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**THE
NEW
KUNST-
HAUS**
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**CHRONOLOGY
2001–2020**



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THE EXPERT HEARING

In spring 2001 the Kunsthaus Zürich organises an international expert hearing to open up the reorientation process to the public at large, and launches a consultation lasting until 2010 to sound out opinion on the idea for an extension. The prevailing view among external contributors is that the Kunsthaus is ideally placed to embark on this transformation: its legal structure, the combination of a collection of national importance and exhibitions with international reach, strong popular support and the steadily growing membership of the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft add up to a substantial case for the extension. The unanimity of the opinions expressed, which are shared by cultural policy-makers from the city and canton, confirms the Kunsthaus team's resolve to launch a project for an extension on Heimplatz.

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THE OUTLINE PROPOSAL

In winter 2001 the directors and curators of the Kunsthaus draw up the outline proposal, which is unveiled to the public in May 2002 at a joint media briefing with the Stiftung Zürcher Kunsthaus and the incumbent mayor of Zurich. It sets out the rationale for the extension, prioritises a number of areas – collection and exhibitions, art education, the library and the restoration department – and proposes Heimplatz as the location.

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THE URBAN PLANNING DEBATE

In summer 2002 the city's Building Surveyor's Office and the cantonal Building Authority stage a hearing on the future development of the university district, to which the Kunsthaus and the cantonal school site on Heimplatz belong. The Kunsthaus's wish to use the lower section of the school site is supported by a cantonal government decision of 6 March 2002, and by discussions between the mayor, the head of the city's Department of Justice and Home Affairs and the president of the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft.

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THE MCKINSEY STUDY

In autumn 2002 the directors compile a 'Preliminary Study of the Kunsthaus Extension', which is evaluated on a pro-bono basis by McKinsey & Company between August and October 2002, with extensive statistics being added. Essentially a feasibility study, it comprises three modules: business plan, funding (investment and follow-up costs) and the communications strategy.

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THE KUNSTHAUS EXTENSION PROJECT

Work on optimising the initial blueprint begins in spring 2003, in collaboration with the new programme committee. The amendments concern the following factors: reassigning some floor areas to the collection/exhibitions, structuring, content aspects and concision of form.

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LEGISLATIVE GOAL: EXTENSION

The Kunsthaus extension is adopted as a legislative goal of the city government. As part of a location strategy the canton decides to move the Zurich University of Teacher Education to the city centre area around the main station. The Kunsthaus can now push ahead with its plans for an extension on the site next to the cantonal school.

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29 August 2007

A DECISIVE TURNING POINT

The canton guarantees the Kunsthaus the cantonal school site as a location for the future extension. The architectural competition receives an explicit go-ahead before the real estate deal is notarised. The last stone falls into place when the city government approves a project credit in its first session following the summer break. The transaction makes its way through the relevant political bodies, namely the city parliament and the

advisory committee. With the first tranche of the credit paid out, the competition can get underway and the preliminary project can be elaborated.

At the first press conference for the Kunsthaus extension, held on 29 August 2007 in the lecture hall to coincide with the publication of the city government's decision, the steering committee sets out the project's main points and the next steps.

The Kunsthaus extension is to be tailored to the museum's artistic content, as well as by long-term considerations, which gives rise to its spatial design and in turn constitutes the core of the competition brief for participating architects.

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14 December 2007

THE ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION IS LAUNCHED

Advertisements in trade journals and online platforms invite architectural offices from around the world to apply to take part in the competition, to run from 14 December 2007 to 1 February 2008.

From the anticipated large number of applications, an international jury selects 20 suitable teams to take part in the anonymous competition. The jury is presided over by Walter B. Kielholz as chairman and is moderated by Prof. Carl Fingerhuth.

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March 2008

RESPONSE TO THE ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION AND GRANTING OF THE PROJECT PLANNING CREDIT

With 214 applications from architectural offices from 22 countries, the Kunsthaus extension project in Zurich awakens international interest. In early March a panel of 20 experts selects 20 teams to take part in the one-step competition. Nine of the participating offices come from Switzerland, eight from Europe and three from outside Europe. In early April the participants – who are working anonymously and include renowned and seasoned architects, as well as two young talent teams – are comprehensively briefed, largely on the basis of the competition programme.

