

The HOUSE OF ARTS & CULTURE

will merge cultures, traditions and provide a breeding ground for creative endeavors.

Culture is movement - alive, dynamic and processional
Culture is diversity - spontaneous, surprising and exhilarating
Culture is excitement - courageous, consistent and questioning.

The building is south facing on the leading Ring Road and follows the site boundaries to the east and west. The entrance faces the square in the north towards Ghalghoul Street.

The northern facade is designed to captivate the momentum of the adjacent streets and clearly defines access to the building in the planned urban situation.

Though the structures cubature gently interacts with the environment, the design of the House of Arts and Culture is one that powerfully conveys creative ideas and energies to the outside world. White ribbons ebb and flow, reminiscent of light curtains in a soft breeze. The facade invites curiosity about the cultural life in the interior, and lays a nurturing, protective blanket around the “creative institutions” within.



Running Fence: Christo/Jeanne-Claude

Dancing Derwish

The storey-high, dynamic, ‘wind-blown’ sun aprons regulate incoming light, provide shade and influence perspectives. The structures form and function combine to form a symbiotic unit.

The generous entrance bodes admission and invites cultural awareness, making complete the transition from inside to outside and outside to inside. This majestic public space is soothing and welcoming. On the prestigious staircase, the programmatic expansion of the exterior space acts as a public stage via which you reach the reception hall, which represents the logistical heart of the house.

Throughout the building, the changing shape and size of the airspace creates awesome views of all the levels. Thus, the various functions are separated but united as a vertically-flowing area of communication. One travels this cultural cosmos, from the exhibition center at the -3 level to the rooftop workshops by way of the central elevators or stairs.



Exhibition area

While the lounge of the exhibition level is opened to the top over its entirety, the exhibition areas are acoustically and spatially separated from the surrounding lounge. The usage is variable, the versatile display cabinets allowing for the simultaneously realization of innumerable exhibitions concepts.

