

# The House of Arts & Culture

*The Lebanese-Omani Centre*





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4 March 2008

*Why?*



## . Creativity

Michelet: “Nous ne créons plus.  
L’histoire a tué l’art.” *1860*

In **Lebanon**:

cultural activities multiplying in  
the last two decades

# . From Consumption, to Creation



Beirut at the forefront of creativity

Lebanese artists of international reputation

Lebanon lacks cultural infrastructures

# . Preparing for the Future

- ✓ Supporting arts and artists
- ✓ Providing services to existing structures
- ✓ Making art and creativity accessible to all
- ✓ Stimulating art making and appreciation
- ✓ Giving Lebanon a cultural infrastructure of international standard

*How?*



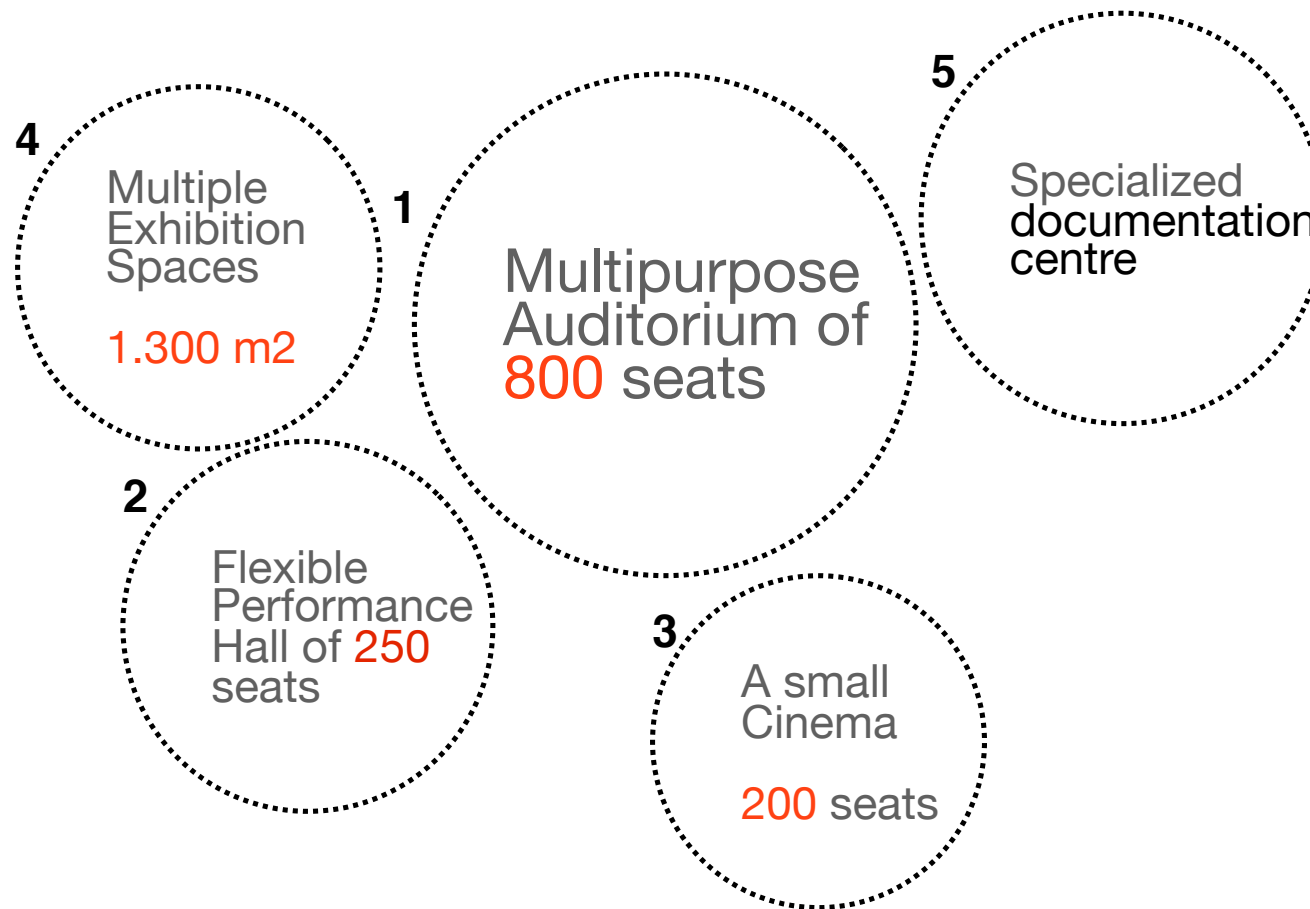
## > An Incubator



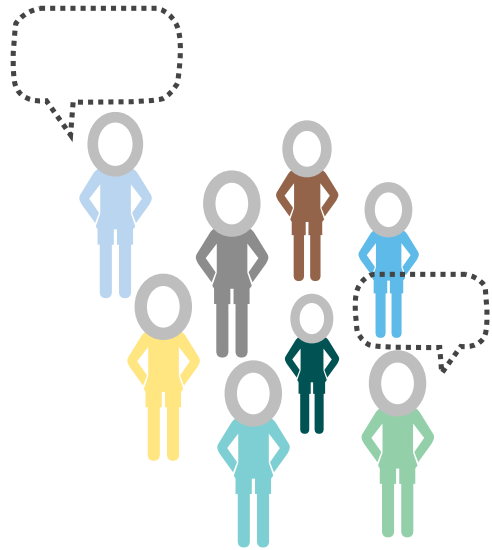
- \* A place to discover art
- \* A place to learn about art
- \* A place to create art
- \* A place to meet and exchange
- \* A place to enjoy



## > Discovering Art



## > Learning About Art



- Workshops for courses and training sessions
- Equipment for hands-on practice
- Master classes
- Documentation centre open to the public



## > Creating Art

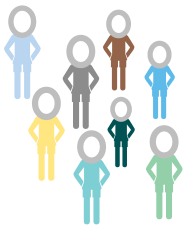
- Production Spaces for visiting artists
- Audiovisual & computer studios for young creators
- Cooperation with existing initiatives and centres in Lebanon





