

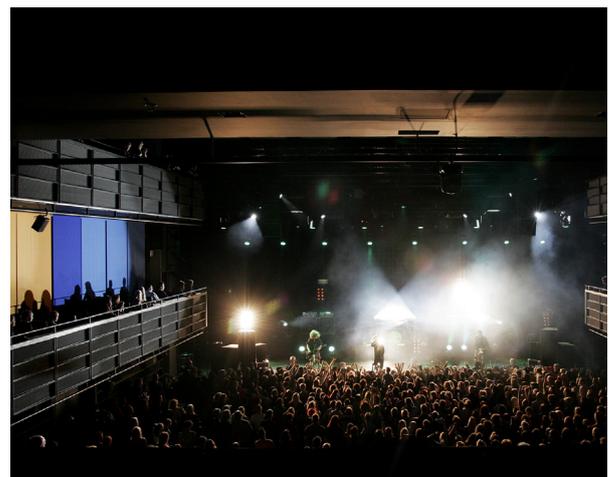
VERKATEHDAS HÄMEENLINNA, FINLAND

Verkatehdas, located in the centre of Hämeenlinna, went through an extravagant transformation in 2004 when the decision was made to convert the old factory building into a cultural hub. The premises underwent demolishing, restoration and renewing.

The newly rebuilt Verkatehdas arts and congress centre includes the ground breaking multipurpose Vanaja Hall seating an audience of 703. **Henrik Möller** of Akukon, in charge of designing the acoustics, draws an appropriate simile between the hall and a synthesiser. "Vanaja Hall is suitable to practically anything, just like a synthesiser. Its adjustable acoustics make it fitting for classical music as well as heavy metal concerts, conferences, company events and theatrical performances. Majority of the surface materials can be easily adjusted to fit the purpose at hand", Mr Möller exalts.



Client	City of Hämeenlinna
Started	2004
Opened	2007
Project type	Reassigned purpose of use
Architect	JKMM Architects, head architect Juha Mäki-Jyllilä
Services by Akukon	Acoustical and audio visual design
Akukon's team	Principal Consultants: Henrik Möller, Tapio Ilomäki, Janne Auvinen and Jerald Hyde Other team members: Oskar Lindfors, Tarja Lahti, Janne Hautsalo and Olli Salmensaari
Total cost of project	€ 31 million
Honorary mentions	Steel construction of the year 2007 (Teräsrakenneyhdistys)



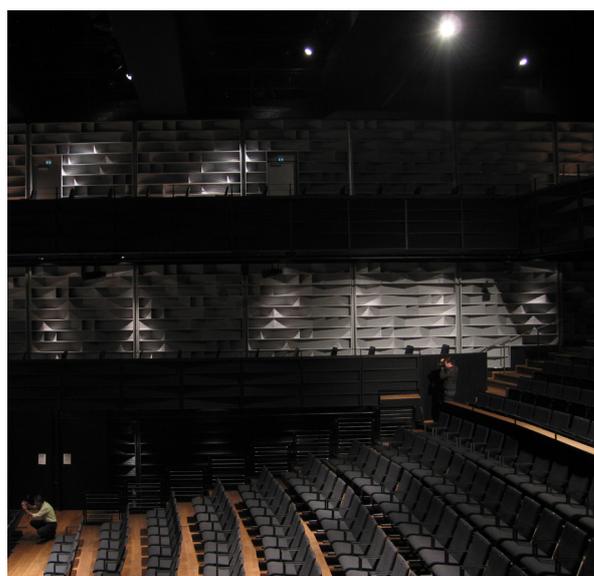
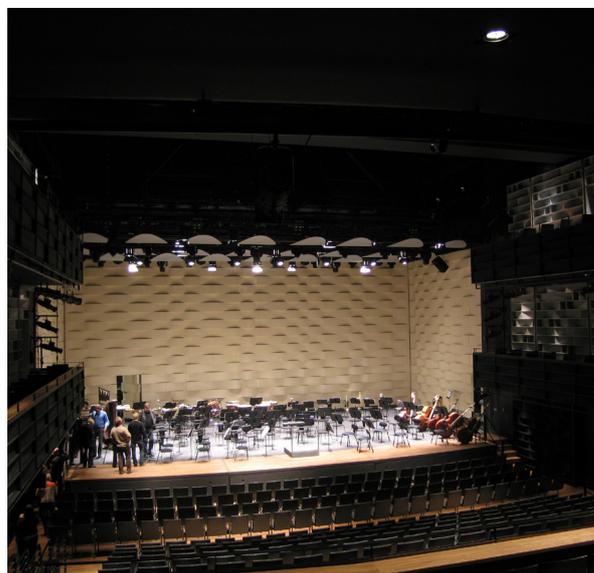
Photos: Verkatehdas

Vanaja Hall has received a shower of praise for its acoustics from classical musicians, rock artists and representatives of electronically amplified music. The rock people have also been impressed by the astounding light, sound and picture systems, as well as stage mechanics, all of which are Akukon's handiwork.

In 2011 Vanaja Hall was ranked among the top concert halls in Finland according to research conducted by **Tapio Lokki** of Aalto University's Department of Media Technology. The comparative study was particularly comprehensive covering a large number of halls all over the country.

The Verkatehdas design is testament to Akukon's first class ability to plan and execute grand acoustical and audiovisual concepts. "Verkatehdas was a success largely because we were able to start on the design process even before the architect was chosen. The earlier the acoustic and audiovisual aspects are taken into account, the better the end result", Mr Möller points out.

Aside from the Vanaja Hall the Arts and Congress Centre includes nine congress rooms and a restaurant. The Verkatehdas complex also contains a cinema with four theatres and an art exhibition centre.



Photos: Akukon