

## The House of Arts & Culture

*Collage* is an assemblage of diverse elements/programs woven into a central site, a merging of ideologies.

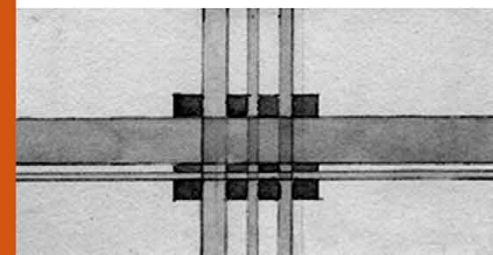
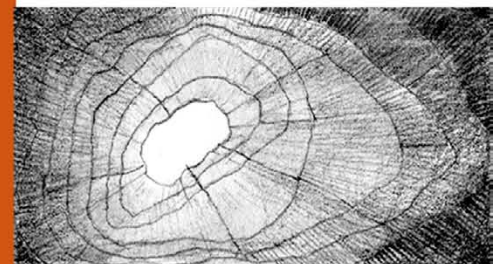
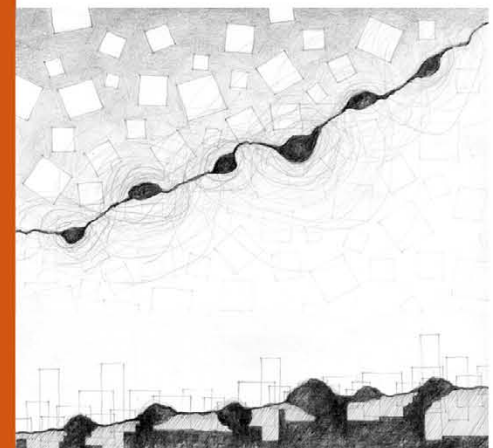
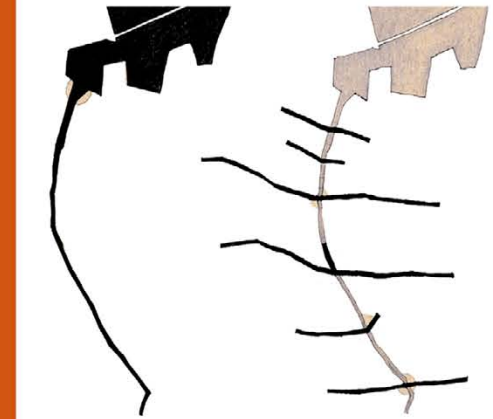
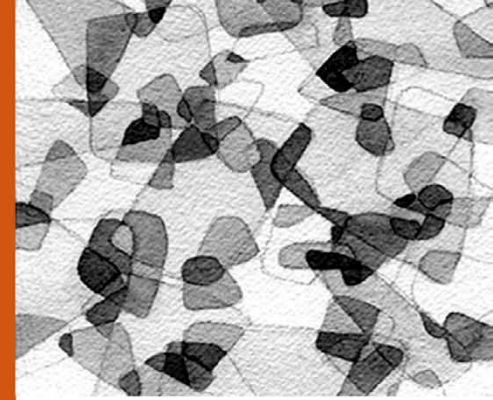
Two layers are created. The first being the boxes that represent each program/people/ in their own form, housing their own individual objective, the second being the mesh/void that traces from the initial point below ground, up to the rooftop, binding all the boxes together. The organic mesh begins on the centrally rooted site, weaves its way along the former green line then spreads throughout the country, generating the project beyond Beirut.

Optimistically, this project aims to develop beyond the boundaries of the identified site/s as a future prospect. As the meaning of the project is integrated into the consciousness of the city, new sites are then adapted beyond the city. This cycle is not intended to end.

Layers are created, as a reflection of an ancient city or the rings of a cedar tree. A central core is established, not merely as a conceptual idea which engages with the rich history of the site but has physically evolved on the site to act as a magnet.

Ramp opens the site around the core, binding the void, and forming the primary circulation.

