
CHARCOALBLUE



THEATRICAL
INNOVATION | ESTD
2004

Theatre Acoustics Digital Turnkey

New York | Chicago | London | Bristol | Glasgow | Melbourne



We create amazing spaces where stories are told and music is made.

Put simply, we love what we do. Passion for our work and for your vision means we are constantly striving to realise the best possible environment for performance. Working in partnership with architects and engineering teams, we specialise in design services for a wide range of creative spaces: from historic theatres to contemporary workplaces; permanent buildings to temporary structures; from the physical to the digital world. We provide a full spectrum of consultancy services from strategic analysis and creative concept generation through to detailed design and full project leadership. Simultaneously, we have the expertise to integrate world-class acoustic, technical and digital design solutions from the outset. Our approach is always bespoke and determined by the unique circumstances of each cultural project, auditorium or technical opportunity.

Collaboration and genuine relationships are at the heart of everything we do, resulting in unique and innovative solutions that draw the best out of every space and place. Whatever the scale or budget we are driven by the desire to deliver individual solutions, derived from a deep understanding of you and your project.

So yes. We love what we do, and we think you will too.



Creative Collaborators

At Charcoalblue, we believe that to do amazing work you need collaborative relationships, a huge amount of passion, a curious mind and first-hand understanding. Theatre, acoustic and digital design runs in our blood and each one of us has at some point worked within the industry that we now design for.

Our work has always been founded in a creative, multi-disciplinary team approach and this remains key to our culture. Our global studio teams collaborate on every project we touch, regardless of where the project is based. This means that every brief is interrogated from every possible angle, creating new approaches and fresh innovation, every single time.

Our work is all about spatial, visual and audible transformation, so finding different ways to develop how we work comes naturally. We love to test and experiment with new materials, techniques and platforms: our R&D team push the boundaries of the latest innovations in the market, both physical and virtual, ensuring we are always ahead of the curve, bringing you the best solutions available.



Everyman Theatre, Liverpool – RIBA Stirling Prize winner



Andy Hayles
Group Chair



Gavin Green
Senior Partner - Design



Jon Stevens
Senior Partner - Finance



Katy Winter
Senior Partner - People



Gary Sparkes
Managing Partner - UK/EU



John Owens
Partner - USA



Eric Lawrence
Partner - Australasia/Asia



Byron Harrison
Partner - Acoustics Principal



Ian Stickland
Partner - Digital Principal



Elena Giakoumaki
Partner - UK/EU



Rich Garfield
Partner - UK/EU



Nenna Thacker
Non-Executive Partner



Chris Spurgeon
Non-Executive Partner

Leadership

We wanted to build a different, more thoughtful kind of practice, bringing together people from different sectors. Our focus was on listening to organisations and creative leaders, taking time to understand their vision, then delivering innovative, fresh and uniquely tailored solutions, whatever the scale of the project. So, in 2004, ex-chief electrician Andy Hayles and lighting & sound engineer Jon Stevens joined with architect Gavin Green to become Charcoalblue, followed soon by ex-Stage Manager, Katy Winter.

Our first large commission was for the Royal Shakespeare Company. This temporary, low-cost 1,000-seat theatre underpinned our innovative approach and its lessons are still relevant today. Since those early days, our work has taken us to all corners of the world. In 2010 Susan Feldman, Artistic Director of St Ann's Warehouse in Brooklyn NY, wrote to us admiring our work, leading to our first collaboration with a US theatre. Rapid growth in the US market led to exciting and challenging new projects across the country. Simultaneously, on the opposite

side of the world, our newly formed Australasia-based team was expanding at a similar rate with projects across Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. Within this rapid growth and demand for our approach, we invested in highly specialised teams in Acoustic and Digital Services, to complement and add value to our Theatre Design services. These expert units now deliver services fully integrated with Theatre Design as well as providing independent consultation services.

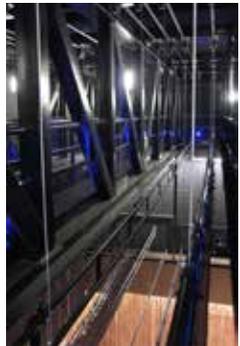
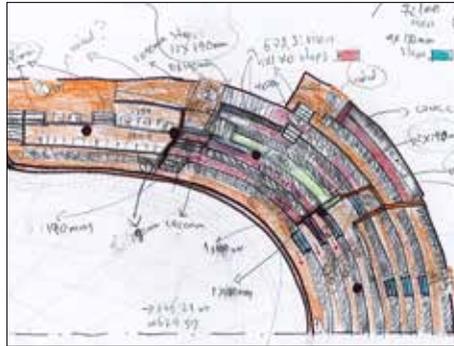
Rapid evolution such as this meant we put significant focus into developing our people and leadership, both current and future. In 2019, we are now a global Partner group of eleven. Common ownership, equity, diversity and a shared vision for the future are ideas we value. We are a long way now from our early roots, yet despite global expansion and realising some of the world's most complex and prestigious projects, we have never lost sight of our central belief that no project is too large or too small, and every individual client remains equally important to us.

Theatre and Venue Consulting

Designing performance spaces where artists aspire to perform and audiences want to be is what we know best. We advise and guide, sketch out ideas, explore what is possible and resolve the seemingly impossible. We do everything from reorganising seating, reimagining an existing space, designing the perfect acoustic response, developing technical requirements and future-proofing your space with cutting edge digital innovations. If you need us to, we will deal with everything from refining the brief right through to leading you confidently through the full design, tendering and construction process.

We relish making the most of existing buildings, just as much as we enjoy creating entirely new ones. Most importantly, we are always there as your partner in creativity; from the first napkin sketch right through to the glitter of opening night.

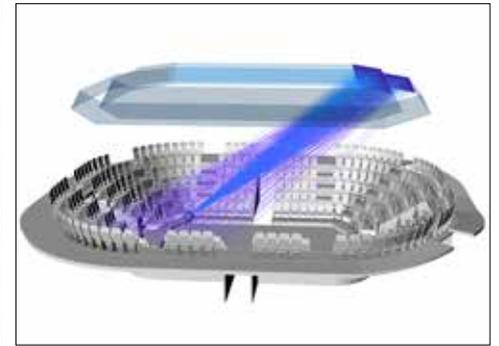
- Auditorium concept, options and detailed design
- Seating design and sightline studies
- Building-wide strategic planning including critical structural, mechanical and electrical advice
- Technical design, including stage engineering, stagelighting and audiovisual systems
- Witness-test, commission and sign off theatre systems - and attend first night party!



Acoustic Design

Sound plays a massive part in shaping our experiences and understanding of place and space. Creative solutions to acoustic challenges require an in-depth understanding of the science of sound, balanced with a comprehensive appreciation of building structure, ventilation, facade, interiors, foundations and sustainability factors. We love designing rooms and systems which integrate architecture, performance and construction into coherent concepts that result in brilliant sound and great looks. Also, as a result of our uniquely integrated design approach, you'll find our solutions can be delivered with competitive affordability.

