Magiczny Kraków

2015-03-06

ICE KRAKÓW Congress Centre

In 2014, opposite Wawel Castle and Skałka, at Rondo Grunwaldzkie in Krakow, a modern Conference Centre ICE Kraków has been open. Its construction is supported by the European Union. Conference tourism is an important direction in the development of the City. Krakow already maintains several auditoriums that host a variety of convention events every year. However, there is no mixed-use development where conventions can be comprehensively and professionally organised.

We met the initial concept of the Convention Centre in November 2007, when the city organised an architectural competition with invited architects from around the world. The jury, chaired by Bogdan Paczkowski from Luxembourg, chose the concept by design team Ingarden & Ewý Architects, Krakow and Arata Isozaki & Associates from Tokyo.

The winning design won thanks to the spectacular shape of the building, which fits smoothly into the Vistula waterfront landscape. Design work carried out in 2008-2011 resulted in the start of construction in November 2010. The completion date for the building is October 2014. The new facility at Rondo Grunwaldzkie will be marked out by its extraordinary architecture and a very favourable location on the banks of the Vistula River, opposite the Castle, a 10-minute walk from the Old Town.

ICE Congress Centre in Krakow:

ICE Kraków, photo: W. Wandzel, www.wandzelphoto.com, materials: KBF

The Auditorium Hall has been designed for the organisation of events such as:

- Conventions and conferences,
- Classical music concerts,
- Pop concerts,
- Other musical presentations,
- Congress plenary sessions,
- High level meetings of civic organisations and political parties.

For the auditorium, the Hall type "**vineyard - part surround**", tried and tested in many locations, has been adopted – with a partially surrounding and partially frontal arrangement of the audience around the stage. This type perfectly fits both concert and convention functions, and is essentially characterised and distinguished by its sense of audio and visual intimacy. The layout of the main auditorium with two levels of balconies enables the realisation of events on

different scales – from symphonic concerts with the audience flexibly limited from 943 to 1435 or 1811 members, to conventions with a maximum number of up to about 2000 (optionally adding an additional 9 rows of chairs). This also provides the capability to present performances of musicals and pop concerts, as well as ballet performances and film screenings.

ICE Kraków, photo: W. Wandzel, www.wandzelphoto.com, materials: KBF

ICE Kraków, photo: W. Wandzel, www.wandzelphoto.com, materials: KBF

ICE Kraków, photo: W. Wandzel, www.wandzelphoto.com, materials: KBF

The Theatre Hall has been provided for the organisation of events such as:

- Conventions and conferences,
- Theatre,Ballet and musicals,
- Classical music concerts,
- Balls, banquets,
- Trade shows,
- Fairs,
- Exhibitions.

The Theatre Hall takes on the shape of the traditional, rectangular "shoe box", which is famous for its excellent acoustics for classical music; this shape, after appropriate adjustments for reverberation time, is also suitable for the spoken word and amplified audio. The stage is of box type, with a portal stage, regulated proscenium and backstage. The stage warehouse can be treated as an additional side pocket and manoeuvring space.

Seats are located at the level of the room and three levels of balconies, in order to maintain a short distance between the stage and the audience, giving it a powerful sound, so vital to "purity". Side balconies also bring the audience closer to the stage, and their surfaces aid the reflection of sound into the room.

The concept adopted the capability to introduce folding stands in part of the auditorium, which allows a flat floor in the hall and provides the opportunity for additional functions such as: banquets, exhibitions, etc.

ICE Kraków, photo: W. Wandzel, www.wandzelphoto.com, materials: KBF

ICE Kraków, photo: W. Wandzel, www.wandzelphoto.com, materials: KBF

Magiczny Kraków

ICE Kraków, photo: W. Wandzel, www.wandzelphoto.com, materials: KBF

The Chamber Hall has been designed for the organisation of events such as:

- Conventions and conferences,
- Theatre,Small-scale musicals,
- Classical music concerts,
- Balls, banquets,
- Trade shows,
- Fairs,
- Exhibitions.

