EPILOGUE: THE ROLE OF THE MUSEUM AND THE FUTURE OF MUSEUM SPACE

In planning the museum, we must consider how we can engage visitors. Museums need to be more than just spaces for storing art and artifacts. They must also be places where people can come to learn, to be inspired, and to connect with others. This is where the museum space becomes crucial.

The museum is a place where stories are told, where history is preserved, and where culture is celebrated. It is a place where people can come to understand and appreciate the arts, sciences, and humanities. The museum is a place where people can come to be challenged, to be inspired, and to be entertained.

The museum space is an integral part of the museum experience. It is where the physical and the digital converge to create a unique space for learning and discovery. The museum space is where people can come to interact with art, with history, and with each other.

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Part A: Concept description

1. The City

New Guggenheim Helsinki as a Connection Device

The City of Helsinki:

1. It has no connection with the Harbour
2. It has no street life in the Harbour during the cold months of the winter.

The Guggenheim offers back an Extra City Space for the City that has 2 main functions:

1. Reconnect the City and the Harbour.
2. Generate city life during the winter.

To reflect the museum's new programmatic variety we do not offer an ascetic space that can accommodate different specificities, but a New Urban Experience.


1.1 Present: Inefficient Harbour

Currently the majority of the Harbour Space is intended for parking, creating a barrier between the city and the sea.

That happens because Container Ship Routes are all over the Harbour, saturating the Bay with industrial activity and traffic. Therefore, there is less Public Space in the Harbour, contributing to the Disconnection between the city and the sea.

1.2 Urban Proposal

By changing the Big Ship Routes to the East, Container Trucks will not need to go through the West Harbour, avoiding Traffic and Parking need in the West and City Center.

We propose a New Strategy that concentrates the industrial activity in the East Harbour, leaving free the West Harbour for the cultural activity associated with the New Guggenheim Museum.

We propose a New Parking Box that concentrates vehicles and allows 80% more Public Space in the West Harbour.

1.3 The Site

The Design of the new Guggenheim Museum must be seen as an opportunity to create a linked Connection between City and Harbour.
2. The Program

The Evolution of Museum Space

Museums have changed from institutions where information was directed in only one way: towards the viewer into institutions that are increasingly creating conversations with the viewer.

We need a really radical change in how people use museums now. It’s not only about looking closely at works of art; it’s moving around within - a -sort of cultural spectacle.

Museums of the future should engage with their visitors in the museum, with the physical spaces outside of the museum and with virtual audiences they build around specific subjects. Without these spaces museums risk the audience moving on to a new venue.

Gaining space and functionality is not enough. Added value lies in creating an environment where it is good to be, an arena for interaction between artwork, visitor, museum and society.

In planning the museum, we try to imagine how art and audiences might come together five years from now, in an institution that not only houses and cares for a collection, but is also a meeting place of major social significance.

The New Guggenheim Helsinki should be generous, adaptable, and multi-functional.

It’s not about Designing a Museum, it’s about Designing a Experience.

We propose a new Experience not only for the visitor, but for the Citizen.

A critical shift from the idea of a building as a static object to a building that can accommodate the flux of daily life, the life of Street Art.

The Extra City Space

We propose a Strategy that could offer back to the City of Helsinki an Extra Space at no additional cost.

An added value for the City that transcends traditional Exhibition Spaces.

We propose an Interior Street, an additional un-programmed space, which is not included in the original brief, that open the building up to citizen’s appropriation, and allow it to remain structurally relevant through the present and well into the future.

The Interior Street, an Extra City Space, proposes a set of Unique Spaces that contains an almost unlimited number of conditions and situations that Public Space could offer to present, to study, (re) contextualize, or even provoke the people that enters it, whatever form it takes.

Gallery Art + Street Art

The translation of the budget into a double space, a combination of 2 programs - The Museum -Gallery Art- and The Extra Space -Street Art- in a single building allows us to explore the relationship between 2 structures. Using both factors, we had the chance to add, subtract, divide… We decided to multiply.

The un-programmed Extra Space and its structural flexibility prompts citizens to engage with it as productive and creative users of space.

The long, interior shape will contain the Interior Street while its outer surface defines the Museum space, left between the form and the envelope.