## > Meeting & Exchanging

- Workshops, seminars, conferences
- Virtual space
- Foyer, promenade, coffee-shops
- Cooperation with similar centres abroad



## > Enjoying the place



- A building open to the city, with **easy access** to all
- A welcoming, **adapted** architecture, **durable** with multiple promenades
- Places to meet, to eat, to buy, to walk
- A **diversified** programme of events, courses, workshops, meetings,...

# *Reaching Out*



## > Networking within Lebanon

A mushrooming of associations, cultural NGOs and centres covering Lebanon, but:

- Many places left outside
- Excessive concentration in Beirut

- Developing a networked programme of events
- Exhibiting art in unusual places





## > Networking Abroad

### *Global:*

more countries join the international art arena

### *Mediterranean:*

Istanbul Modern, Rome Matatoio, MAXXI,  
Barcelona CCCB, Valencia Centro de Arte ...

### *In the Arab World:*

Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Qatar,  
Oman, UAE...



***How  
Will it Function ???***



# \*1 The Structure

- An **Independent** public institution
- **Freedom** of programme and of choices
- Board of Governors
- Its **own** Staff
- Rotating director and curators

## \*2 Funding

- Yearly financial contribution from the state
- Fund raising and partnerships
- Rental of spaces
- Commercial facilities (shops, restaurant, café)
- Friends of the House
- Tickets and subscriptions