The Chamber Hall has been located on floor F3, along with several conference rooms. The room has a flat floor, which can be divided into two distinct parts by an acoustic wall, presenting many opportunities to arrange the space and the audience. Floor adjustment takes place using podiums.

The lighting system, sound and translation booths are located separately for both parts of the hall to allow independent operation of the Hall after division into two parts. The backstage is integrated with those in the other halls by vertical transport – a lift sized to transport a piano. Located in the backstage area are dressing rooms, the necessary storage, and VIP access.

The target number of seats is 400, which can be divided into two spaces with 200 seats.

ICE Kraków, photo: W. Wandzel, www.wandzelphoto.com, materials: KBF

ICE Kraków, photo: W. Wandzel, www.wandzelphoto.com, materials: KBF

ICE Kraków, photo: W. Wandzel, www.wandzelphoto.com, materials: KBF

The Conference Hall Complex is located on floor F3 in order to allow joint functions with the Chamber Hall.

The conference rooms will be equipped with audiovisual equipment to allow presentations. The minimum package for these devices will include sound systems, projectors and screens. The meeting rooms are supplemented with rooms for the organisers, a media centre, toilets, and a foyer with a buffet.

The conference space, with a total area of approximately 500m2 can be flexibly divided into

smaller rooms – 2 rooms (each about 200 m2), 11 rooms (each about 35 m2). The room complex, after moving the sliding partitions, allows you to create – along with the open Chamber Hall and foyer – one large exhibition and banquet space of around 1000 m2.

ICE Kraków, photo: W. Wandzel, www.wandzelphoto.com, materials: KBF

ICE Kraków, photo: W. Wandzel, www.wandzelphoto.com, materials: KBF

ICE Kraków, photo: W. Wandzel, www.wandzelphoto.com, materials: KBF

Foyer – along with the accompanying functions it is located on the east side of the building, and enables the spectators and visitors to observe the Old Town and Kazimierz. The foyer is a multi-functional space, acting as a public space for the audience and the Auditorium Hall and the Theatre Hall, and as an exhibition space with the capability of arranging sponsorship and exhibition stands during conventions. The area of the foyer that can be used for these functions is approximately 3150m ^{2}.

The form of the foyer gives the flexibility of separating the spaces according to need, for example on level F2 it allows the adjustment of the restaurant size to match requirements.

On level F0, near the main entrance, on the left hand side there are cloakrooms and toilets, on the right – 4 ticket desks, convention organisers' offices, front desk, concierge and support for the organisational rooms, and a lobby lounge. The belt of functions supplement the points of service and tradep. The foyer space on F0 is optically enlarged and lit by skylights in the roof.

From the F0 foyer you can enter the lower levels of the adjacent rooms, and the lift complex and two staircases lead viewers to the upper floors.
The F1 and F2 foyer levels constitute the main public area – with views towards the city, and with cafes and a restaurant. At each level toilets and small dining points are provided.

ICE Kraków, photo: W. Wandzel, www.wandzelphoto.com, materials: KBF

ICE Kraków, photo: W. Wandzel, www.wandzelphoto.com, materials: KBF

ICE Kraków, photo: W. Wandzel, www.wandzelphoto.com, materials: KBF

Magiczny Kraków

Multifunctional room

ICE Kraków, photo: W. Wandzel, www.wandzelphoto.com, materials: KBF

Extra Space

ICE Kraków, photo: W. Wandzel, www.wandzelphoto.com, materials: KBF

ICE Kraków, photo: W. Wandzel, www.wandzelphoto.com, materials: KBF

For more information on the future functioning of the Convention Centre, please visit: www.icekrakow.pl

For more information on the Małopolska Regional Operational Programme, please visit: www.fundusze.malopolska.pl

The Project is co-financed by the European Union as part of the Małopolska Regional Operational Programme for 2007-2013

Total value of the project:375 million 894 thousand PLN

Co-funding value:82 million 930 thousand PLN

European Funds for Małopolska

Beneficiary:Urban Municipality of Krakow – Krakow Municipal Office