

TOWN HALL, AIRDRIE, NORTH LANARKSHIRE



LOCATION: AIRDRIE, NORTH LANARKSHIRE

CLIENT: NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

VALUE: £3.5M

SIZE: 1250M²

COMPLETION: 2012

SERVICE: ARCHITECTURE, CONSERVATION

SECTOR: ARTS & CULTURE

CONTRACTOR: GRAHAM CONSTRUCTION

STRUCTURES: NLC DESIGN SERVICES

SERVICES: DAVIE & MCCULLOCH

COST CONSULTANT: RC BROWN

LISTING: CATEGORY B

Austin-Smith:Lord was appointed by North Lanarkshire Venues team to lead the refurbishment and essential conservation and improvements to the category 'B' Listed Town Hall and theatre, Airdrie.

The aims of the project was to restore the town hall to its early 20th Century grandeur and to create a more active and usable venue for various artists and community groups. The hall was opened to the public in 1912, a free gift to the town by Sir John Wilson, a steel factory owner, and was designed by the local architectural practice of James Thomson and Sons. It is the main theatre venue in Airdrie and promotes an increasing range of events in tandem with events at Motherwell Civic Theatre.



The project involved financial support from HLF and other local agencies to allow a comprehensive refurbishment of the interior and exterior of the Category B listed building.

The work involved complete replacement of the natural slate roof and extensive repairs and re-dressing of external stonework. A new DDA compliant entrance was created into a new exhibition area with cafe and bar facilities situated in a contemporary extension to the side of the building.

The raked stage and original hemp ropes and pulleys together with old technical equipment were fully replaced with new flying grid, lighting and sound systems controlled from new bespoke control rooms in the main Theatre Hall and upper Lesser Hall.

In the Lesser Hall a cinema system with retractable screen has also been installed.

