

# A LANTERN OF ARTS

## Experiencing the arts through the city – City experiencing the arts

“The elementary physical power of the colours becomes the path to reach the soul”  
(W. Kandinsky)

The building is introduced to the city, through City Art Piazza, an open air ground floor volume, accessible from all sides, which inherits the city's arts and becomes a **new urban space**. This urban space, is organised through the atrium – the core of the centre- which organises the spaces, and brings together all the different forms of art in a interactive and stimulative space. The journey ends the way it started- on a roof piazza - the Sky Art Piazza.

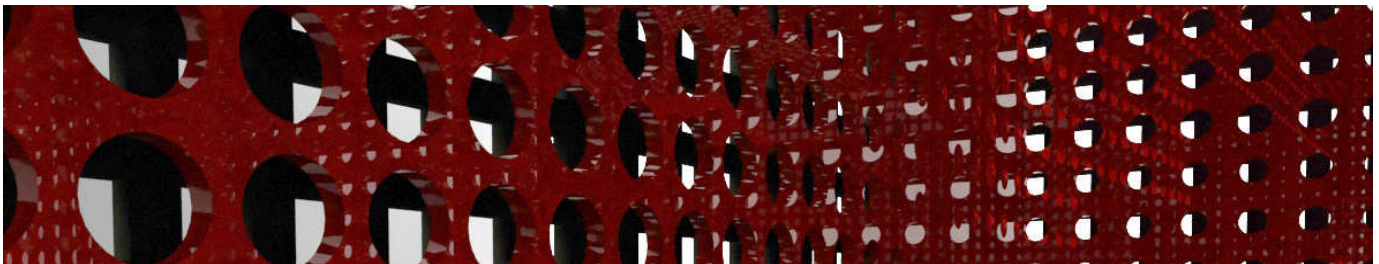
The building employs the affect of a Lantern literally & metaphorically, guiding and encouraging the arts within and through out the city, by allowing the public a prologue to the arts at the City/ Sky Art Piazza and filter it through out the city.

The Lantern is inspired by tradition, using familiar elements, interpreting them to a contemporary and surprising urban structure. The new House of Arts and Culture, acts as an interweaving element of supplementary meanings

-simple and complex, traditional and international, enclosed and open, protected but inviting, intriguing but modest and sustainable-

fusing the every day life with experiencing the arts.

### Building Elements



#### Shells:

Figure 1 Computer generated image of shells aligned.

The façades are formed from two porous shells, the inner and the outer

Outer Shell: square opening, rough concrete outer face, stained blue, light & protective.

Inner Shell: circular opening, polished concrete inner face, stained red, structural.

The shells envelope the building creating an enclosed space, but the large opening creates an open interaction with the city, with access through on all sides. While the blue shell is more animated from the outside the red shell will appear more visible from acute angle of view and become less noticeable as the angle of view reduces, which will make the façade appear to change and move. Figure 2 shows the concept of using 7 holes and how they are concurring; figure 1 shows the final alignment. The smaller

holes are allocated to locations where light is needed to be restricted and vice versa. Thus during the day the shell manages the absorption of light, at night the shell becomes inviting while influencing the spillage of light into the city. The **Blue** addressing to the natural elements, the **Red** addressing to the spirit, complementing one another.

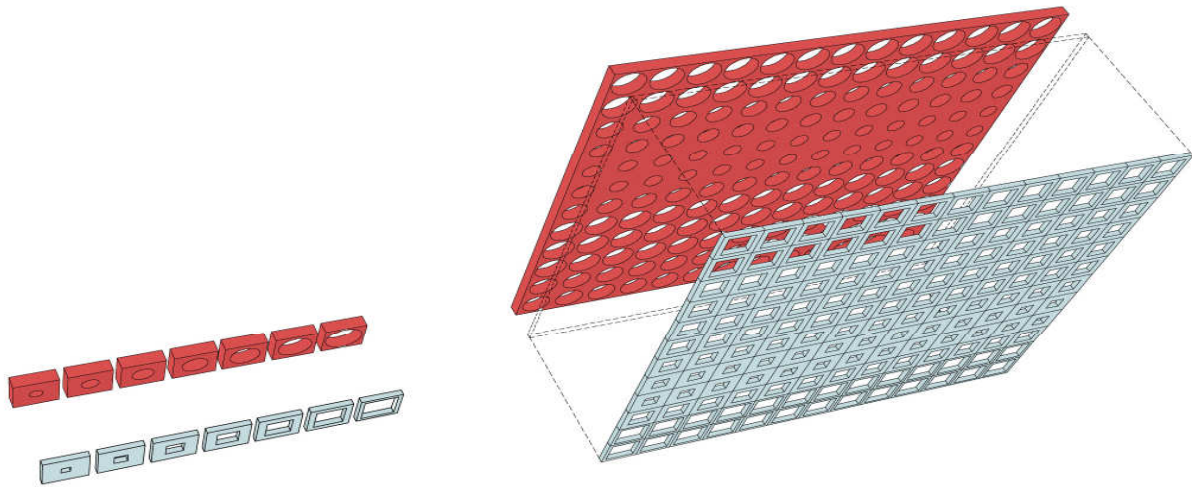


Figure 2 Concept of 7 holes & alignment.

