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THE ESTONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM WAS FOUNDED IN 1909 WITH THE GOAL OF CREATING A TREASURY OF ESTONIAN CULTURE. A NEW MUSEUM COMPLEX WILL BE BUILT IN TARTU, THE SECOND LARGEST CITY IN ESTONIA. THE WINNING PROJECT BELONGS TO A GROUP OF ARCHITECTS BASED IN PARIS AND LONDON — LINA GHOTMEH, DAN DORELL AND TSUYOSHI TATEYAMA. AMONG 108 COMPETITION ENTRIES, IT WAS PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE THAT WENT BEYOND SOLVING PURELY FORMAL PROBLEMS. THE NEW MUSEUM IS LITERALLY INTEGRATED IN THE UNIQUE HISTORICAL CONTEXT; ITS STRUCTURE IS BASED ON THE ABANDONED AIRFIELD PLATFORM REMAINING FROM THE SOVIET ERA. THIS GIGANTIC CONCRETE RAMP CREATES A 73M-WIDE AND 5KM-LONG STRETCH, CROSSES TWO LAKES AND DISSOLVES IN THE LANDSCAPE. THE PROJECT UTILISES ITS 1KM-LONG CONCRETE FRAGMENT — A FUTURE PLATFORM FOR LARGE-SCALE EVENTS AND ARTISTIC INTERVENTIONS, AND A CANOPY ROOF FOR THE MUSEUM. THE GLASS WALLS, MIRROR-FINISHED FROM THE OUTSIDE AND TRANSPARENT FROM THE INSIDE, CREATE A RELATION BETWEEN THE MUSEUM AND THE NATURE, AN ELEMENT THAT IS INSEPARABLE FROM THE ESTONIAN CULTURE; THE LAKES WILL BE VISIBLE THROUGH THE TRANSPARENT INSERT IN THE FLOOR. COMPARED TO THE SCALE OF THE CITY, THE SCALE OF THE MUSEUM COMPLEX IS SO IMPRESSIVE THAT IT WILL BE ABLE TO PUT TARTU ON THE INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL MAP. ANOTHER BENEFIT COMING FROM THIS PROJECT IS THE POSSIBILITY TO BRING LIFE TO CURRENTLY UNDERDEVELOPED PARTS OF THE CITY. A SMALL-SCALE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSIGNED TO THE EAST SIDE OF THE MUSEUM WILL HELP IN THE FUNDING AND MAINTENANCE OF THE AREA. THE NORTH WEST SIDE IS PREVIEWED AS A CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, WHILE THE AREA DIRECTLY SURROUNDING THE MUSEUM WILL BE CONSERVED AS A «GREEN» FORESTED PARK.