- Room acoustic testing and analysis
- Computer-aided acoustic modelling
- Variable acoustics design
- Building and environmental noise surveys and site assessment
- Noise and vibration control
- Sound separation



Digital Design

Charcoalblue offers a dedicated expert digital team who deliver projects from concept to completion. We create innovative ways for audiences to engage with stories and extend the reach of events beyond the physical walls of a space. Using digital technology, we can create immersive theatrical and educational experiences, design interactive video installations, VR apps, broadcast suites, events spaces, cinemas and exterior signage. Because we know both theatre and technology, we are able to bring together techniques from cinema, broadcasting and experiential theatre and software development to produce the best possible results.

- Design of large scale internal and external presentation systems
- Interactive system design
- Broadcast, streaming systems, and cinema design
- Detailed systems engineering including content management, storage, distribution & display
- Integration of digital design proposals with the design team
- Market-tested cost schedules
- Performance specifications, bid & contract drawings
- Witness testing and sign off for completed digital systems install
- Bespoke R&D and software solutions

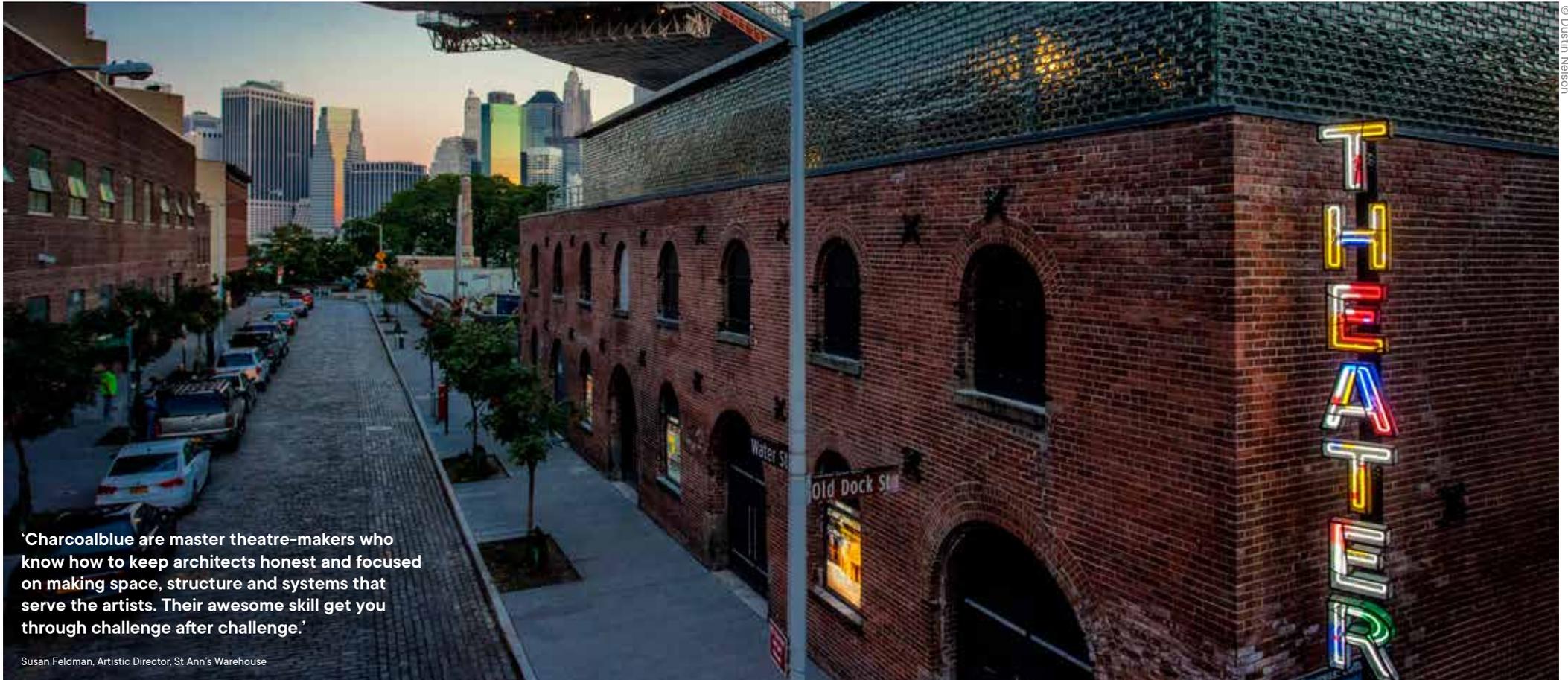


Turnkey Solutions

At Charcoalblue, we also offer Turnkey; our complete project lead service. No matter the scale - small or large - we can lead your project from its initial stages through to design, procurement and construction, whilst managing and coordinating the entire consultant team. Our Turnkey service enables our clients to have a single point of contact and contract for the whole design team. We understand how to bridge the void between the magic of performance and the complexities of construction. Our expert leadership and streamlined cost efficient design service, combined with our acclaimed theatrical innovation, yields impressive results. Using trusted design partners specifically selected for your project means the best possible outcomes for your vision, with the least possible friction.

- Work together to define vision
- Develop the brief, project scope, and programme and outline budget
- Lead the procurement and design team selection process
- Lead the design team
- Co-ordinate, monitor and review the work of the consultant team
- Develop project implementation plans, project milestones and deliverables
- Advise and assist on contractor procurement routes
- Oversee production of bid and monitor construction progress
- Overseeing snagging and commissioning





© Dustin Nelson

'Charcoalblue are master theatre-makers who know how to keep architects honest and focused on making space, structure and systems that serve the artists. Their awesome skill get you through challenge after challenge.'

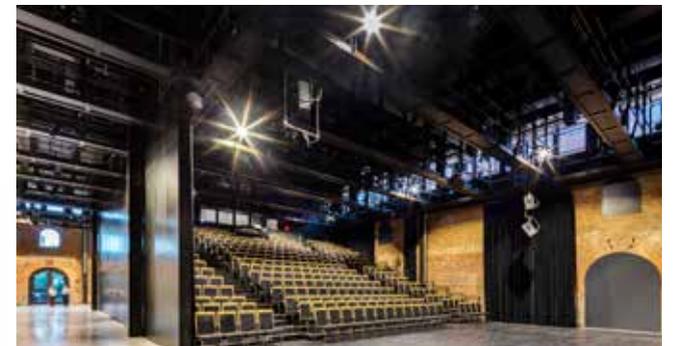
Susan Feldman, Artistic Director, St Ann's Warehouse

St Ann's Warehouse: Tobacco Warehouse

Brooklyn, NY, USA

A transformation of the pre-Civil War Tobacco Warehouse on the waterfront in Brooklyn Bridge Park into a radical 21st Century theatre.

