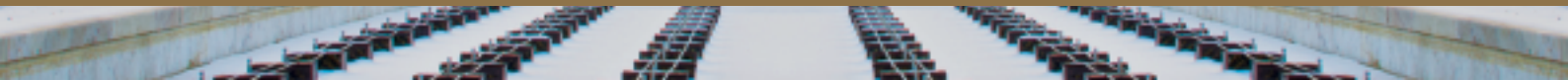




NATIONAL  
PALACE OF CULTURE  
CONGRESS CENTRE  
SOFIA



## A BRIEF PRESENTATION



# National Palace of Culture



NATIONAL  
PALACE OF CULTURE  
CONGRESS CENTRE  
SOFIA

National Palace of Culture - Congress Center Sofia (NPC) is one of the largest multi-purpose venues in Southeastern Europe.

Opened in 1981, NPC is designed to host a wide range of events as international congresses, official meetings, conferences, international conventions, summits, exhibitions, festivals, concerts and other cultural events.

The Palace houses a rich variety of the most distinguished Bulgarian collections of visual arts designed by some of the most prominent artists of the country. These monumental works are integrated in the conceptual architecture and design of NPC.

Nowadays, National Palace of Culture seeks to give new dynamics to its environment by establishing a diverse contemporary art spaces that are meant to shape Sofia's cultural life.

NPC is situated in the heart of Sofia and is surrounded by a leisure park. The venue is encircled by terraces offering panoramic views over the capital. It is within walking distance to all central places of Sofia. The Bulgaria Square in front of NPC provides access to the subway and other means of public transport.

## Facts and Figures

- 123 000 m<sup>2</sup> of area on eight floors, four panorama terraces and three underground floors
- Host of over 300 events per annum, one million guests
- 80 monumental works of art implicated into the halls and the foyers
- 2005 APEX Award winner for World's Best Congress Center
- Bulgaria's most recognized concert venue for national and international touring artists
- Producer of theatre and dance performances, concerts, exhibitions and annual festivals such as Cinemania, New Year's Music Festival, Art Galleries Assembly and Salon of Arts
- Home of National Book Center, Azaryan Theatre, DNK - Space for Contemporary Dance and Performance, Peroto Literature Club, Lumiere Lidl Cinema and Club 1



