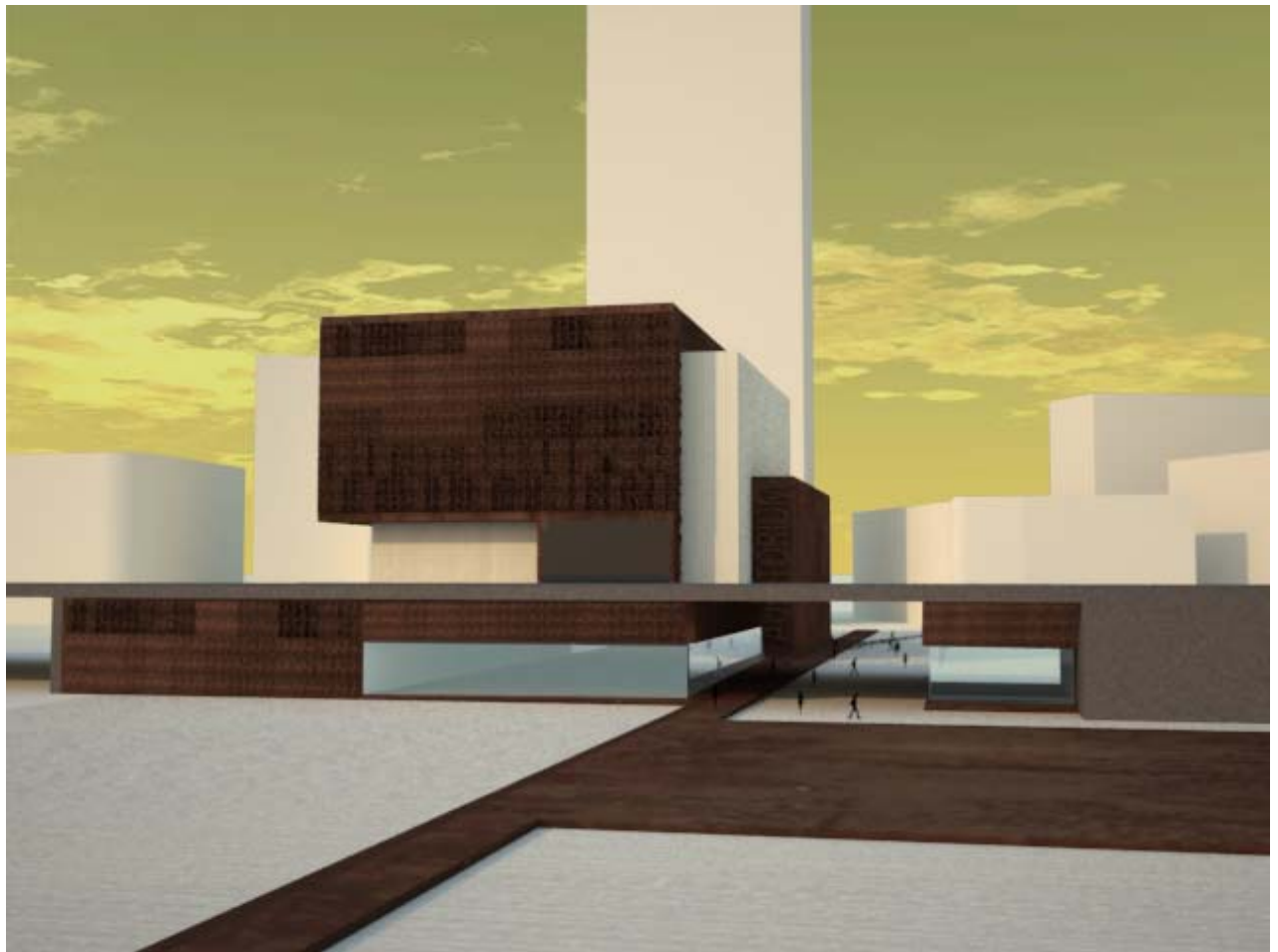


A HOME FOR ART

THE HOUSE OF ARTS & CULTURE



INDEX

- INTRODUCTION 1
- LOCATION & URBAN SURROUNDINGS 1
- ANALYSIS & COMPREHENSION 1
- ...AND FURTHER MORE (A COMPLEX CITY IN EXPANSION)..... 2
- KEY BUILDING & PROPOSAL 3

