A night at the opera

Ciarán McGahon on Wexford’s new opera house

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Brief: To create the three zones of working, living and resting in a building whose shape remains recognisable from without – a trapezoidal polyhedron, an ample rectangular hall and a tower articulated on two levels. According to the architect: "On the inside, openings and pathways weave a possible dialogue between each cavity. Silences are not all alike. And the outdoor sounds of the countryside perceived through a great silence can be yet more diverse. So, in a long central hall, modulated in plan on three squares six metres wide the heart of the design is formed. At the same time, the light, coming from the long sides of the room, has the possibility to interpret the space."