



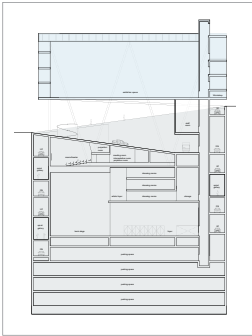
spiral

Lebanese Omani
Arts and Culture Centre

Architectural Proposal:
House of Arts and Culture
(Lebanese Omani Centre)

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Overview of Proposal



Above / Below

The operational requirements outlined in the brief and the relatively small area of the site inform a building solution arranged over several floors. However, a key objective of the proposal described is for the scheme to engage on a human scale. In response to this only four floors of the building are above ground and keep the structure as low as possible within the site. This creates a deliberate contrast to the adjacent taller buildings and remains synergous to the small park nearby. The four floors above ground house the gallery spaces that require natural light to operate effectively. The six floors below ground level accommodate spaces not dependent upon light, but requiring volume and sound insulation – the performance halls and theatres. The four floors at the deepest levels are given over to parking - deliberately set 'out of the way' to consolidate the 'human story' .



Spiral ramp traffic flow

- Pedestrian
- Pedestrian Spiral Gallery
- Parking IN
- Parking OUT

Spiral / Ramp

Connecting all floors, spaces, operations and behavior is one continuous spiral ramp – the buildings 'signature'. The spiral is initiated at ground level through a pair of ramps which 'ceremoniously invite' visitors to participate in the building in an immediate and understandable 'up/down' navigational principal that ties the building throughout.

The spiral ramp establishes unique characteristics on both the architecture and the visitor by uniting all the spaces in a sense of 'continuousness'. Structurally spiral ramp acts as massive hoop that tolerates the compression of the buildings mass and its form improves air flow by generating a natural ascending current and avoiding trapped air.

It is the influence of the spiral ramp upon visitors that is most compelling – delighting them with the sense that they are flowing with the building. And, as they travel they discover new spaces and vistas viewed through glass partitions. So 'confident' is this expression of flowing and continuous passage that visitors not only share their journey with other visitors, but on occasion with vehicles – putting 'on display' some of the operations that might otherwise be relegated to 'back stage'. On the upper floors the physical spiral ramp structure and the W shaped supporting columns are revealed through use of glass and translucent materials. This revealing of the structure simultaneously exposes the visitor flow and accentuates the inner movement, life and theatre of the building...particularly by night.