▪ **INTRODUCTION**

The present competition proposes the development of a new **Centre of Arts & Culture in Centre Lebanon (Beirut)**. This new building should be design as a space for cultural and artistic production, exchange and integration. It should be multipurpose and versatile as well as an icon and urban reference.

The city of Beirut, capital and largest city of Lebanon, is located on the Mediterranean Sea, and it has established itself as one of the leading port cities in the Middle East. The city is shaped in a metropolitan area of 26 square miles with a population of over 2.1 million people.

After a period of almost 5 years of war and bombings, life has finally, returned to downtown Beirut and is once again an exquisite experience: a bewildering composition of cultures and faiths, perched on a breathtaking sweep of Mediterranean coastline. The city is also the focal point of the region's cultural life, renowned for its press, theaters and cultural activities.

▪ **LOCATION & URBAN SURROUNDINGS**

The site of the project is located in a full expansion district, in what is left of the old Ghalghoul situated on the heights of the reconstructed downtown. This District is mainly a financial area, although it combines different activities such as business offices, commercial centres, cultural points, hotels and other tourism related activities.

In the north are situated the business districts, the banks street, the Parliament and the Municipality of Beirut. A little lower, the commercial area around the new souks of Beirut. To the east, there is the axis of the Martyr's square sloping towards the sea along the archaeological zones between the Damascus Road and Bechara el Khoury Street.

Located right up against the "Ring", the high-speed road that surrounds downtown Beirut, the plot is adjacent to an intermediary road that separates it from the high-speed road and enables its access. Bordered in the north by Ghalghoul Street and Riad el Sohl Square, the centre is encircled by several projects under construction or planned for as well as many existing outstanding buildings.

On the west, in the Emir Amine Street is the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Westerns Asia (ESCWA).

▪ **ANALYSIS & COMPREHENSION**

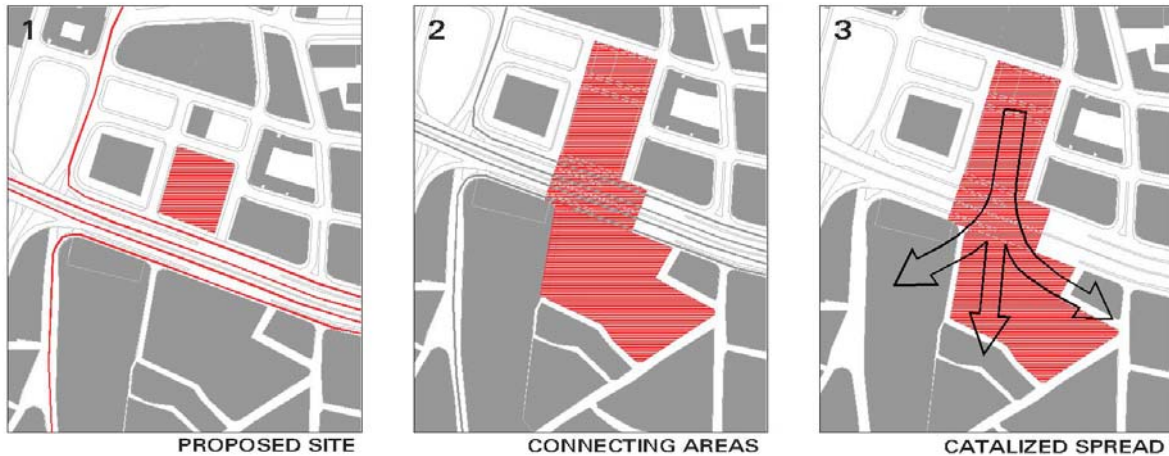
When we faced the project for the first time, we rapidly noticed how traceable where the existing boundaries between districts and how different where the intensity of regeneration and reconstruction in each one of them.

