

# Anna Larsson

PORTFOLIO : ARKITEKTUR OCH TEKNIK

# LIGHTBOX UNIVERSE

KURS	Kandidatarbete, 15 HP
TIDPUNKT	Årskurs 3, VT 2013
ARBETSGRUPP	Anna Larsson, Arkitektur och Teknik Amanda Stehn, Arkitektur och Teknik Oskar Andersson, Sound and Vibration
RITNINGSVERKTYG	AutoCAD
VISUALISERINGSVERKTYG	Rhinoceros VRay PhotoShop InDesign Illustrator
ANALYSVERKTYG	CATT Acoustics

Som kandidatarbete gjorde vi ett tävlingsbidrag till en studenttävling i arkitektur och akustik, utlyst av Acoustical society of America. Tävlingsuppgiften var en multifunktionell byggnad, främst avsedd för opera, till ett college i Montreal. I projektet jobbade vi tillsammans med en student från mastersutbildningen i teknisk akustik.

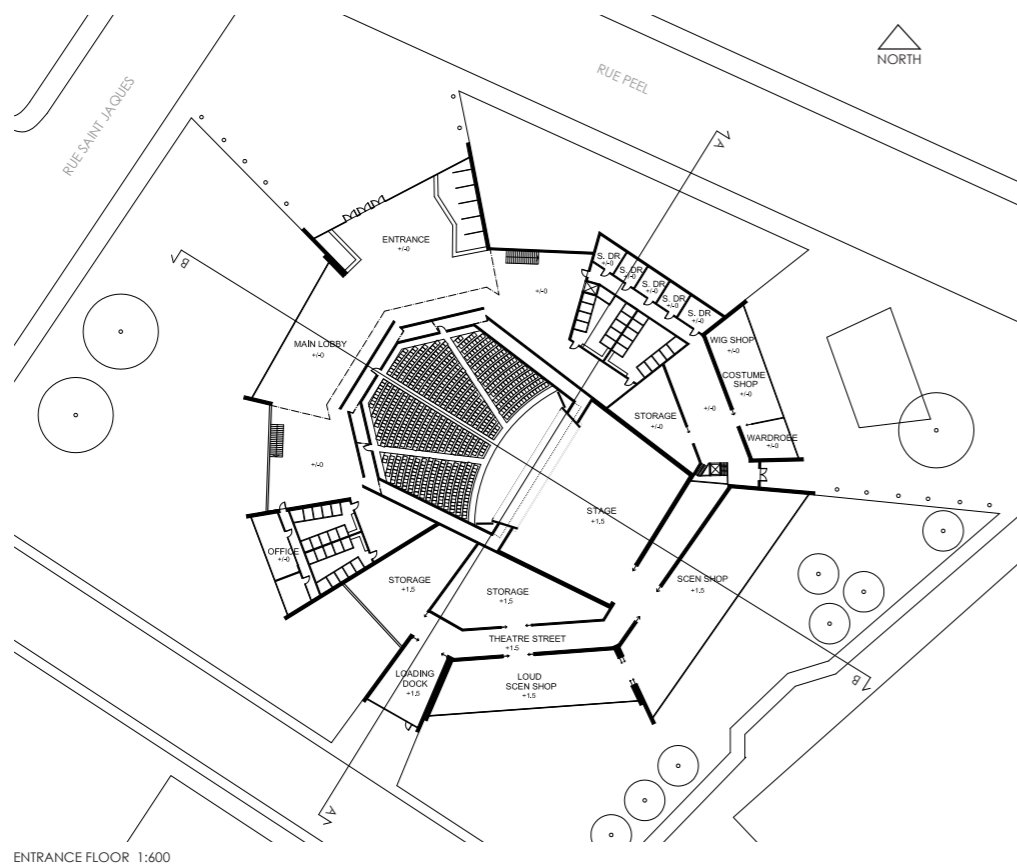
Vi har satsat på att hitta ett koncept där akustik och arkitektur samverkar. Projektet är ett växelspel mellan teknisk analys av akustiska kvaliteter och arkitektonisk utformning.





# LIGHTBOX UNIVERSE

This collage performance hall needs to meet complex needs. It should be both inclusive to the city and provide a brilliant and acoustically shielded auditorium. It should provide a venue for diverse university events, as well as traditional opera. The answer is a building that can be both a welcoming display of interesting activity and a secluded secret universe.



ENTRANCE FLOOR 1:600

### A LIGHTBOX FOR EVERY NEED

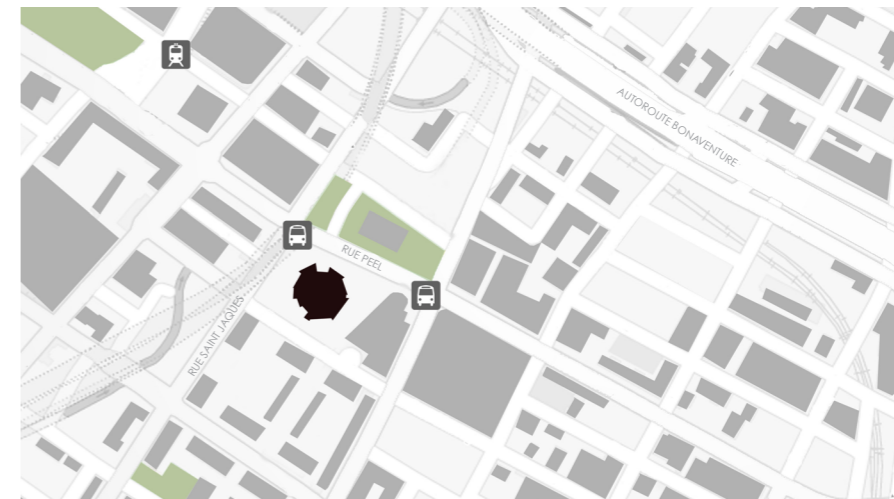
The layout of the opera is based on a radial grid centered on the stage. The different acoustical requirements and characteristics of the spaces determine their place in the building. The auditorium finds its natural place in the center and the less sensitive functions act as noise barriers to the outside. These functions are placed in different triangular segments; the lightboxes are either open and connective or private and closed volumes, depending on the function inside.

### INCLUSIVE TO ITS SURROUNDINGS

Because the plot is situated in a diverse area the building is open to its surroundings in different ways. The entrance is facing the crossing between Rue Saint Jacques and Rue Peel, where the busses and cars are bringing people to the venue. In the eastern corner, a small public space is created between the building and the ETS campus, while the more private functions are facing the residential area.

FACADE FACING RUE PEEL 1:300

## THE PERFORMANCE HALL AND THE CITY



SITUATION 1:5000

### DIFFERENT FACES OF MONTREAL MEETS

The building is situated where downtown and the changing neighborhood Griffintown meets. Having the main building of Ecole Technologie Supérieure, the expo 67 planetarium and a residential area in the absolute vicinity, the performance hall should give something to all nearby stakeholders.

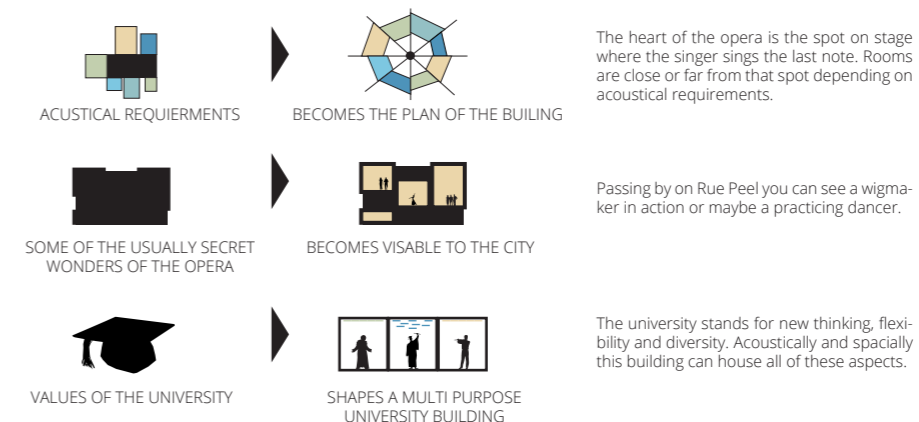
The building approaches its surroundings by having a welcoming front in every direction, inviting the city of Montreal to be apart of its activity.

### ACOUSTICAL CIRCUMSTANCES

There are many sources of noise in the area, such as passing aircrafts, trains and cars. By estimating the traffic and speed on highways and railways and adding the different sound sources, the normal sound level on the plot can be calculated to be between 65 and 75 dBA.

