

The proposal centres around two distinct 'vessels' – a new performance hall and a rehearsal room, separated by a foyer in between. The key idea is to elevate these functions, raising them up to create an entirely new world beneath that serves as a sheltered space for performances and other activities.

A meandering ramp in the landscape envelops an open air amphitheatre whilst providing access to the foyer and vessels above. A staircase from ground to the upper levels adds a secondary, faster route into the building above. Throughout the landscape, structural glazed elements are incorporated, offering transparency and a visual connection between the interior and exterior spaces.

Both the performance vessel and rehearsal vessel are designed to be unique and extraordinary in their own right. The lobby, situated between these two vessels, acts as the main public space and serves as the entrance to the entire building.

Structurally, the entire building is supported by a series of strategically engineered sticks and columns, which cleverly sustain the weight of the structure. The concept of the building is to create a dynamic environment where the building itself becomes a backdrop of performance. Entities, such as performers and visitors, dance between each other, making everyone an integral part of the overall performance of circulation.

In addition to the main spaces, the proposal makes use of the spaces in between, ensuring legibility of the component parts whilst creating opportunities for flexible performances. The performance hall, for example, can open up into the lobby space, creating a seamless transition between the two spaces and the opportunity for performances to be viewed from a different perspective. A screen is positioned slightly off the auditorium box, providing walkways for access at higher levels and able to drop down and form a sound and light lock at the stalls level when required.

The basement of the building serves as a vast warehouse space, providing functionality and connectivity to the existing basement. Loading will take place from Tzar Ivan Street, with items ferried through to a new large goods lift that connects to the new basement as well as the wings area of the existing auditorium. Storage spaces are strategically placed throughout the building, with the bulk of storage in the basement. Toilets are available on all floors, ensuring a smooth audience experience.

There is also potential to connect the underground section of our design to the existing building at the basement level. This would allow for a seamless integration between the new structure and the pre-existing facilities. In addition, a new entrance to the existing building from the east could be incorporated, providing access to the existing foyer through the new landscape.

The top level of the building is dedicated to accommodation, with all residual units featuring private balconies and amenity space.

To enhance the immersive experience, the building's interiors are exposed, becoming an integral part of the performance. The entire structure is enveloped by a translucent polycarbonate shroud, providing protection from the elements while allowing a hint of activity to be glimpsed when strongly illuminated from the inside. This shroud, almost opaque in appearance, adds to the intrigue and allure of the building.

Overall, the building not only aims to create a captivating performance space but also seeks to pay homage to the art of puppetry. The shroud that envelops the building's skin draws inspiration from the concept of masking and concealment, a key aspect of puppetry. Just as a puppeteer manipulates a puppet from behind the scenes, the shroud acts as a symbolic veil, teasing and hinting at the activities happening within. Additionally, the legs and columns that support the building are reminiscent of the armatures that connect the body of a puppet to its manipulator. By incorporating these elements, our design not only creates a visually striking and functional space but also serves as a tribute to the rich tradition and creativity of puppetry, inviting visitors to experience architecture through the lens of this captivating art form.

- Building density (elevation+0.00)
1.47

- total built-up area
1260sqm

- total landscaping area within the boundaries of the plot and building
690sqm

In terms of cost, we cannot give a definitive figure without further discussion with you as a client. There are always different possibilities and efficiencies of materials and structure, and we are confident we can work with you and an experienced cost consultant to reach a happy resolution.