

## DESCRIPTION FOR THE NEW BUILDING OF THE MARIBOR ART GALLERY

### Relation to the city

The new building of the Maribor Art Gallery (UGM) located on the riverbank of Drava, which is very popular among the people of Maribor as venue for recreation, walks, relaxation, fun and social events. Became enthusiastic over the wishes of the Municipality

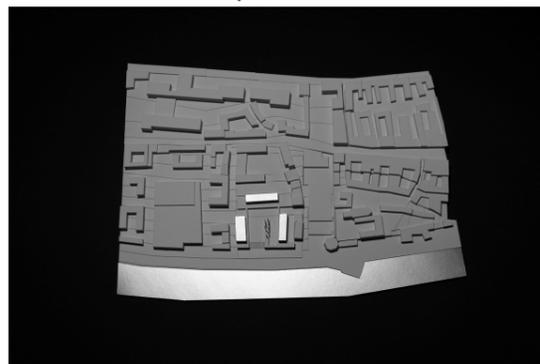


of Maribor to rearrange public spaces, primarily intended for pedestrian and bicycle use, we designed UGM as a new urban hub to create real

connection between internal and external spaces of the new museum complex and the renewed promenade on the embankment of Drava as recreational space. Our proposal shows UGM as a part of the central stage of Maribor, the European Capital of Culture in 2012, a combination of attractive and absolutely open spaces to enable people to spend creative leisure time and for helping urban regeneration of the city next years. Inspired by Maribor's typical construction and spatial arrangement which have always addressed the river area while pertaining integral urban appearance of the river bank, the project looked to emphasise the advantageous location of the existing site and to enable the citizens and visitors to experience the historical continuity of the city along the river and to raise cultural and historical value of the space.

The complex of new UGM must

stimulate interest about contemporary art through the relevant museum program, innovative presentations, art events and inspiring architecture. The organization of the building is based on three linear volumes settled



around the main square from which all functions open. This arrangement forms a multipurpose urban space suitable for wide audience, cultural events, external exhibitions, etc. The proposed public space, the outdoor living room of the city is facing the river and the new promenade. The wide staircase between the new square and the embankment serves not only the connection but it is a great meeting point and a good place e.g. for watching fireworks at the time of Festival Lent or special events in 2012, when Maribor takes on the role of European Capital of Culture.



As to the "creation" in the middle of the square is the information centre which can give information not only about current exhibitions and events of UGM but through its "periscopes" about Maribor's worth seeing sights and the other Culture Capitals in 2012 (Guimaraes in Portugal) and the next year (Tallinn in Estonia, Turku in Finland). The tapered glass-covered periscopes can show view of those towns and through their digital accessories show selected attractions and detailed program lists there. We propose to settle one temporary periscope cone in all Cultural Capitol



towns of 2011 and 2012 looking to Maribor and each other, this way can attract attention to the continuity of a new European tradition, can symbolize strong cultural bonds and communication between European cities. Forms of glass periscopes reminds us of Jože Plečnik's urban projects and can be expound as salute to the great Slovenian architect too. In addition to being information centre this forms a new contemporary landmark spiritually connected with visual arts, visible from the other bank of Drava as well.

Other reading of the glass towers is a bunch of kaleidoscopes (the word "kaleidoscope" derives from the Greek *καλός* (*kalos*), *εἶδος* (*eidos*), *σκοπέω* (*skopeō*), and means "observer of beautiful forms"). A kaleidoscope is a tube of mirrors containing loose coloured small objects. The viewer looks in one end and light enters the other end, as the tube is rotated, the tumbling of the coloured objects presents the viewer with limitless variation of colours and patterns. This gives an other meaning for kaleidoscopes the colourfully surging changes off the reel. Modern kaleidoscopes are

made of brass tubes, stained glass, steel and most any other material an artist can sculpt or manipulate.

