Name of project:
De Spiegel Theatre Zwolle

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: De Spiegel / Municipality of Zwolle
Adress: Spinhuisplein 14, 8011 ZZ Zwolle, The Netherlands

Project team:
Architecture: Greiner Van Goor Huijten Architecten, Amsterdam
Structural Engineering: DHV Bouw en Industrie, Den Haag
Mechanical Engineering: Valstar Simonis, Den Haag
Electrical Engineering: Valstar Simonis, Den Haag
Acoustic consultant: Peutz & Associes, Zoetermeer / Mook
Theatre consultant: theateradvies, Amsterdam
Stage lighting: theateradvies, Amsterdam
Sound Engineering: theateradvies, Amsterdam

Project costs:
Currency to be named! Preferred US $ or Euro
23.000.000 Euro

Capacity of auditorium:
Gross floor area: 8.350 m² (entire building)
Architectural volume: 60.400 m³ (entire building)
Seating Capacity (main auditorium): 1.000 (concert set-up), 850 (theatre set-up)

Date of official inauguration:
2004, September

Contact person for visits:
De Spiegel, Spinhuisplein14, 8011 ZZ Zwolle,
Contact Karen White, phone (+31(0)38-4277378, e-mail k.white@odeondespiegel.nl
Description of the project:
The Spiegel Theatre is located on the outer rim of the city centre of Zwolle, the so-called Northern Isle. Originally, the isle was occupied by a gas plant and two monumental buildings: the prison (to be converted into a hotel/cookery school) and a school (to be converted into an apartment building). Next to the projects mentioned above, mainly housing projects will be realized on the Northern Isle, which is an interesting expansion of the city centre. The theatre forms a whole with the two monumental buildings and was therefore built as a compact volume. It consists of 3 elements:
1. The stage, side stages, dressing rooms, loading bay etc. This part can be recognized by the flamed bricks in two sizes, laid in upright bond.
2. The foyers with glass elevations that are divided up by wooden posts at changing intervals which act like blinds. The use of wood softens the elevation, both outside and inside the building and adds an interesting touch to the light that comes in during the daytime and shines out in the evening.
3. The auditorium, a high volume with a metal dome, which forms the nucleus of the building.

The height of the auditorium follows from the acoustic concept of Peutz Consultants. The basis is a theatre auditorium with 850 seats divided over parterre and 2 balconies. By lifting the ceiling, a third balcony is added to the auditorium. Through this, the volume is doubled and good concert acoustics are created. The auditorium in this set-up seats 1,000 persons. For the concert set-up the stage opening is enlarged from 14 x 8 metres to 18 x 14 metres. An orchestra chambre is then erected on the stage. The auditorium is also suitable for opera performances. The horseshoe shape ensures optimum contact between audience and performers and amongst the audience itself. Contact between people was also the basis for the design of the foyers. Voids and broad staircases allow contact between people on all different levels. Intimate nooks and corners are created where people can sit down in smaller groups. By using a lot of glass in the elevations, the building has an open and festive aura to the outside world. The wooden posts create a sense of surprise by screening off or revealing parts of the foyer. The round shape of the auditorium is clearly recognizable from the outside through the use of titanium zinc. The stagehouse is necessarily more closed off and made of brick.