



THEATRE ROYAL DRURY LANE, LONDON

IMPROVING THE AUDIENCE EXPERIENCE AT LONDON'S OLDEST GRADE I LISTED THEATRE

Charcoalblue were appointed to work alongside Haworth Tompkins Architects to develop a series of options for the remodelling of the interior of this historic auditorium .

The aim was to improve their relationship between actors and audience by creating a more intimate interior, whilst continuing to maintain the venue's current financial capacity.

Charcoalblue were also tasked with carrying out an options study for the technical upgrade of the stage house in order to minimise the extent of production-specific intervention required each time a new production takes up residence in the space.

| | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Client: | Really Useful Theatres |
| Architect: | Haworth Tompkins |
| Budget: | Confidential |
| Completion: | Spring 2015 |
| Charcoalblue: | Paul Crobsie |



THE BOULEVARD THEATRE LONDON, UK

BLENDING THEATRICALITY AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE HEART OF SOHO

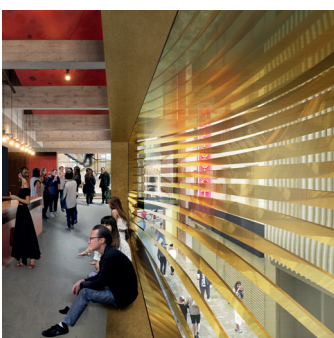
The Walker's Court project involves the redevelopment of one of Soho's most well-known thoroughfares. Charcoalblue are delighted to be working with Fawn James and her team at Soho Estates to re-imagine The Boulevard Theatre. Creating a state-of-the-art, highly flexible, hard-working venue able to accommodate a rich, mixed programme of music, drama and spectacle.

Central to the redevelopment, the theatre will bring kinetic architecture to the fore in an auditorium that revolves to vary the connection to the spaces around it and to the street outside, offering a range of formats that can be tailored to meet the needs of specific productions and users. The combination of a floor-recessed revolve comprising up to six stage elevators and a suspended revolve will offer maximum flexibility in this intimate jewel-box of a space.

Alongside the revolving auditorium, dedicated bars will service the theatre, whilst a new theatre restaurant offering performance experiences will work in tandem with the performance offerings.

All of the above space will be equipped with technical links to enable the building to function either as a series of usable, stand-alone spaces or as a single entity.

Client: Soho Estates
Architect: SODA
Budget: Confidential
Completion: TBC



Renders: SODA
Updated: 17/08/17

CHARCOALBLUE
THEATRICAL INNOVATION | ESTD 2004



ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, LONDON

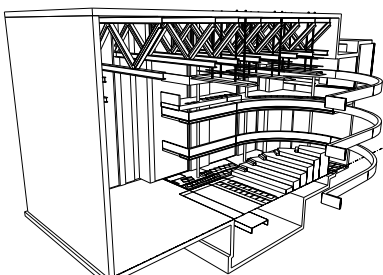
RADICAL OPENING UP OF LONDON'S WORLD-FAMOUS OPERA HOUSE

The Open-Up project at the Royal Opera House is driven by the desire to welcome a new generation of audiences to the building, to experience the unique sense of occasion it offers as well as the programme of productions and activities taking place within. Central to Open-Up is the radical re-imagining of the 400-seat Linbury Theatre, enhancing the audience experience and introducing a level of flexibility more in keeping with the mixed programme accommodated in the space.

Charcoalblue is working alongside Stanton Williams Architects in developing the scheme for the theatre whilst also improving the technical provision throughout the wider site, with particular emphasis on foyer performance platforms and the colonnade that opens onto Covent Garden Piazza.

Following a detailed feasibility study in which careful consultation was conducted with the company's artistic, technical and commercial teams, the project is now moving ahead with detailed designs. Charcoalblue is leading the designs for the remodelled Linbury Theatre, increasing the level of audience comfort whilst offering improved sightlines, greater levels of flexibility and improved technical infrastructure. The wider project aims to make the ROH's creative, technical and education work more visible to public.

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Client: | Royal Opera House |
| Architect: | Stanton Williams |
| Budget: | Confidential |
| Completion: | 2017 |
| Charcoalblue: | Gavin Green and Paul Crosbie |





THE MATCHAM ROOM, THE HIPPODROME, LONDON

AN ICONIC
LANDMARK THAT
IS ONCE AGAIN
THE CITY'S
FOREMOST
ENTERTAINMENT
VENUE

The Grade II-listed London Hippodrome, designed by Frank Matcham and originally opened in January 1900, has been reborn in many forms over the last century. The latest of these is the new London Hippodrome, which opened to the public on 12th July, 2012.

