

International Architecture Competition

The House of Arts & Culture / The Lebanese-Omani Centre

- The House of Arts & Culture will be located in Beirut, in the central district of Ghalghoul, which is undergoing a profound urban transformation.
- The zone is limited by the Avenue Fouad Chehab, the Rue Cheikh Toufic Khaled, the Rue Emir Bechir and the Rue Bechara El-Khoury.
- In the zone there will be two tall buildings; the Landmark Tower (168mts) and the tower on Rue Cheikh Toufic Khaled (150mts).
- The vertical limit for the House of Arts & Culture is 40 mts.

Urban objectives:

- A Milestone in the cultural District
- An open House in the heart of Beirut
- A glassed Plaza on Avenue Fouad Chehab
- Parking entrances on the lateral street (-4 mts) and on Rue Ghalghoul (-8 mts)

Architectural objectives:

- A house open to all people & manifestations of art & culture
- A Forum for the exchange of ideas, exhibitions and events
- A covered atrium for art exhibitions, accessible and visible to the whole city
- A powerful building of light yellow limestone and glass; a symbol of Beirut's past and future
- An elevated garden, a new space open to the city which offers new possibilities for all kinds of outdoor events

Functional & spatial organization:

- The House of Arts & Culture is a condenser, an open building with flexible, fluid spaces, interconnected by balconies, platforms and terraces
- The spatial organization correspond to the different uses and number of people in the building; from the open main floor for public exhibitions, to the limited or smaller spaces in the upper floors

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- The vertical levels are designed, from the main floor to the top, in accordance to their space surface and estimated number of users and visitors
- The vertical circulations are located in the four corners of the building
- Electrical stairways comfortably connect the main floor with the Performance and Conference halls and the upper levels to facilitate the efficient circulation of various groups of people attending different events occurring simultaneously
- The Cinema and National Cinematheque are in the same level
- The Documentation Center with a spectacular view of the city
- The Administration Offices in a prominent position in the building looking out towards the old port
- In the uppermost level are located the Theatre and Music, Arts and Dance Workshops with good natural light conditions and in close proximity to a terrace patio and the roof garden space of the Center
- A roof garden with open vistas to the city and the sea

Suggested technical & building solutions:

- A great span in the central space; to facilitate the installation of exhibitions
- Variated heights, at each floor, to accommodate its different uses
- The Performance hall is equipped with retractable seating; to transform its use; and movable ceiling
- Natural north light in the Workshops and Training Rooms