BROADCASTING & CULTURAL MUNDANEUM

The original Mundaneum is related to the knowledge and its main method is book and library. Nowadays, knowledge and information are transmitted by electric digital network. These kind of technical developments make it easy for the general public to access a lot of information or even make it possible for them to create and spread their own voice such as individual broadcaster in internet. However, at the same time, the hierarchy of information is getting stronger and stronger. So, new Mundaneum should be proposed under these kinds of situation.

The mass-media company or broadcasting company is one of the most important information-producer and provider and their contents affect everything of our everyday life. But, ironically, their making process and their space are usually not open to the public. Their building typology is podium and tower and it has only small public programs to advertise themselves.
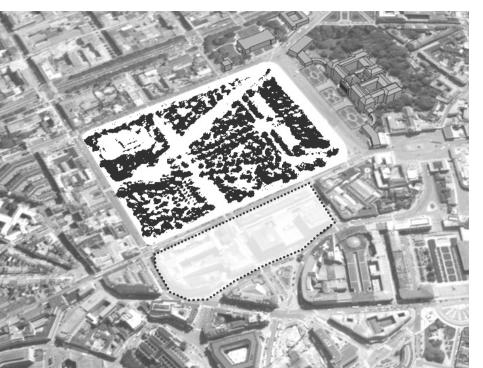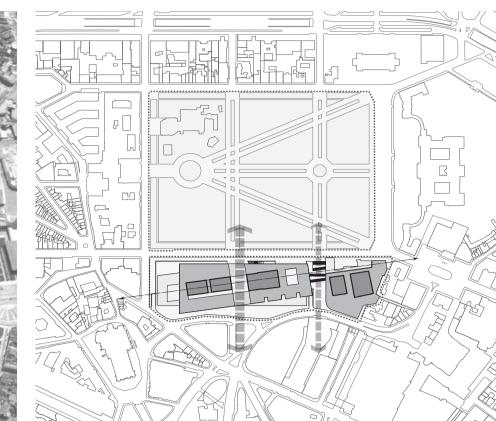
For the new Mundaneum to be a real center of currently relevant information, it should be proposed as the complex or convergence between broadcasting station and related public programs such as media school, media library and middle size of rental studio for individual broadcaster and general public.
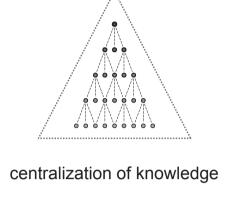
The project site is in front of Park of Brussels. Park of Brussels is one of the historically important places in pentagon-Brussels. But it has been fragmented and marginalized from surrounding urban fabrics. The existing private building blocks are physical barrier between lower level and upper level in Brussels. Integration with contexts and giving permeability to the park will be strong key-element for urban intervention to the Pentagon of Brussels.

The basic strategy of architectural design is the reverse of normal broadcasting stations. Horizontality is keywords of design in contrast to the verticality of normal broadcasting building.

So public programs and production area are merged and re-located in the upper level. The main logic of composing horizontally is that production functions are located in the center of building and the public programs surround them. The spatial relationship is not just simple surrounding, but 3-dimensional relationship. Because, studio has a double or triple floor height, the production activity happens in lower level and thick glass wall in upper level makes spatial and visual connection between different programs. It means that the people in public programs can see what happen in the studio and, at the same time, the people who make something in studio can perceive the public's concern.
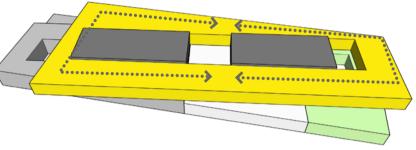
The lower mass is mainly composed with media school and office area of broadcasting company. The main inside and outside void is located in the center of the whole building to connect diverse programs in different level, and also to give permeability between lower and upper level of city.

The main facade pattern of floating mass is the diamond pattern with different size unit. It represent and symbolizes the diverse networking and rhizomatic structure of the current society. The differentiation of unit size is came from the inside functions. For its tectonic composition, double layers are applied. The first layer is glasses with different size and different transparency, and they are attached by stainless steel pin to second layer. The second layer is composed by recast concrete panel and some transparent glass opening according to the inside program.

