

An overview of the 'La GAITE LYRIQUE' Concert Hall by Manuelle Gautrand in Paris, France

*Located in a nineteenth century theatre, La GAITE LYRIQUE is dedicated to the arts and music of the digital era.*



Manuelle Gautrand at 'La GAITE LYRIQUE'. © Manuelle Gautrand Architecture

Located in the heart of Paris, La GAITE LYRIQUE by [Manuelle Gautrand Architecture](#)<sup>5 1</sup> is dedicated to the arts and music of the digital era. It is a stage for concerts, performances, multimedia shows, exhibitions, lectures and screenings. La GAITE LYRIQUE explores digital cultures in all its forms: music, graphic art, video, film, games, theatre and dance. Located in a nineteenth century theatre, it has two multi-purpose halls, an auditorium, exhibitions spaces and work and production studios. Auxiliary functions include a resource centre, a videogame arcade and two cafes.

In 2003 the City of Paris launched a competition in order to create a space dedicated to contemporary music and digital arts, won by Manuelle Gautrand Architecture. The architect was challenged to formulate a detailed program based on the intentions of the client (City of Paris) that fits the spatial possibilities of the building. Manuelle Gautrand designed a building that assumes random and unexpected functions adjusting to the needs of the artists and the public as well.

The project is designed according to the "box within a box" principle in order to isolate the functions and provide the required sound insulation to and from the exterior. There are thus three successive envelopes that fit inside each other. Two of the external envelopes include all service areas and vertical circulation. Inside, the program is organised around two types of spaces, the concert halls/stages (main hall, small hall and auditorium) and the public 'breathing' spaces.



Follow this link:  
[Mobility and flexibility in 'La GAITE LYRIQUE.'](#)<sup>2</sup>

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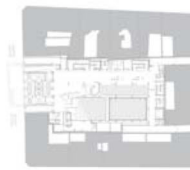
Follow this link:  
[The restoration of the 'La GAITE LYRIQUE.'](#)<sup>3</sup>

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Follow this link:  
[The flexible stages of 'La GAITE LYRIQUE.'](#)<sup>4</sup>

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Level 0. © Manuelle Gautrand Architecture



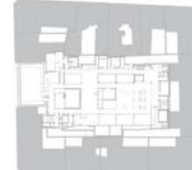
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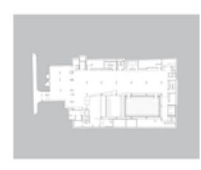
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Section. © Manuelle Gautrand Architecture



Section. © Manuelle Gautrand Architecture



Perspective section. © Manuelle Gautrand Architecture



Site plan. © Manuelle Gautrand Architecture



Concept. © Manuelle Gautrand Architecture

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*Flexibility in seating accommodation, standing room, number of projection screens as well as breakdown of spaces according to different needs.*



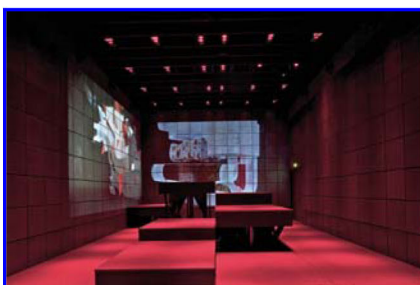
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The stages of 'La GAITE LYRIQUE' [Manuelle Gautrand](#) are characterised by programmatic flexibility. These are the three major stages, located in the heart of the building: The main hall, small hall and auditorium. The main hall provides several functional modes; it can accommodate 308 seats or 150 seats to 500 seats and 400 standing in the middle room. The stands can be completely folded to the side, leaving the entire space open, representing approximately 750 standing places. Screens can be used projections, over all or part of the walls. Four huge, wall to wall screens may be fixed on the four sides of the hall.

The small hall is more intimate. It can complement the exhibition spaces or function independently for a particular visual and sound installation. It is a space totally undirected. The side walls are movable and the soil consists of mobile plateaus, which can be set at different heights, to make different scenes, stages or stands.

The auditorium, all dressed in yellow, has 130 seats and a projection screen. It is directly accessible from the exterior and can function independently from the rest of the building.

**[Follow this link for an overview of 'La GAITE LYRIQUE' by Manuelle Gautrand.](#)**



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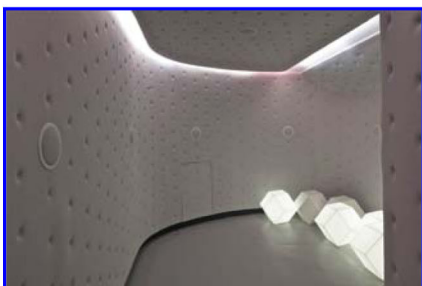
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Flexible stages of 'La GAITE LYRIQUE' by Manuelle Gautrand.