The entrance level facing the former Street "E", our central public square to make relationship to the town through large scale windows. The inner organisation based



two main pillars on the one hand the idea of creating area for wide field of visual creativity through diversely designed spaces, on the other hand to make an energetically effective building. Solution is a concentrated central area included well connected series of large exhibition spaces with the option to separate them, mainly on the ground- (promenade-level) and the first, underground level and all the service areas around them. This concept enables to avoid creating disturbing building size and at the same time helps reducing the needs of warming and cooling the main spaces. Our proposal allows of hiding large scale mass hereby the new UGM complex can be visually well connected with typical building scale of Maribor's old town and its typology, intricate courtyards and urban spaces.

### Functional and spatial organization

The proposal provides independent entry for all functionally individual units of UGM complex, but all entrances open from the new central public square. The multipurpose entrance hall of the museum is a double high space from



which you can enter both the permanent and temporary (periodic) exhibition areas, through an extraordinary space with bridges and ramps. The gallery spaces are lit from

various different directions, but daylight are controlled and filtered by the structure itself and internal blinds, providing optimal conditions for art exhibitions. Underground spaces are excellent in aspect of security requirements and UV

protection. The most dangerous illuminating influence is the energy rich UV light so the share of UV should not exceed 40 µm/lm, the warmth of IR light may also



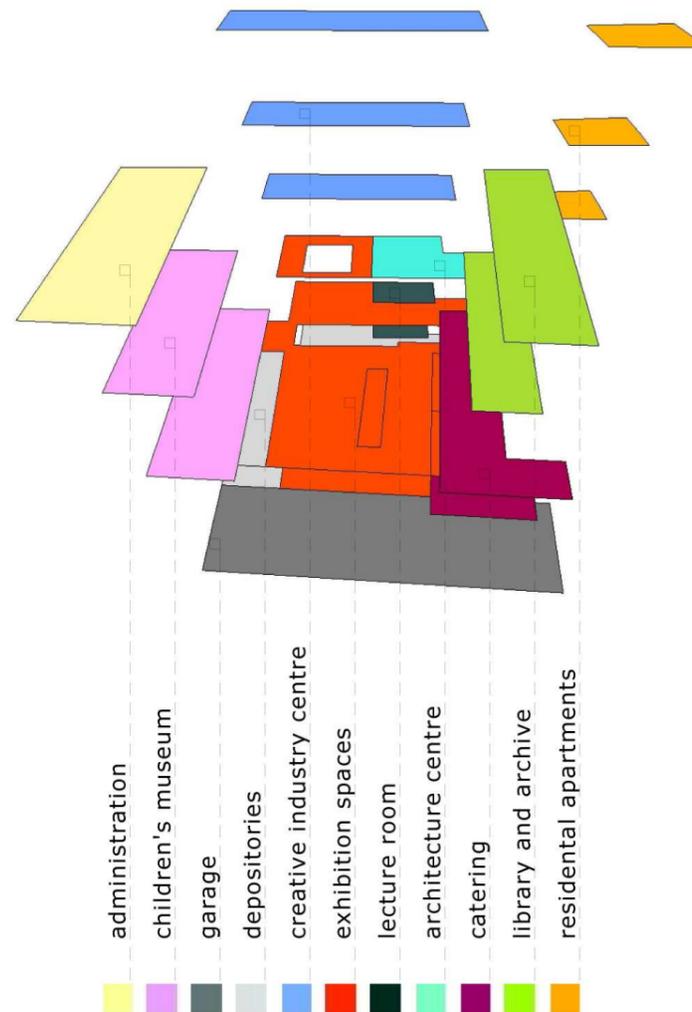
cause damage to the works of art. While designing quality artificial light of the exhibition areas it is important to take the level and colour of lighting, luminosity, lighting and shadow direction and glitter reduction into consideration as well. Besides the artificial light in the exhibition areas are lit by skylights, natural light came through the glass towers of the info box and some double high spaces have windows as well creating exceptional condition for modern artworks, but their separated rooms can easily accommodate new media and video art installations too.

