

## THE HOUSE OF ARTS AND CULTURE

We imagine Beirut as a rich tapestry of peoples, cultures and religions; a tapestry that is expressed in its architecture and needs to be expressed in the buildings it seeks to construct. The centre should be a place where ideas, movements and arts are brought into contact, developed and refined. A place where the visual arts, dance, literature and cinema can mesh and thrive.

We envision Beirut in a phase of great reconstruction. We envision Beirut as a city of possibility and opportunity few cities ever experience. Rebirth. We envision a construction site that will bring new buildings and new environments, that interweave millennia of culture, habits and architecture with the new spaces, places, colours, and designs that will affect the way of living of the population.

We envision Beirut as a commercial hub, with a long history as a meeting point for ideas, religions, cultures and commerce. A dynamic city, on the east of the Mediterranean, long seen as a transition point between East and West, North and South.

These marks are collected and create a substrate from which to build a future. city that collects, receives, holds, mixes and frees artistic and cultural energies. Our building collects the past, understands the present dynamic and creates a future that our minds dream.

The house of arts and culture is the focal point of the grand plan. A new meeting point in the new skyline of the city.

## CONCEPTION

The design rests of the idea of container like boxes, open and closed, of ideas, creativity, culture, relationships and thoughts. Simple and clean shapes with clear lines that create different spaces depending on the needs.

The central cut, which consists of a glass tunnel, gives light and order among the different spaces. This space is reserved for the elevators and bridges connecting the two sectors.

Each box had a different feel, a different ambient, a different nature.

Closed: Home of solemn moments of performance and entertainment. Large and comfortable, like the entrance hall, as this is a place where you need to feel welcome.

Open: Large openings to outside allowing communication and interaction with passers by.

These are boxes, ready for different needs, but related to one another.

Intimate boxes for private functions.

Communicative and vibrant container of young people to pursue their art.

These are, however, also gradually vanishing boxes, transforming into open gardens.

A place where you can rest in a fast paced world. Places where the sun shines, warms, and gives energy and inspiration to the creative thinker.

The large windows, are either vertical and horizontal cuts that capture pictures of places and situations.

The roof is actively involved in the cultural scene of the centre.

This is the place for the open air arena. The place of pictures, lectures, music, and dreams without boundary, between the city and the sky.

The north and south facades are the surfaces on which the activities of the centre are communicated.

Materials, shape, colours, are the instruments that architecture uses to communicate.

Dreams are the tools to create it.

The building is a container of ideas.

The building is a creative mind.

The place where different thoughts meet.

The place where the imagination becomes reality.

The building talks art. It screams art.

Because art is for everyone.