



## GREAT AMBER, LIEPAJA, LATVIA

**PROJECT.** Besides the capital Riga, Liepaja is Latvia's third largest city with approx. 100,000 inhabitants. Its significance as a center of music reaches far beyond Latvia. The new "Great Amber" concert hall with its spectacular design by Volker Giencke Architekten based in Graz, Austria, has a completely glazed shell and its appearance resembles a large piece of amber. The building houses a large concert hall as well as a chamber music hall. Both halls are home venues for the Liepaja Symphonic Orchestra, one of the oldest and best-known orchestras in the Baltics.

**ACOUSTICS.** The large concert hall with a volume of approx. 11,800 m<sup>3</sup> seats an audience of 1,120. In the fully occupied hall with a fully occupied orchestra podium, the reverberation time still amounts to 1.8 to 2.0 seconds and even increases towards the low-frequency range so that the acoustic conditions are ideal for classical music concerts. With its tiers of balconies, the shape of the hall follows traditional vineyard terrace layouts. Thus, the audience experiences a close physical proximity to the artists on the podium as well as a fully enveloping sound. Thanks to its high flexibility and the large, even floor in the stalls area, the concert hall can be adjusted to the requirements of events of various musical genres, to drama as well as dance performances, to meetings, conventions, receptions and banquets.

In the chamber music hall with its volume of approx. 1,200 m<sup>3</sup>, an audience of up to 180 can enjoy a balanced and refined sound during chamber music events.



### CLIENT

Liepaja City Municipality, Liepaja

### ARCHITECT

VOLKER GIENCKE Giencke & Company Architects ZT GmbH, Graz

### PROJECT DATA

Completed in 2015  
Gross floor area / gross volume 16,532 m<sup>2</sup> / 82,400 m<sup>3</sup>

### SERVICES RENDERED

Room acoustics, building acoustics  
Consultancy for the design competition, simulations, laboratory and reverberation room measurements, support during the commissioning period, final acceptance testing, assistance during the inauguration phase

1 Concert hall  
2 Concert hall  
3 External view  
4 Concert hall  
Pictures: Indriķis Stūrmanis