

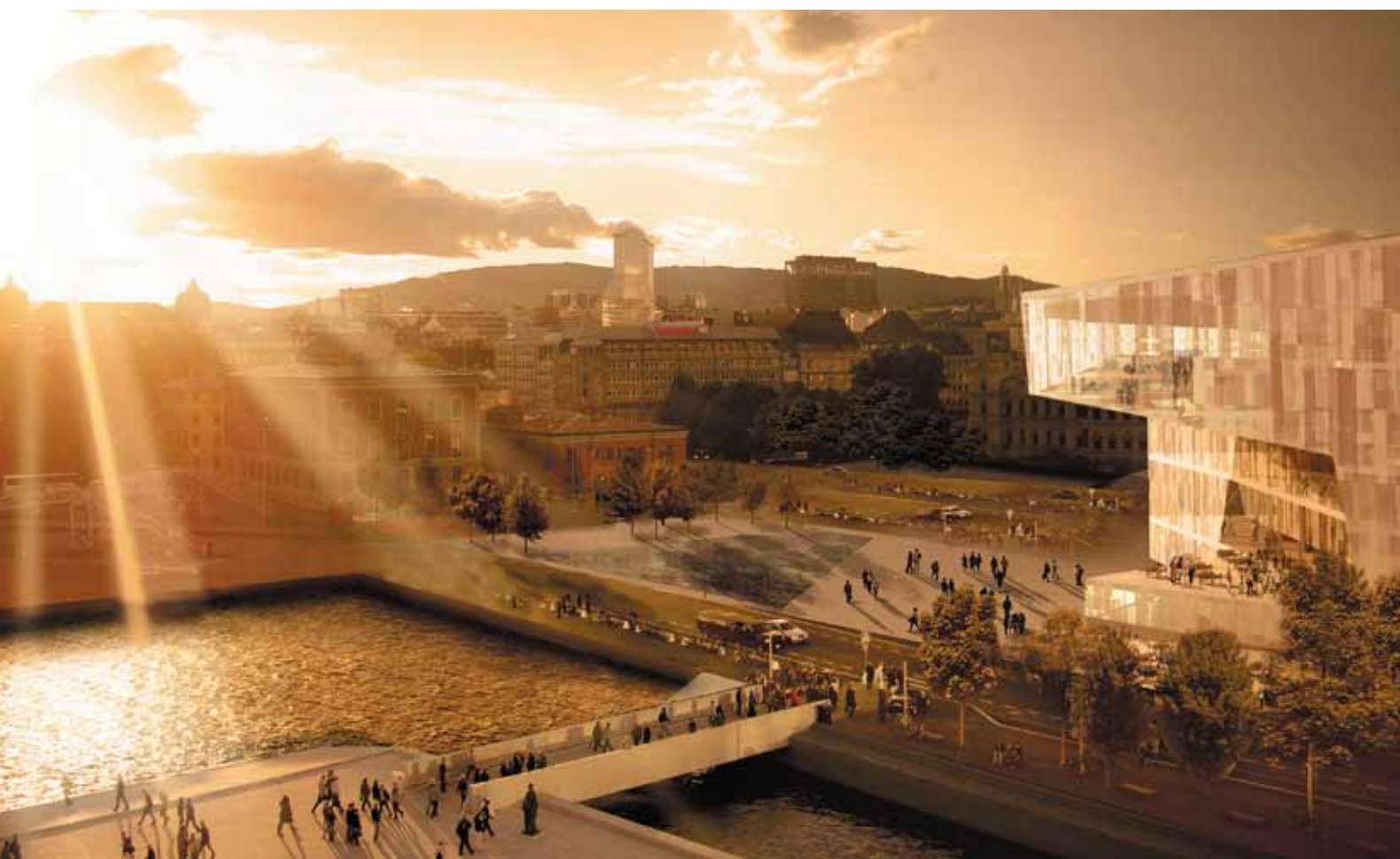
DEICHMAN

AKSEN

“DIAGONALE”

