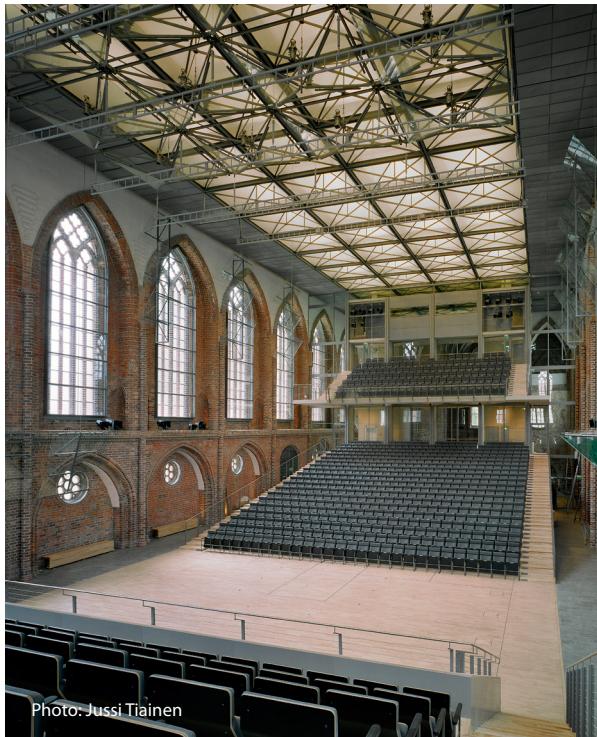


# NEUBRANDENBURG'S CONCERT KATHEDRAL

## NEUBRANDENBURG, GERMANY

Phenomenal, premium, superb. Such words have been used to describe the new Neubrandenburgian concert hall since its completion in 2001. The hall was built and integrated into the ruins of St Mary's medieval church, destroyed in the Second World War.

The decision to use the ruins as a foundation for a concert hall was made back in the 1980's. All that remained of the church were bits of wall and the tower. Restoration work on the church walls was begun right away and a new roof structure was built. Still, the actual concert hall wouldn't be ready for another 20 years.



Client	City of Neubrandenburg
Started	1996
Opened	2001
Project type	Reassigned purpose of use
Architect	PES architects, head architect Pekka Salminen
Services by Akukon	Acoustical design
Akukon's team	Principal consultants: Henrik Möller and Tapio Lahti
Total cost of project	c. 45 million DM <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Balthazar-Neumann-Preises (2002), given to Akukon and architect Pekka Salminen</li><li>The Finnish concrete building of the year (2001)</li></ul>
Honorary mentions	

In 1996 an international competition for the design of the concert hall was introduced. The winner of the competition was architect **Pekka Salminen**. His design was based on preserving everything that remained of the former church and building new surfaces out of glass. Akukon was chosen as the acoustical consultant even before the competition phase.

The church hall was too long and wide to be an ideal concert hall, meaning the dimensions had to be taken in. The interior of the church was to



be kept as it was so the use of glass was well justified. The walls and the windows were to be left untouched. As a result, the glass surfaces lead to a completely different set of challenges in terms of acoustics.

A lobby was separated lengthwise from the concert hall using a glass wall. The hall itself was made more narrow using acoustical reflectors made of glass in the upper and lower parts of the side walls and sound insulating glass structures were built in front of the windows. The ceiling of the hall was made with white glass, which hides behind it the old steel structures but brings in light.

The acoustics of the stage itself were improved by adding acoustic clouds above the stage. The clouds are actually acrylic reflectors.

The church seats approximately 800 people, 100 of which are situated behind the orchestra.

