The starting point for the design were the questions: What will be happening there? How should the place function? I wanted to achieve the atmosphere of gathering (...). A number of different cultural functions, like exhibitions, concerts, shows, discussions, were to take place there. What kind of space could be suitable for this mixture? Of course in every situation the demands are different. For a concert we need a scene, for an exhibition a set of connected rooms, for a theatre an isolated generous hall. I thought that this could be an interesting challenge – to create a space for all this different utilisations with just one structure – one system. This building, due to its flexibility, could change in time and behave like a living organism. Besides this gradient of different spaces – small rooms, huge halls or courts – could be an accurate metaphor for a city itself. The city in its complexity could be understood as a mixture of different spaces that serve various functions and aim at diverse users. (...) Private spaces (...) are well developed – consisting of a fairly complicated gradient of different rooms. In comparison public space is simple. Regardless to this simplicity (...) it plays a multitude of roles. (...) Modern public space should take advantage of the creative, positive, egalitarian spirit of our times. Why not create a structure that makes public space more useful, more adaptable – that makes the division between the built and the open delicate and light? (...)

Architecture manifesto – Flexible, varied spaces as a notion of urbanity

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