

INTERTWINING CULTURE

HOUSE OF ARTS & CULTURE

BEIRUT LEBANON

HOW TO MAKE A BUILDING THAT EXPRESSES CREATIVITY AND CULTURE THAT IS DEEPLY ROOTED BUT IN THE SAME TIME GROWING AND EVOLVING?

THE HOUSE OF ARTS & CULTURE RISES FROM THE GROUND LIKE THE TRUNK OF A TREE, DEEPLY ROOTED INTO THE SOIL. THE ROOTS ARE INTERTWINING AND THE HOUSE OPENS UP AND TURNS, REACHING TOWARDS THE PARK AND THE OCEAN, WELCOMING ITS USERS. AS THE BUILDING TWISTS IT CREATES PATHS FOR ITS USERS TO ENTER, BOTH FOR PEDESTRIANS AND FOR VEHICLES.

LANDSCAPING

IN THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SITE, A PARK IS LANDSCAPED, CONNECTING VISUALLY TO THE PARK ON THE OPPOSING SIDE OF THE ROAD, CREATING A FEELING OF AN URBAN OASIS.

FAÇADE

THE WAY THE BUILDING RISES FROM THE GROUND, ERASES THE CONCEPTION OF FAÇADE AND GROUND AS BEING TWO SEPARATE THINGS, AND TURNS FAÇADE AND GROUND INTO ONE.

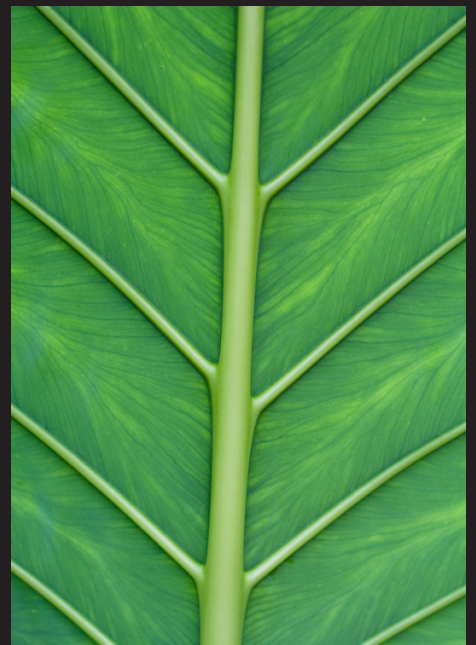
COMING NEAR THE BUILDING, ONE DISCOVERS THAT IT IS COVERED IN A LEAFLIKE STRUCTURE. A STRUCTURE THAT ACCOMPANIES THE VISITOR FROM THE OUTSIDE AND IN, THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE HOUSE. AS THE GROUND SMOOTHLY TRANSFORMS INTO FAÇADE, THE LEAFLIKE STRUCTURE FOLLOWS. CREATING PAVEMENT, BENCHES AND FLOWER BEDS. BEING A SPACEFRAME FOR THE NORTHERN GLASS FAÇADE, AND CREATING RELIEF AND WINDOW OPENINGS ON THE OTHER FAÇADES.

THE ARRIVAL

A GENTLY SLOPING RAMP LEADS THE VISITOR INTO THE BUILDING WHERE HE/SHE IS WELCOMED BY THE RECEPTION. THE WAY THE BUILDING REACHES OUT AND SHELTERS THE ARRIVING USER, CREATES A SOFT TRANSITION FROM BEING OUTSIDE

