



Aylesbury Waterside Theatre: view inside the main foyer

aylesbury waterside theatre

"We wanted a statement building - a building that when the public drove past and saw it, they'd remember it. We've got what we asked for!"
Norman Skedge, Director

Client: Aylesbury Vale District Council
Value: £42 million
Completed: September 2010
Role: Director for Arts Team RHWL



Artists' impression of competition winning design

Aylesbury Waterside was commissioned by the local authority as the centre piece to its regeneration of the Waterside area of the town centre, and was the winning entry into the competition for the venue.

Now operated by Apollo Theatre Group, the 1,200-seat auditorium, which can be converted to a 1,800 capacity hall, delivers a diverse range of national touring product.

Designed primarily for amplified music - musicals, rock and pop, comedy and dance - the venue also has an electro-acoustic enhancement system which delivers a high quality sound for live classical and opera performances.

The main structure for the foyers is constructed for a huge layered timber frame, creating a dramatic and dynamic ambience throughout the public areas.

The second space, a 225-seat function room, is designed primarily for meetings and conferences, but can also accommodate exhibitions, screenings, drama and dance recitals.

Low energy and eco concepts were a key part of our design thinking. A field of geothermal piles provides heating and cooling to the theatre; grey water is reused through back of house areas; low energy lights are suited through the whole building; low energy and local materials were sourced and informed our design decisions.



View of external timber frame and plinth



View of studio from VIP foyer



View of auditorium (by Hufton+Crow)

suzie bridges architects