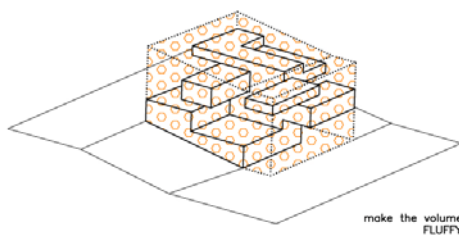
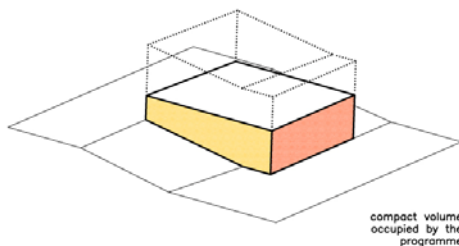
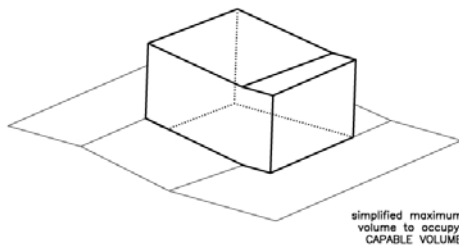
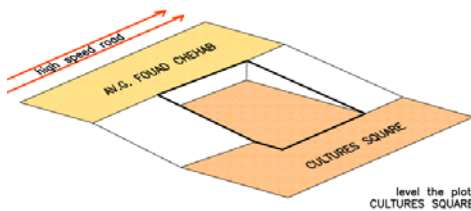
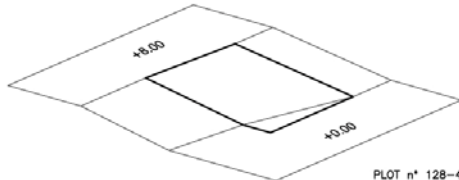


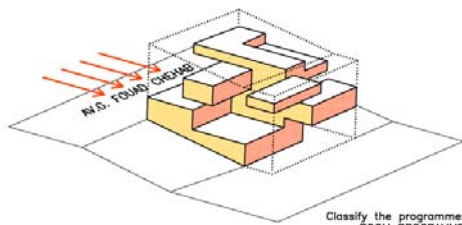
**THE HOUSE OF ARTS AND CULTURE
LEBANESE-OMANI CENTRE, BEYRUT**

THE HOUSE OF ARTS AND CULTURE LEBANESE-OMANI CENTRE, BEYRUT

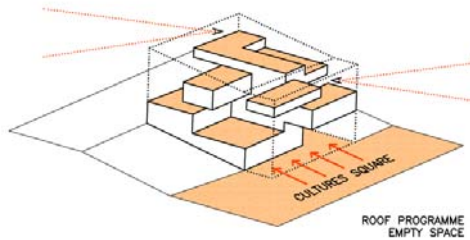
Competition site is between downtown Beyrut being rebuilt nowadays and the actual Beyrut, just by Av. General Fouad Chehab. The proximity to Damascus road, which was the neutral axis that divided Beyrut between Muslim and Christian also claims for an optimistic and extrovert intervention.



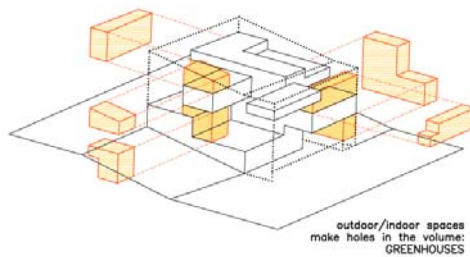
The point of departure is the decision of building the maximum authorized volume. This way we guarantee a notable presence beside the towers will be built in the local area. The proposal expands the program and classifies the resulting spaces according to the specific functional needs of the building.



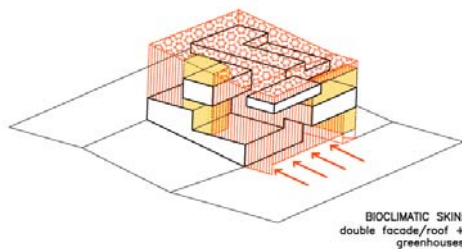
Room uses: boxes where the most private and focused program is located.