- Train at 300 m distance ▶ 65-75 dBA
- Highway at 370 m distance ▶ 55-65 dBA
- Aircraft at 460 m distance ▶ 70-80 dBA

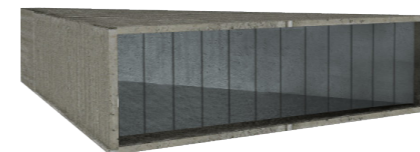
## VALUES SHAPING THE PROJECT







THE LIGHTBOXES AS BUILDING BLOCKS



CONCRETE AND GLASS - OPEN TOWARDS THE CITY

The open lightbox makes it possible to have a good view of the city, and for the city to have a good view of the activities inside. The concrete walls makes each lightbox acoustically isolated and flutter is naturally avoided by the unparallel walls.



WOODEN GRID - PRIVATE BUT PERFORATED

The wooden grid is used where there is a need for both privacy and daylight, for example in dressing rooms. In the nighttime the grid allows light to pass through and the volume becomes a lightbox without displaying it's activities.



FLUTTER ECO IS AVOIDED BY THE SHAPES OF THE LIGHTBOXES



INSULATION BETWEEN THE LIGHTBOXES PREVENTS FLANKING TRANSMISSION TO SPREAD IN THE BUILDING



THE NATURAL UNEVENNESS OF THE LIGHTBOX DIFFRACTS THE SOUND



THE ABSORPTION IS REGULATED WITH POROUS BLOCKS THAT FITS IN THE HOLES

EVERY LIGHTBOX HAS IT'S OWN STORY



SECTION GREENROOM 1:200

GREEN ROOM

The green room is easy accessible from both the stage area and the main entrance. This allows for uses beyond post performance lounge, since visitors can get here without passing the really private functions of the building. Placed on the 4:th floor, the green room has magnificent view through it's open glass facade. Acoustically the green room has double ceiling height to allow for a good performance space if needed. The room continues the concept of the auditorium with squares lowered from the ceiling, this time as lighting and absorbers hanging over the lounge area to allow for good conversation acoustics.



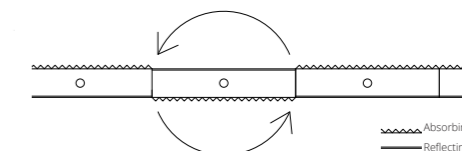
SECTION REHEARSALROOM 1:200

REHEARSAL ROOM

Facing the active Rue Peel, the rehearsal room functions as a showroom for the building. There is also a possibility to view the ongoing activity from the sponsor's balcony, a mezzanine that runs through the room.

The acoustic is mainly made for rehearsal situations with a large volume allowing for suitable reverberation time and acoustically insulated practice rooms. The room can also be adjusted to function for lectures and receptions when increasing the absorption by turning the double-sided wall (detail below) and dragging the curtains out. The curtains also gives the possibility to prevent insight.

The floor is constructed to be suitable for dancing, allowing some supporting deformation.



DETAIL : Absorbing and reflecting wallpanels in the rehearsal room



CEILING CONSTRUCTION:  
100mm concrete  
Neoprene hangers: 5mm static defl (min)  
50mm batt insulation  
2\*13mm gypsum-board  
Sealed to wall with caulk

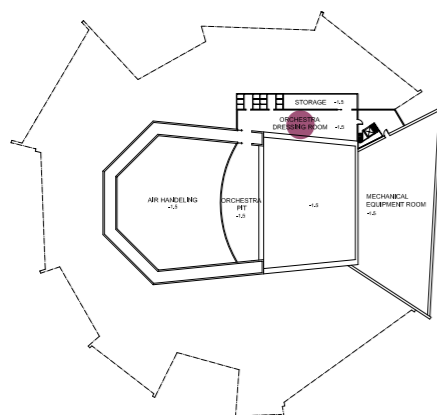


WALL CONSTRUCTION:  
2\*13mm gypsum-board  
90mm steel studs, with batt insulation  
2\*13mm gypsum-board

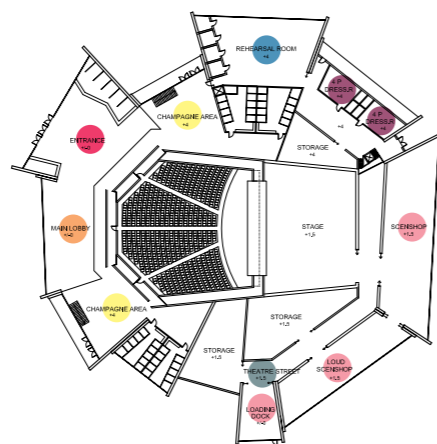


FLOOR CONSTRUCTION:  
12.5mm wood floor on rubber insulation  
50mm wood studs  
50mm concrete slab floating on  
50mm rubber insulation  
Structural slab below  
Insulation material between walls and floor  
to avoid flanking transmission

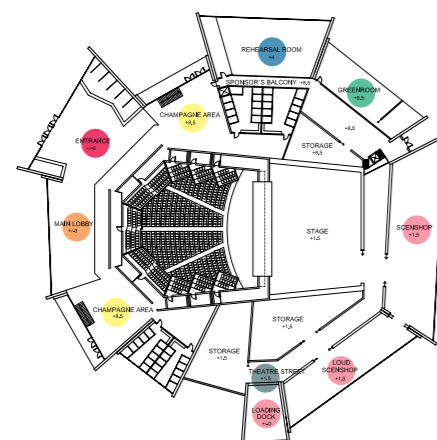
DETAIL 1:20 Isolating wall between the big and small rehearsal rooms



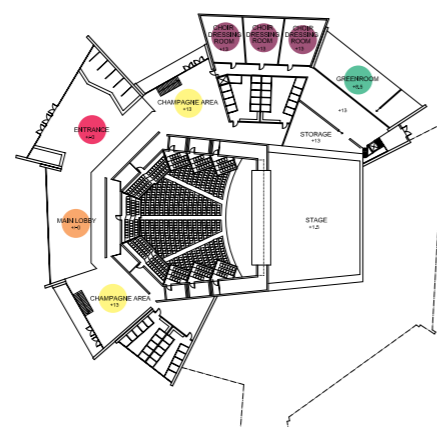
FLOOR -1 1:800



FLOOR 2 1:800



FLOOR 3 1:800



FLOOR 4 1:800

THE ENTRANCE

When entering the spacious volume the sight of the auditorium is the first thing that meets the visitor. To the left and right there is a natural access to both wardrobe and ticket sales.

THE MAIN LOBBY

The main lobby can, in addition to it's functions as a lobby, be used as a space for exhibits, dinners, fairs and more.

THE CHAMPAGNE AREA

This is the part of the lobby from which you enter the auditorium and to which you exit in the pause. On every floor there is a possibility to go outside for fresh air. While the rest of the lobby has a ceiling height of 16 meters, these spaces are more intimate and acoustically suitable for conversation and refreshments with a ceiling height of 4 meters.

LOADING DOCK AND SCENE SHOPS

These functions need noise control to protect both the silence of the auditorium and the working environment of the employees. As a solution it is possible to divide the scen shop into two spaces, where the carpenter and other noisy activities has more barriers towards the auditorium. Less noisy activities can go on undisturbed, in the other scene shop. The sliding doors into the theater street have good sound insulation properties.

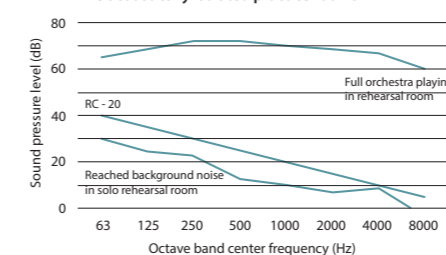
THEATER STREET

The theater street is used for communication between the different backstage spaces and the stage. It also functions as an extra sound barrier between the scene shops and stage. To prevent noise from building up and leaking into the stage area absorbers are installed in the ceiling.

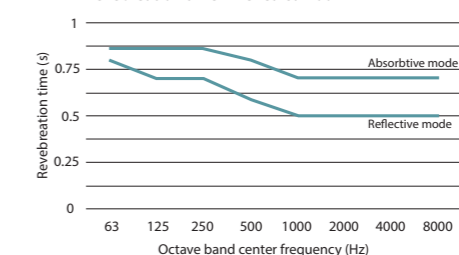
DRESSING ROOMS

The dressing have good communications to the rehearsal room, as well as the wig and costume shop, through the backstage stairwell. From the orchestra dressing room there is an entrance directly into the orchestra pit.

