

# PROJECTS



KOTOBUKI SEATING

Part of the Kotobuki Seating Group



AUDIENCE  
SYSTEMS



# INTRODUCTION

## THE KOTOBUKI SEATING GROUP

AUDIENCE SYSTEMS IS PROUD TO BE PART OF AN INNOVATIVE GLOBAL FAMILY OF COMPANIES

The Kotobuki Seating Group is currently the world's largest group of seating companies. It is made up of seven companies across three continents, and owns an impressive global network of factories in Japan, USA, UK, Vietnam, Taiwan and Malaysia, employing over 1000 people. All are specialised in the manufacture of seats and seating systems and share a rigorous approach to design, quality, safety and technical excellence.

Kotobuki Seating started life over a century ago in Tokyo. Its founders were pioneers and innovators. Unafraid of evolution, today's Kotobuki Seating Group has grown strategically to incorporate seating companies from around the world, selected for their excellence in their fields. This allows us to be nimble, and to develop fruitful creative relationships with architects, designers and venue managers worldwide.

Wherever people come together you will find us, and we are rightly proud of our global portfolio of installations, which includes some of the world's most spectacular venues for entertainment, sport and education.



## WELCOME TO AUDIENCE SYSTEMS

MANUFACTURING IN THE UK FOR OUTSTANDING VENUES WORLDWIDE

Founded over 50 years ago, Audience Systems is one of the world's foremost manufacturers of retractable and auditorium seating. We work hand-in-hand with venues and specifiers to create beautiful, flexible auditoria.

Problem solvers at heart, we create individual designs for each customer we work with. Whether it's complex precision engineered structures for a busy arena or perfectly finished seats for a small performing arts centre, we apply our expertise to every project and every customer.

Our business is built on the dual principles of quality and sustainability. Our seating is not only well crafted, it's also durable. Many of our installations have been in place for 25 years or more, and our aftersales team is there for our customers throughout the life of their seating. We are constantly working to improve our business and reduce our impact on the planet.

Every week we have the privilege of working in fantastic venues all over the world. We have created this brochure to show you just a few.



Royal Albert Hall photo: Chris Christodoulou



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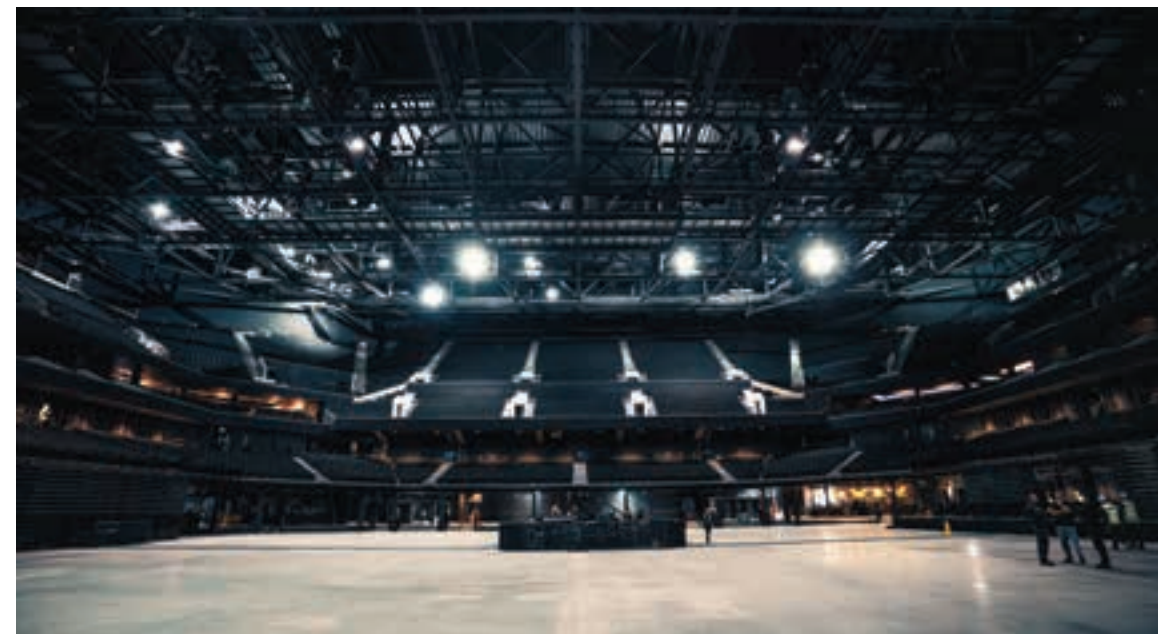


Photo by James Stead

## CO-OP LIVE

### EUROPE'S BIGGEST INDOOR ARENA

Working With: Oak View Group, Populous  
 GA Seats: TX Mobile Retractable Platform System,  
 Espace chairs (Including fold down and  
 removable 'Matrix' chairs)  
 VIP Seats: Espace High Back chairs  
 Number of Seats: 20,782

Audience Systems' Westbury factory produced 48 retractable units and fixed structures as well as 20,782 chairs for this huge new entertainment venue in Manchester.

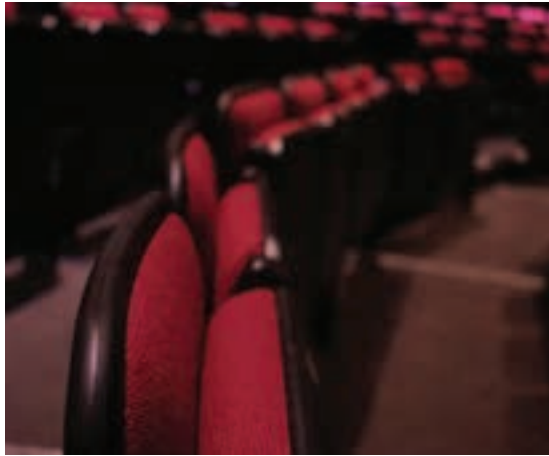
All the retractable units are mobile. Each can be quickly closed away using power trucks and completely removed from the arena bowl on a forklift. Speed is of the essence; one night the arena might have an all-seated 'in the round' set up for boxing, the next it may be in an 'end-stage' concert formation with the floor cleared for standing fans.

Espace seats are used throughout the arena, including on the retractable platforms. On the venue floor, the Matrix system is used, making these seats easy to stack and remove on special multi-layered stillages.





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## THE ROUNDHOUSE

A UNIQUE CIRCULAR AUDITORIUM DESIGNED TO BE COMPLETELY REMOVED AND STORED IN SHIPPING CONTAINERS

Working With: Charcoalblue, The Roundhouse  
 Stalls: Espace and Venue chairs  
 Retractable: TX Mobile Retractable Platform System, Espace chairs  
 Number of Seats: 1036

This celebrated London venue started life in the 19th century as a tramshed. It became known in the 1960s for its anarchic theatre performances, as well as the jaw-dropping lineup of iconic musicians who performed there.

The brief at the Roundhouse was to create a seating set up for the lower bowl that could be completely removed in a single day and stored in shipping containers in the venue's yard.

Audience Systems worked with theatre consultants Charcoalblue to create a highly customised and unique design. The 54 retractable units are each specially engineered and dimensioned to fit the uneven curves of this historic building.

