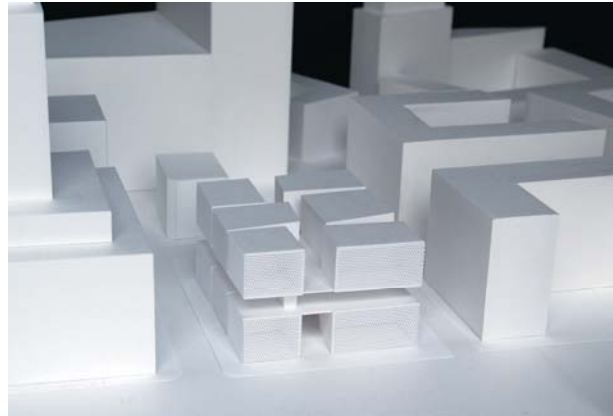


THE HOUSE OF ARTS AND CULTURE
BEIRUT/LEBANON

concept

<Interconnected by Fun and Comfort>

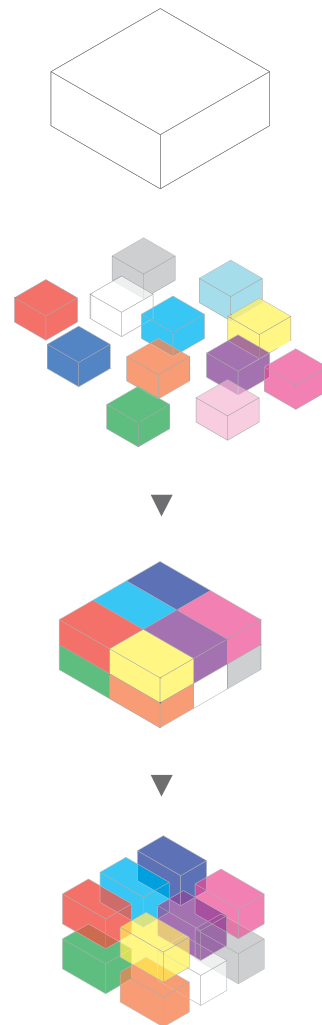
This is a place of creativity that lets artists grow and cultivates new art forms. It should be comfortable to all, who share its secure environment conducive to their respective activities with fun and joy. The required space is cradled by a larger volume in such a way that the residual spaces in between promote free communication and interactive encounters.



<Performing Arts Space in Wrapping>

The project site is located in the city center. Numerous large structures are scheduled to be erected in the neighborhood and a high way meanders through on the south side.

The strategy here is to be re-connected with the city through an introduction of human-scale in contrast to the enormous scale of the surroundings. This place needs to be of architecture that resonates with the five senses, and inspires deep thoughts on the history, life, and our environment. In order to accommodate performances by artists of different fields and to welcome the people of the city for everyday use, it also needs a sense of openness. Our proposal subdivides the overall volume by function, and then envelops the whole inside a large box. The size of each subdivision is determined by its program, resulting in six subdivisions. The residual spaces, or the alleyways, are protected from the winter rain of Beirut under a large collective roof, allowing for a diversity of uses while providing acoustic isolation.



<Intermingling Circulation, Unexpected Encounters, and Art Innovation through Crossing Over>

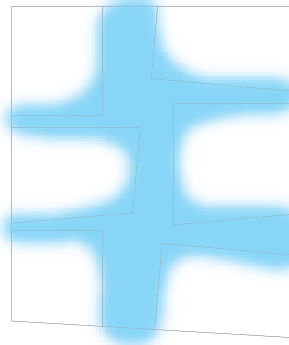
The residual spaces that run in all directions are in a sense like alleyways of a city filled with daily activities of people, conduits for air flow and ventilation, and at the same time a network of corridors where people go back and forth to intermingle with one another. Individuals have coincidental opportunities to meet with others, circulate about and discover a new something. This is different from a space inside a controlled box of a building, but is a free space not assigned to any particular function where the private emotions meet public happenings, hopefully leading to a new art form through its crossing over effect.

<Design that Inspires Creativity>

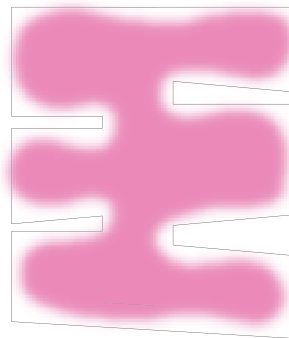
The second floor has workshops and the library in one big room with a fluid spatial arrangement. This is to help promote creative activities, as in “working in the work shop and stepping over to the library to do additional research” and “visiting library to look for reference and being inspired by taking a look into what is happening in the workshops” .

The third floor holds smaller program elements, such as management offices, a projection room, and storages. They are independent functions, but maintain a loose relationship through the centrally located lobby.

