



The construction of a new futuristic concert hall in the shape of a violin case in Ostrava city should start within two years
Architect: New York atelier Steven Holl Architects and Prague's Architecture Acts ■ Source: City of Ostrava

CZECH CITIES PLANNING new modern concert halls for philharmonics

Ostrava will be tuning up in 2024, Prague is aiming for 2032

After 10 years of discussion, the city of Prague has taken the first essential step in the realisation of the plan to build a modern "Vltava Philharmonic" building: the public competition to prepare a project feasibility study was won by a consortium led by the renowned Danish architecture studio, Henning Larsen. It also finally pointed to the land near the Vltavská metro station in the Bubny-Zátory development area in Prague 7, where the future cultural centre should be going up. According to preliminary estimates, the construction of the project would require an investment of 8 to 9 billion crowns and should be completed in the year 2032. Preparations for the construction of a modern concert hall for two billion crowns in Ostrava are in an advanced stage. In August, the leaders of the North

Moravian city published the study of the New York atelier Steven Holl Architects and Prague's Architecture Acts and they believe that they will begin implementation of the project, which will be a combination of the reconstruction of the House of Culture of the city of Ostrava from the 60s and the construction of a new futuristic concert hall in the shape of a violin case, within two years.

At the end of August, the Prague government announced that it had signed an agreement for the preparation of a **feasibility study for the design of a new philharmonic building** with the winner of the tender, a **consortium of Henning Larsen, Buro Happold and AEA Consulting**. All the members of the consortium have been working together for a long time and have extensive references in the area of the preparation and design

of state-of-the-art concert halls in Europe. "The study should specify the amount of the investment and its rate of return for different alternatives of use. We are not only counting on an **1,800-seat concert hall** going up here, which will be able to attract international stars with that capacity, and **facilities for the Philharmonic**, but we are also looking at other cultural activities and possibilities of use. It is important for the building to operate 365 days a year," explained Petr Hlaváček, adding that the **city has four key requirements for the project**: "We expect the 'Vltava Philharmonic' will become part of the urban structure, meaning that it will suitably accent and complement the city. Secondly, we want it to become part of the network of cultural facilities, and not a solitary landmark, with no communication with its environs. The third point is economic sustainability and the fourth perfect acoustics." The city has tentatively calculated

