

# Asplund Library

The new extension to the Asplund Library is to be developed in a sensitive historical urban context. A beautiful, characteristic 80 year old building designed by a world-famous architect, somewhat curiously positioned in the urban fabric of Stockholm needs to be fused successfully with a new building to create a logically composed whole of high architectural quality in which contemporary and future functions and technologies that are essential to modern libraries can develop and flourish for the benefit of its visitors.

A park on a hill representing the last remains of a long ridge that marked the city's former centuries is to be connected to the proposed concept in a way that ensures the desirable experience of this natural surrounding and interesting urban.

Our proposal for the new extension consists of a simple, layered volume that sensitively responds to the existing urban and library gridlines and is connected to the Asplund Library with a large transparent, light layer on Rindögavägen level overlooking from the Asplund Library to Gyldenplanen rendering life inside the building visible. The foyer is designed as a continuation of the sequence of the existing spaces, creating an axis that runs from the original main entrance of the Asplund Library, across the Rotunda and the fourth wing into the new foyer and further to the new entrance and the new entrance facing Odengatan. This layer that comprises the reception area, an auditorium, the new zone, the restaurant, a lounge area and the Rotunda can be seen as the volume's heart, the public area and meeting place where social life buzzes and flourishes.

For those who prefer a more secluded, quiet place to study, read and contemplate the upper floors of level 3 and 4 offer tranquility and a peaceful ambience as do the rooms that surround the Rotunda in the Asplund Library where we would locate the learning zone. The floor of level 4 acts as an almost seamless continuation of the park as it invites visitors of the Observatory and the park to take a look around. The new extension and enter the café located on the southern side of the building. Once inside the building they will rediscover their desire to explore more and more.

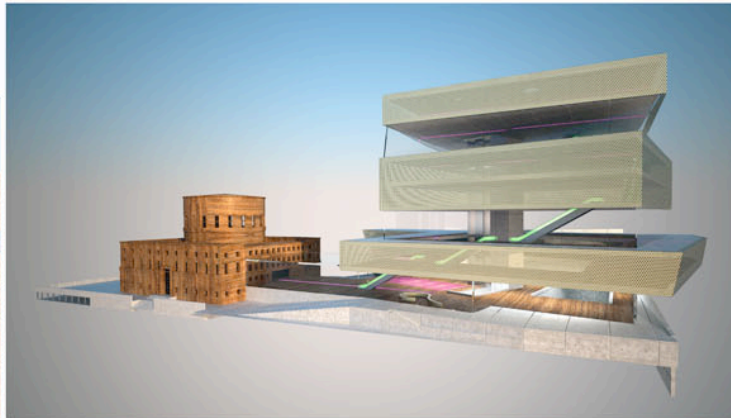
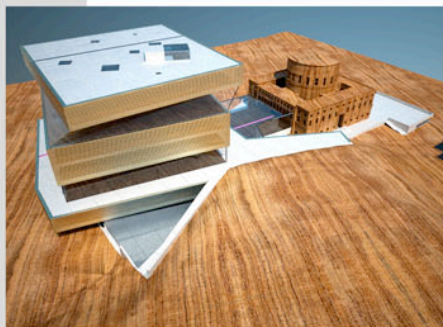
Because of the solid connection to the Asplund Library, a continuous system of escalators and a central lift shaft the building is easily legible to new visitors and elegantly inviting to those who enter the new main entrance or through the underground link because the whole concept can be perceived from the foyer.

The flow of media is mostly controlled on level 3 reaching from the leading platform on Gyldenplanen along the sorting machines. Below the flow of media is mostly controlled on level 3 reaching from the leading platform on Gyldenplanen along the sorting machines. Vertical media circulation will take place in one of the elevators and its automated book transport systems.

Staff and administration area is located on the top floor of the new extension.

Our proposal shows the largest building-environment we can imagine on this site. It could be downsized as will see it as an investment for another 40 years. The design offers room for future additional floor area to be built within its volume between level 2 and 3 and between level 3 and 4. On top of that the floor of level 2 can be extended across the atrium. Extra m<sup>2</sup> can thus be obtained without affecting the appearance of the whole.

Our concept is mostly based upon the idea of a built up of transparent and semi-transparent layers. The first transparent pedestrian layer is on the level on the present Rotunda. The second transparent layer is the level of the park where there is a pedestrian walkway around the building and where the building is directly connected to the park. The third transparent layer is located at the upper public level allowing majestic views over Stockholm. The more secluded layers dividing the transparent ones are clad with semi-transparent elements, where there are offices. These elevations will be partly covered by the use of horizontal openings in this cladding. The distinctly shaped outline of the new extension is considered to respectfully celebrate the beauty of the Asplund Library being distinctive without affecting the power of the existing local park. From every floor in the new extension the restored Asplund Library can be admired. A light, elegant floating new building balances connection with the more domineering appearance of the present building. The situation subtly reflect the city and the changing seasons lending the building a timeless quality.



