

*Brussels*

## Centre for Fine Arts

The original Henri Le Boeuf Concert Hall, the last major design of art nouveau architect Victor Horta, was inaugurated in 1929. The art déco style hall had a splendid reputation, which declined somewhat due to unlucky refurbishments and poor indoor thermal comfort. In a major renovation project in 1999 the carpet was removed and the chairs were redesigned to minimise sound absorption. This increased the reverberation time from 1.6 to 1.8 s despite the hall's relatively small volume. Daylight was again allowed to enter the room by constructing highly sound insulating roof glazing. An extremely quiet ventilation system was installed to guarantee thermal comfort even during the longest musical contests.

**Client** BOZAR, Brussels  
**Architect** Victor Horta (construction),  
Georges Baines (renovation)  
**Completed** 2001  
**Volume** 12,500 m<sup>3</sup>  
**Seats** 2,100  
**Reverberation time** 1.8 s

