



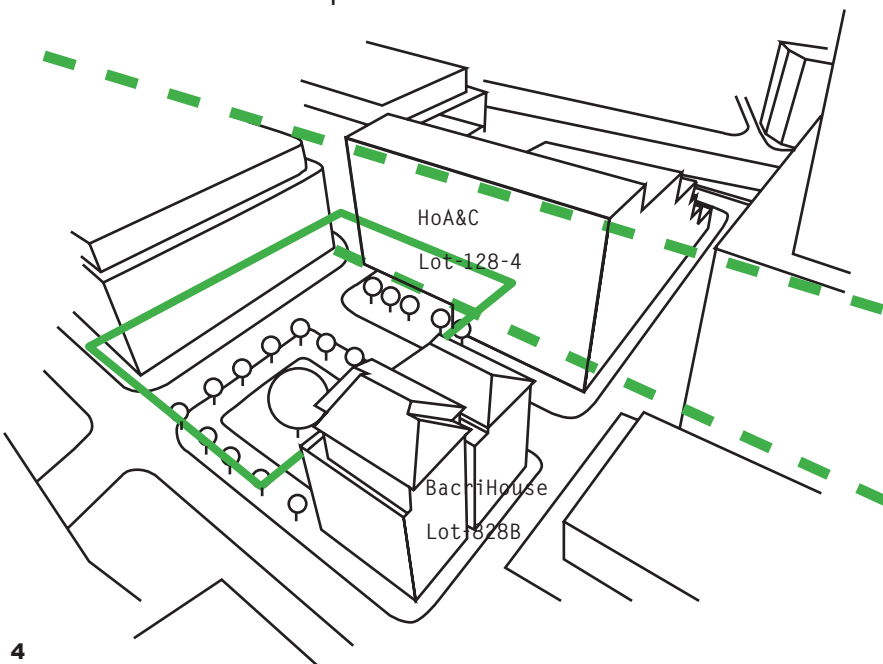
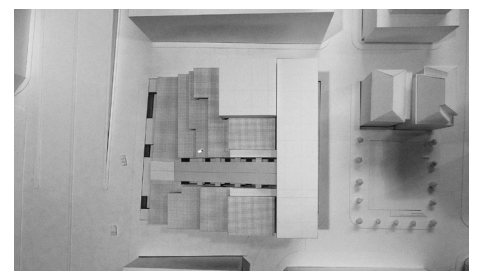
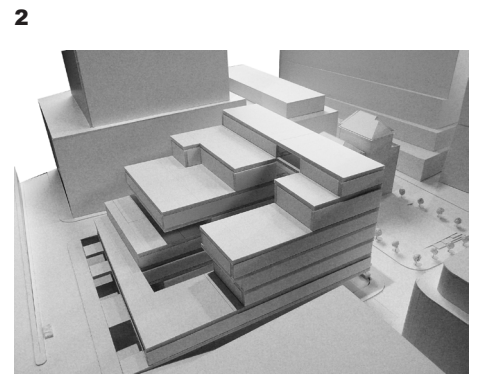
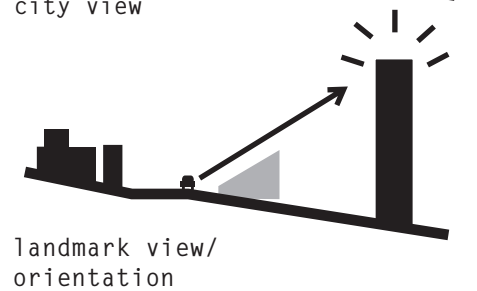
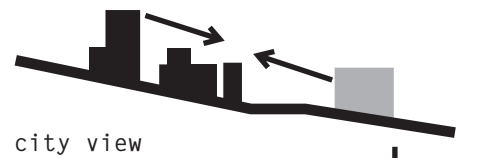
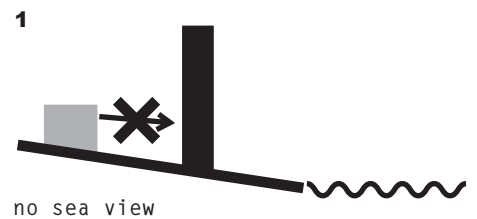
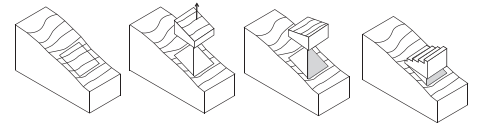
The House of Arts and Culture

The approach taken for this unique and specific project was to provide something completely new and not merely adapt an old idea to this location. This House therefore is a contemporary response rooted in the cultural ideas and history of Lebanon and to the fabric of the city of Beirut. As such, the House serves the current art and culture scene in Beirut, a new vibrant growing culmination of ideas rooted in Lebanese culture and history. The House is seen as a stage to the city, an arena. In turn, the city is therefore the audience to this stage.

