

## Introduction Text

### I Concept

#### **“Woven Thoughts”**

A single thread might be strong on its own. However it will only acquire a greater meaning when it is interlaced with other threads to form a woven fabric.

Similar to this a single artistic action might be extraordinary on its own. But it might become even more significant when it will be crossed with another powerful action.

Ideas will be confronted with other ideas, and will lead to the birth of completely new thoughts.

Beirut is a meeting place where cultural influences from different countries and cultures have always mixed and built on each other. Beirut's new House of Arts and Culture will reinforce the creative power of the city, by giving the numerous artistic activities which already exist a new home, and by giving them the free space to cross, confront and unite themselves... to turn single threads into a rich, colourful, beautiful fabric.

### II Urban objectives

The site of the project is located in a full expansion district right up against the „Ring“, an high speed road that surrounds Downtown Beirut.

Bordered in the north by the Riad el Solh Square with a large palm garden, the new centre is fixed between this two spaces with its opposed characters.

The main entrance area - reached via a wide and inviting staircase, interposed in the main facade and starting on the forecourt - is orientated and tied to the northly situated park area. On the opposite southward side, some large-sized glass facades show the inner out to the fast passing car traffic flow.

Inspired from the big spread of the terrain and the great volume of the large performance hall with the public entrance, the building concept contains a basement situation and a sculptural machinery on the top levels, which are growing out of the base.

In this way, the differentiation of the volumes follows at the same time the regulations of the different heights of the facades for this area.

The wide seen, by night red colored glowing „art window“ at the highest floor offers a platform with long range effect and high recognition value.

To the west and the east of the building are several projects under planning or construction. This sides of the building are more or less closed and the facades secondary. In the west the delivery and approach for the underground parking is situated.

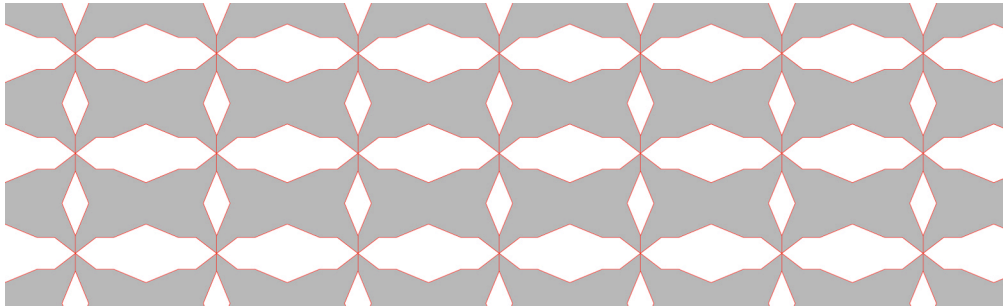
### III Architectural objectives

The structure of the art center is composed of two unsymmetrical interleaved volumes with trapezoidal running lines. Basic principle of the floor structure concept is the fusing of the elementary three geometric forms quadrat, triangle and circle.

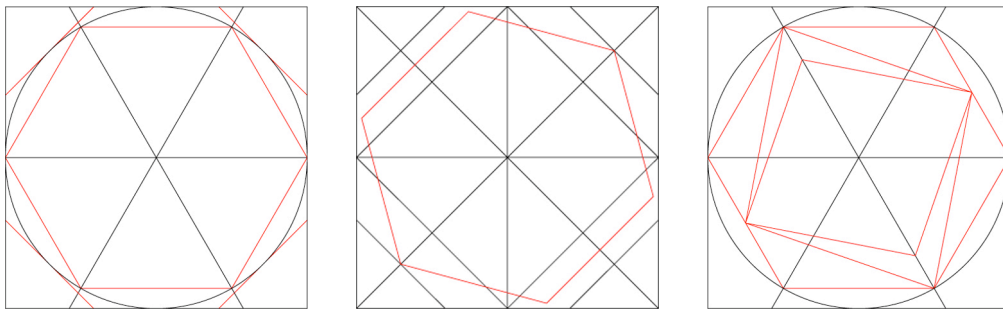
# THE HOUSE OF ARTS AND CULTURE

the libanese-omani centre

# 0110GW



entrance guiding wall



basic principles for space systems

The basement body, build from soft, light-grey and fair faced concrete with wide parts of glass Fassades, surrounds with inviting gesture the large performance hall and the differentiated entrance areas.

Above this solid founded core, the deep black coloured block of the top-levels, covered with a woven structure („woven thoughts“) of threads, rise up to the sky over Beirut - capped from an open roof terrace with a pergola structure from solar panels.

The natural light gets an important influence of the atmosphere into the inner space – continuum. Filtrated by the outer thread-structure, the walls seems to be formt of „woven thought“ . On the opposite, artificial light is falling out from the inner system to the surrounding and becomes visible by night (insite\_out).

Both, the detail and the long range effect of this architecture is impressing, but the outline and the open up to public in human scales signalise it as Beirut's „gate to arts and culture“ for the future.

