

Bristol Old Vic

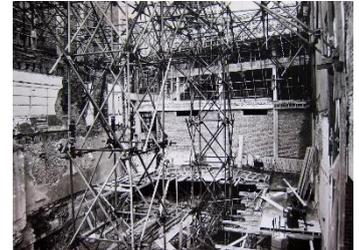
As part of its 250th anniversary celebrations, a redevelopment project was undertaken which transformed Bristol Old Vic into a national arts and heritage space, bringing back a formal Georgian hall, creating a new studio theatre and opening up the unique theatrical heritage to the public and streetscape for the first time.

Momentum Consulting Engineers worked as part of a design team led by architectural practice Haworth Tompkins. The project, which set out to make the theatre a welcoming place for the whole of Bristol, also involved a major redevelopment of the front of house facilities to include a new wide, open entrance foyer with lifts to all floors, additional WCs, extended bars and the return of Coopers' Hall to its original 18th century use as an events space for the city.



The design team was made up of a number of South West based companies including Momentum, Max Fordham, Charcoal Blue, Gardiner and Theobald and GVA, who consulted for three months prior to starting with the public, council, heritage organisations, audiences and staff.

The team met the engineering challenge of delivering a design that created a new arts orientated destination of national importance within an existing city centre, Grade 1 listed building to a fixed budget.



The new foyer design is inspired by the openness of an Italian piazza, with natural light filling the space through high level windows. As a result, the reimagined building and new spaces has allowed Bristol Old Vic to transform from a producing theatre to a four-part business which includes becoming a heritage tourist destination, an events business and a 1766 Bar&Kitchen.

In the past 12 months, Bristol Old Vic has for example:

- Created 42 new jobs, 55 volunteer posts and provided work experience for 25 young people
- Inspired over 40,000 young people through workshops and performances
- Helped to support and develop the next generation of theatre makers through its Writers department and Ferment artists development strand and opened a brand new studio theatre to support and present that work.
- Through its commercial partnership with Fosters, provided 1,036 preshow dinners, 29 events in Coopers' Hall, nine Christmas parties and one wedding
- Worked with the Bristol Theatre Collection and Bristol Archives to digitise over 20,000 items (now accessible from the comfort of BOV's exhibition spaces) and created an interactive heritage experience with visual artists, digital artists ZubrVR, Limbic Cinema and Aardman.