The process chosen guarantees fair treatment of all the participants until the selection of a winning project in November 2008.

The City of Zurich is a supporter of the project, with the city parliament ratifying a project credit of 6.5 million francs, applied for by the city government in autumn 2007, by a vote of 113 to 3 on 26 March 2008.

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30 October 2008

THE EXTENSION IS GIVEN A LABEL

The Zurich agency Büro4 is commissioned to give an overall design to the construction reports, residents' information sheets, documentation stands, site hoardings, posters, invitations, fundraising brochures and inauguration publications during the entire period of the project. A year later the design wins the agency the coveted Red Dot Design Award.

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7 November 2008

DAVID CHIPPERFIELD ARCHITECTS WIN THE COMPETITION

The jury declares the project submitted by David Chipperfield Architects to be the winner of the competition to design the extension to the Kunsthaus Zürich.

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15 December 2008

PRESENTATION OF THE WINNING PROJECT

David Chipperfield Architects' winning project is a striking formulation of the plan for a 21st-century museum to meet the demands of art and the general public alike. The Kunsthaus extension's partners present it at a media conference on 15 December 2008. The international jury find that the pristine elegance of the British architect's design offers the best solution to the content and urban-planning requirements stipulated in the competition programme. According to the jury's report, the extension building will serve both the art world and the public well.

From 16 December 2008 until 11 January 2009 all 20 competition entries are exhibited in the lecture hall of the Kunsthaus Zürich.

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24 September 2009

MORE OPEN, GREENER, BETTER: THE RE-WORKING

David Chipperfield Architects' winning design is optimised in line with the jury's recommendations in terms of its role within the fabric of the city and with regard to its internal organisation. The revision addresses all of the recommendations made by the jury. The future principal clients are now presented with a project that is more open, greener and better: in a word, feasible.

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27 October 2009

A PROJECT PARTNERSHIP IS FORMED FOR THE KUNSTHAUS EXTENSION

At the conclusion of the architectural competition, the organising committee restructures itself into a simple project partnership. Partners, and hence principals, are the City of Zurich, the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft and the Stiftung Zürcher Kunsthaus. With the establishment of the Einfache Gesellschaft Kunsthaus-Erweiterung (EGKE), the public and private partners in the Kunsthaus extension set up an organisation to coincide with the beginning of the project-planning phase. With the goal of realising the extension building on Heimplatz, the EGKE is responsible for developing the private design plans, securing the financing, overseeing the construction project and is in charge of public relations.

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14 April 2010

THE ZURICH CITY GOVERNMENT APPROVES AN INCREASE OF THE PLANNING CREDIT

The Kunsthaus extension project clears a major hurdle: with 99 to 3 votes the city parliament agrees to the city government's request to increase the project credit from 6.5 to 18 million francs. This amount is earmarked for detailed cost estimates, the documentation for the building application and the elaboration of the concept plans.

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18 October 2010

FORMING OF THE FÖRDERSTIFTUNG KUNSTHAUS-ERWEITERUNG

The Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft commits itself to contributing 75 million francs in private funds to the Kunsthaus extension, to which end it creates a foundation for the collection of donations. Its purpose: booking incoming funds, supervising their use in keeping with the statutes – exclusively to finance the extension – and ensuring the provision to donors of all tax advantages associated with donating to the foundation. President of the foundation board is lawyer Franz J. Kessler. The first phase involves accepting major donations from foundations and business enterprises.

This act represents the fundraising kick-off, the goals being tailored upwards proportionally to the costs. Due to the personal efforts of Thomas W. Bechtler, Walter B. Kielholz, Conrad P. Schwyzer, Conrad M. Ulrich, Gitti Hug, Anne Keller, Christoph Becker, as well as Renato Fassbind, Adrian Hagenbach, Elisabeth Oltramare, Herbert Scheidt, Nicola von Lutterotti-Scheidt and Susanne von Meiss, some 88 million francs are collected from private donors by the time the extension opens.

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9 November 2010

THE DESIGN PLANS ARE MADE PUBLIC

The design plans for the extension building are presented, from 10 November until 24 January 2011, to allow public discussions to take place. Following this participatory process, eventual objections are collected, processed and incorporated into a report for the city parliament.

