

A Midsummer Night's Dream

The Cabaret Stage at the Park Railroad – Kūchwald Park 24, 09113 Chemnitz

*“And here 's a marvelous convenient place
for our rehearsal. This green plot shall be our
stage, this hawthorn-brake our tiring-house ...”*

A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act III Scene I

The Chemnitz Park Railway is gearing up for a special celebration of its 50th anniversary: in the romantic Kūchwald Park a new canopied Cabaret stage will be built with seating for up to 120 audience members. With its historical steam trains, original course signal, and dense surrounding of trees, the Park Railway's station building presents an idyllic scene that the architecture of the new park stage will complement: like the surrounding trees, the theater's roof-like structure includes a wide, partly milky-translucent wreath of leaves to protect the stage from rain. Acoustically, the stage design provides for natural sound projection, allowing performances to take place without additional amplification. Two columns - the size of tree trunks - cover the electric power supply. A tree root emerging from the ground functions as a bench amidst the tree-lined backdrop. Artificial bushes situated along the borders of the theater space offer acoustic insulation and function as a curtain from which the performers can exit and reenter the stage. A changing room is located between the bushes. The surfaces of the trees reflect both the park's surroundings and the events on stage, thereby integrating the play of nature into the man-made scenery.

The stage trees change color according to the season: while the winter sunlight gives them a faint red glow, spring transforms this into a reflective red sparkle. The stage trees reach their full glory in summer. At the apex of the sun's motion, the trees appear to melt in a white-yellow sunlight. In contrast, the blue “celestial lights” of the artificial treetops emphasize the appearance of a wintry dawn. The surfaces of the artificial trees and the wreath-roof reflect the park's surroundings and the events on stage. In this sense, the stage assumes the appearance of enchanted tree lighting - much in the Shakespearean spirit.

Baupiloten

The Baupiloten are a group of students at the Institute for Architecture within the Berlin Technical University's Department for Planning, Construction, and the Environment. Under the leadership of architect Susanne Hofmann AA dipl, the Baupiloten conduct their studies through the realization of actual building measures. In this sense, the students experience the architectural curriculum as a praxis-oriented ideal and take part in all phases of design and construction.

Baupiloten Stage Trees: Hendrik Bohle, Kai Grüne, Stefan Haas Co-operation TU Berlin: Prof. Dr. Rückert (structural design), Prof. Dr. Schmits (light design) and Dipl-Ing. Dr. Feldmann (acoustics)

Photos: Ronald Bartel, die Baupiloten (reflexions)

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