The organization of the building is reflected in the collaging of various materials. The main facade is elegantly supported by a central spine which runs the height of the structure. The sharp angles and the exposed edges of the glass facade evoke sense of anxiety which has been the constant companion of the euphoria of modern culture. The placement of the vertical circulation and service core to the rear enabled full width of narrow frontage.

The Forum’s needs were typical of cultural institutes: versatile exhibition and performance spaces; rooms for classes, meetings and seminars; a library, offices and an apartment for the director.

Austrian Cultural Institute is conceived as a threefold division between Vertebra (the stairs), Core (tower), and Mask (the stepped curtain wall of the facade). It is also a needlelike skyscraper which is carved with mysterious totemic slots.

The building material consisted of layers of suspended sloping glass at the front. Also, zinc panels clad on the concrete sides and the stair wall with its diagonal slit openings. The rhythmic punctuation is complemented by vertical elements and sharp etched openings.

Located on 52nd street, Manhattan, New York Open Competition in 1992
Completed in 2001
Client - Austrian Federal Ministry
Zoning designated as User Group 3 (Community facilities, institutions, philanthropic or non-profit, with sleeping accommodations)
A narrow lot size of 7.6 meters (25 feet) wide by 25 meters (82 feet) deep
Austrian Cultural Institute

Located on 52nd street, Manhattan, New York
Open Competition in 1992
Completed in 2001
Client - Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Austria
Zoning designated as User Group 3 (Community facilities, institutions, philanthropic or non-profit, with sleeping accommodations)
A narrow lot size of 7.6 meters (25 feet) wide by 25 meters (82 feet) deep
Project's Objectives

Transform a narrow lot but extremely valuable
Provide apartments for staff members of the Institute
Involve cultural exchange between Austria and the United States
Give Manhattan an architectural gesture and statements
    that contribute to renew its spirit
Project government power or even spur new direct investment
Maximize the usable floor area according to the zoning
    restriction.
Design Concepts

The organization of the building is reflected in the collaging of various materials.
Main facade is elegantly supported by a central spine which runs the height of the structure.
The sharp angles and the exposed edges of the glass facade evoke sense of anxiety which has been the constant companion of the euphoria of modern culture.
Compelling relationship to the adjacent set-back facades and scale of the street.
Placement of the vertical circulation and service core to the rear enabled full width of narrow frontage.
Austrian Cultural Institute is conceived as a threefold division between Vertebra (the stairs), Core (tower), and Mask (the stepped curtain wall of the facade). A needlelike skyscraper which is carved with mysterious totemic slots.
The Forum's needs were typical of cultural institutes: versatile exhibition and performance spaces; rooms for classes, meetings and seminars: a library, offices and an apartment for the director.
Light itself becomes the guiding factor to this building. The path is dictated by the stair and the flow of space.
Circulation

Place two fire stairs that scissor over and under each other, so it only reduce its depth, but not its width.
Layers of suspended sloping glass at the front
The rhythmic punctuation is complemented by vertical elements and sharp etched openings.
Zinc panels clad on the concrete sides and the stair wall with its diagonal slit openings.