The acoustically isolated practice rooms



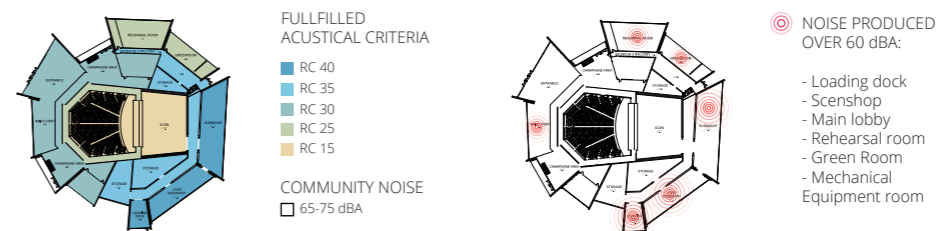
Reverberation time in rehearsal room







PROVIDING SILENCE FOR THE FUNCTIONS OF THE BUILDING

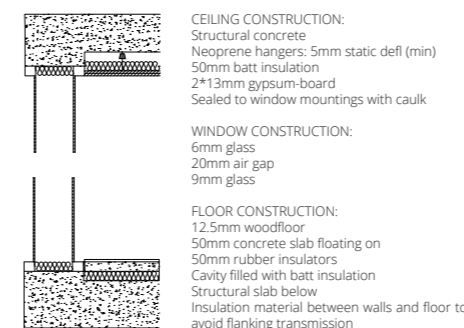


TAKING CARE OF THE NOISE FROM THE OUTSIDE

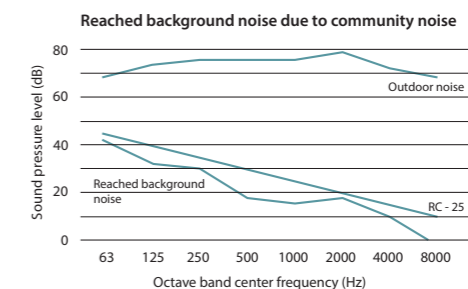
Due to the room organization, the community noise on the site is reduced step by step through the building to keep the auditorium silent. The natural character of the open lightboxes, with a significant amount of glass, requires an appropriate wall construction (see detail below).

TAKING CARE OF NOISE PRODUCED IN THE BUILDING

The functions that generate a lot of noise are placed far away from the auditorium with a lot of barriers in between. For additional sound insulation the lightbox type made of concrete is used for these functions. The Mechanical Equipment room is placed in the basement to take away its influence on background noise levels in vital parts of the building.



DETAIL 1:20 Construction of the concrete and glas lightbox



The values are calculated for the most critical case, in a concrete and glas lightbox with RC 25.

THE MULTI PURPOSE PERFORMANCE HALL

Entering the performance hall feels like entering a separate universe. The way in is an intimate and separated walk between the double shell that surrounds the hall. When reaching the hall the silence is noticeable. The performance hall is, in its original setup, made for opera and has a reverberation time of 1.5 seconds, but can be modified to fit different types of events by, among other things, opening the ceiling to the interior of the shell, with its absorbing spikes.

● CEILING TILES

The tiles in the ceiling splits up and reveals the absorbing double shell to vary the reverberation time. The individually moving tiles also makes it possible to get a unique expression of the auditorium, suitable for ceremonies, conferences, dance performances or other things the university can come to invent.

● INHOUSE MIXING

The sound technicians booth is fitted in the double shell. This way the technicians can be in direct connection to the auditorium without disturbing the audience experience.

● PROCENIUM

The procenium is designed to deliver sound to the audience and reflect some sound to the performers on stage.

● ORCHESTRA PIT

The orchestra pit has diffracting walls to blend the sound of the instruments and allowing the musicians to hear each other. Pitlifts makes it possible to have different settings of the orchestra, as well as allowing for a bigger stage when fully erected.

● STAGE SHELL

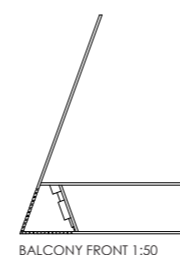
To accommodate performances by orchestras a movable stage shell (for example the Diva model from Wegner) is provided. The shell can easily be set up by the stage workers and provides good communication between musicians, diffraction and reflection towards the audience.

● AIR HANDLING

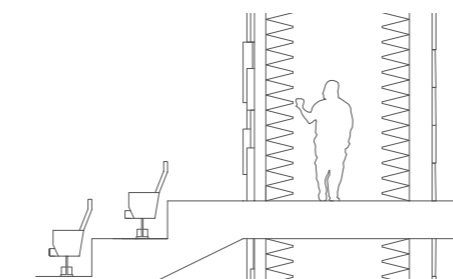
Air is brought into the auditorium via inlets under the chairs. The big volume under the floor allows for low speeds and silent airflow. The air outlet is located on the floor above the auditorium, where silencers prevents noise from getting in from outside.

● BALCONY FRONTS

The balcony fronts mainly reflects the sound upwards, to increase the reverberation time. The lower part is acoustically transparent and behind the perforated balcony front, the sound is diffracted and reflected downwards. Small lamps inside continues the lightbox concept with light that sprinkles out of the clean fronts.



BALCONY FRONT 1:50



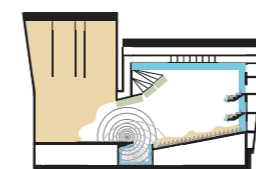
THE DOUBLE SHELL 1:50

● THE DOUBLE SHELL

The double shell has two important purposes. First it acts as the final sound insulation between the auditorium, the hidden treasure of the opera, and the outside world. The second purpose is the variable acoustics, which is created by opening the auditorium and letting the highly absorptive elements take away some of the reverberation time. A bonus from these two combined functions is the special feeling of entering a new universe.

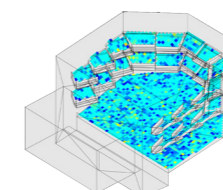
THREE ACOUSTICAL MODES

■ Diffracting ■ Reflecting ■ Absorbing

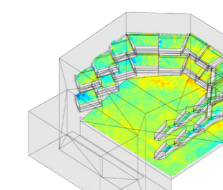


OPERA MODE

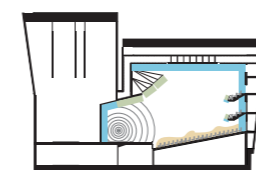
The orchestra is lowered into the pit to allow for a good balance between singer and orchestra. The clarity for the orchestra is 1-2 dB lower than for the singers.



RVERBERATION TIME

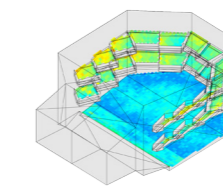


CLARITY C80

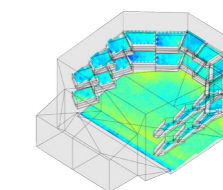


ORCHESTRA MODE

A stage shell supports and blends the sound of the orchestra, and slightly extends the reverberation time.



RVERBERATION TIME

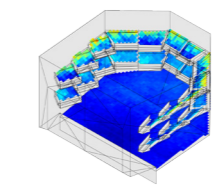


CLARITY C80

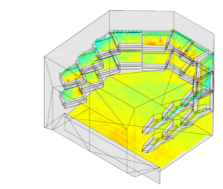


SPEECH MODE

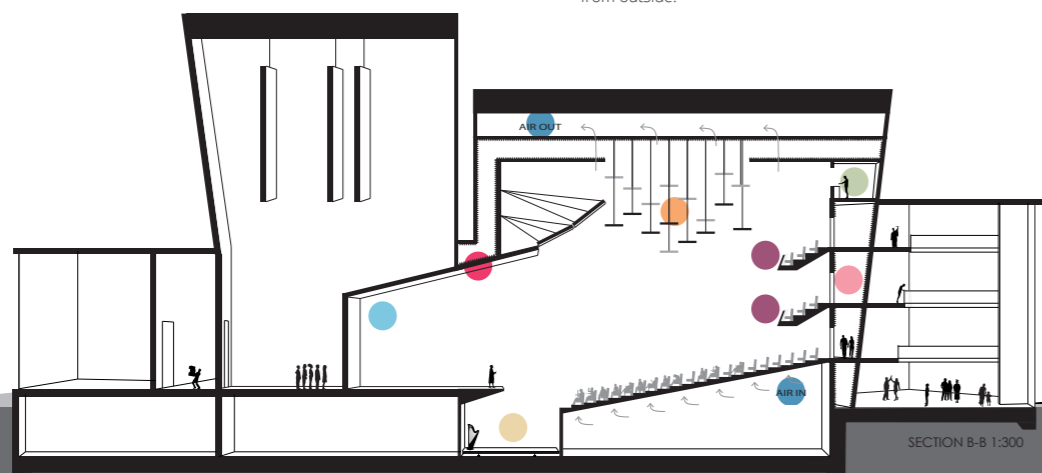
The movable ceiling panels are lowered to expose the absorbing interior of the double shell. A reflective back is lowered behind the procenium.



