Michael Jackson Consulting
Chartered Structural Engineers

204 Bolton Road, Worsley, Manchester, M28 3BN
Tel: 0161 790 4404 Fax: 0161 790 4405
email: postmaster@mjconsult.co.uk

Our Ref: 2601/DS

Date: 31/01/2017

DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT AND HERITAGE STATEMENT

recorded at

The Dominion Theatre
Tottenham Court Road
London
W1T 7AQ

on behalf of

Nederlander Dominion Limited

Proposed Surround Sound Delay Bar and Speaker Brackets

History

The Dominion was built in 1928–29, designed by W and TR Milburn with a steel-framed construction and a concave Portland stone facade. It was built as a theatre for live shows but after faltering business in the early 1930s the building was converted to also allow it to show films. The theatre was built on the location of the former Horse Shoe Brewery, which was the site of the 1814 London Beer Flood.

It now has a seating capacity of 2,182 in two tiers of galleries, following the closure many decades ago of the former upper circle. The theatre retains its 1920s light fittings and art deco plasterwork.

There has been a lot of renovation of the theatre over the past couple of years. The large dressing room block at the rear of the theatre, had its stone work cleaned and new exact replica windows fitted. Inside the building has also seen many changes with the reinstatement of the once derelict area originally occupied by the theatre's restaurant/tea rooms and which was utilised by Rank in its time at the Dominion as office space. This large space above the main foyer is now a state of the art rehearsal studio and events space. The entrance way to the Studio and the impressive main foyer have had their original plasterwork carefully restored. This new space is called 'The Studio' and has already housed the auditions or rehearsals of a number of the West End's top shows including We Will Rock You, Matthew Bourne's Edward Scissorhands, Les Miserables, Cats, National Tour, Hairspray and Zorro, making it the best located rehearsal studio in London.

On Sundays, Hillsong London holds four church services throughout the day there.

Proposal

The proposed works involves the installation of new delay bars at stalls level and circle level. The delay bar is to span at high level to the sides and rear of the auditorium on each level. 4No. speaker brackets are also to be installed, 2 each side of the auditorium.

Design Access Statement

The purpose of the report is solely to assess the effect that the installation will have on the building.

Surround Sound Delay Bars (Bracket Type 1 & 2)– The primary reason for the delay bars is to provide suitable hanging locations for surround sound speakers for the forthcoming show 'Bat Out of Hell'. The new installation will then form part of the venues rigging plot for future productions. The bars are a semi-permanent installation and can be removed easily, if they are not required for a particular production. It is proposed to drill 18mm diameter holes into the existing brickwork and plaster and install a 14mm diameter internally threaded bolt. This installation would be permanent due to the bolts being resin anchor in position but would provide an enduring fixing position for the rest of the delay bar structure, without disturbing the original plaster/wallpaper further. Should the bars ever need to be removed a pressed metal stud, finished to match the existing decoration, can be screwed into the internally threaded bolt concealing the fixing positions. The delay bar structure is to be located at high level and is to be powder coat finished to match the existing decoration. The overall affect this would have on the building is minimal due to the small fixings and powder coat finish. The venue would benefit significantly due to the increasing demands of show producers to hang increasing numbers of equipment, such as surround sound speakers, around the auditorium to enhance the overall production.

Speaker Brackets (Bracket Type 4)– The individual brackets are located on each side of the auditorium and are to be fixed to the existing brickwork or concrete structure in the same manner described above. Upon removal of these individual brackets the internally threaded bolts will be covered over with the pressed metal stub. Again, the overall affect this would have on the building would be minimal.

The delay bars and speaker brackets (Bracket Type 1) to the underside of the circles are to be positioned in locations where the ceiling is flat with no significant plasterwork being altered/effected.

Where the existing brickwork is unsuitable to accept an internally threaded bolt (Bracket Type 1), it will be necessary to resin anchor a 48.3mm CHS (Bracket Type 2) into the wall to provide a suitable fixing. The installation will be finished with a plate to match the semi-permanent fixings. To remove the fixing would require the CHS to be angle grinded at 45deg, at the wall face, and then plaster repairs made, concealing the remaining embedded CHS in the wall. Once removed, this fixing could not be re-used at a later date.

Materials & Detailed Design

The material being used throughout will be steel, powder coated to match the existing decoration, which will reduce the visual impact of the surround sound bar, delay bar and brackets. The fixings have been designed to offer minimal disruption to the existing structure while providing enough strength to support the array of surround sound speakers required for the forthcoming show.

The 4No. individual brackets will all be removed at the end of the show leaving 6No. pressed metal studs per bracket. The embedded fixings can then be used for other shows, should they require a speaker in that location, without disturbing the plasterwork.

The delay bar is to be a permanent installation, as they would benefit the venue greatly. The bar is to follow the profile of the ceiling/underside of circle above with fixing points into the wall at maximum 2m centres. The elliptical plates, with a stub welded to it, projecting 100mm from the underside of the circle, are to be secured to the internally threaded bolts resin anchored into the circle structure.

The surround sound bar will be installed in sections determined by the slope of the ceiling or where an existing windows or doors are located around the perimeter wall.

At stalls level, a 150mm hole will need to be cored through the rear wall to facilitate cable runs from the concealed LX room to provide power to the

speakers hung from the bars. The 150mm core will be sleeved to provide a clean installation and finish around the edge of the hole.