



BIBLIOTHECA ALEXANDRINA

INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION
CONCOURS INTERNATIONAL D'ARCHITECTURE

FRANCO ZAGARI

UNESCO/UNDP/Edizioni CARTE SEGRETE

SNØHETTA ARKITEKTUR LANDSKAP

Norway

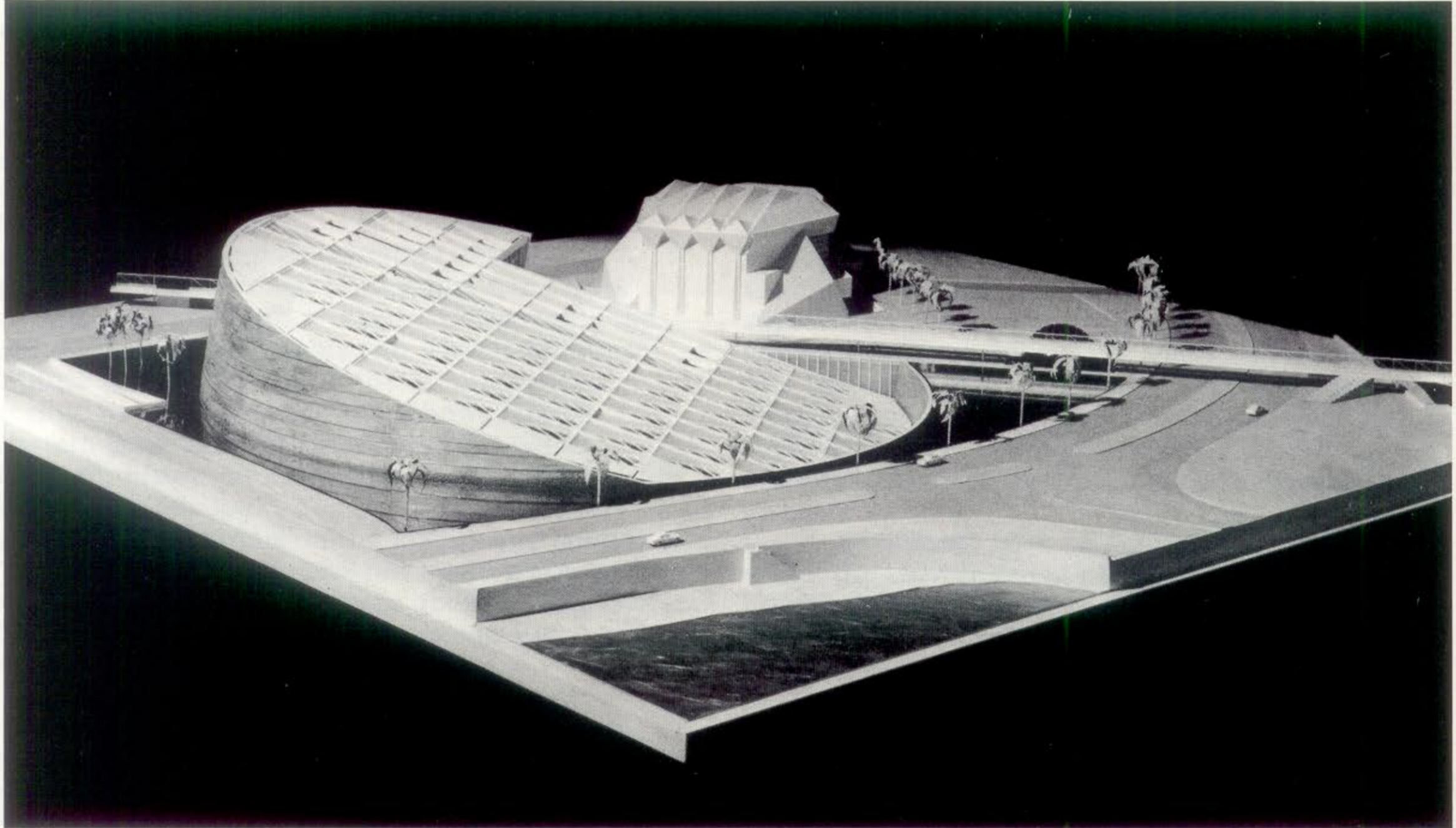
COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS

Architects: Craig Dyckers, USA - Per Morten Josefson, Norway -
Christoph Kapeller, Austria - Øyvind Mo, Norway - Kjetil Trædal Thorsen, Norway
Consultants: Ihab El Habbak, architect, Egypt - Cordula Mohr, historian, Germany -
Elaine Molinar, architect, USA - Jorunn Sannes, artist, Norway - Adrianna Baillie, Argentina

POST COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS

Architects and Landscape Architects: Craig Dyckers, USA - Alf Haukeland, Norway -
Per Morten Josefson, Norway - Christoph Kapeller, Austria - Øyvind Mo, Norway -
Elaine Molinar, USA - Johan Østengen, Norway - Martin Roubik, Czechoslovakia - Kjetil Trædel Thorsen, Norway
Fine Arts: Jorunn Sannes, Norway
Consultants: Norconsult International, Norway - YRM International, UK

Winners



“One design stood out consistently during the examination of the 524 projects by the jury and received the most votes throughout the balloting. The reason for this, besides the high quality of its presentation, was the strong symbolic image it carried: a circle inclined towards the sea, partly submerged in the ground - the image of the ancient Egyptian sun that, in contemporary terms, will illuminate the world of human culture. A tilted, truncated cylinder, one simple volume, sheltering all the library activities and which complements the existing Conference Centre, a break on the city skyline that commands attention.

An inclined roof that brings in light and offers views of the sea from the interior, gives the impression of a continuing sea from the exterior.

Designed as an arrow, an elevated passageway links the university to the peninsula, traversing the cylinder; a plain solid wall, wrapped around the cylinder, protection from the wind and the sand, a local symbol covered with hieroglyphs.

Once inside, the building offers staff and users a new concept of library layout and organization. Cascading levels of platforms contained within this single volume, illuminated from the roof, provide a uniform ambience throughout the various sections of the library.

A technical spine serves the different platforms. Each level allows access to its own closed stacks, giving internal flexibility. In the same volume, new platforms can be added, allowing internal expansion in the library.

Aside from these positive qualities, the architects/authors of the project should make every effort to:

- avoid technical and economic problems due to the groundwater table
- improve the access to the library and the functioning of ISIS.
- design a roof offering the maximum view of the sea and easy to maintain
- make the lower level of the building user friendly (Jury comment on the project)