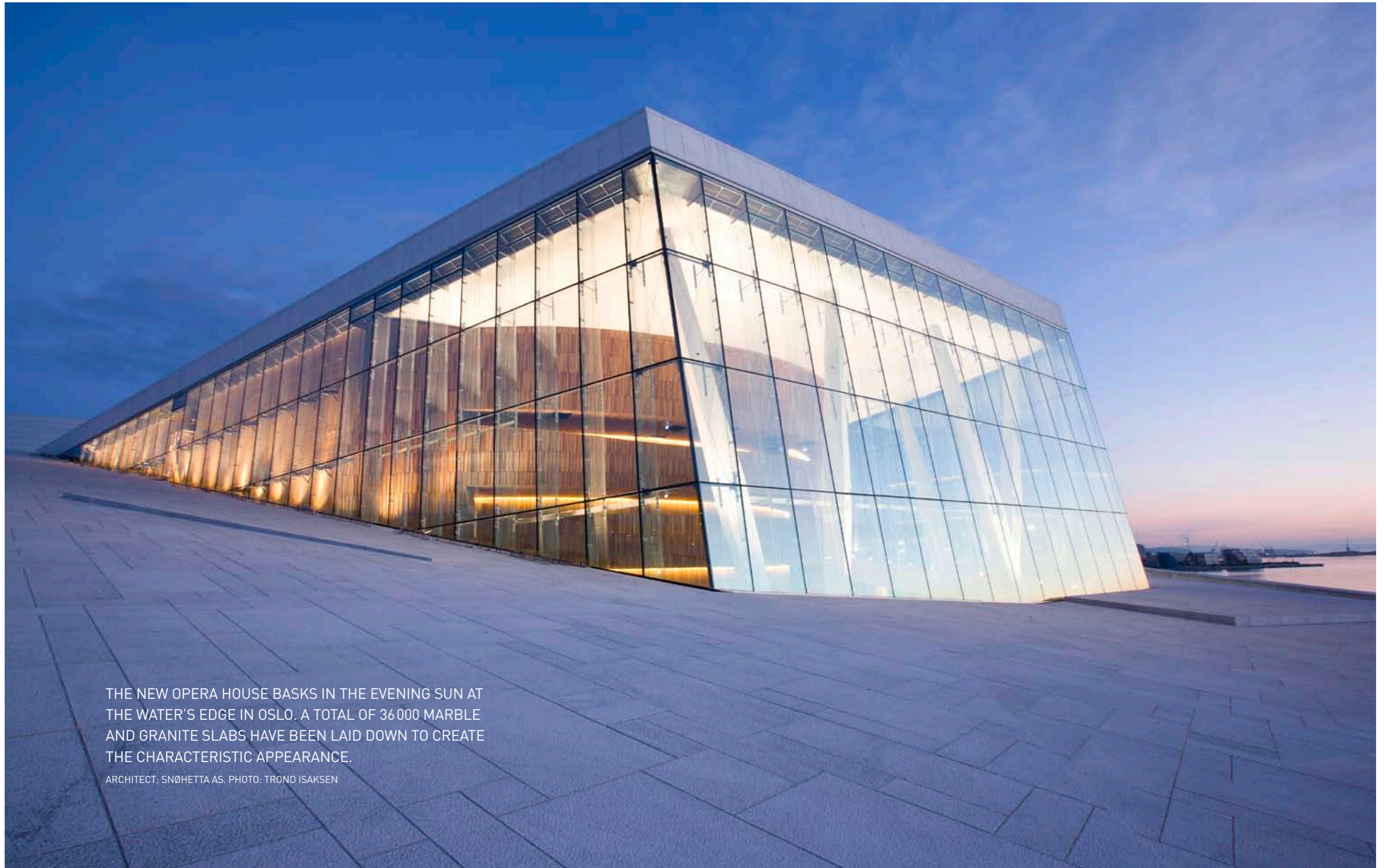




THE NEW  
OPERA  
HOUSE

## OPERA HOUSE FACTS



THE NEW OPERA HOUSE BASKS IN THE EVENING SUN AT THE WATER'S EDGE IN OSLO. A TOTAL OF 36 000 MARBLE AND GRANITE SLABS HAVE BEEN LAID DOWN TO CREATE THE CHARACTERISTIC APPEARANCE.

