

# House for All

## House for All

House for All is a place for secular and inter-religious ceremonies, life rituals and learning, a framework for dialogue and interaction between different social and cultural groups. Its architecture is an expression of unity, a unifying form of intertwined sequences of different public and private spaces within the building. The project is an exploration of spatial organization and the experience this architecture engenders.

The House for All is located at Grønland where the city of Oslo splits into East and West, centrally placed between three major religious buildings. With no architectural precedence, it relies on the proposed idea of a hidden central room in a pure geometric volume. The main room and the driver of the project is a domed octagonal central space, a meeting place for different public events, great rituals of marriages and departures, lectures and celebrations. Its strong geometry creates a self-sufficient, independent inside space within the space of the building, tranquil and resting, detached from the outside world of the street.

On the same floor is a café facing a private backyard, a private room for guests and a room for the officiant. A library with a ceiling at 11 meters can be entered through a separate door and small connections are made between the two major rooms through openings in the tight spaces of the double wall. The central space is connected to other spaces, both in plan and section, and it organizes their geometries. Seen as a whole, the surrounding rooms create a dynamic network of smaller ceremonial rooms and places for meeting and learning, aligned around a vertical route between the double brick wall, that ends in a garden on the roof.

The volume of the building is a perfect cube of 25 meters in each direction. It is constructed in load-bearing standard sized bricks and horizontal concrete slabs. The self-supported brick dome rests on top of the double octagonal walls, providing passage between rooms, floors and functions. The relationship between the abstract thought and the mortal life is expressed through the relationship between the individual standard brick and the seemingly oversized spaces in the building.

The House for All is diversity and unity in a form, a proposal for a new architecture in the rapidly changing religious and secular demographic of the city.



Bethlehem Church, Copenhagen



Project site, Oslo