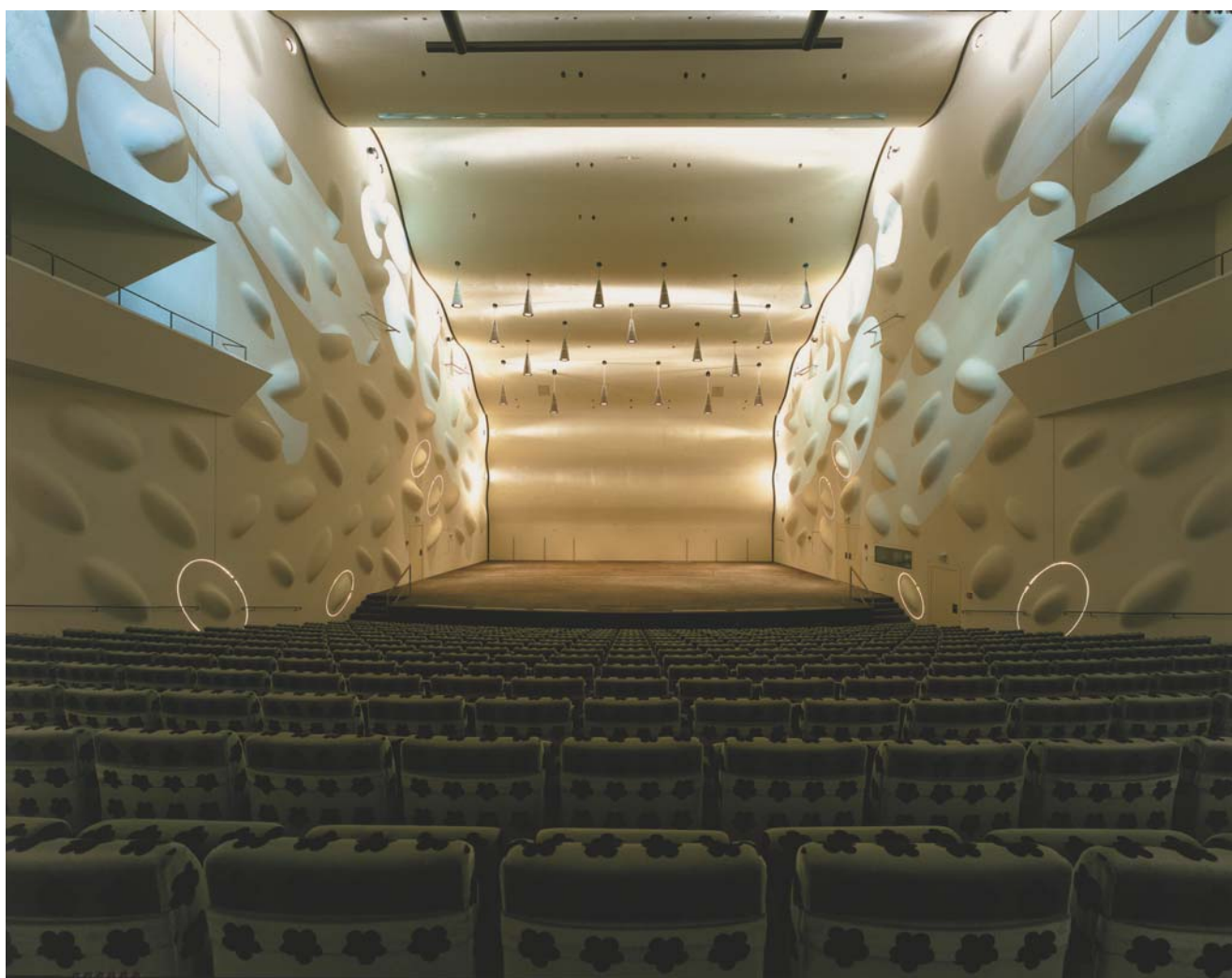


AC Meeting October 23. – 25. 2010 Berlin

Visited Projects

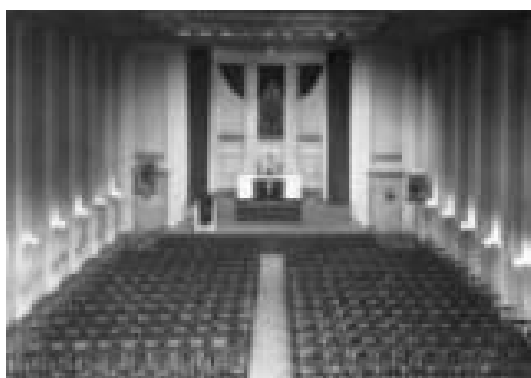
Nikolai Saal, Potsdam



The Potsdam Nikolaisaal is the concert and event hall for the capital city of the State of Brandenburg. The futuristic interior of the building, which was re-opened in August 2000, generates an exciting contrast to its historical facade and the surrounding inner-city of Potsdam, with its beautifully-restored baroque homes.

The unique acoustics of the Great Hall thrill the audiences for classical music just as much as those for modern sessions and crossover. Readings and fashion shows are held here, as well as international conferences. The front section of the building houses a gallery for contemporary art.

In 1909, the parish St. Nikolai inaugurated its new church hall, the Nikolaisaal, which soon developed into Potsdam's most favoured concert room.



Given away to decay in the 1980s, it took a long time to restore and rebuild this traditional venue.

Third life of Nikolaisaal:

The auditorium (725 seats) and the multi purpose lobby are a preferred location for numerous international stars that come to perform in the Berlin-Brandenburg area. Symphonies, Classic on Sunday, recitals, and jazz concerts, film and concert live-performances, crossover projects and many other events are presented in this excellent concert hall

Project was designed after a limited competition by the French architect Rudy Ricciotti, who was selected on account of his sensitive contact with the existing structural fabric.

From the rebuilding of a church in 1934 resulted Nikolaisaal was used to 2/3, the remaining part is used as an entrance hall. A new hall by soft, curved forms pushes

in the 2-storey space.