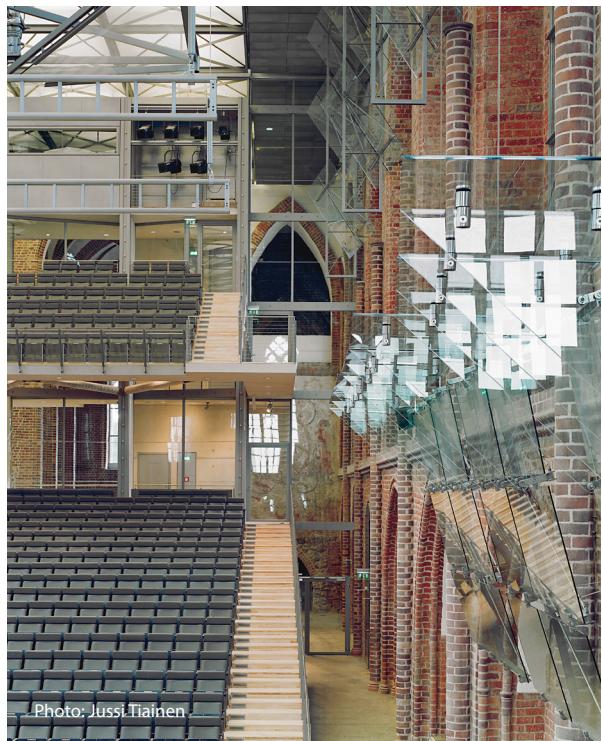


Photo: Jussi Tiiainen

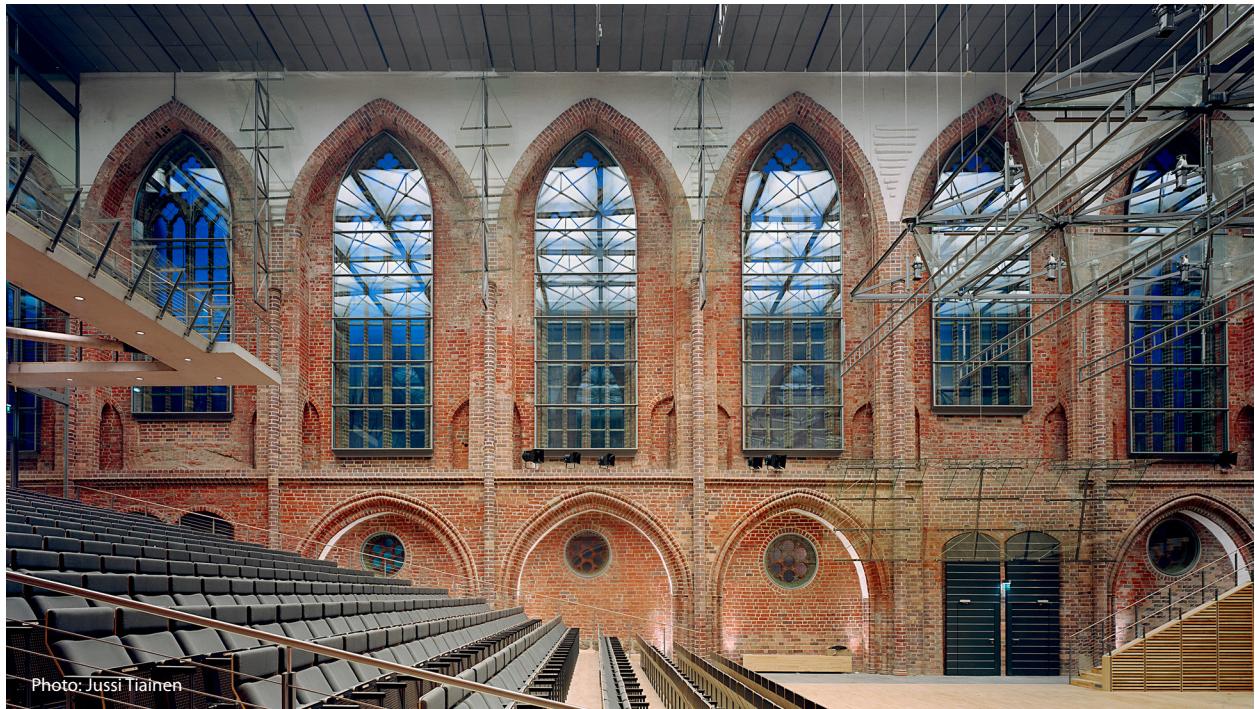


Photo: Jussi Tiiainen