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*"It's been a pleasure working with Audience Systems. There are some really knowledgeable members of that team."*

RUTH BUTLER, HEAD OF TECHNICAL AND PRODUCTION, THE ROUNDHOUSE

*"It's a unique design. It's a very bespoke system, very sleek, and it's finished wonderfully. There are some engineering efficiencies that are ingenious, and it's a testament to Audience Systems and its engineering department."*

ELINA PIERIDOU, CHARCOALBLUE



## SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE, THE STUDIO

Working With: Sydney Opera House, Maxwood Technology  
Retractable: TX Recessed Retractable Platform System,  
Evolve chairs  
Number of Seats: 130



**WALSH BAY ARTS PRECINCT  
BELL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE**

A MULTIPURPOSE THEATRE AND EVENTS  
SPACE WHERE TRADITION MEETS  
INNOVATION

Working With: Arup, TZG Architects, Create NSW,  
Maxwood Technology  
Retractable: TX Mobile Retractable Platform System,  
Accolade chairs  
Number of Seats: 295

The Bell Shakespeare Company exists to bring the timeless ideas of Shakespeare and his contemporaries to modern audiences. The seating specified for their new home brings traditional finishes and fabrics together with a 21st century twist.

Sitting on mobile retractable units, the seats provide huge flexibility to this small multi-use arts and performance space. The whole installation has an unmistakable aesthetic that sits in harmony with the fabulous backdrop of Sydney Harbour.



Additional photography of Walsh Bay projects courtesy of NSW government.



**WALSH BAY ARTS PRECINCT  
AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

AN AUDITORIUM SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO  
CREATE A RICH MUSICAL EXPERIENCE

Working With: Arup, TZG Architects, Create NSW,  
Maxwood Technology  
Retractable:: TX Recessed Retractable Platform System,  
Espace chairs  
Balconies: Espace chairs  
Number of Seats: 203

This beautiful auditorium forms part of the Australian Chamber Orchestra's first permanent home on Sydney harbourside.

The retractable seating is finished to a high standard throughout, from the chairs to the gorgeous custom flooring. Clever swivelling chairs on the balcony can face either into the room or towards the stage, depending on where the performance is taking place. The seat timbers complement the room's perforated wood panelling, and the whole space is designed for an exceptional musical experience with the very best acoustic performance.







## SWANSEA ARENA

AN ARENA BUILT TO HELP REGENERATE A CITY,  
WITH A CLEVER FLEXIBLE DESIGN

Working With: AFL Architects, Ambassador Theatre Group, Swansea Council, IPW  
Stalls: Accolade chairs (removable 'Matrix' type)  
Retractable: TX Recessed Retractable Platform System, Accolade chairs  
Balcony: Accolade and Espace High Back chairs  
Number of Seats: 2034

The crowning jewel in Swansea's Copr Bay regeneration project, Swansea Arena hosts 200 events per year. While a mixture of fixed, retractable and removable "Matrix" seats provides flexibility, the arena can also be divided front to back allowing two events to be held simultaneously. The flaming colour scheme boldly asserts the arena's status as a beacon for Swansea's future.







## THE GLOBE, STOCKTON-ON-TEES

### BRINGING A FADING ART DECO THEATRE BACK TO LIFE

Working With: ACT Consultants, Stockton-on-Tees  
Borough Council, Ambassador Theatre Group, Willmott Dixon

Stalls: Espace (removable 'Matrix' chairs)

Balconies: Icon chairs

Number of Seats: 1651

The Globe, a fine example of an art deco theatre, was brought back from the brink of dereliction with a complete refurbishment. On the balcony, our versatile Icon chair has been adapted with some special design touches to provide an authentic 1930s feel, but with superb comfort. In the stalls, our removable Matrix seating system was engineered to fit the sloping floor, with special trolleys to allow the seats to be lowered on a hydraulic orchestra pit and stored under the stage. The fresh, vibrant colour scheme leaves visitors in no doubt – this is a venue revived and reborn.







## PAISLEY TOWN HALL

A 19TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURAL GEM  
TRANSFORMED INTO AN ENTERTAINMENT  
VENUE

Working With: Holmes Miller, Charcoalblue, Morrison  
Construction, Renfrewshire Council  
Retractable: TX Travelling Retractable Platform System,  
Recital chairs  
Balcony: Recital chairs  
Number of Seats: 549

This archetypal Victorian Town Hall was brought to life by architects Holmes Miller as a multipurpose space for performances, conferences and weddings. Recital chairs grace both the balconies and the retractable seating bank. The chairs are upholstered in plush velvet, while timber details on the chairs and rails are toned to match the floor.

*"I am pleased with the appearance, finish, customisation and overall versatility of the Recital seating supplied by Audience Systems."*

STEVEN COULSON, ARCHITECT, HOLMES MILLER



Photos © Chris Humphreys Photography

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## THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

### LONDON'S BEST KNOWN VENUE

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Working With:    | The Royal Albert Hall                        |
| Circle:          | Custom designed auditorium chairs            |
| Upper Stalls:    | Custom designed swivelling, removable chairs |
| Choir Seating:   | Custom designed auditorium chairs            |
| Arena Floor:     | Removable 'Matrix' System with Espace chairs |
| VIP Boxes:       | Stacking chairs                              |
| Number of Seats: | 5426   |

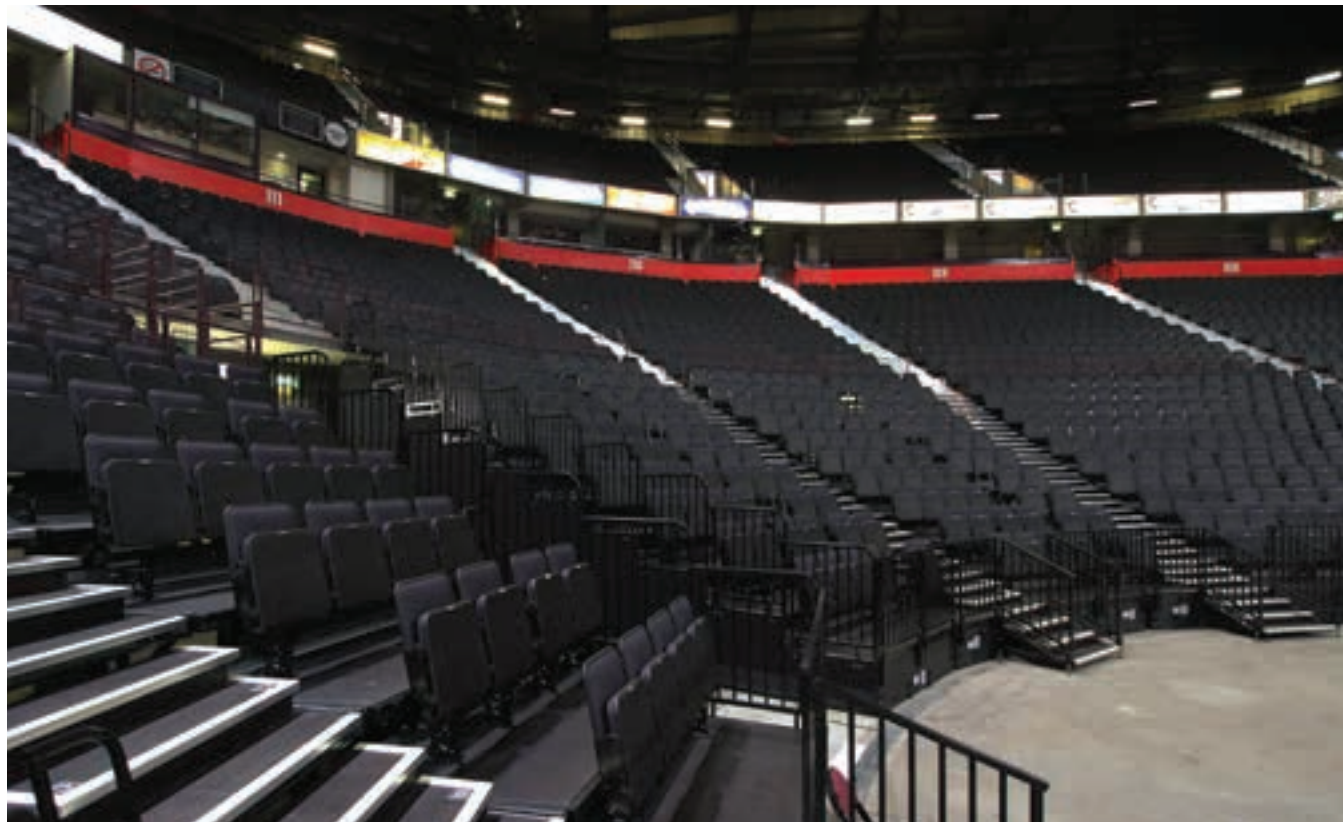
Audience Systems has been working with the incomparable Royal Albert Hall for over 30 years. During that time, we have replaced seats in all areas of the Grade I listed venue, creating custom designs for each distinctive area. As well as beautiful auditorium chairs, we have delivered a removable system for the arena floor which significantly speeds operations for this busy venue.

