

HÄMEENLINNA CITY THEATRE

HÄMEENLINNA, FINLAND

Hämeenlinna City Theatre received a new main stage in 2010 in the cultural hub Verkatehdas in the centre of Hämeenlinna. The multifunction hall was renovated into a high end auditorium, seating and audience of 350.

In the renovation of the cultural hub only the very surface was left untouched, and the theatre's halls and stages were completely refurbished. A new stage tower was built for stage technology, meaning that the sound and lighting technologies are also new. Anything left from the old building structure can be seen in the lobbies.

According to **Anssi Ruusuvuori**, one of the principal acousticians, the main goal for the work was clear speech transmission as well as enabling a pleasant audiovisual experience for every member of the audience in all corners of the hall. As the theatre is also used for musical performances the design had to take into account the need for both electrically reinforced music as well as plain speech.

Timo Risku of Akumek worked as the principal mechanical planner as a subconsultant of Akukon. According to Mr Risku the theatre's versatile functionality was achieved with simple solutions and a small budget. He explains: "For instance, the stage floor is built as hatches which can be opened, replacing the need for floor jacks. The stage lighting was constructed as a lights' bridge, which can be moved up and down the stage. The bridge can also be moved in the vertical direction, thus making it far more versatile than fixed lights. The motorised and computer controlled stage lifts are also a favorite feature of Mr Risku's, as the stage hosts over 20 of them to enable a variety of special effects.

Client	City of Hämeenlinna
Started	2008
Opened	2010
Project type	Renovation
Architect	Arkkitehtiyöhuone Artto Palo Rossi Tikka Architects, head architect Teemu Palo
Services by Akukon	Acoustical and audiovisual design
Akukon's team	Principal consultants: Tapio Lahti, Anssi Ruusuvuori, Timo Risku (Akumek)
Total cost of project	n. 5 milj. €



Photo: Kuvatoimisto Kuvio