

RADVILA MUSEUM

Memorandum - Explanatory Text

Urban Idea

The new museum Radvila seeks to stand as a new beacon of light and culture among Vilnius inhabitants but remain respectful towards the city's history.

The main urban idea is to reinstate the original footprint of the building and doing so by matching original heights of buildings and adjusting proportions as for the new spaces to be suitable towards actual museum-wise buildings requirements. By doing this, the original open space from the complex, becomes public, and the goal is to insert elements inside it, not only to complete the program taking advantage of the underground surface, but also to order the open space, give hierarchy and establish different types of programs and activities that could happen during the different times of day, or even seasonally.

Architectural Idea

The strategy to intervene the original first eastern wing building and its extension, is to create suitable spaces from within itself, and to find wider dimensions for them in all directions; therefore, all interior walls as well as slabs and roof are dismantled carefully, as to keep the perimetral walls (facades) untouched.

The insertion of a new timber structure, that carefully interacts with the walls, by understanding their rhythms and dimensions, create the new solid skeleton as where the new program will be inserted. This same structure will make its way from the ground level, all the way up to match the neighboring heights of north and south pavilions, and continue to the back, to create a new continuous cover for the Sports Riding Hall and transform it, into a world class Exhibition Gallery.

Of course, not all the program is covered within this new obtained surface, as almost all the areas for artwork management and handling, staff offices and the multifunctional hall where still to come. The placement of this elements became a delicate negotiation as how to remain respectful upon the pre-existent architecture, the new addition, and the open space plaza, mainly because the presence of natural of light and ventilation, became non-negotiable for every single space of the project.

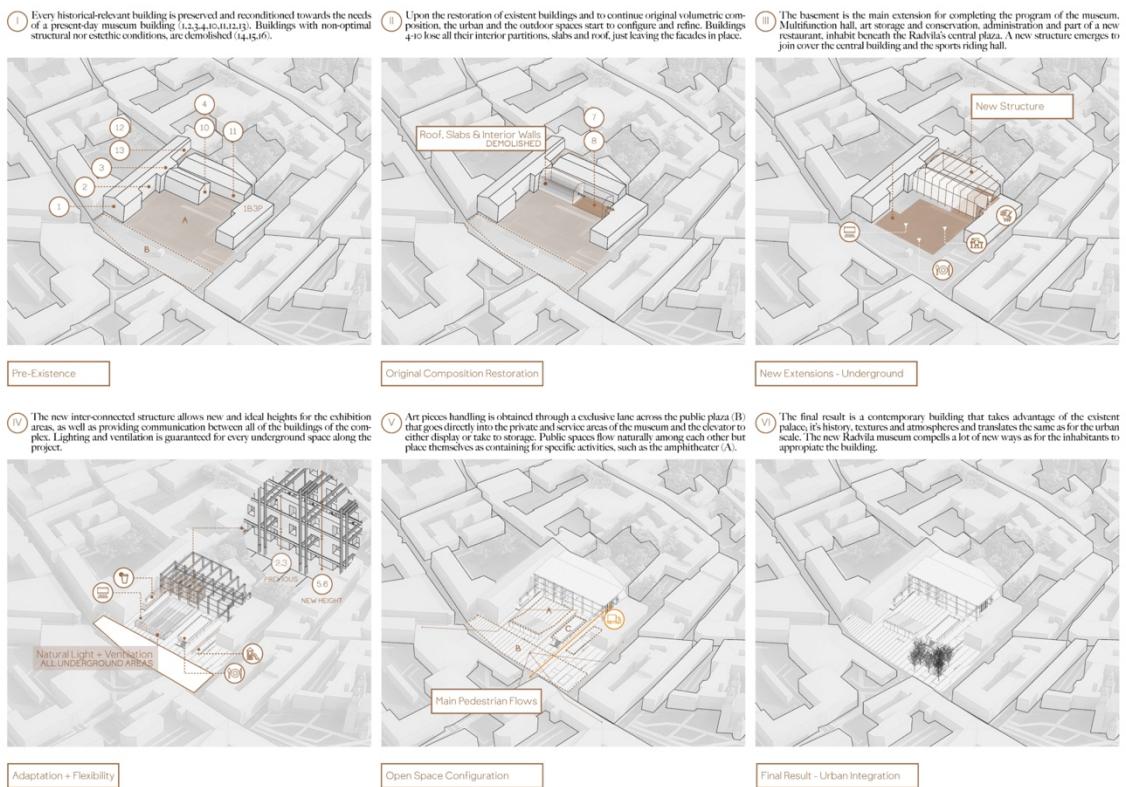
The underground hybrid was the answer. A set of diverse elements that would share in their vertical dimension, area with the plaza, but in a particular disposition in which those elements rather than blocking the visitor's promenade, would contain and order the open space. A small terrace-café, a larger restaurant with a generous terrace where set on place, but the main element would come to be the multifunctional hall, which can hold a wide range of events for more than 500 people. This space and its volumetric consequence for the ground level, will reflect on the program happening just beneath it, and become a multifunctional outdoor are by itself. This element will not only provide natural light and ventilation for all the underground hall, but also, will home cultural and artistic events during the nights, or even just a nice spot for sitting and admiring the palace's architecture.

