

Project for the new Egyptian Museum in Torino

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This project starts as an alternative answer to the debate about moving the Egyptian Museum from its original location to a more suitable one; any other historical palace would have the same problems of room, not correct illumination and lack of facilities that the museum has now in its current location of Palazzo della Accademia delle Scienze in Torino.

The Egyptian Museum is the only city institute capable of developing itself out of the system's structure and, because of its internationally known importance, it would justify the construction of a brand new museum that could be seen as a great leap toward the development of the city everybody has been waiting for in the past few years.

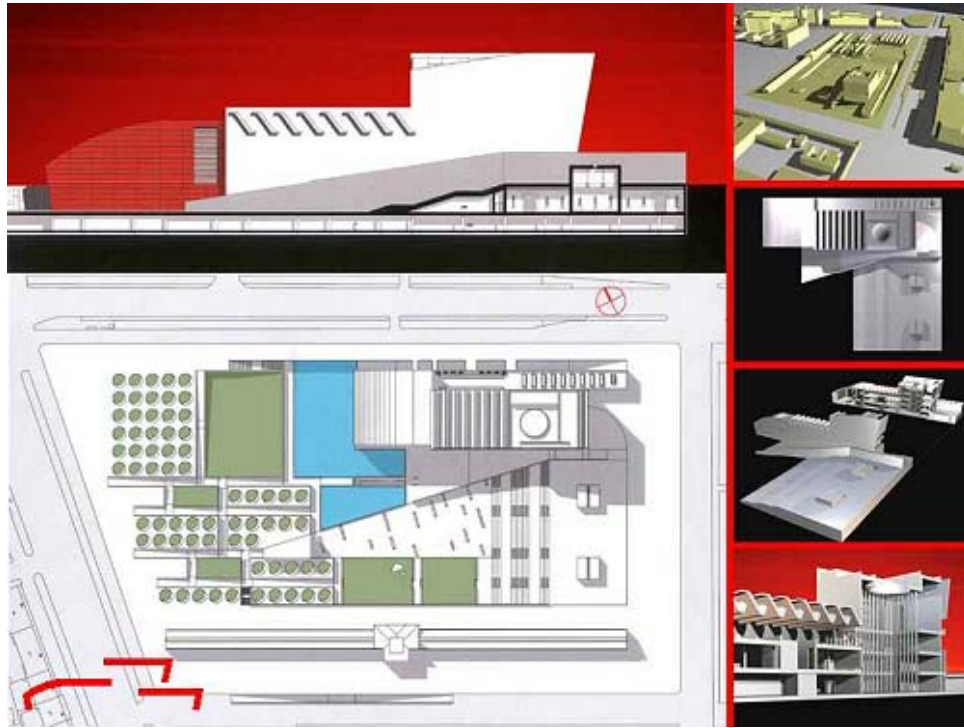
The location chosen for the new museum is the block between corso Francesco Ferrucci, via Nino Bixio, via Pier Carlo Boggio e corso Vittorio Emanuele II, characterized by two important features: the first, is the very pronounced inclination of the building on corso Ferrucci side; the second, is the presence of a very narrow and long building on via Nino Bixio under historical preservation.

The objectives of the project are to think of a european style museum that could follow all the rules of the modern museum theories, with all the required facilities for the visitors and employes; to create a strongly representative building; to create an inviting public area even for the people who are not directly involved with the museum or its facilities.

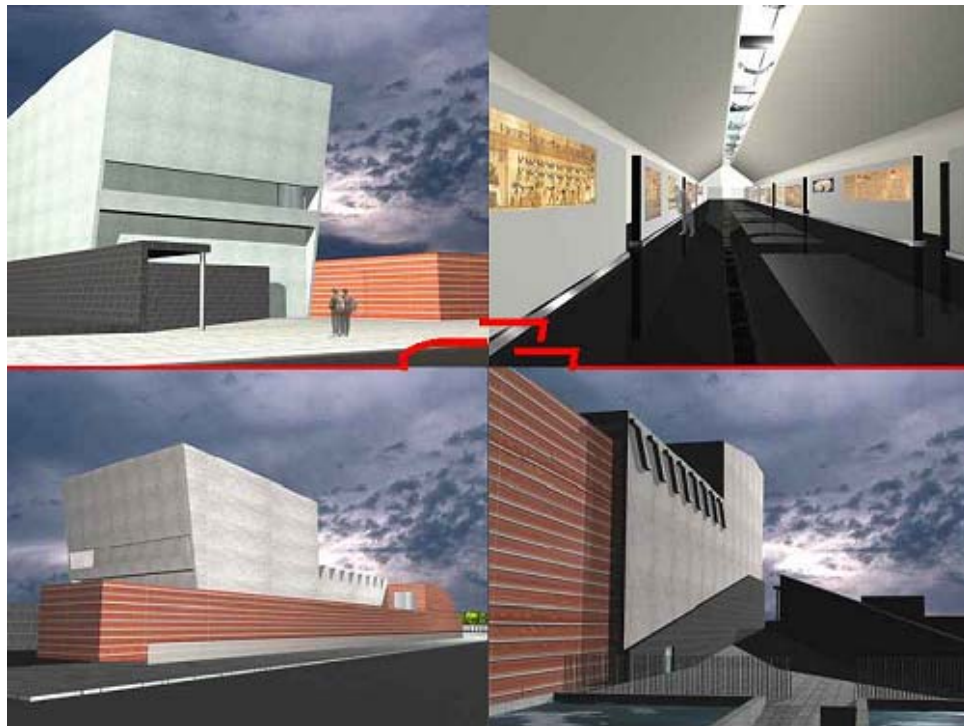
The idea of the project was born from the study of egyptian architecture and culture; there have been attempts to reproduce an area of archeological excavations, terraces with trees and ramps that take visitors down to an area lowered about 6 meters from the street level from which a great building shaped as a Sphinx sets itself up.

The idea of positioning the building on one angle of the block created a very big open area which being lowered isolates itself from the very chaotic surrounding creating a good attraction for the people.

The borders of the museum toward the square are made of a big water pool and a sector tilted by the same angle of the inclination of the building on the side of the block on corso Ferrucci.



The building is made of three major elements: two visible from the outside which correspond to the exterior volume; one below the ground level only intuited from the outside by two big skylights which show the big underground statues room. The Sphinx well represents the monumental simplicity of the Egyptian architecture and, at the same time, has an incredible charm for the secrets it's still hiding; in the same way, the architecture of the museum comes out absolutely linear and clean on the outside in contraposition with the complex interior design.



A very bright big atrium opposes the apparent closing of the exteriors and allows the visitors to a good orientation.

Many meeting points have been thought for groups of students which constitutes the major part of the visitors of the museum; it has been tried to provide the visitors with all the needs along the way through the visit.



It has been thought over the new arrangement of the collection which seems to be divided into three themes (monumental ruins, funerary traditions, everyday life) arranged into three different levels starting from the bottom.

On the ground floor (monumental ruins) the illumination will be artificial and plenty, the first floor (funerary traditions) will be very dark for a better preservation of the mummies very sensitive to the sun rays, while the third one (everyday life) will be rich of natural light opportunely filtered; in this way the visitors have a better interaction with the collection feeling the same experience of the discovery of the ruins.

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