

projects



norden farm arts centre

Client: Norden Farm Arts Center

Location: Maidenhead, United Kingdom

Project Type: New Construction and Renovation

Seat Count: 220

Opening: 2000

Architect: Architecture for the Arts

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AD Scope: Acoustics

Norden Farm Arts Centre in Maidenhead, United Kingdom is formed from reused historic buildings, the shell of a previous unfinished scheme and new buildings for the auditorium and gallery. The biggest challenge was that the Arts Centre is located on a quiet residential site in Maidenhead. AD achieved extremely quiet outdoor sound levels by applying similar design techniques for the outside noise that we normally use for inside noise.

The auditorium provides performance space for high-quality drama, musicals, classical music, popular music and cinema. This wide range of events can only be accommodated successfully in a room with a high ceiling (to create a live acoustic) and with variable acoustics (to create a dry acoustic). Reverberation for unamplified music is developed by the multiple reflections of sound between hard, reflective surfaces in the room. The side balconies in the Norden Farm performance space provide strong early lateral sound reflections which improve the clarity of sound both for music and for speech events. For amplified music events and for cinema, a more dry acoustic is achieved by manually opening reversible panels to expose sound-absorbing surfaces that cover the side walls of the room.

ACOUSTIC DIMENSIONS