Matcham's auditorium originally wrapped around three sides of a central arena designed to accommodate aquatic performances, with the open side of the arena passing through a more traditional proscenium arch into a reduced depth stagehouse with flytower above. The stagehouse formed the backdrop to the arena, which in its day played host to equestrian acts, elephants, polar bears and acrobats who would dive into the flooded arena from the minstrels gallery above.

The latest incarnation sees the arena and stalls joined to become the main gaming floor of the casino, the circle becoming a bar and restaurant area and the gallery becoming a function room. The stagehouse has become home to the casino's live entertainment venue - The Matcham Room - which now houses 'Live at the Hippodrome' in addition to being a venue for hire in the heart of London's West End.

Charcoalblue was appointed to assist London-based architects Cadmium Design & Architecture in the design and planning of the Matcham Room. We also designed the specialist overhead rigging and suspension systems in the stage-house along with the masking, acoustics and drapes systems installed in the reconstructed proscenium arch and the flexible staging system that allows the Matcham Room to convert from a flat-floored room to a space with a raised stage of varying height and footprint. Charcoalblue played a co-ordinating role during site works in The Matcham Room.

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Client: | Hippodrome Gaming Ltd |
| Architect: | Cadmium Design |
| Cost: | £40m |
| Completed: | July 2012 |
| Charcoalblue: | Paul Crosbie |



CHARCOALBLUE
THEATRICAL INNOVATION | ESTD 2004



Visualisation by Richard Murphy Architects

PERTH THEATRE, SCOTLAND

UPDATING ONE OF SCOTLAND'S MOST HISTORIC THEATRES

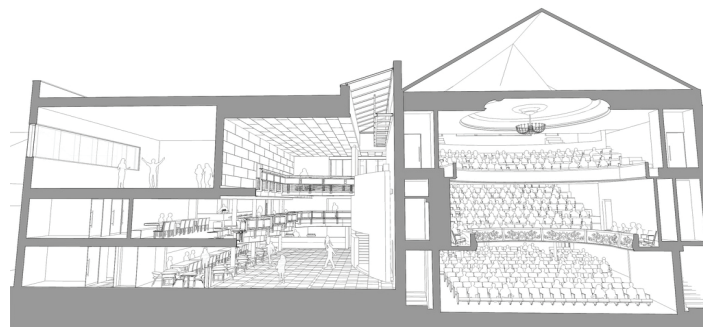
Perth Theatre is one of Scotland's oldest and best loved repertory theatres. The current Grade B listed building was constructed in 1900 but it is part of a much longer history of theatre in Perth dating back to 1589. It is run as a producing theatre by Horsecross, who also operate Perth Concert Hall.

The Transform Perth Theatre project involves repairing and restoring the Edwardian theatre, improving the legibility of access into and through the building, making improvements to seating and sightlines and replacing redundant technical infrastructure and equipment.

A new studio theatre and workshop spaces will be provided, to support a lively youth and creative learning programme.

"I feel like my life changed that first day I walked in to Perth Theatre. It was the best thing that happened to me, it set me on my way."

Ewan McGregor,
Project Ambassador



Visualisation by Richard Murphy Architects

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| Client: | Perth & Kinross Council |
| Architect: | Richard Murphy Architects |
| Budget: | £14m |
| Completion: | 2017 |
| Charcoalblue: | Paul Crosbie, Alex Wardle |



