

## **Identification code 3654OB**

### **The Urban context.**

This building sits in a transitional area from a neighborhood that is described as having conflict to a vibrant cultural center. As such the building was designed to give itself space. The program was split to allow solar access no matter what is built in the future and to allow both the building users and its neighbors a place sit and relax. The park will be a perfect location for the public display of sculpture and the exchange of ideas.

The Major axis are in the direction of solar south and the location of the Cypress tree across the street. The orientation of the building puts the entry of the building is facing the existing cultural amenities to the north. The north façade is designed to make a grand statement giving the building a recognizable identity. The actual front door is at the base of a 5 story glass atrium.

### **The concept.**

An artist's work taken out of context seems confused and chaotic. When viewed within the context of society and with the work of other artists the trajectory of their work becomes more clear. It is as if each piece of art is a vector pointing in a similar direction. Taken together the artistic work is indicating where we are going as a culture. This building represents this as an up swelling of ideas that seems chaotic as it pushes up from the ground but organizes itself to form the interactive spaces of the building, literally where people meet and work. These programmatic spaces push the concrete of the city floor up to form interior spaces. The gap in the concrete slabs form a more inspirational space. Leaving us with a notion that there are places and ideas that we have not yet explored. This space is taken up with a sculpture garden and outdoor movie theater that will act as an agora, where ideas will be exchanged through social interaction.

### **The House of Arts and Culture**

Every building exists in two realms. On one level the building represents the cultural aspirations of its inhabitants. On another level the building represents the pragmatic needs of the users and the utility of the building. It is the artful intersection of these two missions that makes great architecture.

This proposal for the House of Arts and Culture represents these two levels in the very structure of the building. The first level we will call the "City/Regional Level." The second level we will call the "Utility Level."

**The City /Regional Level:** This building will act as a beacon calling out a new awakening of cultural thought. The beacon will be represented by the prismatic gleaming of the light through the building like a lens that shines out into the city. This will be both figurative and literal. The building was pulled back from the street to the south, to provide a space for the outside viewing of films taking advantage of the mild climate. The films will project out to the south and the north. This point of projection is the energy source that creates the building form. It is as if the light as it passes through the prism of the building breaks out of the façade to announce itself to the world.

**Utility level:** This will be discussed on two different levels. First, the building is a gathering place that acts as an agora for the exchange of ideas. In this respect the building has been designed as an indoor/outdoor park. The building was pulled back from the street to allow outdoor contemplative space that literally comes through the

walls of the building to the interior. The park follows the hill southeast, up through an amphitheatre, into the building on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, and across the entry hall to mark the entry to the exhibition hall. This “green belt,” stitches the performing art together with the visual art. The “utility level,” building elements are characterized by tactile materials like wood and concrete. Elements of geometric screening allude to Arabic culture.

**The second level of utility** is that this building was designed to reduce its own energy consumption. The southwest elevation has been rotated to make it face south allowing for the building to house an array of solar panels that could produce 331kw of electric power. All space that require daylight will have windows that are shaded by solar panels that are mounted like louvers to allow light in but prevent direct sun light from increasing the building temperature. The office spaces and workshops will be lit with fluorescent light to reduce energy consumption. Because performing arts require a lot of power these steps will not provide all of the power but it will reduce the load to a more manageable level. In tern, this will greatly reduce the carbon footprint of the buildings operations. Further, all of the water that falls on the site will be captured, filtered and stored on the roof to provide irrigation and to flush toilets. The building itself will be made of materials that are recycled so that at the end of the building’s life the building could be reused reducing the building’s life cycle impact on the environment.

**Diverging from the program.**

The design as presented adheres as close to the program as possible with only two exceptions. The integration of a park in the middle of the building allowed for a location for out door movie viewing and performances.

The second divergence is in the restrooms. In order to make a more efficient floor plan the restrooms of some of the programmatic elements have been combined.