URBAN OBJECTIVES

SETTING

- The site of the House of Arts and Culture is located at the bottom of a slope. The city of Beirut continues up this slope and therefore overlooks the site. The site is turned around to face the city still maintaining the slope of the city. (Diagram 1)
- With no sea view to the North, the decision was made to turn the directionality of the House back towards the city of Beirut. The view of the House is now the city of Beirut. The Landmark tower acts as marker in the city's skyline of the location of the House of Arts and Culture. (Diagram 2)
- Beirut is now the backdrop and the auditorium for the House.



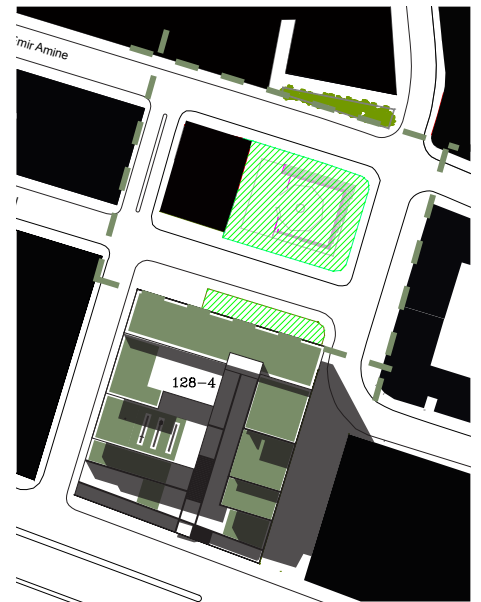
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- The House is an arena/stage for the city. This arena faces the city with functions as volumes aimed towards the city. This demonstrates a transparency in the functioning of the House. (Image 3)
- Built city relief with a view to the city.
- Contrast and legibility of the programme though the staging of the inwards and outwards oriented spaces.
- The façade facing the plaza with the Bacri House is a vertical surface, following the height restrictions allocated. This was done to define the public plaza and to give completion to the urban space. This vertical 'wall' opens with a wide urban plaza underneath, to the Bacri House plaza. (Diagrams 4 and 5)

CIRCULATION

- The circulation space consists of a horizontal space on the street level on the Southside of the House; and a vertical public space in the centre of the building. The public space shifts from a horizontal operating space to a vertical circulation volume. This vertical circulation volume is public space as well as semi-public circulation space for the building.
- Through the plaza visitors have direct access to the vertical public space through open stairs.
- The wide public open-air staircase is the connecting element within Beirut (the city on the slope), and is also the connecting element in the House. (Images 6 and 7 and Sketch 8)



