Théâtre de Vidy timber pavilion

Lausanne, CH





Project details

Client Théâtre de Vidy, Lausanne Architecture Yves Weinand, Atelier Cube Art and culture Project type Construction type Free Form Services Timber construction Construction 2017 Locality Lausanne Switzerland Country

Timber theatre pavilion with elegant folding technique

Two key elements of the Théâtre de Vidy's new 250-seater timber pavilion immediately stand out: the geometry and the construction method used for the building envelope.

The folding technique is both aesthetically attractive and helps to optimise the structural calculations. The intricate arrangement enables the triangular components to stabilise one another, thus allowing for the use of timber composite boards that are just 45 mm thick.

The building's second speciality is the way in which the boards are joined. They were slotted together using intricate wood-wood tenon joints – in a method similar to traditional dovetailing – meaning there was little need for glue or screws. The force transmission of the tenon joints and the required composition of the timber boards was studied in collaboration with IBOIS at EPFL University in Lausanne. The combination of traditional craftsmanship and cutting-edge production technologies has led to the creation of an inspiring cultural venue.

Specific Contact



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Reception area, Théâtre de Vidy



Folded plate-style support structure





Interior view of the seating at Théâtre de Vidy

Timber construction details, Théâtre de Vidy