

Press release
September 2012



Project Kilden Performing Arts Centre, Kristiansand/NO
Client Teater og Konserthus for Sørlandet
IKS, Kristiansand/NO
Architects ALA Architects, Helsinki/FI
in cooperation with SMS Arkitekter, Kristian-
sand/NO
Glass GEWE-therm® sun
SCHOLLGLAS TECHNIK GmbH Objektzentrum,
Nossen/DE
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Experience the sea and modern architecture Kilden Performing Arts Centre with GEWE-therm® sun glass

Barsinghausen, September 2012. Like a giant wave, the sloping, free form surface on the entrance side of the Kilden Performing Arts Centre looms over the heads of the visitors. Situated right on the shore in the former industrial port of the Southern Norwegian city of Kristiansand, the culture magnet is there to revive the old wasteland. The architecture firm ALA Architects from Helsinki emerged as the winner of an architecture competition. The most important Norwegian cultural construction project to date was completed in January 2012 in cooperation with the local SMS Arkitekter office.

The building is home to three independent cultural institutions: the Agder Regional Theatre, the Kristiansand Symphony Orchestra and the regional opera ensemble Sør. Altogether, the new building has more than 2270 seats that are spread over four halls in a row – a concert hall, a theatre and opera hall, a multipurpose hall as well as a studio stage for contemporary theatre. The respective undersides of the projecting stands for the audience, which are all on the sea side of the building, form the functional foundation for the curved façade surface. While three sides of the otherwise reserved, black-box like structure have black aluminium façades, the entrance side receives guests with a grand gesture. The glass façade facing the sea is one hundred metres long. One gigantic, column-free steel structure supports the top side of the stands for the audiences. The bottom views of the stages are in an irregular wave shape shuttered with warm, solid oak planks – reminiscent of the history of the city which grew in prosperity in the 17th century through exporting oak as a building material for sailing ships.

"The monumental, abstract shape of the wall, which is made of local oak wood, separates fantasy from reality," explain the architects. "When the audience enters the building, they move from a natural landscape into the realm of the performing arts."

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Areas of particular interest are the foyer and entrance. In front of the event halls, they are located under the curve of the wooden roof separated from the exterior by a glass skin that seems to be wafer thin. It literally cuts into the wavy roof in a dead straight line. Only the corners to the side closures are gently rounded. With a width of three metres each and a height of approximately two metres, the glass elements join parallel to the seashore in a reserved yet elegant steel construction. On top, customised panes seal the façade to the wavy ceiling. More than 300 square metres of GEWE-therm® sun protection glass from SCHOLLGLAS form a transition between the interior and exterior that has a translucent effect. The rooms are prevented from heating up or cooling down through the large glass surface due to its special coating, which provides optimum sun, UV and glare protection. Furthermore, the temperable, non-sensitive sun protection coating allows approximately 62 percent of the light to pass into the building. The discretely textured glass structure transforms on the outside during the day into a surface that reflects its surroundings. However, the view through the glass from the inside to the outside is not negatively affected. With total energy transmission of 33 percent, the glass façade with its favourable sun protection properties ensures a pleasant room climate. The U_g value of $1.0 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$ substantiates the good thermal insulation qualities of this new generation of modern sun protection glass.

Thanks to the successful use of material, there is a flowing transition between the inside and outside that is more than just a positive confirmation of the idea of the architects. The glass from SCHOLLGLAS also does justice to modern demands for an energy-efficient building shell.

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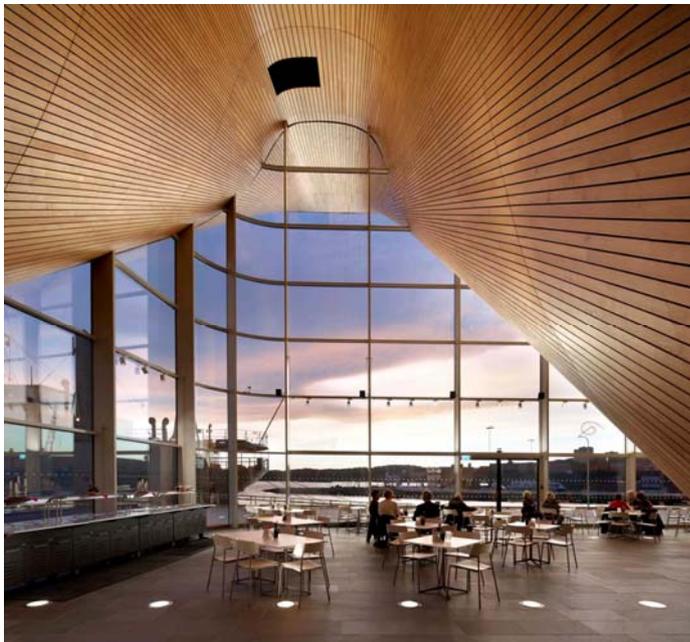
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