*"Audience Systems provided us with excellent service and attention to detail from conceptual stage through to delivery. We are extremely happy with the seating design which has reduced setting out time and manual labour."*

JEN MILLS, HEAD OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT, THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL







## AO ARENA, MANCHESTER

### A COMPLETE OVERHAUL ON A TIGHT SCHEDULE AT THIS HUGE MULTIPURPOSE ARENA

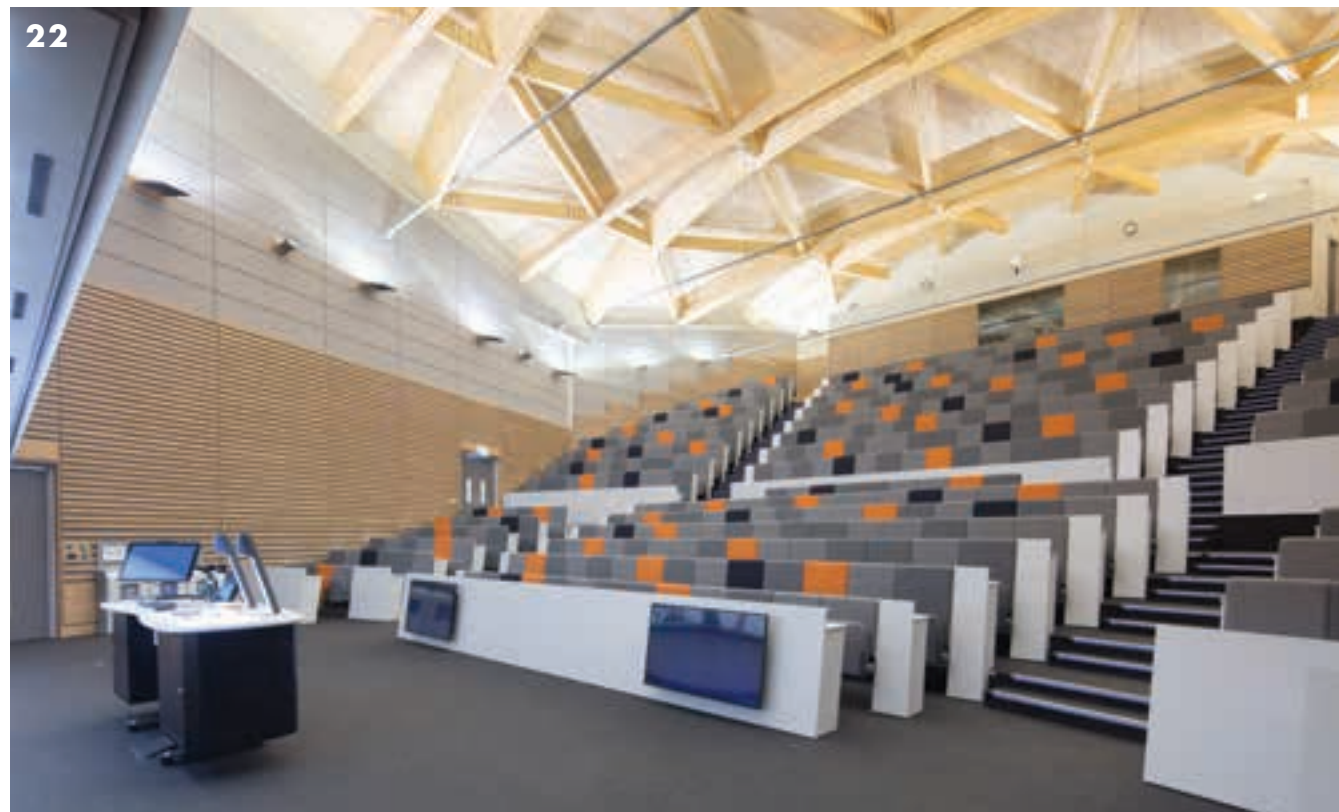
Working With: SMG Europe  
 Fixed Seating: Accolade chairs  
 Retractable: TX Recessed Retractable Platform System,  
 Accolade and Espace chairs  
 Number of Seats: 17,226

When Manchester Arena's operators decided to replace their hard-working seating, installed by Audience Systems some twenty years before, it was Audience Systems once again who provided the winning solution, installing over 11,000 new Accolade seats and refurbishing the Espace seats in the lesser used parts of the arena.

The replacement of the seating formed part of an extensive refurbishment programme, where tight adherence to the 44 day project schedule was critical. The retractable sections are designed to perfectly fit the arena bowl and clever design allowed the arena to increase capacity by 345 – a significant boost to revenue.







## OCULUS BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

### A NEST OF EYE-CATCHING LECTURE THEATRES

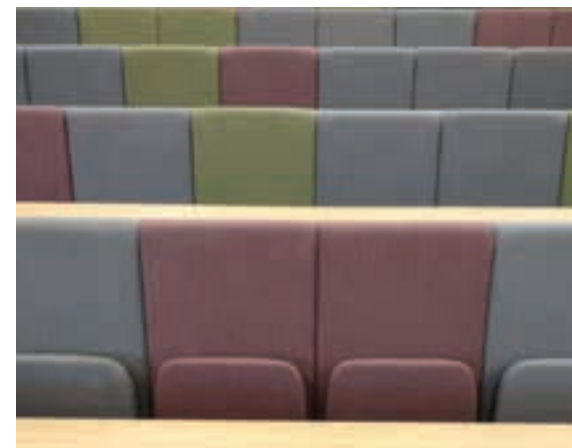
Working With: Berman Guedes Stretton, Willmott Dixon  
 Fixed Seating: Scholar chairs with writing tablets  
 Number of Seats: 751

*"I know that all of the team have been really impressed."*  
 BEN REANEY, DESIGN MANAGER, WILLMOTT DIXON

Nesting beneath the laminated timber roof of this flagship building are two stacked lecture theatres.

The larger, 500 seat lecture theatre is now the biggest on campus and features a steep rake of seating. Here, architects Berman Guedes Stretton chose a contemporary upholstery colour scheme to exploit the clean lines of the Scholar chairs. As a result, the seating sits comfortably with the spectacular roof, rather than overpowering it with too much visual detail.

Hidden away however are some key practical features, including charging facilities and recesses for integral LED lighting.



## QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, BELFAST

### TWO MODERN EDUCATION SPACES

Working With: Todd Architects, Felix O'Hare  
 Lecture Theatre: Tiering with Scholar chairs  
 'Harvard-Style': Tiering with Accolade swivel chairs  
 Number of Seats: 390

Queen's Management School at Queen's University Belfast is a world-renowned centre for research, undergraduate and postgraduate education. Audience

Systems worked with the project team to design, manufacture and install seating for two rooms in the Management School's brand new building.

