

CEDAR OF LEBANON

THE HOUSE OF ARTS AND CULTURE OF BEIRUT

The House of Arts and Culture of Beirut is conceived of as a Box of Events coated with an environmental protection membrane in which cedar of Lebanon leaf branch-inspired pattern symbolically embraces the building and visitors, and creates a permeable and transparent interface for inner happenings.

Our proposal is to raise a friendly, lively building wide opened towards the downtown area under reconstruction, to stimulate the gathering and social communication of people and to promote and motivate the most diverse forms of cultural and artistic expressions.



THE BUILDING

The Lounge/Foyer, which stands one level above the Reception Hall, functions as an interstitial space of the House. It represents the building core to which all the circulation paths converge. Heart of the whole project, this diaphanous and integrating space makes visible to visitors their own circulation inside the building, and grant them with different views of the city from all levels.

At the ground level, a Piazza stands as an extension of public places, providing the connection of the Cafeteria/Restaurant and of the Shop to the Reception Hall, which has open access to Ghalghoul Street.

From the Reception Hall, escalators communicate with the Basement where the Exhibition Rooms are placed, and with the upper floors where additional public-use activities take place.

The Exhibition Rooms, flexibly designed to suit a variety of occupation possibilities, have their floor visually and physically connected to the Reception Hall and to the Piazza, allowing for space integration, operational autonomy and safety standards.

At the +7.10 floor level, the huge Lounge/Foyer welcomes and leads visitors to the Performance and Conference Hall, to the Black Box and to the Meeting Rooms. Being flexibly idealized for a better fitting of several audience and stage arrangements, these spaces meet the needs of a variety of plays and performances.

70%

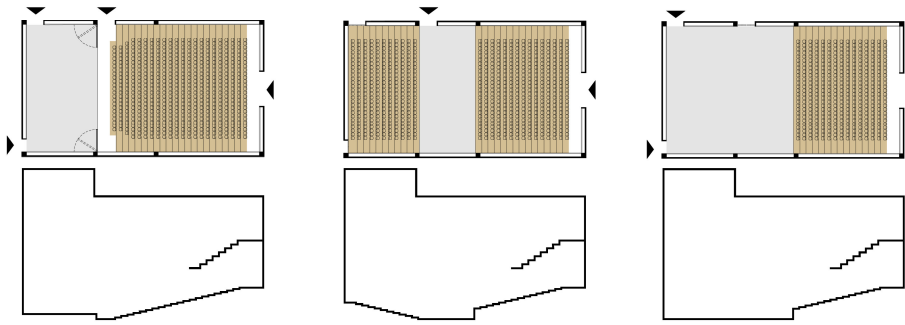
OCCUPANCY

32m

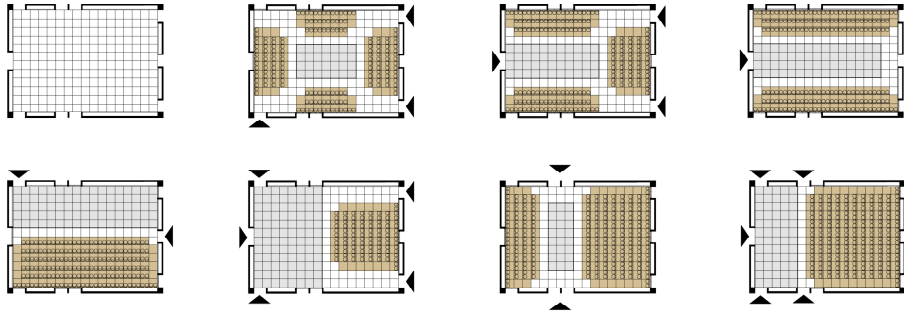
HEIGHT



PERFORMANCE HALL

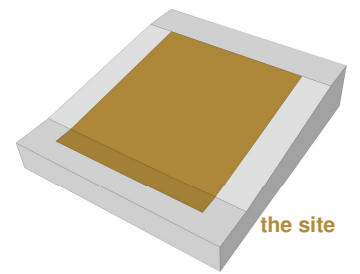


Several stage and seat arranging possibilities provide the Black Box as well as the Performance and Conference Hall with flexibility of spaces for performing several different activities.

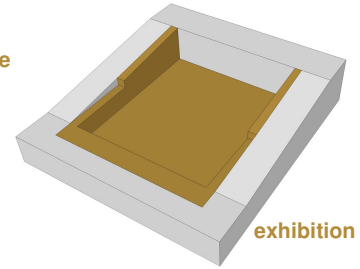


BLACK BOX

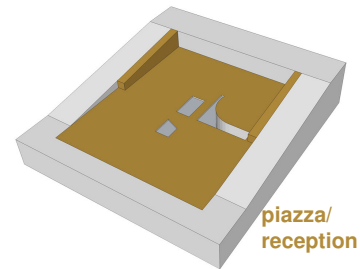
At the above subsequent floors, one finds the Movie Theatre and the National Cinematheque, the Documentation Centre, the Workshops & Training Rooms, and the Open Performance Hall, a space conceived to better accommodate a wide range of open-air activities. At the top, the building ends with the Sculpture Garden, an area of walking paths and exuberant vegetation from which extended views of the city of Beirut can be enjoyed.



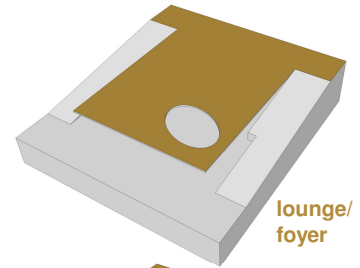
the site



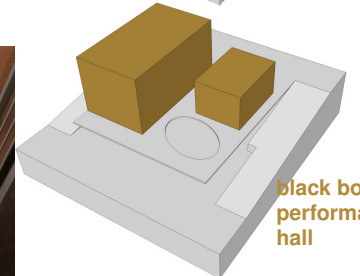
exhibition



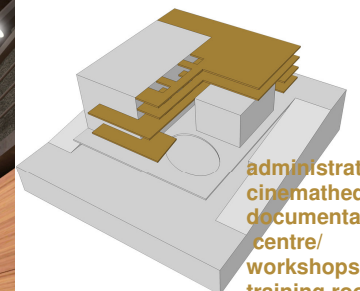
piazza/
reception



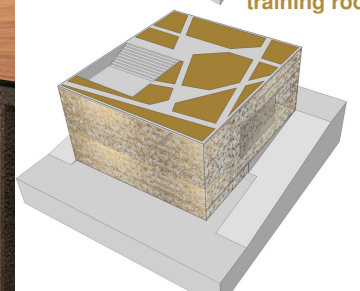
lounge/
foyer



black box/
performance
hall



administration/
cinematheque/
documentation
centre/
workshops &
training rooms



sculpture garden/
open performance hall/
skin



The variety, multiplicity and flexibility of the multiple-scale spaces transform the House of Arts and Culture of Beirut into a lively and dynamic building, able to stimulate new relationships between people and activities.

Visitors, administrators, workers and vehicles have their own independent areas of access and circulation in order to avoid conflicts of flow and to assure the operational and perfect functioning of the House of Arts and Culture.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

The House's volumetry is mainly defined by the golden environmental protecting membrane which protects its glass-skin coating at the same time in which gives permeability to the whole building. Inspired in cedar of Lebanon leaf branches, this golden membrane is composed of an alloy of copper and aluminium able to maintain its characteristics and colours throughout the years.

The double bioclimatic skin provides the building with constant air circulation, natural lighting and transparency. The Sculpture Garden vegetation completes the work of bringing comfort conditions with reduced power consumption.

