

Mercury Theatre

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Theatres Trust
Conference 21:
Making Theatre
Sustainable



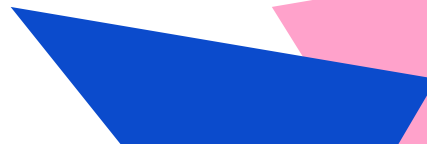
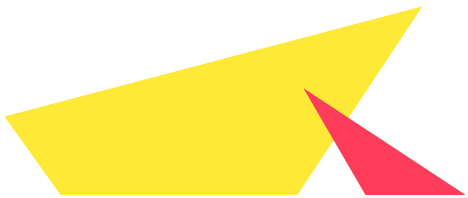
#MakingTheatreSustainable



MERCURY

Mercury Rising Capital Project 2016 - 2021

Mercury Rising 2015 - 2021

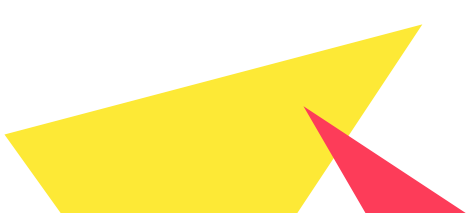


Mercury Rising – the journey....

- Design Brief and Aims and Objectives
- Partnership
- Research
- Consultation – staff, audiences, users
- Site Limitations
- Procurement and Contract Structure
- Features of the building

Sustainability....

Before and after.....



Front of house.....



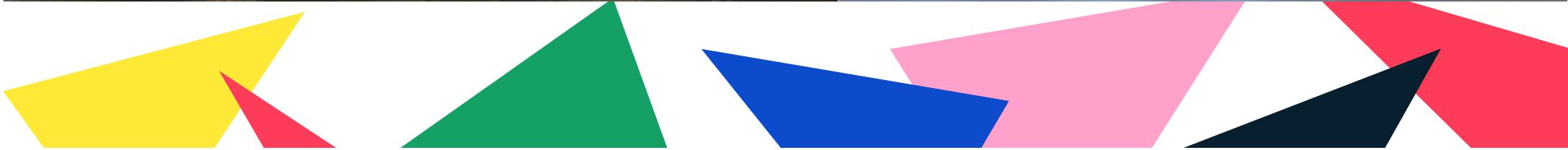
Box office.....



First floor bar....



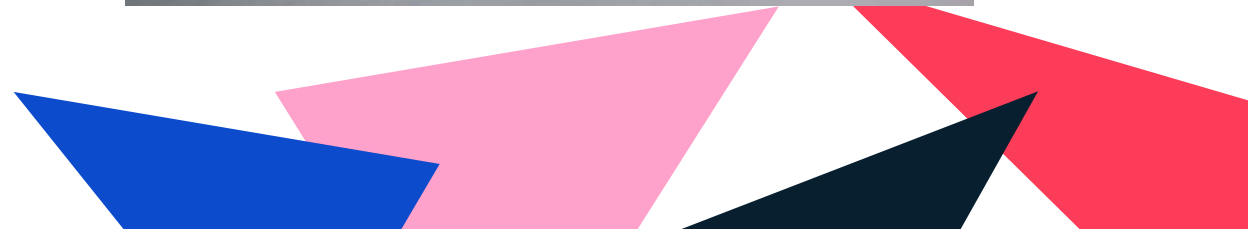
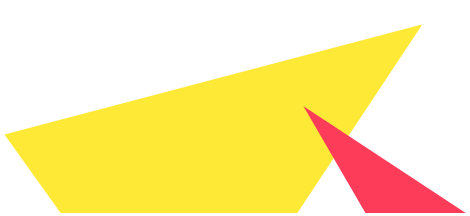
Rehearsal space.....



Dressing rooms.....

