

## ARCHITECTURE DESIGN CONTEST FOR THE HOUSE OF ARTS & CULTURE

### Urban and architectural objectives

Appoint the site with a Lebanese atmosphere:

- Provide a place for interaction in the spirit and local traditions;
- support this concept with features and materials which remind users they are in Lebanon:
- create pedestrian ways connecting the site to the archeological sites and to the waterfront
- with the design intent to counteract the rationalism of the International style feeling of surrounding buildings.
- on a larger scale of thinking Lebanon has been for a long time an intersection for trading and cultural exchange. This justifies the architectural form of the project: The activities of the building are at the intersection of 4 gateways.

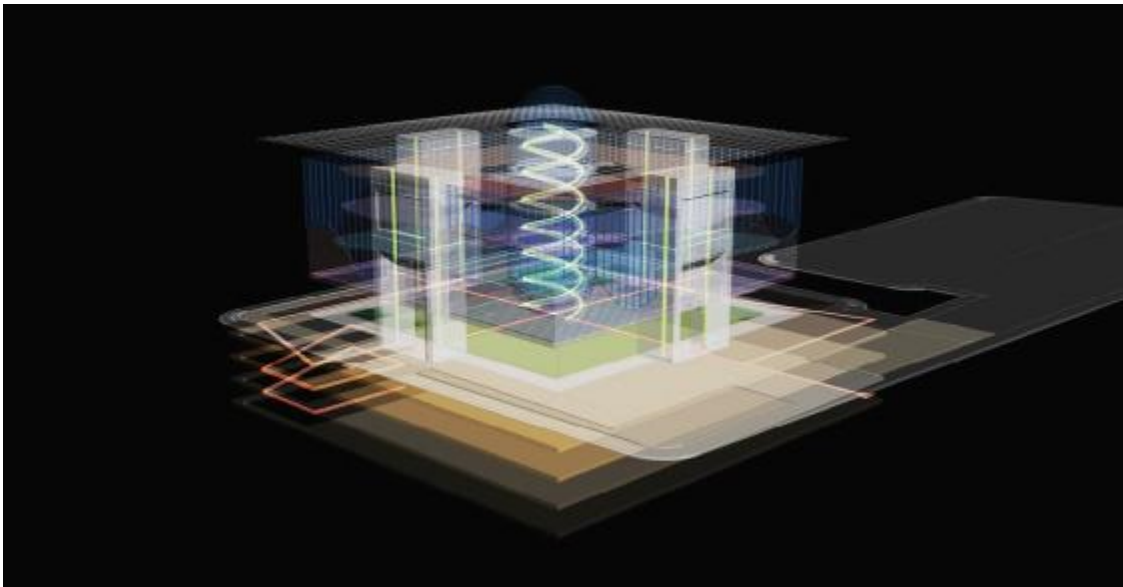


The 4 gateways symbolize an opportunity to set-up a timeless infrastructure of evolving art and culture. Each gateway is designed to invite each user of this building to use the power of imagination, ideas, abstraction and love for creativity. This is the source of inspiration for the calligraphy identifying each gate.



The place of activities is the intersecting space created by the 4 gateways. The Arabic culture has been influenced by the desert – the architectural form of the space between the gates is inspired from sand dune and their ripples. The purpose is to create a comfortable space through familiarity so to assist the users to turn towards the rest of the world and the future.

#### **Functional and spatial organization**

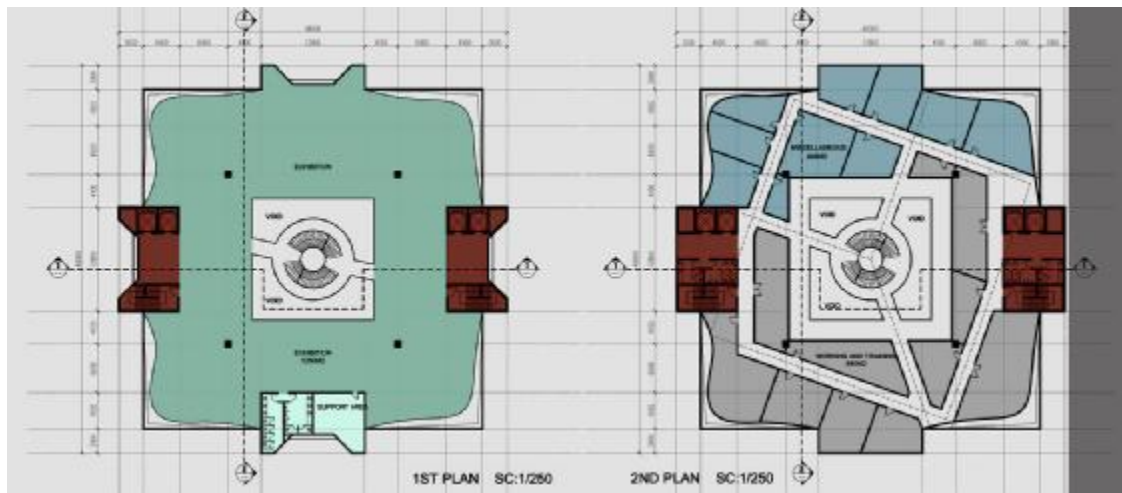


With respect to the urban and architectural objectives set forth, the open plaza between the gates on the first floor invites and attracts.

Functions requiring no natural light have been located in basements such as conference rooms.

An upper level of for leisure has been pre-disposed below the roof to provide a sense of transcendence over traffic and the busy daily activities of the city.

Exiting is provided through each gateway.



## **Technical and building solutions**

Accordingly with the functional purposes the building is actually supported by the 4 gates.

In order to achieve the cantilevers and spans the floor system shall be a space frame.