

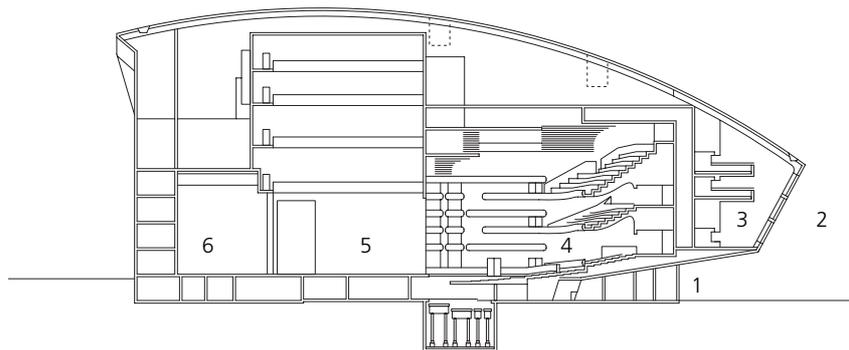
Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff



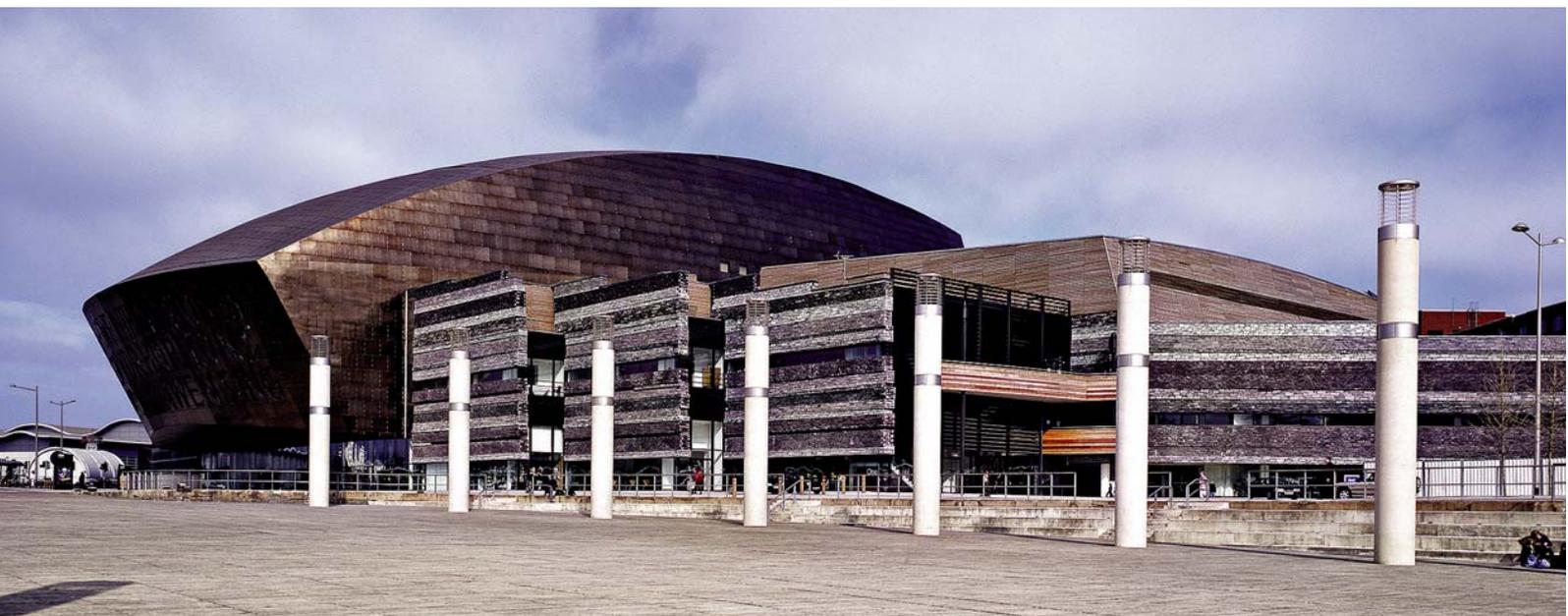
The Wales Millennium Centre was opened at the end of 2004 in Cardiff, not far from Cardiff Bay. Inside the metallic, shell-like volume is a 33,000 m² arts centre, at its heart a theatre with seating for 1,800. A monumental portico inscription, a modern interpretation of a device used in Roman classical architecture, stretches above the curved, overhanging west façade, dominating the main entrance. Each letter of the inscription is a glazed window, opening up two-way visual connections between the foyer and the outside. The design of the structure was separated from the

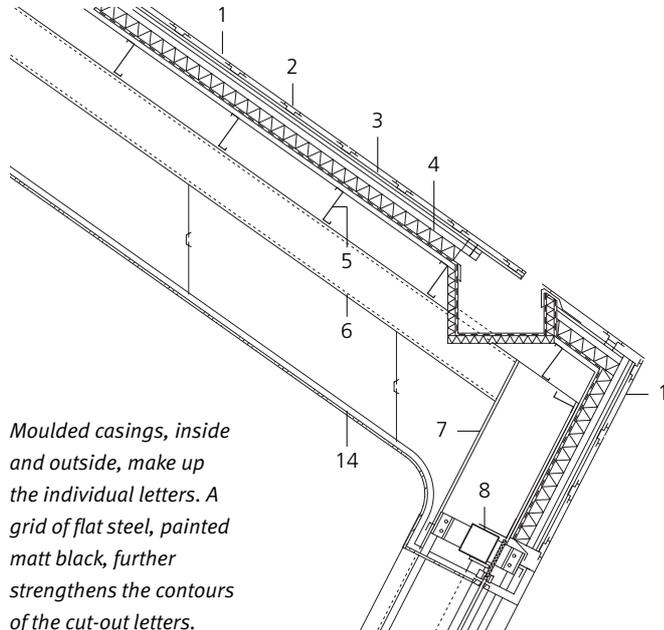
design of the interior fittings, a programme that enabled construction work to progress concurrently both inside and outside. It also meant it was possible to deliver this complex project in the short time frame available. The domed steel frame of the theatre is clad with roofing and façade systems commonly used in industrial buildings. What gives it definition and distinction are the gleaming 1.26 m-square stainless-steel panels, fixed to a subframe via exposed connection details. The patterned rolled surface of the panels is electrolytically coloured.