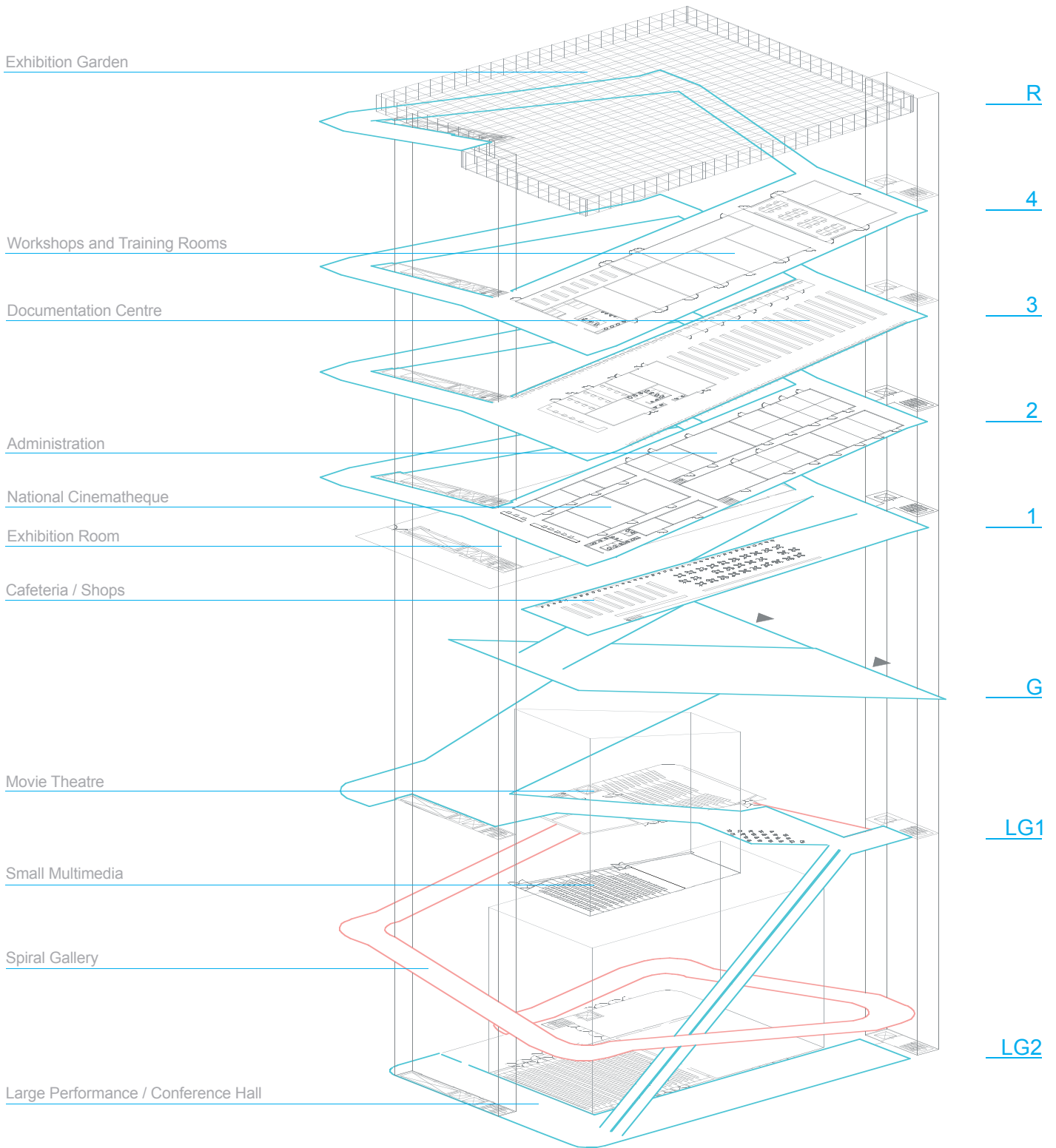


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Table of Spaces





spiral

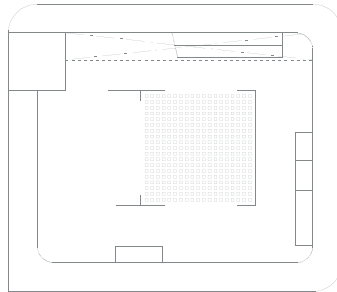
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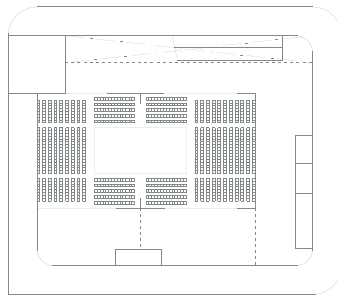
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Space flexibility of Large
Performance and Exhibition Hall

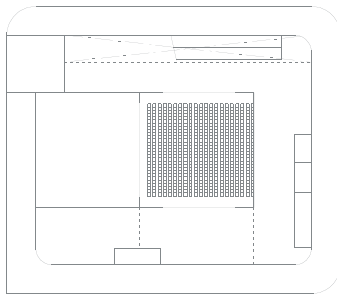
Large Performance Hall



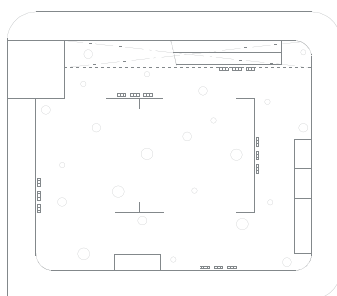
Ceremony / Concert / Event / Seminar /
Opera / Ballet / Musical / Theatre



