

FINNIESTON CRANE, MUSIC HALL OF FAME

STOBCROSS QUAY, GLASGOW

Client: Scotland's Music Hall Of Fame
Value: Undisclosed
Date: Ongoing
Status: Feasibility

Carson and Partners were asked to examine the feasibility of incorporating this exciting music and educational venture within the existing structure of the famous Glasgow landmark, The Finnieston Crane, with a view to forming another facility within the ensemble music entertainment district around the SECC, Clyde Auditorium and Hydro venues.

One of the last such cantilever cranes in the world, built in 1926, loaded locomotives and copper boilers onto ships to be dispatched around the world

The top of the crane offers an open aspect in all directions from an unparalleled vantage point, on the north bank of the Clyde, close to the city centre. The crane can also be seen from many locations around the city and is a well loved industrial relic. Key to the proposals was minimal impact on the silhouette from all sides, lighting and the insertion of a lightweight aesthetic that does not distract from the crane structure. On a pragmatic level the project involved considering the condition of the existing structure and quay wall and how, with minimal impact on these structures, to incorporate a complex programme of accommodation in a providing an interactive route through exhibition and memorabilia spaces to a viewing platform with bars and performance space.

Proposals incorporated a double-helix scissor stair to facilitate 2 separate means of escape whilst minimising the impact on the space within the small footprint between the structure. A zone of secondary space is then created to the north side fronting the road, providing a backdrop for new external glass lifts wrapping the footprint of the existing lift tower. A lightweight membrane material encloses the accommodation inside the legs, keeping the existing structure fully external. Further exhibition space and performance space utilise the jib and disused machine room without accommodation breaching the silhouette.

The space below the jib on the quayside can be used to accommodate further uses including temporary exhibitions and ancillary facilities, bars, workshops or studios. This could be in the form of shipping containers stacked to enclose various spaces, which could even be sent abroad on barges lifted by the crane - an analogy with the crane's former use loading ships with goods from Glasgow's heavy industry past.

The Jib itself could suspend an object associated with the venue and even hang further accommodation. Furthermore the adjacent river Clyde is perfect for accommodating barges with the possibility of exhibitions transported by water or accommodating larger theatrical experiences such as the Bergenz festival stage.