Electrolytically coloured stainless-steel panels, terracotta brick and various types of slate (traditionally quarried in Wales) are used on the façades, adding contrast and structure to the different parts of this large complex.



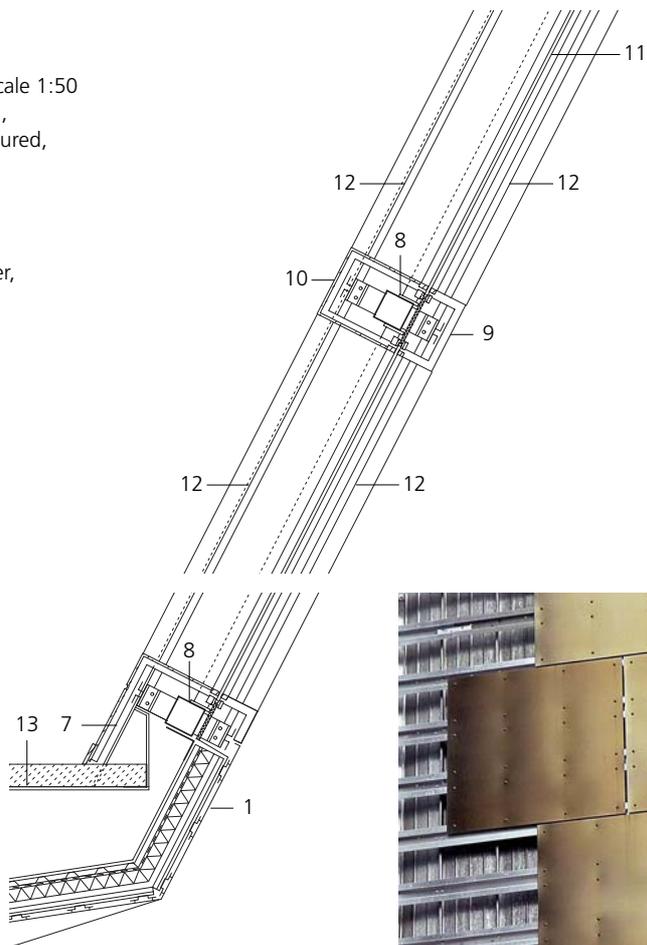
- Section
scale 1:1000
- 1 Main entrance
 - 2 West façade
 - 3 Foyer
 - 4 Auditorium
 - 5 Stage
 - 6 Backstage area





Vertical section through the west façade scale 1:50

- 1 0.8 mm stainless steel, grade EN 1.4401, patterned-rolled and electrolytically coloured, "Bronze Canvas"
- 2 aluminium cap profile
- 3 aluminium rail
- 4 roof system: profiled aluminium panel, 85 mm thermal insulation, vapour barrier, 35 mm trapezoidal sheet
- 5 purlin, 235 mm Z-section steel
- 6 rafter, 350 mm C-section steel
- 7 column, 575/210 mm I-section steel
- 8 rail, 200/200 mm hollow-section steel
- 9 prefabricated component, outside 5 mm glass-reinforced plastic
- 10 prefabricated component, inside 15 mm gypsum fibreboard
- 11 double glazing, partially colour-coated
- 12 bracing, 50/6 mm steel flat
- 13 cantilivered girder, tapered steel section
- 14 suspended ceiling

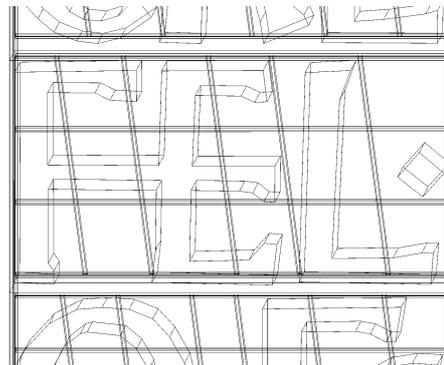


The 0.8 mm stainless-steel panels are fixed to the façade frame via visible connection details to create a quilted effect.





Each letter in the bi-lingual inscription 'CREU GWIR / FEL GWYDR / O FFWRNAIS AWEN – IN THESE STONES / HORIZONS / SING' makes up one of the windows in the building envelope.



The building skin of electrolytically coloured stainless steel continues on the suspended ceiling in the entrance area.



Euro Inox
Diamant Building, Bd. A. Reyers 80,
1030 Brussels, Belgium
Tel. +32 2 706 82 67
Fax +32 2 706 82 69
E-mail info@euro-inox.org

Client: Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff
Architects: Capita Percy Thomas, Cardiff
Structural engineers: Arup Associates, Cardiff
Text and layout: Martina Helzel, circa drei, Munich
Translation: Ingrid Taylor, Munich
Photos: Sarah J. Duncan, London, (cover, p. 1,
p. 2 top, p. 3 middle); Capita Percy Thomas, Cardiff
(p. 2 bottom, p. 3 bottom); Rimex Metals Ltd.,
Enfield (p. 3 top)