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| ,Artist | Zaha Hadid |
| Title | MAXXI centre |
| Date | 1998-2009 |
| Medium | Architecture (building) |
| Materials | Oblong tubes, overlapping piping, black painted steel, concrete. |
| Scope | Architecture, identities |
| Style | Parametricism |
| Patron | Italian ministry of cultural heritage |
| Location | Rome, Italy |
| Function | Museum of contemporary art |

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| Formal features | |
| Composition | Asymmetric architecture conceived as three main interlocking curvilinear tubes. Broadly three levels, but avoiding predictable division into stories or separate spaces, with blocky features and open areas. |
| Colour or texture | Unpainted concrete with no decoration or ornament, but the whole structure is conceived as a unified and fluid space. As eye catching as the art on the inside. |
| Space & depth or relief | Spacious building, large open rooms and areas for visitors to wander freely. |
| Line or brushwork | Use of blocky stylized designs and baroque influenced curvature. |

Influence from cultural/social factors:

It is built on the location of the old army barracks in Flaminio, Rome. This out of centre location allows for regeneration, recognition of Rome’s past military history and also spreads the tourist load away from the central areas which were in danger of overcrowding. in the past were well known for their military success. It is also built from steel reflecting the machinery and weapons used during war.

Influence from political factors:

The MAXXI centre had to fit in with the architecture of modern day Italy and link to the classical features of classical roman architecture. The areal view of the centre resembles modern transport of trains, motor ways and canals. However it still links to the Baroque style architecture by using curves and unique forms as well as classical Roman architecture by using columns.

Influence from technological factors:

the building had to have some links to classical Rome, the MAXXI centre is made from mainly concrete with touches of steel, concrete is a light but solid material allowing parts of Hadid’s design to be free standing. This innovation was invented by the Romans.

Also references Rome’s development as a hub city, with the interconnecting lines celebrating both the Tiber and modern links.

Use or development of materials, techniques & processes:

Use of concrete, this links to the classical romans who first invented the material. Use of open space within the building using columns.

Use of overhanging element also seen in her earlier Bergisel Ski Jump.

New materials to allow fluid access between interior/exterior and throughout all internal spaces

Stylistic comment and artistic influence:

San Carlino, by Borromini, she was known as the female Borromini ‘La Borromina’ due to her use of baroque features in architecture.

Also references the multiple columns of Bernini’s St Peter’s Piazza in the repeated pilotis.

Critical text quote: “she shifted the culture of architecture” by Aanda Levete

“questionable functionality” by Stephan Bayley

Image: 