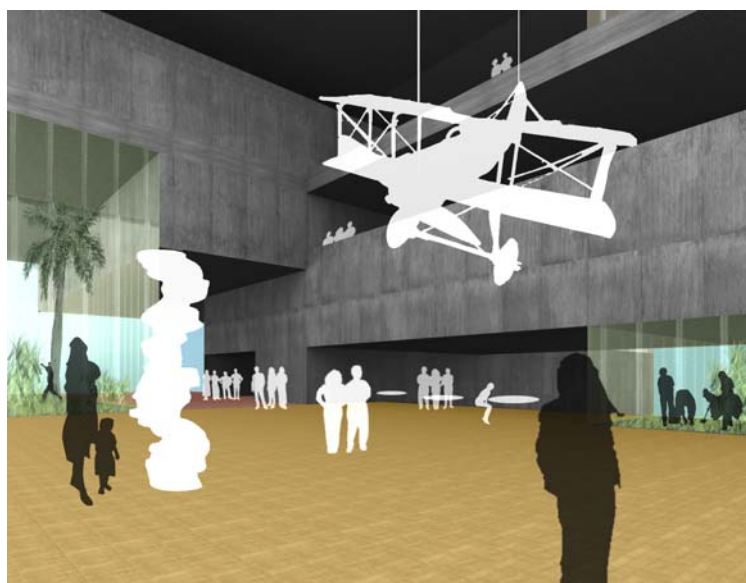
Roof uses: open spaces among and over the boxes. Roof spaces accommodate the most public program, like exhibitions, communications and restoration.



Garden pills: outdoor spaces for visitors rest. These free spaces contribute to the highthermic comfort of the building.



The proposal generates a new meeting scenario for the city of Beirut according with its intense cultural and artistic activity. Beirut World Book capital 2009, Beirut International Film Festival, and youth's avidity for arts will find a place in this House of Art and Cultures full of public space/volume.

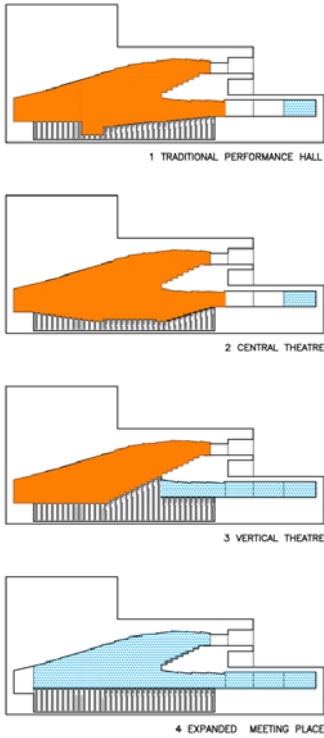


FLEXIBLE SPACES:

Both the performance hall and the exposition have been designed as flexible spaces. Floor platforms, and ceiling platforms are created in order to permit different ways of using this spaces.

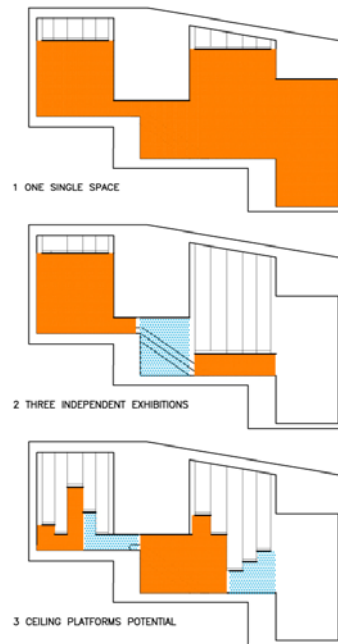
Performance hall flexibility:

FLOOR PLATFORMS: PERFORMANCE HALL FLEXIBILITY

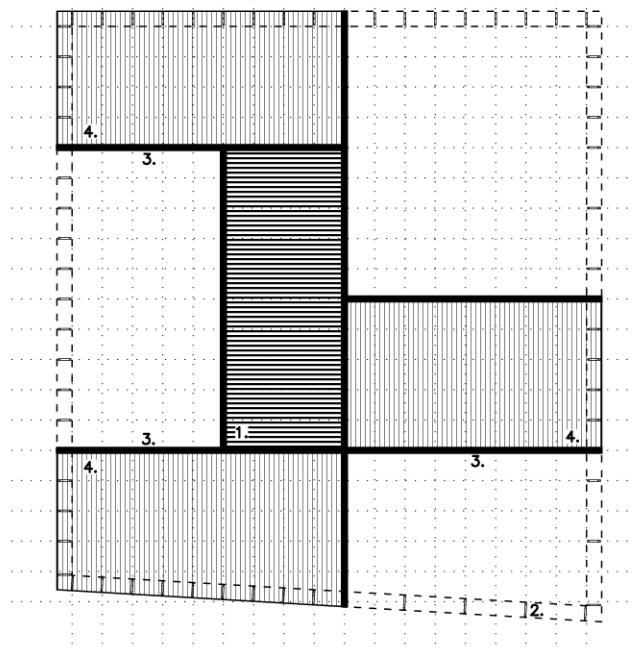


Exhibition flexibility

CEILING PLATFORMS: EXHIBITION SPACES FLEXIBILITY



STRUCTURAL CONCEPT:

