

POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO  
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE 2  
Degree in Architecture  
*Honors theses*

**Plan of the new Modern and Contemporary Art Center of Metz, France**

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The International Competition was promoted by the city of Metz (situated in the North West of France) in association with the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris. The aim of this initiative is to encourage the economic, cultural and social situation of the city. Its strategically and central position (in the north of Lorena) in Europe concurs to create an ideal connection between several Museums.

The area was former called "*Quartier de l'Amphitêatre*", this name underlines the importance of Metz as a Roman-Gaelic city: the town wall and the foundations of the Amphitheatre, rediscovered in 1902, during the urban regeneration of the station area, still evidence of its past.

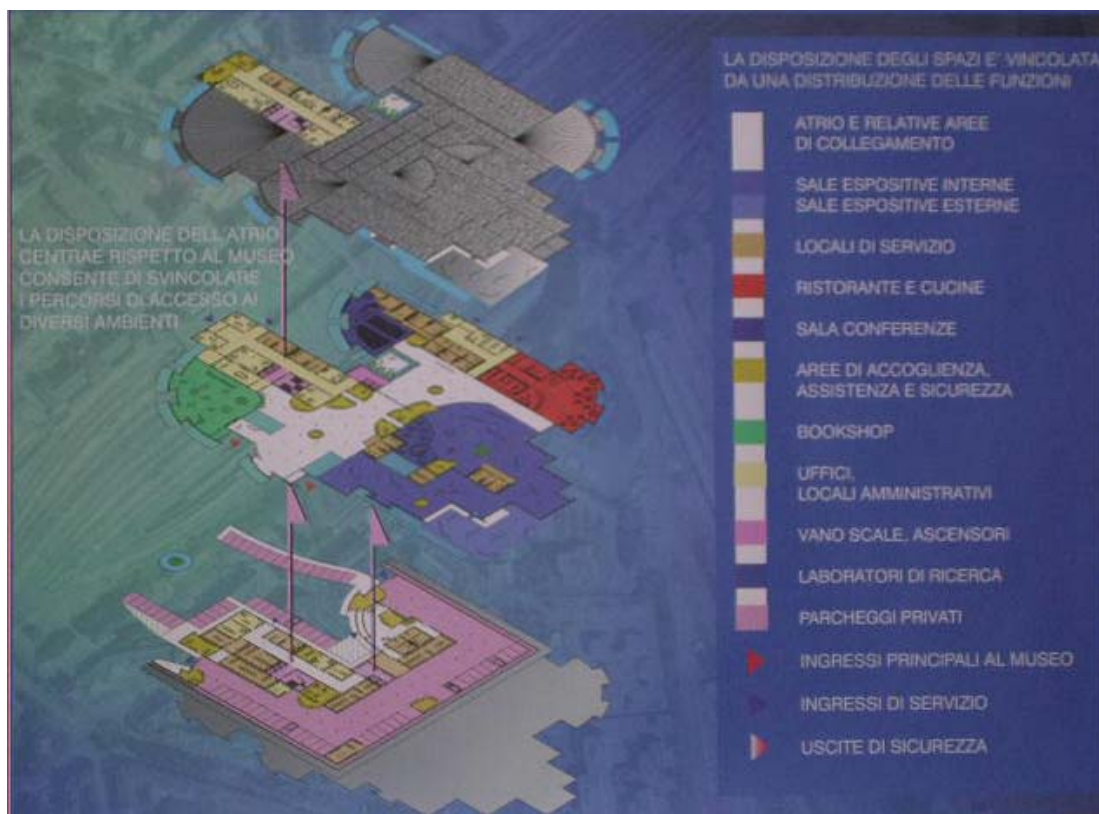


Plant floor 0

The project accords to legally Building-Land-Use Plan which is called ZAC (*Zones d'Aménagement Concentré*) in France and therefore it considers the given defaults.

In 2000-2001 it has already been inaugurated the adjacent city Park of the Seilla; moreover, after the realisation of the New Centre Pompidou, the construction of the Mediateque is previewed.

The Museum will become a new centre of cultural life, a point of encounter of the city, like the *Esplanade* (Park, earth of the city), the Station (income of the city) and the Historical Centre. Therefore it will not be only a juncture but also a place with which citizen can identify.



Organisation of the Museum

The functional distribution of spaces in the museum answers to the requirements of the regulation of competition and to the constraints of urban context of the building, allowing an integration with the Park of the Seilla.

The atrium is placed in a central position in order to join specific and independent spaces that have different functions and to distinguish public from the private ones. The used materials, the arrangement of the grass and the use of water reflect the characteristic elements of Metz. All these elements round off the Museum and the Park of Seilla, and also refer to the main plan. In fact the interiors and the exterior are planned in order to ensure a continuous contact with surrounding space, through trick fountains, temporary external expositions, green areas and glass surfaces that offer a direct view of the exterior.

The material used for the interior decoration is wood, while a pink stone covers the external alley in order to maintain the characteristic elements and colours of Metz. The bigger part of the building is situated at the ground level, while only the administration can be founded in the first floor.

The basement is designated as a bookshop or better warehouse and also carries the technical equipment and emergency installation.

Plates of plumb cover the outside surface, with certain admixture which leads to the wanted colour. This kind of silver coloration gives the building as an idea of movement.

From the outside it is already possible to characterize the various functions of the different parts in the Museum because every block has got a specific and characterizing covering.

Moreover, the use of various materials and also the presence of semi-cylindrical bodies (emphasized from the coverings in aluminium sheets) underline the idea of movement to the structure.



Prospects of the Museum (main, back)

Due to the prospect you can observe incised cuts line of the building façade; because of this character the structure appears in different illuminations.

The construction, especially the vertical cuts, guarantee natural lights in the exhibition areas.

Inside the visitors can orientate themselves easily on the distribution of symmetrical and geometrical shapes, like conical blocks and recurring module (5m X5m).

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