

The House of Arts and Culture



The scent of the project intends to go over the limits of the established soil where is been held, and as a space itself, being a mixer of ideas and creativity in every way of expression.

The Ghalghoul District as the city centre, has been severely affected by the conflicts that occurred in Beirut, so the new development with this building, proposes areas of artistic development, where dynamism and vitality meet in a constant offer of alternative-arts for users and visitors.

The House of Arts & Culture is conceived as a a symbolic object, modern and trendy but timeless, leaving its art on the inside, reveling against any frontier or barriers. The building edges are just a suggestion, they only can be limited by the point of view, wrapped by a very light "skin", white and clean; Its curved shapes make it expressive and firm.

The building stands among the area leaning on its changing angles, merging the exterior

within its creative-extendable interior areas. Spaces could be inward-looking when needed, or totally "outgoing" due to its perspectives, paths and the volume of its own forms. The interior routes lead to the garden-roof with magnificent views of the city and the sea.

The atrium is bright and translucent, provoking movement around the soft ramps to the halls and exhibition rooms from where a general perspective of the interior is obtained.

A central area works as a meeting point, covering the whole space vertically from ground to ceiling, bringing a fantastic perspective due to its height. A light slope, allows the great atrium to be used for crowded events, passing through the building, until reaching the southern point next to the Ring Road. It is a "transition area", open and protected, allowing artists to work and exhibit large pieces.

Accesses to the upper levels are situated next to the paths, connecting every area of the program and the performance halls. The small one lays underground, on top of it and the entrance hall, are the exhibition rooms without any specific separation, allowing maximum flexibility. Above all these, stands the Large Performance and Conference Hall with a shared access from the atrium. The stage opens to south like a scenario over the city.

The program involving the main pieces, stacks vertically on the east facade viewing the Marty's square; the adjoining rooms to both performance halls, administration, library, the documentation center, workshop and the National Cinematheque, get on top of each other until reaching the roof-garden, where a "V" shaped volume erects to the sky and sea, holding the cafeteria, shops, boutiques, and other leisure activities recovering the panoramic view of the city.

At night, the building shows its entrails thru great glass walls, revealing its content, acting like if it was claiming for the activities of Arts & Culture.

Theater, dance and music, all mixed up in naturally. The clarity of all these elements moving with each other, every creative piece, people, music instruments or atrezzo materials, become the fundamentalism of the organization of the program.

Facilitate the communication and the exchange of ideas among the artists and visitors, being or not familiarized with the building, concretizes a solid space where arts can easily

be related and expanded in one and only place.

In the open areas, casual performances can be held, organized recitals, or any other creative expression; the main propose is the interaction between artists and public. Multiple meeting areas over an unlimited floor, where every path, walkway or single room is meant to creation.

The Project is based on sustainable construction bases; the garden-roof is meant to provide isolation and the re-use of rain water. Double glass walls, work as light and heat refractors during warmer temperatures, and take advantage of the sunlight for colder weather.

The proper light level for every type of art work and modern multimedia installation, as well as every other season requirement, are guarantied thanx to the automatic blockage system. The enveloping "shell" of white concrete, strategically perforated depending on the orientation, in order to achieve the better relationship between the volume and shape.

Storage and facility areas are located at the lower levels; from the loading ducks for theatrical set materials or art work supplies, have a direct access to the halls and exhibition rooms. The three lowest levels are intended for a convenient and organized parking lot.