



A Tata Steel Enterprise

## Case Study

### School of music, Jastrzębie-Zdrój, Poland

**Products:**

SWISS PANEL® SP 42/160

Polished chromium steel

1'800 m<sup>2</sup>

**Client:**

Systemy Budowlane Sp.J. Czapla Ginalski, Poland

**Façade construction: :**

Termatex Sp. z o.o., Katowice, Poland

**Architect:**

SLAS architekci, Katowice, Poland

**Construction time:**

2021

## Steel façade plays with the surroundings

Poland: Extension of music school in Jastrzębie-Zdrój shines thanks to chromium steel façade made in Switzerland

With the extension of the National School of Music in Jastrzębie-Zdrój, Upper Silesia, the office SLAS architekci from Katowice have created a real gem. The main elements of the building project – concert hall, foyer and public square – were reconceived in the existing urban context. This also included a clear and simple building structure as well as improved acoustics. The special visual appearance of the façade of the award-winning building was created by the use of SWISS PANEL® corrugated profiles from Montana AG of Villmergen (Switzerland): they are made of shiny, polished chromium steel and impress with their flexibility and stability.

When the building of the Józef Świder National School of Music in Jastrzębie-Zdrój (Upper Silesia, Poland) was extended in 2021, it wasn't "just" about a new concert hall together with additional landscaping. The entire property had to be redesigned and conceived in its proportions as well as in terms of its effect in the existing urban context. A task that the responsible office SLAS architekci from Katowice solved in exemplary fashion. Its urban planning considerations are the result of a series of analyses and scenarios. Ultimately, an extension concept was chosen that is based on the retention of the free pedestrian traffic that leads around the existing music school building and the redesigned concert hall.

The square created between the buildings is the most important public space in the new music school complex. Its lower level, which is located at the crossroads of the town's main street, forms a representative urban entrance zone for the concert hall. Consequently, the latter is directly connected to the designed square, which rounds off its recreational function and provides a short-cut to the new complex for users of the car park. The technical entrances to the building are located at the rear and are connected to the park area as well as the access road, which is used for the delivery of stage settings and instruments, or to supply the in-house cafe. The new concert house rearranges and organises the existing space, thus giving it a multifaceted, public character.

### Corrugated profiles made of polished chromium steel

The extension building was designed on a virtually square footprint. The rounded corners of the building are a direct consequence of the limited size of the property. As a result, the façade moves closer to the existing footpaths and was adapted to their shape, the passer-by being guided gently along the façade walls. The building envelope is also oriented to this approach: ultimately, the planners and the client opted for a visually impressive façade solution consisting of SWISS PANEL® corrugated profiles from the Swiss manufacturer

Montana, which are made of polished chromium steel. This material allowed the easy manufacture of the desired rounded corners of the building, which additionally offer resistance to external influences – including vandalism. The high gloss of the perforated sheet makes the large building appear less solid, because it discreetly absorbs the reflections of the surrounding buildings and lights. In this way the shiny façade plays with its surroundings. Its specular gloss coating was also what tipped the scales in favour of the corrugated profiles from Montana.







SWISS PANEL® profiles are the main product of Montana Building Systems Ltd. The profiled sheets are suitable for roofs, ceilings and façades, especially in industrial and commercial construction. In addition, concave or convex pre-bent profiles are possible. Ultimately, the panels convinced on account of their combination of functionality and special visual appearance, as in the extension building of the music school in Jastrzębie-Zdrój.

### Focus on three main components

The planning focused on the simple relationship between the three main components of the complex – i.e. the foyer, concert hall and public square – and its surroundings, so that a sequence of interconnected spaces was created. The building can be accessed by the public via two entrances on the side of the square, while students and artists can enter the school via a subterranean connection. The main entrance area is located in the two-storey foyer, which exposes the concrete corpus of the concert hall. This room enables users to easily understand the structure of the building, which is reflected

in convenient usage. Generously sized glazing connects the foyer area functionally and visually with the existing school, the square and the town with its population of 90,000 people. Passers-by are thus granted a deep insight into the life of the building.

The new concert hall in the interior offers space for up to 362 people. Its acoustic system uses the motif of an arch – or to be more exact a wave – as a sound-scattering element. The walls are made of concrete and are painted with black laser paint. The interior finishing of the hall around the auditorium and the stage was executed in oak plywood.

For its sophisticated planning in an urban construction context, the office SLAS architekci was presented in plenty awards. The most important:

- 1st place in category Architectural Object and GRAND PRIX in competition Architecture of the Year 2022 of the Silesian Voivodeship;
- Main Award of the Marshal of the Silesian Voivodeship Jakub Chelstowski in the competition The Best Public Space of the Silesian Voivodeship in 2022

- Award of the Year 2022 of the Association of Polish Architects in the category: Building of Culture and the GRAND PRIX of the competition
- Award in the Property Design Awards 2023 competition in the Solid - Public Building category

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