

## OULU CITY THEATRE

### OULU, FINLAND

By the year 2000 the facilities of the Oulu City Theatre, originally built in 1972, were getting too cramped for the largest professional theatre in Northern Finland. The building underwent a renovation in 2001-2004, which resulted in an increased audience capacity for the main stage and an extension for new rooms.

The theatre now consists of the main stage, with a seating capacity of 527, a small stage seating 216, Pikisali seating 200, and the more intimate Vinttikamari seating only 65.

**Henrik Möller** of Akukon was in charge of acoustical design for the theatre and mentions the main goals for the main stage; to improve speech intelligibility while also improving the playing conditions for the orchestra, which occasionally participates in the performances. The orchestra has been extremely pleased with the outcome, claiming the new orchestra pit is a dream come true and a distinct upgrade from the previous pit. The acoustics have also improved the speech intelligibility considerably. Since the renovation the reformed spaces have been used successfully for a number of different events and occasions.

<b>Client</b>	City of Oulu
<b>Started</b>	2001
<b>Opened</b>	2004
<b>Project type</b>	Renovation and extension
<b>Architect</b>	Architects Seppo Valjus, head architect Sampo Valjus
<b>Services by Akukon</b>	Acoustical design and surveillance
<b>Akukon's team</b>	<b>Principal consultant:</b> Henrik Möller <b>Other team members:</b> Jaana Jokitulppo
<b>Total cost of project</b>	€ 20.77 million

The theatre premises have been used for functions other than just the traditional theatrical or concert productions. Seen left: A photo from the meeting of EU secretaries. Seen right: The 400th anniversary of the City of Oulu. Photos by Oulu City Theatre.