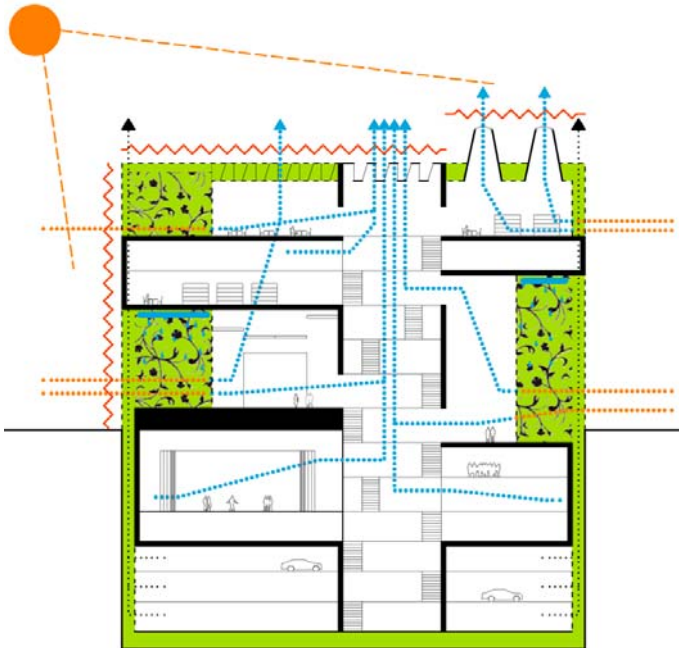


STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

1. Central massive concrete support
2. Perimetral permeable steel structure
3. Reinforced concrete deep beams
4. Reinforced concrete slab

ENERGY CONCEPT:

Passive strategies:



The building itself is a solar energy use system. It makes the most of air flows generated by pressure differences and gives comfort to the programme spaces according to their use. It also uses solar radiation to produce electricity and hot water.

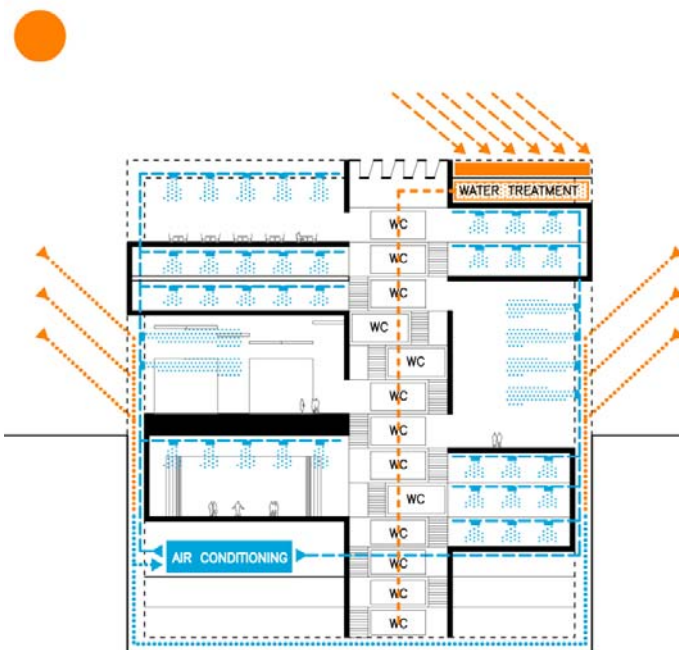
We propose a two layer skin that make easy to incident solar radiation over the façade.

Gardens and solar chimneys: air from the outside enters the building through the gardens. Here, it is refreshed and

perfumed thanks to the vegetation, and it expands inside. Hot air stocked in the building is sucked by the solar chimneys, and generates air flows.

Parking and façade solar chimneys: Parking natural ventilation is due to the action of solar chimneys that are located in the sunniest façades.

Active strategies:



Extreme hot days, air conditioning works with a pre-cool air system. This system makes the air from the outside circulate inside a subterranean chamber, and it refreshes as it make contact with the ground. This process takes place in the basement of the building and distributes the cooled air in the building using the two layers façade. Roof also houses thermal and photovoltaic solar panels that provide the building with energy and hot water.