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3h architects
MOME

MOME: SPATIAL BEDROCK FOR CONTEMPORARY AND FUTURE EDUCATION

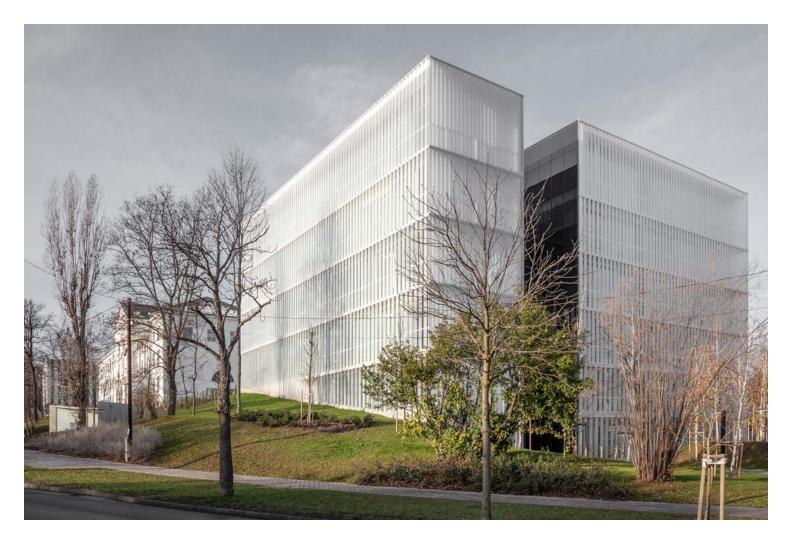*Posted on November 23, 2021 by xavigonzalez*

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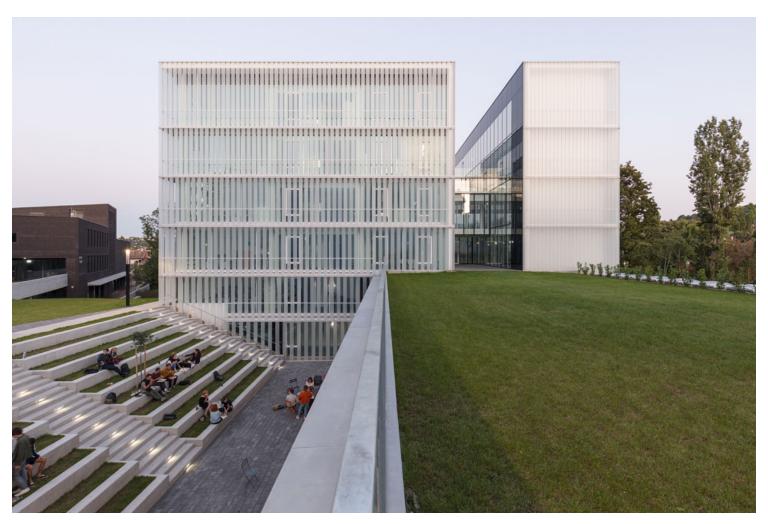
Tags: Budapest, Educational Building, Extension, Flexibility, Hungary, Identity, Innovation, Project, Structure, User's experience, Working Space

When planning the expansion of the Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design Budapest Campus, our mission was to make the university grounds into the spatial bedrock for contemporary and future creative education.

We were faced with the question of identity: on one hand, finding connections to the person it's named after – someone associated with creative innovation, pushing artistic and technical boundaries – and through him, to the pioneering applied arts movement of the previous century, the Bauhaus. On the other hand, apart from the carefully crafted professional knowledge of applied arts, the complexity of thinking, the development of conceptual skills, and the recognition of real problems also play an increasingly important role in the educational activities at the university.

Responding to this notion we came up with a timeless, neutral design that does not dictate behavior but provides opportunity and freedom, while inspiring and stimulating work. This way, the highest degree of adaptability can be achieved.

Situated in a slightly sloping park-like landscape, the MOME campus houses teaching and research facilities, but also creates an inspiring learning environment. Our design reaches back to the original concept by Z. Farkasdy and aligns three buildings on an axis.

The volume of the "BASE" building for undergraduates has an extraordinary suspended structure, which allows the ground floor of the building to visually open up to its surroundings without any barriers. The building's three inner reinforced concrete cores bear the load of the suspended floors. The post-tensioned girders under the roofing convey the suspension to the cores.

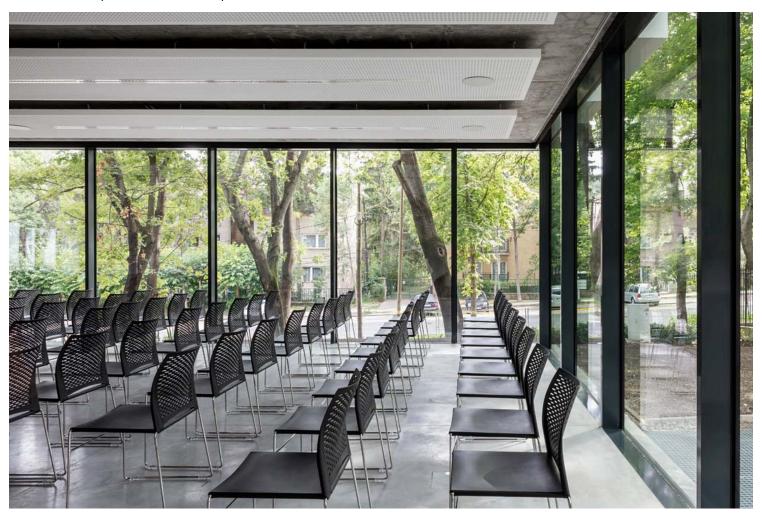The old central building "A" (1954) accommodates MA courses and administration. Its interior was transformed to a large extent, but its exterior remained mostly unchanged. We practically turned the original building inside out and the previously enclosed spaces were reconfigured into an open spatial structure, which connects the three levels of the building in the vertical as well as the horizontal sense. The third building, which is nearest to the city and in a prominent place, is the university's center for innovation, called "UP". The inner, inspirational world of the UP building and the system of spirally traversed apertures are based on human movement, offering different cross-views from every position. A topographical part called "GROUND" was also created at the center of these buildings to connect the separate elements. The underground spaces of "GROUND" were designed as a pulsating center of interaction, which can function as the largest indoor and outdoor

communal space of the campus.

As multiple factors are required for the creative work at the university's institutes, we consciously shaped the spaces into an open system in which surprise also plays a role. This results in the experience of the elemental, the child-like wonder in taking in our surroundings. The spaces and their diverse attributes facilitate the emphasis on creativity: instead of approaching an object or a natural phenomenon through aesthetic or scientific considerations, our aim was to create an environment where the subject is caught in awe by the unexpected.