A bold, sensitive insertion of a highly technical and functional performance space into the historic fabric of the original brick walls. This influential building includes administration space and an intimate community studio providing breakout space to the foyer. An innovative, cutting edge space with limitless flexibility.



'The great thing about the superbly renovated Chichester Festival Theatre is that it simply seems like a better version of its former self.'

Charles Spencer, The Telegraph



Chichester Festival Theatre

Chichester, UK

Chichester Festival Theatre holds a coveted place in British theatrical history having opened in 1962 under the directorship of Laurence Olivier and became Britain's first modern thrust stage theatre.

Chichester Festival Theatre is one of the UK's leading producing theatres, regularly selling out the 1,300-seat auditorium and transferring plays and musicals into the West End of London. Originally designed to operate only in the summer and intended to stand for only two years, over fifty years later the RENEW project radically improved the foyers and front of house, increased capacity in the auditorium, improved accessibility, sustainability, backstage facilities and the technical infrastructure. We worked with the theatre, Haworth Tompkins and the design team to improve the layouts and sightlines, increase the seating capacity, use more sustainable technologies to minimise future running costs, as well as upgrade and improve the auditorium lighting scheme.

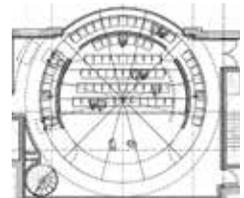
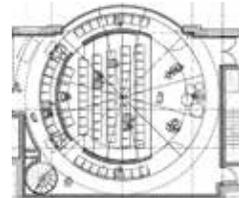
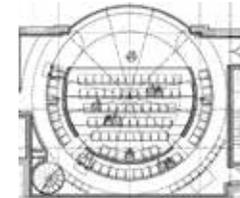


Boulevard Theatre

London, UK

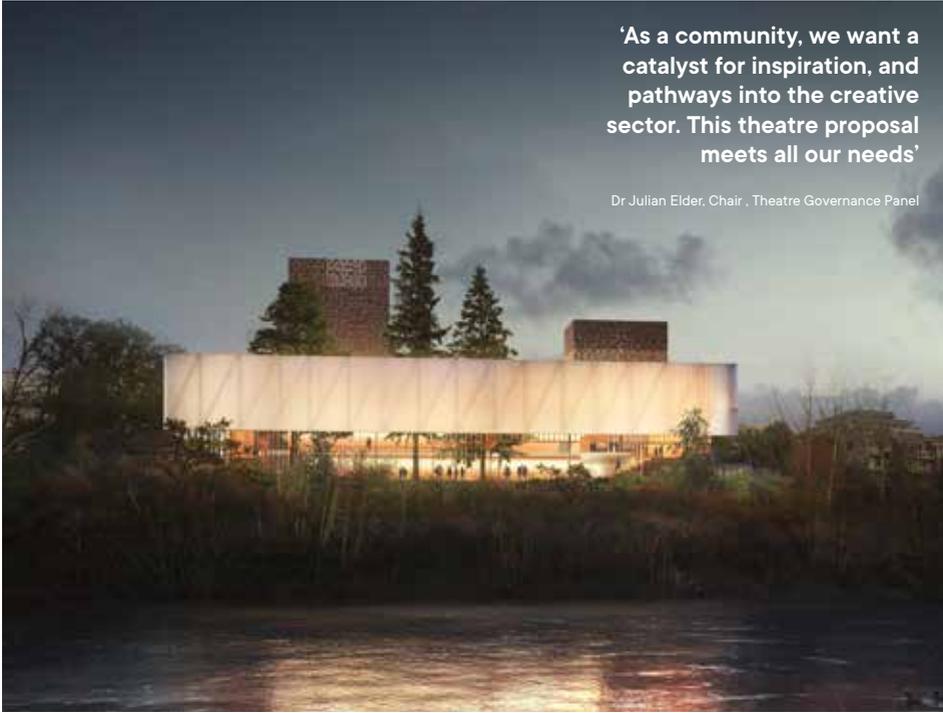
Blending theatricality and technology in the heart of London's Soho.

Working with Soho Estates and SODA architects we have created a brand new highly flexible venue to host a rich mixed programme of music, drama and spectacle. The theatre will bring kinetic architecture to the fore in an auditorium that revolves to vary the connection to the spaces around it and the street outside. Charcoalblue led the innovative auditorium and technical system design.



'As a community, we want a catalyst for inspiration, and pathways into the creative sector. This theatre proposal meets all our needs'

Dr Julian Elder, Chair, Theatre Governance Panel



Waikato Regional Theatre Hamilton, New Zealand

The Waikato Regional Theatre is envisioned as a new cultural heart for the region. Working together with the arts community, we are leading a project team to bring this ambitious vision to life.

Charcoalblue are leading the development for the exciting new venue, a new highly flexible 1,300-seat theatre has been developed with partner architects, JASMAX. Located on a new city centre site, it will host touring musicals, drama, locally produced theatre, dance, the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and Royal New Zealand Ballet.



Sydney Theatre Company Sydney, Australia

Planning a sustainable future for one of Australia's leading theatre companies.

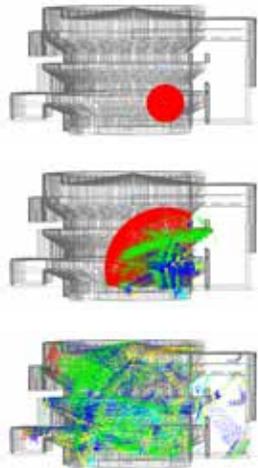
Charcoalblue are working with the Sydney Theatre Company and Hassell Architects on a scheme to refurbish their Company home on Pier 4/5 in Walsh Bay, Sydney. The project rebuilds the Company's two Wharf Theatres and reorganises the surrounding rehearsal rooms, workshops, administration, storage and public facilities. The aim is to ensure a relevant and viable future for the Company and its audiences on the Wharf as an anchor of the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct, a project supported by Infrastructure New South Wales.



Le Théâtre Elisabethain au Château D'Hardelot, Condette, France

The Elizabethan theatre at Château d'Hardelot provides 16th Century theatre form with 21st Century renewable technologies, pitch-perfect acoustics and a bold vision.

Studio Andrew Todd's design for an Elizabethan theatre at France's Château D'Hardelot is a modern interpretation of an historic form. The compact theatre makes extensive use of structural timber with a cylindrical bamboo screen surrounding the building, it is naturally ventilated and uses low-energy lighting. Charcoalblue provided advice on acoustic design, designed technical performance systems and assisted with the wider building planning.