"The hall back wall dressed up with bolt maple counteracts against the chill elegance of the black, almost completely dematerialised entrance hall", - according to the architects Hegger + Hegger + Dragging, which were local partners of Rudy Ricciotti - "on the way to a concert the visitor penetrates first baroque block, then crosses the entrance hall from the thirties years to take a seat, finally, in the heart of the baroque town in the concert hall. Here the architecture with space, form, material, light and music develops her temperament in view of the baroque context."

The Architect:



Rudy Ricciotti is a French architect with Algerian roots. He has designed museums and rock music halls. In February 2010 he was awarded with first prize of Cultural Centre "Les Arts Gstaad"

As a "homage to the music instruments" Rudy Ricciotti himself describes affectionately his building in Potsdam which is conceived as a concert hall for classical orchestra music.

Rudy Ricciotti was born in 1952 in Algier. He studied in Geneva and Marseilles before opening his own architectural office in Bandol (Bouches-du-Rhone) in 1980. His early works are characterized by a radical, carefree approach, displaying a variety of forms and full of energy. Since the beginning of the 1990s Ricciotti has been influenced by the Arte Povera and his buildings have become more austere and functional, making use of minimalist and "low-tech" solutions. With the opening of the concert hall in Potsdam, and the construction of a foot bridge in Seoul ("Footbridge of Peace", 2002), Ricciotti has finally found international recognition.

Acoustics

A standing out sign of the new concert hall are beside lighting and curved cover the white sound diffusers formed from gypsum in the big hall. They accomplish - according to statement of the operator's society - "small acoustic miracles". Dry construction systems on ceiling and walls were used in varying result and go over seamlessly into each other.

Different light situations change the atmosphere of the "white hall" and conjure different moods - according to event.

