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# Trafohalle E, Munich:

**Welcoming foyer for the Isar Philharmonic**

**The municipal cultural centre Gasteig HP8 in Munich’s Sendling district is currently being used as a replacement for the Gasteig in Haidhausen, which is currently being renovated. We say ‘currently’ because it is foreseeable that the ensemble grouped around ‘Halle E’ will continue to exist after this process has been completed. Steel windows and doors contribute to the distinctive appearance of the listed Halle E. In the ‘joint’ area, they also provide structural fire protection.**

Industrial buildings, workshops and administrative buildings dominate the former public utilities area in Munich’s Sendling district. In addition to the Isar Philharmonic, three other buildings were constructed under the name ‘Gasteig HP8’: one for the Munich Adult Education Centre, one for the Munich University of Music and Performing Arts, and one for a restaurant and other event spaces. The urban positioning of these modular buildings places the transformer hall (Halle E), which is almost a century old, as the spatial and functional centre of the new cultural quarter. With a clear height of 21 metres in its glazed courtyard, it is the central foyer of the Isar Philharmonic. The main floor is home to an information and ticket office, cloakroom, café and cinema. The two galleries above are used by the Munich Municipal Library.

**Preservation of characteristic features**

Halle E was built between 1926 and 1929 on behalf of the public utility company as a warehouse and functional hall for the neighbouring combined heat and power plant. With its clear formal language, it is a unique example of what was considered as modern in Munich at the time and is therefore worth protecting. To preserve the industrial character of the light-flooded hall, the bright yellow loading crane under the illuminated ceiling was retained, as were the blue balustrades of the galleries and the floor markings. ‘We think that a somewhat rough and dusty atmosphere suits the hall much better than a highly styled interior’, said Prof. Dipl.-Ing. architect Mathias Pfeil, General Curator of the Bavarian Office for the Preservation of Historical Monuments. Because of this, iron doors, arched windows and many other details have been restored rather than replaced. Many historic windows have also been retained in the ‘joint’ between the old and new buildings, where the southern exterior wall of Halle E has been converted into a fire-rated interior wall, by reinforcing them with fire-rated windows in front of them. Niebuhr Stahlglastechnik, based in Gardelegen, was contracted to carry out the work and used Jansen’s Janisol 2 profile system to construct the fire-resistant structures installed in front of the historic windows. The new, delicate elements harmonise with the existing ones. Their uniform grey colour (DB 703) makes them easy to recognise (the original colours were retained for the historic windows).

**Glazed joint link**

gmp Architekten ensured that the floors of the old building transition smoothly into those of the new building. The glazed joint, with two sky ladders extending away from each other, is one of the two basic architectural statements on the Gasteig HP8 site. The other is the way the ensemble is oriented away from the hustle and bustle of the city toward the nearby Isar Canal. Here, a newly constructed forecourt creates a connection to the greenery of the city. Halle E therefore has two entrances: One from the busy Hans-Preissinger Strasse (hence the name HP8) and the other from the newly constructed forecourt. Both entrances were constructed using Jansen steel profiles. Niebuhr Stahlglastechnik built them using the VISS façade system with Janisol door leaves. In front of them are burglar-proof barred doors made of square steel tubes, which allow cross ventilation on hot nights. This remarkable and ingenious solution shows how much care the architects took when renovating the Halle E. The result is a public space that is busy all day long and is sure to endure beyond the philharmonic’s temporary use.

**Project details:**

**Client:** Gasteig München GmbH, Munich

**Architects:** GMP in cooperation with CL MAP, Munich

**Metalworkers:** Niebuhr Stahlglastechnik GmbH, Gardelegen

**Profile systems used:** VISS 50, Janisol, Janisol 2, Janisol Arte, Economy 50 (interior doors)

**System supplier:** Schüco Stahlsystem Jansen, Bielefeld

**System manufacturer:** Jansen AG, CH-Oberriet

**Photos:** Horst Schiffmann, Munich

**Image rights:** Jansen AG, Oberriet, Switzerland

The editorial use of the photos is bound to the present project report.

**Captions:**

L1130636.jpg (above): The brightly lit Halle E, once a transformer hall for Munich’s public utilities, serves as the foyer for the newly constructed Isar Philharmonic. Since the Bavarian Office for the Preservation of Historical Monuments felt that ‘a somewhat rough and dusty atmosphere suits the hall much better than a highly styled interior’, the loading crane, balustrades and floor markings will be retained. Iron doors, numerous windows and many other details were also restored rather than replaced.

DSC5053.jpg: What is new is the main entrance to the newly constructed forecourt facing the Isar (also visible in the image above). With the original main entrance on Hans-Preissinger Strasse, Halle E now has two ‘main entrances’. The architects decided to use the VISS façade and Janisol door steel systems for the project.

L1130796.jpg: A glass ‘joint’ with two flights of stairs connects Halle E to the newly built Isar Philharmonic.

L1130756.jpg: What was once an exterior façade became a fire-rated interior façade.

DSC5067.jpg: The windows, which are now inside, have been reinforced with Janisol 2 fire-resistant windows.

L1130742.jpg: Thanks to the narrow profiles, the fire protection elements installed in front blend in with the existing elements.

DSC5058.jpg: Main entrance on Hans-Preissinger Strasse; built using the VISS façade and Janisol steel systems.

DSC5032.jpg: Main entrance on the newly constructed forecourt facing the Isar; also built using Jansen steel systems.

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