ARCHITECT: SNØHETTA AS. PHOTO: TROND ISAKSEN

## OPERA HOUSE FACTS

In July 1999 Statsbygg was commissioned to plan for a new opera house. In the year 2000 an open architect competition was held which attracted the largest number of entries of any such competition in Norway. An international jury selected the architecture firm Snøhetta as the winner.

The opera house is 38 500 square metres in size and has close to 1000 rooms. The house is divided into three main sections: the audience section, the rehearsal and administration section and the workshop section. The house has three stages: the Main Stage with approximately 1400 seats, Scene 2 with up to 440 seats and Rehearsal Stage 1 with 200 seats.

The workshop section with paint workshop, carpentry workshop and smithy was brought into use on 1 September 2007, six months ahead of the original plan.

### Execution

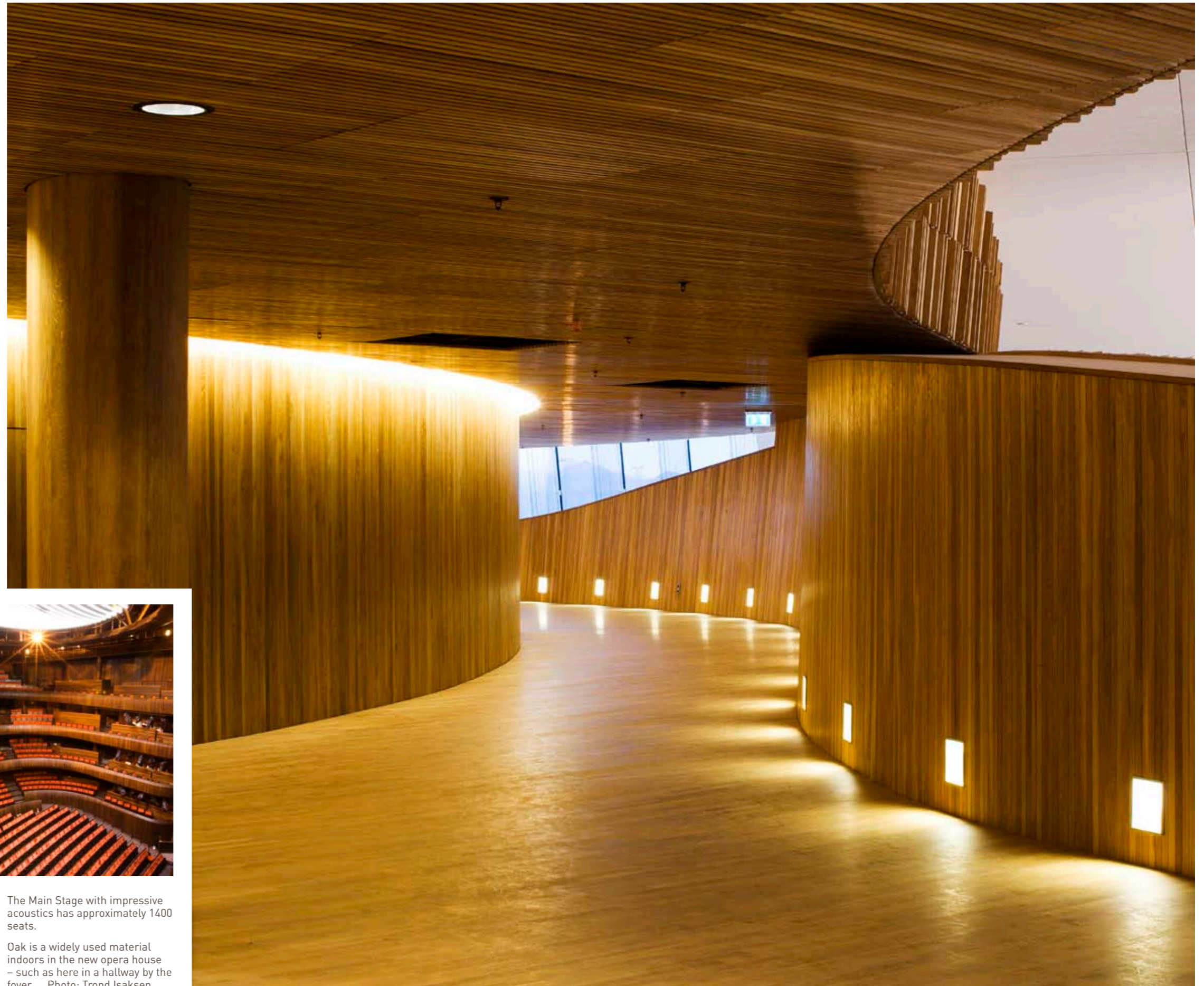
A total of 60 building contracts have been supervised. The project management organization has changed according to requirements, but has on average consisted of 20 individuals and project director Roar Bjordal from Statsbygg. In addition, the project organization has had 30 associated foremen. During the entire project period there has been close cooperation with The Norwegian Opera & Ballet.