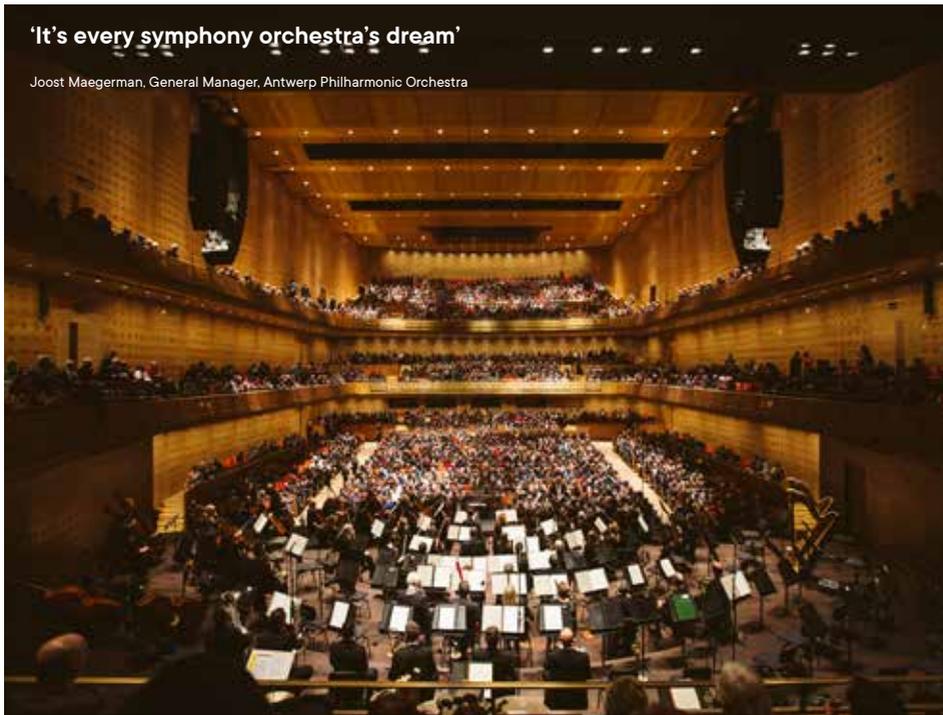


Performing Arts Quarter Leuven, Belgium

Leuven has proposed a new theatre which blends innovative architecture and artistry into a medieval city plan.

The new building will be adjacent to a former monastery and church. Audience enter through a side courtyard mirroring Leuven's labyrinth of connected spaces and will be topped with a roof space offering spectacular views across the beautiful city. The new 'Great Hall' is a highly flexible 1,000-seat auditorium presenting a range of home-grown work and touring productions in an end-on setting, with the ability to transform the room to present music, circus, flat-floor and promenade events. The project is a joint venture between Sergison Bates, Günther Vogt and Charcoalblue.





'It's every symphony orchestra's dream'

Joost Maegerman, General Manager, Antwerp Philharmonic Orchestra

Queen Elisabeth Hall

Antwerp, Belgium

The new home for Belgium's acclaimed Antwerp Symphony Orchestra.

Already established as one of the finest spaces for music anywhere in the world, the Hall is primarily for symphonic music, yet can accommodate a wide range of performance types and events - contemporary and amplified music, semi-staged opera, dance, as well as touring musical theatre shows and conferences. Collaborating with the architect, SimpsonHaugh, and acoustician, Larry Kirkegaard, on the design of the hall, Charcoalblue advised on the general planning of the building, rehearsal spaces and surrounding conference rooms as well as designing the performance systems - seating, stagelighting, audiovisual and stage engineering.



Centre for Music

London, UK

Rooted in London's 'Culture Mile', the Centre for Music will provide a world-class concert hall for the capital and a home for current and future generations of musicians.

London's Centre for Music has been conceived as a partnership between the Barbican, London Symphony Orchestra and Guildhall School of Music & Drama and backed by the City of London Corporation. Supported by a series of commercial spaces, the development is located on the site of the current Museum of London which is set to move to the revitalised Smithfield Market. The concept design, overseen by architects Diller Scofidio + Renfro and Nagata Acoustics shows a seamless entry from street to a multi-level foyer spiralling up towards a 2,000-seat auditorium. Up above, a top-floor performance space is situated, overlooking St Paul's Cathedral, known as The Coda.





Perth Theatre

Perth, UK

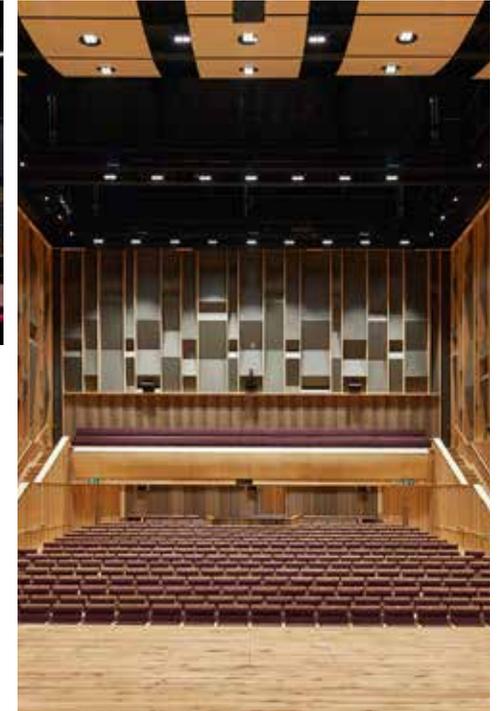
The Transform Perth Theatre project involved repairing and restoring one of Scotland's best-loved repertory theatres, the result is a model of performance space restoration.



Royal Conservatoire

Birmingham, UK

The new 500-seat concert hall at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire is one of only nine conservatoires in the UK, and the only one that is also a faculty of a university.



Roundhouse, Camden

London, UK

An engine maintenance shed, a gin warehouse, a theatre, a rock gig venue; the Roundhouse has been all of these and more. Charcoalblue led the technical design and recently replaced its seating systems.



London Academy of Music &

Dramatic Art, London, UK

A centre of excellence in performance training for the capital, LAMDA's new home comprises twelve teaching studios and a fully equipped theatre where a new generation of theatre leaders will cut their teeth.





Lyric Theater before renovation

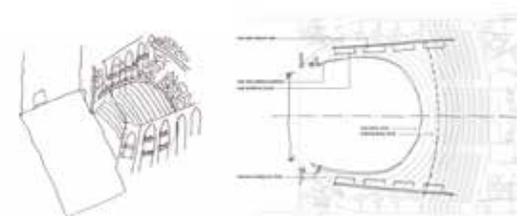
Lyric Theatre

New York, New York, USA

Working our magic on Broadway, the Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG), producers Sonia Friedman and Colin Callender, production designers Christine Jones, Brett J. Banakis, Gary Beestone with Charcoalblue and Marvel Architects created a new home inside Broadway's Lyric Theatre for the Broadway production of Harry Potter and the Cursed Child.

