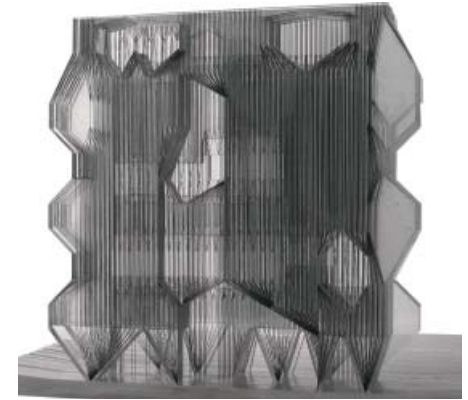


## Prague National Library

Open International Competition  
Prague, Czech Republic

Client - City of Prague  
Design team - Studio ST & Z-A  
Size - 50,000 sq.m.  
Date - September 2006



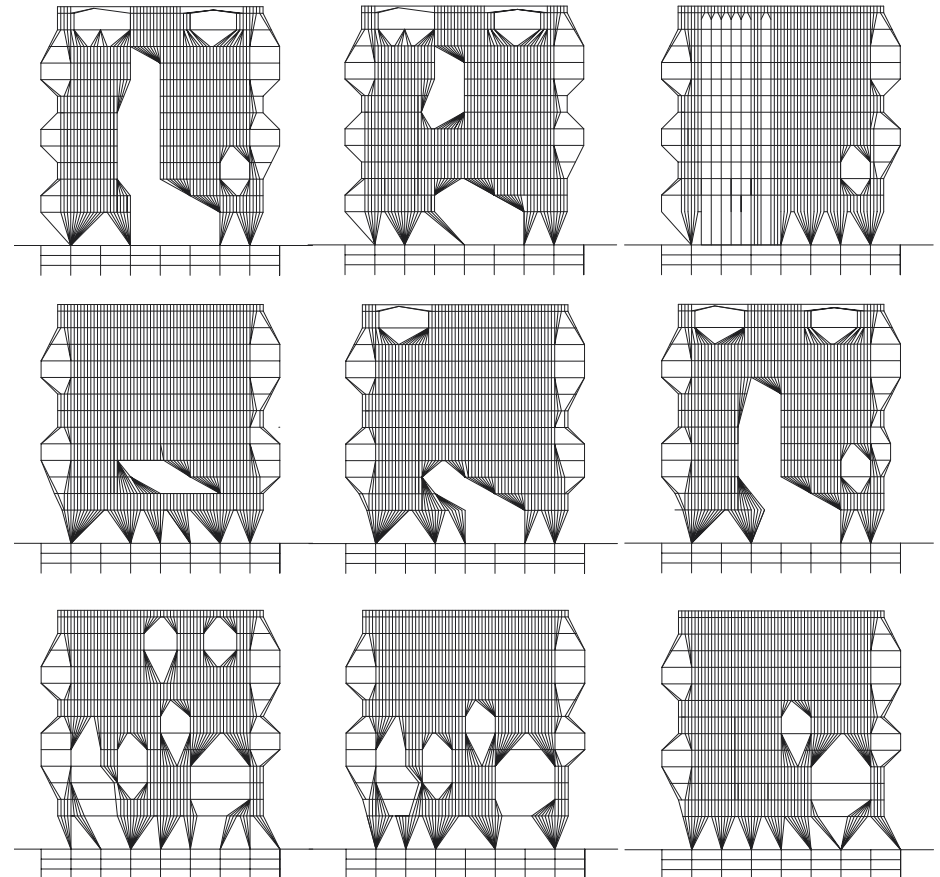
The library serves three types of occupants - books, public and the library staff. Each of these occupant groups has a unique spatial typology and functional needs.

The heart of the library is the mass of book storage areas located in the center of the building from the second to the 12th floor protected for the exterior air and light. Wrapping around this heart are the support areas including all the offices, workspaces and labs. Within the collection storage areas are suspended the publicly accessible spaces including the reading halls, the main lobby and the theater and lecture halls on the top floor.

Using the bookshelf as the module for the building, the structure is based on a dense grid of columns 1 Meter x 2.25 Meters apart. The structural column grid supports both the bookshelves and the building as a whole.

The office floor plate project out from the book storage core and create modulation on the façade revealing the areas of human activity on the building exterior skin.

The National Library is also an important institution in the urban fabric of Prague. It is innovative and forward-looking in its form but ties back to early-twentieth century Czech cubist avant garde tradition, which was centered in Prague. This design uses simple and logical systems that regenerate, or more often, reveal, the inherent complexity of the world and human nature, which also recalls the great cathedrals of Prague in the soaring spaces formed by the lattice of slender structural columns that give form to the Library.



model  
sections

front facade  
exterior view  
exterior view

