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Nordic Convergences - Guggenheim Helsinki

The Guggenheim Helsinki acts as a "pivot point" between three distinctly different urban spaces: An interior circulation system - the "Lobby Canyon" - connects park, harbor, and city while the characteristic catenary shape of the roof and facade elevations emphasizes the public character of the museum. The Guggenheim Helsinki is designed to maximize public interaction - the project's Lobby Canyon is a true public space transforming large portions of the program into part of Helsinki's public urban infrastructure. The light coloration of the museum's exterior facade harmonizes with its urban context and is strongly influenced by Helsinki's identity and heritage as a Nordic neoclassical city. The interior Lobby Canyon is clad in wood, giving this grand civic space a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The Guggenheim embodies the subtleties of Helsinki into a piece of architecture producing a building which does not define itself as iconic or spectacular but as quiet and experiential.