In order for the theatre to meet the productions need for intimacy, a dramatic overhaul of the theatre was needed to create a brand-new theatre inside the existing Lyric Theatre chamber. The theatre was reshaped with new, narrower side walls, new audience boxes and an extension and reshaping of the dress circle bringing the front row much nearer to the stage. The room is completed with an arched, lower ceiling seamlessly integrating technical aspects of the show and significantly improving the room acoustics.

Charcoalblue led the design team throughout an intensive design and construction period which took only 14 months from picking up pencils, to opening the doors on 42nd Street.

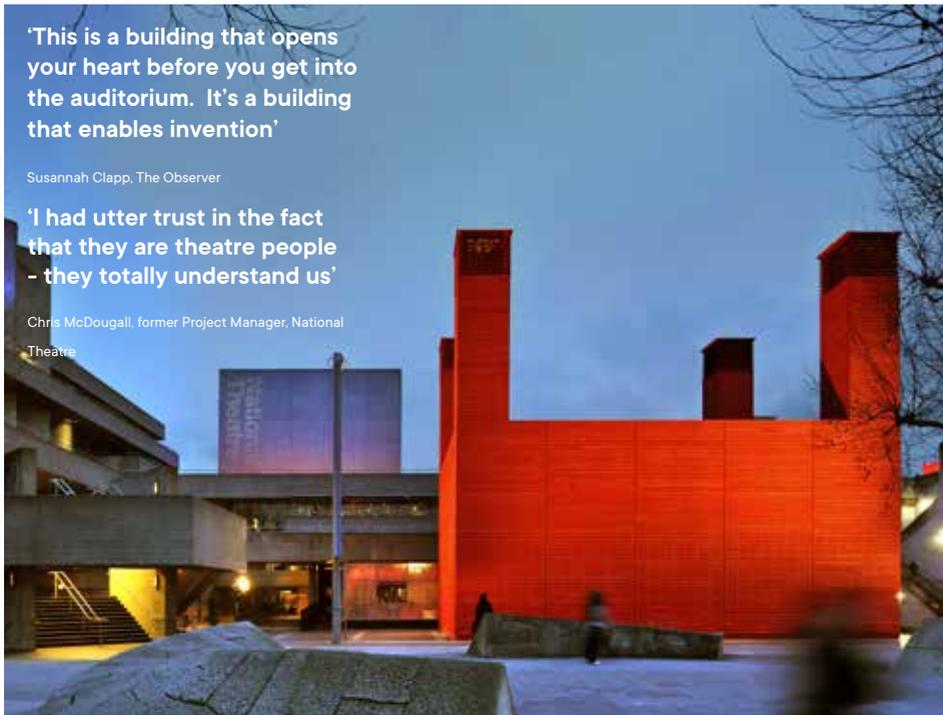


'This is a building that opens your heart before you get into the auditorium. It's a building that enables invention'

Susannah Clapp, The Observer

'I had utter trust in the fact that they are theatre people - they totally understand us'

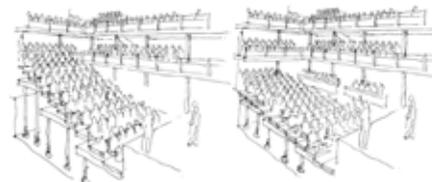
Chris McDougall, former Project Manager, National Theatre



National Theatre – Temporary Theatre and Dorfman, London, UK

An award-winning temporary theatre and the refurbished Cottesloe, now the highly flexible Dorfman Theatre.

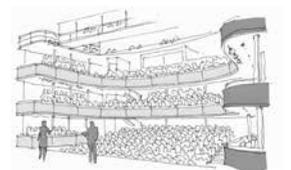
The Temporary Theatre (Shed) operated throughout the Cottesloe's refurbishment and remained in place until 2017. Haworth Tompkins and Charcoalblue jointly designed the 250-seat auditorium with a highly engaged client team, the building was as low-energy, sustainable and recyclable as possible. The NT's Future programme saw a comprehensive redevelopment of the entire complex, at its centre was transforming the world-renowned Cottesloe into the highly flexible Dorfman, upgrading capacity by 25%, improving sightlines, comfort and offering enhanced technical infrastructure.



Linbury Theatre, Royal Opera House London, UK

A radical opening up of London's world-famous Opera House welcomes in a new generation with spacious foyers, a reconfigurable theatre and expanded programming opportunities.

The Royal Opera House's Open Up project, overseen by Stanton Williams, created a dramatic reworking of the public spaces along with a reinvented 400-seat Linbury Theatre, built within the old theatre shell. The new horseshoe form embraces the audience to achieve a greater level of inclusivity and intimacy, circulation and accessibility are also improved. The stalls and stage can be rearranged to allow for thrust, end-on, traverse, in-the-round and flat-floor formats. Beyond the theatre we advised the project team on the informal foyer performance spaces.





Kiln Theatre

London, UK

A site-wide renovation enriches the audience experience at this acclaimed theatre with an upgraded performance space and new front of house facilities.

The Kiln Theatre, formally the Tricycle, has a unique place in the hearts of London's theatre goers, a modest North London neighbourhood theatre but with radical programming stretching across the capital and international scene. The original scaffolding theatre has been disassembled and a new intimate theatre with increased capacity, comfort and stage facilities has replaced it maintaining a nod towards the original theatre.



Alexandra Palace

London, UK

Alexandra Palace has reawakened its Victorian Theatre creating a charismatic and flexible space.

Affectionately labelled the People's Palace, originally built in 1873 and rebuilt in 1875 following a devastating fire, the venue never quite found its audience and was more or less abandoned in the 1930's while the rest of the building was given over to a brand new technology: high definition television! The Victorian theatre has been sensitively re-worked to create a modern highly flexible space hosting a wide range of performances and events, new technical infrastructure supports the bold programming whilst being integrated into the glorious distressed walls, deliberately maintained creating a magical setting for events.

