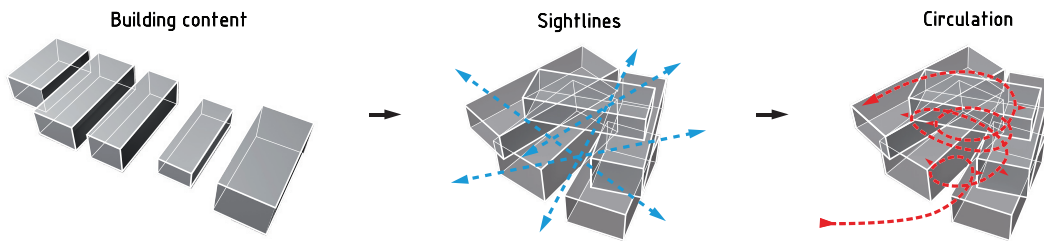


HOUSE OF ARTS & CULTURE BEIRUT



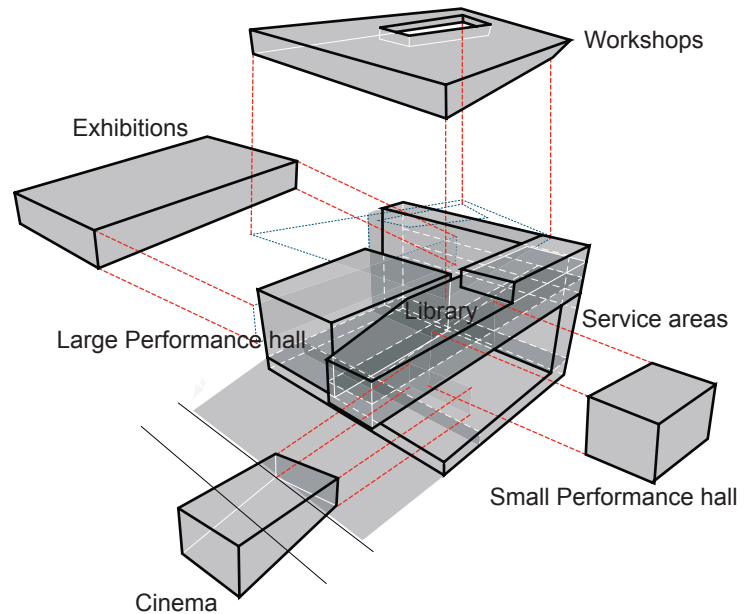
01. URBAN & ARCHITECTURAL OBJECTIVES

The proposed structure is composed of several building blocks that represent individual functions creating a multi-storey atrium that draws the city's public space into the heart of the new building. This central circulation spaces will allow light, nature, plants, the sky, the sun to infiltrate into the House. This generous gesture of openness and dialog brings visitors, guests and locals to move around the multi-storey atrium, to listen to a contemporary music concert, see a movie, read in the documentation centre, sip a coffee, visit the paintings or sculpture exhibition on show, or attend one of the workshops or courses. In other words the building should become the "living room" and "window to the world" for Beirut. On top of the building, shaded by the atrium is a café restaurant and a public roof terrace with a 360° view of the city.



02. FUNCTIONAL & SPATIAL ORGANISATION

The main access for the public is from Rue Ghalghoul (fig.1). The defined green space on site as well as from the opponent site offers a continuous transition between open space and the buildings interior. All public functions are bundled in a foyer from which the individual building components can be accessed through stairs, elevators and ramps. The service entries are located at the west and east side of the site. Car parking and delivery trucks enter the site from the



