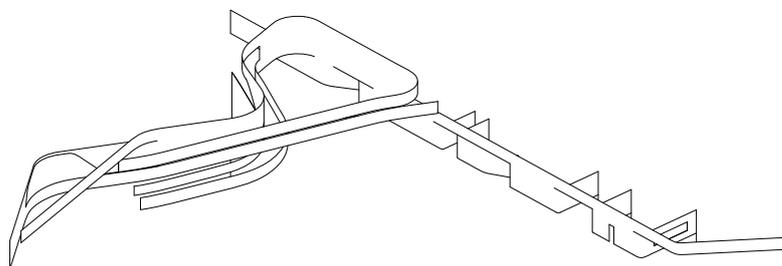




INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION FOR THE
NEW CYPRUS MUSEUM

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The Archetypical Archaeological Shed, everpresent in archaeological sites and excavations has been a point of reference for the design of the New Archaeological Museum of Cyprus. In our case, it is not the site of actual findings per se that we want to shelter, but the vast collection of the Cypriot Archaeological Treasures. Hence, the size of our Shed becomes equivalent to the size of the collection and its enor-

mous importance. Under this big roof we also give shelter and provoke public attention to yet another aspect of Cultural Heritage and of contemporary archaeological practices, the preservation of present-day History and Memory. Rather than a side, phantom - project, the incorporation and re-programming of the existing Historical Building assumes a highlighted importance in our design.





The New Museum seeks to establish a unique presence in its urban surroundings, creating a new, strong Cultural Destination within the wider area of the City's Cultural Quarter. Through its architectural form and orientation it aims to strengthen its relationship with the existing Old Museum, as well as the other public buildings in the area.

In particular, the connection between New and Old Museum becomes very strong and consequently a dominant parameter in designing both the new building and the public area between the two. It is this relationship, as well as the re-

lationship to the adjacent Park and the House of Representatives that led to a decision to open up the building towards its East and North boundaries, while keeping it less penetrable on the remaining two. The Main entrance to the Museum is thus orientated to the North, while secondary and staff entrances are located on the side facing the river and park and only emergency exits and loading zone areas are reserved for the south side of the building. The almost-triangular footprint of the building is naturally born out of the geometrical characteristics of the site marking a clear zone of civic - hardscaped area

and a remaining broad zone of landscaped area along the Pedieos River. The latter is considered an important aspect of the design, a natural extension of the Municipal Park and a green buffer zone between the Museum and its surrounding urban neighborhood. There is a transversal underground pedestrian passage and cycle way providing a direct connection between the green zone and the Museum Plaza.

The development of the 2 required construction phases is effectively planned, so that the basic architectural qualities of the building are maintained without any essential differentiation between the two. The second phase becomes a “corporal” extension of the first phase, assigning

the west side of the building with a more exclusive use for the Department of Antiquities and the Library.

In the Museum Building, the ground floor plan comes together as the amalgam of all different public flows and functions. The vast exterior Public Space under the Shed merges with the spacious area of the Museum Lobby to form a continuous territory of public interaction and events. Clearly orientated to the North, the L-shaped organization of the plan opens up entirely to this extended civic zone. The Periodical Exhibitions, the Conference Hall, the Cafe and Museum Shop are considered as interrelated functions and are designed to be in close prox-



imity. The re-purposing of the Historic Building as a Museum of the History of the Site and also as a space for periodical events and exhibitions, works complementary to the above four in the outdoor space of the Museum.

Starting from the ground floor, the Permanent Exhibition and main attraction of the building starts to unfold in the upper two floors. It is on the first floor where visitors are offered a starting introductory point and on their route upwards they discover exhibits in a chronological sequence. Thematic exhibition units however, such as the Lampousa Treasure, are treated differently, becoming part of the extended Exhibition Lobby. The internal organization of each

unit aims to provide comprehensive information about each exhibit, to highlight the importance of each one within its historical social context and to provide essential knowledge that will nurture dialogue and participation in historical matters. At the end of the exhibition route on the second floor, a spacious elevator allows visitors to head straight back to the main Lobby.

The design of the Basement is another very important aspect of the design. Considered literally and metaphorically the Foundation of the Museum, it has been a considerate effort to provide a fully functional space, covering to the full extent the program requirements and keeping the Laboratories and Storage Areas on the same level.



Regarding construction and materials, most of the building will be constructed with reinforced concrete elements. The Plaza's shelter will be a steel structure, seated on the building's concrete structure and foundation. The facade wall and roof panels of the building will be constructed using light sandwich elements of aluminum core covered by thin concrete surfaces of custom perforation. The interior serpentine-shaped continuous band catering for the visitor's flow through the Museum, will be clad in wood, marking a clear contrast between interior and exterior.

In terms of Sustainability, the shelter orientation, coupled with structural elements for direct sunlight control and an extended shallow water

area, provide optimal bioclimatic conditions for the visitors. The part of the building's roof that refers to Museum plaza will be covered with glass on which photovoltaic solar cells will be integrated.

Assuming basic construction unit cost at 1750 Euro/m² and according to building and landscape development areas for every construction phase, cost for phase A is estimated at 56,500,000 Euro and cost for phase B at 18,500,000 Euro.

