

Redesign of the Luisterstoel – Naomi Lambeck

In 2018 the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra celebrated its 100th anniversary. In honor of this occasion, various actions and events were organized to put the orchestra in the spotlight. The first Luisterstoel was also designed in honor of this occasion. The Luisterstoel was placed in different locations around Rotterdam, so the public could listen to the music of the orchestra. The purpose of the Luisterstoel: introducing the public to the orchestra and classical music.

The first model was a success, the users of the Luisterstoel generally thought it was a enjoyable experience. The orchestra was also very positive about the Luisterstoel, however the first design still had a few cons. Therefore the orchestra wanted a redesign of the Luisterstoel.

After an evaluation with the orchestra, the research question was formulated as follows:

“How can the design of the Luisterstoel be improved to suit at least four people sufficiently and enhance people’s listening experience?”

The first step in answering this research question was the analysis phase. Starting the analysis with the orchestra as a brand, what are their values and how do they express themselves? Followed by a market research to gain inspiration for shapes, materials and functionalities that might be interesting for the redesign. Next, the user location is extensively discussed, as well as the stakeholders. The acoustics of a concert hall are also being investigated and how this could be incorporated into the redesign.

Finally, the previous Luisterstoel is discussed in the analysis phase and suggestions are made on how to improve it. All these analysis are summed up in the list of requirements.

The first sketches and concepts are made on the basis of the list of requirements. After which a choice is made from four concepts: the Luisterstoel 2.0, the Stairs, the Tunnel and the Combination. These concepts were then discussed with the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and compared to the list of requirements to select the final concept.

This final concept is elaborated upon and changes were made to finalize the project. The final product consists of two main sections: a seating area, where people can connect and relax with background music by the orchestra, and an experience area, where people can walk through to experience a piece of the orchestra. This is an audio-visual experience and inside the tunnel a short movie of the Luisterstoel will be shown. The seating area can also be turned around, so the tunnel and the seating area will be a combined experience.