

Construction Begins for the Festival Centre Financed by Dr. Hans-Peter Wild

Construction is about to begin in early September for the Festival Centre on Herbert-von-Karajan-Platz, designed by the architectural firm Marte.Marte, a project that will give the Festival District a place of encounter for the citizens of Salzburg and art lovers from around the world. The construction project is financed by the Swiss entrepreneur Dr. Hans-Peter Wild, who supports the undertaking with up to 12 million Euros.



Festival Centre: Rendering of the design by the architectural firm Marte.Marte

“We are delighted at this unique project. The Festival Centre will benefit not only the citizens of Salzburg, but all visitors of this beautiful city. What I find particularly attractive is that we can give a totally new architectural face to a location that has been underused in the heart of our historical city centre, ensuring that the interest of coming generations in the Salzburg Festival is raised and everyone gains an insight into the Festival. On behalf of the Directorate and all the Festival’s employees, my heartfelt gratitude goes to Dr. Hans-Peter Wild, whose donation – the largest gift from an individual in the history of the Festival – has made this building possible,” said **Festival President Kristina Hammer**.

Dr. Hans-Peter Wild took the beginning of construction for the new Festival Centre as an opportunity to explain his intention in financing this project: “It gives me great joy to be able to declare today that construction has begun – the launching of the major project Festival District 2030. Support for culture is important to me. The arts require free spaces – both physically and mentally – to unfold their full potential. The new Festival Centre is meant to contribute to these spaces. It is intended as a place of encounter and exchange. Unlike the economy, culture cannot focus on efficiency and revenue alone. Instead, its creativity and emotionality raise our enthusiasm and inspire us. The redesign and expansion of the entire Festival District will prepare the Festival for future tasks and challenges. The high value placed on culture here in Salzburg can be maintained and even expanded through this enormous undertaking.”

“We are glad that the phase of extensive and careful project development is now followed by the start of the implementation of the major project Festival District 2030. This project is about nothing less than the future of one of the central cultural infrastructures in this country. The launch of the multi-year implementation begins from September onwards with the construction of the Festival Centre designed by the architects Marte.Marte and the beginning of the first building measures inside the Großes Festspielhaus. These are meant to be completed by the 2026 Salzburg Festival. In 2026, the cavity expansion into the Mönchsberg mountain follows, to enable the expansion of the District. From the autumn of 2027, the Großes Festspielhaus will be renovated and the new workshop building will be erected, which the architectural firm of Jabornegg & Pálffy designed,” said the **Executive Director** of the Salzburg Festival, **Lukas Crepaz, who is responsible for the building process**.

“Culture and the arts are indispensable parameters of our lives; they are what make human beings human. The new Festival Centre will invite visitors to share cultural experiences throughout the year. Especially in times like these, places where we can contribute to eliminating distance and building closeness are more important than ever – and such a place is going to be built in this spot, thanks to the generous donation by Hans-Peter Wild,” said **Artistic Director Markus Hinterhäuser**.

The Festival Centre as an Open House of Encounters

The new Festival Centre will be the representative welcoming area of the Salzburg Festival. Approaching the Herbert-von-Karajan-Platz in the future, the entry gates shimmering in bronze tones will be visible from afar, marking the transition to the magical world of the Salzburg Festival like mighty pillars. Like a stage production, the inviting Festival room reveals itself as a tension-filled composition made up of individual sculptural elements.



Festival Centre: Rendering of the design by the architectural firm Marte.Marte

Flanked by wall panels and complemented by the reopened gate in the prospect wall, guests will be led into the new Festival room. In its centre, a glass pavilion welcomes not only visitors to the Salzburg Festival, but all those who are here to discover Salzburg’s beautiful historical centre.

“The open and bright space of the multi-purpose pavilion offers ideal conditions as a meeting-point for all lovers of the arts and culture. Here, guests can find information about the programme and everything they wish to know about the Salzburg Festival, or simply enjoy the atmosphere. A generous circular stairway leads to the small foyer of the event level. From here, the gaze takes in the Dr. Hans-Peter Wild Hall, wood-panelled in its entirety. This is a place for many different formats, e.g. lectures, receptions and conversations with artists.

On beautiful summer days, visitors will find refreshing spaces to retreat in the shadow of the central pavilion and the prospect wall – an ideal place to get into the mood for one of the many performances of the Salzburg Festival. In the evening of every day, the five towering gates of the Festival room will close, certain to open again the next morning,” thus **Stefan Marte of Marte.Marte** described the architectural idea.

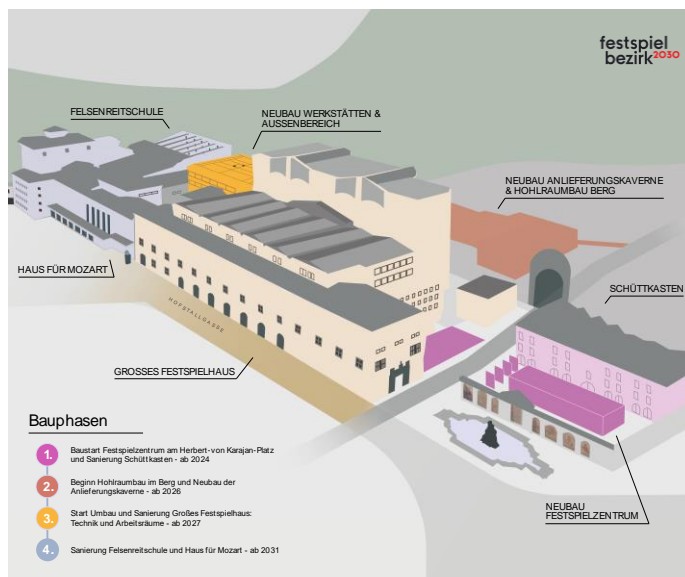
Festival District 2030

A Meeting Place for the Arts for 100 Years

The Salzburg Festival District is a central part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Salzburg. The most influential architect of the Festival District was the Austrian architect Clemens Holzmeister, who developed the complex from the former Prince-Archbishop's stables and riding school. Over the course of more than 100 years of building history, the three central performance venues of the Salzburg Festival have emerged since 1924: the Großes Festspielhaus, the Haus für Mozart and the Felsenreitschule.

Building our Future

The project Festival District 2030 secures and develops the infrastructure which is so central to Salzburg's cultural life for the future. In addition to the Festival, a multitude of Salzburg-based cultural institutions and international guest promoters use the three theatres as performance venues throughout the year. In total, every year, almost 850,000 visitors attend the Salzburg Festival and the events presented by the Mozart Week, the Salzburg Easter Festival, the Advent Singing, the Salzburg Cultural Association, the Mozarteum Orchestra, the Salzburg Philharmonic, the State Theatre and many other institutions that are part of Salzburg's cultural life. Large bands and popular musicians also find enthusiastic audiences here.



The Arts need Space

The Festival theatres require fundamental renovation, reorganization and expansion in order to meet the challenges of the future. There are 65 professions active within the Festival District, 20 of them employed at the workshops: locksmithing, interior decoration, painting, e-workshop, makeup, costumes and tailoring. For these, a new building will be erected in the heart of the Festival District. The building substance of the Festival theatres will be sustainably renovated; building and stage technology at the end of its life cycle will be replaced. An access route at Sigmundstor will restructure all deliveries, thus upgrading the Hofstallgasse. While maintaining Festival operations, the rebuilding will be completed in 2032, according to plans by the architectural firm Jabornegg & Pálffy.