RVERBERATION TIME

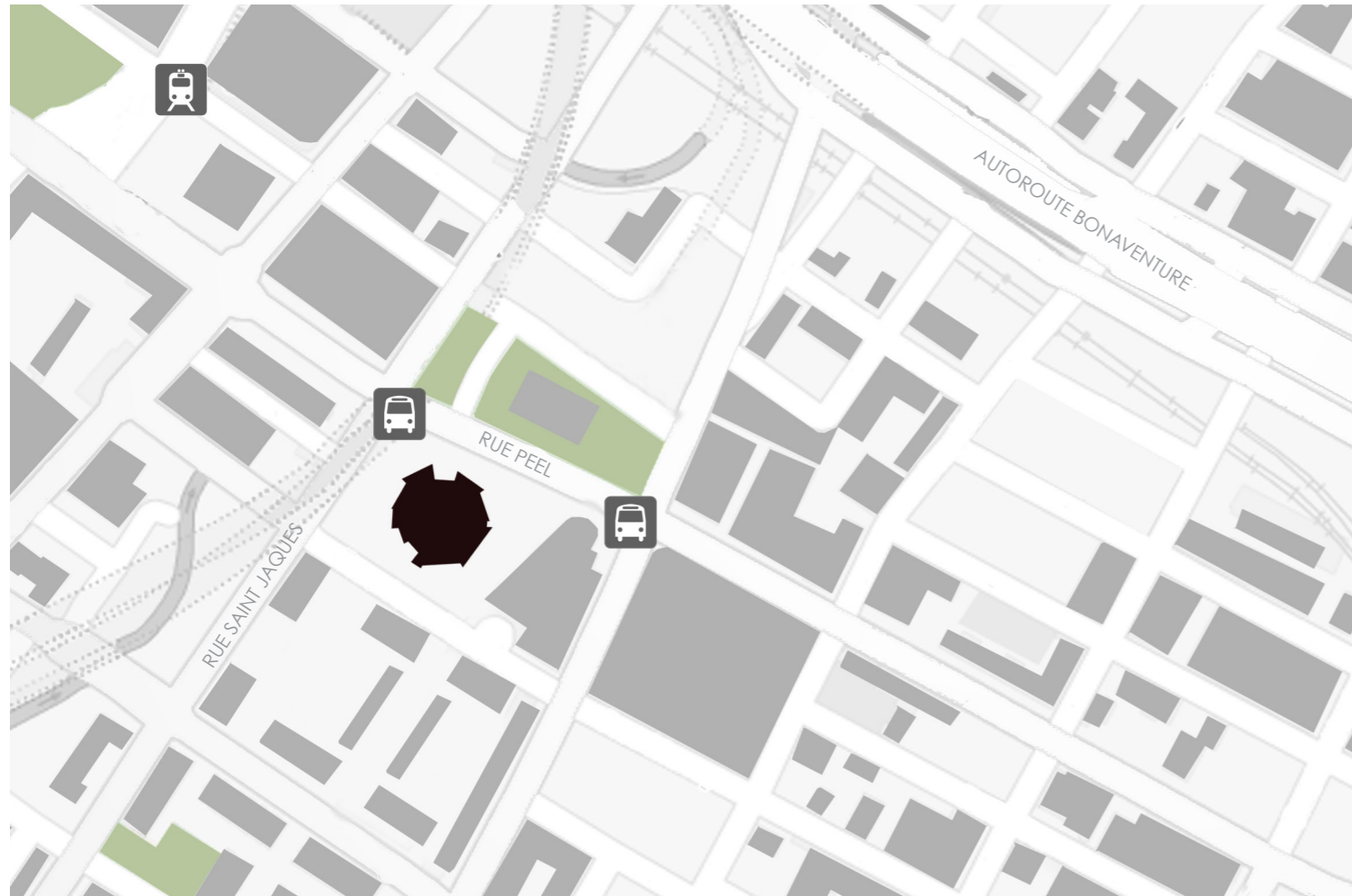


SPEECH TRANSMISSION INDEX



SECTION B-B 1:300




# CONTEXT



SITUATION 1:5000

## ACOUSTICAL CIRCUMSTANCES

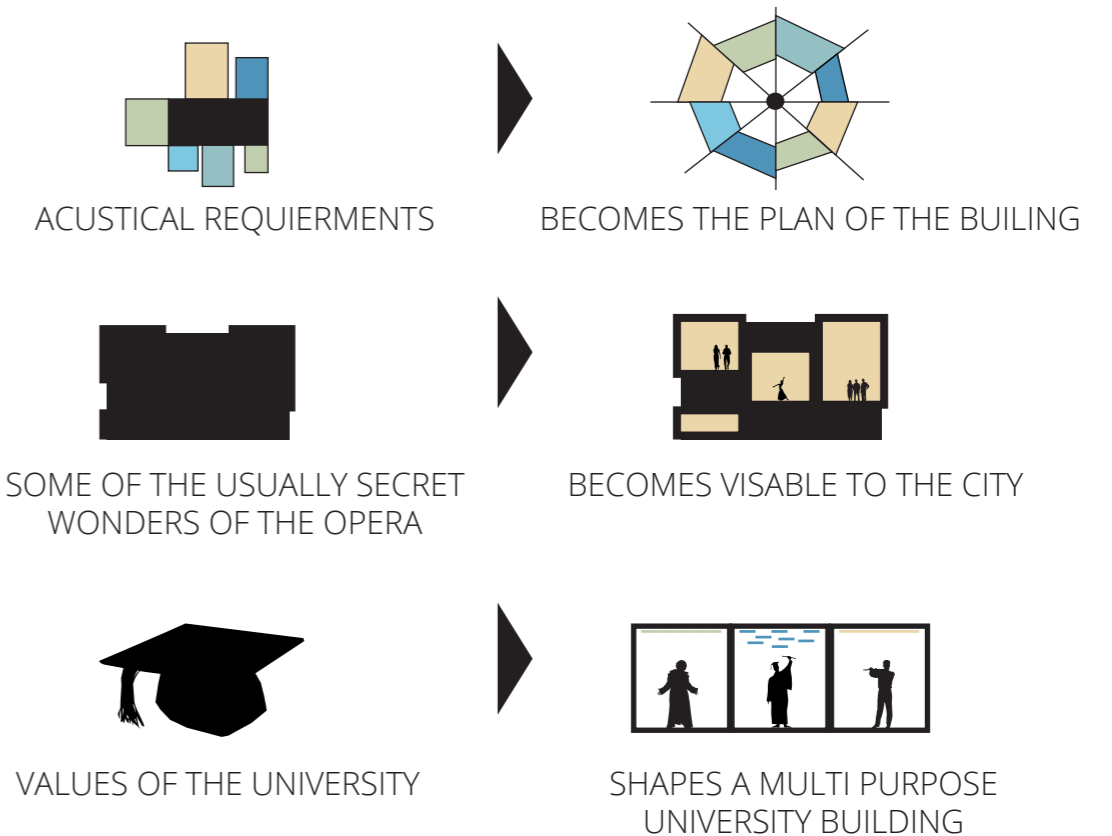
There are many sources of noise in the area, such as passing aircrafts, trains and cars. By estimating the traffic and speed on highways and railways and adding the different sound sources, the normal sound level on the plot can be calculated to be between 65 and 75 dBA.

-  Train at 300 m distance ▶ 65-75 dBA
-  Highway at 370 m distance ▶ 55-65 dBA
-  Aircraft at 460 m distance ▶ 70-80 dBA

## DIFFERENT FACES OF MONTREAL MEETS

The building is situated where downtown and the changing neighborhood Griffintown meets. Having the main building of Ecole Technologie Supérieure, the expo 67 planetarium and a residential area in the absolute vicinity, the performance hall should give something to all nearby stakeholders.

The building approaches it's surroundings by having a welcoming front in every direction, inviting the city of Montreal to be apart of it's activity.

