

Name of project:

Gebälsehalle Duisburg-

reconversion of an old industrial blower hall into a performance space

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:

Kultur Ruhr GmbH
Leithestraße 35
45886 Gelsenkirchen
Germany

Project team:

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

Ramsfjell Architekten, Dortmund
Klinge und Gräbe, Kamen
Ingenieurbüro Kawik, Bottrop
Müller BBM, Planegg

theater projekte daberto + kollegen
planungsgesellschaft mbh

Project costs:

10,5 Mio EUR

Capacity of rooms:

Gross Capacity (Mainhall) :
Usable Area:
Seating Capacity:

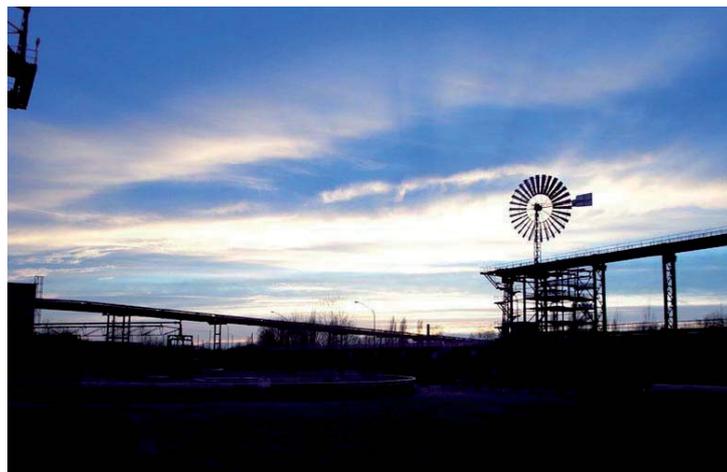
3.535 m²
3.535 m²
500 Seats

Date of official inauguration:

27th June 2004

Contact person for visits:

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The Duisburg blower hall is embedded in the landscape park "Emscherpark" where nature reconquers the site, which was for more than 100 years the inner heart district of heavy industry in Germany

In the Ruhr Basin, the changing economies made available many industrial halls, looking for a new objective.

Gerard Mortier, first director of the recently founded "Ruhr-Triennale"-Festival intended to use some of these halls instead of already existing theatres.

Within twelve months (including the planning stage) the turbine hall Duisburg-Meidrich, situated in the Landschaftspark Duisburg Nord, was rebuilt into a theatre. The actual building and construction work took only five months.

It was quite a tricky task, since the whole hall including the turbines scattered on the ground floor is put under a preservation code. It was not allowed to dismantle any of the turbines. The electric turbines used in former times to produce the wind needed to melt the iron in the blast furnaces.

To keep them and to make them further accessible for visitors, a new ground floor was set up in 3.5 m height in the form of a concrete "table", creating the play level.

It is set off against the side walls of the basilica by a gap of approx. 1.2 m. This gap, which is covered with lattices, and the uneven side walls with their numerous projections and window niches allow for scenic highlights.

On this platform, variable stage platforms and seating risers are

mounted. The stage can be located either on one end of the hall, in the middle or a number of stages can be mounted. Provided for a reasonable depth of the stage the hall takes up 500 seats. It is possible to build-up risers up to 5.4 m height if the hall is used to its full length.

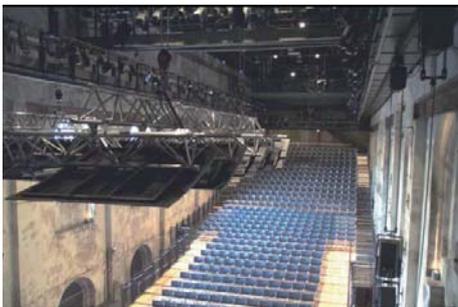
Load in is effected with the help of a scissor platform at the western facade.

There is an old portal crane with a pay load of once 25 tons. This crane was equipped with four chain hoist guides and takes up the main stage rig as well as the acoustics reflectors that can thus be brought to the right position.

Next to it, four new bridges that are lighter and can be staggered more closely are fitted with variable point hoists. These bridges can be driven manually. They are driven on the existing rails of the old crane.

These bridges are either used as fly loft at any position above the stage, or as lighting bridges above the audience. These bridges can be reached via footbridges along the side walls.

In the rear of the hall a hanging platform takes up the control room.



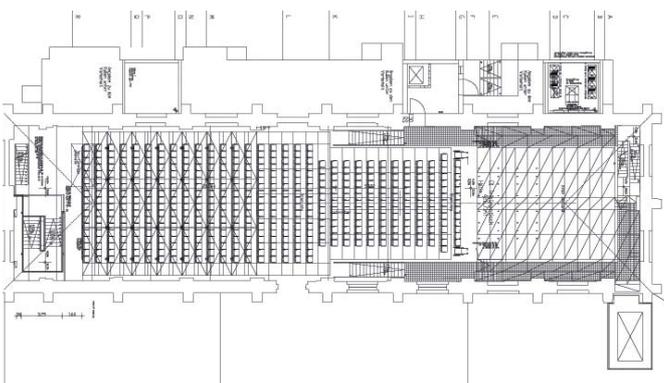
Auditorium in the long cathedral-like blower hall, acoustic riggs using a preserved former moveable crane bridge



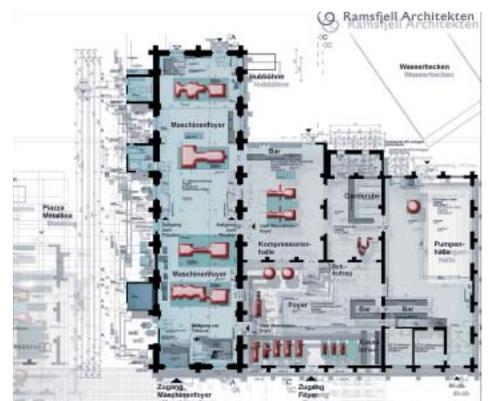
Former pump hall used as foyer



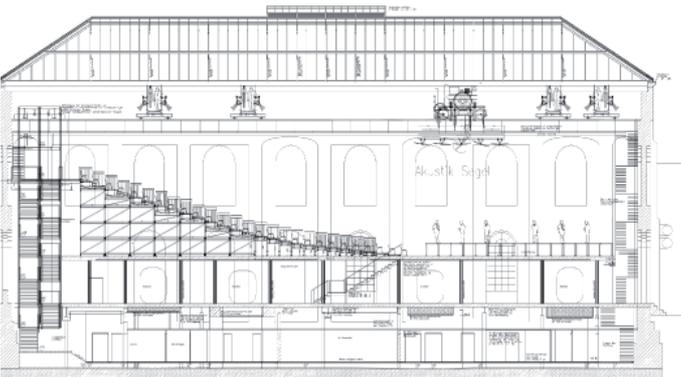
Simulation of new performance table above the turbin hall, in distance to old side walls by a lighting gap; © Ramsfjell architects



Main floor plan – shows an endstage layout of "performance table", risers formed by mobile rostrums, external access elevator for delivery of decoration on the raised "performance table"



Site Plan



Longitudinal section – 3 moveable lighting running in the tracks of former crane bridges