The Mark Piggott Lecture Theatre was fitted out with tiering, as well as Scholar seats with continuous writing tablets. The 'Harvard-style' lecture theatre has smart Accolade chairs on swivelling bases, designed to foster group work and interaction. In both spaces, the tiering was complex, having to fit neatly around lighting, ventilation and power requirements for the students.



**EUROPA SPORTS CENTRE**

A MAJOR NEW SPORTS VENUE FOR GIBRALTAR

Working With: Interbuild, AKS Architects and Engineers, Ministry for Culture, The Media, Youth and Sport

Retractable: TX Mobile Retractable Platform System, Espace chairs

Number of Seats: 2482

Audience Systems supplied retractable and stacking seating for these bright multipurpose halls at Gibraltar’s major new sporting facilities. The seating was installed to the tight deadline of the island games.

The demanding timeframe required tight co-ordination with the client and other trades, as well as shift working on site. In addition, there were some logistical problems arising from Gibraltar’s unique terrain and customs status – all overcome with a little ingenuity!

The retractable seating units complete with Espace chairs provide a modern and seamless look to the seating area. Co-ordinating stacking chairs (not shown here) add even more flexibility to the capacity of these spaces, which hosted multiple events at the games.



“The project management, sales and installation teams were flawless from conception to completion. If I had to rate my overall experience in comparison to the many other installation works we undertake for various type of projects I would put Audience in my top three, if not THE top company I have dealt with.”

REAGAN LIMA, DIRECTOR, INTERBUILD.



Photography by Minko Menev

**ANGLO-AMERICAN SCHOOL, SOFIA**

A FIRST CLASS PERFORMANCE SPACE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Working With: GB Architecture, Theatre Consultants Collaborative, Factor TC

Retractable:: TX Recessed Retractable Platform System, Espace chairs

Balconies: Espace chairs

Removable: Espace (removable ‘Matrix’ chairs)

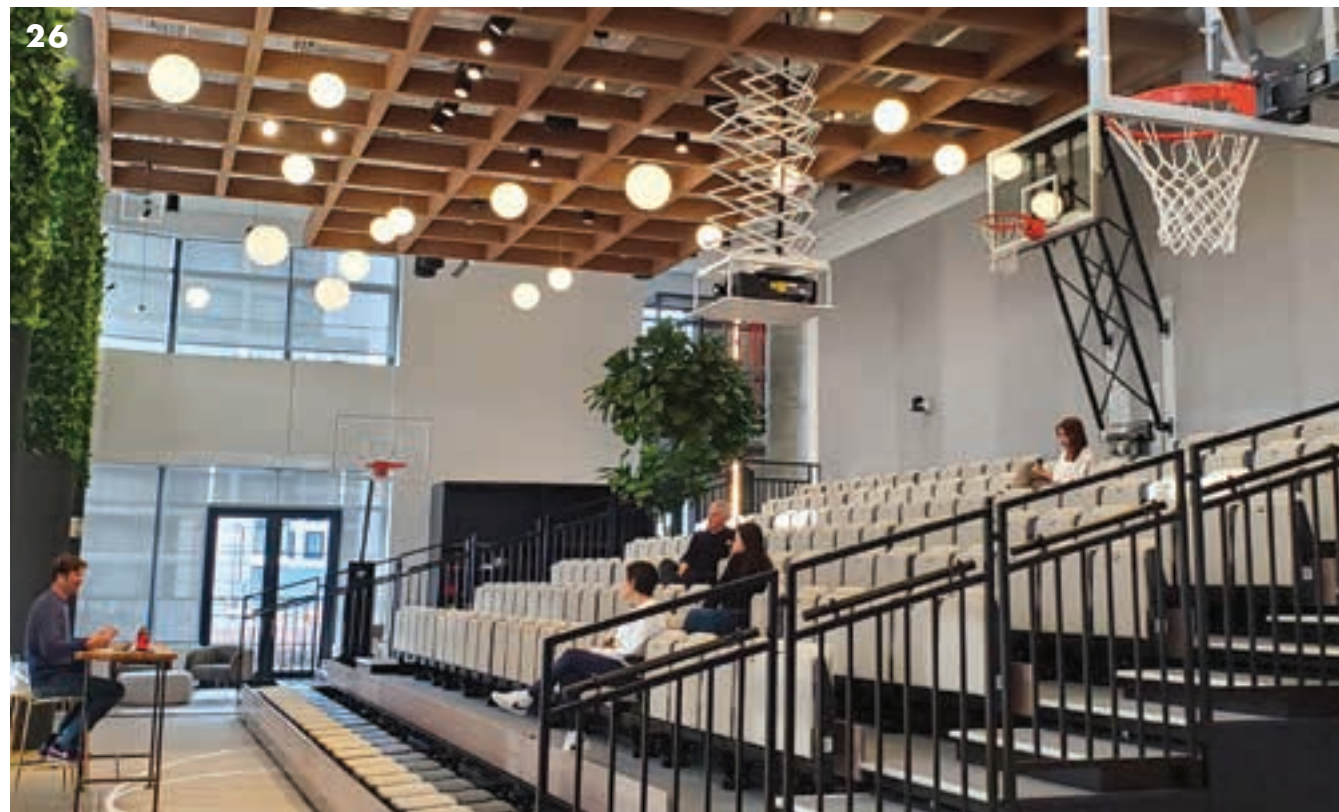
Number of Seats: 344

The impressive performing and visual arts centre at this international school won Building of the Year in Bulgaria’s Design Awards as well as receiving a number of awards for design and LEED Gold certification.

Here in the auditorium, the silver upholstery and vibrant timber accents of the seating sing in harmony with the room’s red carpets and drapes. It’s a space that will inspire students for years to come.







## NEXT JUMP FLAGSHIP OFFICE, NEW YORK

### SMART SEATING TO FIT THIS UNIQUE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

Working With: M Moser Associates, Titan Carter  
 Retractable: TX Retractable Platform System,  
 Espace chairs  
 Number of Seats: 184

Next Jump is the provider of “Perks at Work”, an employee benefits scheme used by 70% of Fortune 1000 Companies. Its groundbreaking headquarters building offers employees numerous opportunities for wellbeing, self-development, bonding and relaxation.

The retractable seating system is in a large area which doubles as a gathering space and basketball court. It was specially designed in small sections so it could reach this tenth floor space via the freight elevator. The seating closes away under power at the press of a button, and features a sharp palette of finishes, including fascias to match the room’s interior, LED lighting, and our smart, space efficient Espace chair.



## FULTON CENTRAL LIBRARY AUDITORIUM

### NEW LIFE FOR A BRUTALIST LANDMARK

Working With: HE Hodge, Moody Nolan  
 Retractable: TX Fixed Retractable Platform System,  
 Chorus benches  
 Number of Seats: 288

This appealing auditorium was created as part of the restoration of Fulton Central Library – a brutalist landmark in Georgia, USA.

Brutalist buildings often split opinions, and the library was scheduled for demolition and rebuild until the county government decided to re-imagine it instead. This massively reduced the project’s carbon footprint, as well as saving the last standing building by architect Marcel Breuer.

Inside the building, the new auditorium and events space has retractable seating complete with “Chorus” benches. Quick to pack away, the seating offers a clean aesthetic and high level of finish. The retractable platforms close under power, allowing the library to quickly change the space’s use. When the seating is folded away, timber fascias help the closed platforms to sit quietly in the space.





Photos: Richard Leo Johnson, Atlantic Archives Inc.



## SAVANNAH CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

A HIGH SPECIFICATION MULTIPURPOSE AUDITORIUM FOR THE ARTS COMMUNITY

Working With: Theatre Consultants Collaborative, Gunn Meyerhoff Shay Architecture, Titan Carter  
 Retractable: TX Recessed Retractable Platform System, Espace chairs  
 Orchestra Pit: Espace chairs  
 Number of Seats: 422

The Savannah Cultural Arts Center is a combined facility for visual and performing arts. It's a space where local people and artists can come together to engage with and create art. The Ben Tucker Theater is a truly multipurpose space. The auditorium includes not only retractable seating, but also tiered seats in the orchestra pit, which can be folded down and hidden beneath a pit cover. It's an innovative way to add even more configuration options to this very elegantly designed auditorium.