**КИНОМАНИЯ**  
- НАЦИОНАЛЕН ДВОРЕЦ НА КИНОТО -

НОВОГОДИШЕН  
МУЗИКАЛЕН  
ФЕСТИВАЛ

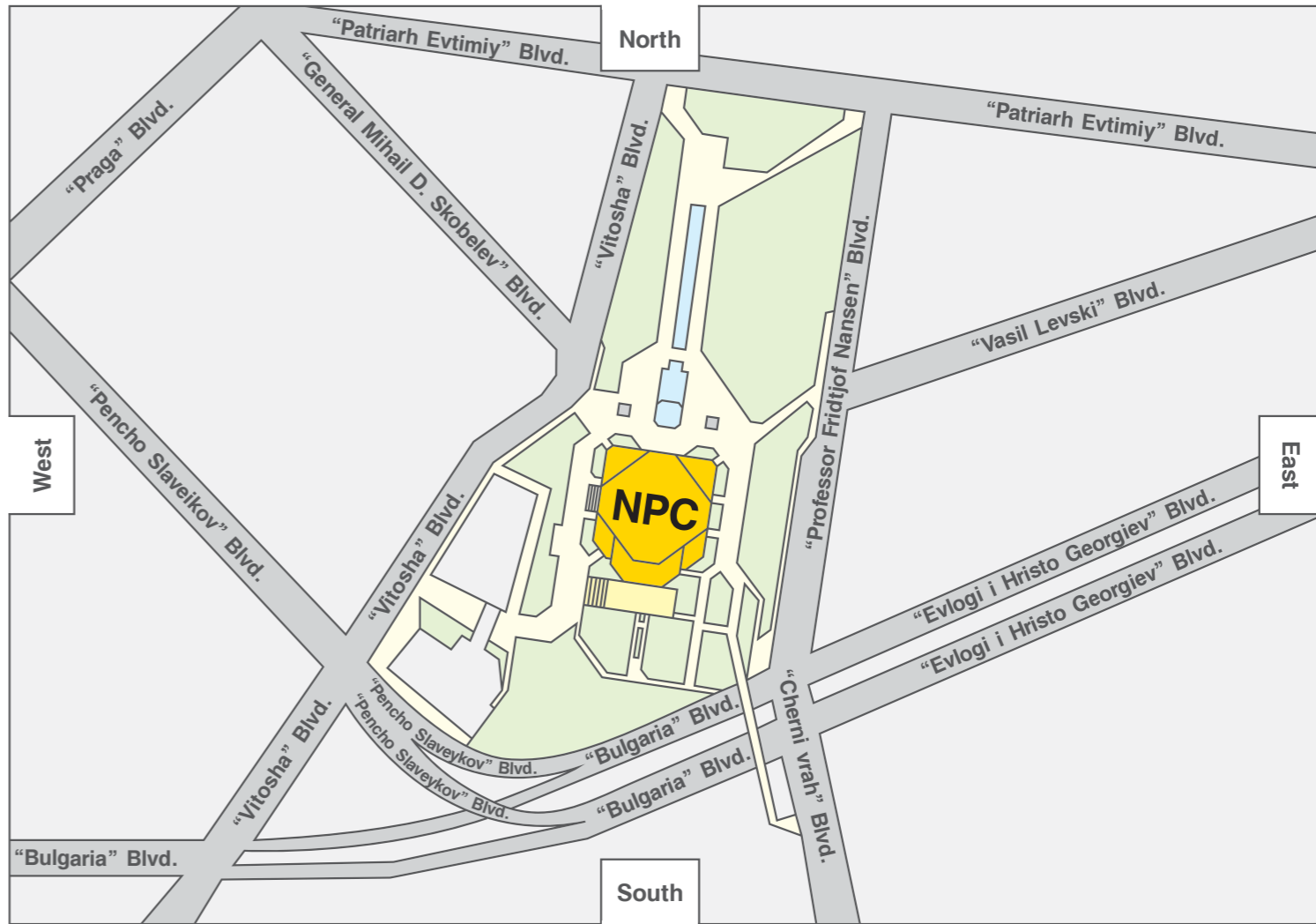
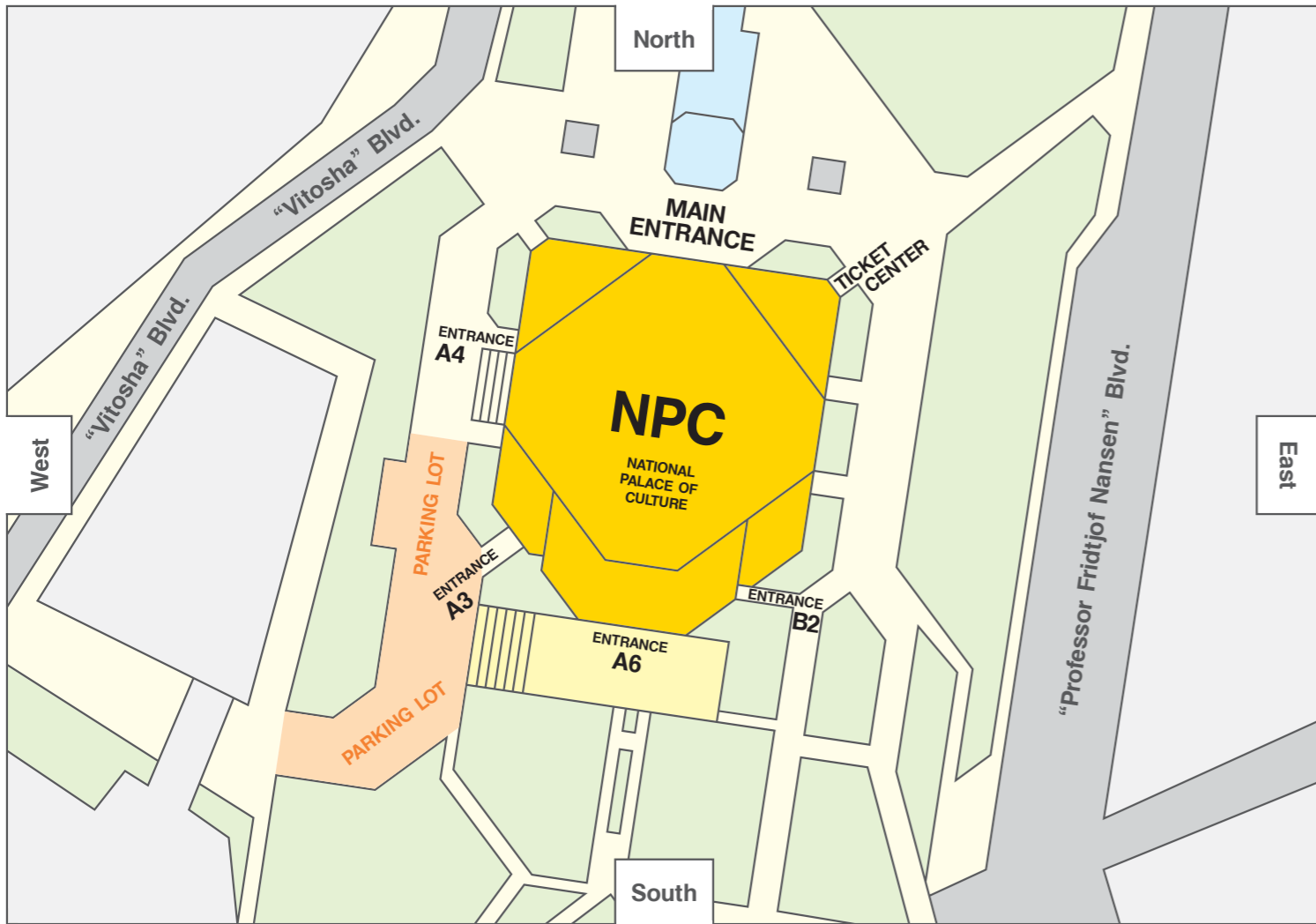
**САЛОН**  
НА ГАЛЕРИИТЕ



