

**Sector:** Leisure

**Robertson businesses:** Robertson Tayside  
Robertson Capital Projects  
Robertson Specialist Division

**Clients:**

Horsecross Arts Ltd, Perth & Kinross Council

**Value:** £15m

**Contract dates:** April 2016—Sept 2017

**Location:** Perth



## Perth Theatre

Theatre for all

Perth Theatre is one of Scotland's oldest and most historic repertory theatres. It was opened in 1901, but has roots dating back as far back as 1589. The Edwardian auditorium will be fully restored and new accessible facilities constructed, comprising a 200-seat studio theatre, foyer, bar, restaurant and workshop spaces for creative learning and community projects.

### Providing for another century of creativity

Perth Theatre, at well over 100 years old, includes a historic auditorium with beautiful period features.

The building had a complex layout that was difficult for theatre-goers to access and move around in, and also required additional modern facilities.

The historic spaces will be restored to their original splendour and the venue as a whole will be redeveloped.

Robertson Tayside has demolished a three-storey extension, originally completed in 1985, to make way for a new triple-height space including an accessible foyer, bar, restaurant and 200-capacity studio theatre, which will be used for small to mid-scale music and drama performances.

The demolition debris was used as infill for the foundations, while the skeleton of new building will be put in place using a 230 foot crane over a 6-month period.

The new facilities will provide new community and creative learning spaces, including a home for Perth Youth Theatre. It will also improve accessibility throughout the building, including providing level access for the first time with a lift to all other levels.

The B-listed, Edwardian auditorium will be restored to its former glory. All original features such as the mouldings, plasterwork, and the upper circle seating (often referred to as 'the gods') will be reinstated. An orchestra area will be introduced, and sightlines, lighting and ventilation will be improved.

The theatre's restoration and redevelopment will provide cultural, social, educational and economic benefits to both the Perth area and Scotland.

Artefacts discovered during the project, such as ticket stubs from 1912, will go on show after construction is completed, as part of a collection of historic memorabilia co-ordinated by the theatre's Memory Collective team.

The theatre is due to reopen in late 2017.