The opera house is a very complex building and it has been demanding for everyone who has participated in the project. The market situation in recent

years has also presented a challenge; it has been difficult to attract bids, and the prices offered have frequently been well above budget. This has necessitated certain simplifications and close control of finances in order to complete the project within budgetary constraints.

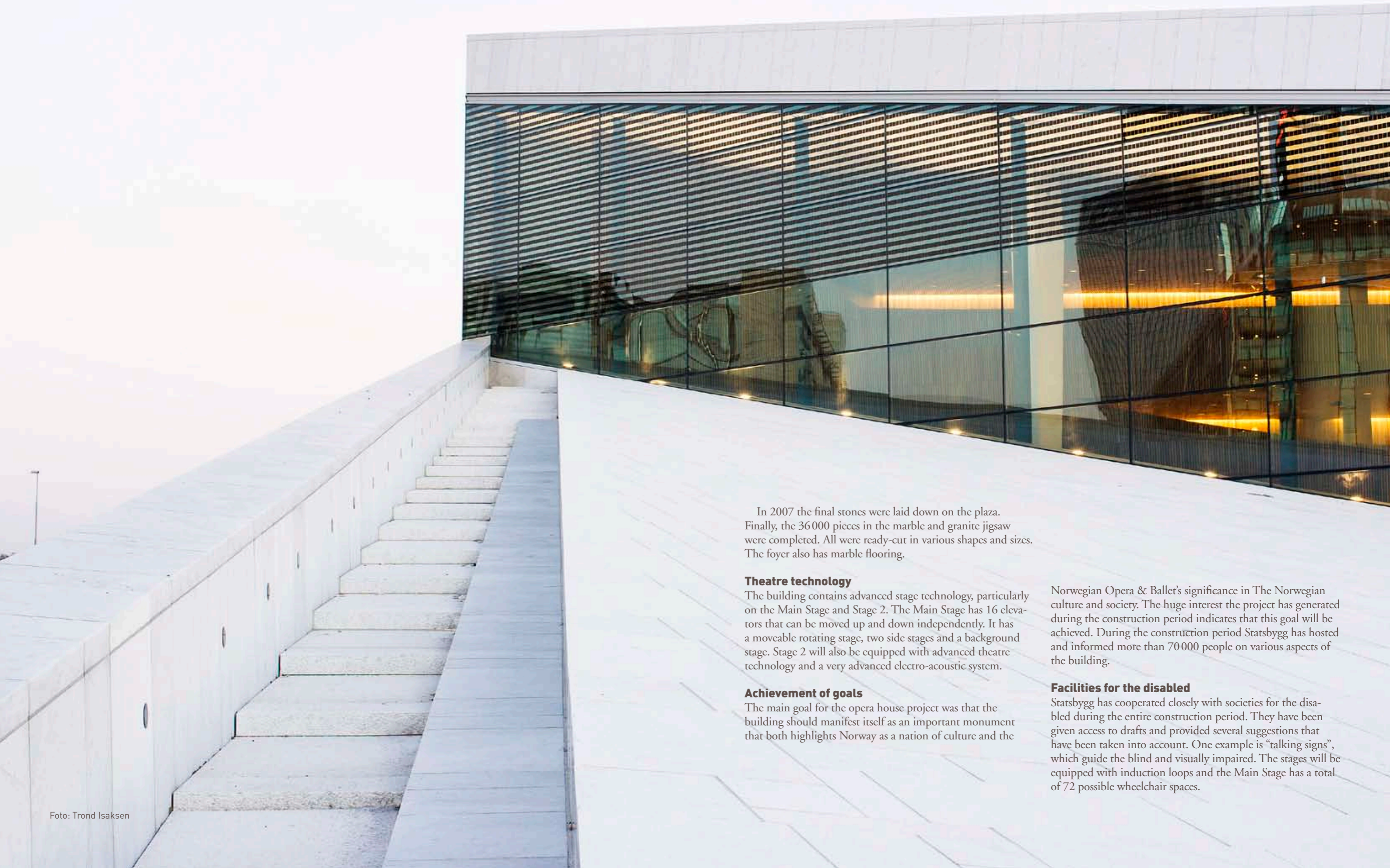
### The chandelier

In 2007 it has largely been the technical contracts that have been carried out. That is to say electrical, heating, ventilation and plumbing and not least theatre technology. In addition the final decoration work has been completed. The audience seating has been installed and the chandelier in the Main Stage has been hoisted into place. It was designed and built in cooperation between Snøhetta, Eidskog Mekaniske Verksted and Hadeland Glassworks and has a diameter of seven metres.



The Main Stage with impressive acoustics has approximately 1400 seats.

Oak is a widely used material indoors in the new opera house – such as here in a hallway by the foyer. Photo: Trond Isaksen



In 2007 the final stones were laid down on the plaza. Finally, the 36 000 pieces in the marble and granite jigsaw were completed. All were ready-cut in various shapes and sizes. The foyer also has marble flooring.

### **Theatre technology**

The building contains advanced stage technology, particularly on the Main Stage and Stage 2. The Main Stage has 16 elevators that can be moved up and down independently. It has a moveable rotating stage, two side stages and a background stage. Stage 2 will also be equipped with advanced theatre technology and a very advanced electro-acoustic system.

### **Achievement of goals**

The main goal for the opera house project was that the building should manifest itself as an important monument that both highlights Norway as a nation of culture and the

Norwegian Opera & Ballet's significance in The Norwegian culture and society. The huge interest the project has generated during the construction period indicates that this goal will be achieved. During the construction period Statsbygg has hosted and informed more than 70 000 people on various aspects of the building.

### **Facilities for the disabled**

Statsbygg has cooperated closely with societies for the disabled during the entire construction period. They have been given access to drafts and provided several suggestions that have been taken into account. One example is "talking signs", which guide the blind and visually impaired. The stages will be equipped with induction loops and the Main Stage has a total of 72 possible wheelchair spaces.