HOME, MANCHESTER

A NEW HOME FOR THE GREATER MANCHESTER ARTS CENTRE

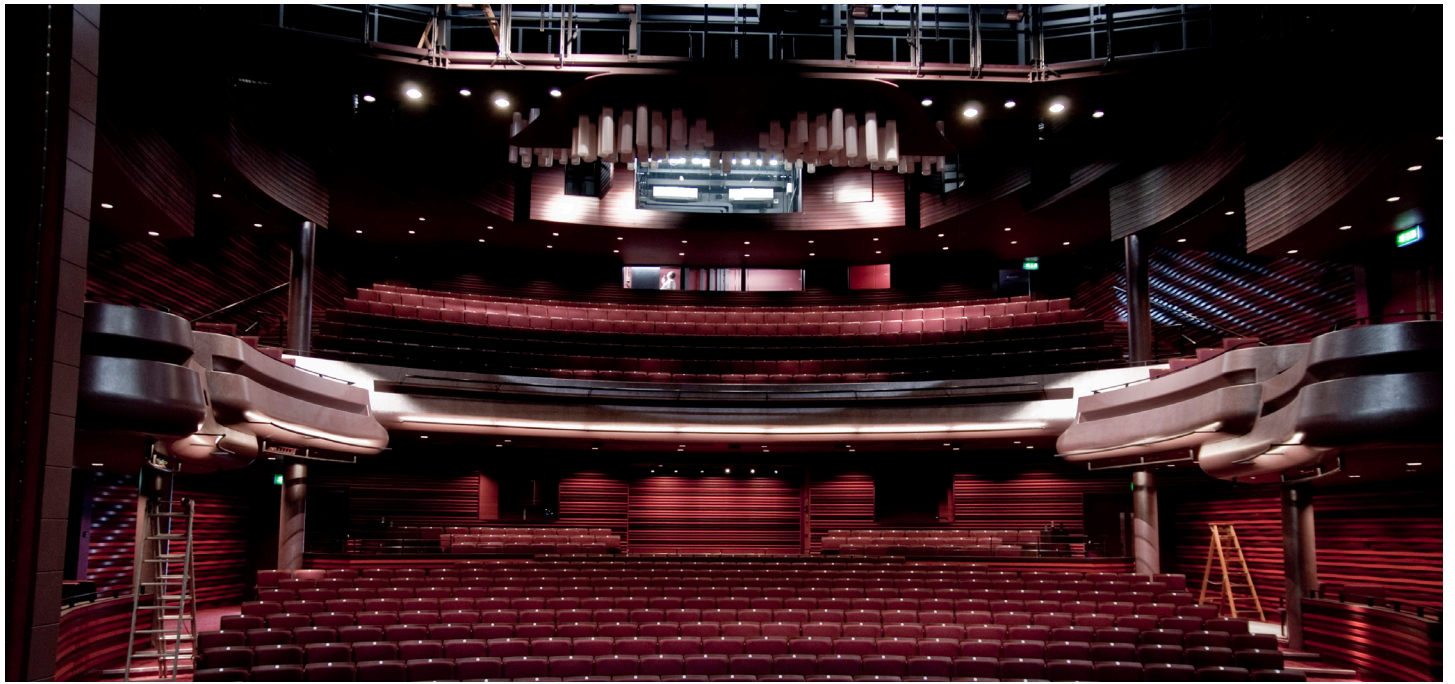
HOME, a new production centre for international contemporary art, theatre and film came about following the merger of the Cornerhouse Cinema and Visual Arts Centre with the Library Theatre Company under the banner of GMAC, the Greater Manchester Arts Centre. It has provided an environment that enables both organisations to work collaboratively, effectively creating a major cross-artform production centre and 'arts factory'.

HOME, located on Manchester's First Street, was designed by Mecanoo Architects and was procured from main contractor Wates on a Design and Build contract. Construction design was completed by Space Architecture on behalf of Wates. Contractor Wates delivered the site in 2015.

The building boasts a 500 seat-theatre, up to five cinemas, 600 sq m of contemporary gallery space, an education space and informal and outdoor performance spaces as well as an impressive café and state-of-the-art back of house facilities.

Charcoalblue came to the project following the appointment of the main contractor, and when the building was on site, we worked with Space Architecture and Wates to complete the design of the performance spaces and specialist theatre technical systems required throughout the building.

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Client: | GMAC Ltd |
| Architect: | Mecanoo/Space Architecture |
| Main Contractor: | Wates |
| Cost: | Confidential |
| Completed: | 2015 |
| Charcoalblue: | Paul Crosbie |



CAST, DONCASTER

THE CULTURAL ANCHOR OF DONCASTER'S LANDMARK CIVIC AND CULTURAL QUARTER

"The New Performance Venue (CAST) will be a sign of real and visible change for the Borough, offering something very new and different, both to its residents and to people in the surrounding areas. That is why, as Mayor I totally support it and it is one of the Council's original transformational projects."

Mayor of Doncaster, Martin Winter

CAST in Doncaster is a key element of the MUSE Waterdale Masterplan for a Civic and Cultural Quarter in the heart of the city. CAST provides a creative toolbox designed to respond to the desire of a younger and more vibrant community to create, participate in and watch a broad range of new and exciting work.

Along with ArtsTeam, Charcoalblue were involved in the development of the scheme since the feasibility in 2007, and advised on theatre planning issues, specialist stage engineering, stagelighting and audiovisual systems. CAST has replaced the Doncaster Civic Theatre. An extensive period of consultation with the Civic theatre staff enabled the team to tailor the building to meet the needs of the end-users whilst responding to the wider objectives of the brief.

CAST comprises a series of very different performance spaces incorporating a broad range of technical systems including an egg-crate grid in Space 1 and a manually operated counterweight flying system in Space 2. The venue was specifically designed to allow for technical upgrading as funds become available, with provisions made for items such as the change-over to power-flying and the introduction of an electro-acoustic enhancement system.

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Client: | Muse Developments |
| Architect: | ArtsTeam |
| Cost: | £18m |
| Completed: | June 2013 |
| Charcoalblue: | Paul Crosbie |



Image Credit: Helen Binet

MARLOWE THEATRE, CANTERBURY

A NUMBER ONE RECEIVING HOUSE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

'The level of theatrical understanding that Charcoalblue bring to the table made them fundamental to the effectiveness of our team.'