## Useful Information

- Sofia downtown location, green park area
- Over 300 Parking lots
- Excellent free Wi-Fi
- Ten 5-star and 4-star hotels with a capacity of 1400 rooms on site
- Fine restaurants near the venue
- Cafès and dance clubs inside and outside the venue
- 20 min transfer to Sofia Airport
- 15 min transfer to Sofia Business Park
- 10 min transfer to Sofia Railway Station
- Major state institutions located within a walking distance
- Trading centers, museums and historical sightseeings located within a walking distance
- View to Vitosha, Lyulin and Stara Planina Mountain





# Sofia

- Sofia is modern European capital of Bulgaria, which has accumulated over 8 000 years of history. Over the millennia, its excellent geographical location has made the settlement a natural crossroad of civilisations and cultures
- In downtown Sofia stands the oldest operating church in Europe and Sofia's oldest building — St. George Rotunda. Nearby and almost 40 years younger is the St. Sophia Basilica (God's Wisdom). In 343 the Serdica ecumenical council, a continuation of the first ecumenical council of Nicaea, took place here
- St. Sophia gave its name to the capital of the Third Bulgarian State
- Sofia is a great place to inflame your passion for exploration. When you've had enough of the city, you can take a break and visit Vitosha Mountain for an ornithology or rare-flowers trip, just 20 minutes away from the center
- Sofia is the place for big events - concerts, spectacles, opera and theatre, to name a few
- Sofia is a UNESCO Creative City of Film. With its new productions by NU Boyana Film Studios, the Bulgarian capital is a magnet for Hollywood productions
- Sofia is European Capital of Sport for 2018, there are plenty of sports venues catering for all indoor activities, spacious green parks, or even better, the Vitosha Mountain for hiking, skiing, bike riding, paragliding - or just relaxing



# The Bulgarian Convention Bureau



The foundation of the Bulgarian Convention Bureau (BCB) is a result of many stakeholders' common will to promote Bulgaria as a sustainable destination that can meet the high expectations of the world-class meetings' industry.

BCB is meant to be the first point of contact for everyone looking to organize a conference, exhibition or a business meeting. Its primary goal is to support meeting planners from Bulgaria and abroad throughout the whole organization process and to facilitate their work. BCB is a one-stop-shop providing expertise, advice and valuable knowledge for all conference organizers and will help to explore and better understand all opportunities Bulgaria can offer.

## Events hosted at NPC:

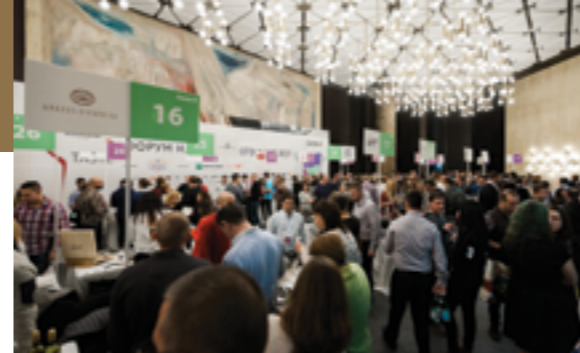
- UNESCO General Assembly
- NATO Parliamentary Assembly Session
- International Congress on Energy Efficiency
- ITF Global Congress
- Regional Conference of FAO for Europe
- EU Economic and Social Councils Annual Meeting
- International Forum of Pain Medicine
- World Congress of Acupuncture
- OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting
- EBRD Board Annual Meeting
- UNICEF Annual Session
- AIPC General Assembly
- Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting
- World Congress of FIATA
- 7th FEZA Conference



# Exhibition Area

Exhibition area	m <sup>2</sup>
Ground floor	600
Semi-levels: East and West foyers	420
Hall 6	200
Foyer to hall 6 on floor -1	240
Floor 2	230
Marble foyer	220
Floor 3	850
Floor 4	490
Floor 5	460
Halls 7, 8, 9 on floor 5	530
Floor 6	220
Hall 3 on floor 7	630
Floor 8 (halls 3.1, 3.2 and 10 are included)	490