## WILTON'S MUSIC HALL

### THE WORLD'S ONLY SURVIVING GRAND MUSIC HALL

Working With: Wilton's Music Hall, Stage & Tiers,  
Cath Bates (Consultant)

Stalls: Accolade chairs (removable 'Matrix' type)

Balcony: Specially adapted Espace chairs

Number of Seats: 362

Photos courtesy of Stage & Tiers

Wilton's has a fascinating and colourful history dating back to 1859. The new seating was part of a programme of restoration which brought the auditorium back from a period of disrepair.

Audience Systems' Matrix chairs are a perfect solution for the stalls. Removable and reconfigurable, they leave no marks on the floor and can be laid out quickly in groups. On the balcony, Espace chairs are specially adapted for comfort and fit, with some raised to "barstool" height to give better sightlines.

A functional and atmospheric auditorium has emerged from near ruin, and today this East End grand music hall plays host to musical concerts, dance and storytelling.



## GLYNDEBOURNE OPERA HOUSE

### SITE OF THE WORLD FAMOUS OPERA FESTIVAL

Working With: Michael Hopkins and Partners,  
Glyndebourne Opera House

Seats: Special auditorium chair

Audience Systems worked with the architect and the venue's owners to create this stunning auditorium. The chairs are designed for exceptional acoustic performance, as well as the seated comfort which long opera performances demand. They also have an integral air delivery system in the base.

The chairs were installed in the 1990s, but remain in place today – a testament to their quiet durability.

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## BAY PAVILIONS, AUSTRALIA

AWARD-WINNING ARTS CENTRE WITH A DESIGN CENTRED ON SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY

Working With: NBRs, Donovan Payne Architects, Maxwood Technology  
 Retractable: TX Recessed Retractable Platform System, Espace chairs  
 Number of Seats: 351

Bay Pavilions takes its design cues from the beautiful local landscape. On the retractable seating unit, this translates into maple wood accents on the seats, platforms and rails. The upholstery fabric also calls to mind the sands and seagrasses of the bay and the Clyde River estuary.

The flexibility and accessibility of the auditorium ensures that it is an inviting and welcoming space for the whole community.







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## THE O<sub>2</sub> ARENA, LONDON

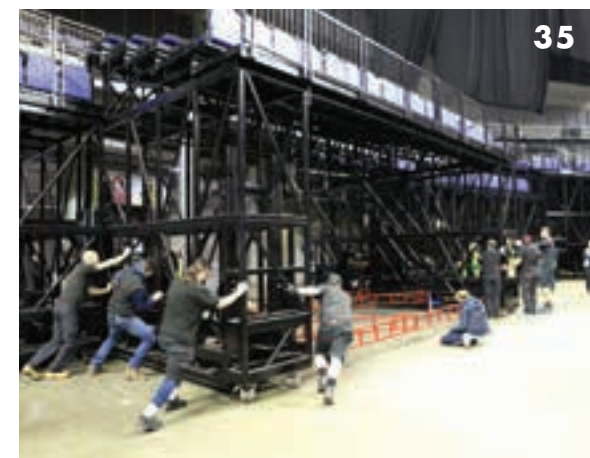
### THE WORLD'S BUSIEST ARENA

Working With: AEG Live  
 Stalls: Accolade chairs (removable 'Matrix' type)  
 Tiering: A range of specially designed and highly customised retractable and demountable structures. Espace High Back and Accolade chairs.  
 Club / VIP Seats: Espace High Back  
 Number of Seats: 8309 to date

A London landmark, The O<sub>2</sub> Arena is located under the canopy of the former Millennium dome, and attracts a stunning lineup of global superstars.

Audience Systems has been working with venue for over fifteen years, supplying seats and engineering complete bespoke solutions to increase capacity and to help the crew reconfigure the arena in very short windows of time. We've also created high specification VIP areas.

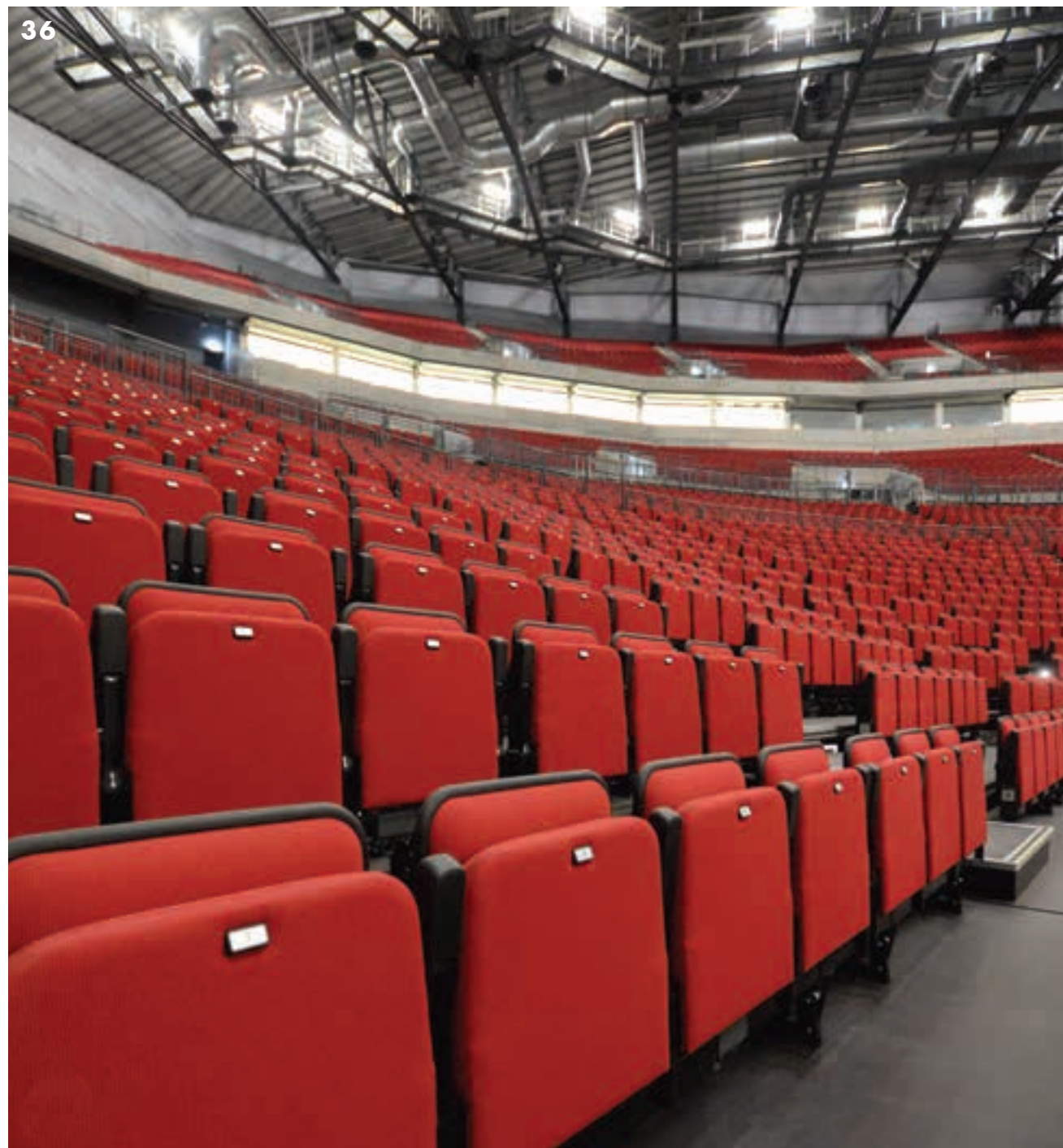
Among our designs for The O<sub>2</sub> are the demountable sections pictured top right, which include an extra wide unsupported span (a grand entrance for WWE wrestlers). These sections have a motorised "ducking" mechanism to fit through the arena doors – a one-off design for a venue that's truly one of a kind.



