

TECHNICAL REPORT

The architectural objective is that of a composition of volumes with sculptural and articulated elevations responding to the urban character of the city and the local climate. There is an exact correspondence between the spaces of the cultural center and the assembled volumes that compose the building. The structure of the House vertically is organized according to the number of people that will use each space. An internal "piazza" is created with an indoor garden as a meeting place from which all the floors and interconnecting walkways are visible. The façade on avenue Ghalghoul is the only semitransparent elevation of the building with a glass double height entrance. A big part of the pavement in front of the main entrance is covered with plants and a water fountain that indicates the sea and the entrance. All the facades are covered with beige local sandstone and above the entrance long prismatic windows like slots allow natural light to penetrate the vertical connections and horizontal corridors. Meanwhile video projections of all the current events are shown on the interior wall of the main facade in between the slots-windows and are visible from the balconies of all levels. There is also a big video wall covering the back of the big theatre informing the public on the Ring road about the events held in the building. This is a media mesh produced by the company GKD. Part of the same southwest facade and the top floor are covered by the photovoltaic glass cell panels that provide the building with 15% energy independence, produced by the company Atlantis. There is an external steel staircase in the northwest facade that connects the different floors as an emergency exit. All the floors of the entrance and the corridors on all levels are covered by grey polished cement with inlays of white marble that follow the main axes of the design of the project. On the pavement out of the main entrance these inlays become led lights and follow the water strip through the trees. The vertical circulation for all the floors including the parking is achieved with 3 elevators for visitors and 1 secondary staircase on one side. In the back of the restaurant one elevator for cargos that has direct access from the outside serves all 8 levels. A wide staircase connects all the floors of the performance halls. Above the level of these halls a double escalator carry the visitors to the upper levels of the building. All the terraces that are not accessible to visitors are covered with plants that insulate the building and make it environmentally friendly. The structure of the building is in reinforced concrete with columns for the underground parking and exterior retaining walls. The horizontal slabs are also in reinforced concrete with crossed beams. The underground parking can have 279 cars on 3 levels connected with a ramp. On the first level of the *Parking (level -1: -3.40m)* the *Technical Rooms* are located and a shaft connects it to all the floors. The entrance of the House is behind the perforated steel doors that create a fence and protects the glass windows of the facade. The doors can pivot and are oblique to the avenue Ghalghoul leaving an exterior sheltered space for the visitors. Some of these doors are stable and some are folding like the ones in front of the restaurant in order to have views of the park through the glass facade and to shade the cafe' from the sun. The geometric motif is taken from an Arabic tile and is repeated on all the iron doors of the building as a relief. The ground floor (**level 1: 0.00m**) has the *Reception Hall, Information desk, Ticket offices, Cafe'-Restaurant and Kitchen and Restrooms, Security room* (one for the Garage and one for the Delivery area), *Staff rooms and Lockers, Storage Areas*, the entrance for the underground *Garage* for the cars and the *Delivery* area for the trucks that can drive in from the back of the internal garden in a kind of tunnel and exit through the west elevation. In the Storage Area equipment, seats, etc can be unloaded or loaded using the

stage lift of the Big Theatre. The mezzanine (**level 2: +3.60m**) hosts the *Shop*, the *Infirmiry*, the *Archives* and the *Public Restrooms*. The main entrances of the *Small and Large Performance Hall* are situated on the same floor (**level 3: +7.00m**) where the Hall with the *Bar*, *Waiting room* and *Coctail area* is, as well as the *Lockers*, *Restrooms* and most of the *Dressing rooms*. The floor of the Hall is white marble and that of the Performance Halls is timber. The walls of the Big Theatre are covered with timber, the walls of the Cinema have a sound absorbent material and the ones of the Black Box are in polished cement where a number of different sizes of absorbent panels are hanged and can be oriented in order to control the sound. On the northeast facade there is a “niche” on the wall of the Big Theatre for acoustic purposes. In the southeast facade there are 2 doors one for the Big Theatre and the other for the Dressing rooms on the side road next to the Ring Road that can be the entrance for the artists. On the next floor (**level 4: +10.60m**) there is the exit of the *Cinema* and the last rows of the *Large Performance Hall*, the rest of the *Dressing rooms* and the 2 *Meeting rooms*. The Big Theatre’s layout can be changed by removing the first 4 rows of seats and by leveling the orchestra in front of the stage. In that case the stage becomes central (long or round) and the seats can be put where the previous stage was and can be elevated by the stage lift or more seats can be added to become a congress hall. The walls of the Meeting rooms that penetrate the Big Theatre are in polished cement. Above this floor (**level 5: +14.20m**) there is the entrance of the Big Theatre balcony, the entrance of the *Cinema*, the *Control rooms of the Black Box* and a smaller *Bar and Waiting lounge* that have access to a terrace where a garden is planned. The photovoltaic vertical glass panels that cover part of the terrace allow the light to pass through. The *Control rooms of the Big Theatre* are on the next floor (**level 6: +17.80m**). The *Exhibition Space* (level 7: +21.40m) has a *Lounge with a Bar*, the *Workshop and Office*, the *Restrooms and Butlery* and the *Exhibition Room*. Pivoting walls, made from steel and gypsum board where paintings can be exhibited, divide the actual room into smaller units whenever it is requested for different exhibitions. A ramp connects part of the main room to an elevated space where the height is less and can be used for smaller exhibits and videos. There are 2 skylights that allow natural light to penetrate indirectly through a tilted slab and a horizontal glass. The cargo lift can be used for transportation and services. On the next floor (level 8: +28.40m) the *Administration offices* and the *Workshops & Training rooms* are situated on 2 distinct spaces. The visitors can have a panoramic view of the city from the balcony that is accessed from this floor. The Administration offices have 2 glass Meeting rooms, one is an ellipse and the other one is circular. The Workshops have a round glass entrance door and the Arts workshop has a sliding-dividing wall that can change the layout for a better use of the space. The curved walls of the Sound and Video/Cinema studios are made from canvas on the exterior side in order to be painted by the artists. The Dance workshop has a window to the floor corridor, so that visitors can see the dancers exercising. The *Documentation center* and the *National Cinematheque* (**level 9: +32.00m**) there are on the next floor. The reading room is on the main facade and has a good view of the sea and the city. The floors of the 2 spaces are covered with custom designed wall to wall carpet that has the same geometric design (Arabic tiles) used for the entrance pivoting doors. Finally the last floor (**level 10: +36.40m**) has a terrace with a Sculptural Garden where the exhibits are part of a winding path paved with stone in between the plants. The pergola and the roof of the top floor are covered with the horizontal photovoltaic glass cell panels that allow partial sunlight and create shade like light foliage.