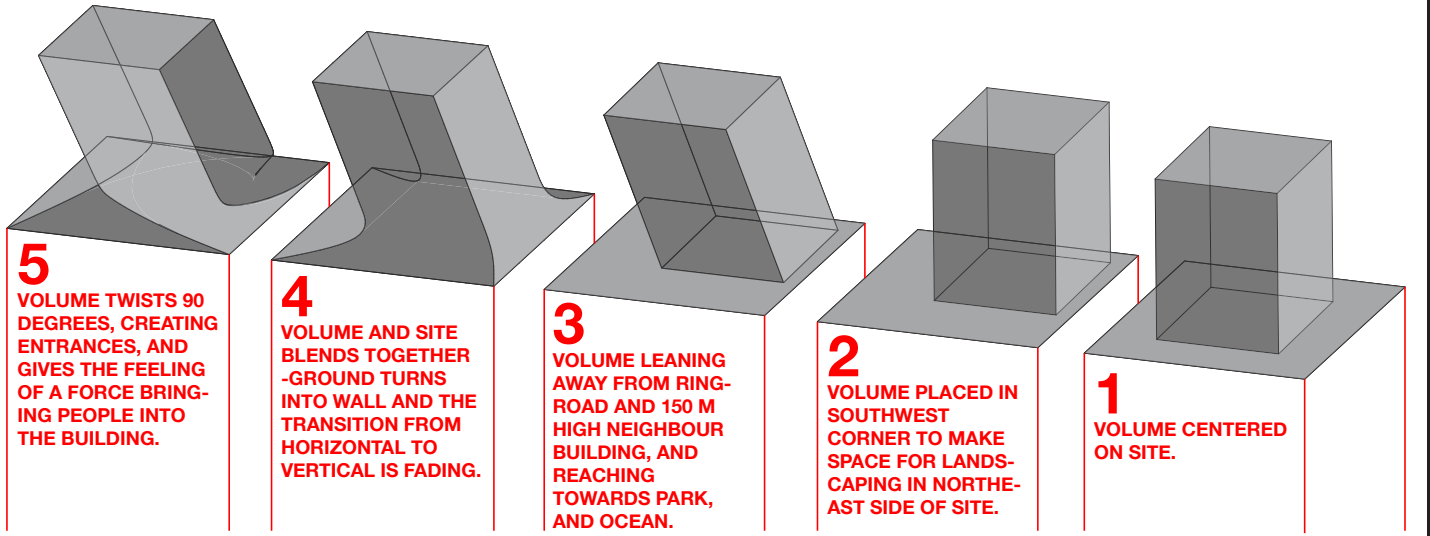
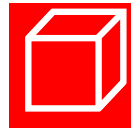


INTERTWINING ROOTS



LEAF STRUCTURE





VOLUME EVOLUTION

TO BEING INSIDE. THE RECEPTION HALL IS A SPACIOUS ROOM, OPEN ALL THE WAY UP TO THE SKY AND THE ROOF TERRACE. CONNECTING THE LEVELS VISUALLY, GIVES THE VISITOR, AN INSTANT UNDERSTANDING OF ORIENTATION WITHIN THE BUILDING. A STEP FURTHER IN, YOU STAND UNDERNEATH THE GREAT PERFORMANCE HALL THAT REVEALS ITS SHAPE BY LETTING THE SLOPING FLOOR FOR THE SEATING BECOME AN ANGLED CEILING AT THE ENTRANCE LEVEL.

SHOPS AND CAFETERIA ARE ALSO PLACED AT THE ENTRANCE LEVEL. FOR THE SHOPS AND CAFETERIA TO BE ABLE TO FUNCTION INDEPENDENTLY FROM THE REST OF THE BUILDING, THERE IS A SECONDARY ENTRANCE, BUT THE IDEA IS THAT GUESTS OF THE CAFETERIA, AND CUSTOMERS OF THE SHOPS, WILL BE USING THE MAIN ENTRANCE.

CIRCULATION & ACCESS ROUTES

EXTERNAL CIRCULATION

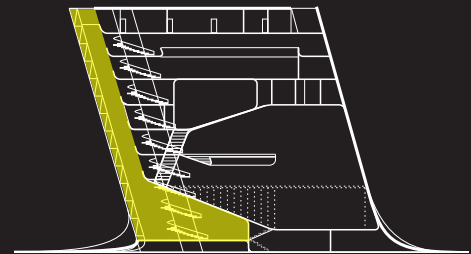
THERE ARE FOUR PATHS LEADING IN TO, AND OUT FROM, THE HOUSE OF ARTS & CULTURE. TWO OF THEM, ARE FOR PEDESTRIANS, AND TWO ARE FOR CARS.

PEDESTRIAN PATHS:

- 1 (NORTH) MAIN ENTRANCE
- 2 (WEST) SECONDARY / BACK ENTRANCE (I.E. STAFF / PERFORMERS ENTRANCE AND SMALLER DELIVERIES, FOR THE COMMERCIAL AREAS TO BE ABLE TO FUNCTION INDEPENDENTLY)

VEHICLE ACCESS:

- 1 (EAST) ENTRANCE (ALSO USED BY DELIVERY TRUCKS)
- 2 (SOUTH) EXIT



SECTION SHOWING THE SPACIOUS ENTRANCE LEVEL, OPEN ALL THE WAY UP TO THE SKY AND THE ROOF TERRACE. CONNECTING THE LEVELS VISUALLY, GIVES THE VISITOR, AN INSTANT UNDERSTANDING OF ORIENTATION WITHIN THE BUILDING.



