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# A River Balcony

The author of this project regarded the approach as almost more important than the goal. She tried to improve the existing situation with minimal but careful interventions. The jury appreciated her undeviating course of action and her careful, respectful treatment of the existing substance.

• The author undertook three analytical steps. First of all she examined the concept of disability and translated her conclusions into practical solutions for improvements to the existing situation. Secondly, she analyzed the accessibility of the building and its surroundings. What were its shortcomings? What could be changed? Thirdly, she organized the results into a consistent programmatic form and expressed them in a coherent architectural language.

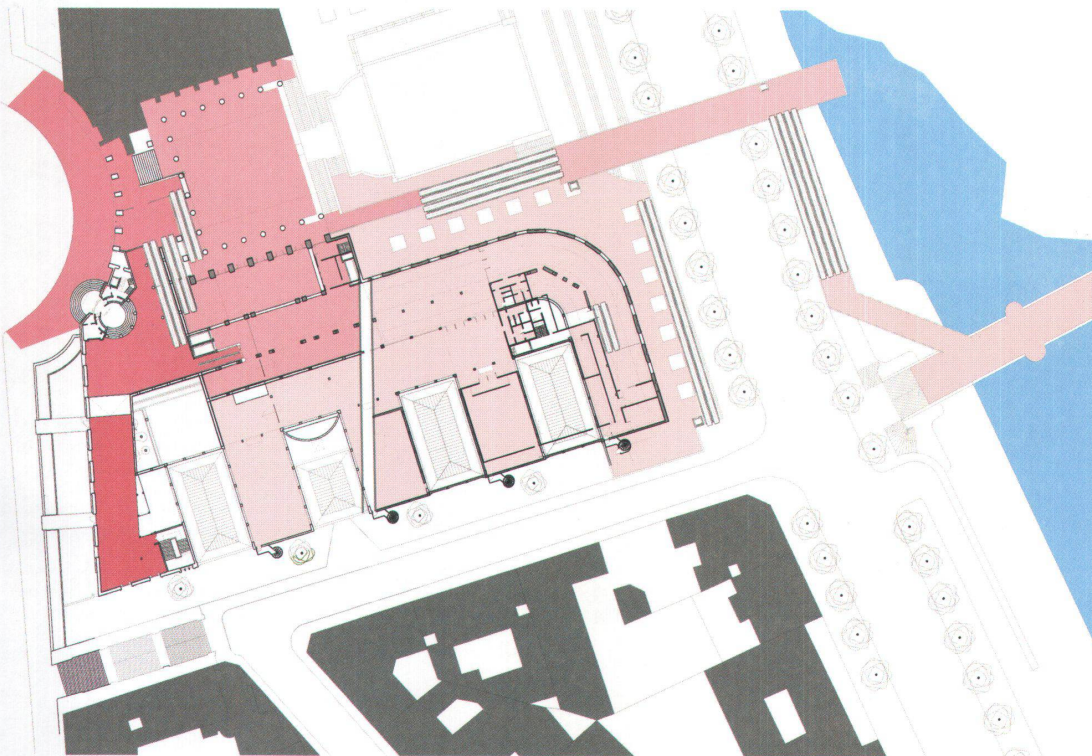
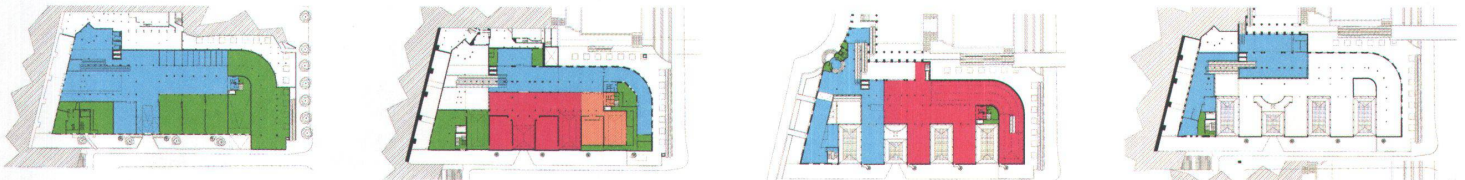
The dominant element of the project is a series of moving walkways that start at the Seine embankment, lead through the Palais de Tokyo courtyard and end in the Avenue Wilson. During their stroll, visitors can stop at a projecting platform and enjoy the views up and down the Seine. A shallow pool in the outer courtyard reflects the building, representing the integration of man and nature. A similar procedure is applied to the interior of the Palais de Tokyo. The project is distinguished by its accessibility concept, which can be applied anywhere. The use of effective and sensitive solutions for disabled people, such as textile surfaces, supportive colors, ergonomic handrails and helpful signals, are abundant.

The exhibition concept plays on these elements, putting them to the test by enabling nondisabled people to experience what it is like to be disabled. This project convinced the jury by virtue of its modest approach and careful elaboration of the issues of accessibility. •

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1 The basement, entresol, ground and upper floors of the Palais de Tokyo bear witness to the careful elaboration of the project.

2 The pathway consists of a series of moving walkways that guarantee access for disabled people.

3 The platform projecting far out over the Seine integrates the project in the historical river landscape.