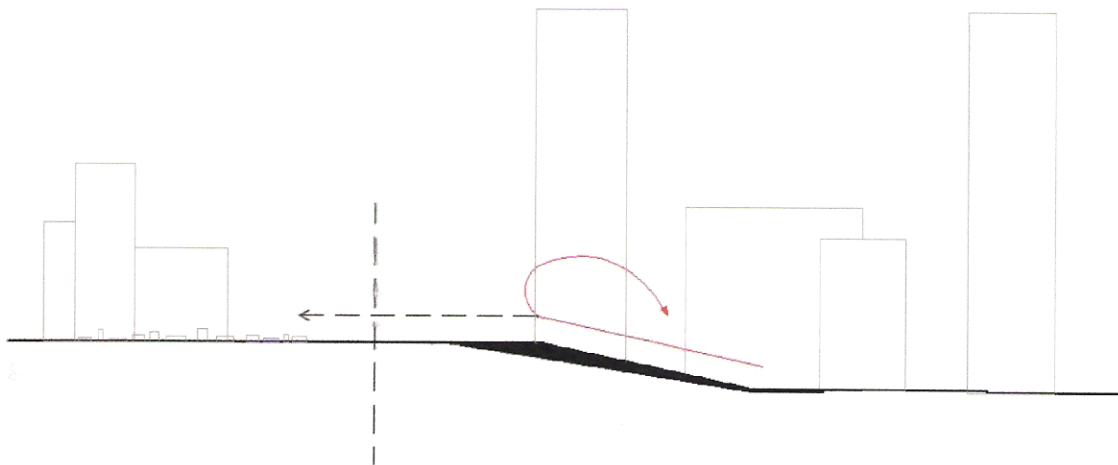


## House of art and culture – Beirut

One cannot think of a house of art and culture without relating it to a context and trying to understand the socio-cultural aspects ruling this context. The nuance between conceiving a house and building a center lays in these hidden interrelations that define the identity of a place and its users. But what if people don't relate to certain places? What if there are no rules? What if each one has his own rules? What if the identity of a place is being transformed? What culture are we dealing with than? A lost culture or a diversity of cultures? Resisting to any formal alienation, the house will function as a democratic public platform launching a new socio-cultural city debate while paying tribute to lost and segregated identities.

It is both a memorial of the past and an incubator for the future.



- The project functions as a public stair visually connecting the Down Town to Bachoura, The irreversible Ring road prevents the physical connection and indirectly turn the stair into a dynamic event space instead of being a simple passage between two locations.
- The project is buried under a stepped roof allowing for natural light, This discreet shape respects the presence of the facing cemetery and pays a tribute to the buildings that used to exist in Down Town and to the ones to be soon demolished.

- Interior spaces house the project program while giving the upper locations to the functions that need natural light and possible outdoor extension ( Documentation center, classrooms , art workshops, cafeteria...) . The blind functions are set to the lower levels (Performance halls an theatres...)
- The top of the house can equally play the role of a cultural hub, It can receive both scheduled and unscheduled events. It can serve as a stepped outdoor theatre for large open air concerts or smaller events, It can also receive outdoor exhibitions an act as a scene for spontaneous or experimental performances...
- The semi buried volume allows for a sustainable climatic control and a lower structural cost.