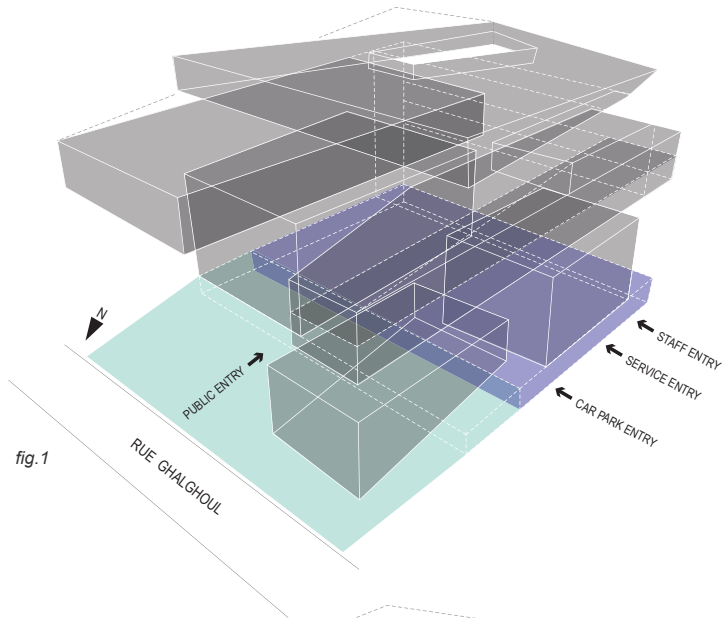


fig.1

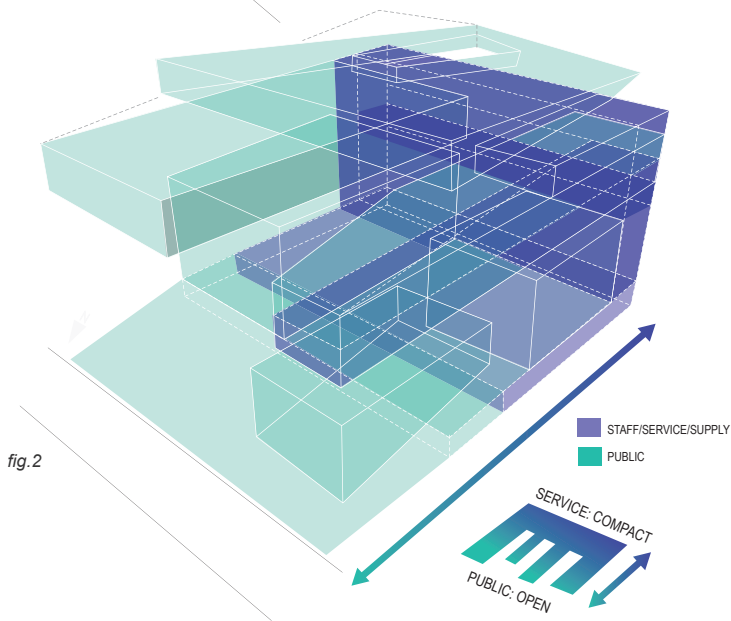


fig.2

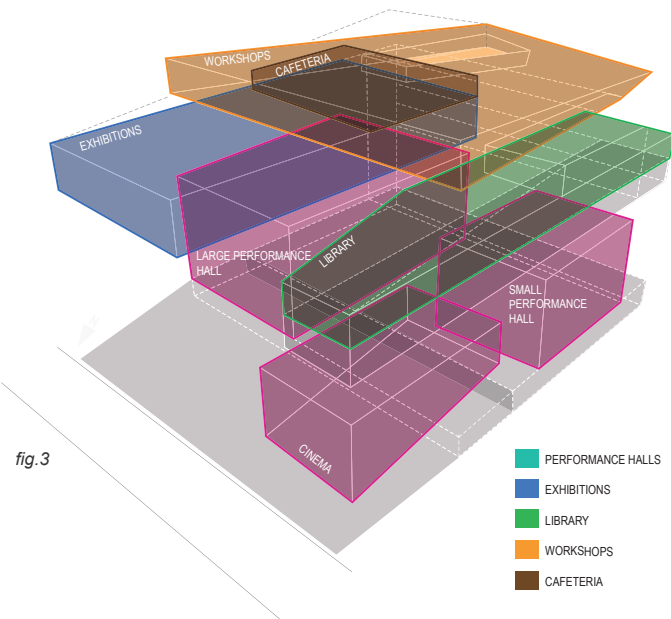
