

TWO IDEAL SHEARS PROJECT DESCRIPTION

URBAN IDEA

The Radvila museum presents a unique opportunity to re-integrate the former palace into the urban fabric of Vilnius. The proposal reimagines the central plaza in front of the palace as a new urban living room - an open space in which maximizes the flexible use of space to respond to the “instabilities” of urban life mutable by the activities of the museum and the city as a whole.

The yard is both the staging grounds for activity and the frontispiece to the inner sanctums of the complex. As visitors enter the area, they are invited to explore further through the natural extension of the outdoor yard into the inner outdoor spaces of the museum.

ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT

The architectural proposal seeks to reconcile the opportunity to reconstruct the missing portion of the former palace with the opportunity to expand the extents of the open space further out into the complex. Through a strategic placement of volumes, the scheme proposes a floating mass suspended on top, while allowing an extension from the existing museum to pass over and connect to the eastern wing portion of the building. The vertical and the horizontal shear / displacement of the volumes therefore creates a rich relationship of outdoor and interior environment which simultaneously respects the former organizational logic of the palace while evolving its form to address the needs of the museum.

PLANNING IDEA

The scheme in essence conceives the two zones A and B as a single territory that is both managed by the city as well as the museum. It assumes mutual understanding between the two urban actors that the particular area is a unique context where the site benefits from conceiving a singular parcel as opposed to one. To mitigate possible issues caused by joining the site into one at the level of planning, the plan proposes a straightforward landscape strategy that maximizes open space with relatively low level of maintenance.

SITE CIRCULATION

Pedestrian access is provided throughout, given that the central space is an open yard area. It also allows for the access of heavy vehicles to approach and enter the yard for additional loading scenarios.

SITE MATERIAL

Predominant surface material of the outdoor space aims to match the existing surrounding area while refurbishing it into a new modern standard. The remainder of open green space will be an open lawn. The lawn provides the additional space for outdoor exhibitions and events alike, as well as an obstruction free space for potential exterior loading of heavy vehicles.

LANDSCAPE / PROPOSED SMALL-SCALE SOLUTIONS

The main outdoor yard acts as the principal staging grounds for large outdoor activities and exhibitions. The outdoor realm of the yard gradually seeps into the inner portions of the complex to create more intimate exterior conditions such as alleyways and inner gardens. These spaces allow a more engaging interface between art, architecture, and outdoor space.

LIGHTING SOLUTIONS

The yard will not be lit by itself, but will be lit from the surrounding ambient lights from the building exterior. In the areas between the inner interstitial courtyards, the spaces will be lit through different light fixtures attached to adjacent building edifices.

SITE SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

The use of porous surfaces reduces water run-offs and helps mitigate heat-island effect.

UNIVERSAL DESIGN

Both the interior and the exterior of the new complex presents a flat area with little to no level change allowing for universal access. Elevator is provided in the new extension area to provide for vertical circulation.

LANDSCAPE PHASING

Construction of the outdoor spaces will take place in tandem with the general construction, as the core locations are in separate locations and therefore do not interfere with one another. Priority will be given to the construction of the yard which will take place in conjunction with the construction of the basement level that exists below it. Once the yard is finished, work on the interstitial outdoor spaces between the inner complexes will take place with portions of refurbishing of the existing building exteriors.

BUILDING LAYOUT / CIRCULATION

The new extensions adhere to the former U-shape of the building by reconnecting the existing remaining buildings into a coherent complex. Simultaneously, the interior of the existing building 4 is reconfigured to contain a large hall that facilitates as the primary circulation route, a new entryway from the yard, and the necessary foyer that provides the breakout space for the auditorium.

New connection has been made between building 11 and 12 so that a continuous indoor connection is possible when traversing through the complex.

BUILDING MATERIAL

The new extensions of the building will reference the material palette of the existing complex. The facade facing the yard will consist of the same stone material found in the rest of the buildings in the palace, and also mimic the rhythm of the window openings. The stone however will take on a much more monolithic character, in order to produce a building mass that is much more abstract in appearance. The facade facing the opposite end will consist of metal panels to amplify its abstract-ness.

SUSTAINABLE STRATEGY

The building will utilize smart building systems to make efficient use of energy, including:

- Motion sensor lights
- Geothermal
- Waterless urinals
- Bike parking to discourage the use of cars
- photovoltaics
- Locally sourced building materials
- High performance facade with greater R value wall assemblies

STRUCTURAL SOLUTIONS

The building will employ a steel frame structural solution in order to achieve a column-less space in many of the key components of the design, especially to provide for the 500 seat auditorium and the ground level entrance.

FIRE SAFETY

All new construction conforms to the standard requirements for fire egress, and exit strategies by allowing at least two means of egress. Materials and finishes that will be used in the interior will also contain low-combustible specifications to further mitigate risks.

CONSTRUCTION PHASING

Construction will be phased into three different types of construction. New construction and reconstruction will first take place, followed by existing building renovation construction work.