

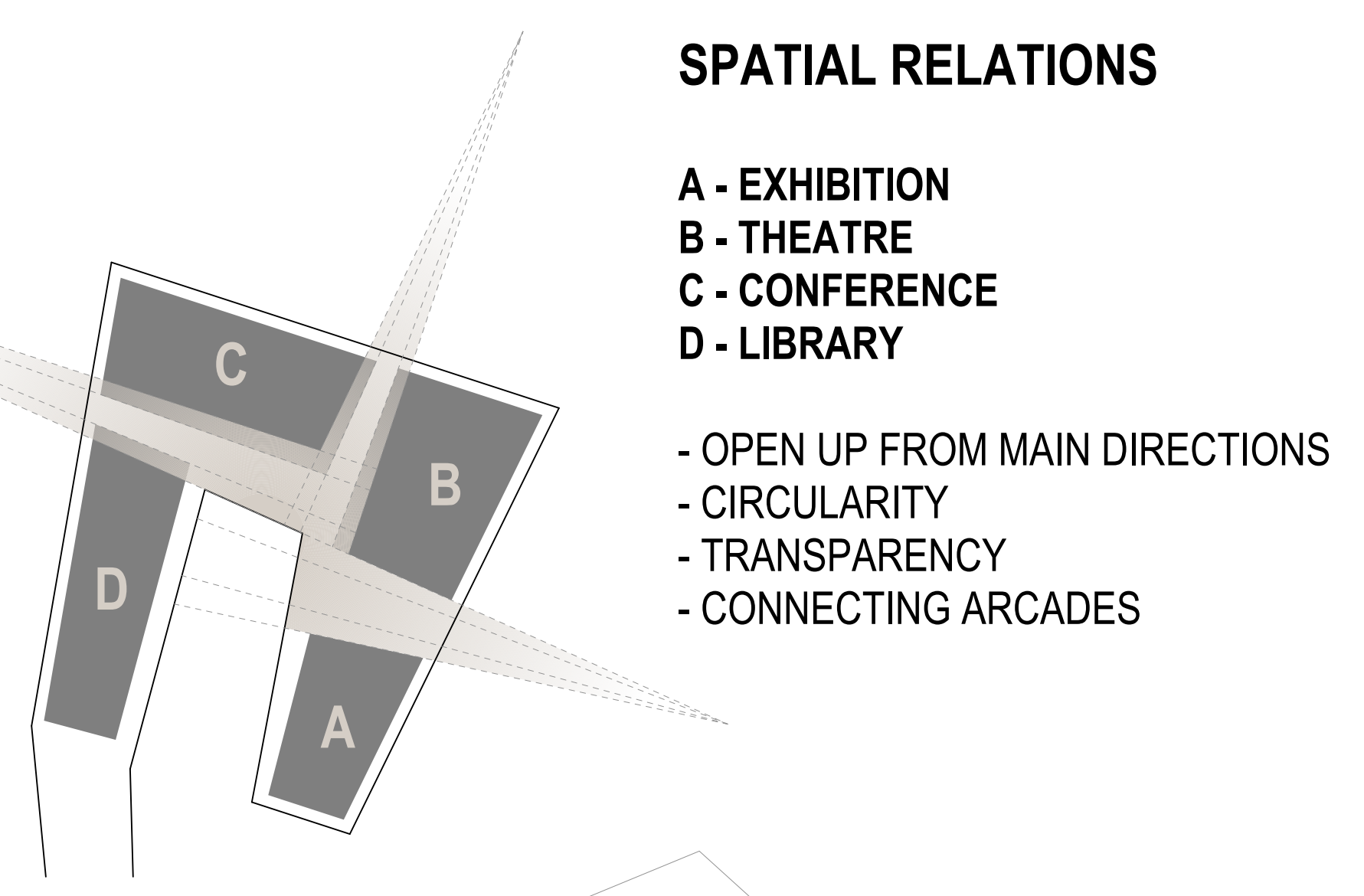
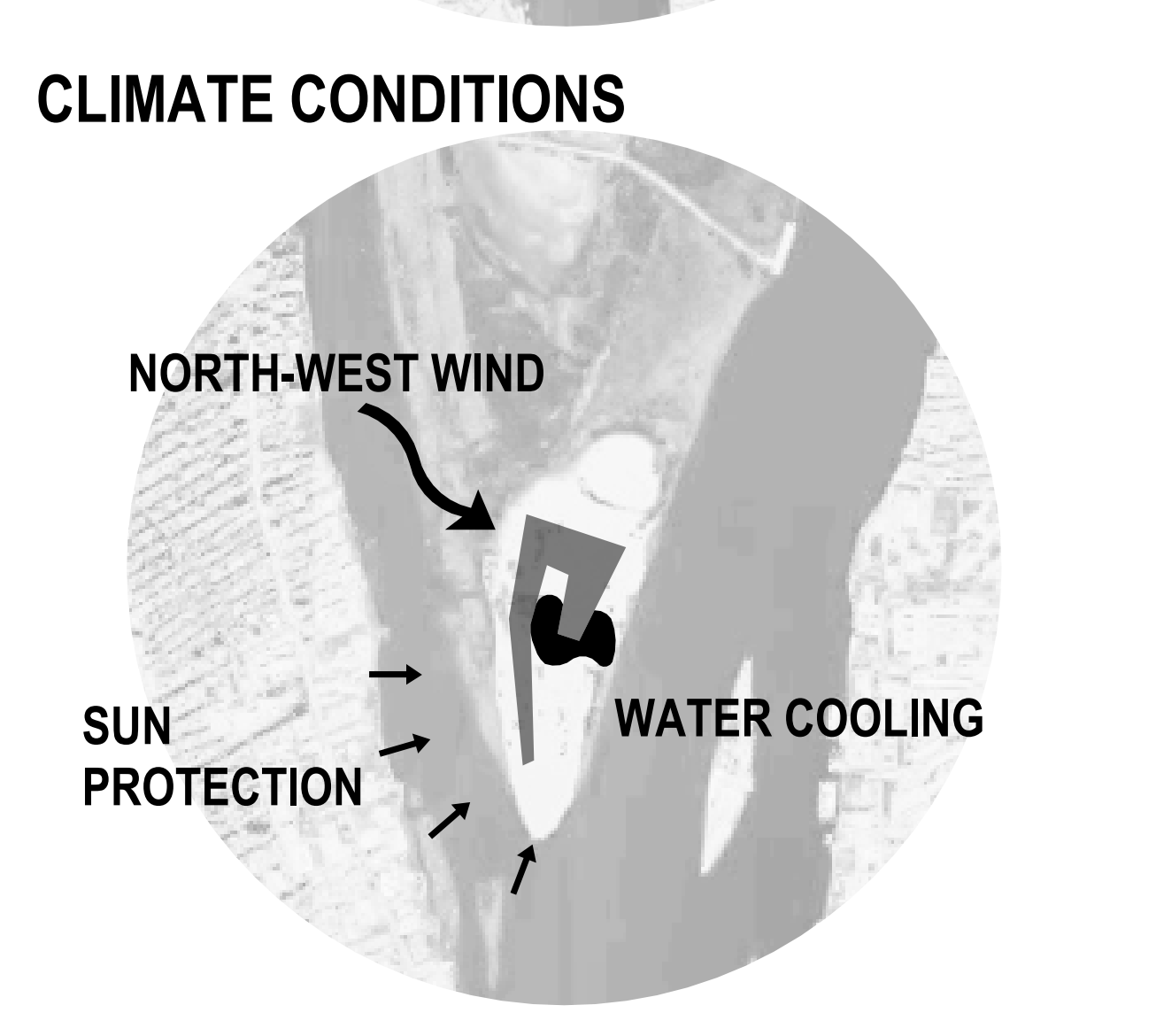
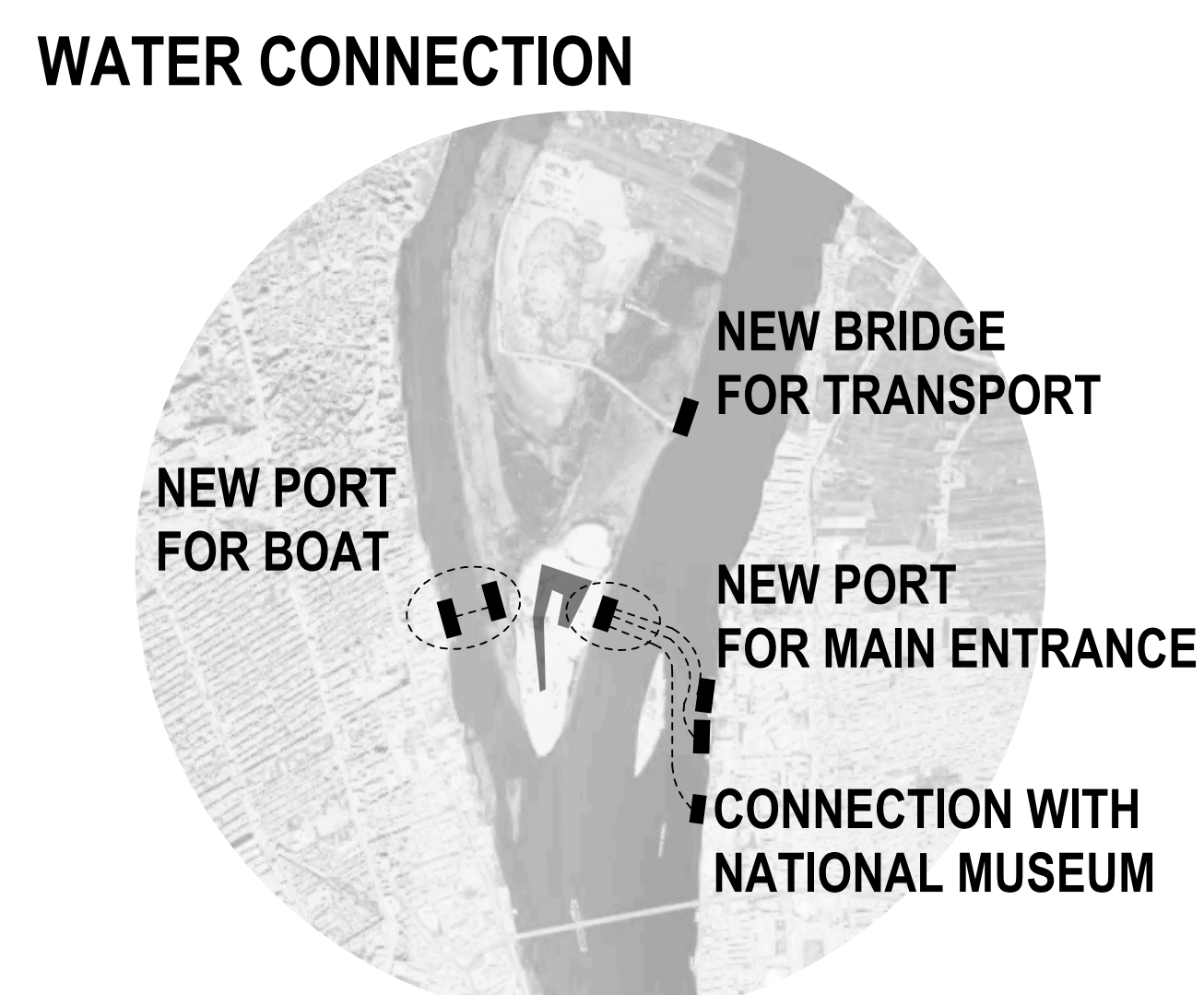
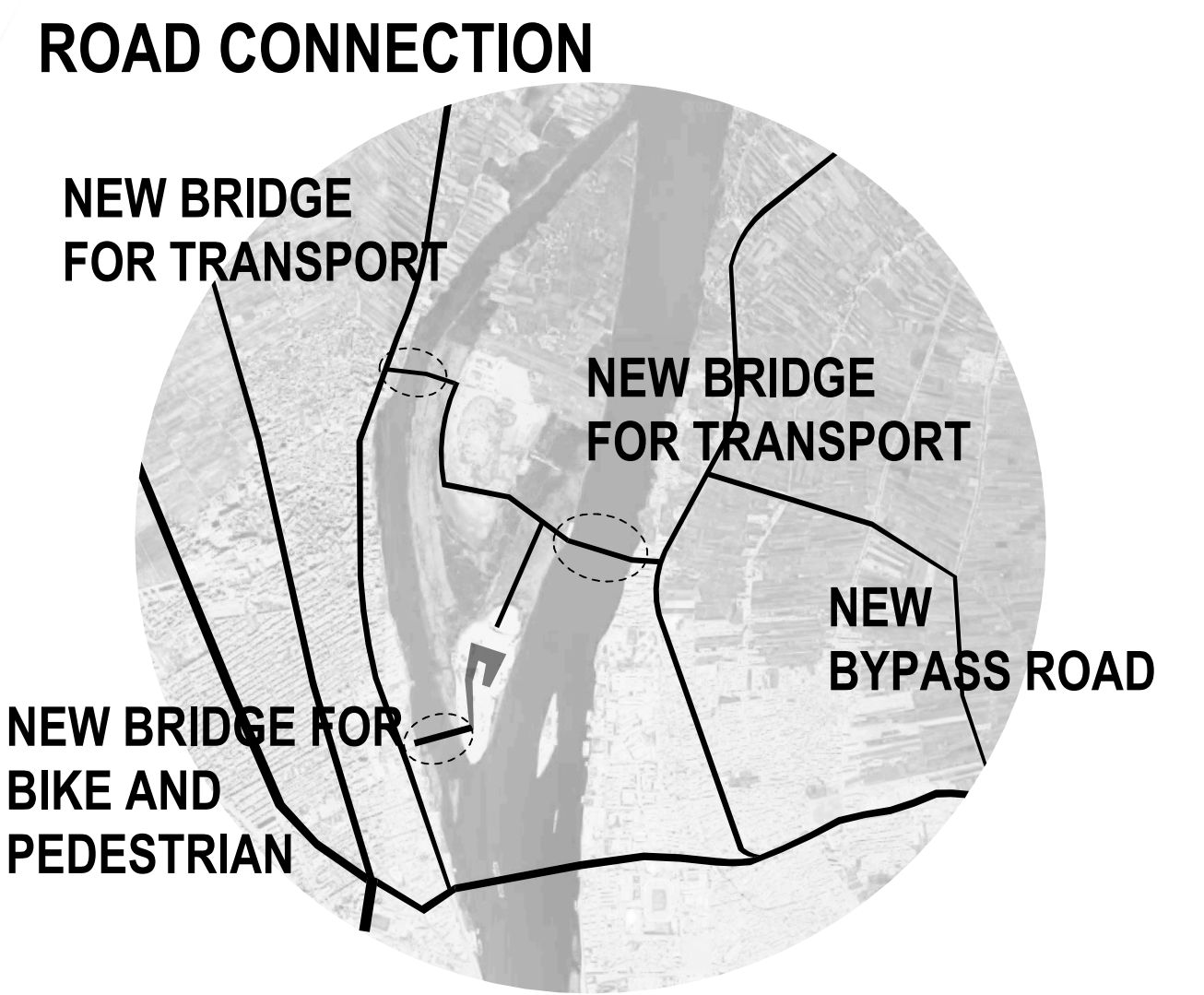
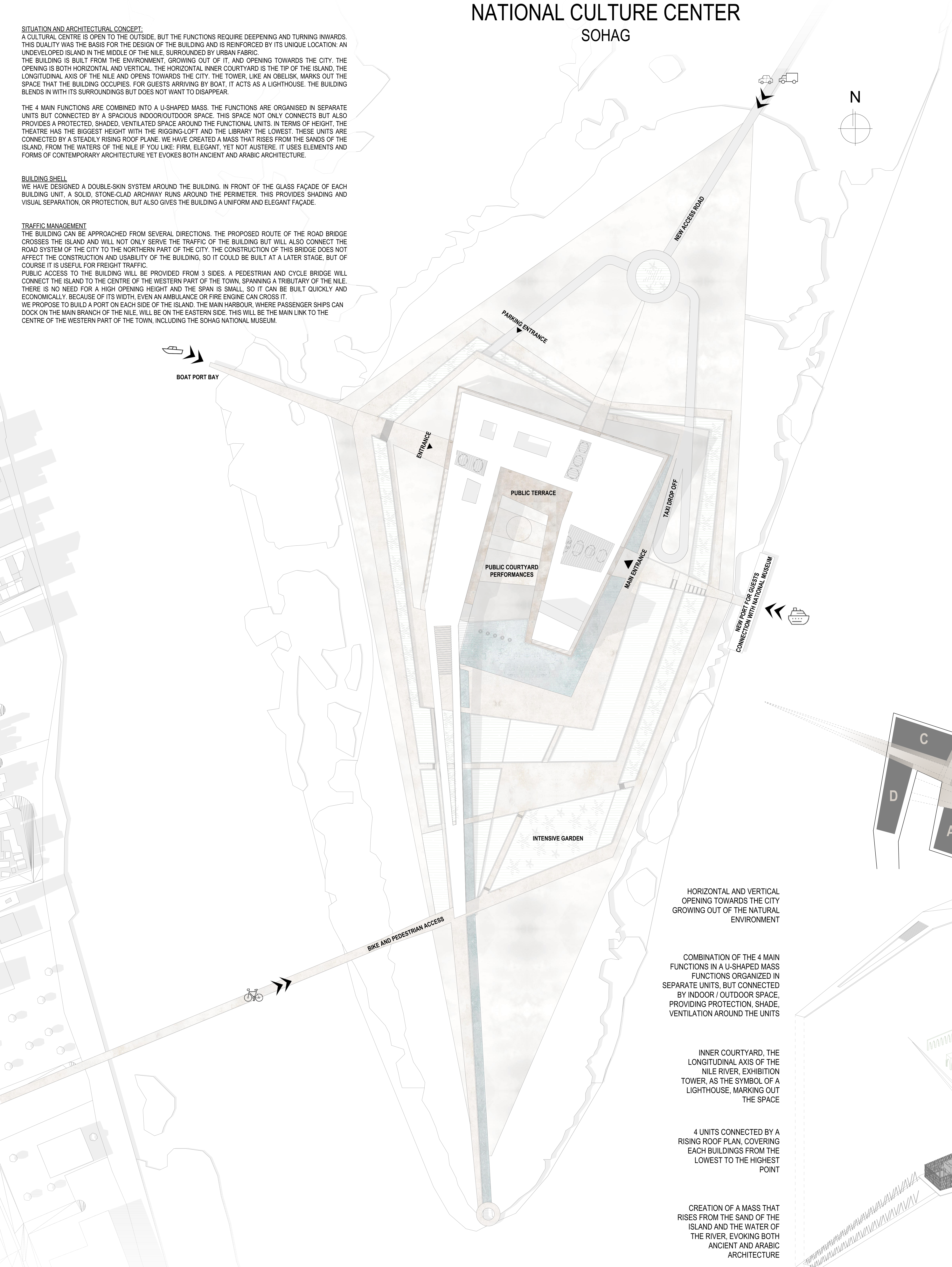
NATIONAL CULTURE CENTER SOHAG

SITUATION AND ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT:
A CULTURAL CENTRE IS OPEN TO THE OUTSIDE, BUT THE FUNCTIONS REQUIRE DEEPENING AND TURNING INWARDS. THIS DUALITY WAS THE BASIS FOR THE DESIGN OF THE BUILDING AND IS REINFORCED BY ITS UNIQUE LOCATION: AN UNDEVELOPED ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NILE, SURROUNDED BY URBAN FABRIC.
THE BUILDING IS BUILT FROM THE ENVIRONMENT, GROWING OUT OF IT, AND OPENING TOWARDS THE CITY. THE OPENING IS BOTH HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL. THE HORIZONTAL INNER COURTYARD IS THE TIP OF THE ISLAND, THE LONGITUDINAL AXIS OF THE NILE AND OPENS TOWARDS THE CITY. THE TOWER, LIKE AN OBELISK, MARKS OUT THE SPACE THAT THE BUILDING OCCUPIES. FOR GUESTS ARRIVING BY BOAT, IT ACTS AS A LIGHTHOUSE. THE BUILDING BLENDS IN WITH ITS SURROUNDINGS BUT DOES NOT WANT TO DISAPPEAR.

