

New in the series Construction and Design Manuals by DOM publishers:

Birgit Schmolke

Theatres and Concert Halls

Dream and Reality

Spectacular theatres and concert halls receive extensive media coverage as the products of ambitious urban planning. Some even emerge as new landmarks emblematic of the city in which they were built. Untrammelled by profane requirements of residential or office buildings, performance architecture seems to allow the designer's imagination free rein. And yet it has highly specific, sometimes even contradictory, requirements of its own to fulfil. While a seductive front raises expectations and lures audiences into a dream world, to create that dream the professionals need a backstage area with precisely planned space and a wide array of technical equipment. Unnoticed by the audience, a smooth functionality keeps the show going.

This is reflected in the new book in the series Construction and Design Manuals. In *Theatres and Concert Halls*, Birgit Schmolke presents 30 outstanding concert halls and theatres built in Europe in the past 10 years. Case studies of projects by well-known architects such as Herzog & de Meuron, UNStudio, Santiago Calatrava, and Jean Nouvel are complemented by examples of young architects' designs. The book offers a comprehensive overview of the whole spectrum of performance spaces, from chamber music hall to opera house, from children's theatre to experimental stage, traditional playhouse, and multifunctional performing arts centre. Each case study comprises large full-colour photographs, plans and sections, as well as a descriptive text.

The theory section examines the history of performance architecture with its specific challenges and presents traditional and new methods of planning and designing, with a focus on acoustic and lighting design. An essay on the development of performance since Antiquity provides historical background. Readers see the performing arts from an architect's point of view and learn about the experiences and expectations that theatre professionals from stage designer to managing director bring to architecture. While the book makes a pleasurable read for interested concert- and theatregoers, it is above all a valuable companion for architects and their clients. Construction professionals will find all the necessary information.

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Construction and Design Manual

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The first Construction and Design Manual appeared in 2009. Since then DOM publishers have consolidated the series in easy-to-use handbooks that combine solid research with high aesthetic standards. These useful companions provide inspiration and valuable information for architects and their clients alike. Internationally available.

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