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26 January 2011

45 OBJECTIONS TO THE DESIGN PLANS ARE SUBMITTED

Forty-five separate objections are submitted to the planned design, many of which contain the same demand: that the planned new building should be set back several metres.

Because so many of the submissions involve the same issue, the city decides to forge contacts with the 'Open Pfauen' group. The city authorities examine all of the submissions, and in the event that if they decide to reject a demand they are obliged to justify it in the form of a report, that is then presented to the city parliament together with the design plan.

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6 September 2011

THE PRELIMINARY DESIGN PROJECT IS APPROVED, THE BUSINESS PLAN IS PRESENTED

The preliminary design project for the extension to the Kunsthaus Zürich is complete. The design by David Chipperfield's team of architects has assumed its definitive form. The timetable anticipates the project to be voted on by the electorate in 2012, with the opening of the Kunsthaus extension planned for 2017. The new building will create space for crowd-pulling temporary exhibitions and a dynamic presentation of the post-1960 art collection and the new emphasis on French painting and Impressionism.

During the preliminary design project, the basic architectural concept of the winning design is refined and adapted to meet the future uses. Further details are also added to the timetable and the cost estimate for the realisation of the project. The cost target stands at 178.8 million francs. In line with the recommendations made by the building committee, the overall dimensions of the above-ground and below-ground volumes are reduced in scale and the forecourt area facing Heimplatz is enlarged, making the size of the new building smaller than originally envisaged vis-à-vis the cityscape.

The Kunsthaus, in its capacity as occupant and operator, presents the key points of its business plan. The forecasted additional costs are to be covered by maintaining the existing high level of self-funding at over 50% in combination with the increased subsidy set out in the City of Zurich's cultural mission statement.

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12 December 2011

THE CANTONAL PARLIAMENT APPROVES 30 MILLION AND THE SITE OCCUPANCY

The Canton of Zurich supports the Kunsthaus Zürich extension project with 30 million francs. With 154 votes to one, the cantonal parliament approves the contribution from the Lottery Fund to the Stiftung Zürcher Kunsthaus. It also provides the necessary development site, valued at 15 million francs, as an 80-year leasehold.

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14 December 2011

MUNICIPAL CONTRIBUTION AND LAYOUT PLAN

The city government files an application with the city parliament to be approved by the electorate for an investment contribution of 88 million francs and to take a 5-million-franc share of the non-recurring preliminary expenditures for the extension. The city government requests an increased annual municipal contribution of 7.5 million francs to cover the running and value upkeep of the extension building, starting in 2017. Simultaneously, the city government presents the public plans for the overall site of the Kunsthaus extension for the city parliament to consult and decide upon.

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23 April 2012

KUNSTHAUS ZÜRICH JOINS FORCES WITH THE FONDATION HUBERT LOOSER

The Kunsthaus Zürich receives an outstanding private collection of modern and contemporary art in the form of the Hubert Looser Collection. Focusing on Abstract Expressionism, Minimal Art and Arte Povera, 70 works are to be housed in the Kunsthaus extension as a long-term loan, ideally complementing the museum's own holdings.

The Looser Collection evinces a stance that abjures modish trends, choosing instead to foster dialogues and positive dichotomies, and in so doing generates encounters replete with new experiences and revelations. This is perfectly in tune with the Kunsthaus's goal of dynamically presenting its own collection in the Heimplatz ensemble.

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28 May 2012

THE EMIL BÜHRLE COLLECTION COMES TO THE KUNSTHAUS ZÜRICH

The Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft signs an agreement with the Foundation E.G. Bührle Collection, setting out the terms and conditions for the long-term loan of some 190 paintings and sculptures to the Kunsthaus Zürich. The internationally renowned collection of the industrialist Emil Bührle (1890–1956) is to be exhibited in the extension to the Kunsthaus Zürich. This move creates the largest assembly of French Impressionist paintings in Europe outside Paris. The new agreement between the Foundation E.G. Bührle Collection and the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft replaces the agreement in principle drawn up in February 2006, thus setting the seal on the intent, declared by the parties at the time, to make the artworks from the Bührle Collection publically accessible in the new Kunsthaus extension. In addition to the participatory credit for construction investments and subsidies for the kick-off costs of the Kunsthaus extension, the related costs and income are included in the subsidy requests to be addressed by the Zurich city parliament in July 2012.