INSPIRATION



INTERNAL CIRCULATION

THE MAIN VERTICAL CIRCULATION CONSISTS OF PANORAMA ELEVATORS AND STAIRS THAT ARE PLACED CLOSE TO THE MAIN ENTRANCE, FACING THE OPEN NORTHERN FAÇADE. THE LOCATION MAKES MOVING WITHIN THE BUILDING AN EXPERIENCE IN ITSELF.

INTERTWINING FLOORS

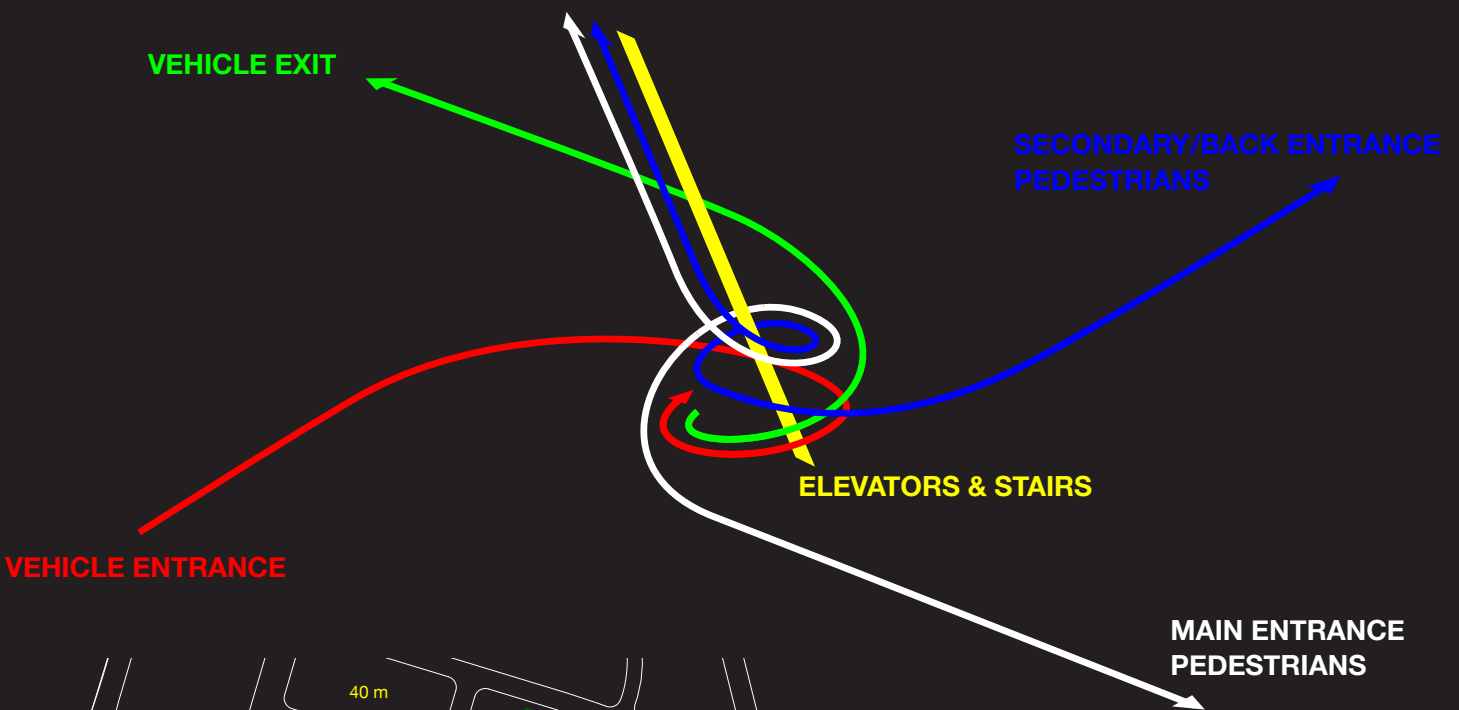
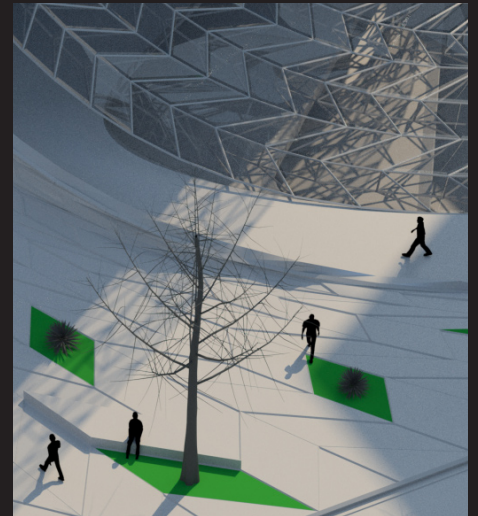
A CONTINUOUS IDEA THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING IS PLACING FUNCTIONS ACROSS TWO FLOORS, TO CREATE AN OVERLAP OF PROGRAMME, AND A VERTICALLY MORE DYNAMIC USE OF THE BUILDING. PUBLIC FUNCTIONS HAVE BEEN PLACED IN THE TOP TO ACTIVATE THE ENTIRE HEIGHT OF THE HOUSE, AND CREATE A ROOF TERRACE ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL.