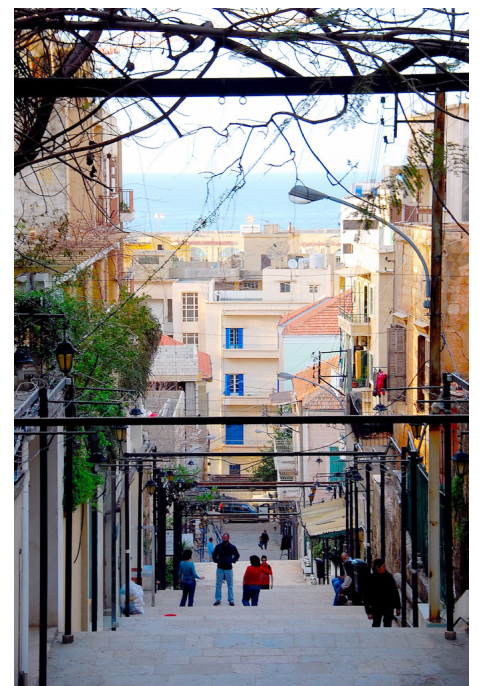
5 Within urban context



6 Steps in the slopes of the city of Beirut



8 Sketch of the view from the public staircase in the House of Arts and Culture



7 Steps in the slopes of the city of Beirut

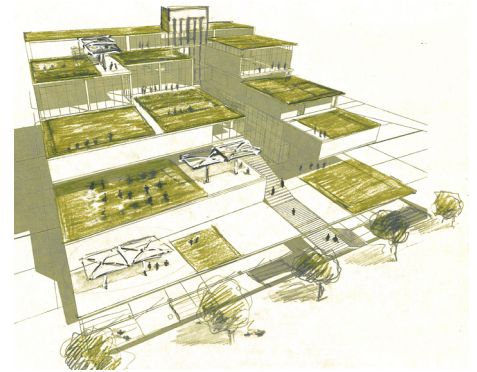
ARCHITECTURAL OBJECTIVES

The House is both a stage which the city views and an auditorium from which to view the city. The motif of the stairs winding through the slopes of Beirut is used in the House as the public perron brings the visitor to partake in this gesture. As in the city, this public staircase interlocks with private spaces in the House, bringing the visitor in.

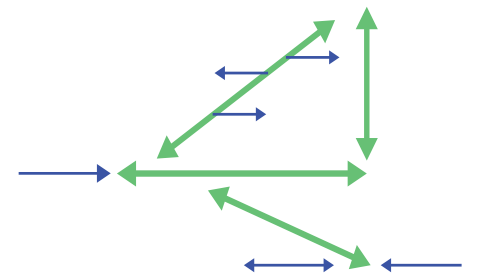
- Using coloured slats strategically placed on the exterior, a buffer is created separating semi-private space.
- These coloured elements serve both as a shading element, and could also temporarily carry information about the events going on inside the House.
- The horizontal positioned volume serves as the main foyer through which all functions are connected by the vertical circulation space.
- The House interlocks with public urban green spaces by continuing the green space inside the site in its inner courtyard.

HOW IT WORKS

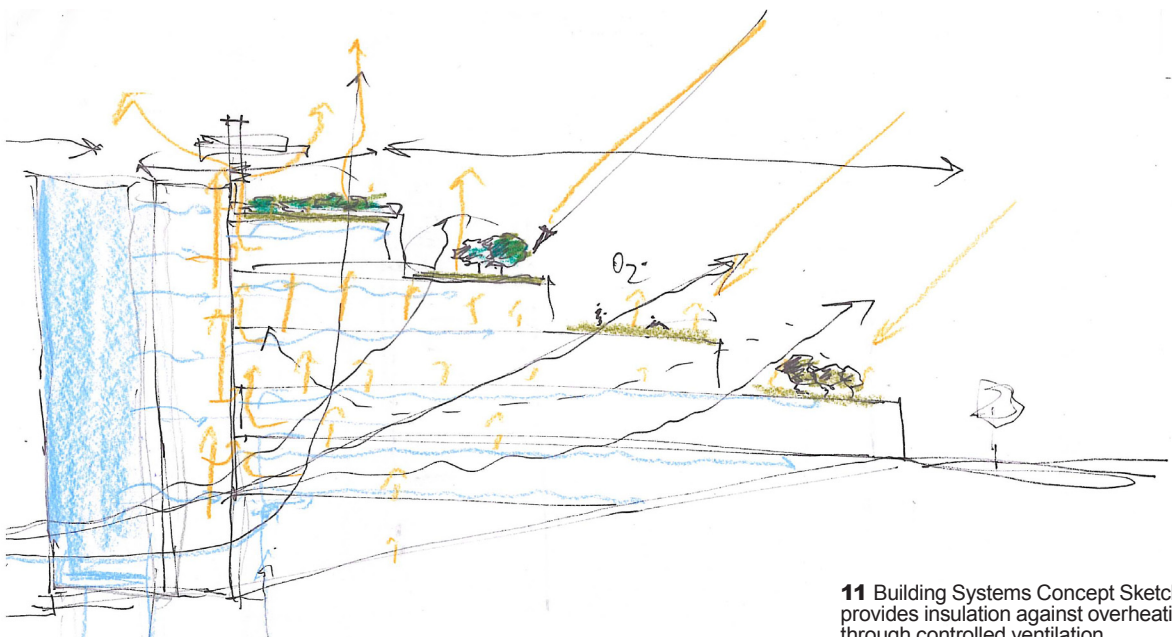
- Extensive green roofs insulate the ceilings, cooling the roofs. (Diagram 9)
- Through the wind catcher on top of the building (Venturi effect), an exhaust air shaft circulates air through the building, exchanging air and therefore reducing the cooling load of the rooms.
- Heat exchanger system cools the building by taking advantage of how deep the building is set under the ground through natural and



9 Green roof sketch



10 Circulation diagram showing horizontal and vertical movement



11 Building Systems Concept Sketch: Green roof provides insulation against overheating. Cooling through controlled ventilation.

controlled air ventilation. This is done via a central vertical service core running throughout the building.

