



IRCAM Espace de Projection

Paris

Client French Ministry of Culture
Architect Renzo Piano and Richard Rogers
Completed 1977
Volume 1,200 to 5,000 m³
Seats 280 – 400
Reverberation time 0.8 to 4.5 s

IRCAM is a research and coordination centre for acoustics and music. It was tailor made for the famous composer Boulez and his team in the early 1970s. Located under a public square featuring the Tinguely Fountain, it features a public diffusion and experimental space, as well as various studios and an anechoic room.

The Espace de Projection can be regarded as the perfect example of a hall with variable acoustics; a hall in which Pierre Boulez and his successors can experiment with the relationship between music and acoustics. The walls and ceiling of this hall consist of rotating elements, each of which can be individually adjusted as desired so that sound is absorbed, reflected or diffused.

The hall's volume and shape can both be varied by changing the height of three separate ceiling sections. The settings can be controlled by a computer during a performance.

The achievement of these extremely variable acoustic characteristics can be considered the brainchild of Victor Peutz, developed in consultation with his college friend Manfred Schroeder, and inspired by Pierre Boulez.