuous pedestrian experience through raising the functions demanding large areas: cultural production, a new level of perception.

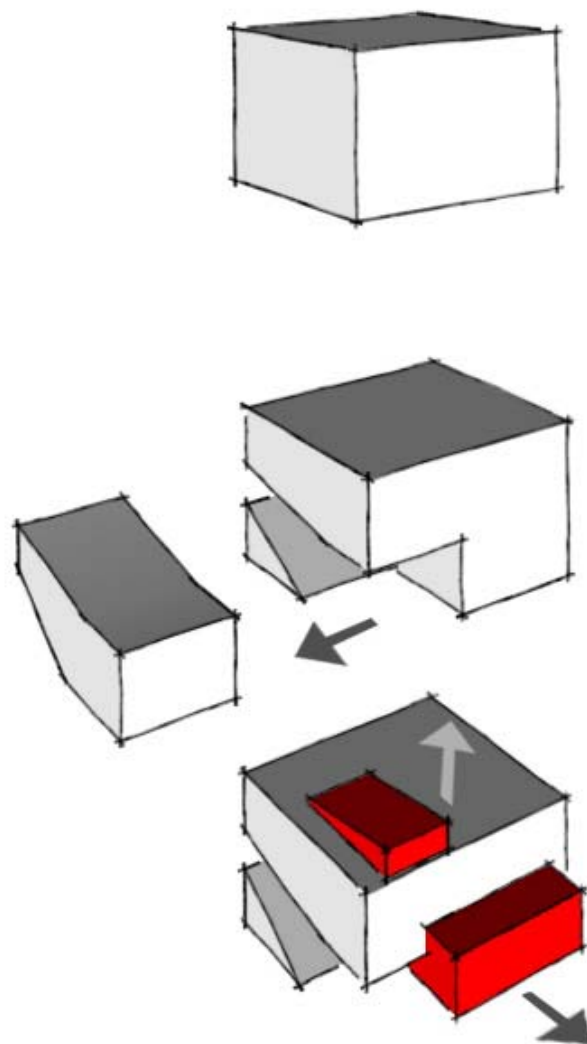
The House & the Solidere

The House performs as a new gate for the Solidere through the multi-level promenades, where outdoor stairs create not only a connection but a spontaneous theatre viewing daily life scenes.

If not heading to enter the House, the outdoor experience suggests a hint of the exhibition, shopping, going up to the overlooking cafeteria level, or to the higher promenade, into a carved entry to the library or workshops.

Responding to the promenades as subtractions caused by the Solidere,

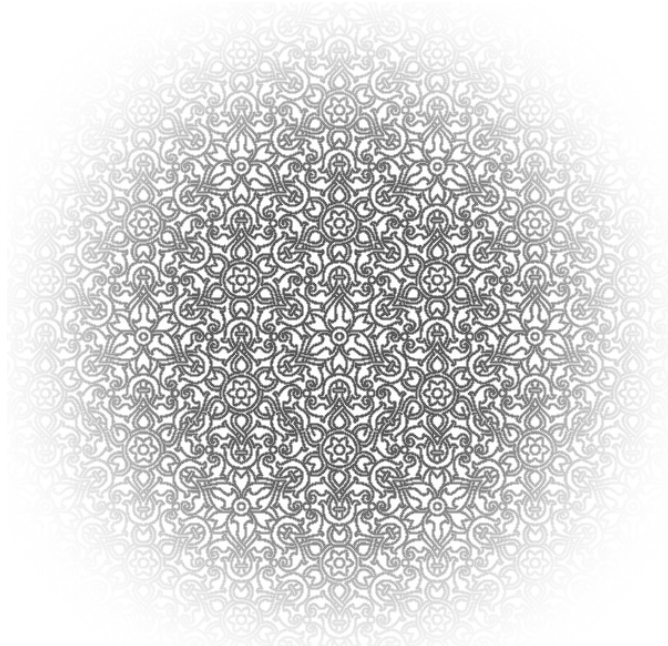
extruded masses, on higher levels, connect with the city horizontally & vertically, adding to the street's perspective. These raised masses, vibrant with metallic red cladding, containing the cultural production, spread culture into the city.



manipulation of the stone cubical form

The Living Facades

The facades declare unification with the Lebanese culture, re-introducing stone cladding, interrupted with gleaming red, and using Lebanese traditional ornaments as an articulation for the atrium curtain wall. This ornamented curtain wall serves as an open layer between inside and outside introducing a communicative relationship. The visual experience is enhanced through linear



traditional ornament

glazed slots at different levels, vibrant with the colors and motion acted behind them: lights, actors preparing, students performing, or even projections and reflections. Circular openings on the fly-tower translate the performance showing into light signals that announce the presence of the House.