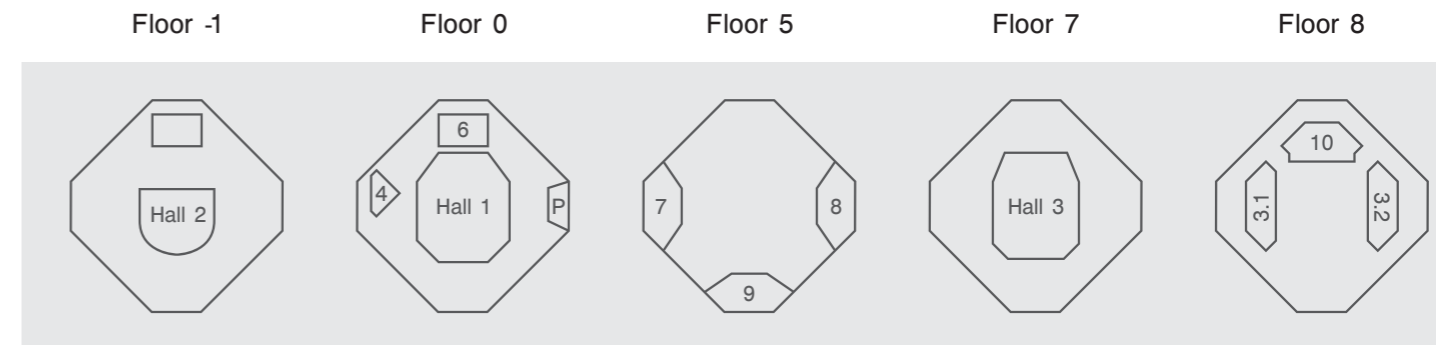
- Display area throughout the foyers designed for a wide range of public and trade fairs and exhibitions
- 17 000 m<sup>2</sup> of gross display area spread over 10 floors
- Over 6 000 m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition area



# Halls

Hall	m <sup>2</sup>	Theatre	Classroom	Boardroom	U-shape	Round table	Cocktail
Hall 1	11 000	3 692+200	—	—	—	—	—
Hall 2	955	400+100	—	—	—	—	—
Hall 3	2 200	1 200	400	150	350	800	1 200
Hall 3.1	300	140	50	40	40	90	200
Hall 3.2	300	140	50	40	40	90	200
Hall 4	280	100	—	36	30	—	150
Hall 6	530	350	150	150	75	150	500
Hall 7	380	250	120	60	50	100	350
Hall 8	380	250	120	60	50	100	350
Hall 9	380	250	120	60	50	100	350
Hall 10	380	250	80	60	50	100	350
Hall 11	400	372	—	—	—	—	—

- 12 halls with a capacity ranging from 100 to 4 000 seats
- Excellent conditions for congresses, symposia, conferences, presentations, official meetings, discussion panels, stage performances, film screening
- The conference and audiovisual (AV) facilities at National Palace of Culture offer an outstanding array of equipment to support any event, backed up by experienced technical teams





## Hall 1 | Floors 0-4

Hall 1 has hosted a diverse selection of internationally acclaimed music and film festivals, concerts, ballets and dance shows, world famous guest performances and a number of equally attractive national and international events such as:

### Guest Orchestras and Ballets:

The Bolshoy Theatre, The Milan Scala, The Leningrad Kirov Theatre for Opera and Ballet, The London and Leningrad Symphony Orchestras, The Vienna and Moscow Philharmonics and more

### Guest Conductors:

Herbert von Karajan, Claudio Abbado, Gian Carlo Menotti, Riccardo Muti, David Himmens, Constantin Orbeljan, Emil Tshakarov, Emil Tabakov, Rossen Milanov, Nayden Todorov, Metodi Matakiev and more

### Guest Appearing Singers, Bands and Instrumentalists:

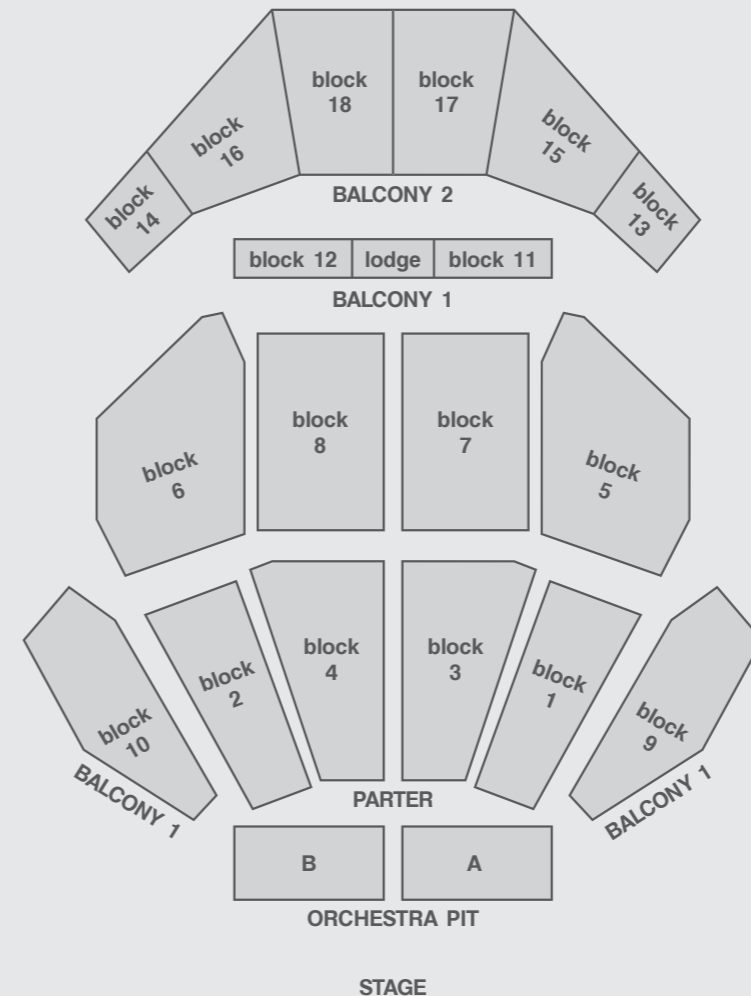
Andrea Bocelli, Jose Carreras, Nikolai Ghiaurov, Ghena Dimitrova, Montserrat Caballe, Mirella Freni, Peter Dvorsky, Mikis Theodorakis, Katja Ricciarelli, Sonya Yoncheva, Anna Tomowa-Sintow, Raina Kabaivanska, Agnes Baltza, The mystery of Bulgarian voices, Mark Knopfler and more