MATERIALS & CONSTRUCTION

THE PROPOSED PROJECT WILL BE BUILT IN A LOCAL STONE, WHICH WILL BE THE DOMINATING MATERIAL IN THE BUILDING. ALTHOUGH MOST AREAS OF THE BUILDING ARE COMPLETELY FLAT, THERE ARE SOME AREAS WHERE IT CURVES. IN SPITE OF THE CURVING CHARACTER OF THE BUILDING, EACH STONE WILL ACTUALLY BE FLAT. TO ACHIEVE THE CURVES THE STONES ARE CUT AND TILTED IN A WAY THAT CREATES A FINE FACETTED CURVATURE. THE STONE FAÇADES WILL CONTRIBUTE TO A COMFORTABLE TEMPERATURE ON THE INSIDE. THE NORTHERN FAÇADE, WHICH



PANORAMA ELEVATORS



IS TRANSPARENT, WILL BE A METAL SPACEFRAME CLADDED WITH GLASS. APART FROM TAKING THE NORTHERN LIGHT INTO THE HOUSE, THE NORTH GLASS FAÇADE ALSO ACTS AS A SKYLIGHT TO THE UNDERGROUND PARKING. DURING NIGHTTIME THE LIGHT FROM WITHIN THE BUILDING AND UNDERGROUND PARKING WILL TURN THE NORTHERN FAÇADE INTO A GLOWING CURTAIN.

TO MAINTAIN GOOD ACOUSTICS INSIDE OF THE BUILDING THE INTERIOR WILL MAINLY BE MADE FROM WOOD. THE CHOICE OF WOOD SORT WILL BE BASED ON CHOICE OF LOCAL STONE. THE COLOUR/TONE OF THE WOOD SHOULD STAND IN CONTRAST TO THE STONE.

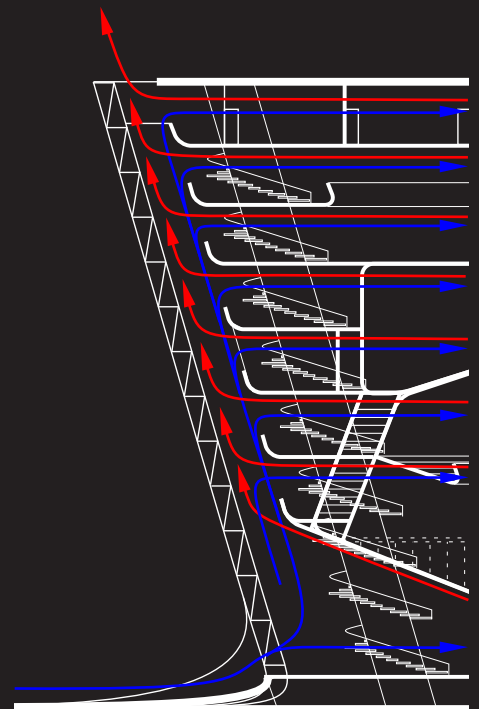
NATURAL CLIMATE CONTROL

THE CHOICE OF STONE AS MAIN MATERIAL, TOGETHER WITH MINIMAL AMOUNT OF WINDOWS FACING SOUTH, EAST AND WEST, IN COMBINATION WITH A VENTILATING NORTHERN FAÇADE, CONTRIBUTES TO A NATURAL CLIMATE CONTROL OF THE HOUSE.

