



## Architecture

The new theatre presents a contemporary and sleek appearance, standing as a modern contrast to the historical building. Its clean lines and bold architectural forms command attention, signalling a departure from tradition and heralding a new era of puppetry. By deliberately diverging from the traditional aesthetics of the original theatre, the modern puppet theatre asserts its presence as a testament to modernity and artistic experimentation. The clean lines, sleek materials, and minimalist façade of the four-story cube showcase a departure from ornate historical details, marking a new chapter in the theatre's narrative.

To enhance the harmonious interaction between the old and new theatres, certain sections of the old structure on the western side will undergo careful demolition and be reborn within the new building. This strategic integration not only preserves the functionality of the old theatre but also creates dynamic synergies that bridge the gap between the two spaces. Primarily encompassing areas dedicated to artists and staging functions, this regeneration ensures a seamless transition and collaboration between the historical and contemporary elements.

Furthermore, a deliberate connections between the lobbies of the old and new theatres, located on the ground and first floor, adds additional benefits, particularly for the older structure. This connection not only enhances accessibility and circulation but also facilitates the experiences among theatre staff, artists, and visitors.

The underground levels of the new ensemble establish additional connections that enhance the overall functionality of the space.

The accessible roof of the new ensemble serves as a versatile venue, capable of hosting various events such as cinema screenings and open-air theatre performances during the summer months. It not only provides an immersive cultural experience but also creates a vibrant meeting point within the neighbourhood. With the addition of a roof bar, the space becomes an enticing destination where people can gather, socialise.

The concept of the facade, resembling a curtain, serves as a metaphorical invitation for spectators to step into a realm of wonder and imagination. It creates a sense of mystery, setting the stage for an immersive and extraordinary theatrical experience that will unfold behind the mesmerising facade of the modern puppet theatre cube.

Upon entering through the main entrance behind the curtain, visitors are welcomed into a spacious exhibition foyer on the ground floor. This area serves as a gateway to the enchanting world of puppetry, featuring displays that showcase the rich history and artistry of the craft. The combination of the café bar, information counter, and comfortable seating areas within the lobby and foyer establishes a sense of community, inviting both local inhabitants and theatre enthusiasts to embrace the puppet theatre as a cherished gathering place. The space encourages connections and fosters a shared love for the performing arts, creating an inviting environment that extends beyond the boundaries of the stage.

Adjacent to the foyer, a versatile hall awaits, ready to transform into a performance space, rehearsal studio, workshop area or exhibition space as needed. Its adaptable nature ensures a dynamic and ever-changing experience for both performers and guests. Connected to this hall is the delivery area, ingeniously designed to double as an outdoor theatre. When the facade is opened, the delivery dock seamlessly transforms into a stage, providing a unique and immersive setting for outdoor performances. The fusion of indoor and outdoor spaces adds an exciting element to the theatrical experience, allowing the magic of puppetry to unfold under the open sky.

At the heart of the building, on the second floor, lies the cross-shaped multifunctional main venue. This central space serves as the vibrant epic-centre of the puppet theatre, accommodating a variety of performances, from intimate puppet shows to grand spectacles. The design ensures optimal sight-lines and acoustics, ensuring that every seat offers an excellent view and an immersive auditory experience.

The main hall of the puppet theatre, designed to accommodate up to 200 people, features an unconventional yet highly versatile layout. Departing from the traditional black box design, the hall incorporates center axis wings on both sides, expanding its possibilities for different performance setups. This unique configuration allows for a range of layouts, from the classic shoe box arrangement to center stage and immersive setups, where the audience is positioned in the middle with stages surrounding them.

The cross configuration of the venue not only promotes artistic experimentation but also offers practical advantages. The flexibility of the space enables easy resizing for events of varying sizes, from small and intimate plays or concerts to bustling festivals with over 300 spectators. This adaptability ensures that the theatre can cater to a wide range of performances and audience capacities, creating dynamic and engaging experiences.

To further enhance the flexibility of the main hall, retractable seating platforms are incorporated. These platforms can be easily moved around the hall to accommodate different seating arrangements or removed entirely and stored in one of the wings, if required. This adaptability allows for seamless transitions between various performance setups and provides the option to create open and versatile spaces within the hall.

The multifunctional nature of the main hall, with its adaptable layout and movable seating platforms, empowers artists and production teams to unleash their creativity and explore diverse staging possibilities. It also provides the theatre with the flexibility to host a wide range of events, ensuring an immersive and captivating experience for audiences, regardless of the scale or style of the performance.

Throughout the theatre building, cutting-edge technology is seamlessly integrated to enhance the visual and auditory aspects of the performances. State-of-the-art lighting systems are employed to create evocative atmospheres, while a sophisticated sound design setup ensures that the audience is fully immersed in the puppetry world.

The main structure of the building takes inspiration from the traditional assembly of stages, creating a captivating three-dimensional steel grid that forms the cube-like shape of the theatre. Within this framework, the beams and columns of the grid not only provide structural support but also serve as elements that define and shape the floors and walls of the various functions within the building.