Pedestrians will have a dance within their minds observing all of the activities in the House traveling across the facades, they will wonder about the flickering lights and shadows escaping a show.

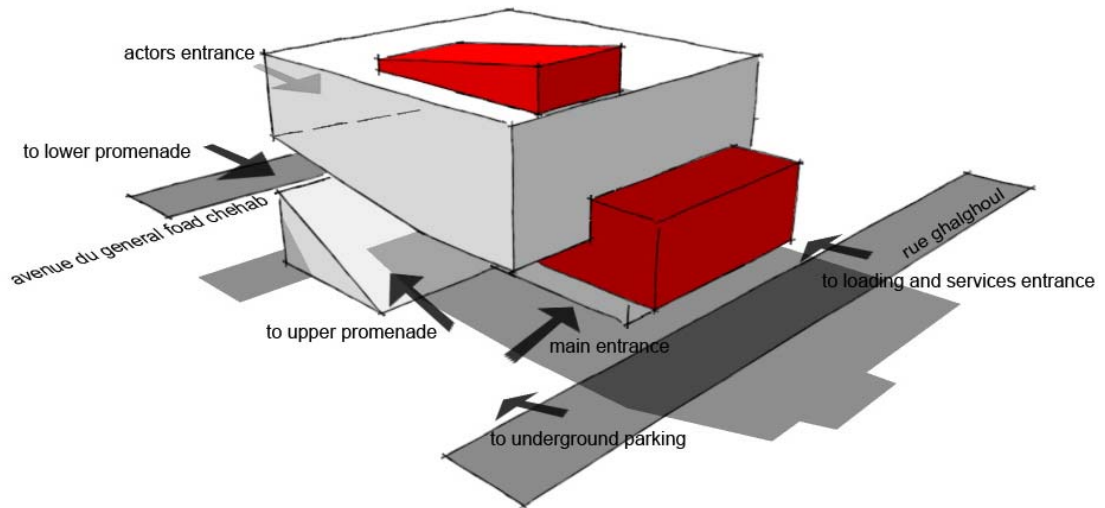
Plantation proclaims a friendly building meant for a rooted culture. The landscape elements on different levels add more life to a dynamic structure and relates to familiar surroundings.

Entries

An urban interactive building requires a variety of access. The main visitor entrance is accessed through the Solidere (rue ghalghoul) from the lower promenade, or from the underground parking levels into the vertical circulation core.

A drop-off zone is provided to the upper street (avenue du general foad chehab), serving actors into their private core connected to the under-stage area, or receiving people into the promenade where entry is possible directly into the library or workshops.

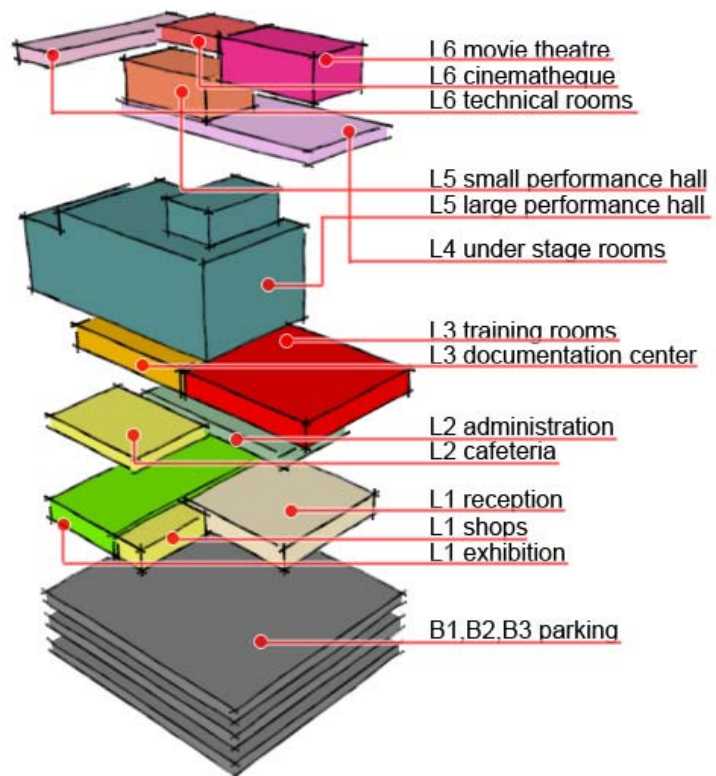
A service entry to the underground parking is provided through the lower street.