David Wright, ISG Jackson
Design Manager

'It was great to have Charcoalblue on the team; they spoke our language and were able to communicate that effectively to the main contractor.'

Paula Gillespie, Head
of Operations

'The sense of grandeur in the new auditorium is coupled with a feeling of intimacy. Everything's so much closer to the stage than the old theatre could ever be. It's a great sense of shared experience and that's what live theatre is all about.'

Mark Everett, Theatre Director



Image Credit: Helene Binet

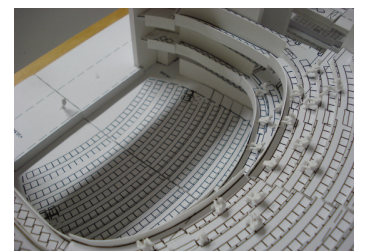
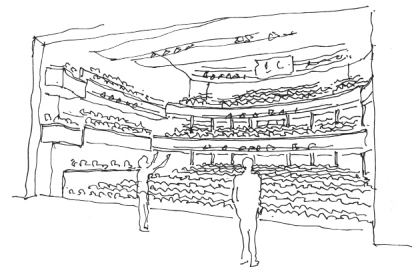
Twenty five years ago, a 1930s Odeon cinema in Canterbury was converted into the original Marlowe Theatre. The recent £25m refurbishment completely renewed the building, providing two new theatres, improved public areas and updated stage facilities, as well as a new educational programme for young people to attract a much wider range of performing companies than could previously be accommodated.

The new building houses a 1200-seat main auditorium with orchestra pit, a 150-seat flexible-format second auditorium, a new accessible foyer with ticket office, bars and riverside café, a completely new exterior with enlarged forecourt and sheltering colonnade and a remodelled fly-tower providing a landmark beacon for the new theatre.

Charcoalblue worked hand-in-hand with the client and the architect to help develop and refine the auditoria, foyers and back-of-house areas, and design completely new technical facilities including scenic flying, stagelighting and audiovisual systems.

Client: Canterbury City Council
Architect: Keith Williams Architects
Cost: £25.5m
Completed: August 2011
Charcoalblue: Paul Crosbie
Gavin Green

RIBA Regional Award 2012
Shortlist



CHARCOALBLUE
THEATRICAL INNOVATION | ESTD 2004



Image Credit: Hufton & Crow

THE CORE, CORBY CUBE

DYNAMIC REGENERATION IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT

'The theatre is a truly fantastic space, completely flexible, moving from flat floor to conventional proscenium arch, it really does offer us the opportunity to deliver almost anything.'

Chris Sudworth, Creative Director

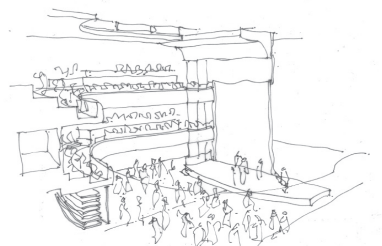
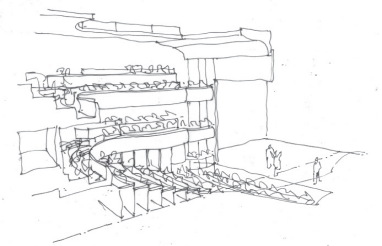
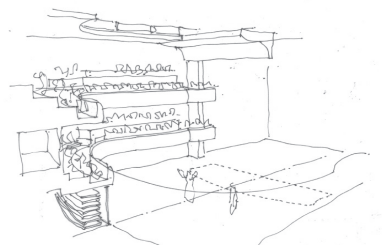
The Core is a regeneration project in the heart of Corby in Northamptonshire, housing a 450-seat proscenium theatre with retractable seating and overstage flying, a studio theatre space, a library, art galleries and administration spaces.

Charcoalblue assisted the architects in the planning of the auditorium and stage, which includes an innovative curved retractable seating system and fully motorised scenic flying, as well as designing custom stagelighting and audiovisual technical systems which include digital cinema.

The Core was nominated for the British Construction Industry Awards (BCAI) and was also shortlisted for the Regeneration and Renewal award in the Design Excellence and Mixed Use Developments categories.

Civic Trust Awards 2012 - Commendation
Nominated for British Construction Industry Awards (BCAI)

Client: Corby Borough Council
Architect: Hawkins/Brown
Cost: £30m
Completed: November 2010
Charcoalblue: Paul Crosbie



CHARCOALBLUE
THEATRICAL INNOVATION ESTD 2004



THE THEATRE, SHOREDITCH

BRINGING SHAKESPEARE'S THEATRE BACK TO THE CENTRE OF SHOREDITCH

Located on the original site of The Theatre, where Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet was first performed, the Belvedere Trust are currently planning to build upon the theatrical heritage of the site through the reinvention of The Theatre as a contemporary, small to mid-scale receiving house in the lyric form.

