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# House of Music Hungary, Budapest:

**Architecture in harmony with nature**

**With the House of Music Hungary, Sou Fujimoto Architects created a unique cultural centre in Budapest’s City Park that combines music, architecture and nature. Underneath an almost circular, organically corrugated roof, there is a facade will all-round glazing that stands twelve metres tall in some places. The Japanese architects chose the Janisol SG steel profile system from Jansen for the entrance area.**

The House of Music Hungary was created as part of the “Liget Budapest” project. This includes the transformation of the “Városliget” City Park, which was created 200 years ago, into the new cultural centre of the Hungarian capital. The 100-hectare “City Forest,” the literal translation of Városliget, has always been an important recreational area, as well as a prominent cultural location. In addition to the House of Music Hungary, five other museum buildings have been or are being incorporated into the site.

“We were fascinated by the giant trees and inspired by the spaces they created,” says Japanese architect Sou Fujimoto in an interview on YouTube. “As a continuation of this natural environment, I envisioned a permeable structure in which the boundaries between the inside and the outside were blurred”. His design of a glass pavilion under an organically shaped roof wowed the jury of the international competition, to which 168 works from all over the world were submitted. “The design creates a continuity of interior and exterior spaces, forming a link between the natural and the built-up environments,” was the jury’s reasoning.

To emphasise the musical experience through the interplay of light, sound and nature, the space-enclosing facade is made of 94 made-to-measure glass panes, some of which stand up to twelve meters tall. Access to the building is via extra-high glazed doors. Sou Fujimoto Architects opted for the Janisol SG profile system from Jansen. This makes it possible to manufacture large doors with extremely narrow frames, even if, as in this case, an emergency exit function is required.

Like the three movements of a score, the House of Music is composed of three levels: Visitors can access the large concert hall with 320 seats and a smaller hall for lectures and workshops via the bright foyer on the ground floor – this area and an open-air stage in front of it are used for live music. The upper floor houses a library as well as practice and office rooms, while the basement features an interactive exhibition on the history of music. A wide spiral staircase connects the three levels. Visitors inside the building should also feel like they are moving outdoors. This is why the organically shaped roof is pierced by numerous “fountains of light”; the circular segments are partly open and partly glazed, giving the impression of a glade. On the underside of the roof, several thousand golden shimmering, stylized leaves give the impression of an autumnal canopy.

The House of Music Hungary offers a unique art experience that brings aspects of architecture, exhibition design and landscape together in harmony. Long before the official opening in January 2022, the Sou Fujimoto Architects design won the prize for the best public building in Europe at the International Property Awards 2019. In March 2022, the extraordinary cultural institution received a special award from the jury at the international real estate trade fair MIPIM in Cannes, France. In addition, the building is BREEAM-certified, as it meets its energy requirements mainly through geothermal energy and is equipped with a rainwater collection system.

**Project details:**

**Client:** Szépművészeti Múzeum, Városliget Zrt., Budapest, Hungary

**Architects:** Sou Fujimoto Architects, Tokyo, Japan, in cooperation with

M-Teampannon Architects, Budapest, Hungary

**Entrance areas:** Anamit Kft., Göd, Hungary

**Profile system used:** Janisol SG

**Sales:** Alukönigstehl Kft., Budapest, Hungary

**Manufacturer:** Jansen AG, Oberriet, Switzerland

**Text:** Anne Marie Ring, Munich, Germany

**Photos:** György Palkó, Budapest, Hungary

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**Captions:**

Hungarian\_House\_of\_Music-9.jpg: With the House of Music Hungary, Sou Fujimoto Architects created a unique cultural centre in Budapest City Park, bringing together music, architecture and nature. Underneath an almost circular, organically corrugated roof, there is a facade will all-round glazing that stands twelve metres tall in some places. The Japanese architects chose the Janisol SG steel profile system from Jansen for the entrance area.

ZEN-1004-2.jpg: Sou Fujimoto Architects was inspired by not only Hungarian music, but also the surrounding landscape.

ZEN-0203-64.jpg: The building, with its extravagant shape and unusual roof, is part of the “Liget Budapest” project.

Hungarian\_House\_of\_Music-1.jpg: On the underside of the roof, 30,000 gold-shimmering metal plates symbolise a forest canopy.

Hungarian\_House\_of\_Music-11.jpg: Numerous light fountains also give the impression of glades.

Hungarian\_House\_of\_Music-details-14.jpg: The architects chose the Janisol SG steel profile system from Jansen for the ten emergency exits in the glass facade.

Hungarian\_House\_of\_Music-12.jpg: The smooth interplay of the door leaf, outer frame and fitting parts ensures that the emergency exit doors with panic locks function reliably.

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