



THE HOUSE OF ARTS & CULTURE. The Lebanon-Omani centre

01. Descriptive memory.

02. Table of spaces.

01 Descriptive memory

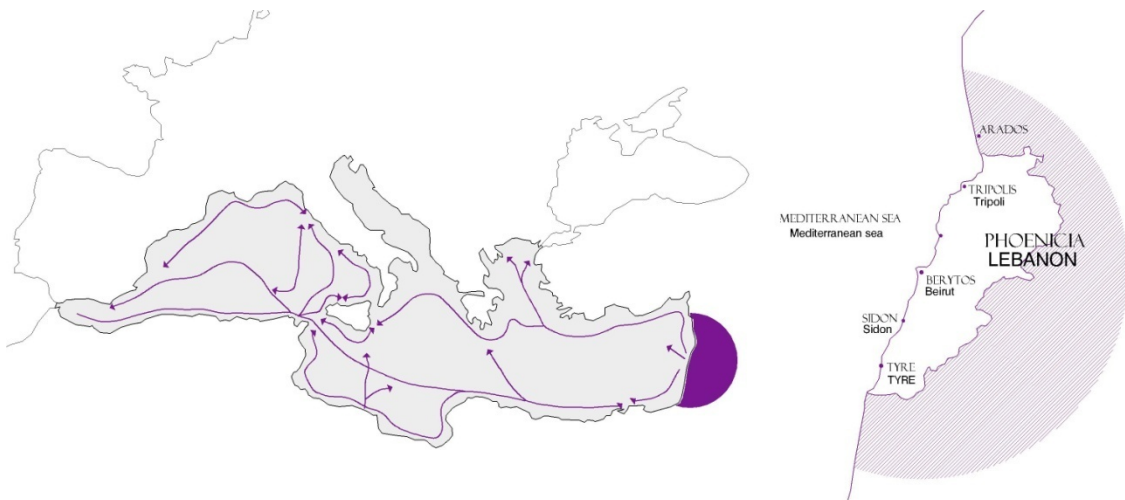
Why PURPLE?

Why LETTERS?

Why SHIPS?

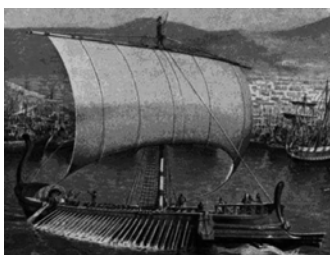
A House for Arts and Culture in this specific point of the world has to do with the contribution of Lebanon to nowadays civilization in order to know how to make a project for the future.

Around year 1200 bC, a civilization of clever merchants shipped all over the Mediterranean Sea **(fig.01)**.

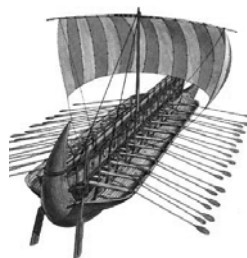


(fig.01).

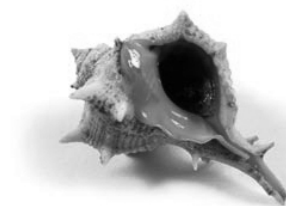
These people were the Phoenicians. They develop a very complex net of cities in order to trade with different points of South Europe and North Africa. They were very advance shipmen (fig.02 and 03) and very valued for their ship construction. The word PHOENIX can be translated as the "purple ones", as they could get this colour from a mollusk and trade with silk and other fabrics of this colour, and only rich people could afford this product. It became a symbol of richness and power for inhabitants of the whole Mediterranean coast (fig.04).



(fig.01).



(fig.02).



(fig.03).

Beyond trade and shipping, Phoenix was successful in creating a alphabet (fig.05). It is the father of the alphabet we use today. Then, we can assure that alphabet is the most important contribution of Phoenix, and Lebanon, to the world. And a building dedicated to culture of the 21st century should show this beginning of civilization that took place three thousand years ago. The building will be high enough to reflect this letters, to talk to people what made Lebanon and what will be capable to do.



(fig.05).

The plaza as a trade point of a city, as a meeting place where ideas are shared. The building completes the exterior that is also part of the House (fig.06). The proposal of a building that can be understood without the experience of the open space, of the reflection of the activities that holds and the presence of the inhabitants that are appropriate, that use this place as a part of the city that can be used as if always has been there and complete the whole new district where is built. The open and fresh plaza, inside the building, a covered and open square that offers a pleasant experience as well as an important space (fig.07).

