

## ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC

### PRACTICE ROOMS INSERTION

The project pivoted around the insertion of an intricate steel frame into an awkwardly shaped open air void within the Academy. None of the surrounding buildings had a sympathetic structural form facing onto the void, and steelwork access to the void was unavoidably only by craneage lift over the lower of these surrounding buildings.

At the top of the new building the full plan size is the opera rehearsal studio. To control the unusually intense sound reverberations which can occur within, the internal wall faces are all faceted and inwardly slope to varying degrees. To gain maximum rehearsal space for the studio, so close to Regent's Park, this internal origami form is reflected as a simplification through to the outside shape of the roof. It was between these two compound faces that the supporting roof steelwork was required to be laced.

Archer Structures took our design and worked up the involved steelwork pattern as their fabrication drawings. Where they excelled was when they saw a misalignment not in the steelwork, nor in the supported timber framework, but in the carried planes of faceted ribbed copper sheeting, which would define the roofscape of the completed building. The misalignment was subtle. Although they had a steelwork frame which was both safe and buildable, they raised the discrepancy as a point of care. Then, with us, they manoeuvred the structural frame over several iterations to ease out the inadvertent creases in the carried copper roofing.

Archer Structures formed their steelwork with precision and erected it with care, showing particular consideration for the listed buildings, of varying periods and status, which surrounded the void. The erected steel framework provided the necessary logical skeleton onto which the layers of conventional building fabric could then be hung, fixed and laid in the conventional ways.

Mike West

Dear All,

Our project has received some good press recently, and is shortlisted for the RICS conservation award:

<http://www.bdonline.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=3161450>

<http://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/daily-news/royal-academy-of-music-extension-london-by-john-mcaslan-partners/5216336.article>

<http://www.wallpaper.com/architecture/new-projects-by-john-mcaslan--partners/4315>

Unfortunately it seems as if the time-lapse camera was turned off accidentally during the build. We will find out soon what remains of this.

Regards

ANDY MEIRA

John M<sup>c</sup>Aslan + Partners



World Architect of the Year | BD Architect of the Year Awards 2009  
Transport Architect of the Year | BD Architect of the Year Awards 2009  
Architect of the Year | Roses Design Awards 2009

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