The main auditorium will accommodate 350 audience members spread over two tiers and will have a traditional proscenium arch arrangement and a fly loft. As well as the main auditorium, there will be an event space located at ground floor level adjacent to the theatre Cafe/Bar and a multi-function space located on the second floor.

Charcoalblue have delivered theatre and acoustics services to both the theatre and the residential components of the scheme.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Client: | The Belvedere Trust |
| Architect: | Bland, Brown and Cole (Theatre) CGL (Residential) |
| Cost: | Confidential |
| Completion: | Confidential |
| Charcoalblue: | Paul Crosbie Byron Harrison |





ST. GILES CIRCUS, LONDON

LONDON'S ANSWER TO TIMES SQUARE

The St. Giles Circus development sits on an island site between Tottenham Court Road, Denmark Street and St. Giles High Street.

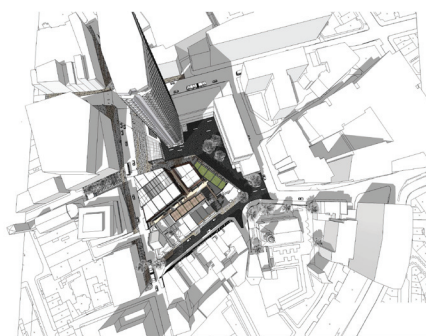
The development will feature an 800 seat multipurpose Event Gallery, an interactive digital Urban Gallery, a boutique hotel, restaurants, bars, shops and offices.

A key driver in the design of the development was the desire to celebrate the musical heritage of the site, widely regarded as London's Tin Pan Alley, and the creation of the Event Gallery was borne of this desire. As well as live music events, the Event Gallery will accommodate as broad a programme of events as possible, targeting the media, fashion, exhibition and conferencing markets.

The Event Gallery and associated stagelighting, stage engineering and audiovisual systems were designed by Charcoalblue, along with the system of movable acoustic partitions which offer the scope to divide the room into a number of smaller, more intimate spaces.

Charcoalblue also developed the site wide Management Plan required as part of the planning process.

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| Client: | Consolidated Developments |
| Architect: | ORMS Architecture Design |
| Budget: | Confidential |
| Completed: | TBC |
| Charcoalblue: | Paul Crosbie |



CHARCOALBLUE
THEATRICAL INNOVATION | ESTD 2004



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS, LONDON

COMBINING URBAN INDUSTRIAL ARCHITECTURE WITH MODERN SPACE

"This development will be an extraordinarily exciting place, the hub of the capital's art education and a centre for excellence which will be the envy of the world."

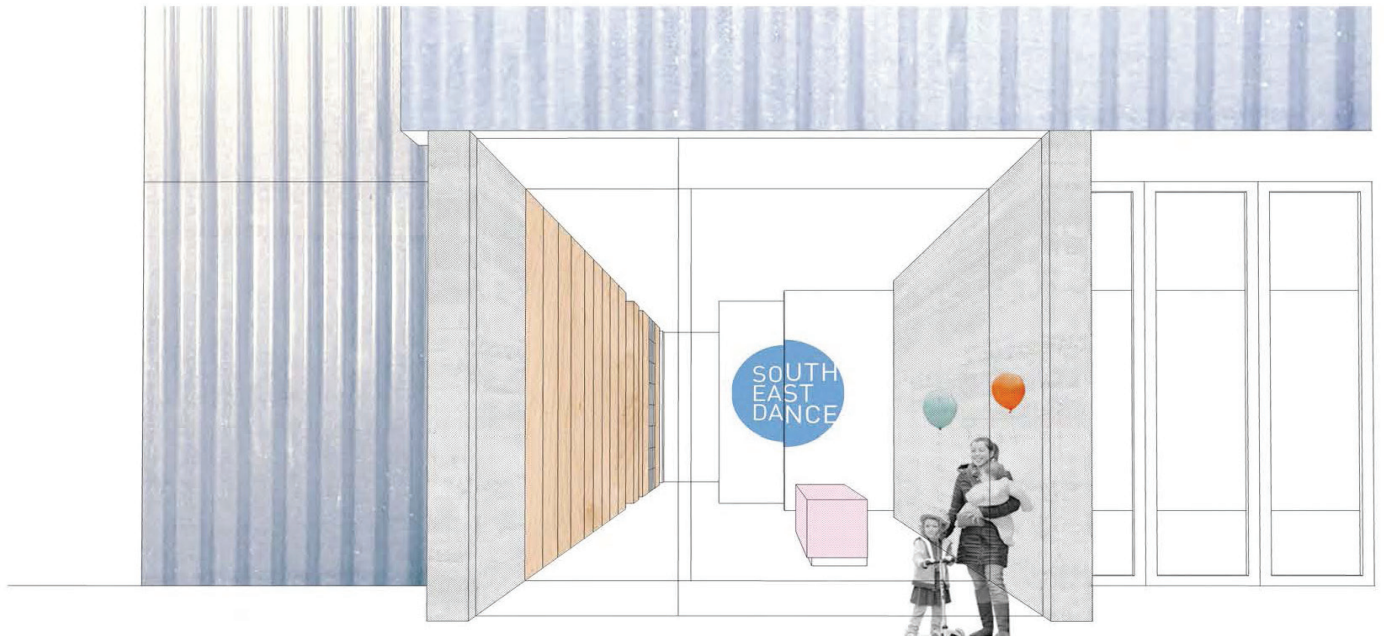
Theo Fennell, Alumni of the
University of the Arts, now Creative
Director of Theo Fennell plc

