

Gaetano Pesce: Pahlavi National Library Competition, Tehran

collection

The proposal by Gaetano Pesce (b. 1939) for the Pahlavi National Library Competition in Tehran (1976-77) uses narrative and symbol to make a political/historical statement. Pesce employs visual metaphors of oppression, brutality, and death as symbolic representations of the Shah's regime. The project juxtaposes administrative quarters and public spaces within a large ten metre deep excavation, suggesting both an archeological site and a burial ground. Filled with shapes reminiscent of entrails, the library buildings rest on organic mounds, metaphors for the minorities crushed by the Shah.

