



DOWNING COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

THE NEW HOWARD THEATRE

The Howard Theatre project is progressing well and completion is now due for late 2009. The Topping Out Ceremony was held on Monday 16 March 2009, the 80th Birthday of Dr Alan Howard who has so generously funded the project.

Most of the exterior works are now complete and the focus is on the interior, which, when complete, will provide us with an environmentally-sustainable building offering the following features:

- ◆ Ground-source heating and cooling throughout the building, partly located under the neighbouring sunken garden.
- ◆ Solar panels fitted to the Welsh Slate Roof to provide an additional environmental heating source for the building's domestic hot water.
- ◆ An exterior structure made from Ketton Stone, giving both grace and thermal efficiency to the building.
- ◆ Rain water harvesting for flushing the toilets and maintaining the allied landscaping.

Inside the theatre, the decorative ceiling evokes the spirit of Georgian theatre and has been designed by Francis Terry of Quinlan and Francis Terry LLP the architects for the Theatre, while the front-of-house curtain has been designed as a Grecian street scene, depicting the College among images of classical Greek architecture.

The base for the tiered flooring is now complete and ready for the installation of the 120 auditorium seats that have been crafted from the finest Italian leather. Upright seating will be placed along the side galleries on the first and second floor providing seating for a total audience of 160.

At ground floor level, the Grace Howard Room offers an area of 160 m², which will be ideal for exhibitions and refreshment breaks. It will also be suitable for a number of different catering options, ranging from formal dining for 80 guests, to a drinks reception for up to 200. All floors will be fully accessible for wheelchair users.

For further information and the availability of the Howard Theatre and Grace Howard Room for conference and function bookings, please contact:

CONFERENCE SERVICES

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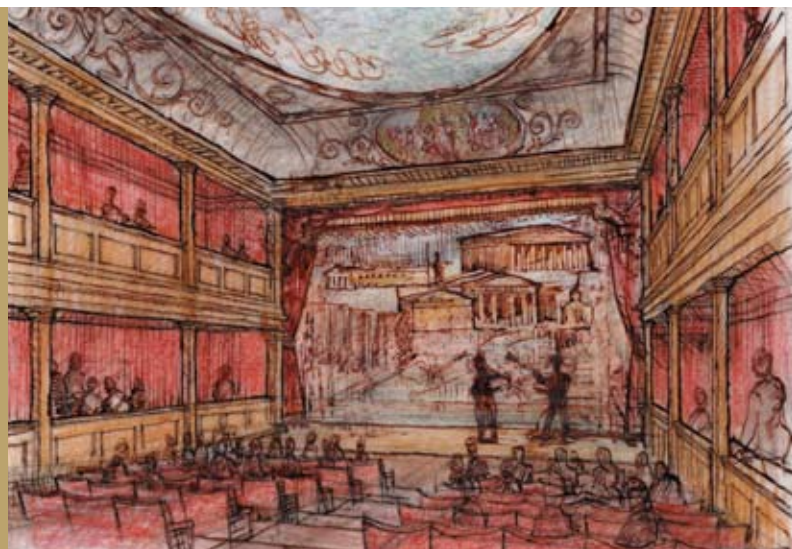


Image: Francis Terry, Quinlan and Francis Terry LLP Architects

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