# OPERA HOUSE FACTS

<b>Building commissioner:</b>	Statsbygg
<b>Principal:</b>	The Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs
<b>Architect:</b>	Snøhetta AS

The steering group for the project consists of representatives from: The Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs, the Ministry of Government Administration and Reform, the Norwegian Opera & Ballet and Statsbygg.

## THE ART PROJECT

The works of art for the opera house have been commissioned and produced by Public Art Norway (KORO).

## PROJECT COST (NOK per 01.07.2008)

<b>Construction project</b>	NOK	4 356 000 000
<b>Equipment and furnishings project</b>	NOK	178 700 000

## PROJECT HISTORY

**1998:** Proposal to the Norwegian Parliament for the building of a new opera house on the Vestbane site. No majority obtained for the proposed site.

**1999:** Three sites proposed: Vestbanen, Bjørvika and the Folketeater building. On the 15th of June a parliamentary majority votes to build a new opera house in Bjørvika.

**2000:** International Architect competition. 240 entries from all over the world are received. On the 22nd of June the Norwegian architect firm Snøhetta is declared the winner.

**2001:** The pilot project for the new opera house is prepared.

**2002:** Royal Proposition concerning the new opera house is put before Parliament and approved on the 16th of June. Preparatory on-site work commences.

**2003:** Groundwork starts on the 17th of February.

**2004:** The foundation stone is laid by HM King Harald on the 3rd of September.

**2005:** The Fly Tower, the opera's highest point, is completed on the 11th of May.

**2006:** Installation work and stone masonry commences.

**2007:** The construction project is completed during the winter.

**2008:** Moving, rehearsals and opening gala (12th of April)

## STATISTICS

<b>Gross area:</b>	38,500 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Public areas:</b>	11,200 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Stage areas:</b>	8,300 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Rehearsal, administration, workshops:</b>	19,100 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Base:</b>	15,590 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Length, including plaza:</b>	242 m
<b>Building length:</b>	207 m
<b>Building width:</b>	110 m
<b>Max. ceiling height above stage:</b>	54 m
<b>Depth of stage below sea level:</b>	16 m
<b>Number of rooms:</b>	1578
<b>Number of stages:</b>	3
<b>Seating capacity Main Stage:</b>	1358
<b>Seating capacity Scene 2:</b>	440
<b>Seating capacity rehearsal stage:</b>	200