The University of the Arts London, formerly known as the London Institute, is a collegiate university comprising six internationally recognised art, design, fashion and media colleges in London. The university is Europe's largest provider of education in art, design, fashion, communication and the performing arts.

Charcoalblue was commissioned by the University of the Arts to review a number of proposals and carry out a detailed consultation process with multiple stakeholders for the performance spaces in their new Kings Cross Campus.

The findings of that review led to a further appointment to facilitate a series of stakeholder consultations and subsequently rework the proposals, to produce three consolidated concept options, with the preferred option being further developed and then let as a Design and Build fit-out contract.

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|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Client: | University of the Arts |
| Architect: | Stanton Williams Architects |
| Cost: | £145m |
| Completed: | July 2011 |
| Charcoalblue: | Paul Crosbie |



THE DANCE SPACE, BRIGHTON

A PURPOSE BUILT HOME FOR SOUTH EAST DANCE

The Dance Space, located at the very heart of Brighton's new Circus Street Development, has been designed for developers Cathedral Group by architects shedkm, working closely with Charcoalblue. The development has achieved planning consent with work on the proposed twelve month construction period for The Dance Space expected to start in May 2016.

The Dance Space will be a stand-alone building and will boast a large, double-height dance studio equipped to accommodate public performances in a broad range of formats; two smaller studios - The Community Studio and The Research Studio; associated administrative and technical support spaces; a small visiting performer's accommodation area, and a small degree of office accommodation for use by other creative organisations in the area.

Charcoalblue have worked closely with the architects to develop the design and functional planning of the building as well as designing the specialist flexible studio seating, stagelighting, audiovisual and equipment rigging systems throughout the building.

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Client: | South East Dance |
| Architect: | shedkm |
| Developer: | Cathedral Groupcal |
| Budget: | £2.2m |
| Completion: | May 2017 |
| Charcoalblue: | Paul Crosbie |



ARTS AND LEARNING HUB, THE BARBICAN CENTRE

BRINGING ARTS AND LEARNING TO THE HEART OF THE BARBICAN CENTRE

The cross-disciplinary educational offered by the Creative Learning team at the Barbican Centre is widely recognised as being exceptional.

Charcoalblue were engaged in September 2012 to carry out a feasibility study examining the options for repositioning Creative Learning as a public-facing part of the Barbican, offered alongside theatre, music, visual arts and cinema. Charcoalblue also developed design proposals for the creation of dedicated education accommodation in the form of an Arts and Learning Hub based in and around the Pit Theatre. It is intended that the creation of such a facility will ensure the world-class nature of the Barbican brand is recognisable in both performance and learning contexts.

Client: Barbican Centre
Cost: Confidential
Completed: Winter 2012
Charcoalblue: Paul Crosbie





CINEMAS 2 AND 3, THE BARBICAN CENTRE

A KEY ADDITION TO THE BURGEONING CULTURAL QUARTER

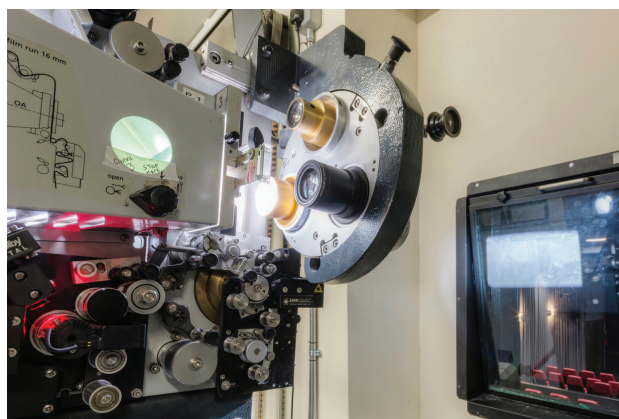
"These fine new cinemas are a key part of our ambition to make our offer to our audiences more visible and attractive. Funded by the City of London Corporation, to whom we are most grateful, they are part of our move towards the creation of a vibrant cultural quarter in this area of the City."