- There is a rainwater collection system which provides irrigation for the green roofs (rain water storage tanks).
- Natural light controlling system to regulate the amount of daylight used in the exhibition space and adjusted as needed.

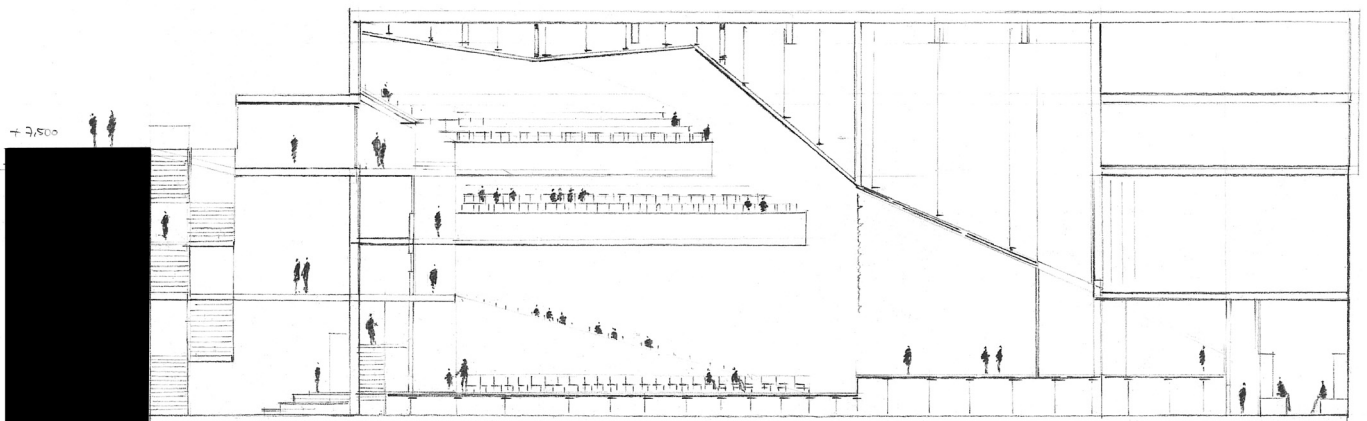
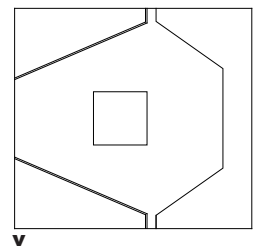
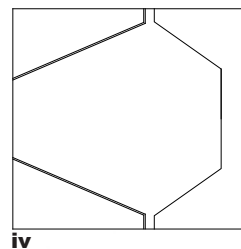
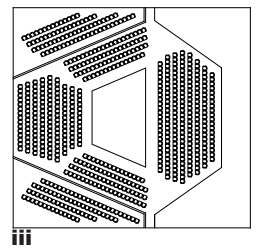
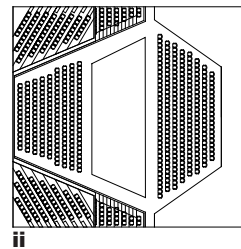
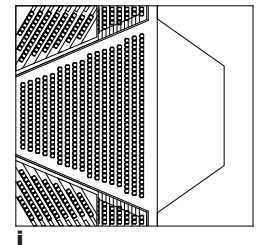
The form of the House also comes from the importance of having a flexible, adaptable space to suit all the requirements of the users of the House. The possibilities of the flexibility of the House are demonstrated through the Large Performance Hall.

LARGE PERFORMANCE HALL

With the requirements of the House of Arts and Culture and the nature in which it is to be used, a fully functional and flexible space had to be created to accommodate the various needs.

- In the classic theatre formation, the theatre can seat 982. (Diagram 12i)
- Other formations for the theatre include:
 - Large stage with the audience seated at the back and front of the stage. (Diagram 12ii)
 - Stage located in center of the audience with seating all around the stage, for conferences etc. (Diagram 12iii)
 - Completely flat open space for exhibits or conventions. (Diagram 12iv)
 - Flat with slightly elevated stage for hosting large events, such as cocktail receptions, formal events etc. (Diagram 12v)

12 Diagrams demonstrating various theatre configurations



13 Section sketch through the theatre