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# Taipei Performing Arts Center, Competition Entry

Location: Taipei, Taiwan

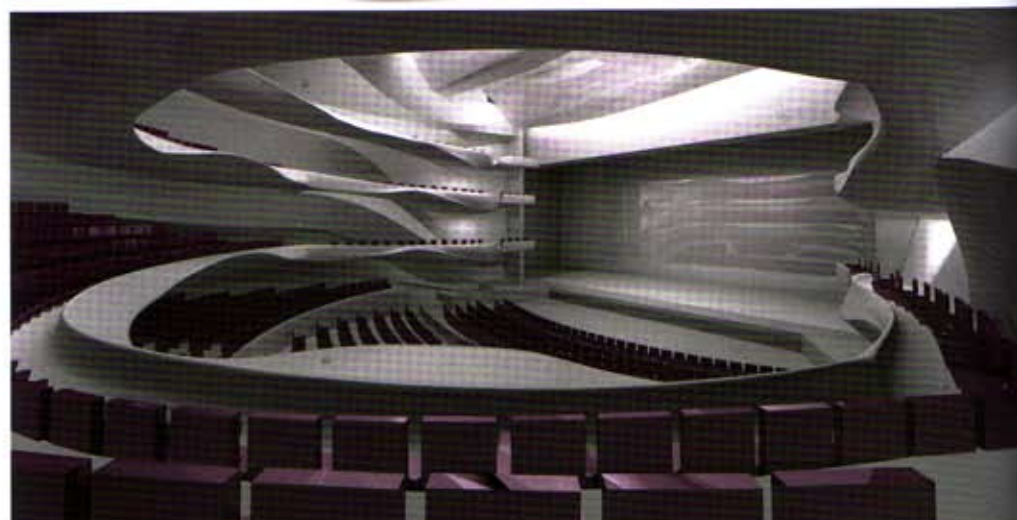
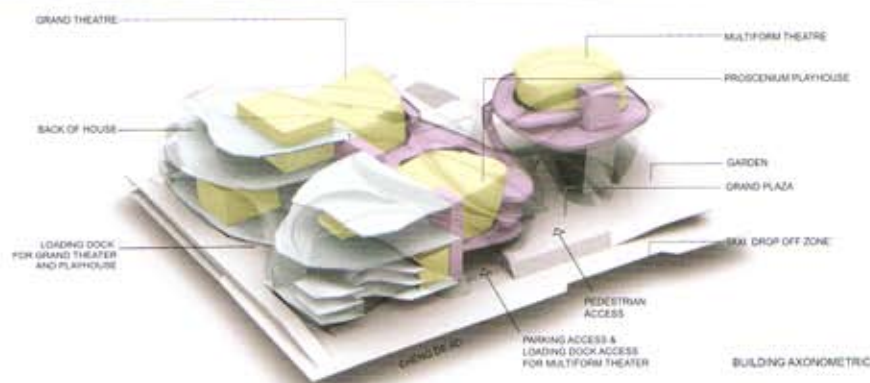
Designer: B + U, LLP

Website: [www.bplusu.com](http://www.bplusu.com)

Principals Herwig Baumgartner and Scott Uriu's competition entry for the Taipei Performing Arts Center was designed using sound waves, visually reflected in the amorphous shape of the 400,000-square-foot structure. The architects explored the idea of a Grand Plaza in their design, acknowledging the bustling area of the nearby train station and popular night market as an inspirational element. "To provide a public space was an essential part of the design," says Baumgartner. In order to accommodate a large pedestrian volume, B + U lifted the multi-form theaters 20 meters off the ground. "The theater is held up by a massive concrete and steel core structure that includes circulation, freight elevators and some back of house components," he adds.

Three separate theaters encircle a central foyer enclosed in glass, each accessible through a singular grand staircase. The dynamic shape encourages the public to experience the space before entering the theaters. Each theater was specifically designed to address the needs of the Taiwanese art scene. The Grand Theater was configured to accommodate 1500 people, while the two smaller theaters seat 800.

To create the amorphous shape, Baumgarten says, a combination of double curved steel pipe structure would create the framework while large curved metal panels and/or glass curtainwall would make up the skin. Baumgartner and Uriu designed the competition entry with several sustainable concepts in mind such as incorporating photovoltaic cell technology into the large glass surfaces and establishing a grey water system.



Courtesy B+U

