

## BOOKSHOP AND CAFETERIA Study project by LL.TT of Torino

The existing building presents itself as a modern space not only able to perform museum functions, but also to represent a meeting point, a new benchmark for the cultural life of the city.

The ticket office is located after the entrance, on the side. It stands as a link between the entrance hall and the Museum shop and entertainment area. Its counter, where tickets are sold, has been designed to allow the staff to have an overall view of the entrance up until the big central court. This element can be transformed based on request: from being a simple counter next to the ticket office, it turns into an exhibition showcase near the bookshop, or it can become a comfortable bench, on the court side, to be used by groups.

The public is able to distinguish between the various functions available in the hall area, from just looking at the various activities it offers: **bookshop**, **cafeteria** and **document centre**. In this sense, the design complies with the functional need to create subareas to perform the foreseen activities, as well as keeping the space's continuity intact with the round-shaped geometry of the existing building.



The entrance to the bookshop and to the cafeteria is through the indoor court, by walking under a cantilever roof. The wooden beam platform, on the dark resin pre-existing floor, creates different points of view and areas. The big cashier's desk, overlooking the entrance and exit areas from the bookshop and the cafeteria, is visually and functionally separated from the museum ticket office by a big oak two-faced closet. The elements composing the bookshop are oak wood cube-shaped modular displayers, modular and moveable in different combinations, depending on the different needs of the future manager. From here, visitors are

captured in a visual "tunnel" constituted by a long platform with a metal cantilever roof on top which, by using a special lighted plate, recreates a foliage effect. The horizontal plate, creating a drop ceiling, highlights the bar counter area. On the platform, sofas, armchairs and low tables animate the itinerary, offering visitors various options of how to use the large space available. In line with the counter, on the right hand side, a series of tables and chairs lean on the existing floor spread apart by big trees in vases, to create "a wood" that seems to "invade" into the bookshop area as well, where some seats are designed to look at the books on sale. On the left hand side of the platform two big sofas let several people be comfortably seated at the same time, making this space suitable as a waiting area for large groups. During warm season, the cafeteria will have an outdoor space available where other plants and seats will be located.