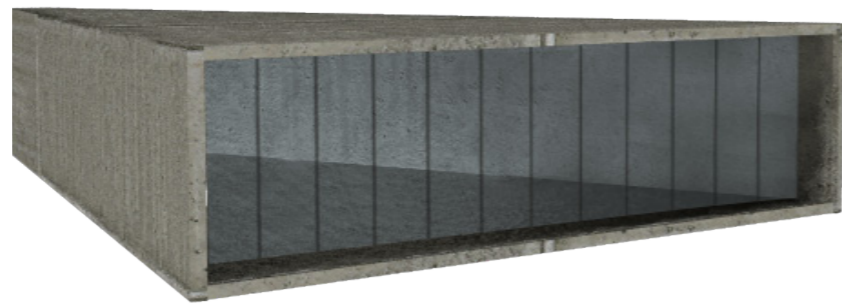


## VALUES SHAPING THE PROJECT

1. *Architecture and acoustics in close interaction*  
The heart of the opera is the spot on stage where the singer sings the last note. Rooms are close or far from that spot depending on acoustical requirements.
2. *An open and inclusive opera building*  
Passing by on Rue Peel you can see a wigmaker in action or maybe a practicing dancer.
3. *The university is more than just the client*  
The university stands for new thinking, flexibility and diversity. Acoustically and spacially this building can house all of these aspects.

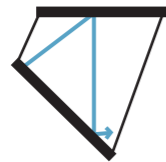


# THE CONCEPT OF THE LIGHTBOXES

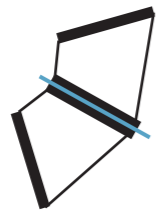


## CONCRETE AND GLASS - OPEN TOWARDS THE CITY

The open lightbox makes it possible to have a good view of the city, and for the city to have a good view of the activities inside. The concrete walls makes each lightbox acoustically isolated and flutter is naturally avoided by the unparallel walls.



FLUTTER ECO IS AVOIDED BY THE SHAPES OF THE LIGHTBOXES

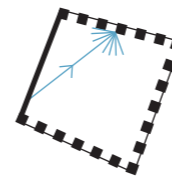


INSULATION BETWEEN THE LIGHTBOXES PREVENTS FLANKING TRANSMISSION TO SPREAD IN THE BUILDING



## WOODEN GRID - PRIVATE BUT PERFORATED

The wooden grid is used where there is a need for both privacy and daylight, for example in dressing rooms. In the nighttime the grid allows light to pass through and the volume becomes a lightbox without displaying it's activities.