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## LEEDS ARENA

A TOWERING AUDITORIUM DESIGNED FOR A SPECTACULAR CONCERT EXPERIENCE

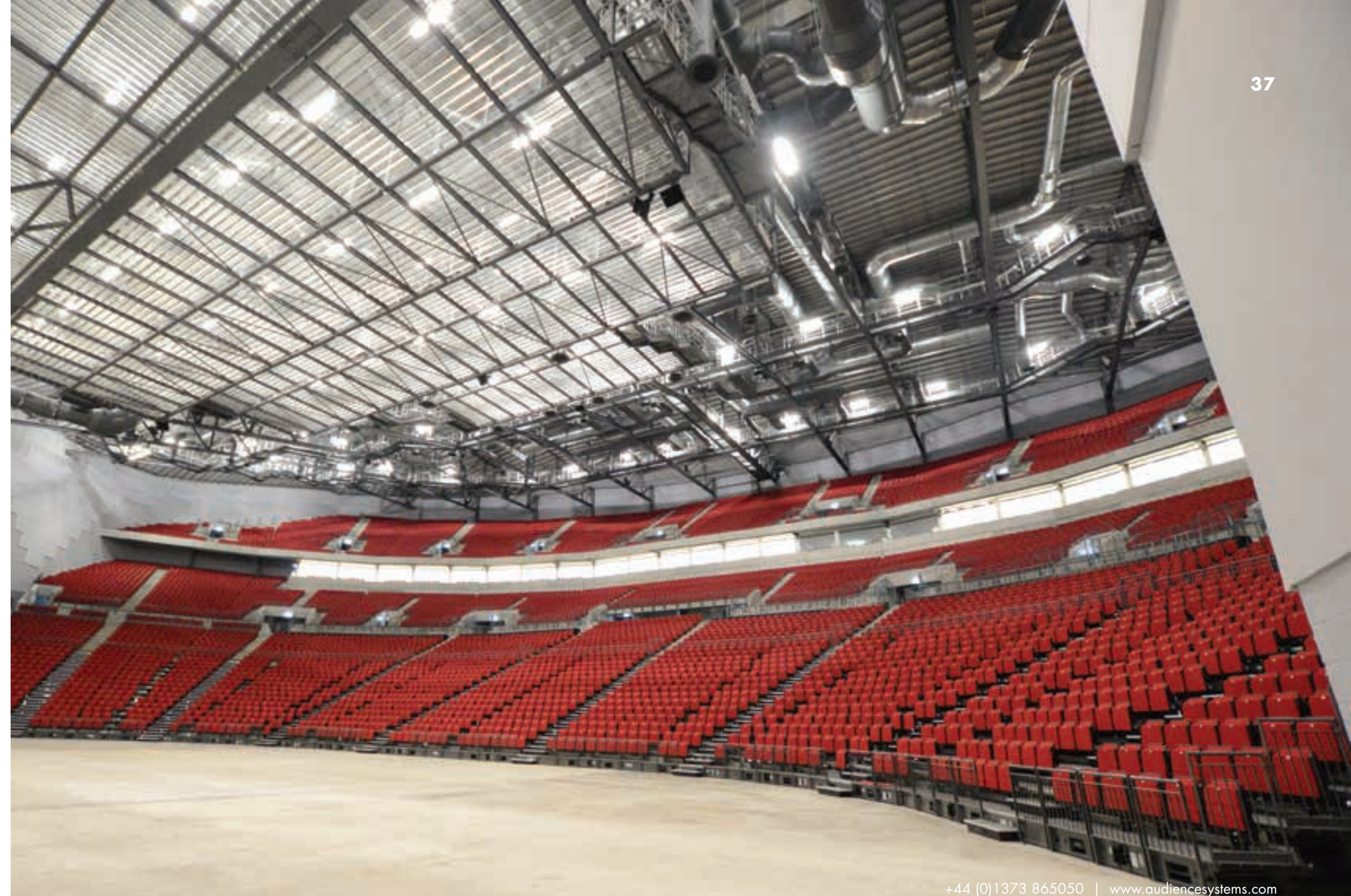
Working With: Populous, BAM Construction,  
Leeds City Council, ASM Global

Retractable: TX Recessed Retractable Platform System,  
Espace chairs

VIP: Espace High Back chairs

Number of Seats: 11381

Leeds Arena was designed first and foremost with concerts in mind. The lofty horseshoe shape of the auditorium provides exceptional sightlines and all the atmosphere and intimacy you might expect from a smaller venue. Audience Systems provided massive 15 row retractable seating units which can be arranged in seven different configurations, with a further 47 rows of fixed seating behind, as well as VIP seats.







## MEADOWBANK SPORTS CENTRE

A COMMUNITY SPORTS FACILITY THAT'S THE PRIDE OF EDINBURGH

Working With: Holmes Miller, Graham Construction,  
City of Edinburgh Council  
Retractable: TX Recessed Retractable Platform System,  
Zenith chairs  
Fixed: Zenith chairs  
Number of Seats: 1490

The word "Meadowbank" has long been synonymous with sport in Edinburgh. The original Meadowbank complex stood for almost 50 years until it closed in 2017, hosting two Commonwealth Games along the way.

The new complex includes three games halls, indoor and outdoor athletics tracks, 3G pitches, fitness studios, gym, racquet sports courts, cycle studio and conference facilities. Audience Systems installed spectator seating in two of the games halls. Hall 1 has a total of 1113 seats, including 793 on retractable platforms. Hall 2 has 330 seats. The seats are our irreplaceable Zenith model – comfortable and smart, Zenith is also incredibly tough.





THE CURVE

REFURBISHMENT OF A LANDMARK CULTURAL CENTRE

Working With: Slough Borough Council  
Retractable: TX Fixed Retractable Platform System,  
Evolve chairs  
Number of Seats: 295

The Curve is a culture and arts building in the centre of the busy commuter town of Slough.

When the venue was first built, Audience Systems installed a retractable bench seating system. A few years down the line, the retractable seating was still in excellent working order but the team at The Curve wanted to widen the theatre’s appeal to local residents and arts organisations. A refurbishment of the platforms, including the replacement of the seats with these smart, comfortable and inviting Evolve chairs, lifted the venue to a new level, but with minimum cost and use of materials.

*“The refurbishment really looks nice – we’re very pleased with it! And working with Audience Systems has been a very good experience.”*

LEO YOUSEF, HUBS AND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS LEAD



SIEMENS HEALTHINEERS AUDITORIUM

A FLEXIBLE CORPORATE AUDITORIUM

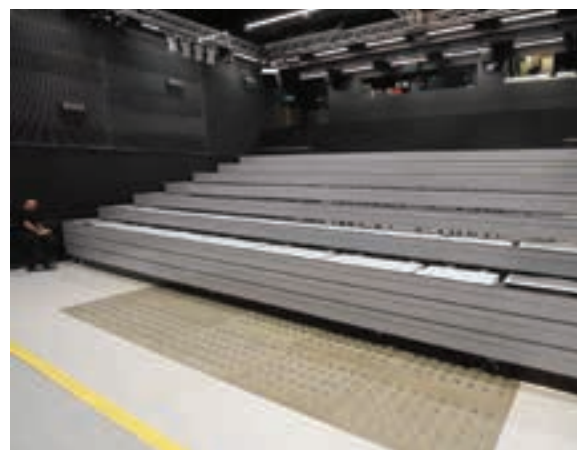
Working With: Theatre Projects Consultants, Jacobs  
Engineering Group (Architects).  
Front Tiers: Recital chairs  
Middle Section: Recital stacking chairs  
Retractable: TX Travelling Retractable Platform System  
Recital chairs  
Number of Seats: 436

This multipurpose auditorium is an important resource within Siemens’ new manufacturing and R&D complex in Massachusetts.

