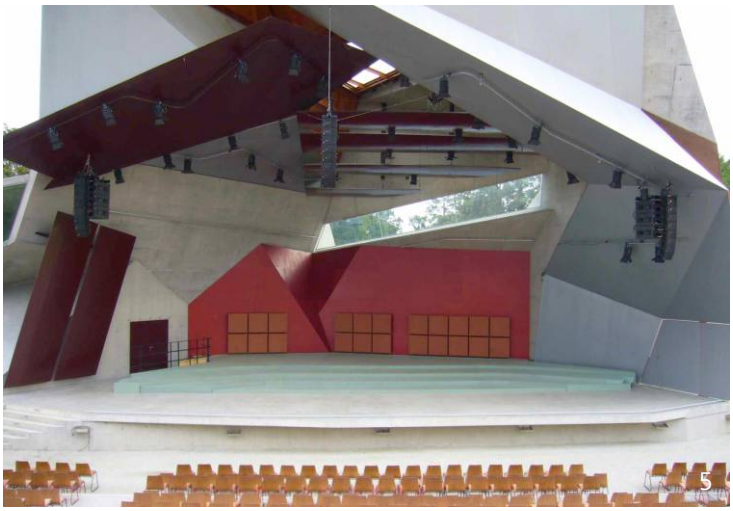
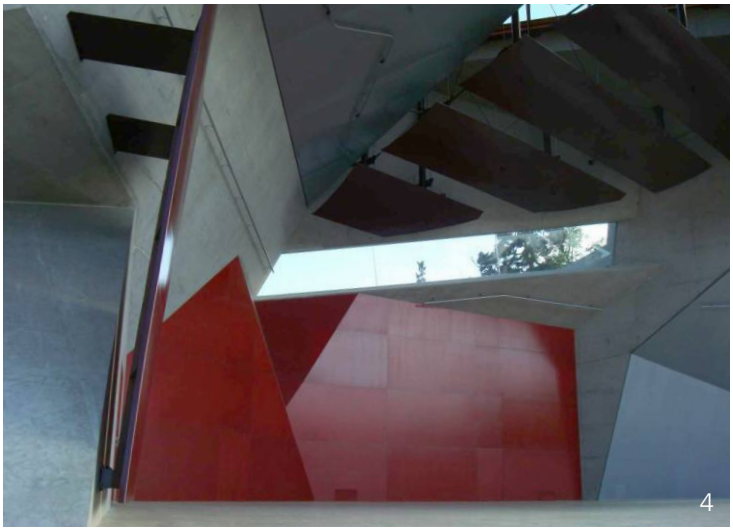
CLOUD TOWER, GRAFENEGG, AUSTRIA

PROJECT SUMMARY. The Cloud Tower in the Grafenegg palace gardens is an open-air pavilion that is used as a stage in summer and as an attraction for visitors on extended walks in the English landscape park at other times of the year. The gracefully sculpted geometry of the structure merges quite naturally with the garden landscape. In 2007, the Cloud Tower won the Clients' Award of Lower Austria.

FOCUS OF CONSULTING SERVICES. In terms of room acoustics, open-air theaters are special venues since they do not enclose a certain volume. Due to the lack of indoor reflections, direct sound is decisive for the transparency and clarity of music and speech. Emulating Greek amphitheaters and Roman arenas, the Cloud Tower's stands are steeply raked in order to ensure the best possible access to direct sound for the audience. In front of the stage, there is a large open area which ensures that the floor sound reflections forming there reach all seats unobstructedly. In addition, the sound-reflecting stage enclosure provides brief reflections for the audience. The design of the Cloud Tower itself as well as of the stands screens most of the ambient noise; the result is a very low background noise level with a good intelligibility for speech and musical performances.





CLIENT
Grafenegg Kulturbetriebsgesellschaft m.b.H., St. Pölten, Austria

ARCHITECT
the next ENTERprise-architects, Vienna, Austria

PROJECT DATA

Inauguration in	2007
Height	15 m
Seating capacity	1,730 plus approx. 300 on the lawn

SERVICES RENDERED
Room acoustics, electroacoustics, building acoustics, electronic room enhancement system, noise control, protection against external noise, room and building acoustics measurements, laboratory measurements, reverberation chamber measurements, shading studies
Consultancy for architectural design competition, consulting during all work phases, design, site supervision, accompaniment of initial operation period

1 Lateral view with the palace
2 Front view of the Cloud Tower
3 Lateral view
4 Reflector elements in detail
5 Stage with sound absorbers on the rear wall
Pictures: Müller-BBM