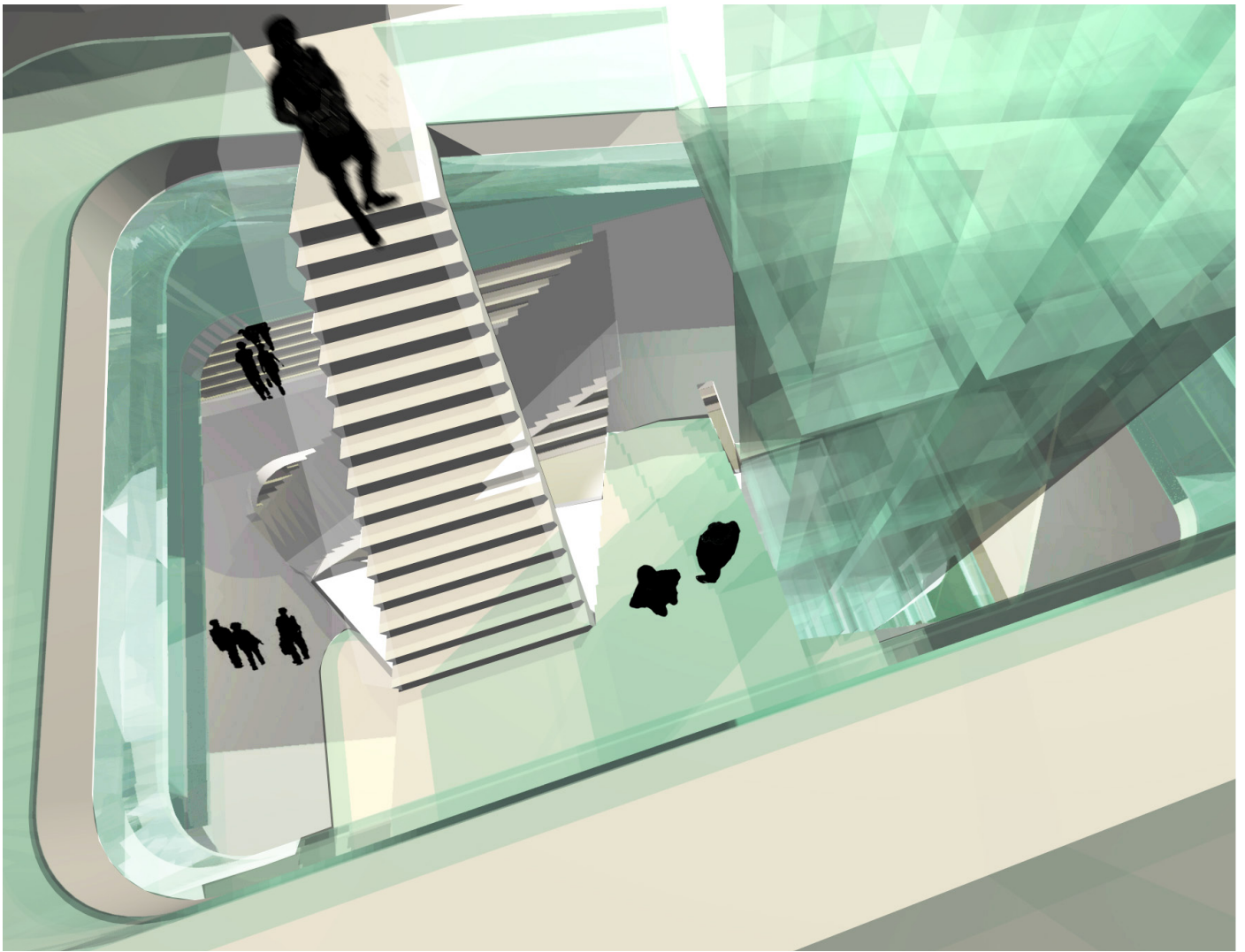
The reception hall level contains public areas, such as an information desk or ticket office, shops and boutiques and access to the upper level of the restaurant with terrace. The structures rear houses the retired National Cinematheque with the orchestra pit and sub-stage.

Via an upper level, one reaches the central concourse of the event hall and movie theater. The entrances to the individual areas are spread over two levels and are linked by a broad staircase. This creates both exciting remuneration prospects, as well as essential space for guest during simultaneously staged events. The broad staircase is partly level based, further presenting itself as a public stage.

On the lower level are the principal entrances to the main hall, small meeting room, bar, toilets and cloakroom. Behind the bar, separated from the public areas, are the artists' dressing rooms and lounge area, which are distributed on two levels. The main event hall is multifunctional and can satisfy a wide variety of theater usage in the classical sense, with its orchestra pit and barrier free seating capacity of up to 1000 square meters for large events.

The meeting rooms, as a two storey body, breach the interior wall of the great performance hall and thus display their versatile functionality, being independently usable or expanding the hall itself. They are part of the white ribbons inside the halls single hull and possess a high acoustic quality. The Bars structure is independently set, its roof serving as an additional gathering place.

The entrances to the small hall, cinema, box seats and large meeting room are on the upper level. Another bar and sitting area complete the two-storey foyer.



Awesome views of all the levels

The next level contains a documentation center. The large airspace is acoustically separate, never the less affording interior and exterior views to the passer by. The top floor is shared between management and workshops. Both units function as self-contained areas with cut in skylights and atriums. The two administrative meeting rooms breach the interior and exterior space extending their applicable use.

Structurally, the building is constructed as a steel and concrete skeleton-frame structure with trussed girders.

Reinforced concrete floors and massive cores take on the horizontal and vertical bracing and contribute to the buildings climate control . The use of geothermal cooling, heat exchangers, as well as solar and photovoltaic systems on the large roof guarantee low energy operating costs.

The covered, ground floor service entrance provides for efficient delivery and security. If necessary, another parking level can be added.