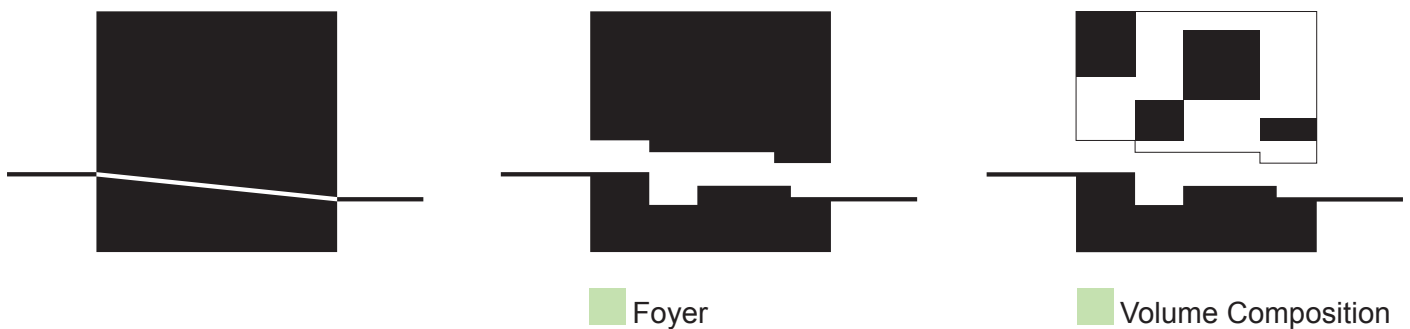


# The House of Arts & Culture in Beirut

## Architectural concept

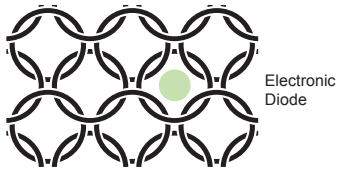
The architecture of The House of Arts & Culture becomes an **interactive instrument** of perception and communication. It serves not only as a vital space for contemporary art but as a nucleus and breeding ground for future developments of the neighbourhood. A steel woven curtain enwraps the House of Arts & Culture in Beirut like a glittering veil. The architectural concept of the building means to be a **passepartout** for art and social communication. Great windows behind the curtain wall connect the interior with the outer space. They enable an urban interaction through the metallic veil. Like a **digital guestbook** the facade reflects the movement of people and activities behind the curtain. The cubical building is standing on a square shaped footprint. Inside there is space for exhibitions, performances, shows, movies and restaurants. The terraced open space concept of the ground floor connects the different street levels of the city. Underneath the three storey **absorber space** contains an exhibition level and the underground parking garage. Above ground the **reflector space** represents the vivid space for cultural and artistic production. Free **floating cubes** contain theatres, conference halls, libraries, administration and workshop space.



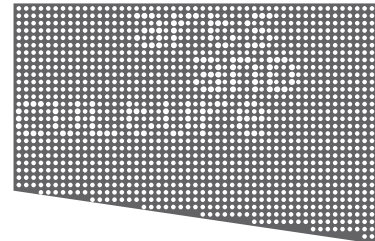
On the top of the building there is a roof garden and an **open air auditorium**. The rooftop is a public space with special urban qualities: being isolated and part of the city at the same time. Projections on persistent **photochromatic walls and floors** let the dynamic meeting between artists and visitors become part of the architecture for a moment.

## Facades

The pure facades contain no symbolic or decorative ornamentation. However the metallic coat of mail enables manifold plays of light and shadow. Integrated illuminating diodes transport messages to the city. At four terminals visitors can place comments on contemporary exhibitions which by random are represented on the facade screen. This electronic guestbook witnesses the artistic and social activities inside the building. The projection interconnects the House of Arts & Culture with the public.



Curtain Structure



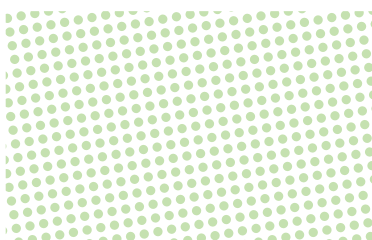
Media Facade East

## Surface and Texture

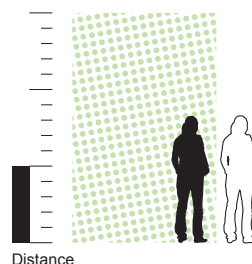
The general colour of the interior space will be white - however in different qualities. In the upper **reflecting space** for the performing arts, walls will be polished and shiny. This technique represents the interaction between artists and visitors. In the subterranean **absorber space** for fine arts exhibitions the surface will be rough, which supports the concentration on the artwork.

## Colour and Light

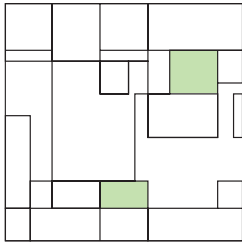
Like the facades also the interiors represent a neutral space without ornament or decoration. Only partial areas will be covered with greenish **fluorescent dots**. These persistent photochromatic coatings on horizontal and vertical surfaces retain and forward information of peoples' activities and movements. For a limited period of time they bear traces of public life in the House of Arts & Culture. Projections of shadows on the photochromatic surface put the **human scale** on stage, which is the essential source of this architecture, especially in the lobby or restaurant. The persistent dots and the digital facade concept correspond with a field of illuminated steles which interfere with the foyer landscape. These lights project from the outside the movement of the people inside the photochromatic walls and help to locate the House of Arts & Culture in the heterogeneous and unfinished neighbourhood.



Resolution A



actual Appearance



■ Distribution Foyer



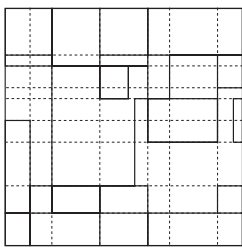
■ Traces



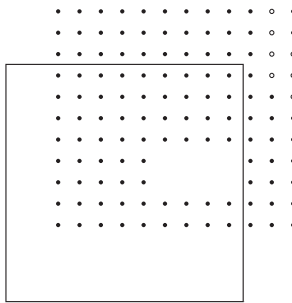
■ Effect

### Spatial Infrastructure

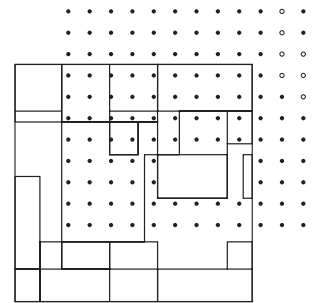
The House of Arts & Culture will be both: a special place in the city of Beirut and an integrated public space in the vicinity. Ground floor openings and entrance situations will be possible on all four sides of the building. The foyer is designed as a **landscape of steps and plateaus** for multi purpose occasions. It negotiates the 8 meter difference of the surrounding terrain and provides an inviting atmosphere for artists, citizens and visitors of Beirut. The diagonally ascending platforms are leading to a central core with a sculptural flight of stairs. Two more cores serve as lifts and staircases to the upper floors.



■ Foyer Grid



■ Pole Grid



■ Overlay