TEATRO SOCIALE, SONDRIO, ITALY

PROJECT. The Teatro Sociale, constructed in 1824 as an Italian tiered theater, was destroyed during World War II. Later on, in the 1950s, it suffered the same fate as many Italian theaters: it was converted into the municipal movie theater, and in 2001, it was finally closed for safety reasons. On the initiative of the municipal authorities, this deep sleep ended with the start of new planning activities in 2010. Under today's stalls area, the demolition works brought to light the remains of the original tiered theater which were impressively well preserved. During the refurbishment of the current auditorium, the planners had an extensive freedom of design, now resulting in perfect acoustics and ideally suitable stage technology installations.

ACOUSTICS. The existing rectangular auditorium provided good acoustic conditions for the new theater design. Nowadays, the raked stalls area and balconies ensure a very good direct sound transmission and sightlines to the stage. In the course of the reconstruction, the balcony was reduced by two rows of seats for shortening the soffit above the rear rows of seats in the stalls area. Due to this measure combined with a perfectly curved ceiling and an optimized geometry of the auditorium rear wall under the balcony, there is a good sound transmission even for the rearmost rows of seats in the stalls area. The walls with their cherry wood panels and the plaster ceiling ensure favorable sound reflections as well as the perfect reverberation.
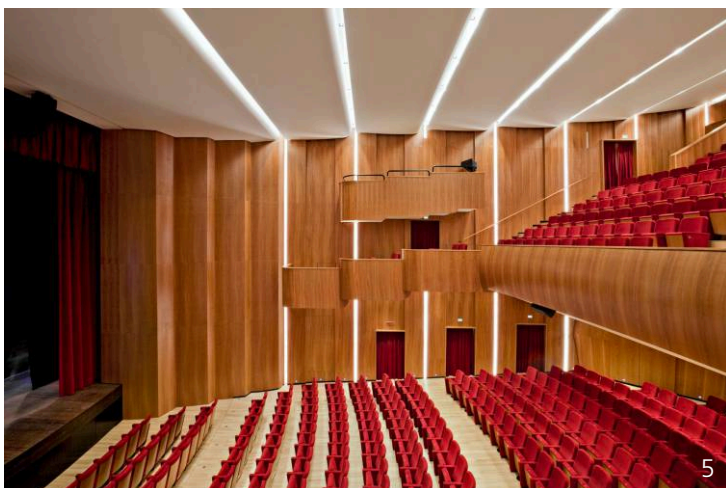

CLIENT
Comune di Sondrio, Italy

ARCHITECT
Studio Berlucchi, S.r.l., Brescia, Italy

PROJECT DATA

Completed in	2015
Seating capacity	584
Gross floor area / gross volume	3,870 m² / 3,200 m³
Cost of construction	8.6 million euros

SERVICES RENDERED
Room acoustics, building acoustics
Consulting, planning

1 View from the stage
2 + 3 Details
4 Balcony soffit
5 Lateral view into the auditorium
Pictures: Studio Berlucchi