

FIT FOR A QUEEN

MAIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY : Hansen Yuncken
ARCHITECT : COX Architecture
CONSTRUCTION VALUE : \$66 million



The Her Majesty's Theatre (The Maj) Redevelopment transformed the iconic South Australian landmark into a state-of-the-art theatre whilst respecting its steeped history. The project involved the construction of a new larger auditorium and modern bars over three levels, spacious backstage facilities and an overall more accessible venue.

Cox Architecture's design philosophy paid homage to the building's heritage, seamlessly integrating unique heritage characteristics with a classic contemporary design.

"Her Majesty's Theatre is a unique project for Hansen Yuncken showcasing our engineering and heritage skills. We are proud to have preserved this well-loved icon for future generations," said Project Director, Scott Brumfield.

The project comprised restoration of the theatre's heritage façade and eastern wall with the remaining theatre demolished. Elements of the theatre's history were preserved, such as the striking brass balustrades and the famous Signature Wall, meticulously removed prior to demolition and have been reinstated in the new theatre. The auditorium, with its increased seating capacity to 1,467, has wheelchair access to all three levels.

The main entrance has been reinstated to the centre and features a stylish canopy, two sweeping staircases in the expanded main foyer and some original Edwardian elements including pressed metal ceilings and elegant architraves and moldings.

New backstage facilities include a rehearsal room the same size as the stage, as well as new dressing rooms across multiple levels and a green room for performers to wait comfortably to be called to stage.

Reimagining A South Australian Icon

"Land purchased next door to the theatre expanded the footprint allowing spacious modern foyers, more bathrooms and lifts," said National Design Manager, Stuart Warnes. "Through research by Cox Architecture, original 1913 plans were discovered, depicting an Art Nouveau curve to the balcony, and these informed the auditorium design."

A Heritage Impact Statement was prepared to assess the impact of the works to the facades providing guiding principles for the final design. Building Information Modelling (BIM) was used to coordinate works from design through to construction. "A point survey and scan of the interiors was undertaken by Cox Architecture and the information collected enabled them to create

a design that would interface precisely with the existing façades," Scott explained.

Onsite work started in April 2018 with the bracing of the two heritage façades, 54.6t of steel and over 400t of concrete was used to create the facade retention bracing system, enabling safe demolition to be carried out behind. "The use of BIM provided us with confidence and certainty," said Scott. "To overcome the level of engineering required to retain the heritage facades whilst demolition and construction continued."

Approximately 950t of steel was required for the building's framework and the larger elements were prefabricated due to the limitations of the tight city site. "As part of the D&C contract we redesigned the steel work and pre-cast concrete walls in the auditorium allowing the precast to be propped by the permanent structure, thereby avoiding the need for complex temporary works," said Stuart. Innovative and forward thinking allowed the project team to come up with best for project outcomes and overcome the constraints of the site location.

During peak periods there were up to 150 people onsite, with over 1,000 workers inducted throughout the project and a workforce of at least 90% South Australians.

Hansen Yuncken is a national Australian construction company, founded in 1918, employing over 650 people. The company has completed over 5,000 projects and has managed the construction of several Australian landmark buildings.

Across the country, they have a myriad of impressive projects in the leisure and entertainment sectors. From The Hedberg in Tasmania to the Home of the Arts (HOTA) in Queensland through to the recently completed Sydney Coliseum Theatre in New South Wales, each project brings a unique taste of creativity and initiative, topped with Hansen Yuncken's enduring reputation for quality.

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Below Installation Theatrical Engineering designed, supplied and installed the stage and theatre equipment, over 12 months.

Below Duracube manufactured and installed sophisticated, customised floor mounted ceiling fixed toilet partition system.