Visitors are drawn to the central core then dispersed freely to the destination of their choice.



No boundaries.

Conceptually, this idea was derived from the appreciation of the city's turbulent past. Physical/psychological/social boundaries were created and remain today. Our site is intended as a neutral zone, breaking down those boundaries.

Extending the urban space, giving it back to the public.

Freedom to choose.

By removing physical boundaries, the ground floor is dedicated as an extension of the public space. Opening up at ground floor facilitates the continual pathways, giving the visitor a freedom to choose to enter the site, encouraging them to explore beyond.

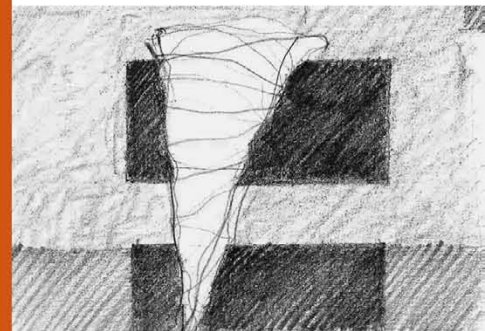
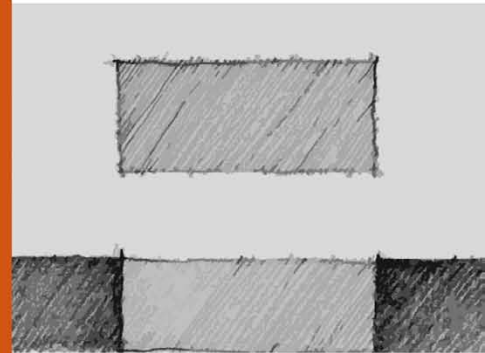
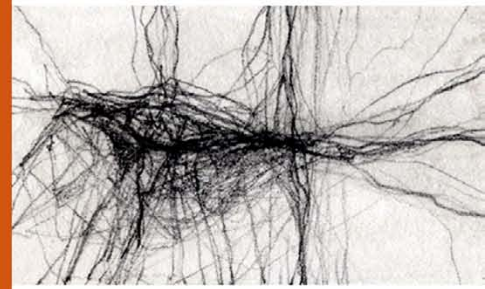
Burying the building mass of the performance halls into the ground, driven by their function and volume, enabled the strategy of no boundaries to be realized. A simultaneous raising of the remaining building, emphasizes the transparency of the boundary.

Building up the western side was driven by the adjacent tower and highway. Subsequently, this lightens up the remaining sides, embracing the proximity to the public pathway to the east and park to the north.

Void. The binding factor.

The organic mesh/void breaks through the boxes, binding the fragments, resulting in a void that floods light into the building, down to ground floor and below to where the mesh begins.

The ramp as part of the mesh, is the vertical continuation of public space to the roof garden, and acts as informal meeting spaces for staff, students and public. Visual connections are achieved by overlooking platforms, encouraging interest/movement to other parts of the building.



Formal and informal co-mingling spaces.

Performance halls and cinemas each have their own co-mingling formal spaces, but spill out into the centre of the site, which could act as the informal co-mingling space. In addition to these spaces, there is a rooftop bar/café/casual dining platform where patrons can mingle.

Perimeter circulation.

By creating a perimeter circulation on the upper floors, the activity at the edge of the building is visible from the surrounding sites. People become an integral part of the building skin and activate the facade.

Innovative Structure and Environmental design.

Natural light and natural ventilation by creating voids and installation of operable windows, minimizes the use of air conditioning and energy. Light wells around boxes allows light to flood into underground areas. Mirrors integrated into faceted mesh around ramp intensifies light reflected into the building.

Operable rooftop louvres and void act as a wind tower creating airflow. Water features contribute to cooling the building.

Solar panels integrated into glazed facades on east, south and west sides.

Use of grey water throughout the building.

Columns used as ducting for car park exhausts, and housing of rain water pipes, collected into tanks below ground.

Green rooftop garden.