Depositories for the permanent collection are on the same level and close to the exhibition area; cargo elevator helps to stock them up. We can maintain optimal air conditions and temperatures of storage of various artwork and media. The temporary depository for short term storage is located as close as possible to the exhibition and to the transportation hall and also to the delivery room. Access to all depositories and service areas (technical workshops, photo studio, etc.) separated from public paths.

Offices of the management and curators are accessible from a well lit staircase and an elevator too. Their premises have a separate official entrance which opens from the central square of UGM. The offices of the Curators and the meeting room have a sunny terrace, tea room and the general manager's office which looks to a rooftop garden facing the Drava.

The Children museum is located in the western wing of the museum complex. The exhibition space and the multipurpose room have grand window opening to the main event space of UGM, the large scale windows

lure young visitors inside to watch the current puppet show or try the interactive games with other children. Undisturbed execution of education and safety is provided by lifting the daily care centre up to the first floor from the entrance level. This location warrants an excellent bridge connection with children's playground at the other side of the Street "E" and assure safe place for wide range of creative educational activity.



Creative industry centre is accessible directly from the entry hall of the new UGM, but it has an alternative entrance from the upper floor level as well. The biggest premise of the centre intended for meetings, presentations and connection with the outer area ensuring external exhibition spaces too. All the 24 studios look to the river Drava above the inspiring central space of new UGM.

All residential apartments have settled in one separated block of the new UGM, finishing the row of

Pristaniska street's town houses. This arrangement makes an urban infill at the corner of Street "E" and emphasise functional similarity between existing housing and new apartment building.

Architectural centre located between the wing of residential apartments and the main entrance of the creative industry centre and the art gallery. It has separate entry from the outside and accessible from the entry hall of the new UGM as well.

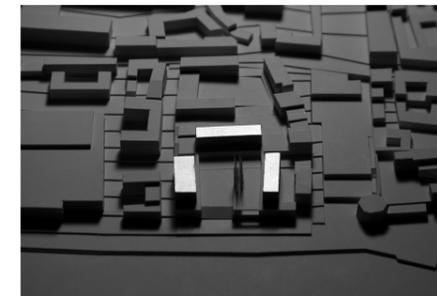
The Library and Archive opens from the former "E" street at the eastern block of the complex. It can operate independently from the other parts of UGM, so visitors may access regardless of the opening hours of the gallery. The Library on the first floor is well-connected with a terrace and also with a small garden facing the river.



Restaurant and Coffee bar accessible directly from the main square, this way it can function independently from the gallery opening hours. The whole catering area can open up into the external space serving as background facility for any cultural event. A considerable area of the connecting outdoor area are covered so it gives shade against spit and summer sun, creating an excellent meeting point a place for comfortable socializing before or after visiting the exhibitions. Roofed external terraces can be extended with temporary textile canopies and used as outdoor gallery space as well.

## Character

By arranging three linear building volumes around a main square proposed UGM allows an outwardly small scale museum complex what can be visually twitted with typical typology and building scale of old Maribor. Organisation and orientation of the wings help the building to be responsible not only toward the built environment but focus on



creating an energetically effective building and sustainable architectural design.

Three wings are connected with a one level high canopy ribbon to assign human scale for the entrances and separate

the main square into two parts. The smaller half of the central square connected with catering facilities, the bigger half became part of the renewed embankment and develops as the entrance point of the new open institution with cutting edge contents, as a space for all



generation, the whole family, as the driving force of knowledge and creativity, and the hub of creative activities. From the information booth you can go upon the canopy ribbon which is a 21 century belvedere where from you get enormous view of the river and can observe actual events or concerts on the square.