'Charcoalblue has been hailed as one the most innovative players in the international performing arts design field'

Broadway World

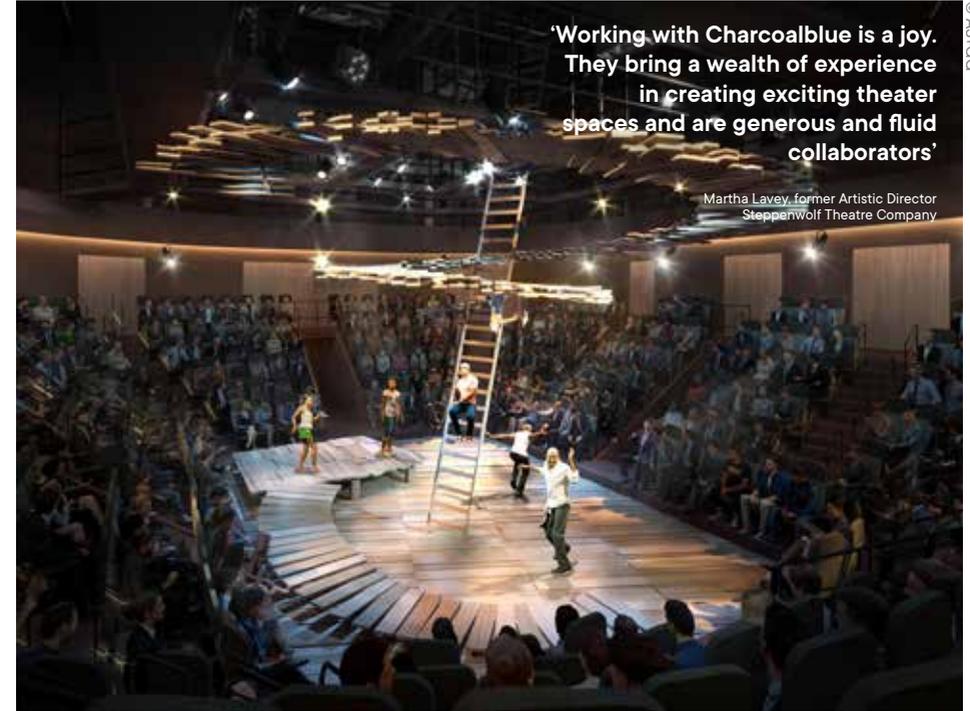
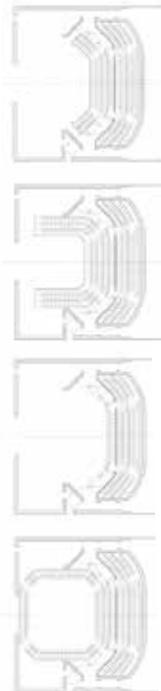


TheatreSquared

Fayetteville, Arkansas, USA

As Northwest Arkansas's only year-round professional theatre, TheatreSquared is a vital cultural resource for the region.

Recognised by the American Theatre Wing as one of the United States' ten most promising emerging theatres, TheatreSquared reaches 40,000 patrons a year. The building brings together two technologically-advanced theatres, rehearsal rooms, administration facilities, community spaces and workshops for set and costume design, plus accommodation for visiting artists. Charcoalblue led the design team and together with Marvel Architects designed the highly flexible performance spaces to ensure the theatre remains a cutting-edge space for generations to come.



'Working with Charcoalblue is a joy. They bring a wealth of experience in creating exciting theater spaces and are generous and fluid collaborators'

Martha Lavey, former Artistic Director
Steppenwolf Theatre Company

AS+CG



Steppenwolf Theatre

Chicago, IL, USA

A bold 400-seat in-the-round theatre will be the first of its kind in Chicago.

Established in 1974 as an ensemble, Steppenwolf Theatre Company is one of a small number of local troupes credited with starting the post-war stage renaissance in Chicago. Led by Chicago's Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill and Charcoalblue, the exciting new theatre will be highly charged, intimate and fully accessible with a modest amount of adaptability.



Storyhouse

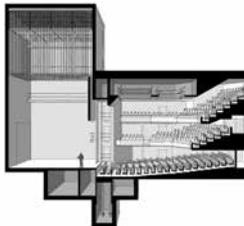
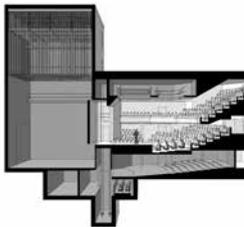
Chester, UK

A comprehensive cultural complex, Storyhouse brings a theatre and cinema back to Chester for the first time in a decade.

The city's Grade-II listed, 1936 Odeon Cinema was remodelled and extended to incorporate a theatre, cinema, library, restaurant and host more than 2,000 activities a year. We worked with long-time collaborators, Bennetts Associates, on the new adaptable 500-800 seat theatre which sits within an elegant, copper extension of the old cinema. We also designed a new 150-seat studio space located above the main theatre. Inside the old cinema auditorium, the complex includes a new 100-seat cinema, restaurant and the city's relocated library which twists and turns around the public space.



@ Peter Cook



@ Luke Hayes

Wonderlab, National Science and Media

Museum, Bradford, UK

Wonderlab is a vivid, multi-sensory gallery that boldly explores space and science in an engaging way for a new generation of visitors. Charcoalblue explored the exhibit acoustics and spaces for events, teaching and demonstration areas in the Wonderlab gallery as well as producing a noise map study to predict how sound would be perceived within the space.



@ Jonathan Banks

RocketSpace

London, UK

Incubator to some of the most innovative technology companies in the world, co-working pioneers RocketSpace has opened a new London campus. Designed by LOM Architects mixing desks, open plan and suites with over 700m of acoustic glazed partitions, the event space is the centre of the campus. Charcoalblue provided design advice on layout, lighting and acoustic design.



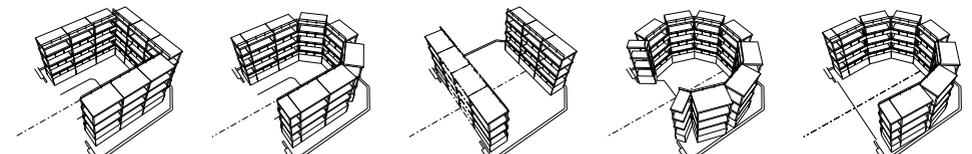
'Charcoalblue are unlike any other 'consulting' experience - they're creative, thoughtful and visionary, and are always looking for new ways of meeting challenges'

Barbara Gaines, Artistic Director, Chicago Shakespeare Theater

The Yard, Chicago Shakespeare Theater

Chicago, Illinois, USA

Chicago Shakespeare Theater is one of the premier theatre companies in the US, bringing home-grown and international productions to the centre of Chicago's most-visited tourist attractions, Navy Pier. The new multi-format venue, known as The Yard, sets a new benchmark in flexible theatre. Charcoalblue led the auditorium teams as well as designed the innovative flexibility, acoustics and technical design – working hand in hand with Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architects and Chicago Shakespeare's client team.



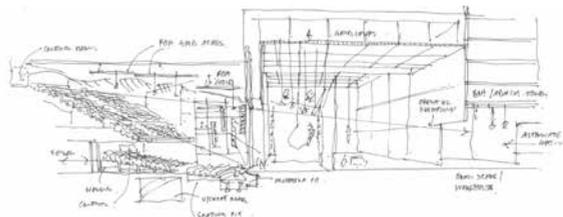


The Factory

Manchester, UK

Part of a vivid new creative city hub, The Factory will be a vivid new creative hub built on the site of the former Granada Studios.