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The restoration of 'La GAITE LYRIQUE' by Manuelle Gautrand in Paris, France

*A dialogue between the meticulously restored historical backdrop and the modern function.*

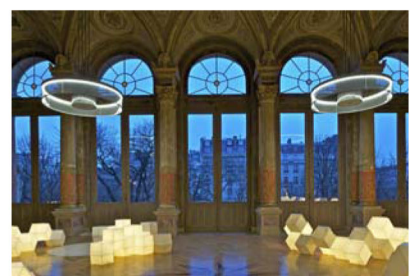
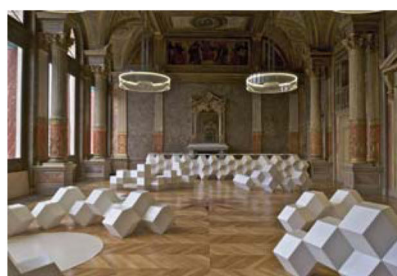
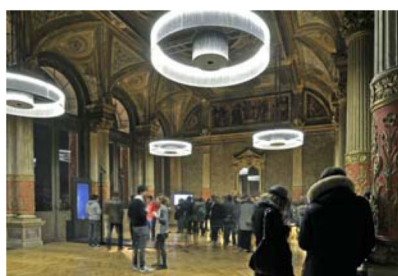


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The conversion and refurbishment of the old theatre La GAITE LYRIQUE by [Manuelle Gautrand Architecture](#)<sup>3 1</sup> is dedicated to arts and music of the digital era. Built in the nineteenth century (1862), the theatre, first dedicated to operetta, was a beautiful and significant building of the time. In 1987, it was renovated; or rather demolished and very little of the original building was left intact. From the original building only the facade, the historic foyer and the entrance hall could be restored. The rest had to be rebuilt.

The furnishing and equipment of the restored spaces is a striking contrast of old and new engaging in a dialogue between the meticulously restored historical backdrop and the modern function. An expression of the new fluid program is imposed to the pre-existing context by the impressive pendant lights and the furnishing made of translucent resin dodecahedrons clusters.

**[Follow this link for an overview of 'La GAITE LYRIQUE' by Manuelle Gautrand.](#)**<sup>2</sup>



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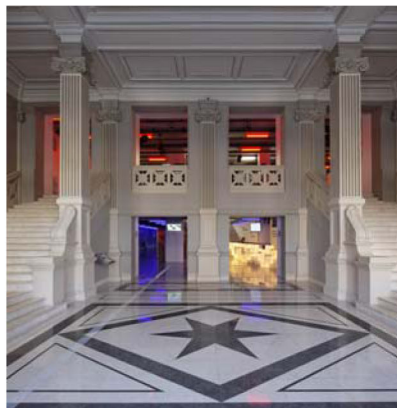
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Mobility and flexibility of the public spaces of 'La GAITE LYRIQUE' by Manuelle Gautrand in Paris, France

*Small mobile modules and small dodecahedrons in clusters tweak and reorganise the public spaces.*



© Jean Harixcalde

'La GAITE LYRIQUE' by [Manuelle Gautrand](#) <sup>1</sup> is characterised by mobility and flexibility. In-between the exterior envelope of the building and the concert, the program consists of a series of flexible spaces that include reception, exhibitions, cafes, video game space and spaces dedicated to artists. These public spaces are not to be static; they are flexible and evolve according to changing programmatic needs. Thus the public spaces are organised by movable elements, the *éclaireuses* and the *petits mobiliers*, that allow the mobility and mixing of various functions and the facilitation of any exhibition need.

The *éclaireuses* (scouts) are small mobile modules dedicated to the artists or the public. They can then formulate a variety of staging layouts and support a variety of events.

The small '*petits mobiliers*,' are small dodecahedrons in clusters that form seating or the base of reception desks, bars etc. Clad in translucent resin, they offer little additional light in some spaces.

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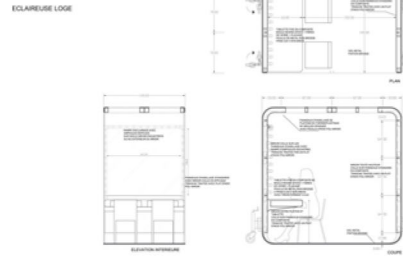


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**Excerpt:** Small mobile modules and small dodecahedrons in clusters tweak and reorganise the public spaces.