Viernes 15

10.00 y 11.30

**Sonidos de la tierra**  
Concierto didáctico  
para escolares

17.00

**Intervención peatonal**  
Inicio del curso.  
Coordinan Alfonso  
Sanz, Mateus Porto  
y Verónica Martínez

17.30

**Tarde de cuentos**  
en la Biblioteca Joven

18.00

**Visita guiada**  
a las exposiciones

20.00

**Brasileños**  
Proyecciones  
de Cao Guimarães

22.00

**Escena**  
**Contemporánea**  
**en La Casa**  
*Agrio beso,*  
de Juan Navarro  
con Javier Corcobado

Sábado 16

10.00

**Iniciación a la**  
**identificación**  
**y observación de aves**  
Inicio del curso.  
Coordina SEO/Birdlife

12.00

**En Familia**  
*Prin' La La'*  
Concierto.  
+ 8 años

12.00

**Visita guiada**  
a las exposiciones

18.00

**Visita guiada**  
a las exposiciones

20.00

**Joseph Kosuth**  
Inauguración  
de la exposición

20.00

**Cine contemporáneo**  
*Wolfsbergen,*  
de Nanouk Leopold.  
Holanda, 2007.  
93 min. VOSE  
+ 13 años

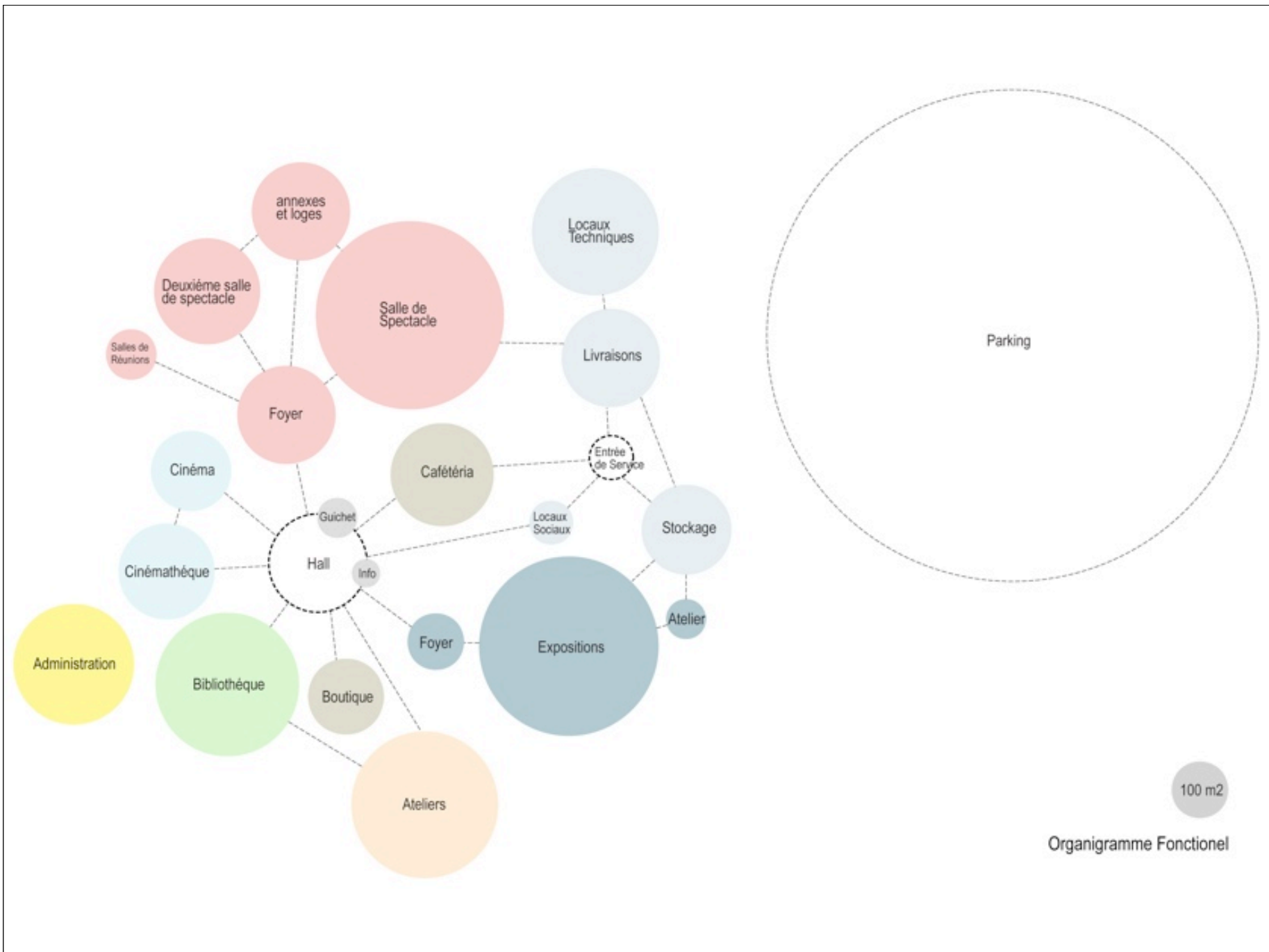
# \*3 The Programme

- The House will offer a diversified programme of **performing arts** & **temporary** exhibitions
- It will privilege **interactivity** with visitors and users
- It will be geared towards the **youth**
- It will **offer training sessions**

# \*4 The Architecture

- Reflect the concept, **independence** and **openness**
- **Environmentally friendly**, use natural elements, durable
- A Promenade and spaces structuring the visit





***How***

***Will it be conceived and built?***



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وزارة الثقافة  
Ministère de la Culture

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**UIA**

union internationale des architectes

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# *Funding: a grant*

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- The Sultanate of Oman offers 20 million USD for a Cultural Centre in Beirut
- Agreement signed and funds transferred
- Grant to cover construction and equipment
- Lebanon to provide land and operating budget

# *Terms of the Agreement*

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Sultanate of Oman and Ministry of Culture select jointly:

- Parcel for construction in Central Beirut
- Engineering company for the construction (Khatib & Alami)
- Consulting company for the conception



# *Schedule of Works*

- 1 **March** 2008: *Programme*
- 2 **April** 2008: *Architectural competition documents*
- 3 **June/July** 2008: *Launching of architectural competition*
- 4 **December** 2008: *Reception of proposals*
- 5 **March** 2009: *Jury, selection and exhibition of projects*



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