

Design Description

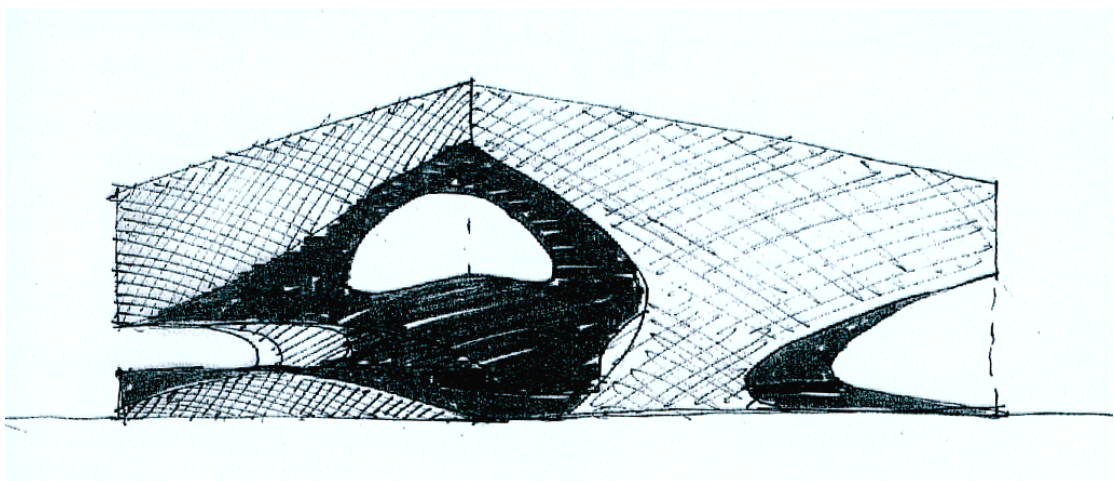
Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, the biggest harbor city on the east coast of the Mediterranean is renowned as the eastern Paris. It has been a central city where the eastern culture comes to meet the west since the ancient times, and is accelerating into a totally modernized city with a variety of different ethnics upon entering the 21st century. As the background of this design competition, its multi-cultural and multi-ethnics characteristics with the comprehension of conflict, contradiction and harmony is the key starting point of our design concept.

Under the challenge of arranging multiple complicated functions within a very restricted site of 55m by 68m, we elevate the large performance hall, the multimedia performance hall and the movie theater onto planes of different elevation, and put the exhibition space on plane of -3.00m elevation. By doing this, we successfully free the wide ground space as the open art plaza that belongs to the public, and people can easily penetrate from the southern and northern streets and walk up to the smooth curvy plaza. The plaza provides a space for people especially the youngsters to communicate, stimulate and stay. While at the same time its uniqueness and creativeness makes it an iconic city space. The elevated space connects the south and the north of the city, it extends and introduces the existing green space on the north into the site and joins the house of arts seamlessly.

The exterior form of the house of arts and culture has an expression of rigid esthetics revealing of power and strength, yet its inner space is curvy and fluent showing dynamic beauty, the two opposites form a strong visual contrast that reveals the characteristics of Beirut as a comprehensive city composing of contradiction and harmony. The first floor art workshops disperse within the exhibition space like tree-roots that grow in earth, easily creating a free and open atmosphere of the communicating space between artists and the public.



The building is majorly supported by the giant stage space that falls down to the ground and the three corner circulation towers, complemented with the glass curtain wall. The whole building thus reaches a state of dynamic equilibrium with structural beauty.



The façade of the building is majorly wrapped up by dark-grey low energy-consuming glass, whereas red-orange adhesive materials cover the ground and ceilings of the plaza. This makes interesting juxtaposition of dynamism and repose, rigidity and

plasticity, grey and red. All together create the eye-catching visual effect of the Beirut house of arts and culture, which makes it a piece of iconic architecture standing out on the ground of the city center.