The auditorium features a mix of retractable, stacking and fixed seats to make the most of the square footage available. The space can also be divided in two for smaller events using an operable wall. Across the seats and platforms, a cool palette of high specification finishes promotes a feeling of wellbeing.







## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON, SUSU THE CUBE

A MULTIPURPOSE EDUCATION AND RECREATION SPACE AT THE HEART OF A UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

Working With: University of Southampton Students' Union,  
Kendall Kingscott, Concept Building Services  
Retractable: TX Recessed Retractable Platform System,  
Recital chairs  
Number of Seats: 256

This space is used as, among other things, a lecture theatre, cinema, circus training arena, Zumba studio and nightclub.

Replacing seating that had reached the end of its life, Audience Systems provided a huge uplift to the space with this power operated retractable system. The Recital chairs have all the comfort of a cinema chair but can be adapted for lectures with a foldaway writing tablet. The unique palette of finishes includes specially designed shaped steel fascias. These protect the chairs against dust and even flying drinks when the seating is closed away.





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### HUONE EVENTS, COPENHAGEN

Working With: Huone Events, DMZ International Design Group  
 Retractable: TX Fixed Retractable Platform System, Espace T High Back Chairs  
 Number of Seats: 74



### BARTLAM LIBRARY, SELWYN COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

#### A FIRST CLASS MULTIPURPOSE TEACHING SPACE

Working With: Porphyrios Associates, Barnes Construction  
 Retractable: TX Fixed Retractable Platform System, Recital chairs  
 Stacking Seats: Recital stacking chairs  
 Number of Seats: 129

Selwyn College is part of the University of Cambridge. This new teaching auditorium features retractable platforms fitted with our comfortable and elegant Recital chairs, with stacking chairs to match.

From the start, extensive audio visual technology has been integrated into the space with a view to hosting hybrid in-person / online events. This well thought-out auditorium is a great asset for the college, which plans to hire it out for conferences and public meetings.

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## THE GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON

### CLASSIC SEATS FOR A VICTORIAN THEATRE

Working With: Speller Metcalfe, Wolverhampton City Council  
 Seats: Icon chair  
 Number of Seats: 1176

As part of a major refurbishment of the theatre, Audience Systems installed new Icon chairs throughout the grade II listed auditorium. The chairs feature ergonomically contoured backrests, whisper-smooth pivots and a classic, unfussy design with traditional timber accents.

As ever with heritage buildings, there were some quirks to accommodate in the design. Some chairs were specially adapted to fit some of the tighter areas of the auditorium or to provide good lines of sight even at the rear of the Grand Circle.

*"We are all delighted with the new seating and we have received lots of positive feedback from customers. The seats are comfortable, and as well as meeting modern standards and expectations, they complement the age of our Victorian auditorium. Throughout the whole process, Audience Systems have worked tirelessly to achieve our deadline and we are extremely pleased with their workmanship and professionalism."*

CHRIS MOORE, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR – OPERATIONS, THE GRAND THEATRE





**BRITTEN THEATRE**

AN ITALIAN OPERA THEATRE IN LONDON

Working With: The Royal College of Music  
Stalls: Icon chairs  
Balcony: Icon chairs  
Number of Seats: 409

The Royal College of Music’s Britten Theatre is one of London’s best-loved opera venues, also playing host to music, ballet and theatre. Named after former student Benjamin Britten, the theatre was designed by Sir Hugh Casson in the style of an Italian opera theatre.

When the theatre’s faithful seats reached the end of their lives, Audience Systems worked with the Royal College of Music to design a replacement that was comfortable, functional and in keeping with the theatre’s character. Our durable ‘Icon’ chairs were specially customised with two-tone red velvet fabric and black painted timber. A number of removable seats were included in the design, providing flexible locations for sound desks or an audition panel. The new seats have also improved sightlines from the designated wheelchair user positions. The package also included usher seats and reupholstery of the balustrades.

*“I am delighted with the new Britten Theatre seats by Audience Systems.”*

AIDA BERHAMOVIC, DIRECTOR OF ESTATES, THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC

Exterior photo credit: Chris Rowley



**HARD ROCK LIVE, SACRAMENTO**

AN ALL-NEW ENTERTAINMENT VENUE WITH AN ELECTRIC ATMOSPHERE

Working With: Scéno Plus, Titan Carter  
Retractable: TX Recessed Retractable Platform System with Espace 628 High Back chairs  
Number of Seats: 1031

A large 15 row bank of retractable seating forms the rear tiers of this exciting new multipurpose venue in California.

Designed by Québec-based entertainment architects Scéno Plus, Hard Rock Live has 2,500 seats in total, and will host concerts, meetings, trade shows, boxing and events.

The high backed Espace chairs on the retractable platforms come complete with plentiful support and, of course, cupholders. A variable number of rows can be opened to add even more flexibility to the venue.

The interior design of the venue is in the Hard Rock tradition, with plenty of rock memorabilia on show.

Photos: Scéno Plus







## NARRE WARREN SOUTH P-12 COLLEGE

AN INSPIRING PERFORMING ARTS SPACE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Working With: Maxwood Technology, Hede Architects  
 Retractable: TX Recessed Retractable Platform System, Chorus Benches  
 Number of Seats: 390

The Judith Graley Performing Arts Centre is a new facility for the college, providing students with a gorgeous space for concerts, performances and assemblies.

Our versatile retractable system is fitted with Chorus benches, which combine the comfort of a chair with the flexibility of a bench. The system is finished with natural materials including 100% wool fabric and real oak veneers. When the seating is closed, the auditorium becomes an open space for dance, rehearsals and many of the other activities that are packed into the school day.





**WATERSIDE BUILDING,  
DURHAM UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL**

**A HIGH CALIBRE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

Working With: Ryder Architecture, Overbury,  
Stage & Tiers  
Lecture Theatre: Fixed tiering, Accolade Campus chairs  
'Harvard-Style': Fixed tiering and structure  
Number of Seats: 421

The newest building for Durham University's Business School is located in the city's innovation district on the banks of the River Wear.

In the large lecture theatre, the bank of seating blends beautifully with the walls and the striking ceiling – the tiers are finished with a smart side panel and oak writing tablets. The seat backs are individually manufactured for each row. Varying in height, they create a seamless appearance to the seating bank. Rollaway sections of writing desk towards the front of the room are designed to assist students with disabilities.

Audience Systems also created desk and power/data structure for the impressive 'Harvard-Style' lecture theatre with its flexible task chairs. Found in business schools worldwide, this set up allows teachers and students to switch between different styles of learning, from formal teaching and presentations to small group work.



**ESTAÇÃO DAS ARTES**

**THE HOME OF THE SÃO PAULO STATE  
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Working With: Nelson Dupré, Architect  
Retractable: TX Travelling Retractable Platform System,  
Espace chairs  
Number of Seats: 552

The Estação das Artes is part of the Júlio Prestes Cultural Complex. This stunning multifunctional space in central São Paulo will be used for music, jazz, dance and theatre performances.

The architect's challenge was to create an auditorium for 550 people without fixing anything to the fabric of this heritage building. Audience Systems supplied a travelling retractable unit, the first of its kind in Brazil, and an impressive 21 rows tall. The structure is not only self-supporting, it can also be steered at the touch of a button to different locations in the room to suit different event layouts.

