



WORLD WIDE WEAVE

## **Golden sweep for theatre in Singapore**

**Singapore's Civic District, the cultural and historical heart of the city on the Singapore River, is home to the Victoria Theatre and Concert Hall. The building is steeped in history and was comprehensively renovated and modernised within the scope of the Renaissance City Plan, which aims to develop Singapore into a global centre for art and culture. Under the leadership of W Architects from Singapore and in cooperation with Arup Ltd., London, the *grand dame* of the performing arts was given a new lease of life. The latest technical standards and a design that sensitively brings together old and new were the key requirements for the renovation. The technical infrastructure was decoratively encased on the ceiling of the newly designed auditorium by means of a sweeping, three-dimensional ceiling construction made of metallic mesh from GKD – GEBR. KUFFERATH AG.**

Having been built in 1862 as a town hall, the Victoria Theatre was converted to a theatre in 1909. Four years previously, the Memorial Hall built in honour of Queen Victoria was added to the building complex, which is today joined together. At the end of the 1970s this was adopted as the home of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and has carried the name Victoria Theatre and Concert Hall ever since. The historical façade was fully retained during the renovation and restoration work spanning four years. However, considerable alterations were necessary in the interior of the building in order to adapt the theatre and concert hall to today's changed requirements and conditions. For example, the number of seats in the auditorium was reduced from 900 to 614 in order to improve the acoustics and to guarantee better views of the stage. For the superbly designed cladding of the technical infrastructure on the hall ceiling, the architects chose a three-dimension



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construction made of 250 square metres of Omega 1520 stainless steel mesh from GKD with gold-coloured coating of the weft wires. Panels of various lengths arched to different degrees form flowing waves from the box toward the stage. The panels, which are up to 19 metres in length and 1.30 metres wide, were attached using the Fusiomesh fastening technology developed by GKD.

When cladding the balustrades in the theatre and concert hall, too, the architects placed their trust in the visual and functional properties of the mesh from the Düren company: in the auditorium, 48 Omega 1520 panels – as well as those with a gold-coloured weft wire coating – serve as a reliable fall guard. The metallic mesh was used in the concert hall for the same function but without gold-colour coating, which further emphasises the cooler, predominantly white design of this room. A total of 150 square metres of Omega 1520 mesh were used for the two boxes and mounted almost invisibly in a frame construction by means of clamps.

A particular eye-catcher in the foyer of the Victoria Theatre and Concert Hall is a free-standing spiral staircase connecting the first two floors. In total, 170 square metres of Baltic metallic mesh coil up to act as an extravagantly designed fall guard around the balustrade and provide a cylinder-formed visual continuation of the spiral staircase over two floors. Like the ceiling panels in the auditorium, the mesh panels, which are up to 11.50 metres long and 0.66 metres wide, were also mounted using the Fusiomesh fastening technology.

#### **GKD – WORLD WIDE WEAVE**

As a privately owned technical weaver, GKD - Gebr. Kufferath AG is the world market leader in metal, synthetic and spiral mesh solutions. Four



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