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## Royal Festival Hall London

### Clark & Fenn

**Contract Value:**  
£1.5 million

**Contract Period:**  
2005 - 2007

**Acoustician:**  
Kirkegaard Associates

**Main Contractor:**  
Interior Exterior

**Client:**  
Royal Festival Hall

**Scope of Works:**  
Design, manufacture and installation of three large GRG acoustic baffles, GRG balcony fronts, ceilings to back of house areas and public circulation areas



Nearly sixty years on from its construction, the Grade 1 listed Royal Festival Hall underwent a major refurbishment, both internally and externally, to provide a venue that is now considered one of the finest musical and arts centres in the world.

The principal areas of renewal that Clark & Fenn undertook concerned the Main Hall, Ballroom, foyers, bars and other public areas. Many back-of-house rooms were also renovated along with the creation of a number of new spaces. The Clark & Fenn team also carried out the construction of three massive air duct structures within the auditorium void.

The process of creating such a ceiling with all the issues surrounding weight, construction and installation was a first in this country, probably the world, given the restraints of its listed status.

Design drawings were completed in-house based upon the conceptual schemes provided by the architects. Considerable time was spent in ensuring compliance with the architect's wishes while also

bringing our own experience and skills to the process.

This required, by necessity, a phased procedure of manufacture and installation in order to achieve the necessary mass, density and other associated issues such as secondary reverberation. Such a unique operation reinstating a ceiling nearly four times its original weight called for innovative thinking and focused attention on the methodology by which the panel would be produced and installed.