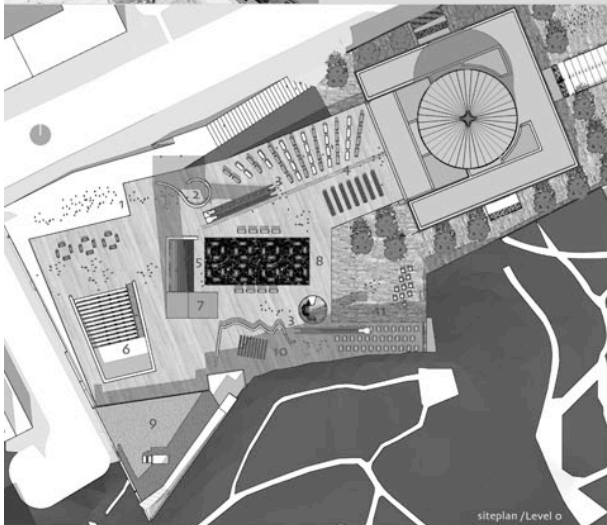
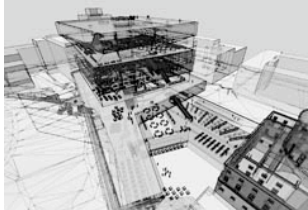
Perspective view of built-up and meeting inside the extension



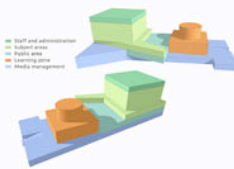
Perspective view showing connection to the site



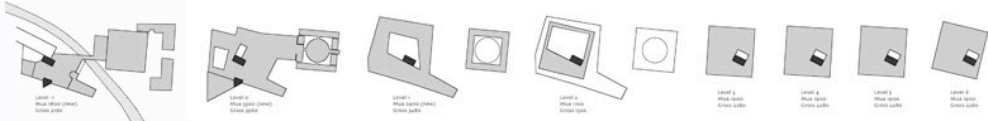
Perspective view from the site entrance



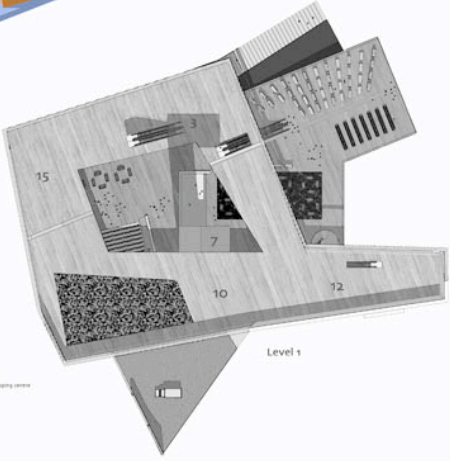
siteplan / Level 0



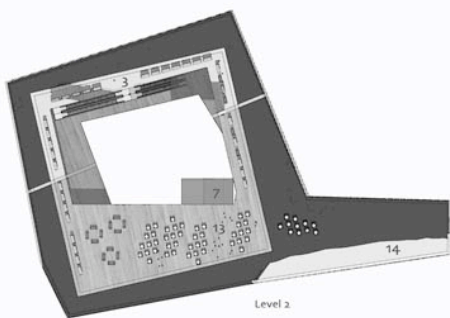
Legend:  
 ■ Staff and administration  
 ■ Public area  
 ■ Public area  
 ■ Public area  
 ■ Media management



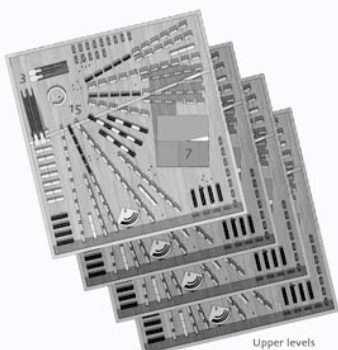
- 1. Main entrance
- 2. Staff and administration
- 3. Public area
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- 50. Public area



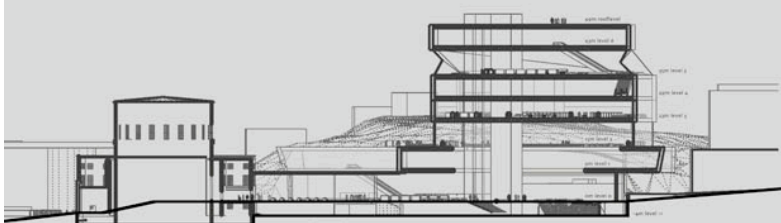
Level 1



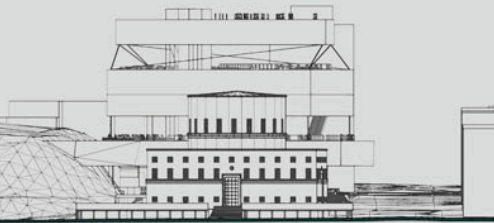
Level 2



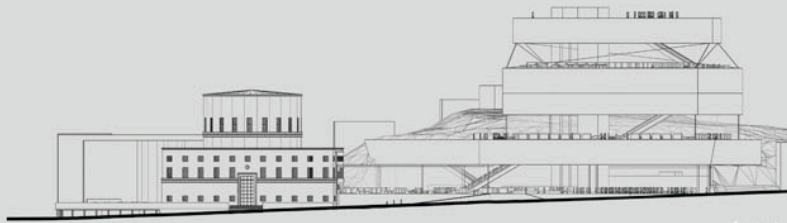
Upper Levels



Section



2k86 Façade Sveavägen



Façade Odengatan

2k86