The climate of Beirut makes that the buildings are not completely closed, the street has to be protected and public and open spaces need special treatment to be pleasant, to be used, and to give the citizens a high quality plaza for a large range of activities. (fig.08)



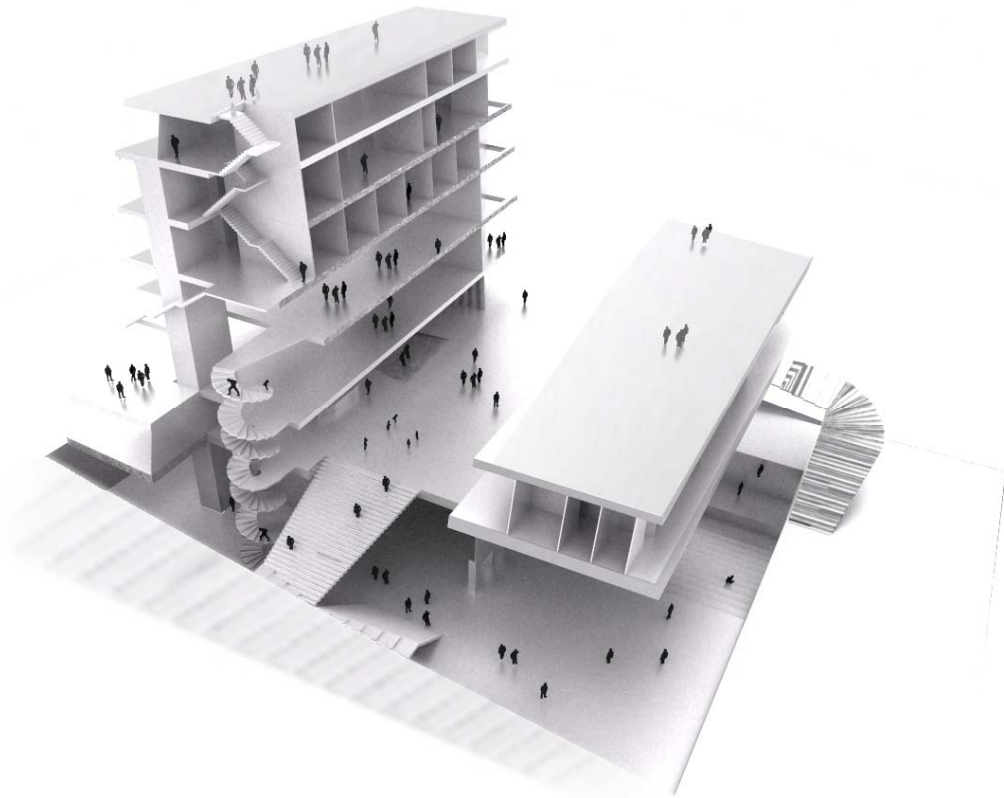
(fig.06).



(fig.07).



(fig.08).



It is always stimulating to think the future use of a building in a to be develop part of the city. Nobody knows exactly how is going to be use and how the citizens will feel about it. As a part of the city and its development, it has a high responsibility of offering a totally new space, an easy access and a special open public place that people can appropriate and feel comfortable.

The first aim of the project is to create a skin, as big as the urban rules allow. Then, the 30% of the proposed open space appears as a internal plaza, in a in-between square that belongs in the same proportion to the city and to the building. A fresh open shelter for such a hot and sunny city. The skin that covers the plaza and the building as a internal cosy patio of the new part of the city is accessible through three different points and can be both a high street to be crossed or a full of activities place to meet art and people.