Operated by the acclaimed Manchester International Festival, The Factory will offer year-round productions and events from opera to dance, immersive multimedia led work to pop concerts. Charcoalblue, collaborating with OMA, are using virtual reality models as a design tool for the performance spaces. All the technical systems are designed to be as flexible as possible to allow the users to create work with as few restrictions as possible. The warehouse has the capacity to hang 200 tonnes of scenery and technical equipment.



Perelman Center for the Performing Arts

at the World Trade Center, NY, USA

A new creative centrepiece being built as the next addition to the World Trade Center masterplan. The Perelman Center will provide much-needed flexible theatre space within the NY theatre community.

Charcoalblue helped define the project brief, architectural competition and have designed the performance spaces in this highly adaptable and digitally connected venue. The three theatres can function independently or be combined to create intimate drama spaces or cinema spaces, flat floor room for large scale pop concerts or immersive work.





'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

Nottingham, UK

A key cultural resource for Nottingham and the country as a whole.

A contemporary art gallery in the historic Lace Market has become a key cultural resource for Nottingham and the country. The building features four galleries and dedicated education and study areas, a café-bar and shop, and a large performance space designed to accommodate performance art, dance, theatre and music. Charcoalblue worked with the architect and client team to bring the feeling of a "found space" to the flexible performance venue, as well as ensuring that the technical infrastructure was adaptable enough for the venue to be able to host art exhibitions, events and performance.



Google

Worldwide

In over a 100 Google event/collaboration rooms, we've a design guide for their Hangouts Meet video conferencing hardware, using our knowledge of room design, user experience, acoustics, lighting, video & audio consultancy to improve communications around the world.



HOME

Manchester, UK

HOME, a brand-new production centre for international contemporary art, theatre and film, it is the merger of the Cornerhouse Cinema and Visual Arts Centre with the Library Theatre Company. The intent was to provide a cross-artform setting and production centre for the arts.



BAFTA

London, UK

The extensive refurbishment of the home of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, includes refitting one of the world's best screening rooms, a second cinema, presentation and gaming theatre and a range of high spec events spaces with the latest audiovisual technology.



Film & Media Department, Pratt

Institute, Brooklyn, NY, USA

The new Film Department offers a cutting-edge education space dedicated to the school's acclaimed filmmaking and video production courses. Established in 1887 by Charles Pratt, it was one of the first in the US open to students regardless of class, race or gender.



'Charcoalblue worked in close collaboration with Haworth Tompkins and the client to develop the brief through to detailed design of this extraordinary, highly flexible performing arts centre, with fantastic knowledge and attention to detail, applying the highest professional standards to a school with huge ambition'

Ayeshah Zolghadr, Haworth Tompkins

The Peter Hall Performing Arts Centre, Perse School

Cambridge, UK

The school's new arts centre has been named after Sir Peter Hall, alumnus and founder of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Seen by the school as its most 'radical development' in over fifty years, the new performing arts centre is heralded as 'an environment in which everyone - whether artist, scientist or mathematician - can develop self-expression and fluency.'

The new building accommodates a flexible 370-seat auditorium as well as exhibition and rehearsal spaces. The building also hosts wardrobe and props stores, a green room and dressing rooms, a workshop, production office and foyers. Charcoalblue helped develop the brief for the new arts centre and architectural appointment.

Along with Haworth Tompkins, Charcoalblue provided full theatre consultancy and acoustic design services for the project creating a building which is a significant addition to the artistic and dramatic life of the school.



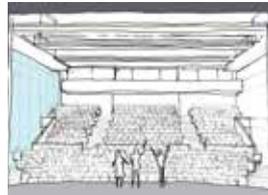


Waterfront Theatre, Esplanade

Theatres on the Bay, Singapore

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is Singapore’s national performing arts centre. A new mid-sized theatre will provide an exciting creative home for more experimental and locally produced works.

Charcoalblue led the feasibility study establishing the brief, outline design and site for new temporary venue. Architects61 with Charcoalblue, as theatre, theatre interior design, and acoustic consultants, are now developing the end-stage theatre to accommodate other events, including cabaret, fashion shows, and theatre in-the-round. The technical and acoustic designs will respond specifically to the operational needs of Esplanade and the requirements in presenting contemporary dance, theatre and traditional art forms including Chinese opera.

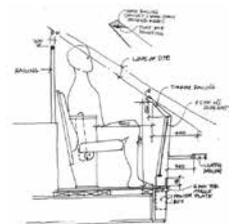


Wild Rice

Singapore

Wild Rice embarked upon a mission to create a new performing arts centre in Singapore which will provide an intimate thrust stage of 350 seats, along with support facilities.

As Singapore’s largest independent theatre producer, the project is an important milestone for the company and Singapore’s theatrical landscape. The design of the theatre draws on both the best international references and important local cultural touchstones. It includes administration for the company, a studio for both rehearsals and performances, a rehearsal studio, offices and meeting rooms.





Bristol Old Vic

Bristol, UK

New spaces help to reaffirm the organisation's role as a cultural centre that will entice guests through the doors from a cup of coffee to curtain call.

Built in 1766, the Bristol Old Vic has proven itself to be not only one of the most exciting centres for performance in the UK, but one of the most resilient. As part of Bristol Old Vic's 250th anniversary celebrations, we worked with Haworth Tompkins on a new studio theatre, completed alongside a major redevelopment of their front of house facilities.

We supported the design team with the theatre and acoustic design for the studio theatre, a naturally lit and ventilated space which has been inserted into the barrel store of the historic Cooper's Hall. A dedicated series of overhead rigging points with distributed stagelighting and audiovisual network links gives the theatre the ability to flex its space for the specific needs of a production or event.



Ruin, London - mythical nightclub installation, Ben Kelly - lighting design and audiovisual system design Charcoalblue

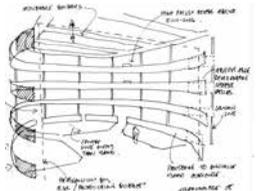
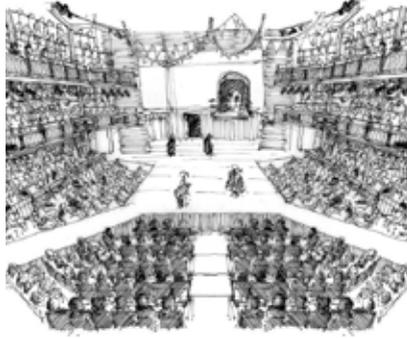
Royal Shakespeare Theatre

Stratford-upon-Avon, UK

The new Royal Shakespeare Theatre was four years in the making, it is a radical new theatre between a listed façade and the existing Swan Theatre.

In collaboration with the Royal Shakespeare Company and architects Bennetts Associates, Charcoalblue led the auditorium design, the backstage planning and the complete design of the theatre technical systems. The scheme was a direct response to RSC Artistic Director Michael Boyd's unwavering vision for an intimate thrust-stage arena in which to perform Shakespeare.