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29 May 2012 / 12 June 2012

APPROVAL BY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On 12 June 2012 the city parliament's advisory committee approves the municipal contribution to the Kunsthaus extension building. The corresponding thumbs-up from the Building Committee had already been given two weeks earlier.

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4 July 2012

CITY PARLIAMENT VOTES YES

With a large majority, the Zurich city parliament approves the financing and the design plan for the Kunsthaus extension.

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28 September 2012

FORMING OF THE BALLOT COMMITTEE

A few days after 25 November 2012 is fixed as the date for the general vote, an independent, non-partisan ballot committee is formed to promote the Kunsthaus extension. Over 160 political, civic, business and cultural figures give the seminal project their backing and make their support known on their own website.

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5 October 2012

MAJOR EXHIBITION

Running until 6 January 2013, the Kunsthaus Zürich stages the exhibition 'The New Kunsthaus – Great Art and Architecture', covering over 1,300 square metres and showcasing the amenities and highlights that the extension would offer to the public.

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25 November 2012

ZURICH'S ELECTORATE GIVE THEIR APPROVAL TO THE EXTENSION PROJECT

The result of the referendum of 25 November 2012 is a major success for Zurich as a city of culture and the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft alike. With a vote of 53.9% for and 46.1% against, a majority of the population give their stamp of approval to the idea of a museum for art and audiences in the 21st century.

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16 March 2013

DESIGN PLAN COMES INTO FORCE

On 31 January 2013 the Canton of Zurich Building Department approves the public design plans for the Kunsthaus extension, set to come into force on 16 March 2013.

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25 March 2013

MAJOR DONATION TOWARDS THE EXTENSION

The Walter Haefner Foundation underwrites its support for the extension to the Kunsthaus Zürich with a donation of 20 million francs.

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16 April 2013

INSTALLATION OF A FACADE MODEL

A full-scale model of the facade of the Kunsthaus extension is erected on the site, allowing different variations of the materialisation of the prospective facade to be tried and tested. The installation is temporary and the samples shown are not per se identical to the final outcome.

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31 May 2013

BUILDING PERMISSION GRANTED

At its meeting on 31 May 2013 the Building Division of the Zurich city government approves the building permit for the Kunsthaus extension. The permit is subject to the customary conditions for projects of this magnitude. Appeals have to be lodged within 30 days.

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2 February 2015

BUILDING PERMISSION TAKES LEGAL EFFECT

Legal disputes block progress on the development of the extension to the Zürcher Kunsthaus for two years. The Lucerne-based Archicultura Foundation lodges a legal challenge against the 31 May 2013 decision to grant building permission. On 19 December 2014 the Building Appeals Court rejects the appeal, making the building permit final.

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3 August 2015

CONSTRUCTION COMMENCES

The preliminary preparatory work on the construction site begins on 3 August 2015, marking the start of the implementation phase of the project by David Chipperfield's architectural team. If construction proceeds according to schedule the extension is set to open in 2020.

The existing gymnastics halls and the huts on the site are freed of contaminated substances prior to demolition. At the same time the trees to be retained for the art garden are safeguarded, while the remainder are cleared. Hoardings are erected, after which excavation work begins.

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May 2016

CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE PASSAGE

Building work on the underground passageway running under Heimplatz starts. After the opening the passage will enable visitors to circulate between the Chipperfield building and the existing ensemble – unimpeded by the volume of traffic on Heimplatz or the weather. The passageway also serves as a route for artworks to be moved, transported from the depots into the collection and exhibition rooms from opposite sides of the street.

Apart from a few weekend closures, Heimplatz remains open to traffic, which is re-routed according to the individual phases of the construction work.

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24 August 2016

EXCAVATION WORKS ARE COMPLETED

As anticipated, the earthworks have revealed the entrenchment wall of the town's fortifications dating from the 17th century. No remains from the ancient Jewish cemetery are found. The earthworks for the Kunsthaus extension are closely monitored by city archaeologists.

