

THE HOUSE OF ARTS AND CULTURE

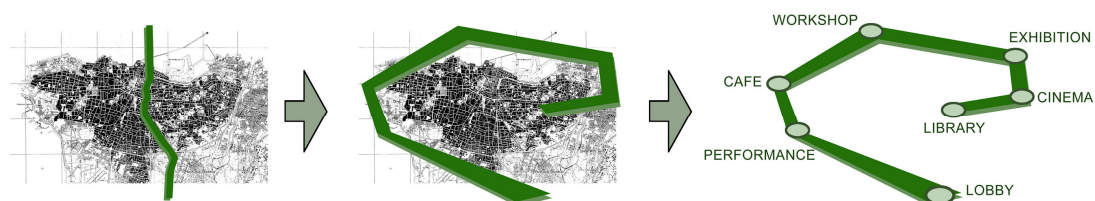
(THE LEBANESE-OMANI CENTRE)

BEIRUT SPIROID

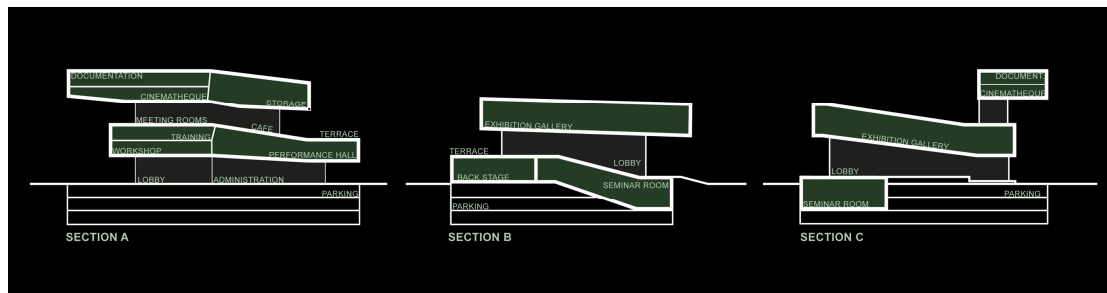
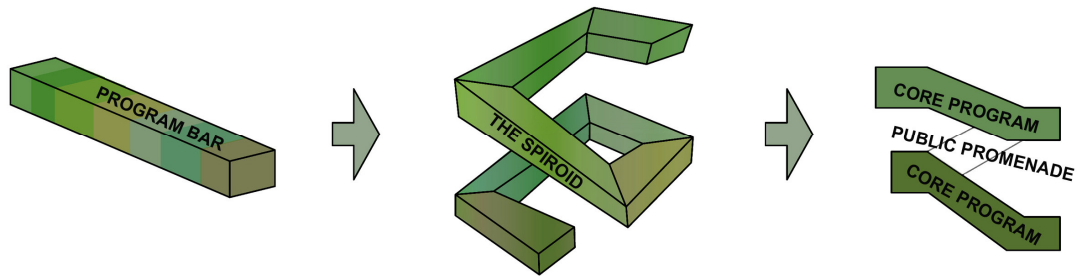
Beirut, a city with 4000 years of history and cultural diversity, has earned its name as a cultural crossroad, a city that has survived many revolutions and civilizations. A resilience in its character has made it open to new traditions without losing its identity. This resilience has also made this city a survivor through the millennia when other great cities have risen and got lost in history.

In recent years, the city has seen violence rising from ethnic tensions that has caused significant destruction of lives and property. Diverting from its 4000 years of tradition, the city has become a victim of hatred and mistrust, eventually becoming a divided city, separated by the “**Green Line**”.

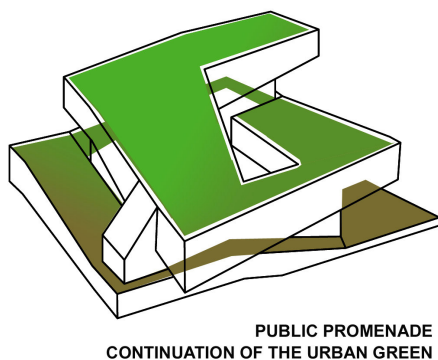
Our scheme is for future Beirut, a city that will draw its strength from 4000 years of cultural acceptance and will learn from its mistakes that caused so much pain and destruction. “The “**Green Line**” becomes the central impetus of this project. Here, rather than representing division and separation, it works as a uniting element for the various programs of this project into a continuous whole. The abstract reinterpretation of that once significant line stands as a monument of celebration for the united city, also a memorial to its divided past, a constant reminder for the next generation what hatred and mistrust can cause. Giving them the strength and inspiration to go beyond ethnic and racial boundaries and create a just society. This structure with its secular modernism, stripped of all traditional references represents the justice, equality and freedom of future Beirut. It lays the foundation for creativity and cultural fusion and ensures Beirut’s place in history for another millennium.



Visitors experience this cultural center as a continuous path that gradually ascends with a gentle slope connecting the various elements of the program. The experience is comparable to that of walking along a city street, something new to explore at every turn. All the core art & cultural programs are placed within the spiraling form. The in between spaces are for more of a public nature, at one point it's the spacious lobby, at another it's the cafe and the museum store.



A series of terraces are connected by a **green path** that also ascends with this spiraling form that acts almost like an extension of the city street. Open to visitors and urbanites alike, this new vertical landscape offers breath taking views of the city at different direction and different elevation. The building's vertical facades will be clad with Oxidized Copper (Patina-green finish; color gradually changing over time as it patinates). Three tired vertical patinated copper panels follow the spiral with different gradation; accentuating the spiral motion of the form.



Our quest was to search for “matter” of Beirut, because we believe; “matter” is a receptacle of energy. And being a finite entity; it cannot be created or destroyed. “**Beirut Spiroid**” is a discontinuous (uniting) object in the continuous (divided) present; storing the energy captured in its making. It is a formation of relations of relations, an order which characterizes the presence of one thing from another, a purposeful demarcation of a particular space and place.

