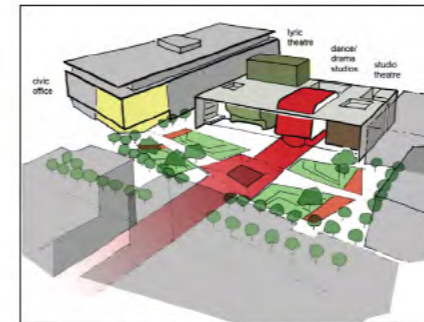




"Suzie collaborated creatively and effectively with the many different stakeholders in the project - MUSE, Doncaster MB Council, the operator and Arts Council England... CAST formed the centre piece of our master plan vision. We hoped it would be the trigger for regenerating the run-down Waterdale area, and the project has exceeded our expectations."

Michael Broadhead - Projects Director, MUSE



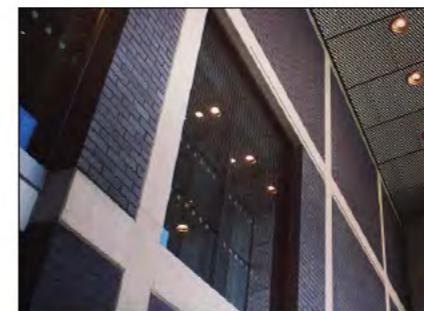
Project Concept - a 'cultural living room'



The new cultural living room



Exterior view from the new public square



Viewing window - main studio

Awards and Publications
 LABC 2014 'Best commercial building over £1m'
 RICS Project of the Year 2014
 RIBA North East 2014: Short-listed
 Guardian Jan 2014:
 "Doncaster stages a bold revival of the arts with 'cultural living room'."

cast

Client: MUSE / Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
 Value: £17 million Procurement: D and B - novated
 Completion: Summer 2013, on time and under budget
 Role: Lead designer and lead consultant (Director Arts Team)

reimagining matcham's theatre

The new arts venue CAST was delivered as part of MUSE Developments proposals for the regeneration of Waterdale in Doncaster. The team brought together leading experts to help define an arts venue that would attract audiences from, according to Arts Council England, one of the UK's least Arts-engaged towns. Effective collaboration with the many stakeholders was key to obtaining and maintaining support through changing political climates.

Following the preparation of detailed design and specifications, with a comprehensive development brief, the project was delivered through a Design and Build contract.

design approach

CAST is a new genre of community-focussed arts venue aimed at new and young audiences. It is vibrant, energy-efficient and welcoming.

It was conceived as a creative 'toolbox' - a flexible collection of spaces that can respond to current and future markets in a changing Doncaster.

Internally, the open informal foyers offer a range of different gathering spaces which connect the suite of performance rooms, encouraging visitors to interact with the arts. This has become known as the "cultural living room" of Doncaster.

The venue is used not only to view work but also to teach the skills needed to make and present new theatre. It provides different performance spaces with different technical facilities:

The 600 seat theatre provides a traditional proscenium lyric space for touring and home made productions.

The 200 seat flat floor studio theatre provides an experimental, cutting edge room for a variety of events - from rock and pop, to comedy and street dance.

The suite of dance and drama rehearsal studios provide a intimate but professionally equipped space for creating new work, or for event hire to generate revenue.

Two years on, the people of Doncaster have embraced the arts as much as the building and made it their own. The building forms the centre piece of the much larger Waterdale development. Future projects will include retail, sports and library spaces.