Internal Orientation

The interior of the House adapts dynamic inclined surfaces that serve for both orientation and enclosure. With the harmonic unity for these interacting surfaces using a neutral color, a calm yet creative atmosphere is achieved through introducing vibrant red color; a color management that supports orientation: Horizontal circulation comprehended. Exhibits, furniture, and even visitors form a part of the lively interior space.

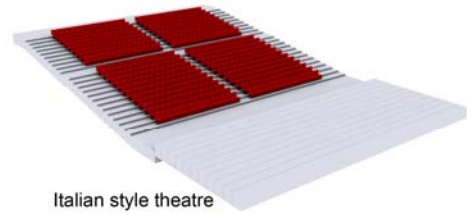
Vertical circulation allows easy accessibility to a conventional core of elevators and a stairwell for busy users or disabled people. While providing a sensual experience using the shifting escalators and alternating voids, where daylight is filtered through the artistic ornamentations. At night the process is reversed, casting an embroidered light entity onto the exterior.



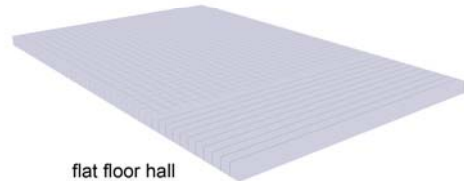
schematic programme

Ascending to attend a performance, visitors go by different activities and preparations as they travel up the floors.

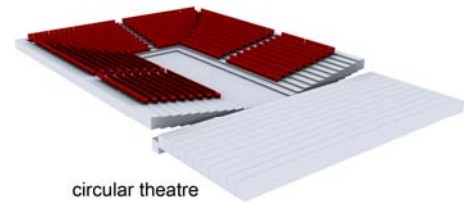
The main stage incorporates a hydraulic raised floor system that allows a transformation of the interior space, from a stepped stage to a flat floor hall.



Italian style theatre

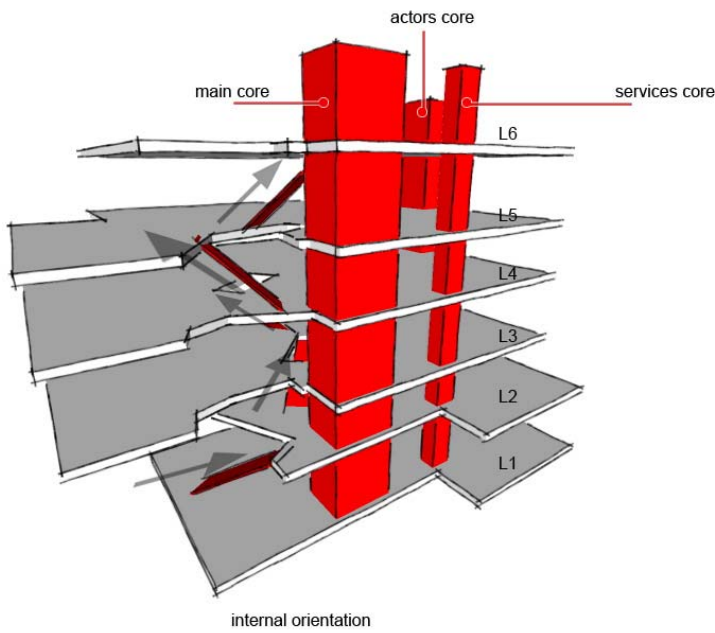


flat floor hall



circular theatre

raised floor hydraulic system



internal orientation