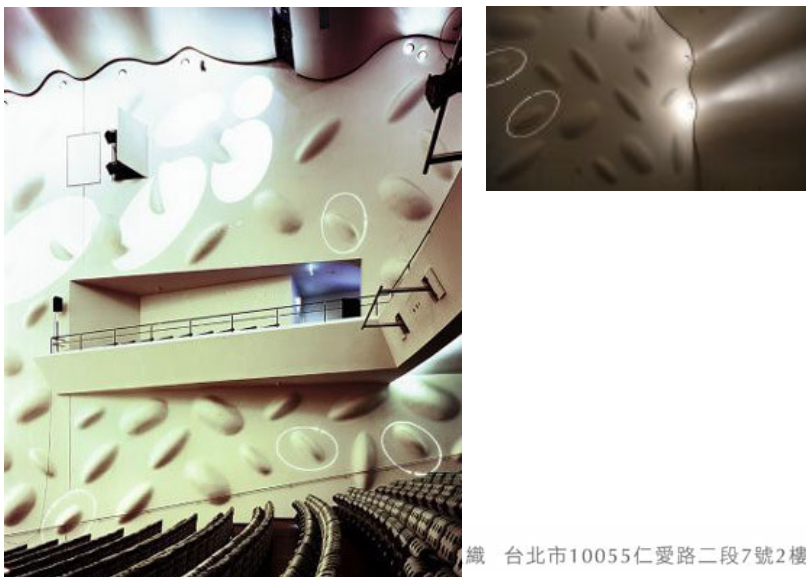
Artists wardrobe, Foyer and back façade



Baroque facade to be penetrated to reach Foyer and concert hall

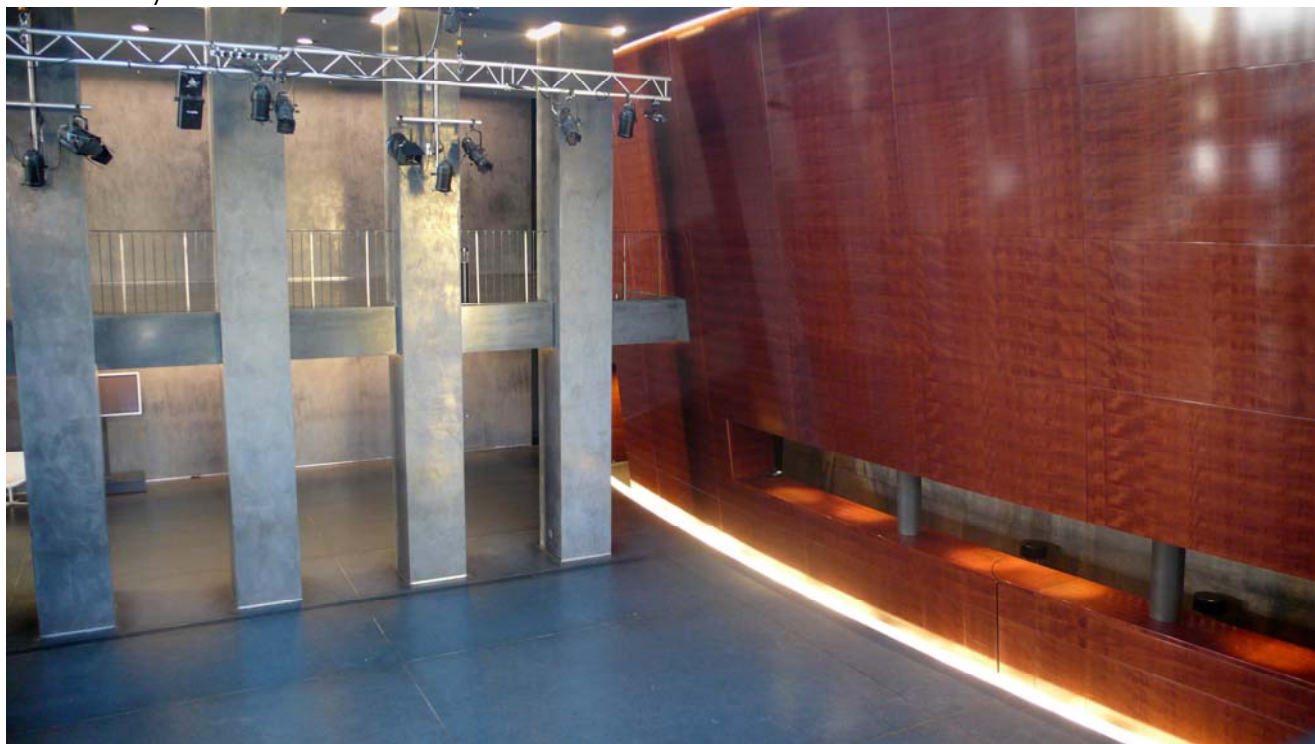


Interior of the concert hall carries cast gypsum diffusers.





First floor foyer combines old and new



Entrance foyer

Beside main hall there is a rehearsal room.



Adress:

Musikfestspiele Sanssouci und Nikolaisaal Potsdam

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