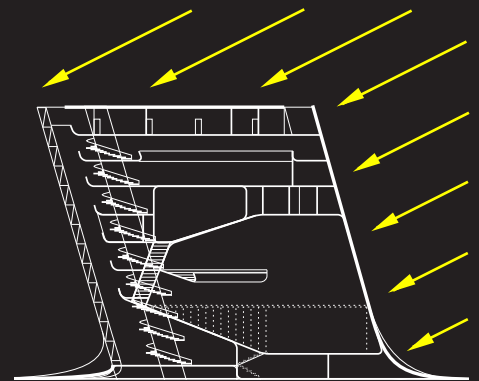
INSIDE THE HOUSE, THE MASONRY WALLS AND FLOORS ACTS AS THERMAL MASS AND ABSORBS HEAT WHICH SLOWS INTERNAL TEMPERATURE RISE ON HOT DAYS, AND CAN BE COOLED DOWN BY NIGHTTIME VENTILATING. THE SAME THERMAL MASS CAN BE EXPOSED TO COOL NIGHT AIR TO RELEASE THE HEAT ABSORBED FROM THE SPACE EARLIER IN THE DAY. NATURAL CONVECTION CAN BE USED TO VENTILATE AND COOL THE HOUSE AS LONG AS THE OUTDOOR AIR IS COOLER THAN THE INDOOR AIR AT THE PEAK OF THE HOUSE. SINCE WARM AIR RISES, VENTS LOCATED AT HIGH POINTS IN THE INTERIOR, WILL ALLOW WARM AIR TO ESCAPE WHILE COOLER OUTDOOR AIR FLOWS IN THROUGH LOW VENTS TO REPLACE IT (SEE DIAGRAM TO THE RIGHT). COOL AIR INTAKE VENTS ARE BEST LOCATED AS LOW AS POSSIBLE ON THE NORTH SIDE. THE GREATER THE HEIGHT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LOW AND HIGH VENTS, THE FASTER THE FLOW OF NATURAL CONVECTION AND THE MORE HEAT MITIGATION CAN OCCUR.

RATIONALIZATION / OPTIMIZATION

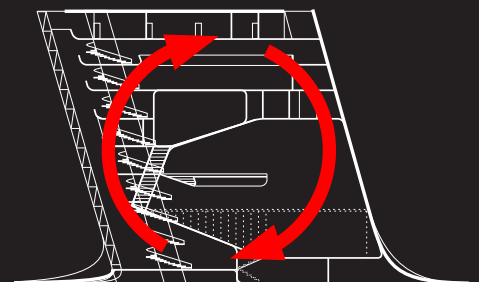
TO CLEARLY SHOW THE CONCEPT OF THE PROJECT, SOME PARTS HAVE BEEN SLIGHTLY EXAGGERATED. IN A CONSTRUCTION PHASE OF THE BUILDING, IT COULD BE A POSSIBILITY TO MAKE THE TWIST AND TILT OF THE BUILDING A BIT LESS DRAMATIC. WITH MODIFICATIONS THE AMOUNT OF CUSTOM MADE PARTS COULD BE DECREASED NOTABLY. THE STRONG CONCEPT OF THE PROJECT ALLOWS FOR SEVERAL AREAS OF RATIONALIZATION WITHOUT LOSING ITS CORE. INSTEAD IT MIGHT ACTUALLY GAIN AND STRENGTHEN FROM BEING MADE MORE SIMPLE AND CLEAR.



NATURAL VENTILATION THROUGH VALVES IN THE NORTH FACING GLASS FAÇADE. COOL NIGHT AIR DRIVES OUT THE WARM AIR.



DURING THE DAY THE THERMAL MASS ABSORBS HEAT FROM THE SUN.



DURING THE NIGHT, THE HEATED THERMAL MASS GETS EXPOSED TO COLD AIR AND RELEASES THE HEAT IT ABSORBED EARLIER IN THE DAY.

