

An architectural rendering of the Istanbul Cultural Center building at dusk. The building features a prominent, cantilevered upper section with a facade of large, light-colored rectangular panels. The sky is a deep, clear blue. In the foreground, a group of people is walking on a path through a landscaped area with trees and low-lying plants. The overall mood is serene and modern.

Istanbul Cultural Center

Istanbul, Turkey

ADRIAN SMITH + GORDON GILL
ARCHITECTURE

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The Istanbul Cultural Center project was designed as an integrated group of cultural buildings that includes an opera house, a concert hall, a theatre, and a cinema designed as state-of-the-art venues that will share back-of-house and public spaces.

SERVICES

Architecture
Urban Design

CLIENT

Confidential

FUNCTION

Cultural

The primary goal of the center was to allow residents and visitors of Istanbul maximum accessibility to world-class cultural venues and an extensive array of open and enclosed public spaces.

Visitors will walk toward an iconic open observation platform with unmatched views of the sea, Taksim square, and the park. The new area restores the public park, or “the walk,” that historically occupied the site by placing its public cultural buildings under a fully accessible landscaped walkway, which links the public square and park to a new elevated observation platform. The cultural center’s main entrance is also accessed directly from the square through a slightly sloped walkway. This ascending walkway will provide visitors new focused elevated views of the park and the square.

The opera entry and the views to the Takism plaza continue their original axial relationship with the square, while a wide stairway offers elevated views of the plaza at the opera entrance. An exhibition space is visible and accessible from the entrance of the cultural center and is centrally located between the concert and opera hall. It is designed to be used as a public platform for Istanbul, Turkish, or international artists.

The cultural center also invites residents and visitors to access its courtyard directly from the existing street. This is an important open connection at ground level that links the street with the now accessible pedestrian walkway on the east side of the cultural center.

Additionally, a sloping landscaped platform provides public access to outdoor performances. The amphitheater will host all day public events and will act as an invitation to new artists and Istanbul residents to enjoy an unparalleled experience with dramatic views of Takism Square.

Overall the center will included:

- Outdoor Public Performance Venues
- Public Gardens and Lawns
- Public Viewing Platforms and Amenities
- Four World-Class Performance Venues
- Grand Entrance and Public Interior Atria
- Public Courtyard Connection and Art Gallery
- Public Linear Park





SECTIONS