Winner of the Deichmanske main library competition

“Diagonale” by Lund Hagem Arkitekter and Atelier Oslo



Participators/ motto:

- Toyo Ito – JAPAN - “A library crystalized out of modules”
- Xaveer de Geyter Architects – BELGIUM - “232511”
- Wiel Arets Architects – HOLLAND - “Sugar”
- Lacaton Vassal Architectes – FRANCE - “Vanda”
- Schmidt Hammer Lassen – DENMARK - “Meeting place/diversity/openness/exploration”
- David Chipperfield Architects – ENGLAND. DivA Architects - NORWAY - “Between”
- LAR/ Fernando Romero – MEXICO - “7777”
- Snøhetta – NORWAY - “Intermezzo”
- A-lab – NORWAY - “Open minds”
- Allmann Sattler Wappner Architekten – GERMANY - “Starfish”
- Morger Dettli Architekten – SWITZERLAND - “Connect”
- SeARCH – HOLLAND - “Bookstand”
- Sou Fujimoto, ADEPT – JAPAN/ DENMARK - “Deichman Valley”
- Lund Hagem Arkitekter, Atelier Oslo – NORWAY - “Diagonale”
- Team 3 AS – Jensen & Skodvin, Arne Henriksen Arkitekter AS, Arkitekt Carl Viggo Hølmebakk – NORWAY - “Bookmark”
- Plasma Studio – ARGENTINA/ GERMANY/ ENGLAND/ ITALY - “Woven”
- 70* nord og Dahl og Uhre Arkitekter – NORWAY - “Space Scape”
- Lundgaard Tranberg Arkitekter AS – DENMARK “The city the green, the library between”
- Kister Scheithauer Gross Architekten und stadtplaner/ AnotherArchitect – GERMANY - “Body + Mind”

The main objective

The main objective of the competition has been to find a design concept for Oslo's new Main Library, the Deichmanske, in Bjørvika. The city has been in need not only of a new building, but a building that gives room for a new library concept. It is a stated aim of the competition that the new building will be environmentally friendly in its need for energy and use of materials.

In addition, it has been a task to propose solutions for additional areas to be developed with commercial purposes for offices, housing, shopping and other functions. In other words, the objective of the competition is also to find solutions for the kind of central urban environment that is best suited for the areas between the Central Station and the Opera.

The jury has worked on the assumption that in order to be a success, the winning proposal must have qualities that will make it “everybody's winner”. This means not only an excellent concept for a contemporary library with the capacity for continuous change and which will be seen as an interesting and challenging building, but at the same time one that will become a rallying point of both decision makers, administrators, the librarians, the users, and the public at large.

Two different spatial concepts for the library have emerged as a result of the competition. One sees the library as a continuous, linear structure, spanning the area of land between the Opera Common and the Akerselva Common. As a rule, the whole program then is solved in one large building. In contrast to this, the other in principle solves the library as one building on the A8 plot adjacent to the Opera Common, and lays out the commercially oriented program on A9 over to the Akerselva Common. Roughly half the entries show linear solutions and the other half singular library buildings, of course with some variations.

The jury has found the linear solution to be wanting on several accounts. One is that the library area becomes very stretches and in need of staffing. Another is in overcoming the cross street between A8 and A9, where various tunnel solutions are needed. There is, in addition, a development problem in having to do everything at once, both library and commercial functions. This makes the concept less robust. The jury has come to the firm conclusion that this principle will not be recommended.

The separate library building has the advantage of robustness and simplicity of purpose. One has seen, however, that too many library floors gives problems in logistics and staffing, and reduces flexibility. The jury has come to the conclusion that 5 floors seem to be near optimal under the circumstances. Several entries are close to this principle.