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8 November 2016

LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE

The commissioning body – represented by Walter B. Kielholz (President of the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft), Corine Mauch (Mayor of Zurich, Vice President of the EGKE), Dr. Christoph Becker (Director of the Kunsthaus Zürich), Dr. Martin Zollinger (President of the Stiftung Zürcher Kunsthaus) and Dr. André Odermatt (City Councillor, Head of the Department of Planning and Building) – lay the foundation stone of the Kunsthaus Zürich extension together with architect Sir David Chipperfield. Urs Fischer, the internationally renowned Zurich artist, provides an artistic cornerstone for the collection in the expanded Kunsthaus in the form of a bronze sculpture measuring over 2 x 2 metres.

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14 March 2017

PARTIAL CLOSING FOR BUILDING WORK

The construction work on the Kunsthaus extension reaches the existing buildings. The museum stays open and operational: new stairs and lifts are installed; the new access routes lead from the existing entrance hall down to the passageway to the extension building on the other side of Heimplatz; the auditorium opposite the restaurant serves as a temporary entrance hall. Works by Alberto Giacometti are moved from the ground floor to the upper storeys. Art education services are not affected by the reconstruction work.

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26 April 2018

PASSAGEWAY BREAKTHROUGH

The last layer of earth between the 82-metre-long passage from the extension and the existing building by Karl Moser is breached.

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3 July 2018

A MILESTONE: COMPLETION OF THE STRUCTURAL SHELL

The vision of a museum for the 21st century – the new Kunsthaus – assumes a concrete form: the completion of the shell means that the full dimensions and proportions of the building can be appreciated for the first time. For many years the extension building had existed only in the form of plans and models; now the building has reached its full height and as a whole now shapes the face of Heimplatz. The completion of the shell comes almost three years after construction began. The building work is advancing on schedule.

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24 May 2018

NEW LONG-TERM LOAN: THE MERZBACHER COLLECTION

The collection of Gabriele and Werner Merzbacher is to move into the Kunsthaus extension on long-term loan. Under the terms of an agreement between the Kunstgesellschaft and the collectors a total of 65 works are promised to the Kunsthaus for at least 20 years, comprising paintings by the great masters of Impressionism, Post-Impressionism and Fauvism, and including members of the Brücke and Blauer Reiter groups. Following the Emil Bührle Collection and the Hubert Looser Collection, this is the third private collection to complement the Kunsthaus's own prestigious holdings.

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17 July 2019

PUBLICATION OF OPENING SCENARIO

The completion of the extension is announced for winter 2020, with the opening of the museum scheduled in phases during 2021.

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27 August 2019

THE MAIN ENTRANCE REOPENS

After two-and-a-half years of reconstruction, the main entrance to the Kunsthaus opens its doors again. The existing building is underpinned by a second basement level to accommodate the underground connection between the Moser and Chipperfield buildings.

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29 February 2020

OPEN BUILDING SITE

On the fourth open-house day, which since 2017 has included allowing visitors to visit the building site, over 1,800 people tour the building, where the interior work is underway. The demand, including for the private building site tours on offer since September 2019, is larger than the limited capacity.

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11 December 2020

KEY HANDOVER

After five years of building work, the Kunsthaus extension is completed. Some 230 personalities from politics, business and culture who were directly or indirectly involved in the project are invited to the key-handover ceremony. Because of the Covid-19 crisis, the event takes place virtually. Representing the owners of the new property, Richard Hunziker, President of the Stiftung Zürcher Kunsthaus, accepts the key from the commissioning body. The President of the EGKE and Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft, Walter B. Kielholz, City Mayor Corine Mauch, Dr. André Odermatt, Head of the Department of Planning and Building and the architect Sir David Chipperfield address the gathered guests and present the overall balance of the project, which has been completed for less than the set cost ceiling of 206 million francs. In the evening the second part of Pipilotti Rist's installation 'Tactile Lights' is inaugurated. The projection wanders across the facades of the Kunsthaus and the Schauspielhaus, creating a 360-degree-panorama artistic event.

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12/13 December 2020

THREE-PHASE OPENING

With its inauguration, the building designed by David Chipperfield Architects presents itself as an architectural masterwork. On two visiting days the general public is invited to experience the new spaces, their proportions and sedate materialisation. Due to restrictions caused by the pandemic, the event is being postponed until 2021. A little time is still required for the Kunsthaus to have everything fully up and running. Following a test phase, the art will move into the extension in summer 2021, before complete operations finally commence on 9 October 2021.