

A Playhouse for the Danish Royal Theatre **Henrik Schmidt, Lundgaard Tranberg Architects**

Sankt Annæ Plads is one of Copenhagen's finest urban spaces in terms of proportions, spatial sequences and vegetation. The meeting between the street and the harbour is unique: at the end of the street, the viewers' perspective expands; not just across the water to Holmen, but northwards up through the harbour-basin towards the distant sound.

South of Sankt Annæ Plads we have created a building shaped as a distinct, but proportionally refined finishing touch to the existing urban structure in a sweeping, open gesture towards the harbour; allowing access to the audience as well as to passers-by. Here the playhouse creates a definitive, new focal point for the passage along the harbourfront from Langelinie via Nyhavn to Kongens Nytorv. The project on Kvæsthusmolen contributes a necessary element of calm to the total urban vista.

The playhouse structure is constituted by three compositional elements:

- The Promenade, with the pedestrian access-plateaus; a vast, oak-lined 'pavement' floating on pillars above the water.
- The Stage Building, containing stages, halls and subsidiary stage functions; outwardly clad in brick and copper.
- The Roof Storey, containing artists' facilities, administrative functions, canteen etc.: positioned above the stage building, outwardly clad in glass.

The theatre opens towards the harbour, allowing public access to the lobby as well audience access to the halls.

The lobby is intended to function as a public space with extended opening hours: a place to disseminate information about the multiple functions of the playhouse. The area's main function is to allow access to the main theatre hall, and the smaller halls, while at the same time providing a space to be experienced by passers-by or people bound for the café.

The closed front of the stage-building will be executed as a heavy brick surface in varied dark nuances. The distinctive brick base will be drawn into the building to create an entire wall of the lobby, leading in towards the theatre hall and the cloakrooms. Likewise the main hall will be created to give the impression of a large brick cave, featuring expressive brick bonding that also serves to regulate the acoustics.

The stage tower will be clad in copper scales at three different levels to provide a beautifully varied play of light and shade and the entranceways and doors will be clad in copper.

Project data:

- Gross area: 18.400 m² – basement 2.300 m²
- Budget: 508 million DKK.

- Year erected: 2004-2007
- Competition: 2002, 1. prize
- Commissioned by: The Danish Ministry of Culture
- Advisor: Moe & Brødsgaard A/S and Architect MAA Jens Fredslund
- Architect/Project Management: Lundgaard & Tranberg Architects A/S
- Engineer/Construction Management: COWI
- Landscape Architect: Lundgaard & Tranberg Architects A/S
- Chief Contractor: E Pihl & Søn A/S