

projects



regent theatre

Location: Stoke-on-Trent, England

Seat Count: 1600

Original Construction: 1910

Renovation Opening: 1999

Cost: \$20 Million

Architect: Levitt Bernstein Associates

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AD Scope: Acoustics | Sight Lines

The £18m Cultural Quarter project for Stoke-on-Trent included the renovation of the Victoria Concert Hall and the reconstruction of the Edwardian Regent Theatre as a major touring venue for opera, ballet and musicals. The previously neglected Regent Theatre was given a new stage house, orchestra pit, control rooms and backstage facilities. AD served as acoustics consultant and designed adjustable acoustics by providing doors which open to sound-absorbent recesses within the existing wall thickness.

The theatre was shortened by one structural bay to make space for the new stage house. To retain the sightlines and sound lines, the balcony and stalls were re-raked. Decorative acoustically transparent plaster panels rescued from the original theatre were reinstalled as acoustically reflective panels adjacent to the proscenium. The concave surfaces of the dome can cause "hot spots" in the audience area. Our studies showed that it was the areas at the rear of the dome that gave rise to the most serious sound focusing effects. We were able to employ the acoustical shaping of the lighting slots to break up the sound focussing and provide even sound coverage to the audience seating area.

ACOUSTIC DIMENSIONS