

01. Concept

The proposal is inspired by the timeless effort which carries on the artistic creation and the rescue of fine art of the past era. At the same time, it promotes the role of building as creation generating matrix as well as a final result projection, composing a "meeting place" of arts.



The "Ark", the primitive symbol of protection and safeguarding of species, places put the synthetic foundations of proposal, creating an envelope of elite appearance and conceptual identity. Instead of rescuing living species, "the Ark of Art" (The Ark of Art) includes all the

forms of expression and presentation, from the most traditional ones (like theatre, cinema, painting, sculptural) up to the most contemporary (like installation, performance, interactive art, new media creation) offering the user (artist, special, simple visitor) an unusual cultural experience. The morphological idiom of the envelope owes to follow old stereotypes through contemporary expression, which brings to life the ambience of the citizens' memories. The main volume, facing north towards the harbour of Beirut, seems to approach a secure destination for creation and inspiration, after a harsh "journey".

02. Spatial and constructional organisation



The building consists of three regions:

02.1. Closed spaces: these are the spaces where arts are given birth (work and training rooms), presented (performance halls, exhibitions space) safeguarded (Documentation Centre,

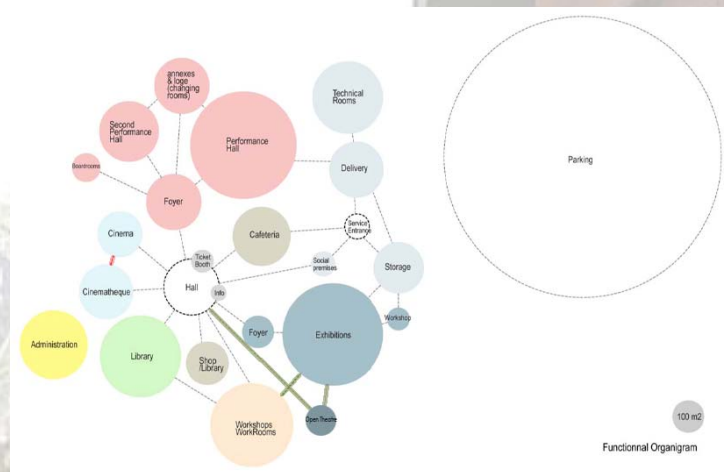
Cinematique) and organised (Administration).

02.2. Semi-Transparent spaces: these are the spaces that enclose the movement routes (lifts or scales) and/or small stops in order to view the city or the building itself. These transitional spaces contain the animating users' flow that

infiltrate or emerge from the secluded spaces, practically breathing life into all the areas of building.

02.3. Transparent spaces: are areas that converse with the neighbouring open-air city spaces, thus creating roofed islets of rest, meeting, walking or dining, additionally to the wider regional paved network. It has to be mentioned that all the area with shops and restaurant can function independently with second entrance in east elevation.

Being a unique exception is the creation of the open-air theatre for 350 viewers, in work and training rooms' level. From an artistic point of view, it extends both the workspace and the training rooms by giving the possibility for alternative, experimental presentations, improvisations but also open-air exhibitions of painting and sculpture. At the same time, the existence of such spaces exploits excellently the good climatic conditions that prevail in an Eastern Mediterranean country, but mainly sets a "viewing balcony" of the city, at the far north end of the building's vertical movement.



Apart of that, the diagram of the building has not any major difference. The proposal adds a new connection between Exhibition Room and Workshops and a connection between proposed outdoor theatre,

exhibition room, workshop area, and main Hall.

03. Constructional organisation and equipment

The constructional mainframe of the building is constituted from:

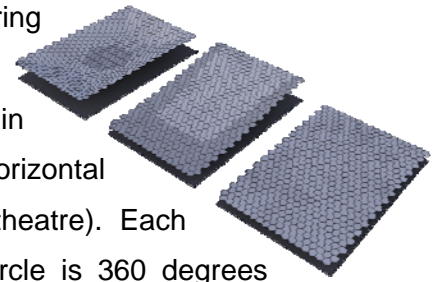
- Conventional technology mainframe of reinforced concrete from the lower level to the Performance hall level(+ 8,00)
- Construction steel mainframe from Performance hall level and above.

Bridging of the concert hall and the exhibition space wide spans is achieved with the use of joists that host the HVAC and other mechanical apparatus .