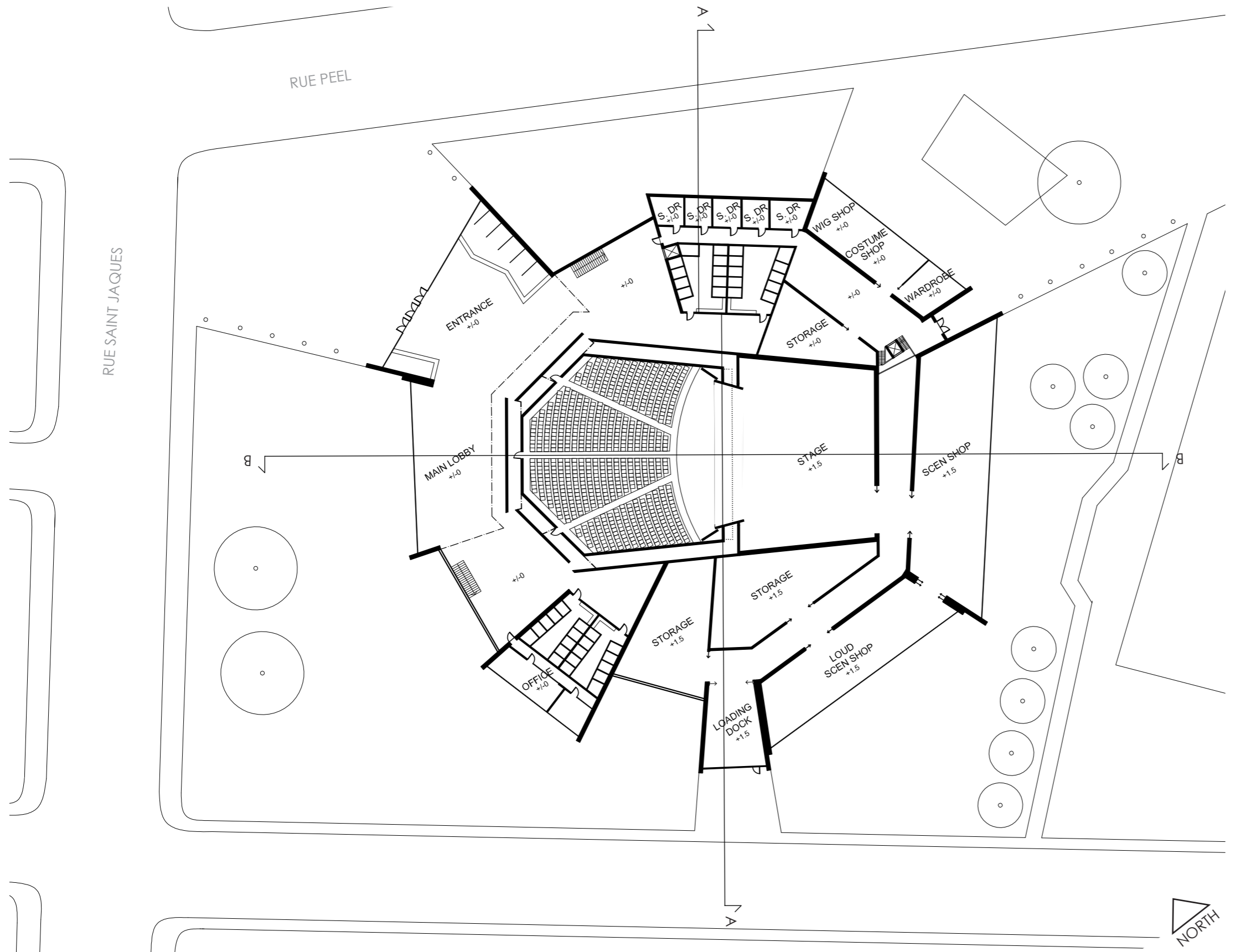
THE NATURAL UNEVENNESS OF THE LIGHTBOX DIFFRACTS THE SOUND



THE ABSORPTION IS REGULATED WITH POROUS BLOCKS THAT FITS IN THE HOLES



# FLOORPLANS



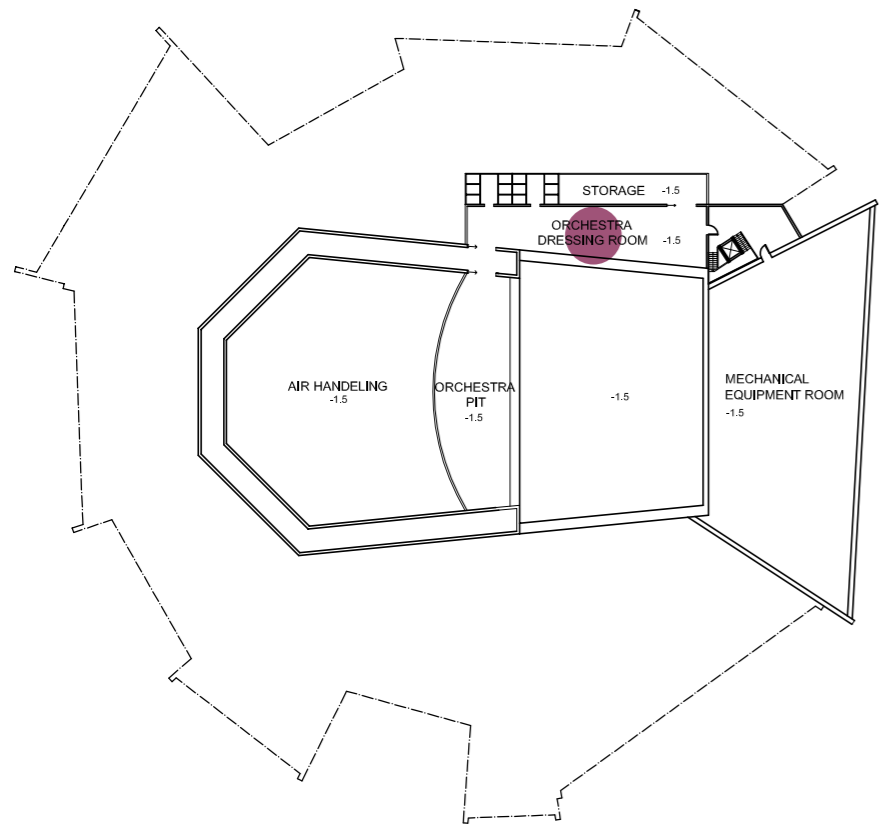
ENTRANCE FLOOR 1:600

## INCLUSIVE TO ITS SURROUNDINGS

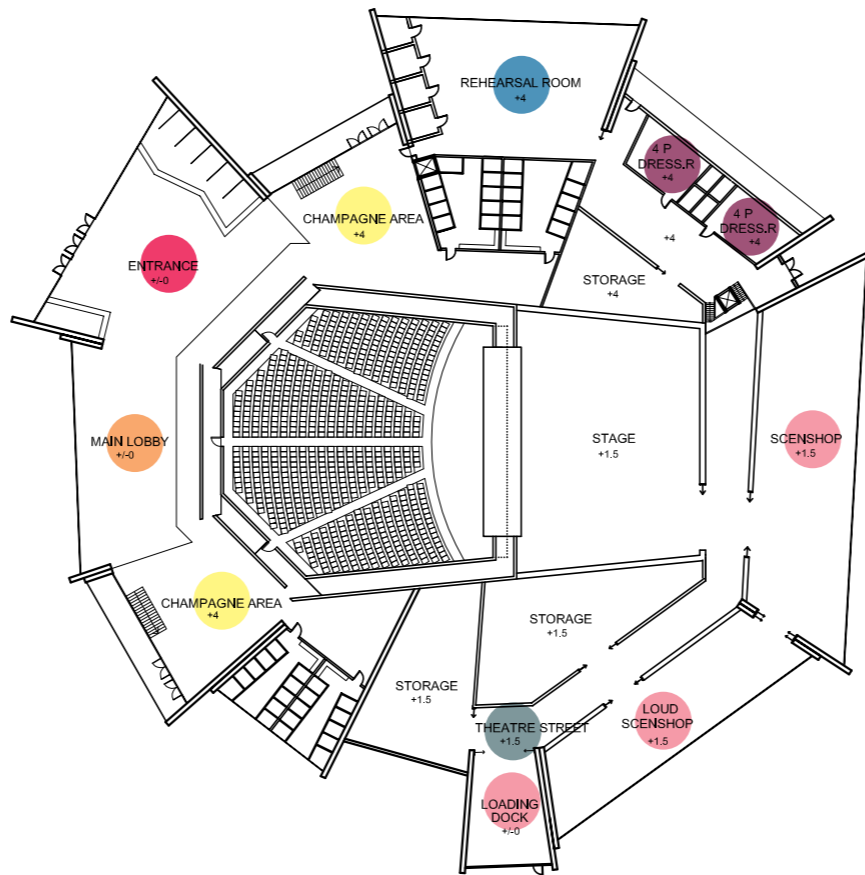
Because the plot is situated in a diverse area the building is open to its surroundings in different ways. The entrance is facing the crossing between Rue Saint Jaques and Rue Peel, where the busses and cars are bringing people to the venue. In the eastern corner, a small public space is created between the building and the ETS campus, while the more private functions are facing the residential area.

## A LIGHTBOX FOR EVERY NEED

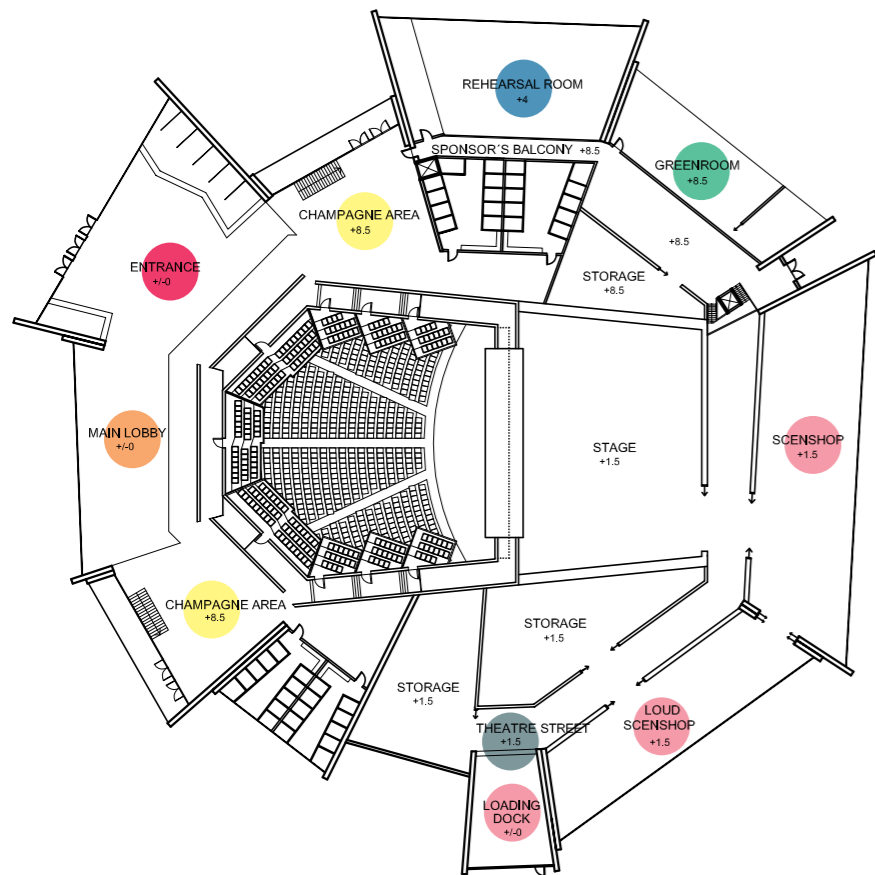
The layout of the opera is based on a radial grid centered on the stage. The different acoustical requirements and characteristics of the spaces determine their place in the building. The auditorium finds its natural place in the center and the less sensitive functions act as noise barriers to the outside. These functions are placed in different triangular segments; the lightboxes. The lightboxes are either open and connective or private and closed volumes, depending on the function inside.



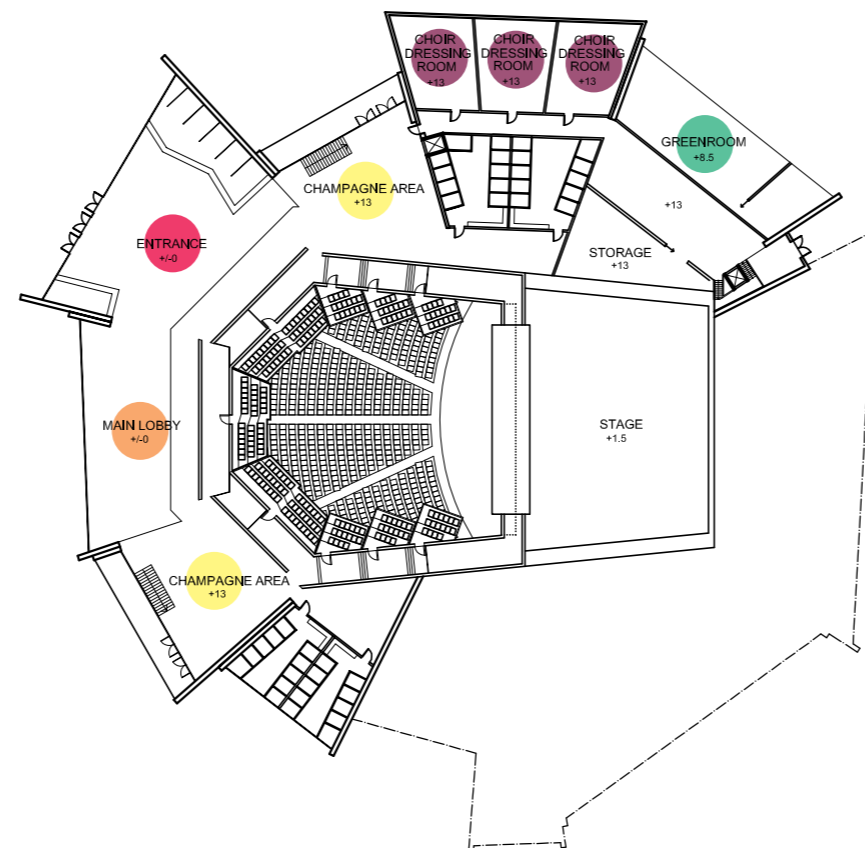
FLOOR -1 1:800



FLOOR 2 1:800



FLOOR 3 1:800



FLOOR 4 1:800

● **THE ENTRANCE**

When entering the spacious volume the sight of the auditorium is the first thing that meets the visitor. To the left and right there is a natural access to both wardrobe and ticket sales.

● **THE MAIN LOBBY**

The main lobby can, in addition to its functions as a lobby, be used as a space for exhibits, dinners, fairs and more.