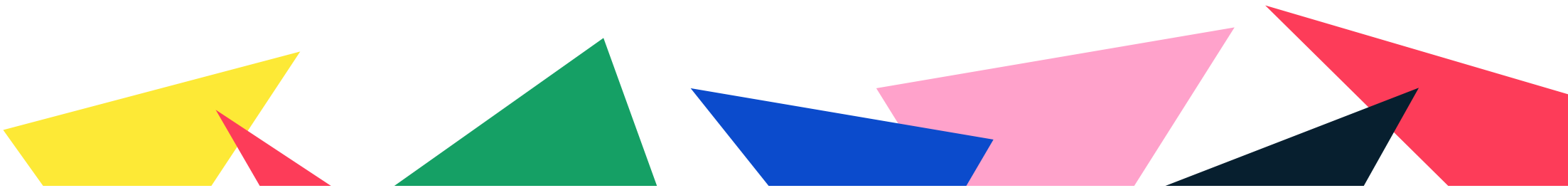


New Dance Studio and Education Space...



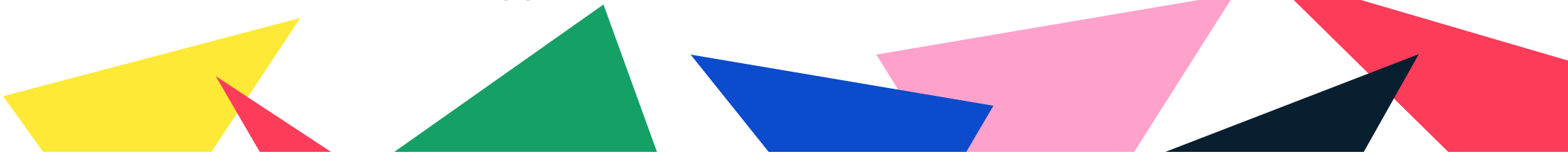
Design Brief

- Sustainability was central within the brief from the beginning
- Alongside our artistic and community engagement objectives
- Alongside our operating model



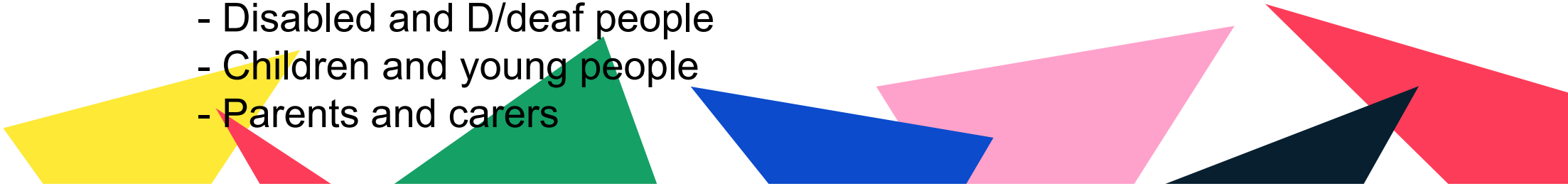
Partnership

- The project was delivered in partnership with Colchester Borough Council and Colchester Borough Homes.
- Building is owned by CBC with us as the tenant
- We have a 40-year peppercorn lease
- The Borough acted as the principal applicant with us managing the fundraising
- This enabled the Borough to claim 100% of the VAT
- We are part of the Borough's sustainable energy scheme
- Able to access additional funding to support sustainability (solar install)
- Additional 'in-kind' support of Officers