THE 4 MAIN FUNCTIONS ARE COMBINED INTO A U-SHAPED MASS. THE FUNCTIONS ARE ORGANISED IN SEPARATE UNITS BUT CONNECTED BY A SPACIOUS INDOOR/OUTDOOR SPACE. THIS SPACE NOT ONLY CONNECTS BUT ALSO PROVIDES A PROTECTED, SHADED, VENTILATED SPACE AROUND THE FUNCTIONAL UNITS. IN TERMS OF HEIGHT, THE THEATRE HAS THE BIGGEST HEIGHT WITH THE RIGGING-LOFT AND THE LIBRARY THE LOWEST. THESE UNITS ARE CONNECTED BY A STEADILY RISING ROOF PLANE. WE HAVE CREATED A MASS THAT RISES FROM THE SANDS OF THE ISLAND, FROM THE WATERS OF THE NILE IF YOU LIKE. FIRM, ELEGANT, YET NOT AUSTERE. IT USES ELEMENTS AND FORMS OF CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE YET EVOKES BOTH ANCIENT AND ARABIC ARCHITECTURE.

BUILDING SHELL
WE HAVE DESIGNED A DOUBLE-SKIN SYSTEM AROUND THE BUILDING. IN FRONT OF THE GLASS FAÇADE OF EACH BUILDING UNIT, A SOLID, STONE-CLAD ARCHWAY RUNS AROUND THE PERIMETER. THIS PROVIDES SHADING AND VISUAL SEPARATION, OR PROTECTION, BUT ALSO GIVES THE BUILDING A UNIFORM AND ELEGANT FAÇADE.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT
THE BUILDING CAN BE APPROACHED FROM SEVERAL DIRECTIONS. THE PROPOSED ROUTE OF THE ROAD BRIDGE CROSSES THE ISLAND AND WILL NOT ONLY SERVE THE TRAFFIC OF THE BUILDING BUT WILL ALSO CONNECT THE ROAD SYSTEM OF THE CITY TO THE NORTHERN PART OF THE CITY. THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS BRIDGE DOES NOT AFFECT THE CONSTRUCTION AND USABILITY OF THE BUILDING, SO IT COULD BE BUILT AT A LATER STAGE, BUT OF COURSE IT IS USEFUL FOR FREIGHT TRAFFIC.
PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE BUILDING WILL BE PROVIDED FROM 3 SIDES. A PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE BRIDGE WILL CONNECT THE ISLAND TO THE CENTRE OF THE WESTERN PART OF THE TOWN, SPANNING A TRIBUTARY OF THE NILE. THERE IS NO NEED FOR A HIGH OPENING HEIGHT AND THE SPAN IS SMALL, SO IT CAN BE BUILT QUICKLY AND ECONOMICALLY. BECAUSE OF ITS WIDTH, EVEN AN AMBULANCE OR FIRE ENGINE CAN CROSS IT.
WE PROPOSE TO BUILD A PORT ON EACH SIDE OF THE ISLAND. THE MAIN HARBOUR, WHERE PASSENGER SHIPS CAN DOCK ON THE MAIN BRANCH OF THE NILE, WILL BE ON THE EASTERN SIDE. THIS WILL BE THE MAIN LINK TO THE CENTRE OF THE WESTERN PART OF THE TOWN, INCLUDING THE SOHAG NATIONAL MUSEUM.



HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL OPENING TOWARDS THE CITY GROWING OUT OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

COMBINATION OF THE 4 MAIN FUNCTIONS IN A U-SHAPED MASS FUNCTIONS ORGANIZED IN SEPARATE UNITS, BUT CONNECTED BY INDOOR / OUTDOOR SPACE, PROVIDING PROTECTION, SHADE, VENTILATION AROUND THE UNITS

INNER COURTYARD, THE LONGITUDINAL AXIS OF THE NILE RIVER, EXHIBITION TOWER, AS THE SYMBOL OF A LIGHTHOUSE, MARKING OUT THE SPACE

4 UNITS CONNECTED BY A RISING ROOF PLAN, COVERING EACH BUILDINGS FROM THE LOWEST TO THE HIGHEST POINT

CREATION OF A MASS THAT RISES FROM THE SAND OF THE ISLAND AND THE WATER OF THE RIVER, EVOKING BOTH ANCIENT AND ARABIC ARCHITECTURE

