

Representing the eternal strive of the theatre to outjump conventions and create relations between topics, ages and spaces, we propose an interdisciplinary multilevel structure with various inner and outer connections. The new Experimental Puppetry Arts Centre “embraces” the existing building of the State Puppet Theatre - Stara Zagora, provides a portable and direct connection to it, enabling the whole ensemble to function as an entire organism, while respectfully contrasting the historical volume.

Our design preserves the yard as a multifunctional space for outdoor performances and develops it further into an actual public space with optionally retractable auditorium seats. The entrance zone and the offstage spaces are organized mostly in height and all the parking is placed underground, which opens up a wide space in the front of the site. The Main Hall’s volume is set above the ground and therefore turns into a coverage of the transformable stage underneath.

The multiple floors of the new expansion enhance the capacity of the current theatre and provide a continuous flow of functions and spaces, including split-levels for additional offstage functions at the rear part of the building. The Entrance zone on the ground level hosts also a cafeteria and a bar, while additional storage spaces and the administration block are located at the first split level. The second main level hosts the Main performance hall with all the needed facilities and service premises, as well as a small residential block for visiting artists. A cantilevered terrace above the existing theatre is planned as an inner recreational area, devoted to the residential block and the rehearsal space.

The core of the new contemporary architecture, the Main Hall’s volume, is treated with a different finish material – the terracotta cladding completes the architectural individuality of the façade. The interior aims at an ultimate flexibility and therefore provides an open space with retractable auditorium seats and movable partition systems.

Covered indicators of the Experimental Puppetry Arts Centre:

Built-up area (elevation +0.00): 390 m²

Total built-up area: 1310 m²

Underground level area: 910 m²

Total building quadrature: 2220 m²

Total landscaping area within the boundaries of the plot and building: 880 m²

Estimated cost of the implementation of the project:

2 220 000 €