

Project: Athens Conservatory, Athens, Greece

The Brief and acoustic design responsibilities

Acoustic design services for a major refurbishment of Athens Conservatory, Athens, Greece.

The Athens Conservatory is an emblematic and prestigious Bauhaus building located in the main cultural axis of Athens. It is a successful, sustainable and internationally recognised School of Performing Arts, an educational and cultural center for music, dance and theatre, a lively hub for young artists of international calibre and a point of reference in the city life. The building was originally built in 1971 and it was designed by the famous Greek architect John Despotopoulos (Jon Despo 1903-1992) and constitutes an important example of modern Greek architecture. During the last few years, the building has been undergoing a process of gradual transformation and renovation. Part of this work is the renovation of its main auditorium, the Amphitheatre “Ioannis Despotopoulos” which is an underground, modern, elegant and of stunning aesthetics multipurpose auditorium of 606-seating capacity ideal for chamber orchestras and sinfoniettas. The amphitheatre forms part of the new “Athens Conservatoire Art Centre” complex which also includes a multi-purpose experimental “black-box” stage of a 200-seating capacity, spaces for conferences, exhibitions, a recording studio complex, an Arts Foyer and a Café/restaurant.

Theta Acoustics are responsible for the full acoustic design of the following areas:

- The 606-seat multipurpose Amphitheatre and ancillary areas.
- New Stage/Cinema, which is a 200-seat multi-purpose experimental “black-box” stage
- Arts Foyer and Café
- Theta Acoustics, were also part of the supervising/Auditing design team for the Music Technology Centre, which includes the Sound labs (i.e. a professional recording studio complex) and music educational facilities for which Concept and Developed acoustic design was undertaken by Theo Niaounakis/MLM Acoustics.

The acoustic design is required to seamlessly integrate with the architectural vision for the space; this meant that the focusing, diffusing and reflecting surfaces, the acoustically absorbing panels and audience seating all needed to have the right acoustic, visual and spatial characteristics. This was in addition to working seamlessly with mechanical and electrical services, such as heating, ventilation and an incredibly complex auditorium and production lighting scheme. Acoustic design services include:

- Control of external noise intrusion and sound insulation of the buildings’ envelope
- Sound insulation of internal separating elements between the various types of accommodation
- Control of noise & vibration from building services
- Room acoustics design of both auditoria, arts foyer, recording studios and public circulation spaces.

More info and photos can be found on:

<https://www.athensconservatoire.gr/en-venuehire/>

