

# Prague Congress Centre

Prague, Czech Republic

## Client

Kongresove Centrum Praha, a.s.

## Value

€88 million / US \$80 million

## Area

71,000m<sup>2</sup>

## Schedule

August 1997 – June 2000

## Duration

144 weeks

## Assignment

Project Management

## Architect

A.D.N.S. / VPÚ DECO



Built in the 1980s, the 11-storey Palace of Culture was originally designed to accommodate exhibitions, conferences and meetings of the former communist government. In 1991, the building was transformed into a casino and banqueting hall.

Bovis Lend Lease began work in 1997 to convert the Palace of Culture into the Prague Congress Centre, venue for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Group Annual Meeting in September 2000.

The ground floor was refurbished to provide a 16,800m<sup>2</sup> foyer area that housed temporary administration offices during the IMF conference. The centre also housed 1,200m<sup>2</sup> of retail space, 28 small permanent offices and a 411m<sup>2</sup> conference room. After the conference the temporary offices were transformed into cloakrooms and coffee bars.

The original 1,700m<sup>2</sup> Congress Hall was upgraded to form a world-class concert and conference area. More than 3000 seats were installed, together with state-of-the-art acoustic, audio-visual and lighting equipment.

Numerous alterations were made to the original wall and floor surfaces to provide optimum resonance. The 1,000m<sup>2</sup> stage can be raised or lowered hydraulically to accommodate either four-tiered seating or a multi-levelled stage. The ceiling can also be raised or lowered to provide the maximum in acoustic resonance.

The 1,077m<sup>2</sup> Forum Hall, situated on the third floor, was modified to accommodate a wide range of functions from ballroom dancing to economic summits. This hall also features a hydraulically controlled floor.

In the basement area, Bovis Lend Lease managed the installation of a new kitchen and restaurant for the centre's 300 staff, and 20 small mobile kitchens, which are situated around the building. Three conference halls, with a total of 1000m<sup>2</sup> were also built, together with storage facilities, storage lifts and parking for more than 300 cars.

Adjacent to the Congress Hall, Bovis Lend Lease managed the construction of a new seven-storey 45,000m<sup>2</sup> office and hotel building. The structure provides 13,700m<sup>2</sup> of office accommodation and a 261-bed hotel with basement parking for 400 cars.