



6 of the best new convention centres

Convention centres boasting stunning design and architecture are opening up around the world.

C&IT looks at six of the best. By *Annie Makoff*

Harpa Concert Hall and Conference Centre, Reykjavik, Iceland

Home of the Iceland Symphony Orchestra and the Icelandic Opera, the newly built venue in Reykjavik, Iceland's lively capital, features eight meeting rooms, a 1,600-person capacity main concert hall and several smaller halls, ideal for breakout spaces.

Described as one of the greenest conference centres in the world, the building, with its stunning geometric glass design, has already hosted hundreds of concerts, international conferences and trade shows since it opened last year. It is situated on Reykjavik Harbour's waterfront area. Prices start from £45 per person per day.

en.harpa.is

Ora Convention Centre, Istanbul, Turkey

Turkey's newly opened state-of-the-art convention centre boasts a 6,000-delegate capacity within its 27,000m² complex.

Opened in October in Istanbul's suburban Bayrampasa district, the Ora Convention Centre is a good choice for large-scale international meetings. The plenary hall, with capacity for 3,000, the theatre and the ballroom all provide ample room for large events, while the 12 meeting rooms – all equipped with AV facilities – make ideal break-out spaces. For slightly smaller gatherings, a luxurious club and backstage lounges and the ten executive corporate suites provide a VIP experience. Prices start from £600 a room per day.

www.oraconventionistanbul.com.tr

Qatar National Convention Centre, Doha, Qatar

A new option targeting corporates with an environmental conscience is the Qatar National Convention Centre. It opened in December, having been built to the gold certification of the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and

Spacious (left) QNCC Doha; (above) Harpa Concert Hall, Reykjavik



WORLDWIDE CONVENTION CENTRES



Environment Design (LEED), making it one of the most eco-friendly buildings in the world.

Boasting more than 50 fully equipped meeting rooms, three tiered auditoriums, luxurious hospitality suites, spacious pre-function foyers and a conference hall with a 4,000-delegate capacity, the QNCC is ideal for event planners seeking space within 20 minutes from the central business district. Room hire starts at start at £230 per day.

www.qatarconvention.com

Bali Nusa Dua Convention Center (BNDCC), Bali, Indonesia

While the Indonesian island of Bali is famous for its white, sandy beaches, incredible architecture and lively festivals, it's proving to be more than a luxury incentive option alone.

The centre, which opened last year, is surrounded by landscaped gardens and set on the south of the island, just a 30-minute drive from the Bali Ngurah Rai International Airport. Consisting of a pre-function lobby, 17 fully equipped meeting rooms, VIP rooms, a convention hall and a state-of-the-art business centre, the venue's prices start at £38 per delegate. The largest hall has capacity for 17,000 and the stunning ceremonial plaza outside is perfect for themed corporate events.

www.baliconventioncenter.com

Scotiabank Convention Centre, Niagara Falls, Canada

Opened last year in the stunning Fallsview tourist district and just 500m



Striking (top) Scotiabank CC, Niagara Falls; (above) BNDCC, Bali; (below) Sydney International Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment Precinct

from the world-famous Horseshoe Falls, the Scotiabank Convention Centre prides itself on its green credentials. The eco-friendly building was constructed from locally sourced materials and the

seasonal cuisine has been designed and created by Canadian TV chef Anna Olson.

Featuring a 5,000-capacity exhibition hall, several corporate lounges and 2,415m² of flexi-meeting and break-out spaces, the venue's Fallsview Theatre alone caters for up to 1,000. Prices start from £300 per room per day.

www.fallsconventions.com

Sydney International Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment Precinct, Australia

For events with longer lead times, look ahead to Sydney's upcoming development. The Sydney International Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment Precinct (SICEEP) is part of a major urban redevelopment programme intended to regenerate the city's Darling Harbour by creating a new, world-class conference and entertainment venue.

The precinct is not scheduled to open until at least 2016, but the multi-million-pound project is set to be one of the biggest corporate spaces in Australia. Its event area will include a convention hall with a capacity of more than 10,000, luxurious banqueting facilities, corporate suites and state-of-the-art audio-visual facilities throughout.

www.siceep.com