The intimate stripped-back auditorium is based on Charcoalblue's temporary Courtyard Theatre, a full scale prototype built with Ian Richie Architects, providing a three-dimensional universe for the dramatic treatment of Shakespeare's universal themes. Wraparound seating allows for an immediate contact between audience and players, as well as audience and audience, and gives a rich dimension to heaven and hell, light and dark, silence and thundering sound. It's all about shared experience and the success of that clearly lies in audience involvement and reaction.



'We could not have achieved this without the imagination of our Theatre Consultants, Charcoalblue... It has been a long journey from late night cups of coffee over a cardboard model years ago to opening our doors to the public'

Vikki Heywood, RSC Executive Director 2003-13

© Stuart Hemley





Completed Projects

Theatre

Unicorn Children's Theatre, London, UK
 Young Vic, London, UK
 Theatre Royal, Newcastle, UK
 Ustinov Studio, Bath, UK
 Quarterhouse, Folkestone, UK
 Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, UK
 Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury, UK
 Bristol Old Vic, Bristol, UK
 St George's Chapel, Yarmouth, UK
 Birmingham Rep, Birmingham, UK
 Everyman Theatre, Liverpool, UK
 Dorfman Theatre, National Theatre, London, UK
 Lyric Theatre, London, UK
 Chichester Festival Theatre, Chichester, UK
 Le Théâtre Elisabethain Au Château D'Hardelot, France
 St Ann's Warehouse, New York, NY, USA
 The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon, UK
 York Theatre Royal, York, UK
 Orange Tree Theatre, London, UK
 Perth Theatre, Perth, UK
 Hippodrome and Theatre Hullaboo, Darlington, UK
 Theatre Peckham, London, UK
 New Theatre, Hull, UK
 The Yard, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Chicago, IL, USA
 Baltimore Center Stage, Baltimore, UK
 Hudson Theatre, New York, NY, USA
 Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford, UK
 Kiln Theatre, London, UK
 Victorian Theatre, Alexandra Palace, London, UK
 Mayflower Theatre, Southampton, UK
 Lyric Theatre, New York, NY, USA
 Southern Rep, New Orleans, LA, USA
 Cast, Doncaster, UK
 Rotondes, Luxembourg
 Theatre Squared, Arkansas, USA
 Sherling Studio, Lighthouse, Poole, UK
 Camden Roundhouse, London, UK
 Bloomsbury Theatre, London, UK

Performing Arts Centres

Curve, Leicester, UK
 Battersea Arts Centre, London, UK
 Bluecoats Arts Centre, Liverpool, UK
 Corby Cube, Corby, UK
 HOME, Manchester, UK
 Storyhouse, Chester, UK

Concert / Recital Hall / Opera

Snape Maltins, Snape, UK
 Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, UK
 Queen Elisabeth Hall, Antwerp, Belgium
 Energy Hall, Expo 2017, Astana, Kazakhstan
 St George's Bristol (front of house), Bristol, UK
 Ebert Room, Glyndebourne, UK
 Linbury Theatre, Royal Opera House, London, UK
 The Coliseum (front of house), London, UK

Dance

Slobhan Davies Dance Studio, London, UK
 UK Centre for the Carnival Arts, Luton, UK
 Rambert, London, UK
 Dance4, Nottingham, UK

Temporary Theatres

Courtyard Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, UK
 Roundyard at Roundhouse for RSC, London, UK
 Temporary Theatre, National Theatre, London, UK
 Roundabout Theatre, Paines Plough, UK
 Luminato Festival, Hearn Power Station, Toronto, Canada

Museum/ Visual Arts / Installations

Hepworth Wakefield, Wakefield, UK
 Wonderlab, National Science and Media Museum, UK
 MK Gallery, Milton Keynes, UK
 Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, UK
 PJ Harvey: Recording In Progress, Somerset House
 RUIIN, The Store X, London, UK
 Sonic Playground, Atlanta, GA, USA
 The Pod, moveable podcast studio, London, UK
 "Strange Days" Lighting Design, The Store X, London, UK

Business Planning

Towngate Theatre, Basildon, UK
 Cheltenham Town Hall, Cheltenham, UK

Event Space

Amnesty International, London, UK
 The Matcham Room, Hippodrome, London, UK
 John Lyon's Theatre, City Lit, London, UK
 Facebook Headquarters, London, UK
 JW3, London, UK
 International Conference Centre, Birmingham, UK
 National Archives, Kew, UK

Office / Infrastructure

Google Hangouts, Worldwide
 Rockvilla, National Theatre of Scotland, Glasgow, UK
 RocketSpace, London, UK
 Scottish Power House, Glasgow, UK
 Preston Bus Station, Preston, UK

Outdoor

Greek Theatre, Bradfield College, Reading, UK
 Pier 55, New York, USA

Rehearsal

National Theatre Studios, London, UK
 Graeae, London, UK
 The Backstage Centre, Purfleet, UK
 Donmar Warehouse Dryden Street, London, UK

School

The North Wall, St Edward's School, Oxford, UK
 The 400 Hall, Repton School, Derby, UK
 The Great Hall, The Leys School, Cambridge, UK
 Samuel Pepys Theatre, St Paul's School, London, UK
 Sarah Abraham Recital Hall, Brighton College, Brighton, UK
 Cedars Hall, Wells Cathedral School, Wells, UK
 Whitty Theatre, Luckley House School, Wokingham, UK
 Cobham Theatre, Bromsgrove School, Bromsgrove, UK
 Routh Hall, Bromsgrove School, Bromsgrove, UK
 Griffin Theatre, Rendcomb College, Cirencester, UK
 Rogers Theatre, Malvern College, Malvern, UK
 Peter Hall Performing Arts Centre, The Perse School, UK
 G. W. Annenberg PAC, Wellington College, UK
 New Bury Theatre, Hurstpierpoint College, Hassocks, UK
 St Ann's School, Brooklyn, NY, USA
 The Malthouse, The King's School, Caterbury, UK

University

Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London, UK
 Film Department Building, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY, USA
 LAMDA, London, UK
 Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham, UK
 Edric Hall, London Southbank University, London, UK
 Judge Business School, Cambridge, UK

Broadcast and Cinemas

WNYT News Channel 13, Albany, NY, USA
 Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, UK
 Barbican Cinemas 2 and 3, London, UK

London

180 The Strand
2 Arundel Street
London WC2R 3DA

Bristol

6 King Street
Bristol
BS1 4EQ

Glasgow

The Old Sheriff Court
105 Brunswick Street
Glasgow G1 1TF

New York

150 West 28th Street
Suite 1504
New York, NY 10001

Chicago

1018 W. Madison St.
1C Suite 8
Chicago, IL 60607

Melbourne

Suite 1.02 153-161 Park Street
South Melbourne
VIC 3205