



THE JOHN CRANKO SCHOOL WÜRTTEMBERGISCHE STAATSTHEATER STUTTGART, GERMANY

BACKGROUND: The School of Ballet at the Württembergische Staatstheater¹ in Stuttgart is one of the most prominent institutions for dance education in the world. It belongs to the so-called “Champions League of Dance” whose other member institutions are the École de Danse de l’Opéra de Paris, the Royal Ballet School, London, and the Canadian Ballet School in Toronto. In December 2011 it will celebrate its 40th anniversary. The school is named after John Cranko (1927-1973), its first director.

Since its formation, the school was housed in a converted newspaper printing facility in the city of Stuttgart; with the new building it will be given a modern and inspiring space that is appropriate for the international importance and stature of the school.

PROJECT: Students in this studio will have the opportunity to design on one of Stuttgart’s most prominent downtown sites, as part of the so-called “Cultural Mile”, a facility which will house the programmatic functions of the academy, ranging from offices for faculty and staff, library, piano teacher offices, lecture halls, changing rooms and shower facilities, halls for ballet education, a dorm facility for 150 students, dining facilities, kitchen and auxiliary rooms, and a theater space including the necessary service rooms.

IMPORTANCE OF SITE: The site for the new school is located in downtown Stuttgart close to signature buildings: The Neue Staatsgalerie Museum by James Stirling Architects (1984), The Haus für Geschichte by Michael Wilford & Schupp (2002), the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst by Michael Wilford and Partners (1996), and the Württembergische Staatstheater itself, by prominent architect of the time Max Littmann (1912). The total size of the site is 9,300 m², of which 5,900 m² will be usable for the new institution. The site is situated at a slope and drops from a high point at Werastrasse (approx. 280 meters above MSL) to a low point at Urbanplatz of 262 meters above MSL, a difference in altitude of 18 meters. The groundwater table can be assumed at approximately 240 meters above MSL.

STUDIO FOCUS: The focus of the studio will be on the design of a superior space for the education of world class dancers, the study of lighting conditions, and the reduction of energy consumption (Reduction of energy consumption versus the EnEV² code by 30% is required). Extensive studies of space qualities and daylight and the construction of physical models at various scales will be part of the studio requirement. Energy simulation of parts of the facility by using ClimateConsultant and Energy10 software is required.

This is a group project of two students working on one design. Site model construction will be an all-class project.

All project documentation for this studio project will be required in metric scales.

¹ Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Cranko_Schule#John_Cranko_Schule

² Energie Einsparungsverordnung, German Energy Code. See: <http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Energieeinsparverordnung>