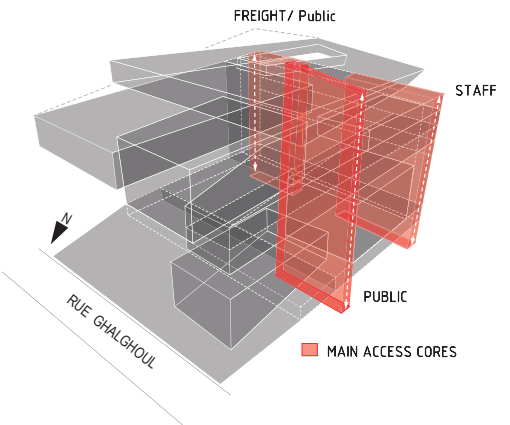
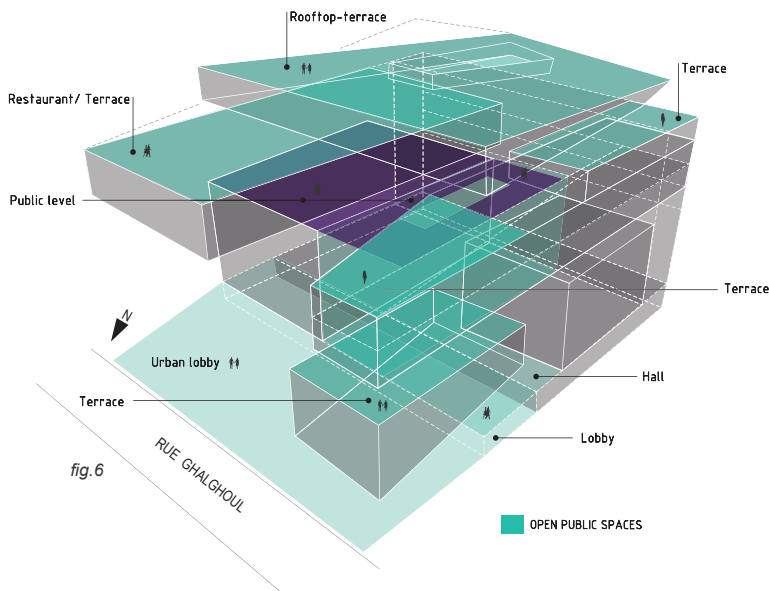
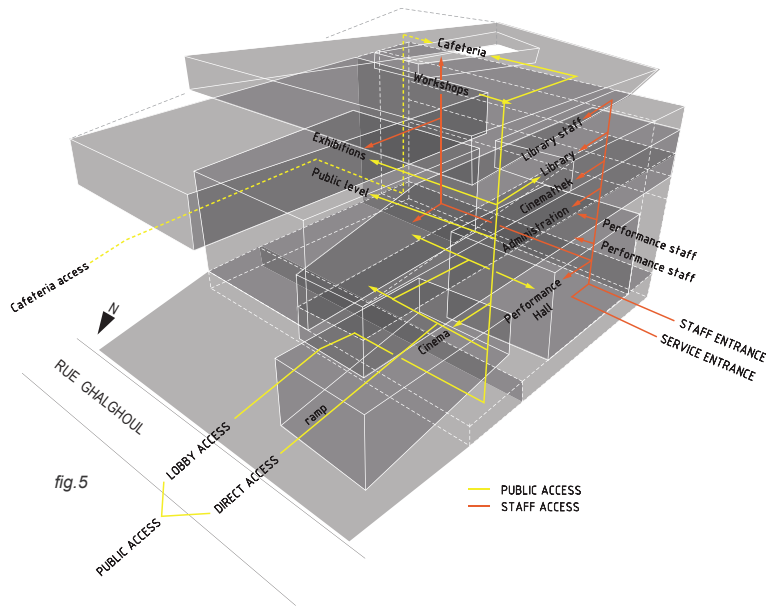