The diverse spatial experiences between different programs or between inside and outside will make this building to be a platform where diverse voice and opinion can be created and shared.
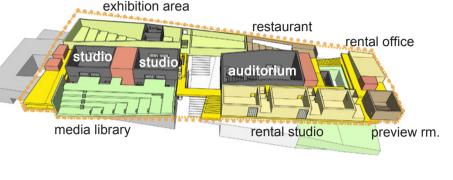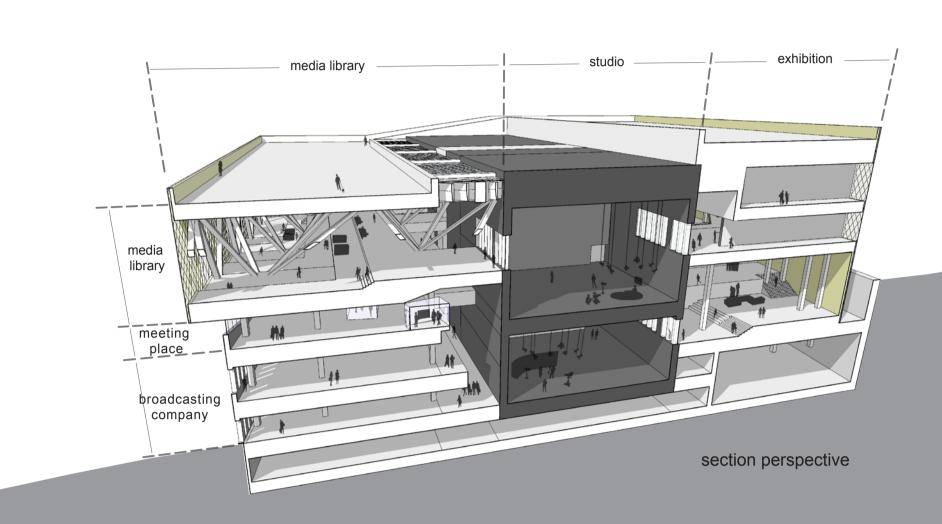

Diagrams

centralization of knowledge

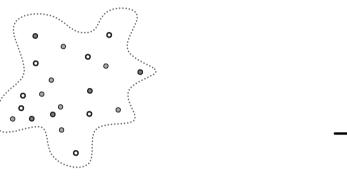verticality of normal broadcasting building
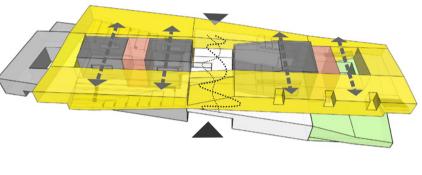
black boxes surrounded by public program
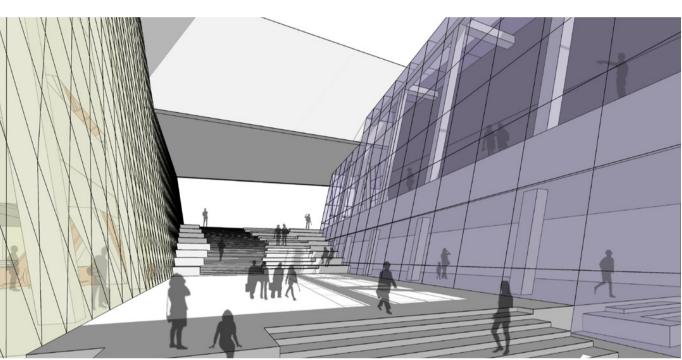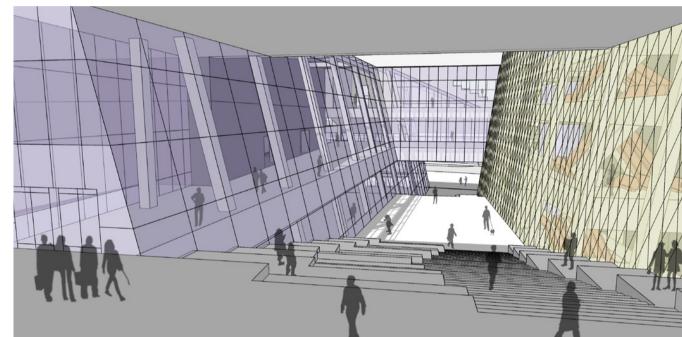
public programs in upper mass

information society

horizontality / convergence with public programs

spatial interrelation between different programs

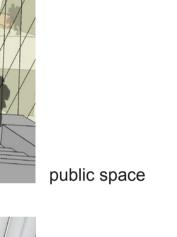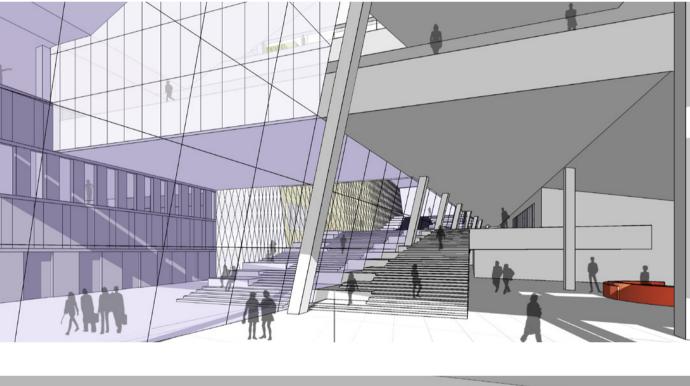spatial connection in lower mass