## IV Functional and spatial Organisation

The open, flowing areas of the storeys are from the bottom to the top united by the guiding line of staircases. Voids with different heights and dimensions, galleries and garden areas are connecting this different levels of the center like a natural landscape.

The relief of the guiding wall at the entrance picks up traditional oriental patterns and direct the visitors to the first platform on level +6.00, the grand reception hall. From there the staircases start to the upper floors, beginning with the library on +13.50.

On ground level of the forecourt area there is another entrance with direct access to the cinema and the wardrobes of the large performance hall - this area is connected by great voids with the grand reception hall and forms a common unit for the public.

A centralized group of elevators connects the ten floors, but the visitor discovers the structure by constant movement through the space via large staircases.

Varied qualities of natural and artificial light are supporting the act of seeing inside and „outlooking“ – the natural light connects the exterior world to interior spaces of the house of culture.

In this way, the architecture is in constant touch with the surrounding, which is steeped in history – build on the past, but at the same time looking towards the future, showing no constructional, static boundaries.

Interactivity between the house, its visitors and the population takes time in every place of this open structure. Inner and outer space are like a plant, that continuously produces diversified offers and situations – a space for cultural and artistic production, exchange and interaction

## **V Technical and building solutions**

The two performance halls are multidisciplinary in use – the spaces are adaptable and can be quickly transformed. Both have perfect acoustics and are full equipped. The structure of the „woven thoughts“ in the large performance hall becomes operative in acoustics and can be used for special colour-lighting effects.

The small performance hall is realized like a „house in a house“ and is very flexible in use because of variable lifting floors.

The lighting for the exhibition areas is intended as a mixture by luminous-ceilings and flexible, adjustable spot lights.

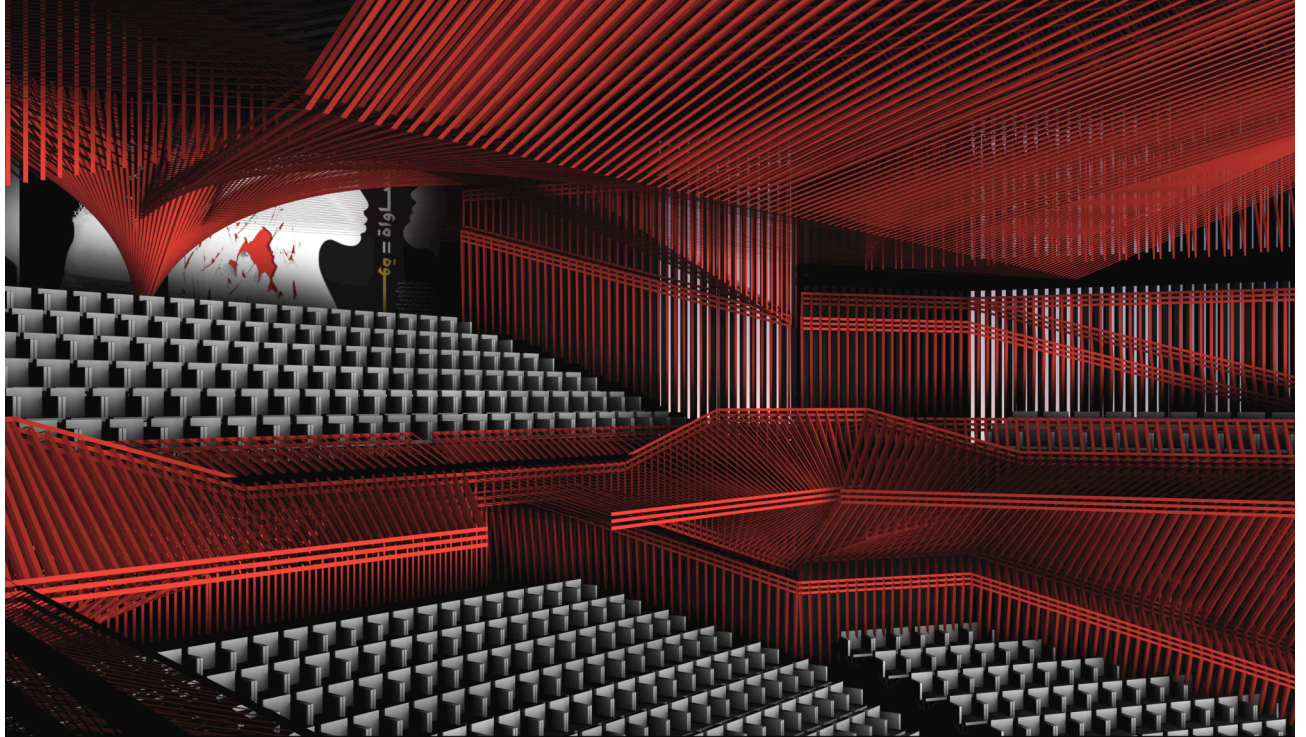
The surfaces in the exhibition spaces are easy repairable and re-constructible, on some wall-parts of the large exhibition hall the structure of the „woven thoughts“ growth up from the inner to the outer facades of the top levels.

The approach of delivery and underground parking is situated on the west side of the building.

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large performance hall