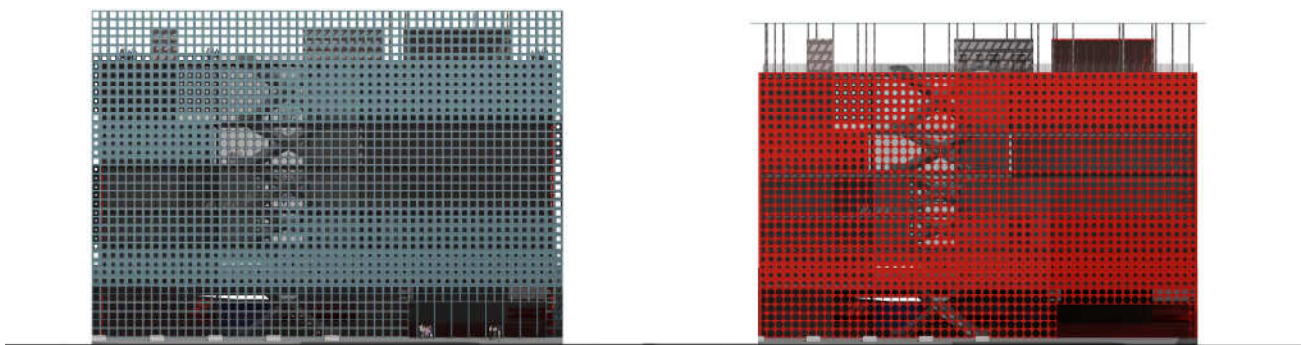


Figure 3 Building with blue shell and with out.

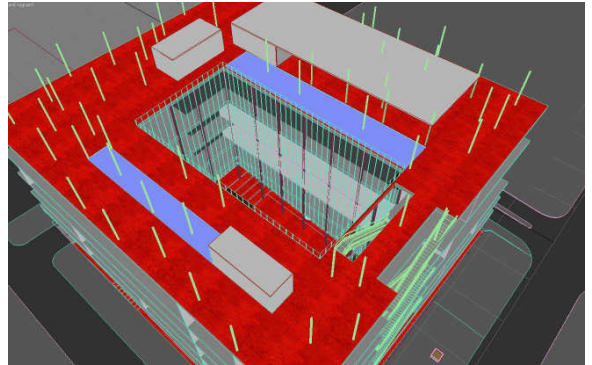
**Piazas:**

The two piazzas are located one on the ground floor City Art Piazza the other on the roof Sky Art Piazza. City Art Piazza (CAP): accessible from all sides, interactive to city life, a new urban landscape Sky Art Piazza (SAP): open air, accessible from below, interactive to art life, a belvedere to the city. The CAP is allocated the roll of introducing the arts to the city and encourages them to explore the environment, from the main attractions, to the interactive experimental playground. CAP will also act to young artist’s exhibit and establish with the community, making Beirut identity with there thriving arts. The SAP is allocated the roll of provide the public with a space where more established art pieces, theatre and cinema is provided for free. Both spaces have areas where the public can settle and enjoy the shaded environment and paddle in the shallow water.

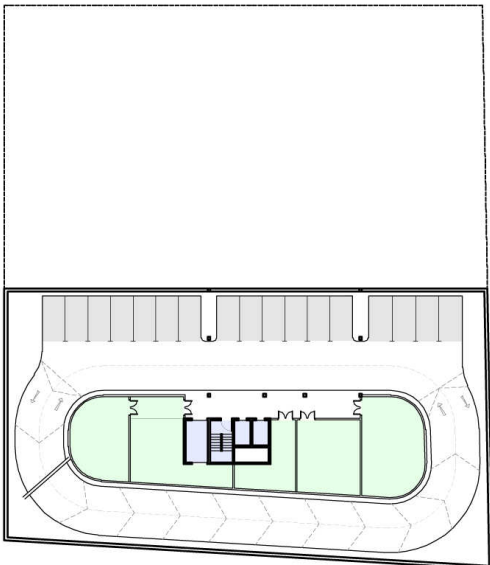
**Atrium:**

The atrium is the core of the building and acts as the spine of its circulation; it remains hollow, void of any intrusions into the space, allowing defused light and green into the building. The space gives the user of the building a connection to the city by keeping a view into the City Art Piazza, see figure 3. Within the building the public is able to circulate around the atrium and again access into spaces. While the majority of the sides of the atrium are covered in glass the theatre wall abutting the space remains solid and projections of movies and upcoming events are displayed.