### Dance/Show Spectacles:

Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance, Fire of Anatolia, Night of the Sultans, Shaman, David Copperfield and more

### Art Exhibitions:

Juan Miro – Works; Oscar Tusquets Blanca – Design; Vladimir Dimitrov Maistora – Paintings and more



- Multi-purpose hall for congresses, large-scale meetings, concerts, stage performances and movie screenings
- Area of 11 000 m<sup>2</sup> over five levels
- Accessible via 13 gates spread over all levels, 8 elevators, 2 escalators and staircases; separate backstage entrances
- 580 m<sup>2</sup> stage area; 250 m<sup>2</sup> orchestra pit
- Theatre set-up that includes 8 stall blocks, lodge balcony, front and side balconies with a total capacity of 3 692 fixed armchair seats; extended capacity of 4 000 seats by additional mobile chairs
- Stall separation option: 1 234 + 866
- Over 10 000 m<sup>2</sup> display area in foyers providing exhibit and cocktail spaces
- Stationary and mobile conference equipment including interpretation, projection and recording systems
- Sound reinforcement system
- Multifunctional stage lighting



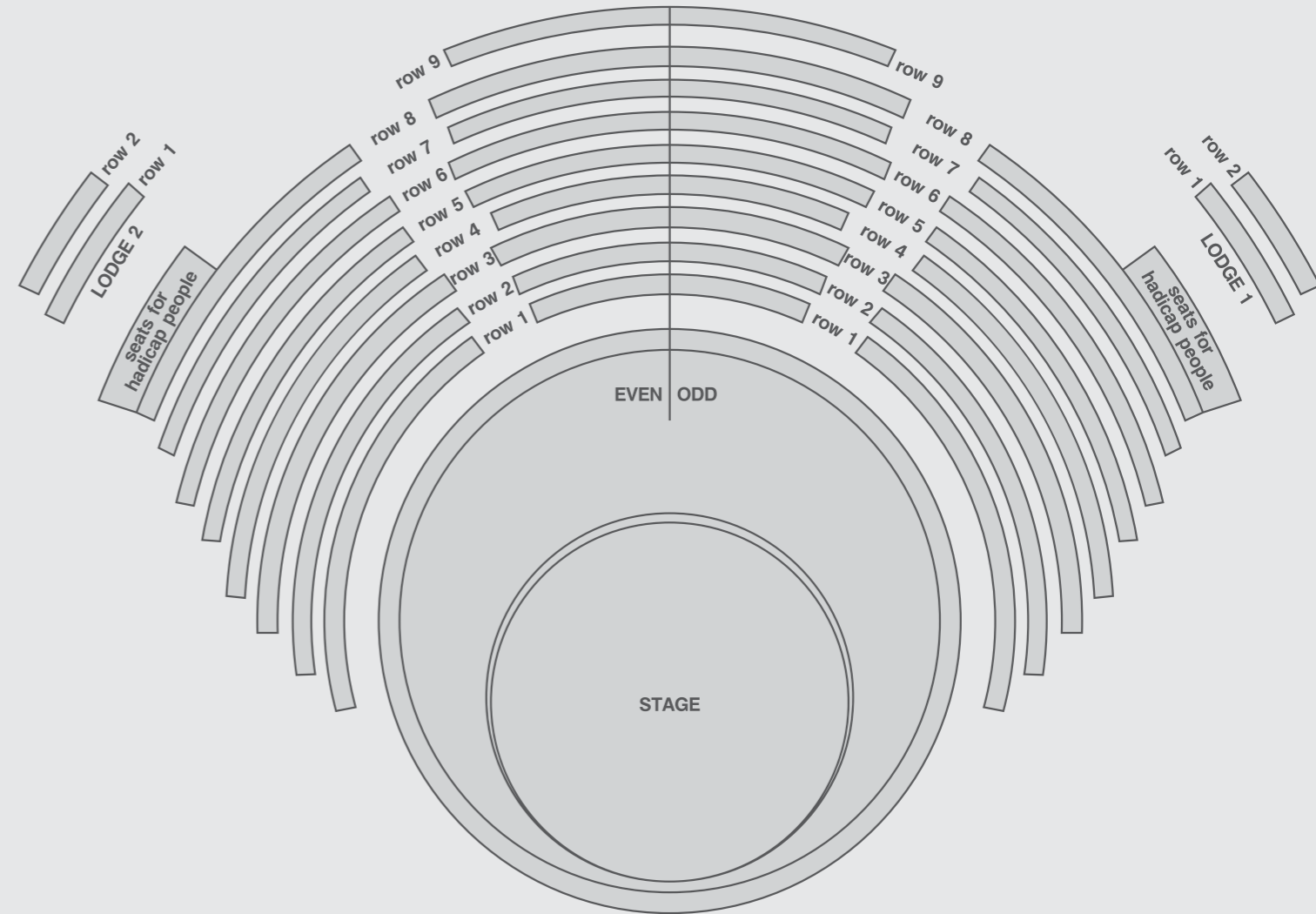
## Hall 2 (Azaryan Theatre) | Floor -1

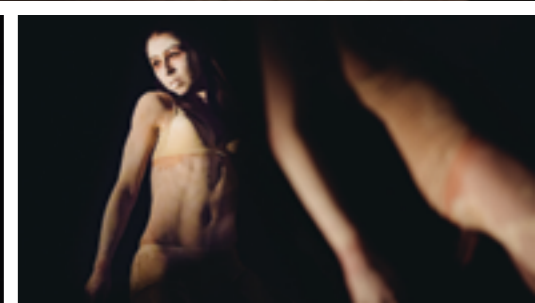
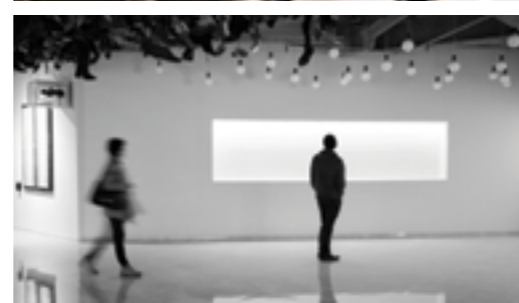
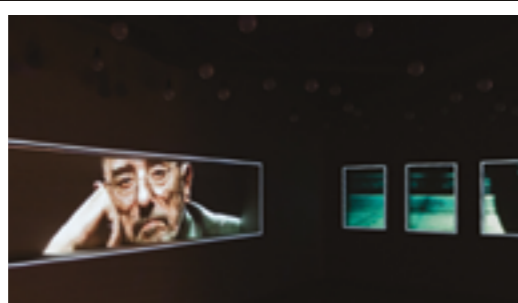
Azaryan Theatre is a newly founded theatre space in Sofia, and it is part of the large-scale cultural initiatives of National Palace of Culture.

The theatre provides space for young and prominent artists who shape the new trends in the performing arts. Azaryan Theatre has the ambition to bring together a wide group of artists to fulfill a joint social, cultural and aesthetic idea and thus to set a creative ambience with an utmost involvement of the audience.

The stage of the theatre allows a completely new performing approach and predisposes intimacy in perception that transforms the theatre experience, challenging the existing expectations.

- Multi-purpose hall for seminars, concerts, stand-up events, stage and theatre performances
- Area of 955 m<sup>2</sup>
- Avant-garde stage solutions suitable for a wide array of performances
- Fixed theatre set-up; capacity of 400 seats
- Extended capacity by additional mobile chairs
- Adjoining foyers suitable for cocktails and other side activities
- Built-in and mobile equipment options
- High-end line array sound system
- Multifunctional stage lighting





## Hall 3 | Floor 7

Hall 3 is one of the most favored multifunctional halls of the National Palace of Culture. It is convenient for both congress events and cultural events.

The adjoining halls 3.1 and 3.2 are adjustable and allow a separation of spaces for additional events.

Hall 3 has attractive adjoining features lounges and a terrace with a spectacular city view that allows the realization of accompanying outdoor events.

