



DESCRIPTION:

Project:	HOUSE OF ARTS AND CULTURE
Building Total Area:	13.318,06m²
Site:	LOT 128- 04
Located:	Beirut – Lebanon
Identification Code:.....	2209av

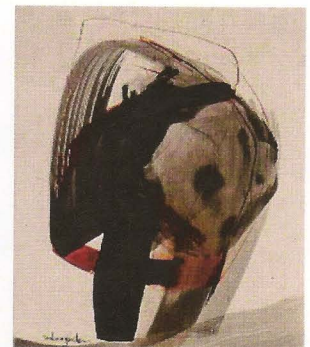
COMPETITOR: *Vanessa Cassol*, brazilian, 28 years old, Architect in 2002, MBA Business Management , post-graduated in Lighting Design at UNAM (Mexico), works in the newest capital of Brazil: Palmas – Tocantins state. On january starting to study a master degree course at IED (Milan – Italy). Her main works are architecture for institutions and lighting projects in Palmas.
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CONCEPTION

The priority to define the *House of Arts and Culture* design was the Lebanese feeling and culture expressed in a modern building. The history of Lebanon and the brave people for long of this years have to be concreted in the *House* concept.

Between some glorious Lebanese artists, we point out an art work by Salwa Zeidan (picture next). Her works have no name. The paintings don't need labels or explication. This painting made in 1999 reflected the solid culture and very strong image for human eye. Such as the force and eternity from the three of Lebanon flag, both pictures have equilibrium and proportion. So, the first step of architecture concept was defined.

The newest Beirut building has a singular personality. From an old form of construction and huge apparent concrete dome, to high technology construction, result a gracious and impressive *House*. The building has nine visual floors. According arabic literature, it is very important to have non entire numbers to get good things. Some arabic legends and religions the "nine" it is a representative number of the perfection, therefore is the most greatest digit.



Salwa Zeidan - Year:1999



Lebanon flag



DESIGN

Circular lines bring the interaction between the Lebanon thought and the rest of the world.

The circle of infinite points and less ending was projected for the objective of “the new” – the infinite ideas and wishes for the new Beirut!

The soft and elegance design will impact the urban scene. A starting to a new age.

BUILDING CONTEXT

Table of Spaces:

SPACES		SQUARE METRES m ²
A	Reception, Information	498,10
B	Performance and conference halls, cinemas	1.782,68
C	Exhibition spaces	1.292,34
D	Workshops and training rooms	654,14
E	Documentation centre	518,39
F	National Cinematheque	330,50
G	Cafeteria and shopping spaces	590,09
H	Administration	524,60
I	Miscellaneous spaces	on other spaces
J	Technical rooms	302,19*
K	Parking and delivery	5.458,33
Total Useful Surfaces		11.951,36**
Horizontal and vertical circulation		1.366,70
Total Useful Building		13.318,06

*possibility of enlargement on underground

Descriptions:



A. Reception, Information

Access: from outside by ramp in front of *Avenue du General Fouad Chehab*. After the information/reception desk, the visitors can walk around a mezzanine with underground. There is a big and wonderful fountain to look. The water brings the nature idea into the building like the



walls with glasses where the large grass carpet outside can be looking. Then, the visitors, specially the foreign people, can seat in a "Welcome to Lebanon" area. There they will watch a little video, with individual phones about the culture, history, architecture, tourist points and food in Lebanon. After that, the visitors already are prepared to visit the *House*.

B. Performance and Conference halls, cinemas

First of all, the visitors go into a fantastic hall located on top of dome for cocktails and events. The area of performance and conference are on fifth to ninth floors. All of them with acoustic and soundproofing projects. The material of all outside walls is glass. The main theatre has three floors and many side boxes.

C. Exhibition spaces

An spacious place to art works by two floors with a beautiful mezzanine. Tallest scultures can be show on center of these floors with unique height. In the mezzanine the people can walk next to "bubble" glass. There is a great viewing of Beirut. The exhibition space should have inside and outside on show.

D. Workshops and training rooms

Beyond all rooms on the second floor, we can see the rooms need soudproofing and acoustics projects located together. Respecting the wellbeing and confortable area, arts and dance areas have natural light and interaction with outside.

E. Documentation centre

In front of social elevators, the visitor can buy some books and souvenirs. On the fourth floor, the documentation centre divided space with national cinematheque.

F. National Cinematheque

The administrative rooms are located with seeing by glasses. The area for documentation that need conditioned air control has circulation around it. The restrooms are conjugated with Documentation Centre. Plus: a meeting room with 12,36m².

G. Cafeteria and shopping spaces

Divided in three floors this area (3rd, 4th, underground). The cafeteria attends a specific public in a quiet place on the third floor. However on the underground the restaurant and shopping spaces are located in an elegant and gracious area. There is a fountain, spacious circulation and delivery access at the back of boutiques.



H. Administration

On the third and mezzanine floor, the administration area has privilege in an excellent view through out of glasses with "bubble" shape of dome. There is a "brain" of the *House*. Plus: buttlery area with 25,86m².

I. Miscellaneous spaces

Divided in some storages are located on underground floors.

J. Technical rooms

Located on ground floor. Main access from outside by big sliding doors. Possibility of enlargement on underground.

K. Parking and delivery

Access by *Rue Gualguoul*. The access are divided in two entrances for the four underground floors. Delivery is done on the first underground floor attend the restaurant and shop/boutiques either.

L. Circulation spaces

Horizontal circulation is on the total areas of surfaces. Vertical circulations are done by two staff elevators, two social elevators and emergency stairs. The elevators are panoramic bringing a nice time to see the city until the ninth floor.

MATERIALS

Dome: apparent concrete, rustic visual impacting to high technology construction. The old versus the new Beirut.

Bubble huge window: bronze glass color shocking the apparent concrete of dome.

Lettering: silver metal, semi-gleam.

Visible Floors: glasses in gray color.

OBSERVATION

The newest *House* of Lebanon has 40 metres height by 41 maximum width. An interesting architecture conception. Although the impact from architecture design, the neutral colors melting the building of urban scene.