

Ministry Of Culture
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HOUSE OF ARTS AND CULTURE
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Introduction:

Entering the Architectural competition, in accordance with the House of Culture in Lebanon project, was a demanding challenge since it concerned my beloved country Lebanon. In addition to prior, my participation in a cultural and an artistic tribute was vivifying. Many people lack interest in aesthetics nowadays due to the diminishing number of readers and pursuers of varying intellectual fields. The abstaining wheel of life since the beginning of the 21st century and the foisted machines in human life were other essential factors for this pull back.

From the time the project was initiated through the net, I have persevered its finest details with affection. It was that moment when I envisioned myself as one of the audience who have come to this building and amused myself with its exquisite various fundamentals which were assembled as one entity and entitled House of Arts and Culture.

The Urban Aim:

The Urban goal of this project is originally carried through in Beirut City, the city which has enchanted many intellectuals and poets for its cultural diversity. This uniqueness made Beirut idolized globally. With each century, Beirut has become the site commemorating fingerprints of each surpassing civilizations, starting from the early Egyptian, to Romanian till the Ottoman civilization.

This project will be cultivated in the city center, Down Town. The memorial location holds in its buildings, allies and roads many historical remembrances within the Beirutians specifically, and the Lebanese generally especially during its destructive wars. Consequently, cultural and social interaction embarked in the early 1900's, reconstruction of Down Town commenced and so did the numerous criticizing. For instance, commentaries discussed Down Town's genuine importance to Lebanon and how it aided develop the city as a whole.

The project's real estate is in-between others having huge blocks of buildings, most of them with a commercial residential character; namely, ESCWA offices and Azzariyeh. Other neighboring real estate hasn't been built after its civil evolvement that is heading towards buildings with high floors as the attached images show within the project file. Therefore, a new far-reaching idea must have been conducted away from the monotonous long rectangular surfaces; with all due respect to the classical architectural means of horizontal lines that conform to the sizes found. Although the project cares for the cultural and artistic issue, a concrete visionary must be conceived to reflect an incomparable land mark.

The percentage of land investments is 80 % for a magnitude of seven floors. The building has abided by its limits from the subsiding streets. Moreover, the building hasn't extended to its real estate circumference from three sides and is drawn back from side four. Latter is facing the historical Ghalghoul Street to create a larger space for the audience and help having a better perspective of the project from the small ally.

Architectural Aim

The project sets off with a clearing facing the historical Ghalghoul Street where the main gate is estimated as an entrance through its driveways or pedestrian routes that links the various quarters to one another. The real estate is displaced upon an 8 to 9% inclined surface. Latter has an indispensable role of specifying the entrance for incoming people, and establishing their first encounter with the project.

A bridge has been set from the clearing to the ground floor where visitors and vendors are elevated and welcomed by the gist of the project. The journey and observance begin. Furthermore, the bridge (or ramp) is also used as a railway to appeal to the viewers and instigate them to query about the project and its various components.

The theatre's building design is known for its bulky design constituting the theatre, the back of the theatre and its basic services; in addition to the mobile painting tower. Because of the project's occupied schedule, the theatres had called for the largest spacing claiming the dominant area unlike other sectors. Due to the project's cultural identity, workshops, tutorial classes, educational libraries, movie libraries and exhibitions, the commencement of the project was based upon a certain viewpoint. One building having a cultural and an artistic nature is connected to convergence areas to sit, relax and enjoy the luxuries of the buildings meals, visits, calls and many other offers.

The idea is mobile and assort, an iconic building with a streamlined roof covering the spacious theatre and its services. Then, the roof diminishes downwards with other theatrical elements, meeting halls and conference rooms. Afterwards, it installs itself on the gualette which is drawn horizontally to the boundaries of the real estate. Thus, it carries the cultural components internally; workshops, exhibitions, classes, educational libraries and others... The building is reared into a rectangular shape forming the theatrical tower (Fly Tower).

Architectural Program:

The program consists of:

1. Basements: Four levels having a public parking lot, besides the project services; loading and unloading specialized gears for theatres and galleries; additionally, the cafeteria and the staff's resting place.
2. Ground Floor: its office is externally related to the project's clearing-workshops-Music and Arts tutorial classes-an Open Public Movie Library.
3. 1st Floor & the two Balances: the project's entrance and place to buy tickets – Administration-cafeteria and Cafés in contact with the outer sector-exhibition gallery-DVD and Book store.
4. 2nd Floor: Cinema that withstands 200 people-Theatres that holds out 250 people- Dancing hall- Rest Room.
5. 3rd Floor: Conference Room and meeting Hall- Orchestra Ballroom.
- 5.4th, 5th & 6th Floor: Huge auditorium withstanding 800 people- Photography Studio in contact with the theatrical back stage- Actors & Actresses (cast) Break Room- Mechanical Rooms

Architectural Technical Solutions:

- I- Architectural Facades
- II- Emergency Evacuate (In case of emergencies)
- III- Loading Process

I- Architectural Facades:

The facades in this project have admitted the highest distinction for having soberness, firmness and soft smoothness. The enclosed façade has been more prominent in the project due to having theatrical halls that are needless of natural lighting. As for the auditorium (Foyer) it was dealt with spacious glassy work to give a broad perspective (Panoramic View). In addition to the transparency on Floor one that diffused the huge building from the ground making it stand-high like a sky scraper.

Concerning the material being used externally, the façades will be wrapped with metallic material, and later on with black granite to reflect a modernistic appearance. Further ado, adding curtain walls will give a transparent coating to the building.

II- Emergency Evacuation:

The emergency evacuation process has been intensely studied where theatres' are associated with emergency exit staircases leading people outside the building itself to the first floor's garden terrace. Moreover, a track way is used to get the theatrical gears to a smaller theatre and another that leads to an emergency exit proceeding to the outer clearing in the ground floor. As for the basements, these are installed with emergency exists that head to the main road.

III- Loading Process:

Referring to the loading process of the done-with-manufacturing products in the basements, these should be delivered to the big and small theatres. The process is accomplished with the aid of an elevator with wheels and a metallic rope, more like the ones used in windows cleaning systems to customize to the design.