Around the square the lower parts of the three UGM wings form a massive plinth course built of painted brick walls perforated large scale windows, but the upper parts of them reflect to river Drava with special layered glass facades. The printed glass sunscreen elements in front of windows and the mirroring mosaic surface reduce cooling needs effectively and at the



same time remind us of the waving river and silver mosaic has connection with the idea of kaleidoscopes as well. This simple frame has strong effect on the environment and can emphasise the information facility in the middle of the square. To the best of our belief, the intense form of the bunch of glass covered “periscopes” suggests the spiritual connection with visual arts which may attract visitors. As much as the periscopes can look not only into the exhibition but to other cities of

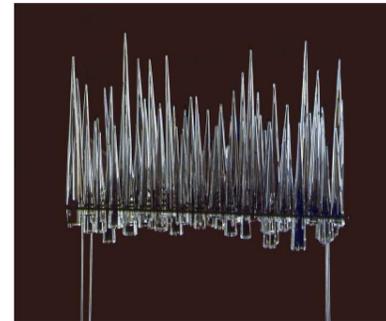
European Cultural Capitals in 2012 and 2013 UGM can give a useful attraction symbolizing European unity through the metaphor of space and time.

### Traffic

The street “E” is integrated into the central square of new UGM and it is intended for walking and cycling, gallery shop delivery and intervention vehicles only. Underground garage for 70 cars is for UGM’s employee mostly. Access and exit ramp from garage is planned from the one way Ribiška Street. Visitors of the gallery complex suggested to park in the public garage under the market place. For the purpose of the daily care centre a row of short-term parking spaces is provided along the Ribiška Street. Delivery entrance into the gallery is located near the parking ramp exit, but delivery and commercial vehicle don’t need to enter the building. Both the car and delivery entrances can be closed by a sliding flood gate for the safety of the gallery complex and artwork.

### Technical description

To be able to create a building with high energy efficiency, the selection of proper architectural structures and correct surface – volume ratio is needed, therefore the energy loss can be minimized. The task of the HVAC systems is the efficient production and usage of the energy. We focus on the development and design of energy efficient HVAC systems. We ensure heat recovery from the exhausted outlet air and the obtained heat from the river can be utilized for cooling and heating.



During the design of the HVAC system, we will consider the low noise emission which is important regarding the function and position of the buildings. Our goal is to design the possible most energy efficient and environment protective systems taking also the economic points into consideration.

Water supply of the drink-water network and fire protection network is possible on the ground of the buildings. Water basin will be settled next to the building for grey-water usage. The grey-water can be used for watering the green areas and water for the supply of toilets. The warm water supply will be ensured by the sun collectors on the flat roof, the associated storage equipment and control technology is

located at the basement floor.

Canalization can be ensured on the building ground. The water blocks, buffets, changing rooms, machine rooms and water facilities have to be supplied by canalization.

The rain water from the roofs and outer surfaces will be collected in a basin, which will be used for watering of the green areas around the buildings. In lack of rain water, the system will switch to network water.

The heat and heating supply of the building is ensured mainly by two systems. The basic heating and cooling demand of the buildings will be covered by water-water



heat pump system. High comfort and economic operation can be guaranteed by structure tempering, surface heating and cooling system. To cover the dynamically changing demands, earth gas condensation kettles and liquid coolers will be settled. The heat pumps obtain heat from the water of the Drava in winter time and they emit the heat in the summer time also into the water. Gas supply is ensured for the gas kettles. The gas kettles supply the air handling unit and it reacts according to the quick changes e.g. many visitors at the same time in the building.

Air handling units will be settled according to the dynamic temperature and ventilation needs of the exhibited art objects. The equipments will be placed in the machine room on the ground floor. The fresh air reaches the building through ground-air heat exchanger, ensuring the pre-heating of the air in the winter time and pre-cooling of the air in summer time. Beside that, fresh air supply has to be ensured for many rooms like changing rooms, water blocks and storage rooms. The heat and smoke exhaust has to be provided for corridors using gravitation or artificial system. One level underground garage will take place in the building. CO exhaust will be ensured for the underground garage. Heat and smoke exhaust will be ensured if needed.