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Examiner

"Kontorsbyggnad för Riksarkivet – Examensarbete"
"Office Building for National Archive – Degree Project"

Examensarbete inom arkitektur, avancerad nivå 30 hp
Degree Project in Architecture, Second Level 30 credits

27 maj 2013
The National Archives are also required to make the records which are in a poor condition available to all users, apart from the Middle Ages. The main duty of the Archives – from individuals, societal, political parties and others – is to ensure that their archives are deposited on a voluntary basis and sometimes permission is required for this purpose. The Archives, on the other hand, supported by the Swedish principle of public access to official records, are open to all users, without any restrictions. The Archives holdings have been deposited in the National Archives building on the north side of the National Archives building. The entrance of the building is one of the important parts of the National Archives building. The entrance to the existing building is located in a large cavern in the middle of the primary rock. These storeroom levels are accessible through elevators.

The plot on which the existing building is located is on top of a granite rock, 15 metres underneath the National Archives building, on a storage complex of six levels, built into a large cavern in the top two floors of the existing building. The building has thirty-four cell office rooms and two conference rooms, next to the entrance of the existing building. The building has thirty-four cell office rooms which are organized around an inner courtyard and has a color that is reminiscent of the brick elements of the National Archives building. The rows of cell office rooms have wooden partitions and a wooden sewer roof which gives these parts of the building a coherent expression. The inner courtyard has a floor of patterned concrete tiles. The cell office rooms have wooden floors and the rest of the building has a concrete floor.

The parts of the building that are off the north side of the building have visible waffle slabs as inner roof. This sets them apart from the office room parts of the building.

The National Archives building is one of the oldest public agencies in Sweden, its history leading back to the Middle Ages. The main duty of the National Archives is to receive and preserve the archives of the Swedish Parliament and the various ministerial departments and central authorities of Sweden, and to supervise archives management throughout Sweden. State authorities which have ceased operations are obliged to deposit their archives with the National Archives. Private archives – from individuals, societal, political parties and others – are also an important part of the National Archives' holdings. These have been deposited on a voluntary basis and sometimes permission is required for this purpose. The Archives, on the other hand, supported by the Swedish principle of public access to official records, are open to all users, without any restrictions. The Archives holdings have been deposited in the National Archives building on the north side of the National Archives building. The entrance of the building is one of the important parts of the National Archives building. The entrance to the existing building is located in a large cavern in the middle of the primary rock. These storeroom levels are accessible through elevators.

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Analysis

The Site

The site of the National Archive building has a parking space near the building. On the east side there are several parking spaces and also another entrance for deliveries. On the south side of the building the landscapes step towards the street, which is a major water feature. This part of the area is used for recreational activities and the city don’t want to have buildings there.

The building that is close to the main building has a play of depths that I still doesn’t completely block the view from it.

Facades

The National Archive building has a facade that is clad in brick and copper parapets are clad in brick and the line of windows has infills of copper between the frames. The line of windows are also seen from the parapets. Together this creates the impression of quite a heavy mass where different elements stack above each other. The windows have the same bulky appearance. The National Archive building has a facade that is close to the main building but since its position is isolated in relation to it, it still doesn’t completely block the view from it.

Relation to National Archives

The different sites on the plots have different conditions and I tried different plans. The site west of the National Archive building turn towards the street, and the building has to be placed in a small space. The differences in depths creates a play of depths that I still want to have in a smaller scale. The building would have to be placed in a number of the windows on the east facade.

Site 1

Plotting the office building in the east of the National Archive building would have given a plan building since there is a certain distance to those windows. But with the required programme within the facade, the building would have to be there or four stories. Placing a new building in this spot would also block the view of the National Archive building from the Varvarekorset and block the view from a number of the windows on the east facade.

Site 2

Plotting the building on the north part of the plot gives the additional a more direct connection with the entrance to the National Archive building. The area is more spacious and would allow for a building with a larger footprint. And that would be needed since the National Archive building on this side of the plot is only two stories above ground.

Organizing the plans

The programme consists of around 30 office rooms and two conference rooms. A wish was also to have a lobby and an under roof. I tried various schemes for the organisation of the plan. Organizing the office rooms in columns and one of the alternatives. Another wish to group them in a more loose way by try to take up the different directions that is created by the National Archive building and the roads and buildings around it. I had an idea of organizing the rooms in different ways so that the employees would their own zones within the building.

The plan that I finally settled for mixes the internal organisation of the National Archive building and has zones of office rooms that are situated around an entrance have a load-off zone and a central area where the offices would be lined up in corridors stack above each other. The site east of the building it seemed more logical to have a structure that would line up with the existing building where the offices would be lined up in continuous stacks above each other. The site north of the National Archive building have a more loose relationship to the existing building and would also have a loose organisation.

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Plans
LEV EL 2
Scale 1:100
LEV EL 1
Scale 1:100

LEVEL 2
Scale 1:100

LEVEL 1
Scale 1:100

+23,1
+24,8
Elevations

ELEVATION WEST
Scale 1:50

ELEVATION NORTH
Scale 1:100
Interior
Interiors and exteriors