

Tyneside Cinema and Newe House

Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

Client

Tyneside Cinema

Services
Lighting design and
building services
engineering

Architect

Fletcher Priest Architects

Photography

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The existing grade I listed cinema originally constructed as a news reel cinema has been refurbished and restored to its former glory, including the main classic cinema at ground floor level.

The Lighting design for Tyneside Cinema was contemporary design and modern construction materials meet more traditional design and formal materials, requires a lighting concept which can enhance the agreement which must exist between the different styles and materials, yet, also delivers a unique and framed view of the new space as if it is isolated from the adjacent existing spaces.

Within the existing listed cinema building sits a central open staircase which linked the entrance hall and reception to all of the cinema, café and studio spaces. The existing building has been extended and two new cinema screens encased in a semi-translucent polycarbonate skin have been added on the roof.

The void between the building skin and the cinemas is used as a restaurant / bar / anti room. Thus the importance of the central stair as a means of introducing the visitors to both the original cinema screens and spaces, introducing visitors to the new spaces and of course introducing visitors to one another to create a busy and vibrant space has increased.

The design solution was to accentuate the original architecture; the curved steps; the wrought iron work; the cornice detailing etc. To achieve this, the decision was taken to locate the lighting centrally within the stair core as opposed to wall mounting the luminaires. Equally the decision was to select a modern classic style luminaire where it found its home in both the original listed areas and in the modern roof top extension.

The luminaire is made up of individual units mounted at various heights on a single central pole which included the power supply and control wiring.

The mounting heights of the luminaires were then selected such that on some floors the luminaire sat central to the stair core opening and on other floors the luminaire purposefully cast shadows of the wrought iron onto the walls and the people using the stair. The result is a staircase which is rich in experience both in the design of the space and the distribution of light.

