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HOUSE OF WORLD CULTURES, BERLIN, GERMANY

PROJECT SUMMARY. Built in 1956 - 57 as the United States' contribution to the International Building Exhibition, the former Congress Hall at Tiergarten is one of West Berlin's landmarks of post-war modernism and was made a listed building shortly after its completion. Following the German reunification, the building nicknamed the "pregnant oyster" became the "House of World Cultures". In 2006 it was comprehensively restored, a process that has now been completed with the second partial renovation and modernization.

FOCUS OF CONSULTING SERVICES. One objective of the renovation measures was to improve the auditorium's acoustic quality. Given the broad range of usage – from concerts of different music genres to events with speech amplification – very sophisticated room acoustic requirements had to be met in the hall measuring 11,300 m² and seating an audience of 1,047. Comprehensive status evaluation measurements showed too long reverberation times on the one hand and unfavorable sound reflections on the other, in short: no ideal acoustic conditions. In close collaboration with the project planners, very effective and mostly invisible measures were planned that also meet the strict heritage requirements. Among those measures were specific sound absorbing and sound scattering elements that were installed behind the lamella-type wall claddings. Moreover, Müller-BBM also contributed their expertise for the design of a sound reinforcement system. Finally, the re-inauguration of the auditorium was a tremendous success in February 2017: both the operating companies and users are very happy with the significantly improved acoustics.



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CLIENT

KBB – Kulturveranstaltungen des Bundes in Berlin GmbH, Berlin

ARCHITECT

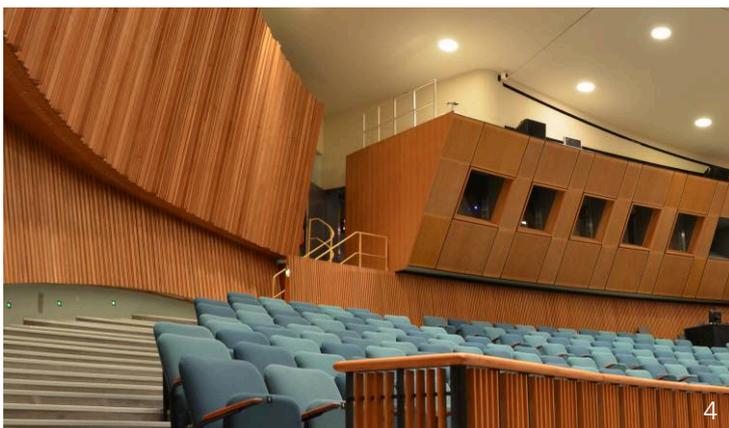
DFZ Architekten GmbH, Hamburg

PROJECT DATA

Planning and construction period	2014 - 2017
Gross floor area	14,230 m ²
Cost of construction	8.5 million euros

SERVICES RENDERED

Room acoustics, building acoustics
Reverberation room measurements, simulations



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1 Exterior view
2 Auditorium
3 Auditorium - view to the stage
4 Interpreter booths
Pictures: Louis Geerken, Müller-BBM