- Multi-purpose hall for congresses, large-scale meetings and other events
- Total area of 2 200 m<sup>2</sup> including 700 m<sup>2</sup> of lounge spaces
- Accessible via floor 6 and floor 7;
- Accessible via escalators, elevators and staircases; separate backstage entrances
- Access to an open-air panorama terrace offering an excellent view over Sofia
- Flexible arrangement possibilities
- Line array sound system
- Multifunctional stage lighting
- 8 built-in interpretation booths
- Mobile conference and AV equipment



## Hall 3.1 and Hall 3.2 | Floor 8

- Area of 300 m<sup>2</sup> each. The halls are adjacent to Hall 3 with an option of a direct entrance through it
- Suitable for break-out sessions during main conferences in Hall 3
- Convenient for various small events
- Natural light
- Access to standalone open-air panorama terraces
- Option for a mobile conference and an AV equipment



## Hall 4 | Ground Floor

- Area of 280 m<sup>2</sup> located on the ground floor next to Hall 1
- Suitable for break-out sessions during events in Hall 1
- Convenient for small-scale meetings and conferences
- Flexible seat arrangement
- Option for a mobile conference and an AV equipment



## Hall 6 | Ground Floor

- Area of 530 m<sup>2</sup>
- Suitable for conferences, cocktails, seminars and other events
- Accessible via separate entrances located on ground floor and floor -1
- Access to an open-air terrace suitable for cocktails and outside events
- Natural light
- 4 meeting rooms and 14 offices adjoining the hall
- Multifunctional stage lighting
- Conference and interpretation equipment
- Option for mobile a conference and an AV equipment



## Hall 7, Hall 8 and Hall 9 | Floor 5

There are monumental wall-paintings in halls 7, 8, 9 and distinguished works of art in the foyers: murals, tapestry, wood carving and plastic art. The surrounding foyers of Halls 7, 8, 9 form a display area suitable for large events.

- Area of 380 m<sup>2</sup> each.
- Suitable for exhibitions, concerts, conferences and workshops
- Accessible via elevators, escalators and staircases
- Adjoining lobby and cocktail area
- Natural light
- Movable walls which allow merging the hall with the cocktail area
- Separate small office/meeting areas
- Mobile conference and AV equipment



## Hall 10 | Floor 8

- Area of 380 m<sup>2</sup>
- Suitable for presentations, workshops, cocktails, dinners and art exhibitions
- Convenient for VIP break-out events in Hall 3
- Natural light
- Access to a standalone open-air panorama terrace
- Option for a mobile conference and an AV equipment



## Hall 11 (Lumiere Lidl Cinema) | Administrative Building

The emblematic Lumiere Lidl Cinema is part of Europa Cinemas network that has the new Bulgarian and European movies as a priority on its agenda. It is well-known to the admirers of the Seventh Art, who recognize the Cinema as their favourite place for movies of high quality, film festivals and other cultural events.

- Area of 400 m<sup>2</sup> located on the ground floor in the administrative building of NPC
- Suitable for film screenings, symposia, meetings and stage performances
- Stage area of 115 m<sup>2</sup>
- Theatre arrangement with 372 fixed armchair seats
- Lobby, coffee shop and wardrobe
- Film screening equipment
- Sound reinforcement system
- Mobile conference and AV equipment





## Art Spaces

### Peroto Literature Club

Peroto is the first literary space in Bulgaria, which brings together friends, authors and publishers of first-class literature worldwide. The club is designed to be the meeting point for various book clubs, discussions, conversations, brainstorm activities and a place where literature context is generated. It is aimed to become a real home of the book where inspiration could be even found in the hot cup of coffee or glass of wine served by the most friendly people in Sofia.

Peroto could be your book store, library or book club, where you can start or spend your whole day filled with creative energy. This is the place you can meet a favorite writer, a new friend, or maybe the place where you start your first novel.

### National Book Center

National Book Center (NBC) aims to support the publishing of Bulgarian authors, presenting Bulgarian publishers abroad and translating contemporary Bulgarian literature. It hosts interactive literature discussions. The NBC awards are some of the most prestigious literature prizes in Bulgaria.



## DNK - Space for Contemporary Dance and Performance



DNK is a multi-purpose space focused on contemporary dance and performance. It aims to present a wide array of performances and visual arts, discussion modules, workshops and concerts. DNK explores the ideas of freedom, movement, experiment, responsibility and sharing in art.

The target audience of DNK is the youth and the people engaged in the sphere of the creative industries, freelancers, artists, professionals in different fields tempted by the contemporary forms of art.

## Club 1



The name is chosen to highlight the connection of the hall with the iconic Hall 1 of the National Palace of Culture, where over 300 events take place annually. Club 1 is in close proximity to the hall and is an opportunity for added value to it - a space where pre and post-parties, press conferences and cocktails, are held, connected with the events in the Palace's largest hall.

Club 1 is also a multi-purpose space with a capacity of up to 350 guests. With its unique mini-stage, it is convenient for a wide array of cultural events – concerts, exhibitions, book readings, performances as well as lectures and trainings. The place combines a non-traditional atmosphere with a modular furnishing which allows rearrangement of the hall.

## Festivals and Events

### The Production Center of the NPC

The Production Center of the NPC brings together experts in all fields of arts – music, cinema, theatre and performing arts, contemporary dance and performance, literature, visual arts, etc.

The Production Center produces concerts, exhibitions, installations, theatrical performances, film festivals and performances. The movie festival Cinemania, the New Year's Music Festival, the Art Galleries Assembly, the “Migrating Body” dance programme are among the latest projects of the NPC Production Center.

