

PALIMPSEST // THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF ARCHITECTURE ON THE CITY

Cities are formed by layers and layers of archeological and architectural history. These layers can be seen as the different qualities or the character of a city. The built environment, which is destructed and rebuilt over decades, forms not only the city's cultural identity, but also that of its community. In other words, the city belongs to its citizens. All traces of the relationship connecting past and future are a proof of the buildings' memories suffering from palimpsest. Bringing together old and new signifies that the souls of different eras find life in a single body and help shed light on today's buildings. The thrill of rethinking a historical building complex creates a "sacred feeling" inside of us.

The role of architecture in the rethinking of the past is to connect the historical area with a large user profile and in this project we have done this by creating a space that brings together the existing buildings with new ones in way that up cycles the area with a cultural transformation. Our proposal is in harmony with the existing city texture and identity; however it focuses on today's cultural potentials, which is the making of space. This multilayered cultural project allows the users to experience the existing historical buildings while also creating larger exhibition and gathering spaces. The design proposal shares a simple, controlled and sophisticated language with the old and new buildings. The new design leaves room for the old buildings to express their won eras ideas in a newly thought interior space configuration.

The historical trace of the old buildings relationship with the city and the street in front of it has been rethought in the design approach. The palaces' old gates have been reused as the new approaches to the museum. The wall between the two gates has been replaced by a glass wall. This has been used to define at times a more controlled and at times a more permeable square with the city. The slitted plane defining the open courtyard has been designed after the sun path analysis and by defining with the most amount of sunlight intake. The form takes its reference from the sun's ray path. The old palace, the entrance axes and the courtyards' central wall have all been redesigned by staying true to the original lines of the palace's garden. The area which was defined as "central pavilion" metaphorically forms the new design's main entrance, by contrasting the rigidity of the old palace walls with a glass façade. This transparent (and even almost sensorially invisible from the ground floor) entrance area houses on top a multipurpose hall (with its full rigidity), thus creating a fascination effect on the public. The way it seems to simply "hang" on top helps it define a new entrance pavilion for the whole city silhouette. This multipurpose hall defines the relationship between the old and the new with its form and its "ganging from a thread" aspect. This is where the whole complex's provides its gathering and dispersion areas. Once we enter from the transparent glass entrance, we are faced with a glass box on the floor where the archeological remains are exhibited. The visitors can experience the remains through the glass floor and can later descend to the basement floor where there is one of the new exhibition areas. The visitors can reach all the old and new parts of the museum through the central pavilion area. Different user circulation paths can be traced starting from this point and ending in this point, thus creating various circulation loops without the need to go back anywhere.

This central pavilion area, not only defines a welcoming entrance and reception area, but also serves as a strong connection with the upper floors (including the multipurpose hall and its foyer) and the other parts of the old palace (buildings 1,2,3,4,12) On the other hand, the museum gift shop and the café (which also has its own entrance from the courtyard) have a semi-controlled approach. Behind this central pavilion, the old riding school building has been redesigned into an exhibition hall for larger scaled pieces. The building's outline was kept as it is for financial purposes but has a newly designed roof that maximizes sunlight intake in the most optimal way. This building has as few floor areas as possible above the ground floor in order to house large scale exhibits, and therefore it has a ramp circulating its perimeter thus letting the visitors experience the artworks from various heights, and finally reaching the top slab where there are workshop areas.

The other newly designed structure is once again an exhibition space for different size/types of artwork, and this building is found underground, beneath the open courtyard, in the middle of the other structures. This basement floor can be reached through the central pavilion entrance area while also being reachable through the new exhibition hall constructed at the premises of the old riding school building (no. 11) and thus aiming to create an uninterrupted circulation area between the different structures of the museum.

As for the museums service entrance, after carefully taking into consideration the various transportation routes, has been decided to be designed in the basement floor of the demolished building no. 11 which can be reached through a ramp directly conducting the 12 to 16 meter long trucks to the loading platform. Because of the required maneuver angles for the unloading trucks, the area has been designed in such a way that the trucks do not need to maneuver by approaching backwards to the unloading platform. This service entrance will also serve as the secondary entrance for the staff and personnel, and will have access to the all the exhibition halls as well as the multipurpose hall.

The landscape elements are left to the design and usage of the different user profiles. They are modules that can be designed to the desire of the users activity profile (usages are sitting, exhibiting, working, reading, etc...). as for the modules form, they take their reference from the new museum's form findings.

As Victor Hugo once said "architectural works shape history like a book made of stone". In a sense, architecture has the power to transform societies. Moreover, with the archeological layer, which helps build the historical and cultural depth, this alliance turns into something even stronger. In conclusion, we believe that an architectural design built on these principles will enhance our historical understandings, as well as our understanding of space and time; meaning and content.

ZONE A	Existing Conditions Only (Building 1-2-3-4-12)	Only the Proposed (New) Buildings	Including Existing and Proposed (New) Buildings
Area of The Site	7940 m ²	7940 m ²	7940 m ²
Total area of the Building Complex	4170 m ²	Underground: 2400 m ² Above ground: 3350 m ²	9920 m ²
Number of Storeys	<p>Western Pavilion Underground: 1 storey Above Ground: 3 storey</p> <p>Northern Wing: Underground: 1 storey Above Ground: 2 storey</p> <p>Northern Pavilion Above Ground: 3 storey</p> <p>First Eastern Wing Underground: 1 storey Above Ground: 3 storey</p> <p>First House Above Ground: 3 storey</p>	<p>Central Pavilion : Underground: 1 storey Above Ground: 3 storey</p> <p>Exhibition Hall 1: Underground: 1 storey</p> <p>Exhibition Hall 2: Underground: 1 storey Above Ground: 1 storey</p>	<p>Western Pavilion Underground: 1 storey Above Ground: 3 storey</p> <p>Northern Wing: Underground: 1 storey Above Ground: 2 storey</p> <p>Northern Pavilion Above Ground: 3 storey</p> <p>First Eastern Wing Underground: 1 storey Above Ground: 3 storey (Ground Floor double height-additional floor on the roof)</p> <p>First House Above Ground: 3 storey</p> <p>Central Pavilion : Underground: 1 storey Above Ground: 3 storey</p> <p>Exhibition Hall 1: Underground: 1 storey</p> <p>Exhibition Hall 2: Underground: 1 storey Above Ground: 1 storey</p>
Height of the Building Complex	<p>Western Pavilion: 23.60 m</p> <p>Northern Wing: 12.30m</p> <p>Northern Pavilion: 23.46m</p> <p>First Eastern Wing: 16.50m</p> <p>First House: 15.60 m</p>	<p>Central Pavilion: 23.60m</p> <p>Exhibition Hall 1: 3.50m</p> <p>Exhibition Hall 2: 12.00m</p>	