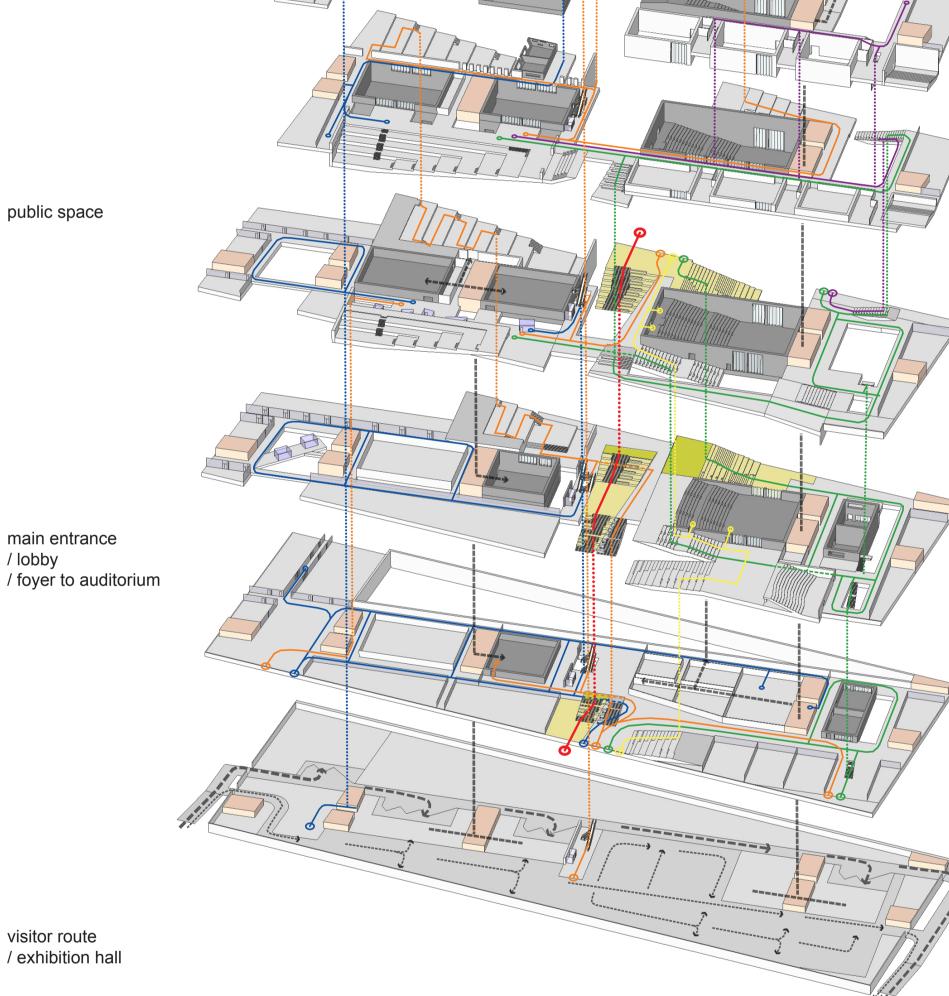section perspective

public space

main entrance / lobby / foyer to auditorium

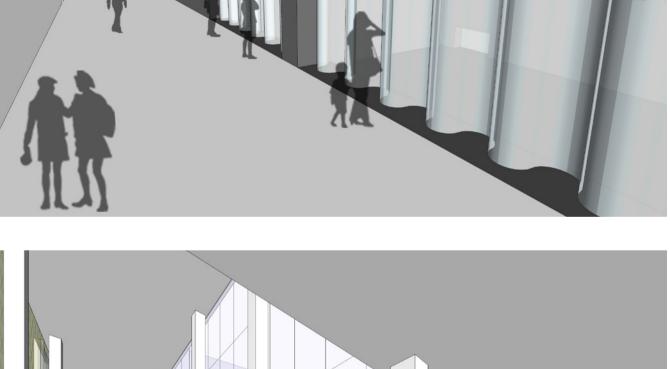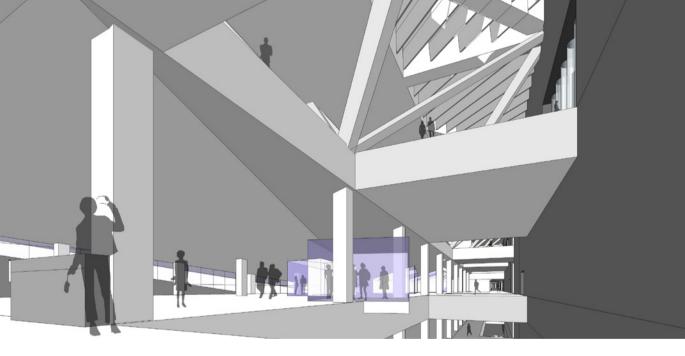visitor route / exhibition hall

visitor route / meeting place between broadcaster and public / media library / sub entrance to rental studio

public route
journalist/broadcaster/staff
individual broadcaster
general public/visitor
audience
teacher/student
service/supply
service vehicle
public vehicle

northern elevation 1:600

western elevation 1:600

southern elevation 1:600

eastern elevation 1:600

cross section-1 1:600

cross section-2 1:600

cross section-3 1:600