

Project Newsletter  
Issue 2  
Autumn 2016

## Site Update



It has been a busy few months for the Royal Opera House's Open Up project. More than 60,000 man hours have been completed on site and there are many as 75 contractors working here each day. Logistical operations on site are immensely complex, as the construction work must be delivered in conjunction with the Royal Opera House's production schedule, with shared access for the delivery and collection of building materials alongside sets, costumes and staging paraphernalia. Keeping a green, clean site is a priority in this project, and we are pleased to be currently achieving a 95% waste recycling rate.

Externally, the excavations on Bow Street are well underway to extend the façade of the building, creating larger foyer spaces and a new terrace adjoining the Paul Hamlyn Hall. Work has also started on the entrance from Covent Garden Piazza – a feature entrance designed to make the Royal Opera House more visible from the Market.

When excavating in London there is always a chance of finding archaeological items in the ground. Indeed, during the last redevelopment on the Royal Opera House site, significant Saxon remains were found and

these are now housed in the British Museum. While it would have been fascinating to be in this position again, the project team are very relieved that with the expert oversight from Pre Construct Archaeology (who have been on site for some months to observe the excavation as it progresses), we have not made any discoveries this time as it would have caused delay to the project.



Proposed Linbury Theatre Foyer ©Stanton Williams.

Inside the building, work to the main foyer and Linbury Theatre is also progressing. Swift Crafted has been appointed to carry out the Fit Out and the Joinery works across the project, including the new Linbury Theatre.

## Meet the designers

As the building goes through its transformation, project architects Stanton Williams are regularly on site to manage design coordination, assess progress and check the quality of work. Great attention has been paid to the detail of the finishes in the design of this scheme. The selection of materials is an important part of the design process, and the team has travelled to stone quarries in Spain and to the timber yards in the Liverpool docks to source the appropriate products.

## Impact on Audiences

This autumn, a small but important element of the project will complete and new public toilets will open on the Lower Ground Floor of the building. This is in fact only Phase One of remodelling these facilities which, when completed, will increase provision by around 30%.

Ensuring that we continue to meet the expectations of audiences visiting the Royal Opera House for performances is a major consideration in how we have planned the project. This requires careful planning of each change in the front of house areas, ensuring staff are kept abreast of the latest alternative arrangements, and we are managing every element of the visitor experience each night.



Ladies' toilets, Lower Ground Floor ©Geoff Crawford.

To that end, temporary bars and cloakroom facilities have been introduced where needed, we have launched e-tickets and taken the opportunity to upgrade systems so that interval drinks can be

ordered via the ROH Bars app and programmes can be purchased using contactless payment. All these changes are designed to ensure we can help audience members as quickly as possible at a time when the building is a little more challenging to navigate.



Linbury Theatre ©Geoff Crawford.

## Site Awards

We think it is important to reward our contractors for their hard work and good conduct on site. In July we awarded Benga a prize to recognize his ongoing excellent attitude. He is always happy to help and prides himself in keeping a tidy site, regardless of who made the mess. In August, Costel won the award for an act of kindness. Away from the construction site, he noticed that a lady had slipped over and hurt her arm. He, of course, ran over to be of assistance and provided the lady with first aid.

### Contact details

For more information, please visit our website; [www.roh.org.uk/open-up](http://www.roh.org.uk/open-up)

To get in touch with one of the ROH project team, please call Harriet on 07890 545720 or send us an email on [openup@roh.org.uk](mailto:openup@roh.org.uk)

If you have any questions regarding the activity on site, you can also contact Richard Jones at Rise on 07425 982440