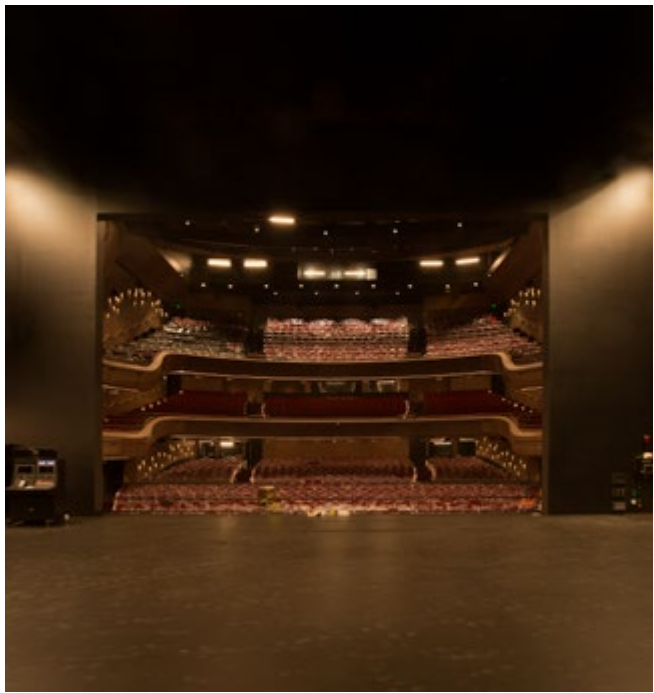


Installation Theatrical Engineering (ITE) is an innovative theatre engineering company with over 40 years experience in the design, supply and installation of stage and theatre equipment. Their products include a range of motorised hoists and platforms, drapes and pulley systems, battens for AV and lighting as well as custom steelwork and stage fitouts.

In late 2018, ITE started a 12 month design process for Her Majesty's Theatre where they installed a complete fly system and orchestra lift.

"We all worked with our Mechanical Engineer, Martin Clenick, to design a multi-purpose truss batten, the first of its kind," explained Project Administrator, Jonathan Agosta. "It can hold up to 500kg and has a motorised trolley system to enable the movement of equipment quickly, safely and silently. Site foreman, Steve Major started the installation in late 2019, working with Apprentice, Leigh Poyner and Electrician, Mark Grogan to complete the project by early May 2020. Thanks are due to the great team for their creative and high quality work."

For more information Installation Theatrical Engineering, 816 Lorimer Street, Port Melbourne VIC 3207, phone 03 9646 0822, email info@ite.net.au, website www.ite.net.au



Duracube started working with Hansen Yuncken on the concept plans for the washrooms at Her Majesty's Theatre in early 2019 with specific designs finalised by June.

"We designed, manufactured and installed a customised floor mounted ceiling fixed toilet partition system featuring black hardware and black aluminium trims," explained Durasafe's Project Manager. "The partitions were made of Durasafe 13mm antibacterial compact laminate, a cost effective, durable, low maintenance material with a long life cycle."

"The client requested a multi-staged project and inhouse manufacturing for each stage, which took two weeks. We began installing the toilet cubicles toward the end of October 2019. This project uses the Durasafe 279 Charcoal colour in a matt finish and it's a very smart washroom," said the Project Manager. "The biggest hurdle was the initial delays onsite, then working with a very fast end to the programme to finish the install by November 2019."

Since 2012, Duracube has been installing their superior product across a range of sectors including council owned buildings, schools and offices, leisure centres and public spaces. They have completed fitouts

for airports, change rooms, commercial washrooms, aquatic centres and gyms, as well as end-of-trip facilities.

"Our inhouse design team works with architects, designers and builders to custom design their washrooms before we commence manufacturing in our 2,000m² facility. We also produce custom made wet and dry area bench seating, lockers and vanities and provide shop drawings with all our jobs as part of our quality assurance."

"Everyone deserves a better washroom – that's what we're here to create. 'Passion and expertise delivering a superior washroom experience.' The team at Duracube has been providing washroom products and services since the 1980s. We're a tight-knit family team that cares and we'd love to help you make your next project another success."

For more information contact Duracube, 9 Pullman Place, Emu Plains NSW 2750, phone 1300 387 228, email sales@duracube.com.au, website www.duracube.com.au

Her Majesty Theatre's famous signature wall, was carefully dismantled and reassembled during refurbishment works to preserve the Theater's long standing performance history.

