House of Music

a public living room for the city

Hannah Harmens, P4-presentation, 31 May 2018

0. introduction



"World-class cities need world-class music venues." - Sir Simon Rattle





i. context economic, political and social context

'[It] provided funding to consider the business case for a new London concert hall to add to this mix, but has concluded that it does not currently offer value for money for taxpayers and is not affordable.'

'London is already home to world class culture and music venues, from the iconic Royal Albert Hall to the Barbican Hall and the Royal Festival Hall at the Southbank Centre.' - government spokesperson



Inner London is deeply divided: it has by far the highest proportion

source: Household below average income, DWP

"London is also by far the most culturally diverse part of the country and a melting pot of ethnicities, languages, faiths and traditions, more liberal and tolerant than the rest of Britain. But this does not mean that there is also equal integration: research by the Social Integration Commission found there is actually less social mixing by ethnicity, age and class in London than in the rest of the country."



- In 2007 there were over 300 languages spoken in it and more than 50 non-indigenous communities with a population of more than 10,000 resides and continuously transforms its cultural mixed-ness.
- More than 270 nationalities make up the diverse cultural fabric of the city.

















sketches of the Barbican











pedway network in 1992



















Opportunities for the House of Music:

Create a public living room for all the people of London where they can meet, discuss and interact with each other
Open up the closed off inner world and community of the Barbican
Create an entrance to the Barbican complex and connect with the rest of the city

ii. research the culture centre



Rusakov Club, Moscow, 1927, Konstantin Melnikov



Maison du Peuple, Clichy, 1939, Lods, Beaudouin, Prouvé, Bodiansky



Medborgarhus Örebro, 1957-65, Erik and Tore Ahlsén



Folkets hus, Stockholm, 1961, Sven Markelius



Kongresshalle Berlin,* 1927-28, Hans Poelzig and Martin Wagner



Royal Festival Hall, London, 1948-51, LCC architects



Mobiles Theater,* Düsseldorf, 1959-60, Werner Ruhnau



Kulturzentrum Wolfsburg, 1958-62, Alvar Aalto



Palace of Culture,* Moscow, 1930, Ivan Leonidov



Medborgarhus, Eslöv, 1947-47, Hans Asplund



Kongresshalle,* Berlin, 1958, Werner Düttmann



Schouwburg Tilburg, 1962, Bijvoet and Holt



Deutsches Haus, Flensburg, 1932, Ziegler/ Rieve



Nationaltheater Mannheim,* 1953, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe



Akademie der Künste, West-Berlin, 1960, Werner Düttmann



Maison de la Culture, Caen, 1963, A. Bourbonnais

overview People's Palaces (Source: People's Palaces, Christoph Grafe)



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Queen Elizabeth Hall and Hayward Gallery, London, 1959-68, LCC architects



Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, 1962, Jackson, Edmonds



Casa del Balilla, Forlì, 1933-35, Cesare Valle



House of Culture, Helsinki, 1955-58, Alvar Aalto



Leverkusen cultural centre,* 1960, Alvar Aalto



House of Music, London, 2018, Hannah Harmens






Royal Festival Hall







Royal Festival Hall







National Theatre, Denys Lasdun





"the space of appearance where people reveal themselves as active and communicating citizens" - Hannah Arendt

"the realm between civil society and the state, which stands for the conditions under which **public debate** might become a legitimising basis for democratic political action" - Jürgen Habermas

Architectural elements of a culture centre:

- 1. The building should have a **various programme** and not solely function as a concert hall
- 2. The building should be **opened during the day**
- 3. The building should accomodate places for music performances, education, meetings, art and rehearsal rooms
- 4. The visitor should be challenged to **participate**
- 5. Entrances should be positioned at several positions to **avoid the feeling of being watched**

iii. design from city to seat

















Education + Music Centre		Concert hall	Supporting fun
London Symphonic O. Rehearsal rooms Hire boxes Education rooms Cafe Exhibition space		Concert hall Foyer spaces Small cafes Working spaces Chamber music hall Rental space	Bac Dressing ro temporary apar S Loadin Cl Building manag
	=	New function	

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Backstage ing rooms + apartments Storage bading dock Cleaning hanagement Offices



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three different volumes

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supporting functions



music hub

concert hall



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510 mm

concrete roof line 135 mm

‡ 40 mm

Wienerberger brick 510 x 40 x 100 mm















elevation entrance

section V-BB




vertical detail 4





elevation front facade

















the spiral staircase



foyer space in the late afternoon















foyer space in the late afternoon



iv. concert hall





music score, Morgan Feldman





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model of the concert hall



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 extending the the highwalk to create a short connection with the Barbican Arts Centre
not one single entrance, but several entrances on different levels
two different type of facade to create an inside world within the ensemble and an outside appearance
three different stairscases with their own scenography
concert hall where music notation is translated

into architecture

Architecture and design can really make a difference in providing a space where all people from London **are and feel** invited.

Thank you!



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first floor



second floor

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third floor

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