The proposal, in order to meet the specific building functional, introduces the use of groundbreaking alternative systems:

03.1. D T S (Digital Transforming Surface)

The Digital Transforming Surface covers all the flooring shell of the performance hall. The Digital Transforming Surface is a system of hexagons that is supported through strands in three alternately corners. The strands assist the smooth bent (horizontal axis) of the hexagon accordingly (Italian theatre or arena theatre). Each hexagon bears a registered circle holding two seats. The circle is 360 degrees swivel. The circle swivels vertically, in reference to the circle and according to the use, the seats emerge or subside with their back becoming the floor. The transformations are controlled electronically in order to reduce the need for manpower or extra storage.



03.2. Digital matrix transforming Surface

Operating and use of this system is the same as the DTS but referring to rectangular ground plan. This differentiation occurs in order the space to be transformed from Lecture Theatre to black box, for the needs of performance and new media artworks.

03.3. Mobile panel system

The use of mobile panel system of metal framework and facing was selected to equip the Exhibition Room. The plaster – board surface can be replaced and dyed on demand. The use of these mobile panel systems contributes both to the space segregation according to the exhibitions/ shows and to the suspension of artwork with nails as well as using special notches. The bulky artwork can be suspended from the panels' metal framework.

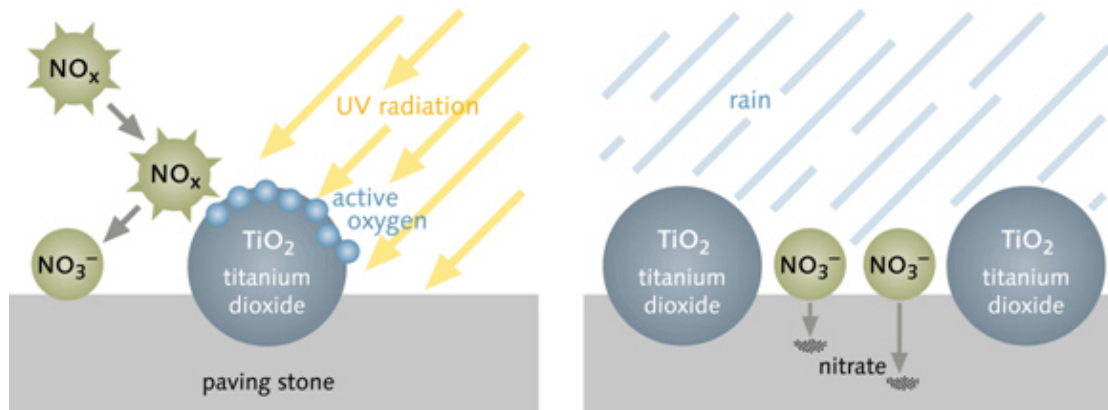
03.4. Double Decker moving selves

This is the classic version of moving selves but is deployed in working height of 5, 40. Forecasted already, the ground plans cover the squares that are required by the building programme. Utilizing double height, the working height of storage is doubled. The staircase and elevator hand over the second level to the curator's disposal.

04. Sustainable Planning and special construction materials

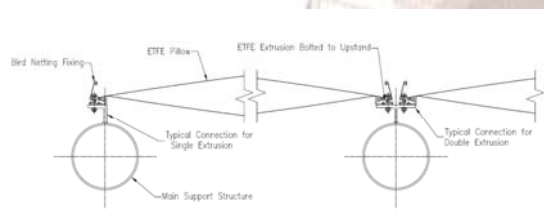
04.1. Concrete

Regarding the secluded spaces like theatres, exhibition space and office areas, a 0,50 m thickness, bearing 0,10 m, wall void is designed in order to reduce Temperature- Humidity losses and achieve suitable environment conditions for artwork and important historical archives maintenance. The material used for the



theatre is embossed forming block concrete. The use of TX Active photocatalytic cement panels is used throughout the rest of the building. TX Active panels reduce the levels harmful substances present in the air with the use of nanoscale engineering. It incorporates titanium dioxide as its active ingredient; the cement reduces concentrations of airborne pollutants, such as nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds. It thus provides better air quality, without high compound of deteriorate components, suitable for people and artwork.

04.2.ETFE (Ethylene Tetrafluoroethylene Copolymer) Shell



The wave is based upon a space lattice utilizing ETFE foil. Depending on the season and the regional sunlight, it provides ideal conditions of thermal comfort. It forms a passive

heating/cooling system in combination with the vertical cores of communication that function as solar chimneys. The sustainable shelter (wave) is lighted up with LEDs fixed around the edge of each cushion or functions as advertising banner for the hosted events.

04.3. Copper plates

The cupreous metal riddled plates around the movement corridors are selected as a material tradition reference of Eastern Mediterranean culture. At the same time, adds up a warm and rich feeling to the building facades. Copper is living material that changes over time depending on environmental factors.