### Cinemania

For 31 years now the Cinemania festival has been one of the most prominent and expected film events in Bulgaria.

Cinemania has a precise selection of motion pictures. Some of the most reputable and valuable movies and premieres form the programme of the festival every year.

November is the time of the year to meet the various faces of cinema. Every visit to the cinema hall is a new memorable experience.



## New Year's Music Festival

The New Year's Music Festival is beloved and expected by the audience in Sofia. The Festival is an integral part of the festive spirit at the eve of Christmas and New Year celebrations. It is established as an analogue to one of the most well-known festivals in Europe by the great Emil Chakarov, an apprentice of Herbert von Karajan and Michelle Glots. NPC has been keeping the traditions of the festival for over 30 years.

The New Year's Music Festival includes all music genres and performing formats, mainly classical music, folklore, operas, symphonies, choirs, jazz and others. The events in the framework of the festival encompass the period from December until January 1st and include many world famous musicians. Traditionally on the first day of the year the New Year Gala Concert takes place.



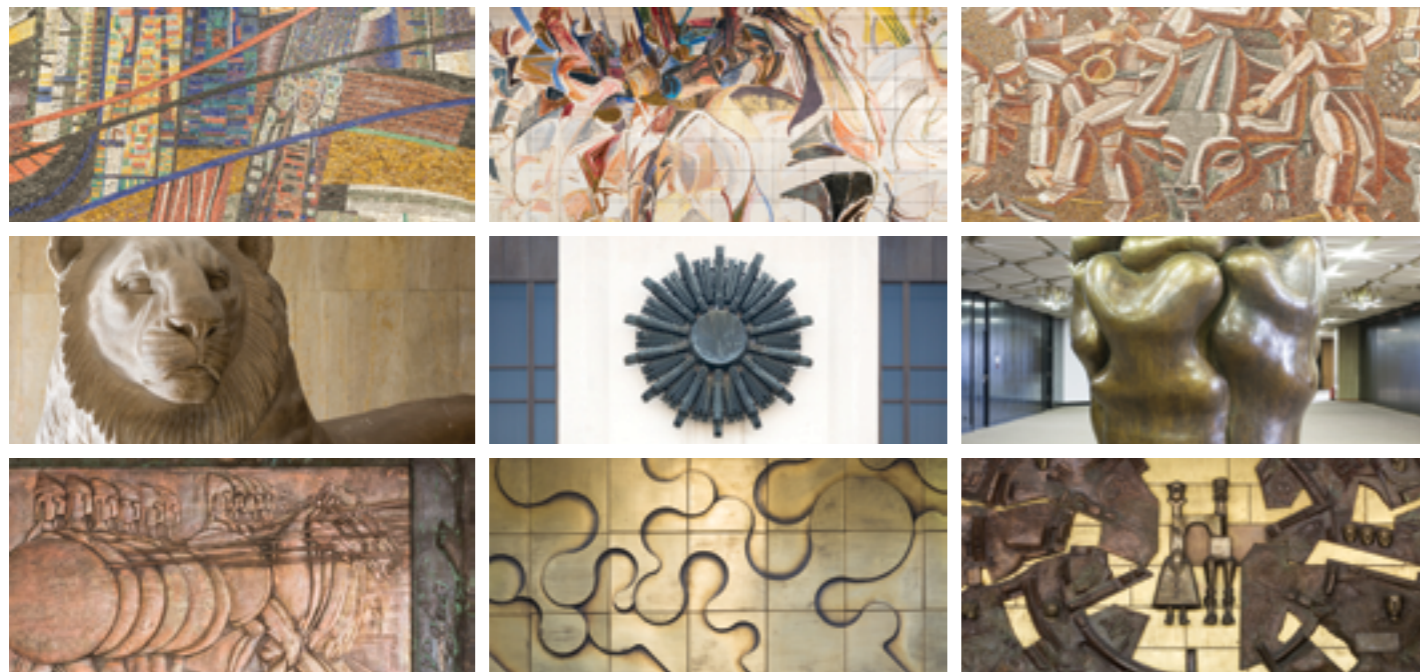
## Art Galleries Assembly

Art Galleries Assembly stimulates and broadens the internal and external contacts in the field of visual arts. It broadens the perspectives for development, mobility and access to visual arts. The participation in the Assembly provides visibility and new performance opportunities to the represented galleries. The festival enriches the cultural life of the capital and the country.



# The Art in NPC

There are over 80 monumental works of art displayed in the NPC, designed especially for the interior of the Palace by prominent Bulgarian artists in the second half of the 20th Century such as: Dechko Uzunov, Marin Varbanov, Svetlin Rusev, Evelina Pireva, Olya Koltcheva, Teofan Sokerov, Anton Donchev, Ana Tusuzova, Dimitar Kirov, Ivan Kirkov, Hristo Stefanov and others.



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Bulgarian Presidency of the Council  
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EXCELLENCE IN  
CONVENTION CENTRE  
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