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fermacell Project & Solution

The Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford, UK

- Theatre and Performing Arts Centre
- Project completed in 2010
- **fermacell** Gypsum Fibreboards

The Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford, UK

The Project

The Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford, the world's most renowned theatre, needed a new 1000 seat thrust stage auditorium and a new thrust stage with tiered auditorium - the world's largest of its kind. Designed to bring the audience closer to the actors and the action, the seat furthest from the stage are just 15 metres, compared to the 27 metres that existed in the old demolished auditorium. The new complex included substantially expanded and fully accessible public areas with improved facilities for audiences, including a rooftop café restaurant and two new café bars, as well as foyers linking the Royal Shakespeare and Swan Theatres.

Project requirement

The main and most important issue for Architects Bennetts Associates and acoustic consultants Acoustic Dimensions were the acoustic needs of the new RSC theatre. The drylining materials of the

walls within the complex had to provide the highest levels of robustness and sound insulation. These included front of house zones, the atrium, a number of dressing room and rehearsal areas located on floors one, two and three.

Solution

fermacell Gypsum Fibreboards were specified for many of the walls within the complex to provide the required levels of rigidity, sound insulation and fire protection. 12.5 mm fermacell board was installed in combinations of either two or four layers thick, depending on the acoustic requirements of the individual walls in order to ensure outside noise levels are kept to a minimum so as not to disturb the actors, or reduce the enjoyment and concentration of the audience.

At ground floor level four skins of fermacell have been used either side of the partitioning, and a similar thickness used for a number of the dressing rooms, training,

study and rehearsal areas. The auditorium has concrete walls, with a number of fermacell infills. The two main corridor walls outside the drum of the auditorium were made of fermacell boards and separate the front of house area on the riverside elevation, complimented by an interval drinks zone and café.

Two layers of fermacell 12.5 mm boards has been used on the fourth floor of the theatre where the lighting, workshop and administration areas are contained and again on the walls on the fifth floor where the winching mechanisms are housed.



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Overview	
Architects	Bennetts Associates
Acoustic Consultants	Acoustic Dimensions
Main Contractor	Mace Group
Drylining Contractor	Fireclad

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