● **THE CHAMPAGNE AREA**

This is the part of the lobby from which you enter the auditorium and to which you exit in the pause. On every floor there is a possibility to go outside for fresh air. While the rest of the lobby has a ceiling height of 16 meters, these spaces are more intimate and acoustically suitable for conversation and refreshments with a ceiling height of 4 meters.

● **LOADING DOCK AND SCENE SHOPS**

These functions need noise control to protect both the silence of the auditorium and the working environment of the employees. As a solution it is possible to divide the scen shop into two spaces, where the carpenter and other noisy activities has more barriers towards the auditorium. Less noisy activities can go on undisturbed, in the other scene shop. The sliding doors into the theater street have good sound insulation properties.

● **THEATER STREET**

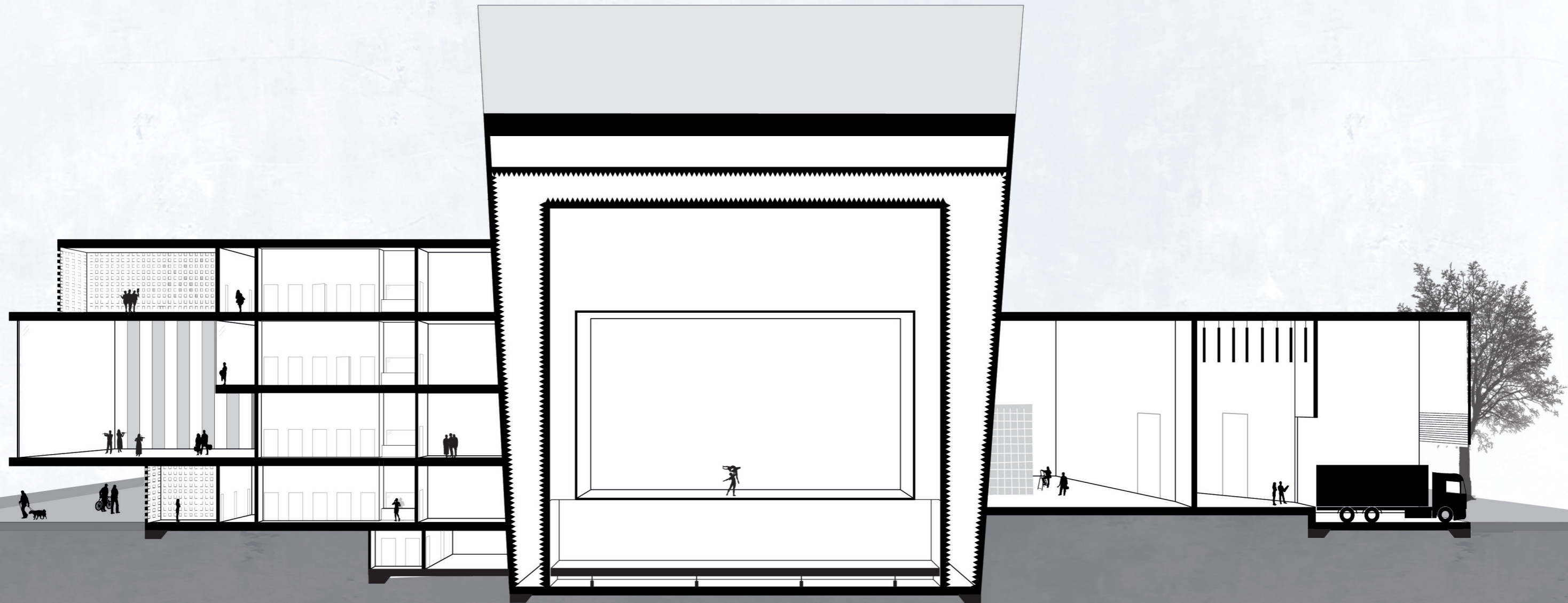
The theater street is used for communication between the different backstage spaces and the stage. It also functions as an extra sound barrier between the scene shops and stage. To prevent noise from building up and leaking into the stage area absorbers are installed in the ceiling.

● **DRESSING ROOMS**

The dressing have good communications to the rehearsal room, as well as the wig and costume shop, through the backstage stairwell. From the orchestra dressing room there is an entrance directly into the orchestra pit.



# SECTIONS





## ● PROCENIUM

The procenium is designed to deliver sound to the audience and reflect some sound to the performers on stage.

## ● STAGE SHELL

To accommodate performances by orchestras a movable stage shell (for example the Diva model from Wegner) is provided. The shell can easily be set up by the stage workers and provides good communication between musicians, diffraction and reflection towards the audience.

## ● BALCONY FRONTS

The balcony fronts mainly reflects the sound upwards, to increase the reverberation time. The lower part is acoustically transparent and behind the perforated balcony front, the sound is diffracted and reflected downwards. Small lamps inside continues the lightbox concept with light that sprinkles out of the clean fronts.

## ● ORCHESTRA PIT

The orchestra pit has diffracting walls to blend the sound of the instruments and allowing the musicians to hear each other. Pitlifts makes it possible to have different settings of the orchestra, as well as allowing for a bigger stage when fully erected.

## ● AIR HANDLING

Air is brought into the auditorium via inlets under the chairs. The big volume under the floor allows for low speeds and silent airflow. The air outlet is located on the floor above the auditorium, where silencers prevents noise from getting in from outside.

## ● INHOUSE MIXING

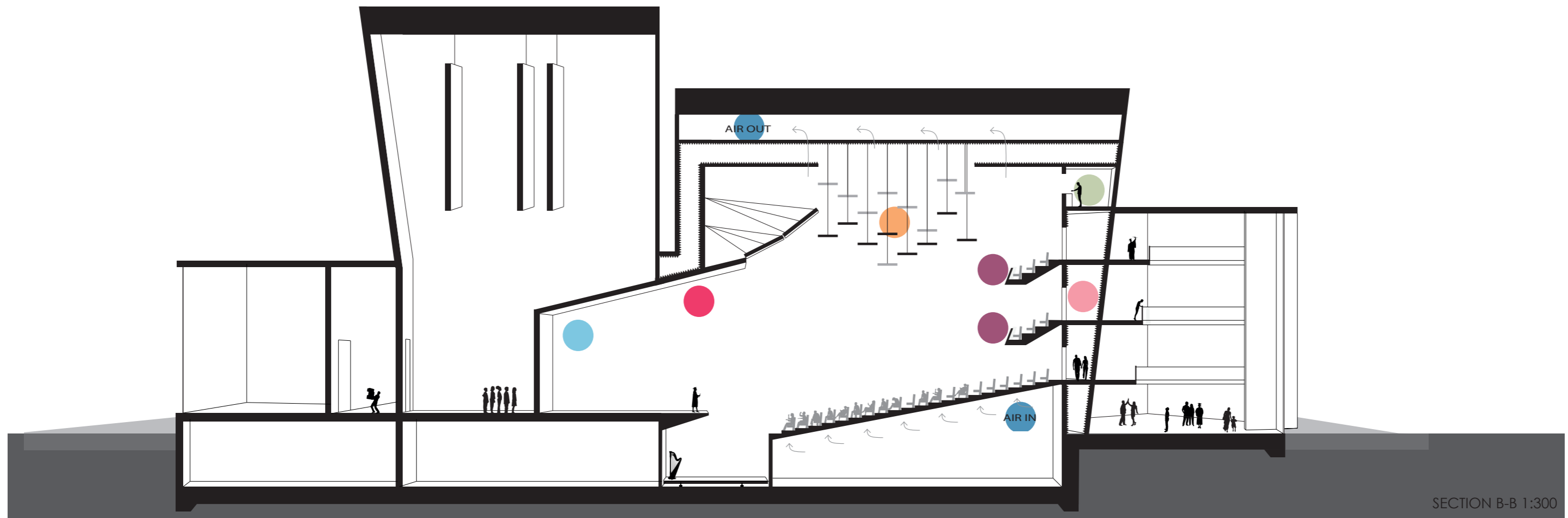
The sound technicians booth is fitted in the double shell. This way the technicians can be in direct connection to the auditorium without disturbing the audience experience.

## ● CEILING TILES

The tiles in the ceiling splits up and reveals the absorbing double shell to vary the reverberation time. The individually moving tiles also makes it possible to get a unique expression of the auditorium, suitable for ceremonies, conferences, dance performances or other things the university can come to invent.

