

RAUDJAS

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Architectural solution

Objectives

- Placement of an immense volume into the landscape, causing minimal disturbance to the rural atmosphere of the museum;
- maintain the reconstruction character of the Vabaõhumuuseumi Road (which is part of the greenery system of Tallinn);
- integration of the Open Air Museum complex into the greenery system of Tallinn. Developing the Open Air Museum into a partly public town park, with the new complex increasing all-year-round activities in the park;
- create an image of the Open Air Museum as a lively and developing site (including a ticket-free area as promotion to the museum complex).

Artificial landscape

The new complex will be constructed to the largest forest-free area (replacing the present administrative building and storage place).

The new complex should rather be regarded as an infrastructure in the landscape than a giant building. A cut has been made into the ground from the Vabaõhumuuseumi Road until the sea. Rooms that require a lot of light (workshops, auditoriums, offices, premises for the visitors etc.) are located along the cut. Placing different activities next to each other will create an impression of a traditional street, where variety and diversity are created automatically. The modern facades of the buildings face each other on the inner side and consequently disturb the surroundings very little.

Moderate display of the household area of the museum stresses the character of the museum as a lively place where crafts are being developed (versus a museum as storage of “dead” items).

The total volume of the building is deepened into the ground for 3 m at the Vabaõhumuuseumi Road and with the decline of the ground towards the sea for 2, 5 m. Since the rooms for the employees and the visitors open up towards the cut, the fact that the building lies largely underground is not an obstacle for its everyday application.

The street (the cut) divides the volume of the construction into two more or less equal parts. Both parts are in term divided into sectors. High greenery in the yards between the sectors diversifies the volume visually. The greenery also makes the step-by-step construction of the complex easier. The workshops of Kanut and the joint storage will be located on the one side of the street, the premises of the Estonian Open Air Museum on the other side. The cut is narrower at the entrance stairway and its base forms a protuberance that separates the complex from the Vabaõhumuuseumi Road. The cut widens towards the sea. The street continues until the sea where it ends at a visitors’ platform.

Functional and technological idea

Functional scheme

The room programme is kept as simple as possible. The aim is to construct a building where it is possible to orientate by intuition only. Actions and museum items have the priority and are in the foreground.

Visitors move along the “street” or parallel to the street inside the building. All rooms are located linearly along the cut and form a system of a corridor. Rooms that get natural light are located at the cut; behind them are premises that cannot be open to natural light.

Parking of vehicles and servicing transport is divided between three parking lots. Two of them are located on the roof of the building, one in the building. Long-term parking of coaches is foreseen on a separate site further off the building, buses may stop for short-term parking in front of the main entrance.

The street continues until the sea and ends at a console observation platform. This axis may divide the territory into a public zone (from the main street to the sea), partly public zone (for events organized in the western part) and paid entrance zone (exposition of the Open Air Museum in the eastern part). Due to the difference in levels the pathway can be accessed also regardless of the opening times of the museum. Such free area, which serves as a recreational site for visitors, helps to create an image of the museum as a comfortable place worth revisiting at all times. An alternative scenario would be to include the whole present exposition-free area into the public recreation area (in this case the difference of levels due to the cut would be the diving line between the areas).

Service entrances are located on both sides (for Kanut and the joint storage on the one side, for the Open Air Museum on the other).

Technology

Ideally the museum complex should be independent from outside energy resources. The aim is to create a self-functioning system, analogical to farm estates (only in different dimensions). Theoretically the solution proposes integration of different ecological technologies – solar batteries, wind generators, rainwater collection etc.

Different stages

The complex may be built in different stages. Connecting points will be exposed as a sharp edge or integrated into the surrounding landscape by topsoil.

Constructions and materials

Character

The cut of the pathway is clear and artificial in comparison with the rest of the building, which seems to smoothly melt into the ground. The roof-scape does not imitate natural landscape and the difference is in places even stressed – the surface is diversified by terraces and plateaus. The view from the exposition area offers, however, an uninterrupted continuous grass-covered ground surface (possible interpretation also as “a field”). From the other side it can be viewed as a higher plateau.

Constructions

The constructional solution of the building is kept simple. It is mostly a one-storied building with an occasional second floor at places. There are no long-span rooms (with the exception of the exhibition hall in the visitors' centre where parts of the room may require a construction with no supporting pillars). A construction with concrete pillars and concrete ceiling would be appropriate (excellent heat-storage capacity and heat inertia are useful for maintaining balanced climate even during temporary equipment failure). Stiffness is guaranteed by dividing walls, which may be built also from blocks.

Finishing materials and greenery

The sides of the pathway are built from glass facades on wooden supports. Double-glazed windows 2 + 1 are used for the facades to minimize heat loss and secure air movement. In between the windows wooden movable boards are placed. The bottom of the cut (the street) is covered with a slip-resistant deck (that may partly be supplemented with other decorative or functional materials). The outside walls on the perimeter are finished with gabions (seaside stones in zinc nets). Similarly also the sides of the pathway leading to the sea and the edges of the roof terraces are lined with gabions. The roof which may be walked on is covered with greenery; the parking lot is covered with an asphalt-like strong breathing material. Smaller courtyards are half-cold rooms with glass roofs (with plants). The larger courtyard and servicing yards have higher plants and trees. The gentle slope of the entrance is partly made into earthen stairs (with supports on the front of the stairs). The solution foresees the

preservation of the present pine trees as an integral part of the stairway and suggests planting new pines in the higher part of the stairs.

The design of the storages considers compactness and the requirements specified in the competition call.

Technical data

Surface under construction:	21 510 m ²
Closed net surface:	20 034 m ²
Cubature:	150500 m ³