

Dow Jones' Science Museum lecture hall revamp opens

15 June, 2017 By [Jon Astbury](#)

The new space has been unveiled alongside a public programme of events

The Science Museum has opened the revamped and newly-named Hans Rausing Lecture Theatre, designed by Dow Jones Architects. The design provides the museum with a space in which it will programme lectures, family shows and a new series of adult events and workshops called 'The Knowledge'.

Visitors will also be able to see a new interpretation of Foucault's pendulum at the entrance to the lecture theatre by Will Yates-Johnson. Yates-Johnson, a multidisciplinary artist and designer, has previously designed and created the exhibit *Reflections* for the Science Museum's interactive space *Wonderlab: The Staitoil Gallery* with muf.

Karen Livingstone, Science Museum group director of masterplan and estates, said: 'Dow Jones Architects' redevelopment of the Science Museum's Lecture Theatre beautifully fulfils the brief by providing our visitors with a comfortable and modern environment in which to enjoy our events, as well as elegantly highlighting the original architecture of the space.'

Architect's view

This project creates a new lecture theatre for the Science Museum as well as remodelling the entrance foyer to announce the theatre's presence. The new entrance is clad in engraved stainless steel sheet, inspired by the string models within the collection that were used as educational tools for the construction of complex geometrical forms. The existing barrel vault of the lecture theatre is revealed and the new space designed to be comfortable and calm, to be used for a wide range of activities and events.

Project data

Start on site February 2017

Completion May 2017

Gross internal floor area 210m²

Form of contract Traditional

Construction cost £450,000

Construction cost per m² £2,150

Architect Dow Jones Architects

Client The Science Museum

Structural engineer Momentum

M&E consultant OR Consult

Quantity surveyor Flemming Associates

Project manager Flemming Associates

CDM coordinator BBS

Main contractor Coniston

Approved building inspector London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

CAD software used Vectorworks