

Case Study

# Colston Hall



Delivered for Bristol City Council, Arts Council England

A new foyer with five floors containing performance areas, box office, café bar, rehearsal rooms  
June 2009 | Value: £20 million



WILLMOTT DIXON  
GROUP



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**Introduction** Willmott Dixon was contracted to design and build a new entrance hall and foyer for the iconic Colston Hall in Bristol, revitalizing and modernising the famous 150 year old venue.

**Key Fact** The outer skin of the building has been faced using recycled copper cladding, making it one of the most eye-catching buildings in Bristol.

**Details** The re-development of the famous Colston Hall concert venue in Bristol has made it one of the most eye catching buildings in the South West. The £20 million project for Bristol City Council and the Arts Council features a striking gold copper-clad façade with large glass atrium that goes up all five storeys. The foyer has been fitted out with two new bars, a new ticket office, cafe, bistro, education spaces, rehearsal rooms and performance space ready for its public opening in September.



Willmott Dixon worked closely with Bristol City Council to ensure the building would meet and exceed the needs and requirements of visitors and performers - a creative hub for Bristol and the South West; making music and performance accessible to all; providing opportunities and inspiration for young emerging musicians and established artists; and being the regional focal point for the music industry.



**Successes** It is an exciting new era for Colston Hall, which has played host to some of the greatest acts in music history, including the Beatles and stars from Motown, and was the venue where Mick Jagger first met Marianne Faithful. As well as new walkways through to the 2,000 seat main auditorium, the foyer gives the venue a 21st century look and feel that has already made it a landmark building for the centre of Bristol.

Since it re-opened, Colston Hall visitor number have been much higher than expected, and the venue has continued in its long tradition of attracting world famous acts who are playing to sell out audiences, from top class comedy to rock, contemporary and classical music.

**Sustainable achievements** The building's striking gold façade is made of 100% recycled copper materials.



**Testimonial** **Graeme Howell, Director of Colston Hall**

"The Colston Hall project was a real challenge, not only to deliver a complex building on time and on budget, but to enable me to keep running the venue next door throughout the construction process. This required a fantastic approach to partnering and understanding our needs which Willmott Dixon excelled at."

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