

PRESS RELEASE
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Arcola Theatre Launches New Eco-Theatre Concept

At London's City Hall **tomorrow**, representatives from Arcola Theatre and sustainable design innovators Arup present plans for the development of a new eco-theatre in Dalston, East London.

The project will be the UK's first major theatre to place environmental sustainability at the core of operations and programme.

Mehmet Egen, Artistic Director and founder of Arcola Theatre said: *“Our new building will include an exquisite 350 seat theatre allowing us to create an even greater and more diverse programme, building on our past nine years of success”*.

Dr Ben Todd, Executive Director of Arcola Theatre, said: *“Wrapped around the main stage will be dynamic spaces to accommodate our ever-growing environmental sustainability and community engagement programmes. Our aim is to create a place Da Vinci would call home where creative people from multiple disciplines drive innovation for a sustainable and equitable future”*

Global engineering and design consultancy Arup has been appointed to provide theatre and acoustical consultancy services. Arup Associates, Arup's multidisciplinary design studio, will provide integrated architecture and engineering design for the new venue's initial feasibility study, funded by the London Development Agency.

The venue will offer improved facilities and capacity for artists and audiences, **integrated with a platform for art, science, community and business to showcase and deliver approaches to sustainable living.**

The expanded Arcola Theatre will incorporate several types of space:

- Flexible theatres/artistic spaces, including the main house theatre seating 350 (500 standing), a 150 seat black-box studio theatre, an 80 seat second studio theatre, a rehearsal space **and a flexible studio**;
- A main foyer with **bar/café/restaurant** and informal meeting space;
- Office for theatre staff **and energy scientists**;
- Green rooms and backstage technical workshops;
- A **Bike Hub** for bicycle storage with close proximity to public transport;
- Incubator units for scientific and industrial companies to conduct research and development into sustainable technologies;
- Public garden and growing space

Neill Woodger, director of Arup's theatre consulting and acoustics business comments on the **project**: *“Our brief is to conceive a theatre that exemplifies sustainability. It must provide the highest levels of artistic experience for artists and*

*audiences, whilst being affordable to build and economical to operate. It must contribute positively to the environment and local community and lead the way in promoting a shift across the arts to a more ecological business model. If Future Arcola is to be the benchmark that helps London's theatres reduce carbon emissions 60% by 2025, environmental performance must take centre-stage in all aspects of design and operations. **Future Arcola** is the first venue to use a sustainability framework to define a brief and conceptual design for a new theatre, and it will set a new level of performance in theatre design."*

The Theatre will be located in the heart of Dalston.

The City Hall reception will highlight the role of the new Arcola Theatre in the ongoing regeneration of Hackney, led by the London Borough of Hackney and supported by the London Development Agency.

Cllr Guy Nicholson, Hackney Council Cabinet Member for Regeneration and the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, said: "Hackney Council is committed to supporting the Arcola to find a new site for its innovative eco-theatre, ensuring that the Arcola continues to contribute to the cultural excitement that is Dalston."

London Mayor Boris Johnson said "*HOLDING TEXT BY BEN NOT BORIS Our cultural offer is fundamental to the future prosperity of London. Arcola's approach to integrating art, environmental sustainability and urban regeneration is a great exemplar of our vision for London.*"

Project partners include:

- Integrated Design (architecture and engineering) – Arup Associates
- Theatre and Acoustical Consultants – Arup
- Sustainability Consultants – Juhi Shareef & Associates
- Quantity Surveyors – William G Dick
- Hospitality Consultants – Ignite Hospitality Consultants
- Project Management – Mouchel Management Consulting
- Project Funders – Design for London & London Development Agency
- Host – London Borough Hackney

Project Director, Dr Ben Todd of Arcola Theatre is one of the 2009 London Leaders for sustainability and the launch event is supported by the London Sustainable Development Commission.

