

## Allborg House of Music: playing with the senses

After four years of construction, the "House of Music" in Aalborg, Denmark was ceremoniously opened on March 29, 2014 by the Danish Queen Margrethe II.

The House of Music in Aalborg extends the concept of space as liquid box that combines cultural and educational functions in an open system enabling synergy and exchange between public, artists, students and educators.

The cultural centre was designed by the Viennese architectural studio Coop Himmelb(l)au as a joined school and concert hall: its hybrid structure includes public and performance spaces and dedicated infrastructures.

"The idea behind the building can already be read from the outer shape. The school embraces the concert hall," explained Wolf D. Prix, design principal and CEO of Coop Himmelb(l)au.

Geometric and strict shapes for the external joined with dynamic and sinuous forms of the internal concert hall: this is the architecture studied by Coop Himmelb(l)au to serve as a resonance body for the creativity in the House of Music.

The project has been an extraordinary opportunity for Poltrona Frau to demonstrate its ability in converging design and function and bring to life the vision of any special projects.

"We are proud to take part in this prestigious project" said Mr Kurt Wallner, managing director of the Poltrona Frau group Contract Division.

An important supply both in terms of numbers: 1.300 Pitagora chairs supplied, than in terms of prestige: another international project managed with one of the most influent and dynamic architectural and design studio in the world.

The 1,300-seat concert hall forms the core of a compact, U-shaped block with rooms for music education and practicing.

The flowing shapes and curves of the auditorium inside stand in contrast to the strict, cubic outer shape. The seats in the orchestra and curved balconies are arranged in such a way that offers the best possible acoustics and views of the stage. The highly complex acoustic concept was developed in collaboration with Tateo Nakajima at Arup. The design of the amorphous plaster structures on the walls and the height-adjustable ceiling suspensions, based on the exact calculations of the specialist in acoustics, ensures for the optimal listening experience. The concert hall will be one of the quietest spaces for symphonic music in Europe, with a noise-level reduction of NR10 (GK10). Thanks to its architectural and acoustic quality, the concert hall is already well-booked: there will be concerts featuring the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

[www.poltronafraucontract.com](http://www.poltronafraucontract.com)

with violin soloist Arabella Steinbacher and the Danish National Radio Orchestra with soprano Mojca Erdmann in April.

The House of Music was designed as part of a larger April 2008 master plan, also produced by Coop Himmelb(l)au. The concert hall defines the eastern edge of the Cultural Plaza, which is linked to the city center by a low-rise, mixed use courtyard building and a high-rise hotel tower, and which opens along the promenade down to the fjord. As a complement to the cultural and leisure functions of the Nordkraft building, a former power station that was recently renovated, the House of Music and the urban spaces of the master plan transform the area into a new center for art, music, and education in Aalborg.

The basic organization uses the Foyer to connect a centralized Concert Hall with the educational functions placed over the backstage facilities in a courtyard scheme.

This typology is adopted to insure good natural light and maximized views within an economical and efficient system of circulation, and to establish close, central relations to the performance and public space of the House of Music. At the same time the separation of entrances and circulations allows all of the institutions to operate independently, while at the same time the location of common functions, such as food service, lounge and other common spaces in the Foyer, ensure opportunities for meetings and encounters between the various residents of the House of Music.

Under the foyer, three more rooms of various sizes complement the space: the intimate hall, the rhythmic hall, and the classic hall. Through multiple observation windows, students and visitors can look into the concert hall from the foyer and the practice rooms and experience the musical events, including concerts and rehearsals.

*For additional information:*

*Emilia Gozza – Poltrona Frau Group Contract*

*0362 372554*

*[press@pfgroupcontract.com](mailto:press@pfgroupcontract.com)*