

HERITAGE STATEMENT

CAMDEN PALACE THEATRE

The building now known as Koko, is a grade II listed building, and is now used primarily as a live music venue

Its previous history was that it opened on Boxing Day 1900 as the Camden Theatre and was one of the largest theatres outside of the west end.

It was designed by W G R Sprague, a well known theatre architect. The style of architecture is pure Italian renaissance, and the building is of white stone to the ground floor, and red brick above. Its prominent site is on the corner of Camden High Street and Crowndale Road.

In 1909 it changed to become the Camden Hippodrome Theatre, being mainly a variety theatre, until 1913 when it became the Camden Hippodrome Picture Theatre.

It was closed during the second world war, and re-opened in 1945 as the BBC Radio Theatre. This ran until 1972 when it closed again

In 1979 it began its life as a live music venue and has had various names, and owners, until 2005 when it was bought by the Mint Group who refurbished the venue and opened this up as Koko, a high profile music venue.

Our proposal is to form an artist smoking area, set internally, but open to fresh air above.. This proposal will have no significant effect on the fabric of the building, as the demolitions are limited to the removal of an area of wall below an existing window, into a service light well, to form a usable opening. The subsequent open area and mezzanine floor can only be viewed from a window in a staff room at first floor level.

Reinstatement of these works, if ever required, would be quite simple

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT **KOKO (CAMDEN PALACE THEATRE)**

we were requested to provide an artist smoking area housed within the non public area of this building.

At present the only smoking area is situated on the first floor balcony overlooking the main entrance on Camden High Street, As a number of the artists performing in this venue are high profile, they cannot use the smoking facilities used by the public, for obvious security reasons

The artists dressing room and Green room is situated at the opposite end of the building, adjacent to the stage area.

In addressing this problem we came across an open light well, and redundant amp room, which was open to the elements above and not overlooked by anyone other than a second floor staff room

It is our proposal to strip out all the now redundant equipment and electrics, and remove or re-direct all existing drainage services – forming access panels for maintenance purposes.

All existing brickwork walls to the external area to be cleaned and re-pointed – all internal walls to be lined with plasterboard and skim.

The new mezzanine floor to be finished in exposed treated timber decking, on fire protected steelwork

The new roof over 50% of the area to be formed in plastic coated sail fabric, well secured to the structural framing with eyelets and binding to give an airy feel

A new steel and timber staircase to be installed as access to the mezzanine floor

All new furniture to be purpose made and able to withstand the elements where necessary.

As stated in the accompanying Method Statement, all operatives and materials will be accessed via the fire exit on Crowndale Road

METHOD STATEMENT

KOKO (CAMDEN PALACE)

This is a brief method statement for the works associated in connection with the formation of an artists smoking area within the above premises

- 1 All the works to be carried out during normal working hours i.e. 8-00am to 5-00pm
- 2 All demolished and removed materials to be immediately taken to vehicles situated adjacent to the existing fire exit on Crowndale Road and transported to the nearest public refuse plant
- 3 following demolition and removal of redundant materials the site to be fully cleaned and washed down.
- 4 All required materials to be offloaded from vehicles at existing fire exit on Crowndale Road and transported by hand to the construction area.
- 5 all materials to be used in the construction of the proposal, to be brought to site when required, not stored on the site - the work schedule to be approved by the project manager prior to work commencing
- 6 operatives sanitary and welfare provisions to be provided in existing staff facilities