The Baikal Museum of Water.

The concept.

WATER is a living base.
The crucial component of all the forces of nature.
The unique element that provides the Earth the status of “The Blue Planet”.

The deepest lake in the world. 20% of the world's freshwater supplies. The strategic reserve of the planet. All these factors make us to be highly responsible for ecological state of Baikal and require a special treatment of Water as a key resource of human life. This invaluable element determines our life so it should be explored, preserved and esteemed.

For long, one of the generally accepted ways of perception and spreading the culture is a Museum. In this case, by virtue of the visitors’ pilgrimage the Museum provides a person a close acquaintance with such a phenomenon as Water.

The Baikal Museum of Water, by all means, should be built up on the coasts of the Great Lake.

The gateway to Lake Baikal is Listvyanka village, one of the most appropriate places for location such type of entertainment. The main things which give the occasion to locate the museum actually in this place are proximity to the city and the airport, sharply increasing tourist flow and regular attendance of the region by the locals.

The key ideas that create the Museum’s concept are the following:

1. To present Water for visitors and tourists not only as the greatest value and an integral part of human life but also give them the opportunity to contact to variety of water consistence and reactions: water consistence (liquid, gaseous, solid), its presence in different elements, the scientific sections – water and light-dependent reactions, interaction with living systems, chemical features, water physics, etc.;

2. To ensure a high level of interactivity (a visitor’s immediate interaction with one or another phenomena) and independence (de-emphasis of the guides’ role, auto-navigating the visitor through the museum with the participation of artificial intelligence);

3. To make the visiting plan highly topical with show elements and festival performances;

4. To provide an opportunity to transform the space for organization the medium-scale arrangements (about 200 people) – conferences, banquets and other events. Also, it is important to involve in additional turnover common spaces of the double/triple-lightened hall and mezzanine floor (a balcony) under the dome.

In the museum space the following set of functional zones is planned to be arranged:

- Water in inanimate nature (the Cosmos, the planet);
- Different physical forms of water:
  1) An Ice room;
  2) A Hall of steam and clouds;
  3) A Fountain;
- Chemistry and physics of water;
- Water and wildlife; a human being;
- Light water.

The architectural idea (hypothesis) assumes the presence of the first floor 700-1000 m2 in area where the main parts of the Museum will be arranged. First of all, a large round double/triple-lightened hall placed under the dome. This dome is expected to overtop the first floor in the form of a giant mirrorlike round sphere symbolizing a drop of water (an analogue of such a construction is situated in Paris, La Geode cinema).

A part of construction is supposed to be “drowned” in the hill because the area of the ground is round and even. Such technical conditions will add the extra features to the building architecture.
The mezzanine floor as a balcony is expected to be on the second level of the building where the café and the sitting area looking out over Baikal are also should be arranged.

Основной разрез – The section drawing
Лифт панорамный - Panoramic elevator
Холл – Hall
Кафе - Cafe
Конференц-зал - Conference hall
Фонтан – Fountain
Линия существующего рельефа – Actual terrain line
One part of the functional zones is planned to be situated in the premises of the first floor in the rear around the central hall. Another part of ones is supposed to be on the second floor in the rear part as well above the premises of the first floor.

A semi-basement floor is also required for storages and utility lines.

The total area of the whole complex will be about 1500 m2.

The Museum is planned to be located on the site of the “Baikal Terems Hotel” on site of the old bulk and the baths (planned to be demolished and partially removed from the territory).

A possible total area involved will be about 30 Ares.

The total area of the construction footprint will be about 1000 m2 of the view space.

View of Lake Baikal is provided due to the plot which is on the top of one of the Listvyanka hills.
It was estimated that about 1 million people visit Listvyanka village every year, 150 thousand of which are tourists. The most of the visitors attend the main presentation places such as The Baikal Museum, a sealarium, a souvenir market, etc. In this particular case, about 100 thousand and more visitors are usually expected yearly.

The Baikal Museum of Water which situated on the Baikal coasts and devoted to Water as to a living base will be the unique and exclusive place in the world of its kind. This fact will give the insurance of significance and liability to visit it for all types of tourists and locals. No doubt, it will make a difference in a quality of tourist product of the region and provide the additional attraction of Lake Baikal’s infrastructure.