

DS+R Releases New Photos from the Tianjin Juilliard School's Inaugural Academic Year

The new images show students and faculty rehearsing and performing in Diller Scofidio + Renfro's first completed work in China.



Photography by Zhang Chao

April 14 | Today, Diller Scofidio + Renfro (DS+R) and members of The Tianjin Juilliard School's leadership presented the international institution's second campus to a group of journalists virtually. Designed by DS+R—the firm responsible for the 2009 expansion of Juilliard's iconic NY home—the Tianjin Juilliard School is a center for performance, practice, research, and interactive exhibitions, with communal spaces that are designed to welcome the public into the creative process and musical performances. Located 45 minutes by high-speed train from downtown Beijing, the 350,000 sf building is composed of four pavilions that house a 690-seat concert hall, a 299-seat recital hall, and a 225-seat black box theater, among many other spaces. With design features that pay tribute to those of the Juilliard School in NY, the institute also utilizes leading technologies to ensure a high degree of connectivity and collaboration between the students and faculty of both campuses.

DS+R Partner-in-Charge, Charles Renfro said, "Our design for the new Tianjin Juilliard School takes much of its DNA from Juilliard's New York campus, which we completed in 2009. Both projects seek to increase engagement with the public through openness and transparency; offer informal spaces for students to mix and gather; and provide teaching and performance spaces with world-class acoustics. In Tianjin, the ground floor lobby acts as a continuation of the surrounding park, accessible through multiple entries open to the public. We lowered the stages of the primary performance venues one level below grade so the halls could share loading, back of house and support spaces without interrupting the lobby. All of the teaching and practice spaces occupy five glass-clad bridges that span between the performance pavilions, bringing daylight and views to and from these education spaces while broadcasting the activities of the school to the general public. As both an educational tool and a performance vessel, the building acts as a finely tuned and highly crafted instrument in and of itself."

"Juilliard's China campus designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, is an architectural gem in the Binhai district of Tianjin," **Joseph W. Polisi, President Emeritus and Chief China Officer of The Juilliard School** added. "Our exceptional architecture partner has brought to life an extraordinary new building with stunning performance spaces and state-of-the-art facilities, drawing strong parallels to our New York campus with its complementary features meant to enhance educational experiences. The Tianjin Juilliard School is an artistic and educational destination for the region, bringing together cultures through the art of music. Tianjin Juilliard serves as a catalyst in this historic city,

developing new and innovative programs that will enrich the cultural environment for all who wish to learn more about music and the performing arts."

TJS is the first performing arts institution in China to confer a U.S. - accredited Master of Music (MM) degree. The new school also offers a number of public-facing programs including a Saturday Pre-College program for students ages 8-18; continuing education programs for professionals and adult learners; public education programs for music learners of all ages; and public performances. **Alexander Brose, Executive Director and CEO of The Tianjin Juilliard School** stated, "The overall design of our landmark Tianjin Juilliard campus inspires and welcomes the public into the creative process and performance of music. As an iconic home for the performing arts, the campus is also an environment that inspires our students to develop their artistry and grow as complete musicians, leaders, and young adults. Since the opening of the campus, it has been a focus of pride for local visitors – they enjoy incredible performances by our renowned faculty, students, and guest artists – and also revel in the stunning architecture of the campus surrounded by the beautiful riverside park overlooking the Haihe River."

In fall 2020, the Graduate Studies division welcomed its first class of 39 students from 11 countries. Since opening, the school has launched two music festivals, developed numerous partnerships with peer institutions and invited renowned guest artists and student participation from around the world. "We are thrilled to be able to provide a multi-faceted learning environment at The Tianjin Juilliard School – the perfect place where we can create the authentic Juilliard experience for our students and future generations of students from all around the world," commented **Wei He, Artistic Director and Dean of The Tianjin Juilliard School**. "The spaces within the building are filled with light and communicate a sense of openness and connectivity, where students can explore the depths of collaborative musicianship, a common thread weaving through our programs. It has been inspiring for our faculty and students to play orchestral and chamber music in the acoustically-stunning performance venues throughout the building."

Damian Woetzel, President of The Juilliard School added, "The opening of The Tianjin Juilliard School is the realization of a long-held dream to extend Juilliard's artistic and educational excellence internationally, creating a cross-cultural partnership that benefits our students as well as the larger performing arts world. Our branch campus gives us the ability to inspire new generations of musicians with unique experiences, collaborations, and Juilliard's educational values that they will bring to their future artistic lives. We look forward to harnessing technology to connect our campuses for regular exchanges, educational dialogue and to the streaming of performances. We know this next generation of artists will take these experiences forward into the future, as they play critical roles in their communities as artists and leaders."

The presentation can be viewed [here](#) (password: TJSPress). Project factsheets, high res images, floorplans and video links can be downloaded [here](#).

ABOUT DILLER SCOFIDIO + RENFRO

Founded in 1981, Diller Scofidio + Renfro (DS+R) is a New York-based, interdisciplinary design studio. With a focus on cultural and civic projects, DS+R's work addresses the changing role of institutions and the future of cities. DS+R completed two of the largest architecture and planning initiatives in New York City's recent history: the High Line and the transformation of the Lincoln Center for Performing Arts. In 2019, the studio completed two significant cultural projects in New York: The Shed and the renovation and expansion of MoMA. For more information visit dsrny.com