Analyzing the urban transportation we conclude that large distances and lack of services produced an urban drawing based on roads and cars, leaving pedestrians out of the picture.

For that reasons we decided to bring up an overall solution, in order to really catalized the power of culture and communication. That way the proposed building should work in human scale as much as in urban scale.

A HOME FOR ART THE HOUSE OF ARTS & CULTURE

The main problem we found where the location, the first question where: Who is this building for?.. the answer was clear **CITIZENS, PEOPLE**. An aggressive environment shaped by high building and speedways blurred the objective. The city has to be regained by the citizen. Therefore first decision where to connect the existing areas, erasing boundaries.



▪ ...AND FURTHER MORE (A COMPLEX CITY IN EXPANSION)

Conceiving the city as a growing organism, we imagined how easily culture and art could colonized in a natural manner, empty forgotten spaces, forming a whole understructure of dynamic and interactive acts of soul expressions.



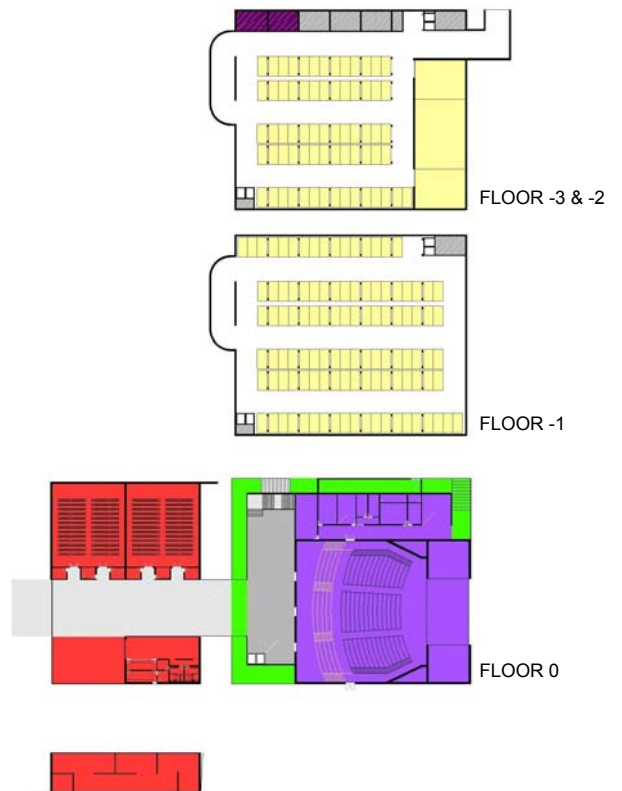
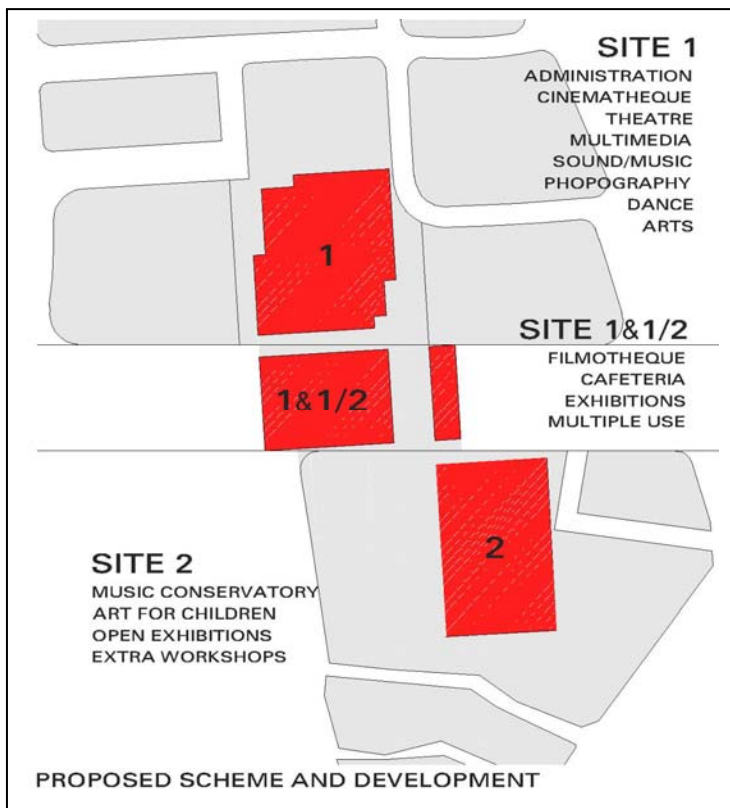
EMPTY SITES FOR ART - POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT

