The House of Arts & Culture
Beirut / Lebanon

Proposed Concept

AD 2020

A. CONCEPT PHILOSOPHY:

Most of the Lebanese innovators possess a common trait that played a significant role in forming their ideas and distinguished innovations. These innovators; both intellects and artists have been raised in a tranquil Lebanese village cited on a mountain summit neighboring the sky or at a valley shoulder by the rivers or overlooking green plains. All these, carried their inspirations from these villages and moved to Beirut that embraced them in its folds of buildings and streets where they actively interacted and Beirut launched their creations to the whole world.

The design concept emerged from there; a modern contemporary building that simulates the most modern buildings in Beirut and holds in its heart the model of the village manifested with all the traditional architectural features of yards, terraces, stairs, roofs and passages.

The concept aims at creating an environment that incites its visitors to the social, artistic and intellectual interaction through dialogues, debates, discussions and activities that the center will organize. This interaction will lead to erupt the spirit of creation and genius and encourage visiting this center to benefit form the art and culture contained therein.

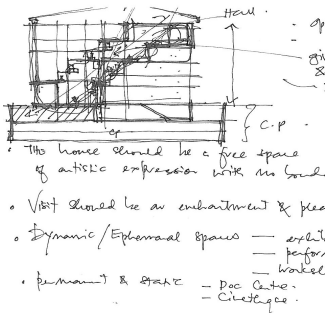





B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

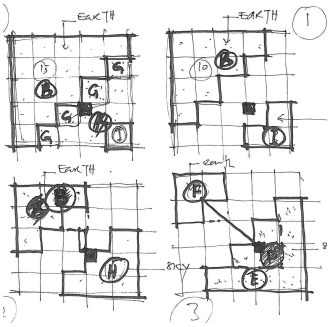
The building mass obviously reflects the inspiration by the traditional building in Lebanese architecture which is so close to simple house, which embodies inside the activities of its tenants. Accordingly, the project mass represents a large cube which has been opened or cut to invite the public to enter and explore the interior and enjoy the activities it offers.

As for the interior, it consists of four main components:



1. Lower Ground Floor:

This floor constitutes the main center to receive the visitors, who can after entry from the ground floor take the stairs to this lower floor. There exist reception, information desk, shops, galleries and restaurants. On the other side, there are the engineering services especially the electrical one, services and cars entry to the basement floors.



2. First Component

It lies at the ground floor and represents the main atrium, which receives the visitors as a concourse before they depart to see the activities of the center. It contains the cinema display gallery, multi-media performance and an exhibition gallery.

3. Second Component

It is the northern/eastern part and is elevated gradually like the village. It encompasses the main auditorium complete with all spaces that belong to it together with the services entry.

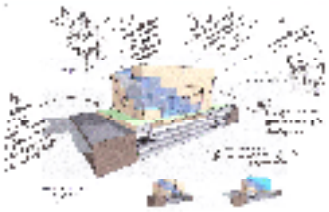
4. Third Component

It is the southern/western part and is gradually elevated too in a complementary direction to the second component. It contains the cinema library, administration, bookshop, workshops and the training centers.

Other Component:

i. Basements Floors

They consist of three floors dedicated for car parking, engineering and MEP services/plant.



ii. Roof & Exterior facades:

The roof includes two parts; the first is red brick structure at the northern/eastern and southern/western parts with a glass skylight in between.

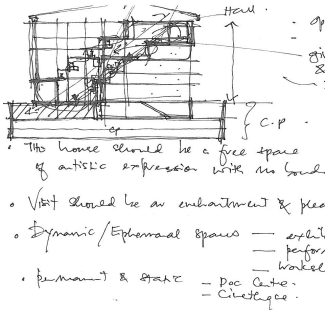
C. CLIMATIC TREATMENT / GREEN BUILDINGS:

The building has been oriented with its openings in a way that avoids the direct sunlight with the permission of the natural sunlight to indirectly penetrate to cover all interior spaces throughout the day, similarly to the moon light at night.

As for the northern/western cold winds, it was meant not to hit the facades directly but at its northern/western angle in order to alleviate the direct contact of a large area with this cold wind.

Double glazed of heat reflective glass has been utilized in all facades and the roof. This is to consumption. The building materials used tend mainly to natural sources like red brick & the stone that is abundantly available in Lebanon.

It is worthy of mentioning that the project will encompass a center at the basement floors for garbage collection and sorting for recycling.

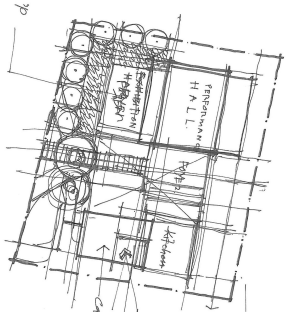


D. STRUCTURAL DESIGN SYSTEM:

The project is designed using the concrete and structural steel construction. The structural design is intended to be in interaction with the urban planning in a way that does not impact the separators of activities and motion.

E. TECHNICAL SERVICES:

All are located at the basement floors. In general, the HVAC system provided the building with cold and hot water according to the season and the outside temperature. The building will also



accommodate the latest systems of fire protection, fire detection, alarm, BMS controls, security, plumbing, drainage, etc.

F. RELATIONSHIP WITH URBAN PATTERN:

The project interacts with its urban surroundings through the design itself as its remarkable exposure from the four sides and the transparency of facades make it interactive completely with architectural modules and the urban composition in Beirut. It also adds to the location another building that simulates the modern architecture. Its pivotal transparency makes the orientation in harmony with the main centers in Beirut city.

G. ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS:

In addition to the materials used in the building that simulates the traditional architecture, the rest of architectural elements are a contemporary or modernized copy of the traditional architectural elements like the arches, stairs, courtyards, terraces, roofs, etc.

It is worth mentioning the open areas simulate the open areas in a Lebanese village.