There is another axis, distributed by a medium height wall, that will guide the visitor from wherever they entry the plaza into the main hall of the museum, and by doing so, also vesiculating in a discrete lane, the access to the artwork delivery and handling area, or when not in use, just another entrance to the museum since this would only happen in specific moments of the day.

A permanent and close relationship between every space is not only seek but procured. Both as sharing views from different levels or remain in the same one without any barriers even when passing through widely different program areas. A good example of this, might be the rooftop-café, which is inside of the building and in direct visual contact with the main hall of building at the ground level. The project is a subtle intervention in the center of Vilnius, but a honest and strong statement about the city's identity and heritage.

Process

Volumetric Evolution & General Strategies



Open Space (Zone A, and B)

Zone A is delimited and ordered by the elements coming from the basement, as for the reasons already mention, but as to obtain a correct scale for the activities that will take place there. There is for example, at the south of the plaza, a patio that provides light and natural ventilation to the staff offices placed underground; but at the ground level, a set of ropes, strong but thin ropes are places form within the perimeter, creating not only nice textures from the light crossing through the underground terrace, but also creating a playground suitable for kids of all ages, even children in their 30's. For zone B, the strategy is to go towards a strictly public plaza, where a wide range of activities can be held, only being limited to the inhabitant's creativity. Maybe skating, or playing football, or petanque, or just a few tables for chess, that is the main purpose of an open plaza. Nevertheless, in the

South entrance of this zone, a set of green areas are placed, not in a flat disposition, but in a game of slopes as to create adequate spaces for relaxing a while or having a picnic. The original trees are kept in their places, except for the ones located at the very center of the square, which will be relocated to the areas mentioned above.



Pavements are concrete planks with a set of lines that rhythm along the pre-existing building facades, and that will match with the volumes inserted within the plaza. From within these concrete planks, the walls of the mentioned volumes, rise in brass finishing as to reflect on the glory of what was once a palace and to work smoothly between the original textures of the buildings, and the wood structures and elements along the entire complex. This works also, as guidance by texture, of how to travel through the project.

It is pedestrian movement, the engine that will make this project work, therefore, the proposal includes no parking spots, nor vehicle lanes among the entire project; within the exception of the artwork trucks intended lane, and a motor lobby for group visits, located south of the plaza as well. A correctly illuminated plaza is desired for the intentions about having a long stay use of the spaces and maintain this area as safe and accessible as possible; however, atmospheres based on lighting should be controlled and adapted towards the specific use of the space, for example, an outdoor ballet recital.

Additional Strategies

The use of sustainable solutions is today mandatory. Almost every surface within the roof levels is able to hold PV panels, and the right location of this alongside with the backhouse of systems and installations of the project, guarantee the success of such systems in the project. However, all mechanical add-ons, are not as powerful as when the passive elements of the building don't work along with them. Therefore, materials, orientations and other elements work in the bioclimatic aspect of the project.

In the main hall for example, an east to west orientation, guaranteeing not only the correct entry of light to the space, but also working with the wood and concrete textures as to keep the heat inside and diminish the use of mechanical efforts to obtain thermal comfort. But it is maybe the most important strategy in this sense, the inclusion of natural light and ventilation to the underground areas since these changes dramatically the energy consumption in terms of light and climatization. The project seeks to be both respectful to a historical layout but also, to remain contemporary about technology and consciousness.

The main material throughout the project in this sense is timber. In the structure, the new slabs, ceilings, pavements or specific pieces of furniture itself, the sourcing of timber seems to be the adequate approach towards a local and responsible materiality for this project. Aesthetically, wood textures work deeply well with the pre-existing materials and atmospheres, as to represent a respectful intervention among these spaces.



Project Functionality

In this diagram plans, the ideal route for visitors (yellow) or for artwork pieces and staff (green) is shown.

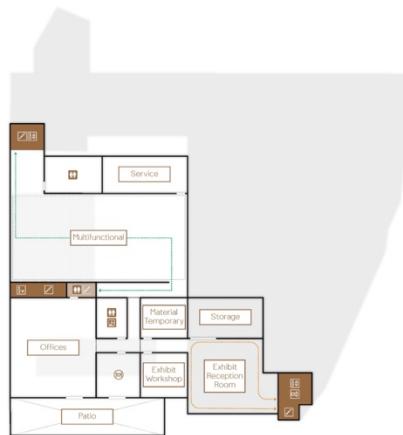
Museum Functionality Visitor and Art Displacements

Underground.