CITY FOR THE CITIZEN
BREAKING RUPTURES
NO BOUNDARIES
DYNAMIC
APPROACHING HUMAN SCALE
FEEDBACK
DEVELOPMENT
SENSITIVITY
CULTURE
INTERACTIVE
ARTS
24 HOURS A DAY

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▪ KEY BUILDING & PROPOSAL

The key building is designed as an answer to connect **city and its suburbs**. We proposed a singular and emblematic building, with the formal determination which makes it unique. It generates both interior and exterior spaces harmonizing and interconnected.



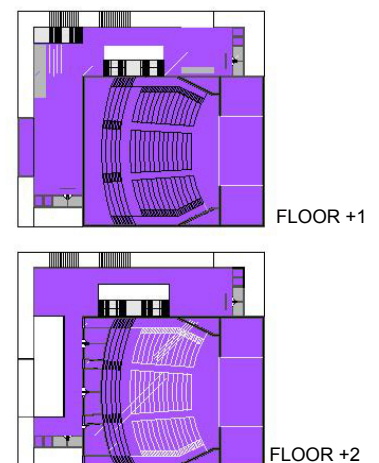
SCHEME OF BUILDING AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

SITE 1

The programme has been developed according to the needs defined in the competition rules, nevertheless some areas have been added in order to enrich and complete the requirements, such as: exhibition rooms in the mezzanine (floor +3), special rooms for children in the library and auditorium, terraces, outdoors exhibitions spaces, and some facilities.

SITE 1 & 1/2

It represents the connection between districts, the link between north and south. This connection develops a programme based on exhibition and information,



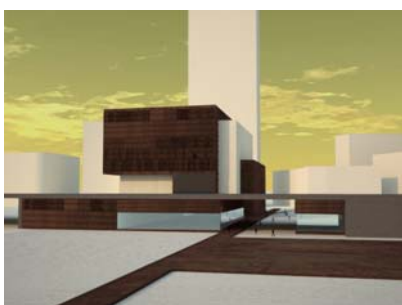
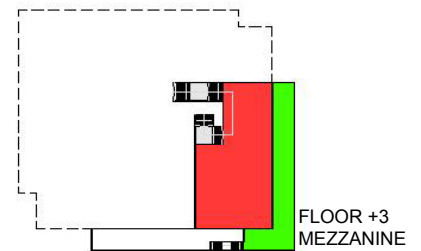
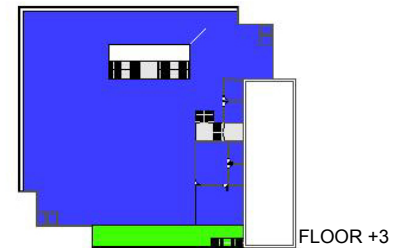
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completed by a filmotheque space with projection rooms. So that this

SITE 3

The site number 3 materializes the idea of spread. The House could grow all over the city searching for sensitivity and curiosity, as a call for everyone to be involve.

The unlimited possibilities for colonizing the city. The complex can contribute to the dissemination of culture and to the education of the population, exchange of ideas and of debates, it should also bring to this public the discovery of new avenues through exhibitions, lectures and discussions on global issues.



...day & night