

arcola theatre on ashwin st / how we're doing it

The Arcola Theatre building on Arcola Street has evolved through 10 years of gradual changes, most made by staff, theatre production teams and volunteers. We also have a network of committed local tradesmen able to respond quickly and flexibly – making use of discarded sets, donated equipment and found objects. The result is a building we feel we own (in the metaphoric rather than the legal sense, alas).

At Ashwin Street we need to meet our current needs more quickly, but we want nonetheless to achieve a similar relationship with our new home. We are committed to a minimal intervention approach which will make the building immediately useable but allow further continuous development.

We have spent the past nine months exploring the spaces, stripping away layers of modern partitioning to expose the handsome brick and steel structure, getting a feel for where things should go and finding materials to re-use.

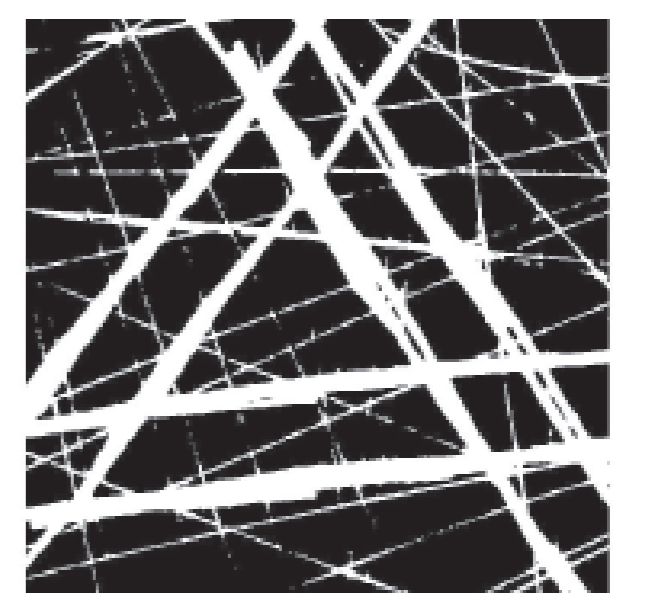
On our first day with a small team of local volunteers, it was apparent that we would need some serious person-power. With the help of the East London Business Alliance, we have had over 400 volunteers from Barclays Capital, Bloomberg, Freshfields and UBS. As we start creating the spaces, we will need the help of small teams and are inviting local people, theatre fans and specialist volunteers to help out. No experience is necessary, just sturdy shoes, old clothes and enthusiasm; training and safety supervision are provided on-site.

We also have an excellent professional team supporting us: Arup Associates and Arup Venue Consulting are providing design guidance; and Cragg Management are delivering detailed design, Project and Construction Management.



To get involved email build@arcolatheatre.com

If you would like to donate to our appeal – please visit www.arcolatheatre.com/donate



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