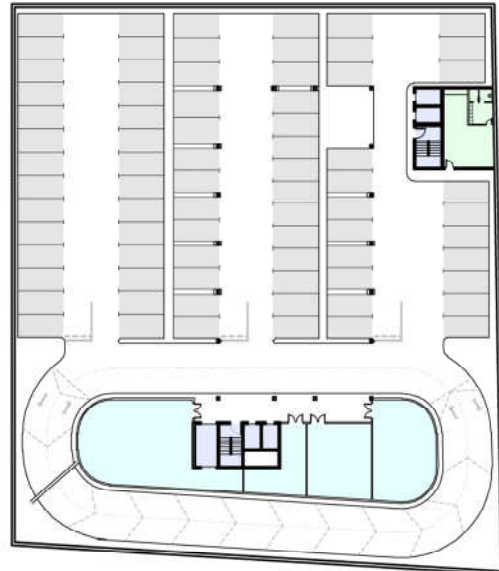
Figure 4 View of atrium



**Parking Layout**



Level 0m



Level -3m + -6m

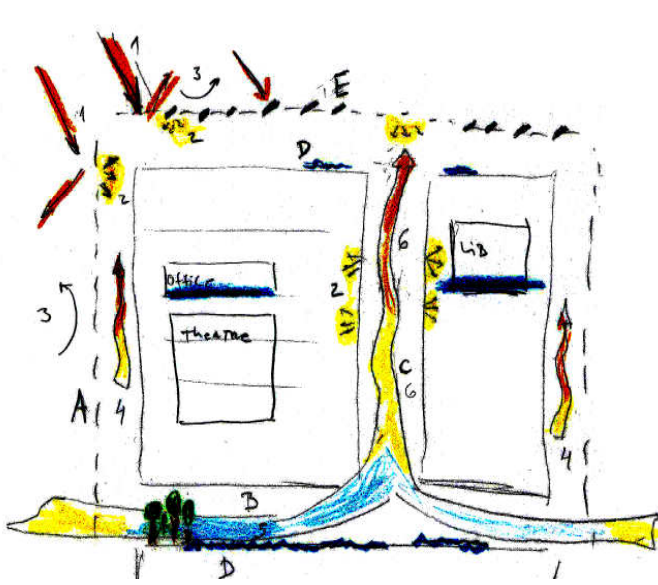


Level 0m

- Parking 265 spaces
- Miscellaneous spaces
- Technical Rooms
- Vertical circulation

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# Sustainability/ Environmental Study



## Legend:

### ELEMENTS +FUNCTION

- A – Outer concrete skin – solar filter: direct radiation rejection, diffuse light penetration
- B – Open square/ ground floor – natural ventilation + refreshment effect due to the plants and water
- C – Atrium – natural ‘stack’ ventilation (due to the thermal gradient)
- D – Water (ground floor and roof) and plants (ground floor)
- E – Photovoltaic system

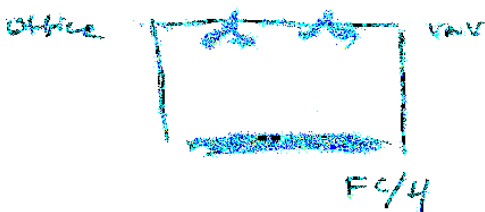
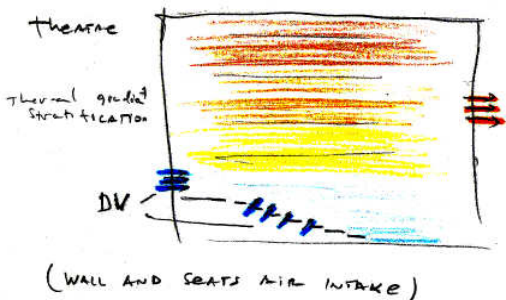
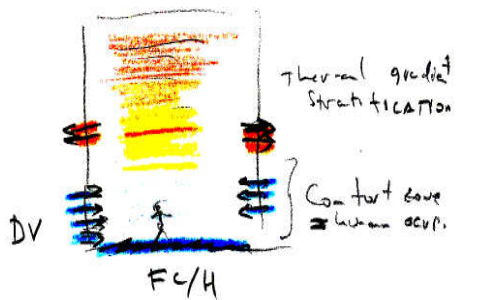
### MICROCLIMATE IMPROVEMENT MECHANISMS

1. Avoided direct radiation due to the outer skin.
2. Diffuse light penetration – natural illumination
3. Convection cooling roof and outer skin to ambient
4. Convection cooling within the air chamber between the two concrete skins
5. Evaporative cooling due to the water and plants
6. Natural ventilation due to the thermal convection

### OUTER SKIN HOLES

Natural lightning improvement and direct solar radiation protection:

Interior space use	Building façade orientation			
	N	E	S	W
Daylight needed (library, bookstore, offices, some workshops, etc)	Big	Mid	big	sm all
Daylight to be avoided (theatres, exhibition hall)	indifferent	indifferent	Sm all	Sm all



VAV: variable air volume air conditioning

DV: displacement ventilation

FC/H: floor cooling/heating