Auditorium

Name of project:

Burghof Lörrach
Municipal hall

Type of building:

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

Project data:

Client/Owner: City of Lörrach
Adress: Luisenstr. 16
                           79539 Lörrach
                           Germany

Project team:

Architecture: Wilfried & Katharina Steib, Basel (CH)
Structural Engineering: Cyrill Burger & Partner
Mechanical & Electrical Engineering: Ing. Büro Teichmann
Acoustics: Müller BBM, Planneg
Stage Technology, Stage Lighting,
Sound Engineering: theater projekte daberto + kollegen gmbh

Project costs:
21,88 Mio € inc. VAT

Capacity of rooms:
Gross Capacity (Mainhall) :   35.500 m²
Usable Area: 6.200 m²
Seating Capacity: max. 885

Date of official inauguration:
November 1998

Contact person for visits:

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Municipal halls often suffer from the manifold tasks they are required to fulfill. However, none of them is met optimally or at least satisfactorily. There are simply too many different kinds of performances requested. Lörrach city started planning the construction of a municipal hall and ended up with a cultural centre that must compete with other theatres and function rooms located in the culturally diverse region of the so-called "Dreiländereck", i.e. the region bordering Switzerland, France and Germany. For this reason the house could not be fitted economically only spending a modest amount of money.

The house will be used for carnival events, lectures and presentations, congresses, classical and pop concerts, drama, musical and dance performances. Dance performances have been especially successful up to now.

Building History

An architectural competition with 82 participants was launched, which the architects W. + K. Steib from Basel won.

Before starting construction, there were two public decisions concerning the project.

A small majority voted for the building. After the local council took ist the decision, the planning stage started in 1994.

Urban Development

Following a naming competition the municipal centre is now called "Burghof", which refers to its location on the grounds of the former castle of Lörrach. Forming the edge of the old part of the town, it takes up a city wall motive with its closed-up front to the west. Besides the clinkers used to build the front of the house, narrow and accentuated openings support the impression of a wall.

The site has only limited extensions, which were consciously taken into account.

Precious historical buildings, the "Zehentrotte" (barn in which the tithes were stored) built in 1543 could thus be saved.

Facing the city the building is represented by a glass façade and a glass corridor that allows the observer to look into the auditorium. The entrance is located in southern Herrenstrasse, aligned towards the city centre. When entering the building, the visitor almost feels „compressed" by the covered entrance, which is marked by a Bruce Neumann sculpture called „Truncated Pyramid Room".
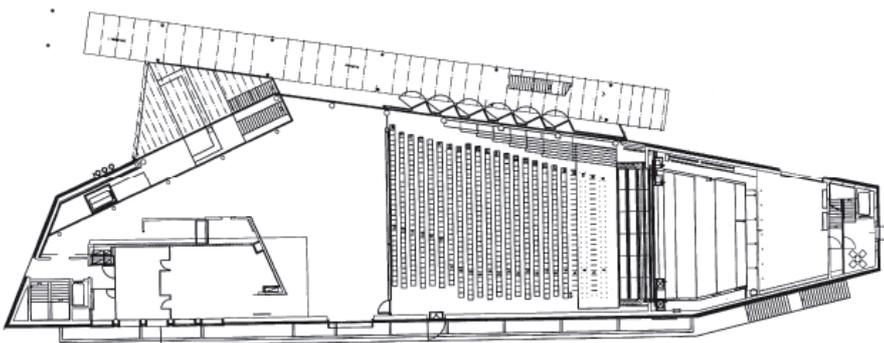

the open glassed façade, comming from the city centre, contrasts with the hermetically closed east side
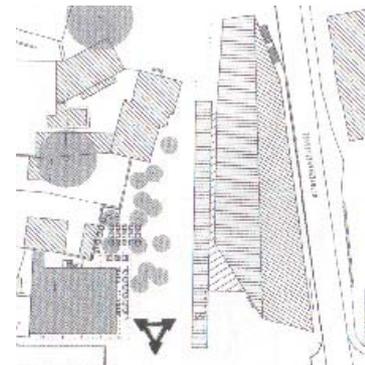

Possible change of acoustics by fabric curtain running behind an acoustically transparent wooden side wall cladding
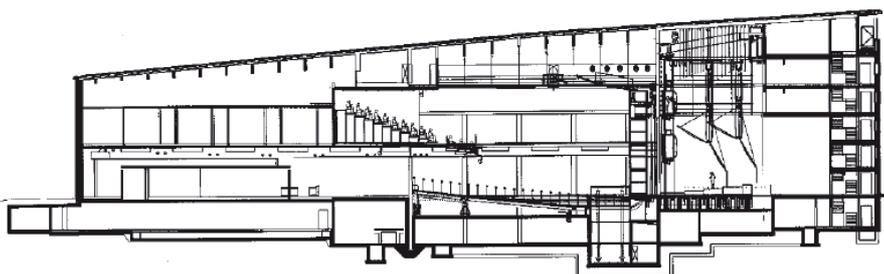

Balcony view torwards small hall

Main Floor Plan - On top the glass entrance tunnel, coming from the cities centre, in bottom the closed wall, brick cladded, reminds of the old city´s mural fragments once located here

Site Plan - in the entrance piazza Bruce Naumans „truncated pyramid"

Longitudinal section - from left foyer, above convention rooms, small hall to be connected with main hall or used separately, auditoriums floor is not stepped but may be inclined. Air supply from regular 4 mm slots in the floor.
Acoustic shell for concerts may be moved horizontally and be folded away.