

Dubai Community Theatre and Arts Centre



Coopers takes centre stage in a new Dubai theatre

Set in the heart of the Mall of the Emirates, the Dubai Community Theatre and Arts Centre is Dubai's cultural flagship. Rising up from the roof of the Mall of the Emirates, it represents a new and dynamic architectural and design revolution that is gaining pace rapidly in the region.

A high level of fire protection was required within the Centre. The consultants, WSP Middle East approached Coopers for the fire containment curtain between the stage and the auditorium, as part of the highly sophisticated fire control system. The 120 minute integrity, fire resistant barrier is designed to contain smoke, heat, hot gases and fire within the stage area and prevent them spreading into the auditorium. The inbuilt Gravity Failsafe feature enables the curtain to deploy at a controlled speed when triggered by the alarm, or in the event of a total power failure or wiring or system corruption.

The compact housing and roller assembly makes the entire system far more lightweight than older, more traditional fire separating components. This was a key factor that substantially reduced design restrictions that are often placed on the architects and engineers.

In addition to the visual arts such as painting, sculpture, pottery and ceramics, the new Centre will provide unparalleled facilities for music and performance arts. Students will be able to take advantage of the superbly equipped classrooms and studios, with courses run by prominent artists and musicians from all over the world.

The project has received unprecedented support from the Centre's honorary patron, Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, wife of HRH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE – Ruler of Dubai.