The seating is finished to a very high standard as befits the venue, with decorative real wood veneers on the seat pans, solid beech armrests, and a palette of warm natural shades for the upholstery. In front of the retractable bank of seating, matching Matrix chairs (not shown in these photographs) can be quickly laid out to add capacity.



## THE MALL SCHOOL, TWICKENHAM

### SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

Working With: BHM Architects  
 Retractable: TX Fixed Retractable Platform System,  
 Chorus benches  
 Number of Seats: 192

The Mall School is a small independent primary school located on a restricted site in West London. The new performance space and music school was created by converting some Victorian retail buildings next door to the existing site, adding a modern stone façade, and re-imagining the interior.

The clean lines of this retractable seating system with Chorus benches complement the space perfectly. Subtle variations in the colour and length of the bench units create a busy, purposeful but harmonious aesthetic.



## BUSH HOUSE, KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

### MODERN COMFORT IN A HISTORIC BUILDING

Working With: John Robertson Architects, Overbury  
 Retractable: TX Recessed Retractable Platform System,  
 Espace High Back chairs  
 Balconies: Espace High Back chairs  
 Number of Seats: 399

Bush House is a grade II listed building on the Strand, London, which served for 70 years as the headquarters of the BBC World Service. King's College London acquired the lease in 2015, creating a contemporary conference space. The largest auditorium includes high specification retractable seating by Audience Systems.

The upgraded Espace 628 chairs include pocket sprung seats for outstanding comfort, solid oak armrests and high backrests. The retractable seating is equipped with two "partial opening" positions for added flexibility, special carpet, and elegantly trimmed steps with integrated LED aisle lighting. It's a fitting level of finish for a building with an exceptionally distinguished history.





## REDGRAVE THEATRE

Working With: Clifton College, Bristol  
 Fixed Seating: Recital chairs  
 Number of Seats: 319



## CALEDONIA GLADIATORS

### A FLEXIBLE BASKETBALL ARENA

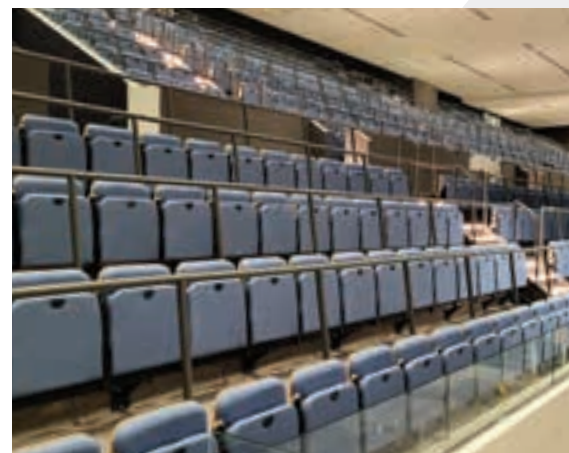
Working With: Holmes Miller, SART Investments Ltd,  
 Caledonia Gladiators  
 Retractable: TX Fixed Retractable Platform System,  
 Zenith chairs  
 Number of Seats: 1232

The Caledonia Gladiators Arena in East Kilbride has been built as a home for the BBL Trophy winners while an even more impressive permanent facility is built. Our tough Zenith seats, arranged in the colours of the saltire, are housed on retractable seating units, so even in this temporary home, the team will enjoy the flexibility they would expect from a first class arena.

The arena, designed by architects Holmes Miller, will serve as a training and match venue for both the men's and women's teams.







## THE GREAT CANADIAN CASINO RESORT TORONTO

### A MAJOR NEW ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX FOR TORONTO

Working With: Great Canadian Gaming Corp,  
CGL Architects, Chris Dikeakos Architects,  
SDR Seating

Retractable: TX Recessed Retractable Platform System,  
Espace High Back chairs

Balconies: Espace High Back chairs

This theatre forms part of a major new entertainment resort at Woodbine Racecourse in Toronto, which also houses a casino and hotel.

Central to the auditorium is a massive 20 row retractable seating structure by Audience Systems with a high specification palette of finishes, including tough but elegant LVT flooring and timber accents on the chairs. There's even a carpet inlay on the fascias, which not only creates the desired acoustic performance when the platforms are closed, it also looks great.





## MAST MAYFLOWER STUDIOS

A CITY CENTRE VENUE FOR DEVELOPING AND SHOWCASING PERFORMING ARTS

Working With: Nuffield Theatre Trust, Huntley Cartwright, Arup, Miller Construction, Stage & Tiers  
 Retractable: TX Retractable Platform System with Espace and Espace High Back chairs  
 Balconies: Espace High Back chairs  
 Stalls: Espace chairs (Removable 'Matrix' type)  
 Number of Seats: 583 (across two auditoriums)

This arts venue in the heart of Southampton was built to house the award winning Nuffield Theatre company. When coronavirus lockdowns sadly drove the company into administration, the space was saved by Southampton's Mayflower Theatre, who took over the building to house their own creative hub.

The 450 seat main auditorium and 133 seat studio theatre combine fixed, retractable and removable seating as well as removable tiering. Both theatres can be adapted for end-stage and in-the-round productions, or cleared for use as rehearsal studios. The result is two ideal spaces for bringing people together with the arts.

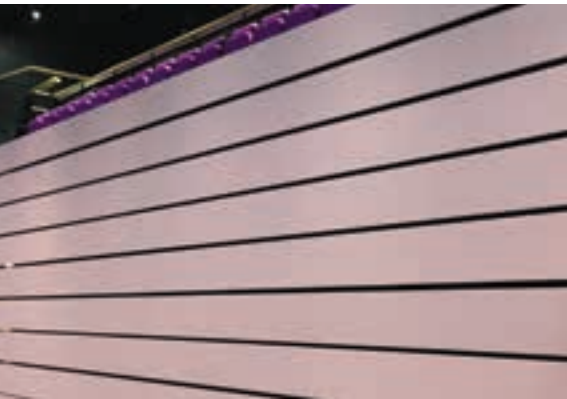


## 1532 PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE, BRISTOL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SUPERB FACILITIES FOR THE SCHOOL AND THE CITY

Working With: Bristol Grammar School, AWW Architects, Rydon Construction  
 Retractable: Espace CC chairs  
 Balconies: Espace CC chairs  
 Number of Seats: 406

This performing arts centre was built as a first class cultural resource for the school and for Bristol as a whole, and is named after the year the school was founded. Each space at 1532 is available to hire, and so the main auditorium was designed to be visually appealing, comfortable and adaptable to different stage layouts. As well as school productions, the auditorium plays host to performances including comedy, dance and theatre.







## GLASGOW ROYAL CONCERT HALL

### IMPRESSIVE DEDICATED CONCERT HALL

Working With: Glasgow City Building, Glasgow Life  
 Stalls: Espace chairs (removable 'Matrix' type)  
 Balconies: Espace High Back chairs  
 Number of Seats: 2366

*"Audience Systems were professional, helpful and very customer focussed in all dealings within this project."*

GRAEME IRONSIDE, SPECIAL PROJECTS OFFICER,  
 GLASGOW LIFE

Built in 1990, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall is one of the largest dedicated concert halls in the UK. It's managed by the city's community, arts and sport organisation, Glasgow Life.

We fitted out the impressive main auditorium with Espace chairs and choir benches. The chairs in the stalls utilise our clever 'Matrix' System, ensuring that they can be quickly removed in groups. The timber components of the chairs tone beautifully with the space.

## SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF LAW

Working With: Kajima  
 Retractable: TX Retractable Platform System  
 with Espace T chairs

Number of Seats: 565  
 (One section only shown here)







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