



PRESS INFORMATION

THE ELBPHILHARMONIE HAMBURG:

A NEW ARCHITECTURAL LANDMARK FOR THE HANSEATIC CITY OF HAMBURG

Hamburg has a new landmark with international appeal: the Elbphilharmonie, whose fluid, wave-like roof rises up to 110 metres high in the sky. The new concert hall, designed by the Swiss firm of architects Herzog & de Meuron, lies directly on the banks of the Elbe, surrounded on three sides by water, and can be seen from all over the city. Perched on top of the existing former Kaispeicher A, which was constructed in the 1960s by the renowned architect Werner Kallmorgen, the newly designed glass structure rises up from the rugged brick warehouse like a wave of glass. The two parts of the building are separated by the Plaza, which forms the link between them and is publicly accessible. The ceremonial opening of this unique concert hall took place in January 2017.

The Elbphilharmonie Hamburg lies at the western point of the new HafenCity, Europe's largest inner-city urban development project, in direct proximity to the Speicherstadt warehouse district World Heritage site and the Kontorhaus business district with the Chilehaus. In future, the site will become a new centre for social and cultural life for all who live in Hamburg as well as for visitors from all over the world. It is not only its spectacular architecture that gives the Elbphilharmonie its universal appeal, but also the combination of three concert halls; a 37 metre high Plaza open to the public that features a panoramic view over Hamburg and the port; a music education area; places to eat and a hotel.

Kaispeicher A, a redoubtable brick warehouse building from the 1960s, serves as the foundation for the Elbphilharmonie's new glass structure. Its Hamburg-based architect, Werner Kallmorgen, would surely have been delighted to know that his tea, cocoa and tobacco store would form the foundation for a spectacular concert hall. After all, straight after the Second World War he was instrumental in helping to restore a large number of theatrical buildings - including the Altonaer Theatre and the Thalia Theatre at Alstertor - to their former glory. The external shell of the Elbphilharmonie's glass structure is composed of around 1,100 glass elements that are variously cambered and curved and individually marked. These mirror the sky, the city or the waters of the Elbe, depending on the perspective. The façade thus becomes a constantly changing projection surface, reflecting its surroundings and the different weather conditions.

A slightly curved escalator approximately 80 metres long leads the way into the building. The journey through the Tube, whose walls are encrusted with countless glass chips, is a special experience in itself. It leads up to the sixth floor to a large panoramic window from which the port and landing stages are visible. A second, shorter escalator transports you up to the roof of the former warehouse.



Once at the top, you will find a new space high above the city – the Plaza. The Plaza is located 37 metres above the ground and serves, so to speak, as a link between the two parts of the building. This new public space offers unique panoramic views over the port and city. The internal and external areas of the Plaza act as a meeting place for concertgoers, hotel guests and all those who want to come and enjoy the spectacular outlook. Visitors are guided towards the hotel lobby, the shop and to the dining area. From the Plaza visitors can access the foyers of the new concert hall. These, too, offer exciting views – both onto the upper and lower foyer levels as well as out over the city, the Elbe and the port.

At 50 metres high and with 2,100 seats the Grand Hall is the true centrepiece of the Elbphilharmonie. The basic concept of a space in which the musicians sit at the heart of the audience is a consistently recurring theme here. Following the »vineyard« architecture concept, the orchestra is placed in the middle of the hall, while the seats rise in a steep incline to encircle it. The rows of seats extend virtually to the top of the room, almost forming part of the walls and ceiling. No member of the audience is seated more than 30 metres from the conductor. Despite the size of the hall, this means that everyone is seated unusually close to the music. The Grand Hall is not just defined by its architecture, but also, in certain ways, by the people who congregate in it to share in the musical experience.

To ensure the perfect listening experience in the Grand Hall the architects collaborated with star acoustician Yasuhisa Toyota in designing a special wall and ceiling structure specifically for the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg - the »White Skin«. 10,000 individually shaped gypsum fibre panels cut with millimetre precision reflect the sound, dispersing it in a calculated way. The reflector under the ceiling of the hall also ensures that the sound is optimally distributed. It is also the hall's central light fitting – a chandelier, as it were – and conceals critical elements of the hall's technical functions. Furthermore, in collaboration with the traditional Klais organ-building company based in Bonn, the architects designed a bespoke pipe organ especially for the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg. The organ's 4,765 pipes are situated in, next to and behind the audience seats.

On the east side of the Elbphilharmonie is the Recital Hall, designed to seat up to 550 people. The wave-shaped wooden panelling here ensures perfect acoustics - the ideal venue for chamber music. The Recital Hall can, however, be used for all manner of different occasions. The third hall, Kaistudio 1, likewise underlines the broad spectrum of potential uses of the Elbphilharmonie's facilities. Designed for around 150 visitors, Kaistudio 1 is part of the music education area with its seven different rooms.

Located at the interface between the city and port, the Elbphilharmonie stands tall as Hamburg's proud, new, architectural landmark and can be seen for miles around. This concert hall, which redefines the city's skyline, will in future also shape and pioneer changes within Hamburg's cultural scene.

**Further Information on the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg:**

Information and tickets: www.elbphilharmonie.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/elbphilharmonie.hamburg
Bluesky www.bsky.app/elbphilharmonie
Instagram: www.instagram.com/elbphilharmonie
TikTok: www.tiktok.com/@elbphilharmonie

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