

# Shaftesbury Theatre

Scheme address: 210 Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2H  
Architect: Bennetts Associates  
Client/Landowner: Shaftesbury Theatre / The Theatre of Comedy Company

Scheme description: The angular weathering steel-clad extension above this Grade II listed theatre's roofline provides the only visible evidence of a £5m upgrade to the Shaftesbury Theatre's stage. The project allows the Shaftesbury to accommodate the ever-increasing demands of large-scale musical theatre, and to continue to welcome audiences from all over the world to London's West End.

The design acknowledges the fact that the building is viewed from surrounding tall buildings, as well as along narrow streets and picks up on the grain, texture and colour of the adjacent Edwardian mansion blocks with their oriel windows, as well as the faience façade of the theatre itself. The serrated shape of the flytower box allows daylight into its perimeter office space and screens rooftop mechanical plant, whilst retaining the appearance of a solid volume. Night-time lighting dramatizes the overall visual impact.

The judges' view: *A huge technical undertaking with clever functionality. The threading of new structure into the old is skilfully achieved. The dramatic sculptural object jutting out over Grape Street is admirable for not attempting to mask the modern intervention to the respected building but nonetheless sits well in its context.*



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