



Illustrations: Herzog & de Meuron, Design: www.qart.de

Client: Elbphilharmonie Hamburg
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General planners: Herzog & de Meuron,
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Highest point: 110 m
Height of Plaza: 37 m
Seats in the large concert auditorium:
approx. 2,150
Seats in the small concert auditorium:
approx. 550
Seats in the third concert auditorium:
approx. 170
Planned apartments: approx. 45
Planned hotel rooms: approx. 250
Planned parking spaces: approx. 510

Start of building work: April 2007
Completion: 2012

Photo: Hamburg Marketing GmbH



Other Uses

The Elbphilharmonie Hamburg will be more than just a concert hall, it will also be a whole residential and cultural complex. In the west, the residential apartments tower to 110 metres above the Elbe. They offer an impressive view of the city and the harbour. There is a separate entrance to the apartment section, and each unit is individually designed.

To the east, there is a 5-star hotel with a conference area. The hotel rooms offer a view of the Hafencity. The Plaza is a freely accessible public area 37 metres above the river. It looks like a shining seam between the warehouse and the new building. It will offer a new meeting point for the people of Hamburg and their visitors. The warehouse itself will mainly be used as an indoor car park with about 510 parking spaces. It will also have other high quality facilities: an education section with a third auditorium, other backstage rooms and restaurants.

The City

Hamburg is Germany's second-largest city. Its grand merchants' houses and magnificent promenades, internationally renowned cultural scene and St. Pauli district give Hamburg a cosmopolitan feel. The numerous shopping facilities from traffic-free areas to old-established stores and young designers satisfy even the fanciest shopping desires. This constantly growing, international trading city with its harbor and strong economy offers a highly attractive environment for business. It is home to many international corporations and a platform for trade and commerce. On average, about 120 Million tourists visit Hamburg every year, making up 340.000 visitors a day. The Elbphilharmonie is going to be the new landmark of Hamburg and one of the best concert halls in the world, symbolizing the city's outstanding alteration into one of the most bustling cities in Europe.

Elbphilharmonie Hamburg

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Photo: ReGe Hamburg/foto-Frizz



The Elbphilharmonie Hamburg

In the guise of the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Hamburg is acquiring a new and impressive concert house, one that is destined to house one of the world's best concert halls. This should be an outstanding location for performing classical music as well as jazz, world music and pop music. The Elbphilharmonie Hamburg will become a new landmark for the city and, at the same time, a place for everyone.

The exciting design of the building was created by the Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron. It combines classical brick architecture with the bold sweep of the glass facades and the roof landscape. Between the two is the freely accessible Plaza, where members of the general public can enjoy the unique view of the city and the harbour.

The Location

The Elbphilharmonie Hamburg will become a landmark in the middle of the River Elbe. In the West, it extends into the Elbe, as a hinge between the city and the harbour. The Elbphilharmonie Hamburg also has a central function for the Hafencity, the largest inner city urban development area in Europe. The Elbphilharmonie Hamburg will occupy a historically important spot. The landmark of the harbour, the "Kaiserspeicher" with its ball clock, stood there until it was partly destroyed in the Second World War. Its successor, warehouse A, which was designed by Werner Kallmorgen and built from 1963 to 1966, was used as a cocoa bean warehouse almost until the end of the last millennium. Thousands of sacks full of cocoa beans were stored in the solid building. In the 1990s the building ceased to be used as a warehouse. Afterwards concerts and exhibitions took place in warehouse A.



The Concert Hall

The Elbphilharmonie Hamburg aims to have one of the best concert halls in the world. It will be an outstanding venue for classical music, as well as jazz, world music and pop. The large concert hall, with approx. 2,150 seats, will take pride of place in the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg. It does not follow the orthogonal concept of a shoebox shaped hall. The orchestra and conductor are situated in the centre and the audience seating sections rise up in interlocking irregular terraces to form a steep-sided cauldron. Light is reflected from the bright surfaces. The reflector in the sharply pointed ceiling is a striking feature. It ensures outstanding acoustics and is also part of the lighting system. The Japanese expert Yasuhisa Toyota is responsible for the acoustics.



The Plaza

In addition to the three concert halls, the Plaza also forms the heart of the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg. It will resemble a market place where concert-goers and casual passers-by, residents of Hamburg and tourists can meet. The outdoor terraces offer a unique panorama with views of the city centre to the North, Hafencity to the East, and the Elbe and the harbour to the South and West. The interior of the Plaza is dominated by the curved ceiling with its varying geometrical shape. It allows spectacular views over the city and the harbour. Deep recesses are cut into the building above the Plaza, offering varied insights between the Plaza and the different levels of the foyer. On the Plaza itself, there are a number of restaurants and bars, and also the entrances to the hotel lobby and the residential complex. Sculptural staircases lead to the foyers of the Elbphilharmonie.