

‘Silosamlingen’ wins the architectural competition.

With its simple and powerful strategy, the project ‘Silosamlingen’ demonstrates a crystal-clear combination of architectural self-assurance and humble respect for the silo building and its newly assigned task. The project balances elegantly between, on one hand, total loyalty to the silo building’s qualities, and on the other, an imaginative attitude to the inherently sculptural and spatial experiences it affords. With a few uncompromising cuts into the silo’s interior, a subdued yet monumental volume with controlled top-lighting opens up and gives the whole museum a strong and unique character.

A clear attitude to the functional requirements of the museum’s exhibition programme and activities thus maximises the silo’s potential as a true experience for the public and as an identity generator for the area, yet without these aspects hampering the functional requirements of a modern art museum.

It is very positive that the museum’s exhibition space is mainly placed in an architectural volume next to the silo. This makes it possible to create large classic rooms for presenting art and enables good variation in dimensions and sequences – an aspect the jury emphasises strongly.

The spectacular silo also offers breather-spaces for the public at the same time as being naturally integrated into the way they circulate through the museum. Views of the city and fjord are precisely placed, providing good orientation while not forcing compromises in the amount of light entering the building. Museum logistics are taken well into account, also in how they interface with the public areas.

This respectful yet imaginative approach, the balance between control and freedom, results in a unique, tailor-made art museum brimming with possibilities for cultural experience.

‘Silosamlingen’ is one of the contributions to the competition ‘Art Museum and Cultural Quarter in Kristiansand’ that makes the least changes the silo’s expression. Its few effective interventions nevertheless give a strong signal about the silo’s new role in the city.

‘Silosamlingen’ has successfully solved the difficult task of creating convincing, amply sized outdoor public spaces with fine microclimates as well as good spatial sequences on Silokaia

wharf. These in-between spaces will be important sites for urban activities and for creating communication between the area's users and the Kanalbyen neighbourhood.

The project's placement next to Kilden Performing Arts Centre is ideally dealt with through a spatial sequence that alternates between the buildings and outdoor public spaces. Here the scale is broken down in a good way, and there are fine views and spaces where urban activities can convincingly unfold.

A diagonal passage cutting across the spectacular silo space connects the wharf-side promenade with the urban spaces to the back. Cafés, a museum shop and temporary exhibitions ensure a lively piazza that offers a fine transition and shortcut between Kilden and the new Odderøya.