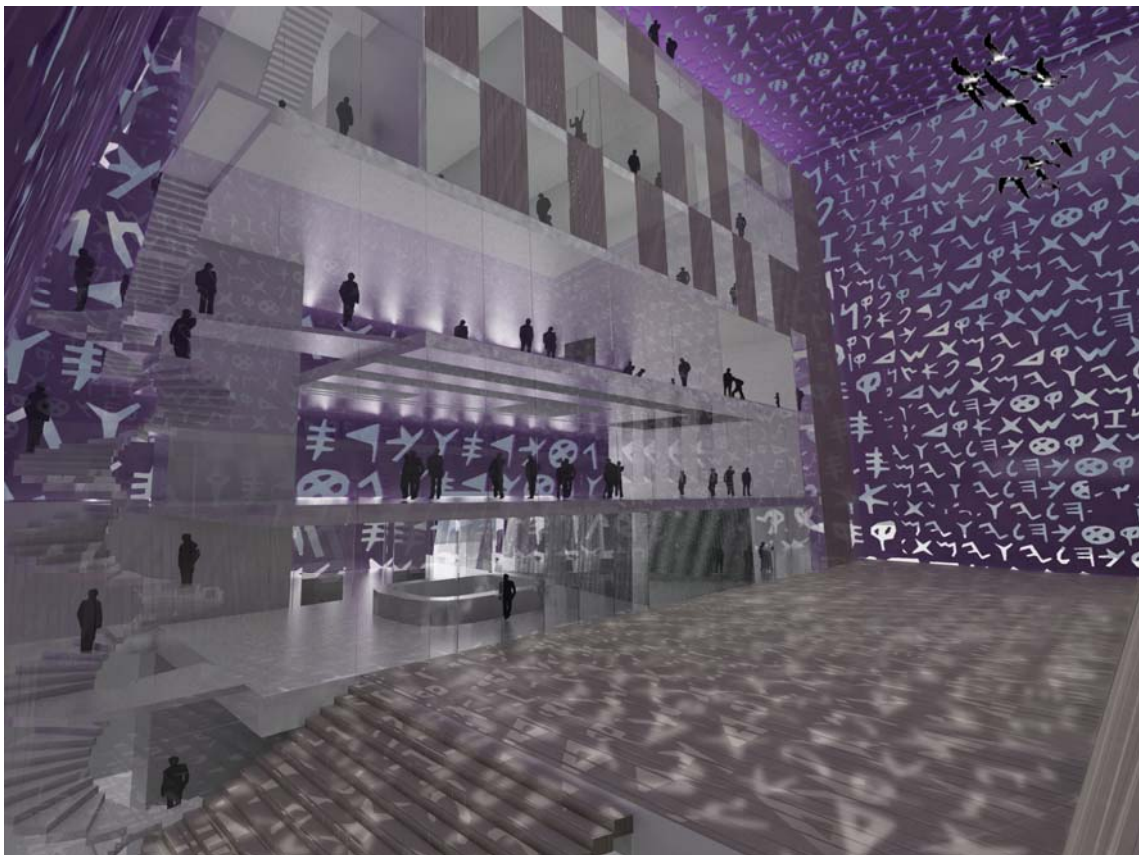
Then, the closed building that holds the program of art and culture surrounds this square, the effective engine of cultural and artistic complex. The large theatres hold the space beneath the plaza and over the plaza are the other parts of the program.

From bottom to top, in order both of size and also of privacy, number of visitors that assist to the different spaces, the high building holds access, shops and restaurant, exhibition rooms, workshop, cinematheque and administration rooms. over the largest

of the theatres is the library, that, as a possible different use and even opening times, creates a screen for the activities that take place in the more lively and intensive used part of the buildings, that are the exhibition rooms and workshops. And also the theatre can be seen and take part of the square from the most part of the building.

The public stairs represent an open and panoramic trip through the building, the uses of it on the rest of the plaza, and goes forward as a mirador for the city of Beirut.

A high rise volume of a permeable skin that holds opened and closed activities, that provides a large number of possibilities of exhibition and creation, that plays with the city, with the possibilities of walking through or as a stay, with the perception of the city, offering a bright reference in the night and a colorful and attractive point during the day.



Summary of Surface Areas

Spaces	AREAS PROGRAMME	AREAS PROJECT
A. Reception, Information	435	3.126
B. Performance and Conference hall	2.434	2.726
C. Exhibition Spaces	1.170	1.241
D. Work and Training rooms	670	605
E. Documentation Centre	640	671
F. Cinematheque	273	250
G. Cafeteria and commercial spaces	510	387
H. Administration	451	452
I. Miscellaneous Spaces	305	330
J. Technical rooms	500	500
K. Parking and delivery	7.800	7.300
TOTAL USEFUL SURFACE	15.188	17.588
Horizontal and vertical circulation	700	700

FUNCTION	USEFUL AREA PROGRAMME M2	USEFUL AREA PROJECT M2
A. RECEPTION & INFORMATION	435	
A1 . Reception Hall	300	330
A2. Ticket offices	50	20
A3. Information desk	25	20
A4. Security room	20	30
A5. Public restrooms	40	30
B. PERFORMANCE & CONFERENCE HALL	2.434	
B1. Hall	300	500
B2. Butlery	15	150
B3. Public restrooms	40	30
B4. Large Performance and Conference Hall		
Hall 800 Places	1.000	982
Lighting control room	15	15
Sound control room	15	15
Room for film projection	15	15
Recording room	10	10
Interpretation booths	4 X 5 m 2 = 20	20
B5. Small Multimedia Performance Hall		
Hall 250 places	300	270