## ● THE DOUBLE SHELL

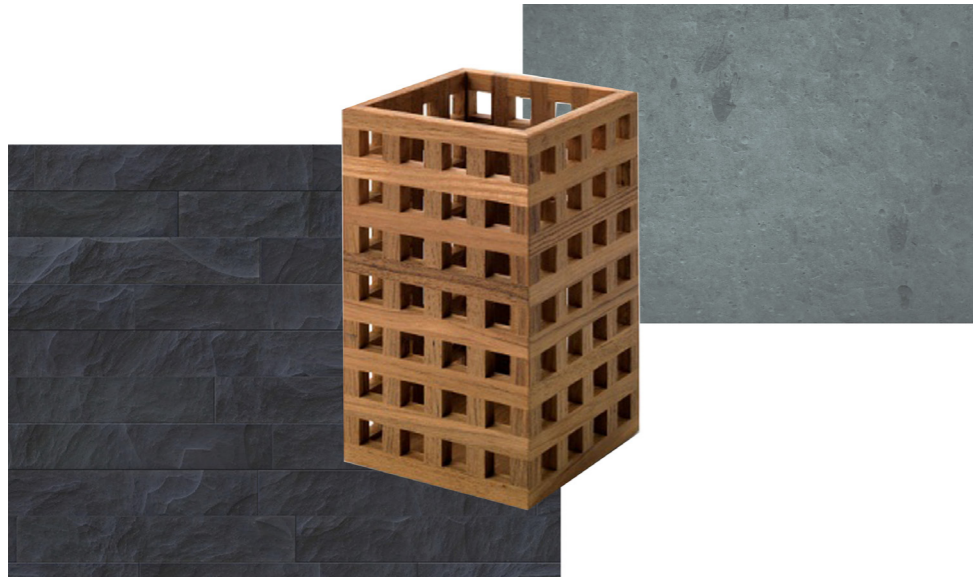
The double shell has two important purposes. First it acts as the final sound insulation between the auditorium, the hidden treasure of the opera, and the outside world. The second purpose is the variable acoustics, which is created by opening the auditorium cling and letting the highly absorptive elements take away some of the reverberation time. A bonus from these two combined functions is the special feeling of entering a new universe.



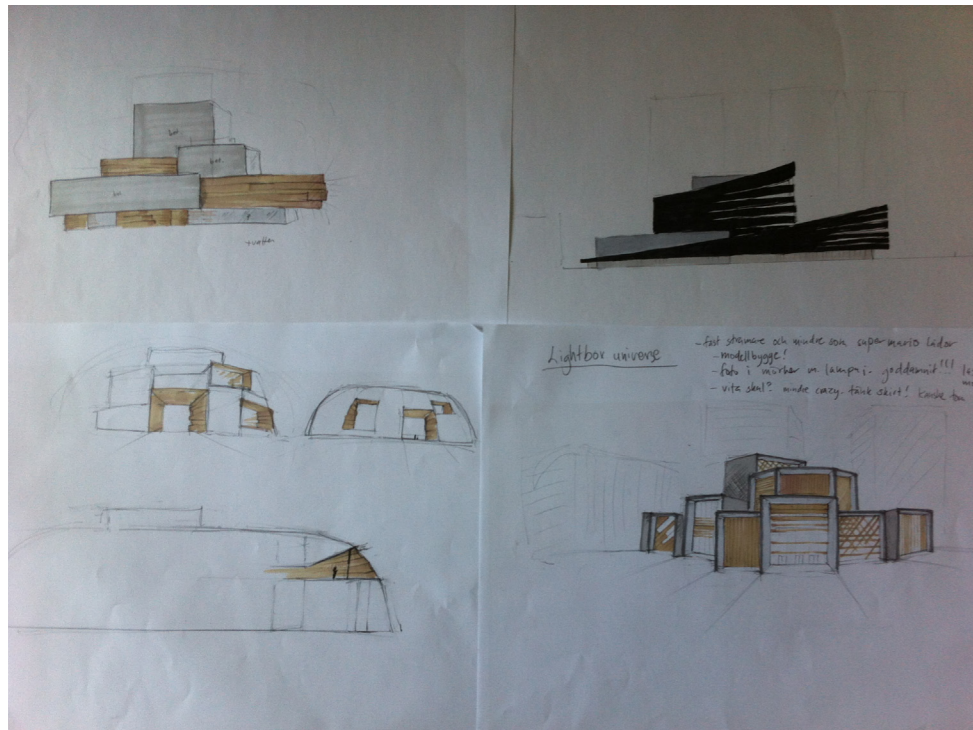


# THE WORK PROCESS

*One aim of the bachelor thesis was to create a structured work process and see what it could provide. We have systematically set and followed goals, developed realistic schedules and reflected within the group. This has provided an incredible value for both the quality of the project, but also for me personally. It has, through the whole process felt inspiring and fun, and the project has grown out of conscious choice. The group has worked well and we have challenged both each others strengths and weaknesses. We have consciously worked with the group dynamics and taken the time to talk about our goals and aims.*



Investigation of materials



Sketches of visual koncept ideas

## 1. Site analysis

The first week began with a site analysis. We looked at Montreal as a city, the neighborhoods where the site is set and the nearby surrounding areas. On the site itself, we examined the light and sound conditions, identified important outlooks, found paths and patterns of movement of both people and traffic.

## 4. Iterations

During a 4-week period the project was iterated 3 times, where the end of each iteration meant a collection and printing of the material in the correct format. The project was also presented to the class and feedback captured from teachers and students.

## 2. Values and goals

From the analysis, we identified a number of things we found important to take advantage of. These were defined as values that we came back to continuously in the process. We also began the group dynamic process by doing an interactive exercise where we together formulated the goals for the project, as well as for the group.

## 5. Production phase

As we continuously improved our material, the production phase was somewhat parallel with the iteration phase. Prior to deadline, there was a more concentrated period in which the materials were developed and tuned.

## 3. Concept phase

During a week, there was a concept phase where we produced over 50 concept models. These were later evaluated against a list of criteria, developed from our defined values. 3 models came to play a major role, although we in the process drew inspiration from several of our concept models.

## 6. Critic and evaluation

The last but not least part was to get a final critic of the project. Afterwards we evaluated the final product against our values and goals together in the group.



Model sketches



Communication on our studio wall

# REFLEKTION ARBETSPROCESS

Arbetsprocessen är det jag är allra mest nöjd med i det här arbetet. Vi lade upp arbetet så att vi fick en hyfsat jämn arbetsbelastning. Arbetsuppdelningen fungerade bra och vi höll ihop arbetet trots att vi delvis jobbade på distans. Vi jobbade med tydligt definierade etapper och iterationer av projektet, där vi tog medvetna beslut kring vilka frågor vi skulle jobba vidare med i nästa steg.

Gruppmedlemmen från masterprogrammet sound and vibration blev väl integrerad i gruppen, trots att han hade jämförelsevis mycket mindre arbetstid avsatt för projektet. De olika synsätten och arbetsmetoderna kändes inledningsvis lite svåra att få ihop. Men vi jobbade medvetet med att hitta en gemensam arbetsprocess och i slutändan var han väldigt delaktig i utformningen och vi väldigt delaktiga i de akustiska analyserna. Det var speciellt nyttigt mot slutet när vi var tvungna att ta ganska snabba beslut kring arkitekturen, som respons på beräkningsresultat.

Jag tyckte att det var väldigt roligt att jobba med ganska tung teknisk teori, i form av akustisk analys, och låta den verkligen få fäste i ett byggnadskoncept. Det samspelet hade kunnat komma in ännu tidigare i processen, tror jag. För att det skulle vara möjligt hade det nog krävts att gruppmedlemmen från masterprogrammet sound and vibration hade varit van vid den typen av arbetsprocess sedan innan, alternativt att vi från arkitektur och teknik hade haft mer erfarenhet av gestaltning för akustiska ändamål.



# REFLEKTION RESULTAT

Människans rörelser och upplevelser har varit väldigt drivande för oss, snarare än byggnaden som objekt.

Vi kämpade ganska mycket med att hitta det visuella konceptet för byggnaden. Vi gav den processen tid och gav oss inte förrän vi hittade något som vi var nöjda med. Det övergripande visuella konceptet itererades och förändrades ganska långt in i processen. Jag tror att med lite mer tid så hade vi jobbat mer med hur det slutgiltiga konceptet gav avtryck i byggnaden och renodlat det mer. Till exempel hade jag ifrågasatt auditoriets och scentornets yttre gestaltning.

Rörelsesekvenserna och resan genom byggnaden är jag nöjd med. De samspelar dessutom bra med vårt slutgiltiga koncept med de två typerna av boxar. Tankarna kring akustik, visuellt koncept, rörelsesekvenser och materialval blev till något sammanhängande, vilket var ett mål vi hade.

Jag hade tyckt att det var väldigt kul att jobba vidare med den här byggnaden mer detaljerat. Det finns säkert en hel del utmaningar där, som hade satt vårt koncept på prov i verkligheten.