Sir Nicholas Kenyon,
Managing Director, the Barbican

The Barbican presents both world cinema within an international arts centre while also providing a local cinema for both the City of London and for communities across East London. The cinema complex comprises three screens, the recently refurbished Screen 1 and the newly relocated Screens 2 and 3 - the first additions to the venue since it opened in 1982.

Charcoalblue was appointed by ISG, the main contractors delivering Screens 2 and 3 and the associated Camera Cafe & Bar, to provide specialist technical design and site co-ordination expertise during the construction and fit-out phases of the project.

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|---------------------|----------------|
| Client: | ISG |
| Architect: | NBDA |
| Audiovisual | |
| Systems Design: | AVM Vision |
| Digital Projections | |
| Systems: | Cinestall |
| Projection Screen | |
| Systems: | Powell Screens |
| Cost: | Confidential |
| Completed: | Winter 2012 |
| Charcoalblue: | Paul Crosbie |





ICA REFURBISHMENT, LONDON

A FRESH NEW LOOK TO THE HOME OF BRITISH AVANT-GARDE

'We are absolutely delighted to welcome the public back to our newly refurbished cinemas which maintain the original and much-loved features whilst providing an improved level of comfort, accessibility and flexibility.'

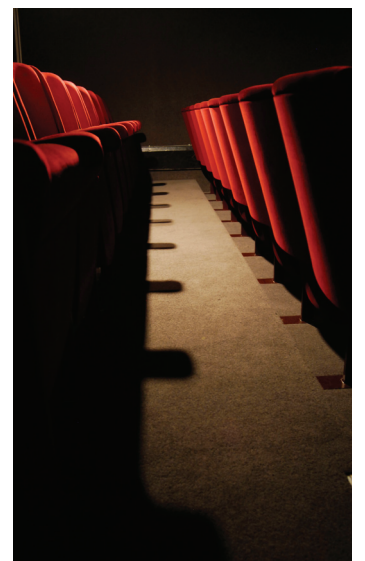
Charcoalblue has provided an impeccable level of service and demonstrated a sensitivity to the uniqueness of the project and venue.'

