

SCARBOROUGH SPA AND SOUTH BAY REDEVELOPMENT

Location: Scarborough South Bay
Services: Masterplanning, Architectural and Interior Design

Scarborough Borough Council, with the support of Yorkshire Forward, has ambitions to preserve the status of Scarborough Spa as one of the town's premier conference and entertainment venues.

Scarborough Spa has been a recognised public attraction since the 1600s. A number of buildings have occupied the site, but currently the dominant feature of the complex is the stone-built Victorian Grade II* listed building, originally designed by Sir Joseph Paxton in 1857, and later extended and remodelled by Verity & Hunt in 1877.

The Sheffield office of Swanke Hayden Connell Architects has developed a design brief with the following primary objectives:

- To identify and improve the functionality and viability of what is currently a fragmented group of spaces;
- To improve the Spa's relationship and accessibility to the town;
- To provide general improvement to the urban realm.

The centrepiece of the development will be the upgrade of the Grand Hall, including an extended and re-modelled stage, additional backstage facilities, improved seating and technical facilities, all with a view to increasing the flexibility of use of the venue. Associated with the Grand Hall will be the re-modelling of the Spa's main entrance lobby and associated areas to improve public facilities, and the conversion of the existing caretaker's cottage to form a consolidated office suite. Additional to these improvements will be the conversion of existing cellar areas to provide much needed storage and dressing room facilities.

Externally the project focuses chiefly upon the ambition to 'reclaim' the urban realm in which the complex sits. It will be achieved by the removal of car parking from the forecourt, the improvement of an existing, but under utilised underground car park and the inclusion of a new lift resolving existing DDA accessibility.

The proposals have all been designed to have minimal impact on the historically sensitive nature of the complex and its surroundings. Alterations have either been incorporated into basement spaces or have been designed in such a way as to be obviously contemporary, whilst still complementary to the existing fabric. English Heritage has been consulted at each stage of the design process, culminating in Planning and Listed Building consent.

Work will commence on site in early 2010.