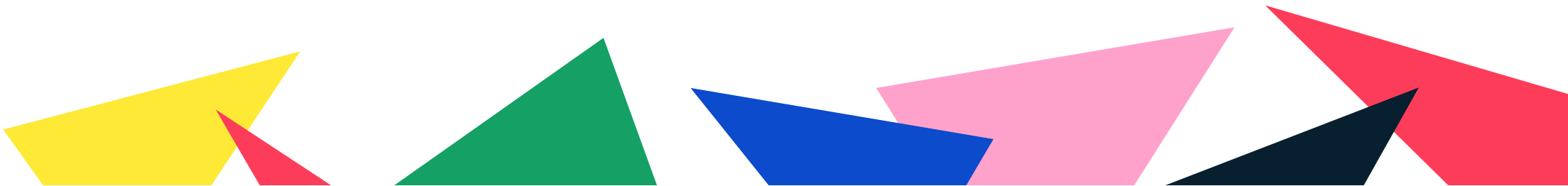
Research and Consultation

- We took a long time to research the sustainability elements with our project managers including:
 - Contractors
 - Suppliers
 - Capital versus running costs
- Working with focus groups of audiences and users (including segmented groups) such as:
 - Older people
 - Disabled and D/deaf people
 - Children and young people
 - Parents and carers



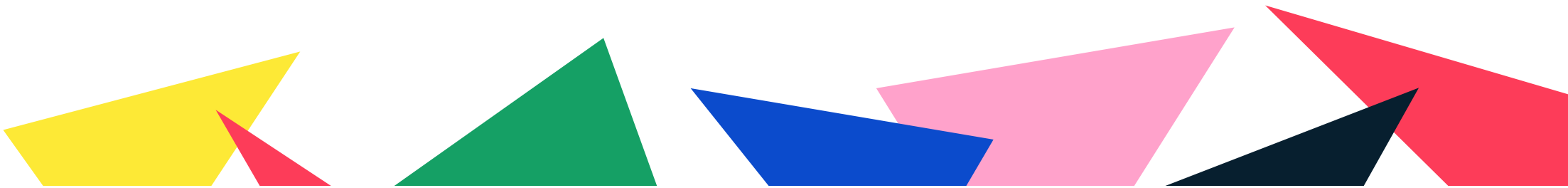
Site Limitations and Sustainability

- Theatre is within a conservation area
- Residential (old people's home across the road)
- Next to a scheduled ancient monument (Roman Wall)
- Building listed as a 'of significant local interest'
- High footfall of residents and visitors
- Access to the site is very limited – no on site storage
- Original building was built in 1972 with significant asbestos and limited structure



Procurement and Contract Structure

- We used the local authority procurement system
- The tender highlighted the importance of sustainability both in terms of materials and local suppliers and contractors
- All contracts had a Sustainability clause and targets
- Engaged a **Sustainability Consultant** directly – all contractors and sub contractors had to monitor and report progress (importantly this was linked to payments)



We've done it!

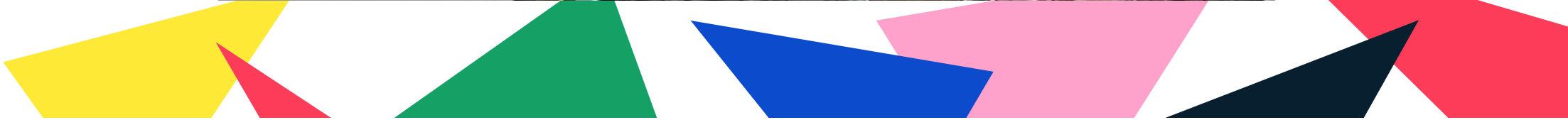
- We are open (a year late due to Covid but we've done it!)
- Of the **£11.3 million** project costs we spent **£10 million** in North Essex
- We have achieved BREEAM Status (placing us within the top **25%** of sustainable public buildings in the UK)
- We are the most sustainable building in the Borough
- Feedback from audiences has been overwhelmingly positive
- Further work includes:
 - a community garden and planting project with Colchester Refugee Action and local schools
 - Purchase of LED theatrical lighting stock
 - Purchase of electric vehicles



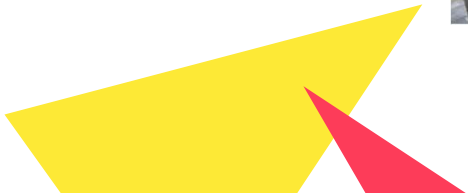
Building Features

Sustainability....

