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Acoustical considerations in the design for 'La Philharmonie de Paris'

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The 2006 competition instructions for "La Philharmonie de Paris" included a detailed acoustical specification and the general requirement that the design should be a "new typology". The early and late sound fields respectively should be controlled independently. This paper gives an account of the acoustical aspect of the winning design, its relationship to the architecture at the competition phase, and the methodology for developing the design in subsequent phases. The new typology developed here is called the "bicameral adaptable concert hall". There are partial precedents for the concepts advanced and these will be identified. Reference is also made to a related paper (at this conference) which discusses the issue of coupling between the acoustical spaces.