

projects



the dream factory

Client: Playbox Theatre

Location: Warwick, England

Project Type: New Construction

Seat Count: 200

Opening: 1999

Cost: \$3.75 Million

Architect: Glenn Howells Architects

Contact: Stewart McGill | Artistic Director | 44.19.26.512.2388

AD Scope: Acoustics

The Playbox Theatre has built a national and international reputation for its work with children and young people. It is recognized as one of Europe's most innovative arts organizations working with members aged 2-21 on an extensive program of performing arts. The Playbox Theatre decided to create the "Dream Factory" to meet the specific needs creation, training and development in the performing arts, including theatre, dance, circus, mime and music. The main studio has 200-seats that can be arranged on a retractable bleacher or on the flat floor. Above the entire studio area is a tension-wire grid for safe access to the production lighting and overhead rigging. The studio is tall enough for trapeze work. Environmental considerations strongly influenced the design of the building. The heavily insulated walls and roof provide both a thermal and an acoustic barrier against the external environment. The cavity in the walls is utilized as a sound-deadening air duct, and the thermal mass of the walls and "Termodeck" concrete roof provide passive cooling of the ventilation air. The ventilation system is designed to be completely silent in operation, meeting the N-1 noise criterion.