

Ref.: TC/2009

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**Application:** 24/00507/LBC

**Site:** Savoy Theatre Savoy Court London WC2R 0ET

**Proposal:** Internal refurbishment including replacement replica bespoke fabric that covers the seats in the auditorium and replacement of the carpet.

**Remit:**

Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. We were established through the Theatres Trust Act 1976 'to promote the better protection of theatres' and provide statutory planning advice on theatre buildings and theatre use in England through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, requiring the Trust to be consulted by local authorities on planning applications which include 'development involving any land on which there is a theatre'.

**Comment:**

This application for listed building consent has come to the attention of Theatres Trust because it is seeking to undertake refurbishment within the Savoy Theatre,

**Theatres Trust**

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

**Telephone** 020 7836 8591 **Email** [info@theatrestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrestrust.org.uk) **Website** [theatrestrust.org.uk](http://theatrestrust.org.uk) **Twitter** @TheatresTrust

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**Chair** Dave Moutrey OBE

**Director** Jon Morgan

**Trustees** Vicky Browning OBE, Anna Collins, James Dacre, Suba Das, Liam Evans-Ford, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Tracy Ann Oberman, Lucy Osborne, Saratha Rajeswaran, Truda Spruyt, Michèle Taylor MBE, Katie Town

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specifically the replacement of seat fabric and carpets within the auditorium.

The current fabric dates from the theatre's 1993 restoration and refurbishment following the fire of 1990 which destroyed the originals. The original seat covers and carpets were inspired by décor from China, Egypt, Japan and Mexico with zinnia flowers from Hyde Park, with five tones of Utrecht velvet. The current carpets and seat covers were designed to be an exact match to the originals based on fragments which were recovered following the fire.

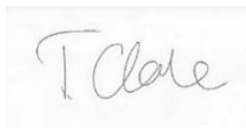
There is a need to replace the seat fabric and carpets because they have become worn and reached the end of their life; the supply of replacement seat fabric has been exhausted.

Whilst the carpet can be replaced on a near like-for-like basis, stamped and embossed Utrecht velvet is no longer in production. Therefore an alternative method of upholstery is required, which will be an Angoran Mohair wool velvet. The design and pattern however is unchanged, having been replicated.

There is a demonstrable need for refurbishment, to ensure appropriate maintenance and upkeep and to maintain the comfort of audiences. With the unavailability of previous seating fabric, effort has been made to replicate existing design, colour and pattern as closely as possible but a new fabric method is required. Whilst this results in some impact on the original design intention (although not on original fabric as this was lost following the fire), we consider this constitutes a low level of less than substantial harm in heritage terms.

We can therefore support the granting of listed building consent.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss these comments in further detail.



Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

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