Exhibit Handling Area
 Exhibit Reception and Handling Room - 315sqm
 Exhibit Storage - 115 sqm
 Materials - 60 sqm
 Temporary (in transit) Storage - 85 sqm
 Exhibit Workshops - 96 sqm

Museum Support Offices
 Personnel Locker - 60 sqm
 Cafeteria - 68 sqm
 Park - 100 sqm

Multifunctional Hall
 For 500+ people - 82% sqm
 Reserved service area - 15% sqm



Museum Functionality Visitor and Art Displacements

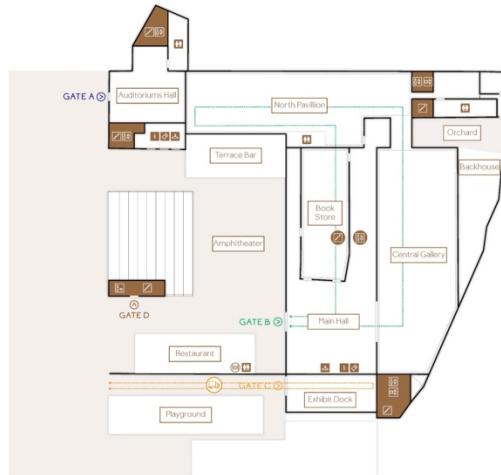
Ground Level.

GATE A Auditorium Hall - 925 sqm
 Auditorium - 1000 sqm
 Multifunctional Hall and Auditorium.

GATE B Main Hall Entrance - 660 sqm
 Main Desk Reception - 180 sqm
 Library / Meeting Room - 180 sqm
 North Pavilion - 650 sqm
 Orchard - 100 sqm
 Backhouse - Equipments - 215 sqm

GATE C Exhibit Dock Entrance
 Gate D - Employees Entrance to Level +1 and Emergency Route for Multifunctional Hall

Exterior - Museum Plaza
 Terrace - 150 sqm
 Terrace - Bar - 180 sqm
 Amphitheater - 1000 sqm
 Restaurant - 210 sqm
 Rope Playground - 246 sqm



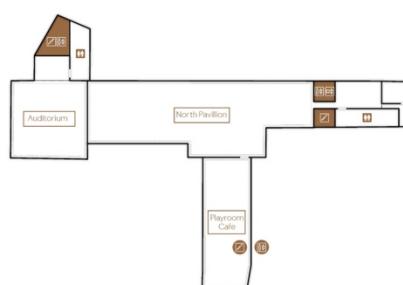
Museum Functionality Visitor and Art Displacements

1.2 Upper Levels.

Auditorium
 Auditorium Lobby
 Auditorium 2 floors of seats - 280 + 100 sqm

North Pavilion
 Exhibition Area - 630 sqm

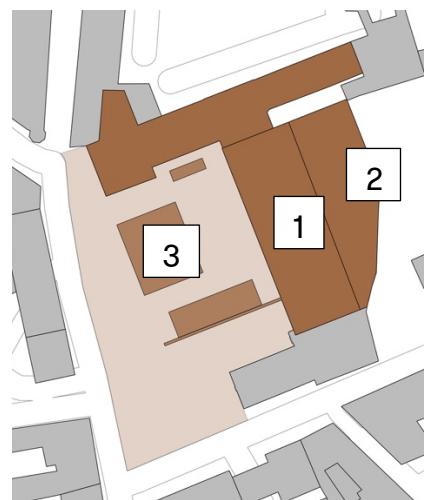
Central Building
 Children's Playroom - 165 sqm
 Workshops - 96 sqm
 rooftop Cafe and Bar - 280 sqm



Structure and Phases of Construction

A timber structure consisting of duplicated elements as to be able to make subtle changes in their proportions will work to match accordingly to the existing buildings facades and make a respectful restoration. Both columns will join at every height by the beams holding in place the new slabs for higher interior spaces and by horizontal steel reinforcements working transversally to balance momentum. These mentioned elements also work as joints for the placement of the timber beams and even as structural elements to hang displays or other elements such as in the main hall reception. Just underneath the roof, the last (visual) timber beam is slightly separated from the roof, as to create the main source of indirect light for the main hall. This lighting strategy using the structure design is used also in the main gallery.

As designed as a whole, and designing having the budget always in mind, it is highly recommended to develop the project entirely in a single phase, however a possible scenario of doing this could be to develop the central building structure, leaving the secondary for the main gallery for a 2nd phase, and to build the underground spaces within a last phase as this would still allow the use of the interior space within those moments.



	Existing conditions		Proposed new buildings		Existing and proposed	
Area of the site (zone A)	8027.54	sqm	8027.54	sqm	8027.54	sqm
Intensity of development of the site	0.77		0.43		1.21	
Total area of the building complex	6217.45	sqm	3463.35	sqm	9680.8	sqm
Volume of the building complex	30582.28	m ³	29995.86	m ³	60578.1318	m ³
Number of storeys	4		4		4	
Height of the building complex	23.62	m	14.3	m	23.62	m

