

In the 19th century the building underwent a number of expansions and developments. In 1924 the town surveyor Haller redesigned the interior and exterior. In 1978/9 there followed further redevelopments carried out by the Berlin architects Rudolf Biste and Kurt Gerling. Between 1987 and 1990 the architects at Gerling + Arendt were responsible for the addition of a large new foyer on the right hand side of the main entrance. In 2006 the theatre had to be close due to a long list of serious structural defects. In August 2009 the work on a comprehensive renovation and expansion of the theatre started.



1957



after 1924

The architects Waetcher + Waetcher were entrusted with the planning and execution of these plans. This encompassed the entire substance of the theatre. The auditorium in Theatrestraße 8 – protected as a historic monument – together with the historic buildings in Theatrestraße 4,5, and 10 as well as the building in Friedrichstraße 5 were all integrated into the modern theatre we have today. All the workshops, orchestra and choir rehearsal rooms and 4 rehearsal stages are now under one roof. This resulted in the working conditions for all the employees being greatly improved. Thanks to state-of-the-art stage mechanics, lighting and an excellent acoustic we can reach the highest quality when seeking to realise the artistic and technical wishes of the artists.



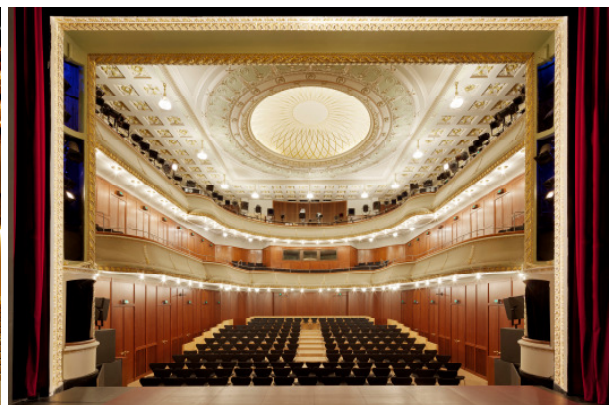
Old Hall with the noise insulation doors open. View of the new stage



View from the new stage of the Maguerre-Saal and the old stage



Marguerre-Saal



Old Hall

The theatre now has an impressive - and for theatre practitioners highly stimulating – array of technical possibilities.

1. Two Separate Stages



Both stages have separate access points for the audience. The stages are also acoustically separated. In the Old Hall one can rake the audience by means of podiums which move up and down, to optimise sightlines. The dress circle is also for the audience but the upper circle has been allotted to the lighting department. The new stage has the option of using a side-stage on the right hand side. The proscenium can be moved deeper in the stage area. In the diagram shown, the proscenium is retracted to form a thrust stage.

2. Two separate stages. Old Hall and Auditorium combine to create one large room



The Old Hall becomes a single large room. One can set out chairs in the stage area or in the auditorium, as one wishes. The podiums – normally used to rake the auditorium can be used as steps or as a unbroken unit up to 100 cm high. The space can be used for banquets or balls. The height difference to the new stage is 100 cm (the equivalent of four steps)

3. The new Stage at its maximum area



It's not possible to have performances on the new stage and in the Old Hall simultaneously, as the acoustic insulation between the two spaces is not sufficient to allow this. However it will be possible to stage time-delayed events in the Old Hall in a particularly stylish ambience.

Peer Rudolph, Technical Director 2013

Quellen:

Textpassagen: Wikipedia die freie Enzyklopädie,

Abbildungen und Grundrisse der Architektur: Architekturbüro Waechter +Waechter,

Fotos: dem Verfasser unbekannt, Egon Steiner, Ott