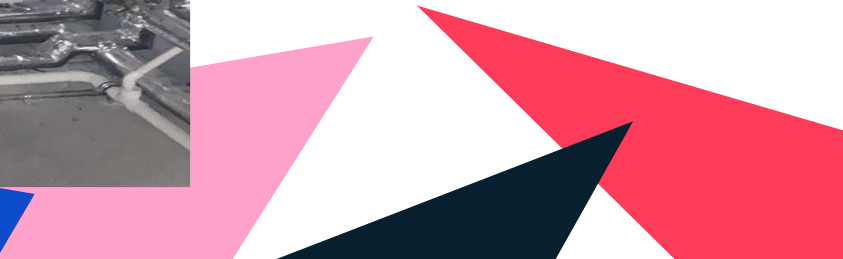
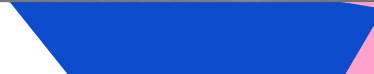
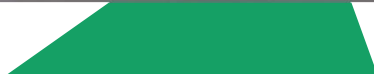
Solar Installation



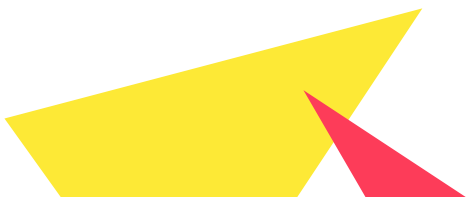
Heating and Lighting



Building Management System



Glazing



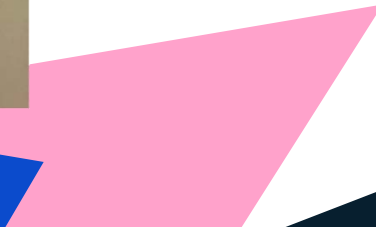
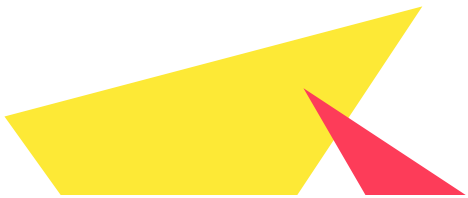
Glazing



Use of Recycled Materials



Use of Spaces and BMS



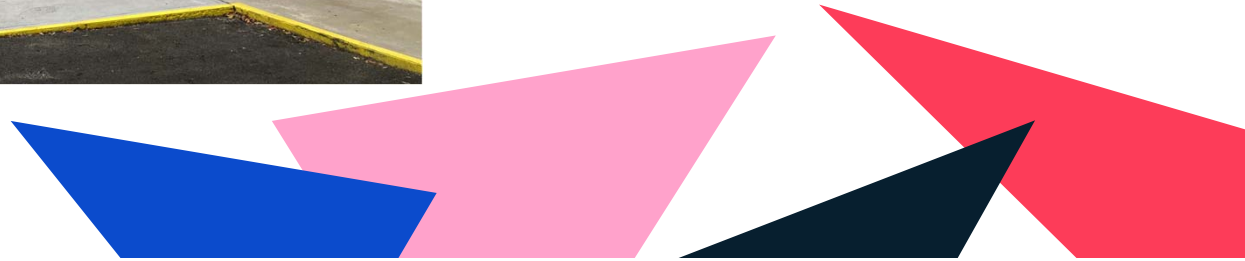
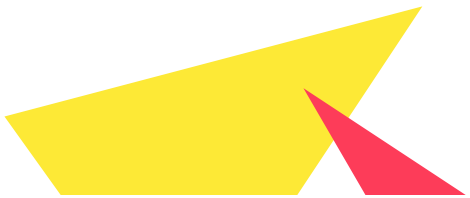
Alarm System



Alarm System



Use of Natural Materials



Challenges of our Site



Embedding Sustainable Design

