

Name of project:

Festspielhaus Hellerau



Festspielhaus Hellerau (2006)

Type of building:

- opera houses
- concert halls
- musical theatres
- drama theatres/lyric theatres
- convention centres
- cultural centres, municipal halls
- cinemas and studios
- children's theatre
- auditoriums
- other projects

Project data:

Client/Owner:

Address:

Landeshauptstadt Dresden
Hochbauamt Dresden
Hamburger Straße 19, 10167 Dresden
Germany

Project team:

Architecture,
Acoustics,
Stage Technology, Stage Lighting,
Sound Engineering:
Mechanical & Electrical Engineering:

Meier-Scupin & Partner

theater projekte daberto + kollegen gmbh
Zibell - Willner & Partner

Project costs:

6,9 Mio € inc. VAT

Capacity of rooms:

Gross Capacity (Mainhall) :

Usable Area:

Seating Capacity:

7.700 m²

7.700 m²

max. 400

Date of official inauguration:

19. September 2006

Contact person for visits:

Festspielhaus Hellerau
Karl-Liebknecht-Straße 56, 01109 Dresden
Herr Kai Kaden
Tel: +49 - 351 - 2646266

The Festival Performance House Hellerau, built in 1911 from Heinrich Tessenow in the first German garden city near Dresden as a training centre for rhythmical gymnastics, became between 1912 and 1914 the meeting place for the European avant-garde. Originally as an institute of Jaques Dalcroze, it experienced from 1911 to 1914 only one short blossom.

Heinrich Tessenow's Festspielhaus building was a visionary counter-design to all traditional theater buildings. The hall with the lowerable orchestra pit, freely installable stage elements and rows of seating for the audience conceived by Adolphe Appia contained no stationary installations, neither stage nor curtain - a "cathedral of the future" (Appia) in which the audience and the performers were to melt together to become a spiritual and sensual unity. However, in the beginning, the lighting concept developed by the Georgian painter and set designer, Alexander von Salzmann, became the special fascination. The ceiling and the walls were covered with lengths of waxed white fabric behind which thousands of lightbulbs created a diffuse, immaterial light that gave the hall - now freed of any naturalism - transparency and transcendence.

The last decades the festival house was occupied by Russian troops, used as a hospital and casern, not accessible to the public. Social-realistic paintings in the main staircases, which troops left

on the wall are now protected as the building is a listed one as a whole.

Aim of the renovation, which took place from 2002 on, was to bring back the performance hall to the public. Different concepts for the revitalization of the grounds were discussed. The „Europäische Werkstatt für Kunst und Kultur Hellerau e.V.“ was foremost committed to the revitalization of the original usage concept for the Festspielhaus as the place of the artistic avant-garde. In 1994, the Wuestenrot Stiftung, by renovating and restoring the guesthouses, gave the decisive signal for a restoration of the entire building complex. Discussion was given to the question, whether Salzmanns canvas should be brought back.

Main use is now a training and performance centre for the ballet company of William Forsythe, which spends half time of the year in Dresden, when not performing in Frankfurt/Main. Hellerau also houses the European Centre for the Arts Hellerau. See www.festspielhaus-hellerau.de

Meier-Scupin architects from Munich decided an architecture competition to their favour on the renovation of the whole ensemble in 2002. theatre projekte daberto + kollegen were chosen with the planning and realisation of the theatrical technology and the acoustics.



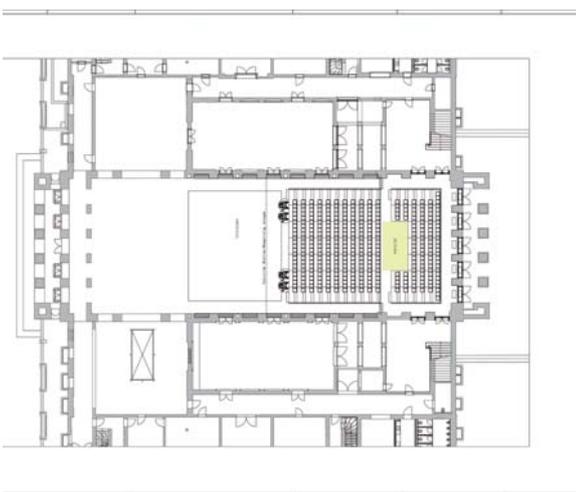
Set design Adolphe Appia (1911)



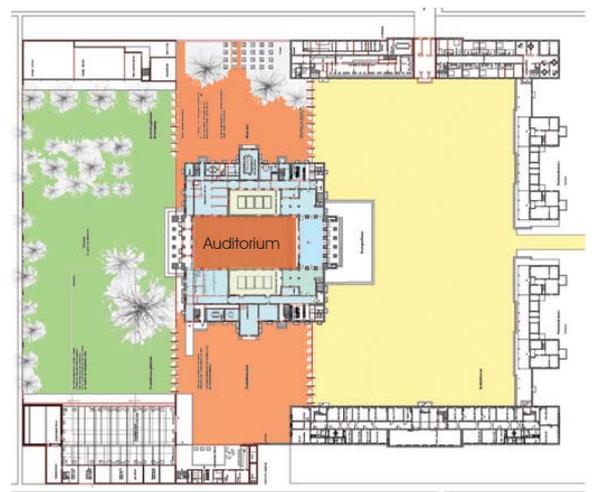
Exterior view Festival Hall Hellerau (1911)



New bridges on same level as existing wooden roof trusses (2006)



Main Floor Plan



Site Plan



Main Section - from left: stage area, fixed floor, modular floor with orchestra pit, manual seating riser system, capacity extension on first floor