A particular challenge is posed by the sight line to the Opera. This item reduces the capacity of the A8 plot. Several proposals have obviously struggled with the dilemma of achieving enough area for the library, while at the same time adhering to program sight line requirements. This has resulted in some interesting cantilever solutions. The jury would advise the City Planning Authorities to maybe revise the sight line requirement. The commercial program on A9 has given some very good principal proposals. The jury is confident that this part of the task has been satisfactorily answered.

WINNERS:



FIRST PRIZE

Motto: Diagonale

Author: Lund Hagem Arkitekter and Atelier Oslo, Norway

Award: 500.000 NOK

The motto Diagonale seems to refer to both the sight line requirement, which has a distinct influence of the shape of the library, and the diagonal street that divides the A9 plot to give visual as well as functional access from the Akerselva Common to the Opera. The urban and commercial concept is very good.

Diagonale has a very good solution for the library. It neither has too many nor too few floors, and organizes the library around a beautifully shaped inner space that spans the building from roof to ground level. Diagonale consistently received the best rating from the librarians in the jury, and the general acclaim of the rest of the jury. Architecturally this is a proposal with great potential, while at the same time respectful of the position of the Opera.

Diagonale scored best on environmental issues of all entries. It can meet energy objectives well below official requirements and is well ahead of all others. The outer skin only has 20% windows. 80% is clad with a translucent nano-gel wall with very strong insulation qualities. This allows the library to be not only innovative in terms of library solutions, but also in technical matters. Future reductions of emissions and energy use will depend strongly on innovation. The jury wants to emphasize this.



SECOND PRIZE

Motto: Meeting place/divercity/openness/exploration

Author: Schmidt Hammer Lassen, Denmark

Award: 250.000 NOK

Meeting Place has many features that resemble the winning entry. It has a cantilever solution that gives the front area a fine entrance plaza. The number of floors may be a little high but the jury feels this can be amended. The library revolves around a very beautiful inner atrium that spans the construction from roof to the ground.

On the environmental side, Meeting Place has far too much glass to fulfill official requirements. This alone makes it unacceptable as a future library without very serious modifications.



FOURTH PRIZE
 Motto: Between Brochure
 Author: David Chipperfield Architects,
 div.A England/Norway
 Award: 125.000 NOK

Between Brochure holds some of the qualities of the winner. This entry has a problem of presentation that makes it somewhat difficult to see the strong architectural quality of the library interior. The library concept may seem to be a little conventional but has great potential. It has the potential to fulfill the competition's environmental requirements.



FOURTH PRIZE
 Motto: Intermezzo
 Author: Snøhetta, Norway
 Award: 125.000 NOK

Intermezzo is different from the other award winners in that the library spans most of the A8 and A9 plots. Streets and passageways thus become tunnels. The quality that raises this entry to an award winning position is the large library hall clad with evergreen plants. Environmentally, this project has the potential to fulfill the requirements of the program.

Special mention:

“Body + Mind” - Kister Scheithauer Gross / AnotherArchitect - Germany
 “Open Minds” - A-lab - Norway

MEMBERS OF THE JURY:

Berit Kjøll	Chairman of the Jury
Mikko Heikkinen	Architect (SAFA) Finland
Henrik Lundberg	Architect, MNAL
Inge Hareide	Architect, MNAL – appointed by NAL
Birgit Cold	Architect, MNAL – appointed by NAL
Espen Dag Rydland	Oslo Municipality, Agency for Cultural Affairs
Eivind Hartmann	Architect, Oslo Municipality, Agency for Planning and Building Services
Rolf Hapel	Director, Århus Public Library
Maija Berndtson	Director, Helsinki Public Library
Eva Hagen	HAV Eiendom AS
Bjørn Agner	MSc., project/building costs
Odd Einar Dørum	Member of Parliament
Britt Hildeng	Member of Parliament

SECRETARIAT:

Øystein Grønning, Architect MNAL Migrant AS
 Kathrine Nyhus, M.Architect MNAL HAV Eiendom AS/ Civitas AS