



Extension and roof works revitalise a community theatre, integrating modern steel framing and structural improvements while preserving heritage and functionality

**Location:** Romsey, Hampshire  
**Client:** Hampshire County Council  
**Architect:** Studio Four Architects  
**Contractor:** Spetisbury Construction

Leisure / Extension / Steel / Revitalisation



## Project Background & Objective

The Plaza Theatre is a long-established community venue in Romsey, serving as a cultural hub. Growing audience demand and functional needs prompted a substantial extension and roof reconstruction project. The aim was to enhance performance, backstage, and technical facilities while retaining the building's character and public accessibility. Early planning approval and iterative updates ensured that heritage considerations, site constraints, and community requirements were carefully addressed.

## Structural Engineering & Design Approach

AWA were appointed to provide full structural engineering services for the extension. The works included demolition of the existing roof, construction of new load-bearing walls, and integration of a steel frame to support the new roof and extended volumes. The steel frame was designed to provide clear spans for the auditorium and stage areas, while accommodating differential movement between the new and existing structures. Coordination with architectural drawings and planning constraints was key to ensuring alignment and stability, while improving roof drainage, internal headroom, and performance rigging capabilities.

## Outcome & Significance

The completed works delivered a revitalised theatre with improved internal spaces, structural integrity, and operational flexibility. The project demonstrates how careful engineering intervention can enhance a heritage community building, enabling it to serve audiences safely and effectively for years to come.

