



PRESS INFORMATION

HERZOG & DE MEURON PROJECT DESCRIPTION ELBPHILHARMONIE HAMBURG

A new Location in the City - The City in a new Place

The Elbphilharmonie on the Kaispeicher A marks a location that most people in Hamburg know about but have never really experienced. In future it will become a new centre of social and cultural life for the people of Hamburg as well as visitors from all over the world.

The Kaispeicher A, designed by Werner Kallmorgen and constructed between 1963 and 1966, was originally used as a warehouse for cocoa beans until the end of the last century. The new building has been extruded from the shape of the Kaispeicher A and is perfectly congruent with the brick block of the older building on top of which it has been placed. The top and bottom of the new structure are, however, entirely different from the plain, blunt shape of the warehouse below. The broad, undulating sweep of the roof rises to a total height of 110 m at the Kaispitze (the tip of the peninsula), sloping down to the eastern end, where the roof is some 30 m lower. Correspondingly the bottom of the new superstructure has an expressive dynamic. Specific areas are defined by either wide, shallow or steep vaults.

In contrast to the stoic brick facade of the Kaispeicher A, the new building above has a glass facade, consisting in part of curved panels, some of them cut open. The glass facade transforms the new building into a gigantic, iridescent crystal whose textured appearance changes as it catches the reflections of the sky, the water and the city and transforms them into an intricate puzzle on its facade .

The main entrance to the building, where the box office is located, lies to the east. The elongated escalator curves slightly as it leads to the top of the Kaispeicher A, so that it cannot be seen in full from one end to the other. The escalator offers its users a surprising spatial experience through the entire Kaispeicher A. The first escalator leads up to a large panoramic window, the second escalator ends at the Plaza.

Upon reaching the top of the Kaispeicher A, visitors find an open space, a public Plaza above the city. Between the top of the Kaispeicher A and beneath the new building – at the joint between old and new – is a new public space that offers unique panoramic views. Along its edges, vault-shaped openings create spectacular, theatrical views of both the River Elbe and the City of Hamburg. Further inside, a deep vertical opening creates constant spectacular

Press contact Elbphilharmonie: Enno Isermann (Spokesman Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Ministry of Culture)
phone: +49 40 428 24 207, enno.isermann@kb.hamburg.de

Press contact concert programme: Tom R. Schulz, Julia Mahns, Elena Wätjen
Press and PR (HamburgMusik gGmbH – Elbphilharmonie and Laeiszhalle Hamburg)
phone: +49 40 357 666 258, presse@elbphilharmonie.de



glimpses of the foyer areas of the Grand Hall above. A café and the hotel lobby are located here, as well as access to the foyers of the new concert halls.

The design for the new Elbphilharmonie is a project of the 21st century that would have been inconceivable before. The principle design idea of the Grand Hall as a space where orchestra and conductor are located in the centre of the audience, is a well-known typology. It is also not uncommon that the architecture is composed of an arrangement of tiers that take their cue from the logic of the acoustic and visual perception. But here this logic leads to another conclusion. The tiers are more pervasive; tiers, walls, and ceiling form a spatial unity. This space, rising vertically almost like a tent, is not determined by the architecture alone but by the 2.100 listeners and musicians who gather in order to make and listen to music. The towering shape of the hall defines the static structure of the entire building and is correspondingly reflected in the silhouette of the building as a whole. The Elbphilharmonie is a landmark visible from afar, lending an entirely new accent to the horizontally conceived city of Hamburg.

Herzog & de Meuron

Partners: Jacques Herzog, Pierre de Meuron, Ascan Mergenthaler, David Koch

Associates: Nicholas Lyons, Stefan Goeddertz, Stephan Wedrich

Press contact Elbphilharmonie: Enno Isermann (Spokesman Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Ministry of Culture)

phone: +49 40 428 24 207, enno.isermann@kb.hamburg.de

Press contact concert programme: Tom R. Schulz, Julia Mahns, Elena Wätjen

Press and PR (HamburgMusik gGmbH – Elbphilharmonie and Laeiszhalle Hamburg)

phone: +49 40 357 666 258, presse@elbphilharmonie.de