

Issue 3

Site Update

Happy New Year!

The Open Up project continues apace. By the end of last year, more than 90,000 man hours had been completed on the project to refurbish the Royal Opera House's public spaces and Linbury Theatre.



Image: Bow Street ©Geoff Crawford

In mid-January, an intricate piece of engineering work will commence as we prepare to install a new transfer beam beneath the Paul Hamlyn Hall. Once this is in place, we will be able to remove the

existing columns and create an unobstructed glass façade to bring more light into the foyer space and give passers-by on Bow Street the ability to see into the building. The works will take place during the day to ensure that the Paul Hamlyn Hall is available for our audience each evening.

Once this work is completed, we will be able to complete the structural works to the east of the Hall and remove the large hoarding in this area. Later in the spring, we will commence work to form a new access staircase from the ground-floor corridor into the Paul Hamlyn Hall, which will transform how we can use the space throughout the day.

We are preparing the final plans for refurbishment works to the Conservatory. In the spring of this year, a revised layout will be realized with a new bar and new flooring, lighting and furniture. We have taken inspiration in the designs from photographs in the Royal Opera House Collections archive which show how this space operated in the early part of the 20th century.

Amphitheatre Works

We are thrilled to announce the appointment of Studio Linse as interior designers for the refurbishment works of the Amphitheatre foyer, bar, restaurant and terrace. Studio Linse are based in Amsterdam and have a very impressive portfolio of work, which responds with elegant and sensitive designs to historic buildings while improving and upgrading visitor experiences and catering facilities. Recent projects include the café and restaurant at the Rijksmuseum and 'De Plantage', both in Amsterdam.

During the interview process, we were extremely impressed by Studio Linse's initial creative ideas and their approach to creating a space that feels an integral part of the whole Open Up scheme, while achieving its own identity and responding to visitors' needs. Studio Linse will work closely with our architects, Stanton Williams, over 2017 to develop and realize the designs.

Updates to Visitor Experience



Image: Ladies' toilets ©Geoff Crawford

In October we completed a vital part of the project when we opened the new toilets on the lower ground floor. While currently configured in a temporary arrangement, the facilities are vastly improved and more befitting our audience experience. On completion of the project, we will re-open gentlemen's toilets on the ground floor and complete the final layout of the lower ground floor facilities, delivering a 30% increase on our previous capacity.

Site Awards and Community Work

In the last months we have awarded various site awards to our contractors. For our August award, Francesca di Stefano ('Frankie') received an award for her tireless hard work in getting the toilets ready for opening in October. Tiberiu Szekely ('Tibi') and Valentin Paraschiv both received awards for keeping the public safe with their diligent traffic marshalling.

We are keen to embrace practical and charitable causes as a part of the Open Up project and have chosen to partner with St Mungo's to support homeless people to find meaningful work experience with us in the hope that we can develop their skills and help these people find jobs in the future. We recently welcomed a group from the charity for a site tour, and have many other activities planned in the coming months.



Image: Linbury Void ©Geoff Crawford

Contact details

For more information, please visit our website; 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

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