Concert / Theatre

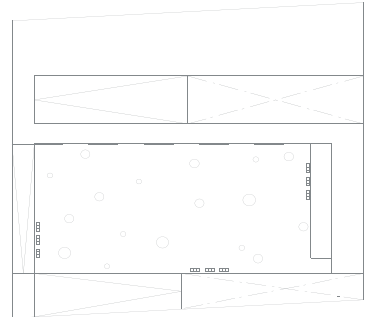


Theatre

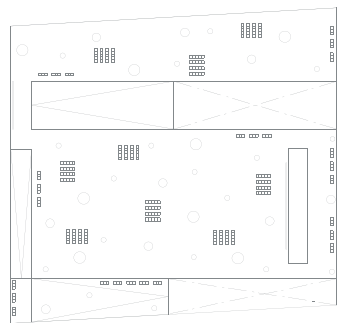


Event / Exhibition

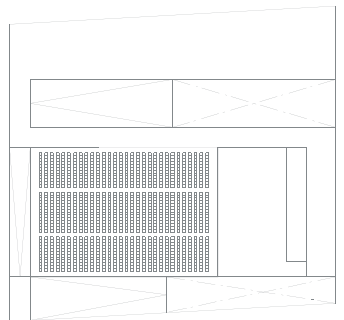
Exhibition Room



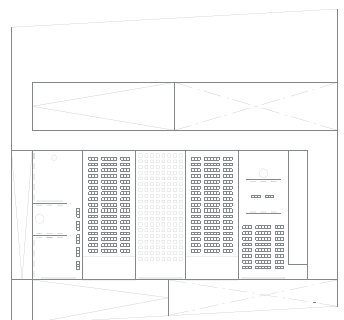
Event / Exhibition



Event / Exhibition



Ceremony / Concert / Event /
Seminar / Theatre



Ceremony / Concert / Event /
Exhibition / Seminar / Theatre



spiral

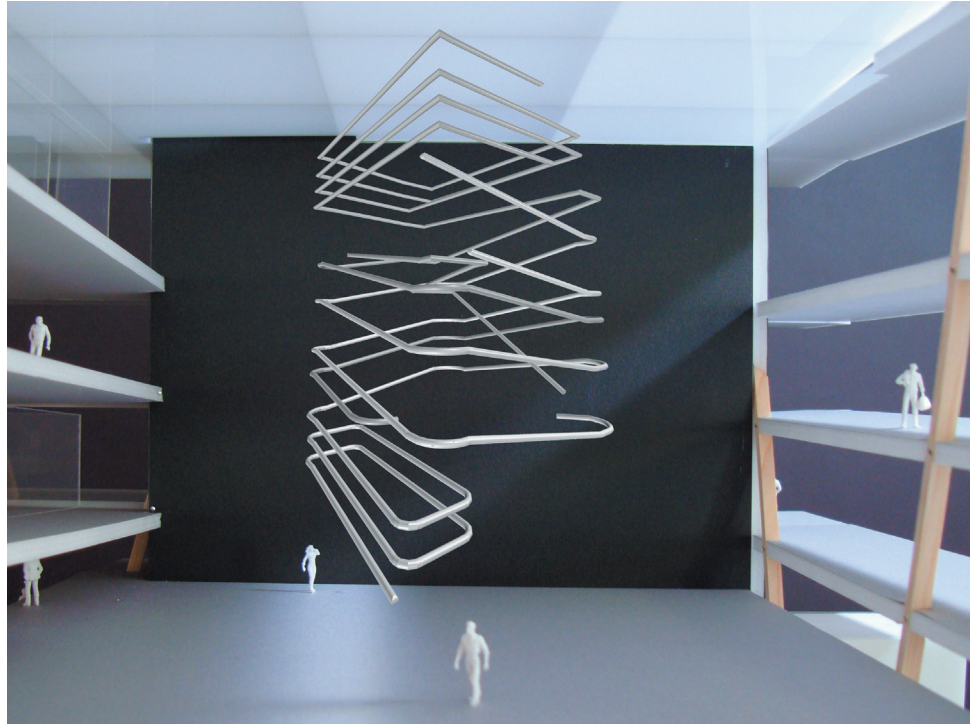
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Architecture / Cultural Branding

Architectural form of proposal articulated as 3D kinetic logo - bridging building to cultural brand



The proposal aims to present not just an architectural solution, but to present an architectural solution as the crystallization of a new international cultural brand. The building will therefore serve as both an architectural symbol with the capacity to mobilise a holistic brand image and at the same time operate as a cultural incubator for the region. Both the architectural manifestation and the ability to be a cultural incubator will attract international visitors drawn to the booming Middle Eastern art scene. This will ensure that the proposal will both compete and also offer more than other cultural brands in the region such as Guggenheim Abu Dhabi and the United Arab Emirates' cultural building project on Saadiyat Island.