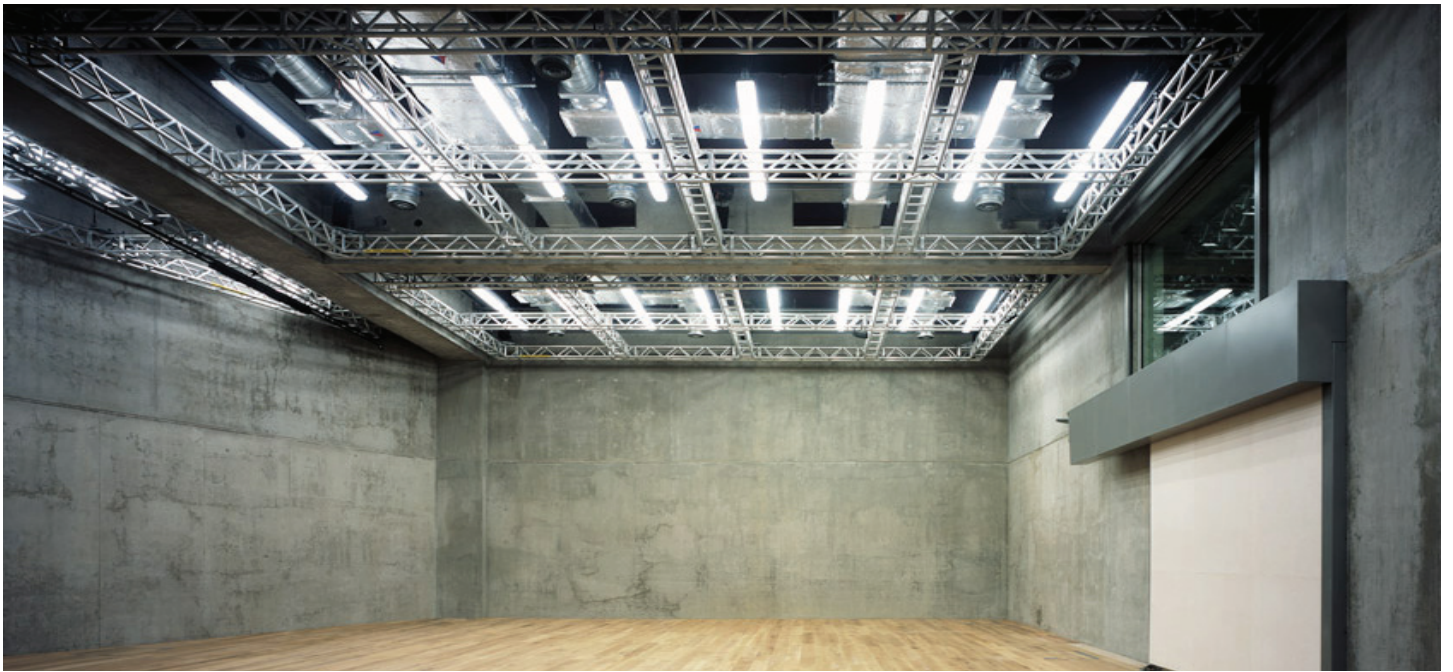
Karen Turner,
Managing Director, ICA

The ICA was founded by a group of radical artists and writers in the 1940s as a space for experimental and challenging arts practice. The ICA is situated on The Mall in central London in a Regency period building designed by John Nash. Since moving to its present location in 1968, the ICA has become the home of the British avant-garde and continues to foreground interdisciplinary art practice.

The project brief for Charcoalblue was to design, schedule and manage a comprehensive refurbishment of the main ICA cinemas. The challenge was to ensure the works could happen in the short break between Christmas and New Year. Charcoalblue project-managed the entire refurbishment, making sure that deadlines were met and quality maintained throughout the very short installation period.

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Client: | ICA |
| Architect: | None |
| Cost: | Confidential |
| Completed: | March 2012 |
| Charcoalblue: | Paul Crosbie |





NOTTINGHAM CONTEMPORARY

A KEY CULTURAL RESOURCE FOR NOTTINGHAM

'Quite simply, this will be one of the best spaces for art and culture anywhere in Britain..'

Nicholas Serota,
Director of Tate Galleries

'Working with Charcoalblue has involved us in a very sharp, open process of developing new ways in performance space. It has been a really productive collaboration.'

Adam Caruso,
Caruso St John Architects

Nottingham Contemporary, designed by architects Caruso St John, is one of the largest venues for temporary exhibitions of contemporary art in the UK, with an overall size of 3,000 square metres.

The building opened on 14th November 2009, with a major exhibition of over sixty works by David Hockney.

The exhibition occupies two of the building's four galleries - which offer a huge combined space of 750 square metres. In addition, there are superb education and study areas, a café-bar and shop, and a large performance space designed to accommodate performance art, dance, theatre and music. The space may also be used for exhibitions and corporate functions.

Charcoalblue worked with Caruso St John to bring the feeling of a "found space" to the performance space, as well as ensuring that the technical infrastructure was adaptable enough for the venue to be able to host art exhibitions, events and performance.

Client: Nottingham City Council
Architect: Caruso St John Architects
Cost: £13.9m
Completed: November 2009
Charcoalblue: Paul Crosbie



CHARCOALBLUE
THEATRICAL INNOVATION | ESTD 2004



PIECE HALL, HALIFAX

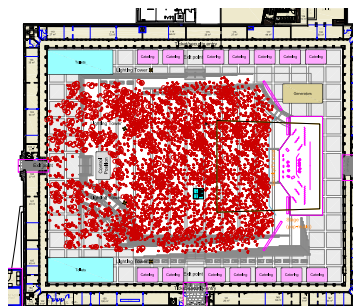
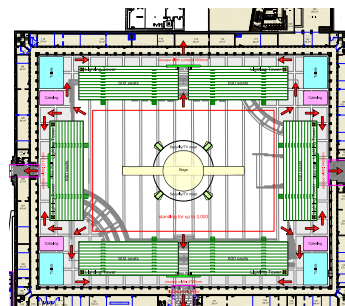
TURNING A
UNIQUE GEORGIAN
MASTERPIECE
INTO A POPULAR
VISITOR
ATTRACTION

The Piece Hall is a unique Grade 1 listed Georgian masterpiece in the very heart of Halifax, West Yorkshire. Calderdale Council are set to transform this extraordinary building into a world class heritage destination in the heart of the North of England.

Charcoalblue are part of the team on the £18.9m transformation project, helping advise the architect and client on the flexibility of the courtyard, event planning and programming. A new Heritage Interpretation Centre and Visitor Orientation Centre will be created, along with new learning facilities to showcase the heritage of the building. The centrepiece of the scheme will be the upgrading of the courtyard into a Town square.

Work is expected to commence in late 2013 and completed in phases to enable the Piece Hall to remain open throughout the building works through to 2015.

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Client: | Calderdale Council |
| Architect: | Law Dunbar Nesmith |
| Budget | £18.9m |
| Completion: | 2015 |
| Charcoalblue: | Paul Crosbie |



CHARCOALBLUE
THEATRICAL INNOVATION | ESTD 2004