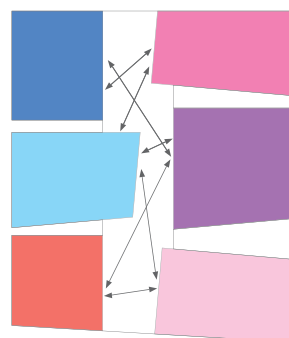
1st floor



2nd floor

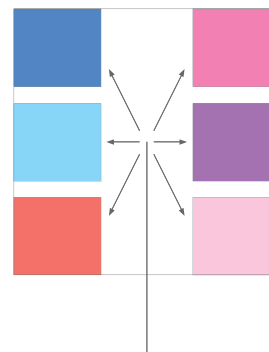
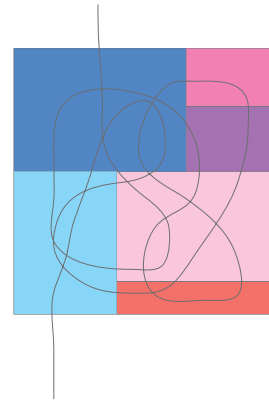


3rd floor



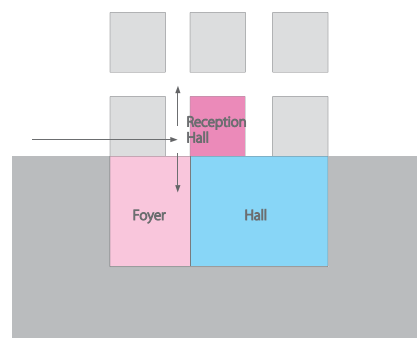
<Spatial Arrangement for Easy Orientation>

The overall composition is simply one large facility subdivided into six volumes with alleyway like spaces in between. Anywhere you may be in the building, you are directly off an alleyway, which enables you to intuitively orient yourself. This facility houses auditoria, exhibition spaces, a library, a theater, a movie projection room, and others, which all have different characteristics, and yet, are bound by mutually close and rather complex interrelationships. By resolving this complex bundle of relationships with a simple planning device, one can achieve a scheme that is intuitively clear, while promoting creative interaction of users.



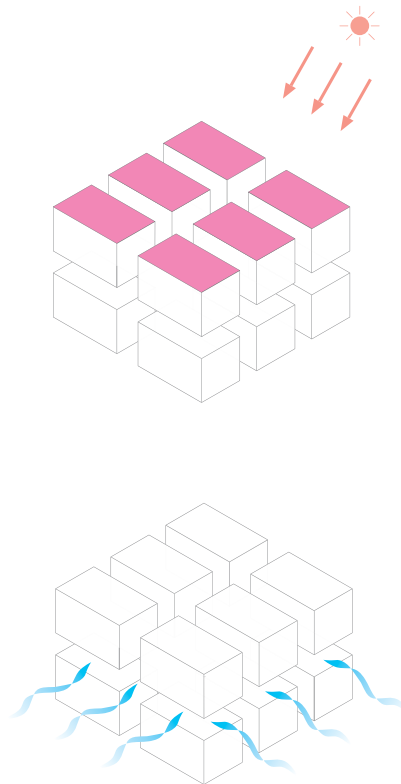
<Underground Auditoria for Efficient HVAC and Noise Attenuation>

The large and small auditoria are located in the basement levels, as the underground space is ideal for providing a stable environment as long as the noise attenuation is taken care of towards the floor right above, and unless there is a factor nearby that generates noise. The HVAC efficiency is improved also by having the auditoria with large air volumes in the basement where the heat gain load is smaller. Furthermore, this strategy enables a clear separation of circulation on the first floor level between those who visit the auditoria and those who go to other destinations. The spaces serving the auditoria, such as the reception hall for parties and lectures, are placed on the first floor.



<Reduction of CO2 Footprint over Life of the Building>

The summer in Beirut is hot with little precipitation. The building is constantly exposed to the strong sun. The fissures as a result of subdivision of the building reduce the amount of time that the direct sun light enters indoor spaces; the elevation will have devices that soften the insolation as if the tree canopies screen the sun. The rooftop will see photovoltaic cells to be used as supplementary power sources for the building, contributing to the reduction of CO2 footprint. The roof slab will be covered with ample amount of insulation to cut the heat gain. The rooms on the second and third floors are all facing the alleyway space; when the windows on the exterior skin are opened, air starts to move and it, in turn, ventilates each room. The HVAC efficiency for the entire building is augmented also by the ground source heat pump system.



<Stable Natural Lighting>

Most rooms are facing outside and with the residual space as a result of subdivision, each room receives natural light from at least three directions. This achieves a stable and low-cost natural lighting throughout.

