



## KAUNAS SCIENCE & INNOVATION CENTRE - CONCEPT DESCRIPTION

Our proposal for the Kaunas Science and Innovation Centre has been designed to embody the essence of science and innovation, to become an exemplar of sustainable and renewable technologies, and to sensitively enhance and complement the rich architectural heritage of Kaunas. Above all, the building will be inviting, intriguing, exciting and inspiring to people of all ages - A place for everyone to experience a new piece of the city.

The design presents a unique, visually compelling, and instantly recognisable form to the key views from the city and within Nemunas Island. The dynamic, sinuous form expresses the volumes of the gallery and public circulation spaces within, and is inspired by the shape of energy waves, which form the fundamental basis of all energy and matter at the heart of science.

The architectural composition is comprised of two primary elements; a naturally insulated, landform containing the back of house and staff spaces at the lower level, supporting an elegant, sculptural form enclosing the gallery and events spaces above. This is composed of a series of undulating structural timber 'ribs' aligned to the city grid of Naujamiestis. Both elements reference traditional and contemporary architectural motifs from the city, and respond to the unique landscaped, riverside setting afforded by the building's location within Nemunas Island.

The building's materiality celebrates the strong relationship of Lithuania's culture and landscape with timber - An abundant, natural, renewable and highly sustainable material. State of the art timber construction using locally sourced materials will create a clearly legible relationship between nature and technology, and produce a complex and beautiful form using simply described, repetitive elements. The Science and Innovation Centre is designed to make use of passive solar and natural ventilation strategies, and will incorporate efficient renewable energy technologies to minimise running costs.

Located on the riverside, to the north of Nemunas Island, at the threshold between city and natural environments, and close to existing routes and pedestrian connections, the building is conceived as part of a journey around the island, inviting visitors to explore this unique parkland environment, and creating relationships to the Zalgiris Arena, and future connections to the convention centre in Aleksotas.

The building will be a place for visitors and the community to meet, and is carefully organised around a generous, naturally lit atrium space accessible from pedestrian routes, forming part of the wider journey around the island. The atrium is a free, open space from which visitors can ascend to access the galleries and events spaces.

The four main galleries are located at the upper level. The sculptural interior form, lighting and external views of each responds individually to its specific character. The gallery spaces are flexible, and can be organised as one unified route or as individual spaces, using discrete foldable partitions located between the structural 'ribs'. Each gallery space will enjoy modulated natural light controlled by louvred panels powered by photovoltaic cells in the roof, and will have access to the external gallery terrace facing the river, and enjoying far-reaching views towards Kaunas.