Lighting control room	10	10
Sound control room	10	10
Room for film projection	10	10
Recording room	10	10

B6. Adjoining Rooms Common To Both Performance Halls		
Individual dressing rooms	2 X 15 m ² = 30	30
Individual dressing rooms	6 X 10 m ² = 60	60
Double dressing rooms	6 X 10 m ² = 60	60
Collective dressing rooms for men	40	40
Collective dressing rooms for women	40	40
Restrooms and showers for the collective dressing rooms	2 X 25 m ² = 50	50
Foyer for the artists	30	30
B7. Meeting Rooms		
Big meeting room 50 persons	60	65
Projection room	10	10
Interpretation booths	4 X 3 m ² = 12	12
Small meeting room 30 persons	40	45
Projection room	10	10
Interpretation booths	4 X 3 m ² = 12	12
B8. Movie Theater		
Room 200 persons	200	205
Projection room	10	10
C. EXHIBITION SPACES	1.170	
C1. Lounge	100	60
C2. Exhibition Room	1.000	1051
C3. Workshop	50	70
C4. Staff Restrooms	10	20
C5. Butlery	10	40
D. WORKSHOPS & TRAINING ROOMS	670	
D1. Workshops		
Sound studios	3 X 20 m ² = 60	45
Cinema/video/editing	3 X 20 m ² = 60	45
Photo Laboratories	2 X 10 m ² = 20	20
Computer rooms	2 X 30 m ² = 60	40
Printing room	30	35
Theatre and music Workshop	3 X 50 m ² = 150	120
Dance workshop	50	50
Arts workshop	2 X 50 m ² = 100	80
Classrooms	3 X 30 m ² = 90	150
D2. Restrooms & Showers	50	20
E. DOCUMENTATION CENTRE	640	
E1. Library		
Reception desk	14	15
Reading room	60	100
Shelves	300	300
Storage for books in-stock	50	40
E2. Audiovisual Service		
Reception desk	13	15
Listening and viewing stations (15)	45	55
Storage	20	20
E3. Study Rooms	6 X 8 m ² = 48	36
E4. Offices	3 X 12 m ² = 36	36
E5. Workshops	30	30

E6. Restrooms	24	24
F. NATIONAL CINEMATHEQUE	273	
F1. Administrative Offices		
Curator	16	12
Manager of technical services	12	20
Manager of distribution	12	20
Secretariat	12	20
Staff Offices	2 X 12 m 2 = 24	15
Restrooms	12	8
F2. Storage Rooms		0
Conservation of printing elements	50	40
Conservation of positive copies	60	40
Projection Copies	20	20
Reception and sorting space	20	20
Workshop for copies control	20	15
Cleaning the copies	15	20
G. CAFETERIA & COMMERCIAL SPACES	510	
G1. Cafeteria		
Restaurant 125 places	200	195
Kitchen and related areas	100	90
Public restrooms	30	30
G2. Shops & Boutiques		
Bookshop, CDs and DVDs sale, posters, souvenirs	150	45
Boutiques stock	30	27
H. ADMINISTRATION	451	
H1. Director Office	30	30
H2. General Secretary Office	24	25
H3. Waiting Room	15	25
H4. Meeting Rooms	40	30
H5. Private Restrooms	8	8
H6. Administrator Office	24	27
H7. Offices for Programme Planning Managers	6 X 12 m 2 = 72	74
H8. Offices for Managers Responsible for Leasing the Spaces	2 X 16 m 2 = 32	32
H9. Offices for Trainees	4 X 12 m 2 = 48	40
H10. Administrative Offices	4 X 16 m 2 = 64	65
H11. Secretariat Pool	12	15
H12. Meeting Room	24	32
H13. Kitchennete	8	12
H14. Staff Restrooms	15	10
H15. Area for Reprography	15	12
H16. Archives	20	15
I. MISCELLANEOUS SPACES	305	
I1. STOREROOM	60	60
I2. WORKSHOP	50	50
I3. STORAGE	60	60
I4. ARCHIVES	60	60
I5. WASTE STORAGE	20	20
I6. STAFF ROOM	20	20

I7. LOCKERS & RESTROOMS FOR STAFF	20	25
I8. INFIRMARY	10	25
I9. INFIRMARY'S RESTROOMS	5	10
J. TECHNICAL ROOMS		
J1. TECHNICAL MISCELLANEOUS AREAS	500	500
K. PARKING AND DELIVERY		
K1. UNDERGROUND PARKING 278 CARS	7.500	7000
K2. DELIVERY AREA	300	300