



20 June: RheinMain CongressCenter / City Tour

On June 20, 12 members of the Regional Chapter Frankfurt met after the corona-related break of IMA activities.

Mrs. Carola Hildebrandt, Sales Manager, Wiesbaden Congress & Marketing GmbH and Ursula Hilbig, tour guide, welcomed us at the entrance of the RheinMain CongressCenter in the morning. Mrs. Hildebrandt gave us a short introduction to the construction of the building according to the plans of the architectural office Ferdinand Heide from Frankfurt am Main (costs € 200 million), which was opened in 2018. The former Rhein-Main-Halle was demolished 2014. The new concept is not only limited for trade fairs, but also conventions, conferences, banquets, galas and concerts can be organized in the group and event rooms (45 with capacities for 12.500 people). The open and transparent building is flooded with daylight and well-integrated in its inner-city surroundings.

We started in the North Hall (Halle Nord) with a room height of 15 m, which can be used for congresses, trade fairs, concerts and TV productions, among other things. It can be divided into 3 segments with a telescopic grandstand for 3.000 people and an additional 2.000 seats at podium level. Everywhere oak wood was used with similar technology as in the Hamburg Elbphilharmonie.

The South Hall (Halle Süd) can be divided into 4 segments with a room height of 6 m and a view of the central station. It is worth mentioning that both halls can be used by 30-tonne trucks. On the 1st floor we had a look into a studio room and on the 2nd floor we went to the terrace hall of 2000 m², whose terrace can be used for catering, but is not public.

In the foyer I thanked Mrs. Hildebrandt very much for the invitation to the informative tour and the sponsoring of the following city tour.

Mrs. Hilbig took over our group and spoke about the historical settlement of Wiesbaden and the origin of the name, which contains the word bath (**Wiesbaden**) and is based on the hot springs, which made the city become a health resort. The Landesmuseum, located opposite the RMCC, was highly recommended to us, as it has an outstanding collection from the Art Nouveau period since 2019, with over 500 objects, which F. W. Neess recently donated to the museum. On Wilhelmstraße we learned a lot about the history of the magnificent buildings from the epoch of historicism, such as the historical Villa Clementine with the story of the abduction of the Serbian hereditary prince in 1888, now literature café and seat of the Press Club. Further we passed by the Erbprinzenpalais, now seat of the Chamber of Crafts, old hotels, which can be recognized by their magnificent facades and balconies. Last stop was the "new" Kurhaus with the Casino, which was built in 1907. Unfortunately, the beautiful Friedrich von Thiersch Hall and the Christian-Zais Hall, which was named after the architect, were closed. The foyer is magnificently decorated with marble from Italy.