fig.3

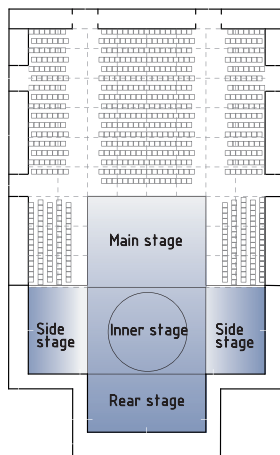
side street between Avenue du General Fouad Chebab and Rue Ghalghoul. On principle most of the service areas (fig.2) are compactly located at the back of the building, facing the ringroad, contrary to the open public elements which are located towards Rue Ghalghoul (and the city center). Both large and small performance halls (fig.3) are located close to the ground to allowing easy service access as well as a common lobby for both theatres. On top level is the workshop building which frames the inner space as well as provides the interior with shade during the day. The three main service cores (fig. 4) are situated along the south and east of the building. They contain the freight elevators (one for Exhibition/Library and one for the Performance Hall props). On the east corner of the back-side the public elevator for direct access to the cafeteria is placed. is located further to the front to allow for a central development of the public spaces. By accessing the building the visitor can choose between first visiting the main lobby on the ground floor or directly entering the main performance hall's lobby via a ramp from outside. The public core is accessible from both entrances. The



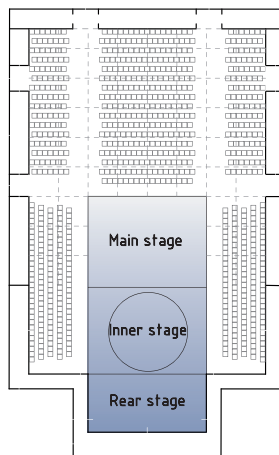
service spaces in the back of the building create a „spine“ that easily provides the Performance halls, Exhibition space, Library etc with the necessary logistics and supplies (fig 5).

The large Performance Hall is planned as a multi-functional theatre that allows a variety of stage and seating arrangements. To secure the highest variability to be able to host a large amount of different performances, the stage system consists of a number of multiple stage lifts and platforms which are usually stored below the stage.

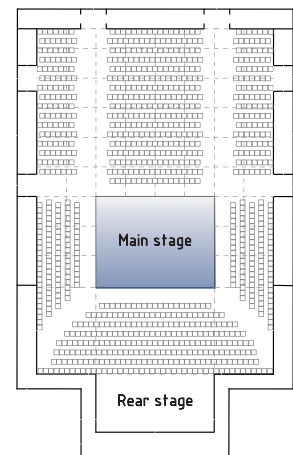
Thrust stage



Theater on two sides



Theatre in the round



03. SUGGESTED TECHNICAL & BUILDING SOLUTION

The buildings is primarily a concrete structure including floors, columns and building cores and walls were acoustically and structural appropriate. The buildings exterior wall consist of highly insulated wall panels and windows and glass façades orientated mostly to the north. The cantilevers of the north façade are planed as steel frame constructions.

To create a pleasant climate and to conserve energy a combination of passive building design and active technology are employed. The building and it's architecture is carefully arranged on site: With the compact and mostly closed backside facing south and the open, porous north side with it's glass façade, allowing natural light into the building and blocking direct sun and avoiding heat gain. Light can also penetrate the interior of the building form the operable glass roof of the atrium. This atrium is naturally ventilated and uses the "stack effect" drawing cooler air from the shaded lower areas of the atrium and the shaded north overhangs and allowing warmer air to move out of the building from the top. Since the building structure is concrete the building can be cooled by activating the building mass with concrete slabs in office areas. The theatres, exhibition or similar areas are equipped with a air-conditioning system in combination with a soil heat pump system to take advantage of air/soil temperature differences. This active/passive design planning approach should lower maintenance and operations which can be optimized all planning phases.