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More details and hi-resolution images can be found at
www.futurearcola.com/press

For additional information please contact: Laura Jukes at Arcola Theatre on 020 7503 1645 or laura@arcolatheatre.com.

www.arcolatheatre.com / www.arcolaistanbul.com / www.arcolaenergy.com

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Arcola Theatre was founded in 2000 by its present Artistic Director Mehmet Ergen and Executive Producer Leyla Nazli. From humble origins Arcola has grown to become an important London and UK venue serving both as receiving house and producer of its own critically acclaimed work. Arcola has strong links with the local community, delivering an extensive programme of participatory arts for all ages. Since 2007 Arcola has been working with local and international partners across arts, science and engineering to drive mass adoption of sustainable lifestyles. Arcola Theatre is a Regularly Funded Organisation of Arts Council England.

Arup is the creative force behind many of the world's prominent building, infrastructure and industrial projects. Founded in 1946 with an enduring set of values, Arup's unique trust ownership fosters a distinctive culture, an intellectual independence and encourages truly collaborative working.

Arup Associates is the integrated design studio of the multinational consulting engineering group Arup. Started by Sir Ove Arup more than four decades ago to develop his concept of total architecture, Arup Associates offer a radical alternative to conventional architectural practice, creating pioneering holistic design that is focused on people. The studio practices multidisciplinary design where engineers and architects work side by side in embedded teams in a single practice. Teamwork is at the core of our structure.

Juhi Shareef & Associates is

The London Development Agency works to improve the quality of life for all Londoners – investing in jobs, skills and growth. In Dalston, we have worked with the London Borough of Hackney, Transport for London, architects and developers to capitalise on the East London Line extension. The new housing developments around Dalston Junction will create a new public square and other facilities. The London Development Agency – through its Design for London team - now plans to invest a further £750,000 in improving the wider public realm in Dalston – including the feasibility study for Arcola's future theatre.

The London Borough of Hackney is working with Transport for London and the London Development Agency to deliver a regeneration scheme in Dalston which will leave a lasting legacy. Dalston Square, a new public square, will link the two sites. Transport for London will build a new London Overground station on the East London Line, as well as a bus interchange. Above the new station will be shops and new homes. Hackney Council's Dalston Lane South site, which is bounded by Beechwood Road and Forest Road, will provide more homes, shops and a new library and public archive. A programme of public realm improvements will help integrate the new development with the existing town centre, and enhance the cultural mix.

Mouchel is a consulting and business services group that builds great relationships with clients in the public sector and regulated industry to make a difference to customers and communities. Operations include highways, water, rail, property, housing, education, energy, management consultancy and 'business process outsourcing' in a wide range of disciplines. Mouchel has more than 11,000 employees, 123 offices in the UK and an audited turnover of £740.6 million. Mouchel was awarded 'Top 20 Best Big Companies to Work For' status in March 2008 in the annual Sunday Times rankings. In March 2008 it also achieved Two Star accreditation from awarding body Best Companies for an outstanding level of employee engagement across the company.

William G Dick Partnership LLP is the Chartered Quantity Surveying practice providing financial advice to Arcola Theatre, relating to the construction project. Established for over 25 years, the practice prides itself in providing clients with an enthusiastic, pro-active and professional service.

London Sustainable Development Commission was established in 2002 to advise the Mayor of London on making London a benchmark for sustainable cities. The Commission is made up of a individual experts from the economic, social, environmental and London governance sectors. The Commission's London Leaders programme brings together London's leading lights in sustainability, to deliver change, and inspire others to do the same. www.londonsdc.org

Arts Council England works to get great art to everyone by championing, developing and investing in artistic experiences that enrich people's lives. As the national development agency for the arts, we support a range of artistic activities from theatre to music, literature to dance, photography to digital art, and carnival to crafts. Great art inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves, and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2008 and 2011, we will invest £1.3 billion of public money from government and a further £0.3 billion from the National Lottery to create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country.