



GOETHEANUM, DORNACH, SWITZERLAND

PROJECT. The Goetheanum in Dornach near Basel in Switzerland is the international center of the anthroposophical movement. Named after Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, the building houses two halls (seating 1,000 and 500, respectively), exhibition and lecture rooms, a library, a bookshop as well as administrative rooms of the Anthroposophical Society. The Society's research and education facilities are located in the neighboring buildings.

The first Goetheanum, designed by Rudolf Steiner between 1908 and 1925, was a timber and concrete construction which was destroyed by arson on New Year's Eve 1922/23.

In the course of the year 1923, Steiner designed a new building entirely made of reinforced concrete – nowadays known as the Second Goetheanum. Construction works began in 1924; however, the building was not completed until 1928, after the architect's death.

ACOUSTICS. In the large auditorium of the Goetheanum, performances of the in-house theater and eurythmy groups as well as of visiting artists from around the world take place.

During the comprehensive refurbishment, an interdisciplinary team – consisting of sculptors, architects, acousticians and the very committed client – in a very considerate way integrated all necessary room acoustical measures into the historic structure.



CLIENT

General Anthroposophical Society Goetheanum, Dornach

ARCHITECT

Architekturbüro U. Oelssner, Stuttgart

PROJECT DATA

Planning and construction period 1989 - 1999
Cost of construction 20 million Swiss francs

SERVICES RENDERED

Room acoustics
Planning

1 Organ
2 Detail of lateral wall
3 Lateral wall
4 Podium
5 Exterior view (west side)
Pictures: 1-4 Müller-BBM,
5 GNU-FDL / Wladyslaw (talk), edits by: Dontpanic (aka Dogcow)