The deliberate visibility of these structural elements enhances the concept of a "theatre within a theatre" or a "stage on a stage." This design approach creates a dynamic environment where performances and activities can take place almost anywhere within the building. The interplay between the structural grid and the functional spaces encourages creative exploration, offering opportunities for innovative staging and immersive experiences.

The exposed steel grid not only serves a functional purpose but also becomes an integral part of the architectural expression. Its presence throughout the building serves as a visual reminder of the theatrical nature of the space, blurring the boundaries between performance areas and the surrounding environment. This concept fosters a sense of fluidity and openness, allowing performances and activities to seamlessly unfold throughout the building, creating an engaging and immersive experience for both artists and audiences.

By embracing this theatrical design concept, the building celebrates the art of performance and creates a dynamic backdrop for the magic that unfolds within its walls. The visible structural elements serve as a testament to the building's purpose, showcasing the interplay between form and function, and inviting the imagination to roam freely within its captivating spaces.

With its innovative design, flexible spaces, and a seamless blend of historical and modern elements, the modern puppet theatre building stands as a testament to the enduring charm of puppetry. It offers a captivating and dynamic venue that celebrates the art form while embracing the possibilities of contemporary technology and design.

## Functional distribution

The puppet theatre's ground floor includes a lobby, foyer, and a versatile rehearsal room, along with artist and staff entrances, changing rooms, and a delivery area for efficient operations. The first floor features a floating circulation platform that extends the exhibition space and connects to the old theatre's workshops. It also provides temporary spaces for actors and storage.

On the second floor, there is a grand upper foyer for the audience and additional artist and back-of-house facilities to ensure smooth operations and collaboration.

The third floor is dedicated to administration and potentially artist-in-residence programs, offering a space for managing the theatre's operations and fostering artistic exploration.

All levels, including the underground ones, are interconnected by a freight elevator for easy movement of scenes and props, including access to the rooftop. Additional elevators, staircases, and evacuation routes ensure efficient circulation and safety for staff and patrons.

## Economy/Ecology

The new puppet theatre can incorporate various ecological and economic parameters to promote sustainability and efficiency.

The theatre can be designed with energy-efficient systems and technologies, such as LED lighting, motion sensors, and programmable thermostats. Insulation and efficient HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems can also be employed to minimise energy consumption. Integration of renewable energy sources, such as solar panels or wind turbines, can help offset the building's energy needs and reduce its carbon footprint. This could involve harnessing solar energy for powering lighting, heating, and other electrical systems.

Implementing water-saving fixtures, such as low-flow toilets and faucets, as well as efficient irrigation systems for any landscaped areas, can help reduce water consumption. Rainwater harvesting systems could be installed to collect and reuse rainwater for non-potable purposes like irrigation or cleaning.

A comprehensive waste management system that includes recycling stations, composting facilities, and waste reduction initiatives can minimise the theatre's environmental impact. Emphasising recycling and encouraging patrons to participate in sustainable waste practices can contribute to a greener operation.

Opting for eco-friendly and recycled materials during construction and renovation can reduce the environmental impact of the theatre. This could involve using sustainable wood, recycled steel, low VOC (volatile organic compounds) paints, and other environmentally friendly building materials.

Collaborating with local suppliers and businesses can promote the local economy while reducing transportation-related emissions. Sourcing materials, food, and other supplies from nearby sources can support the community and reduce the carbon footprint associated with long-distance transportation.

The theatre can incorporate educational programs and initiatives that raise awareness about sustainability and environmental responsibility. This can include hosting workshops, exhibits, or educational events that highlight ecological issues and inspire positive action among staff, performers, and patrons.

By incorporating these ecological and economic parameters, the new puppet theatre can demonstrate a commitment to environmental stewardship while also potentially reducing operating costs and creating a more sustainable and engaging experience for the community.

## Cost

Based on the current planning stage, it is estimated that the construction cost range for the new theatre will be approximately €2.500-€3.000 per square meter of usable net area, excluding theatre equipment. The actual cost will depend on factors such as the quality of fit-out materials and construction methods employed.

## Area

The proposed building encompasses a total area of 914 m<sup>2</sup> on the extended site, including the original site area of 856 m<sup>2</sup> and the area previously occupied by the demolished section of the old theatre (58 m<sup>2</sup>).

The landscape area of the plot around the building is 488 m<sup>2</sup>, with 163 m<sup>2</sup> of permeable paved surfaces and 325 m<sup>2</sup> dedicated to greenery.

During the construction process, utmost care will be taken to preserve as many existing trees as possible. Additionally, according to the landscape concept, new trees will be planted around the building to enhance the overall greenery and aesthetics of the site. The trees along the sidewalks will be protected and preserved in their entirety, ensuring their continued presence and contribution to the surrounding environment.

The building's height reaches 17.1 meters on its perimeter and some minor build up areas with 19.5m.

The building's total volume is 16.098 m<sup>3</sup> on a 694m<sup>2</sup> footprint, accommodating a gross floor area of 3.573 m<sup>2</sup>.

The net floor area spans 3.005 m<sup>2</sup>, distributed across two underground floors, four above-ground floors, and an additional 600 m<sup>2</sup> of usable space on the roof.