

Elbphilharmonie Hamburg on course: the Grand Hall is taking the next important step towards the official opening in January 2017

Before the first notes will resound in the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg in less than a year, the concert hall reached the next milestone on 31 January 2016 on its journey towards being a venue with phenomenal acoustics: as agreed in the context of the project's reorganisation, the concert hall's "white skin" has been completed in accordance with the contract. As part of the construction process, final work is still being carried out on the innovative 6,000-square-metre wall and ceiling cladding. This involves in particular the installation of the organ, which is currently in full swing.

Hamburg Senator for Culture Prof. Barbara Kisseler: "By reaching the last intermediate deadline before its opening on 11 and 12 January 2017, we are now well on schedule. This has been the result of excellent collaboration between all stakeholders since the project was completely reorganised a good three years ago. While we will be able to enjoy the stunning sound in the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg in a little less than a year, it is clear even now that the Elbphilharmonie is establishing itself as an architectural jewel in Hamburg."

The white skin in the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg

In addition to the geometry of the room and the materials used, the surface structure is critical to the concert hall's excellent acoustics. This specific surface structure of the walls and ceiling was designed by architects Herzog & de Meuron through extensive material research and in numerous conceptual design studies and designs. The project was realised in close coordination with Japanese acoustician Yasuhisa Toyota of Nagata Acoustics and was implemented by HOCHTIEF. The white skin is one of the many innovations and complex developments in the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg.

Jacques Herzog of Swiss architect firm Herzog & de Meuron: "The dissemination of sound in a concert hall is decisive for the quality of acoustics. In order to achieve this, the geometry of the room, the materials used and the surface structure must be perfectly in tune. It is this particular structure and the seamless transition between the walls and the ceiling that lend the concert hall its somewhat natural characteristics."

The Elbphilharmonie Hamburg offers a unique music experience

The Weinberg architecture of the Grand Hall also creates a spatial proximity between the audience and the performing artists: with a maximum distance of 30 metres between the conductor and the audience, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg brings music closer to the audience than most other concert halls worldwide.

General Director Christoph Lieben-Seutter: "The completion of the white skin once again confirms the uniqueness of the Grand Hall, which is the centrepiece of the Elbphilharmonie. The spatial impression is fantastic. The hall appears both intimate and generous, and its organic shape makes it an ideal place for great artistic performances."

To learn more, please visit www.elbphilharmonie.de