



Our Belfast

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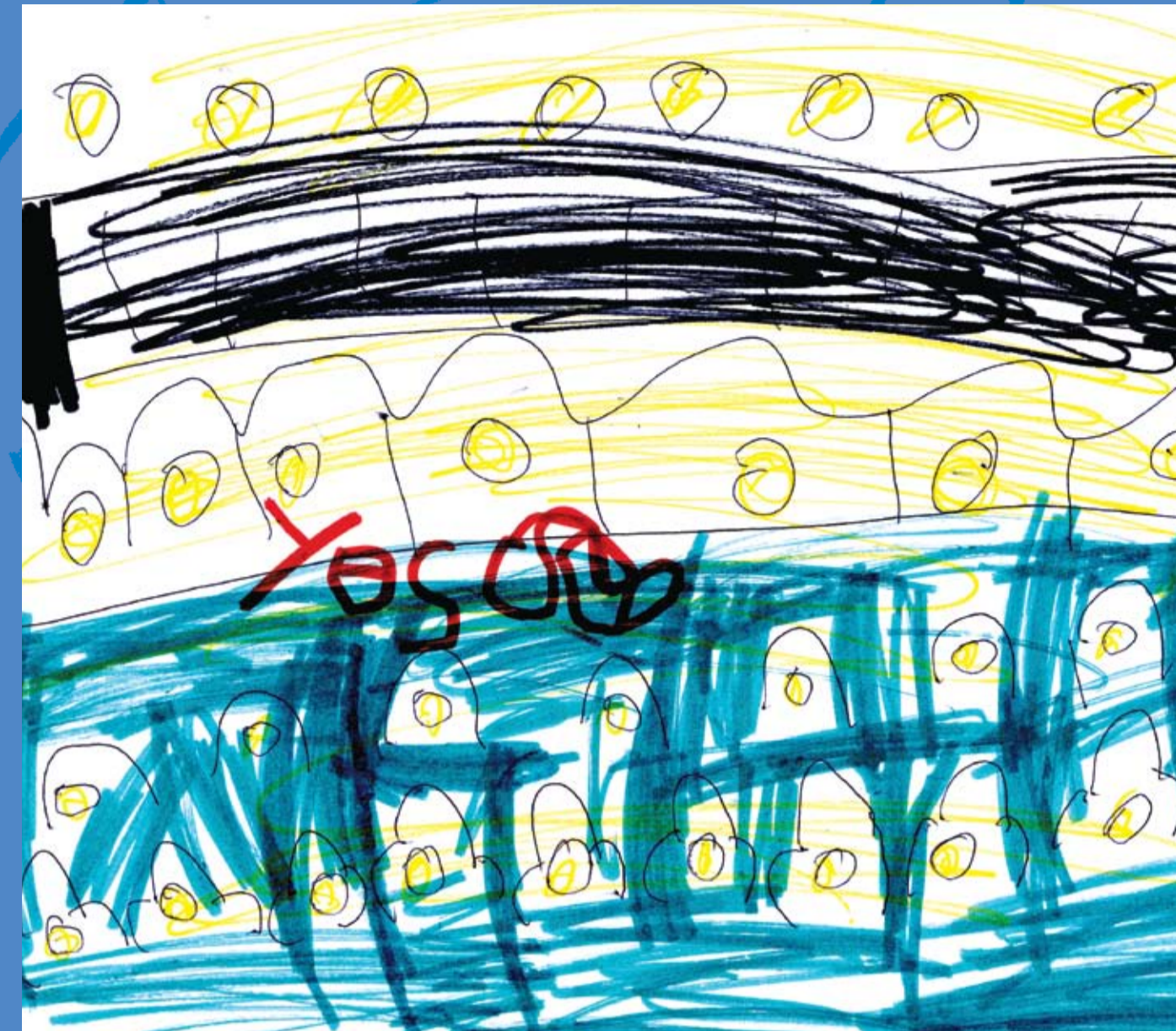
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WATERFRONT HALL

Designed by Robinson MacIlwaine Architects of Belfast, the Waterfront Hall was the first of a number of buildings to be built within that section of the Lagan side development.

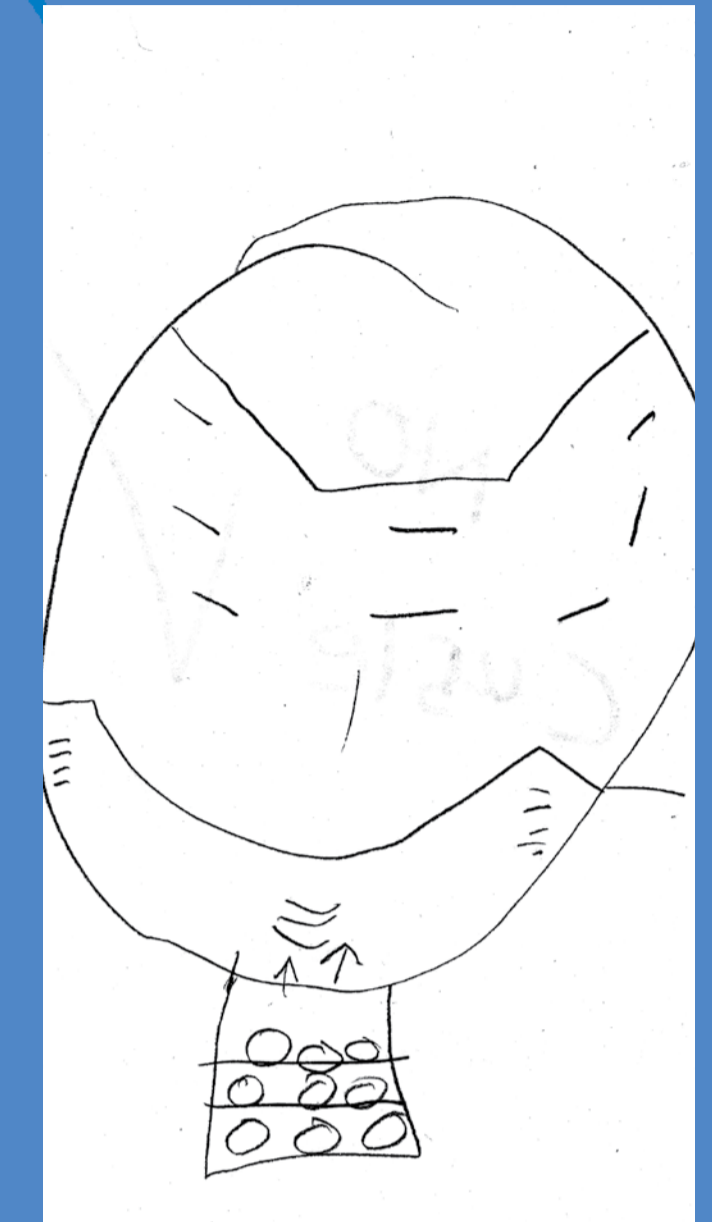
The building is a cylindrical form of which the auditorium sits centrally with front of house spaces and staff and performer facilities located around the circumference. The hall itself is used for a variety of different events, of which the flexibility comes from the design of the stage area. The floor works on a number of hydraulic sections that can be arranged to suit the type of performance or meeting taking place. Ultimately, the space can be used for events as wide ranging as an exhibition hall on a flat floor space to a fully functioning proscenium theatre.



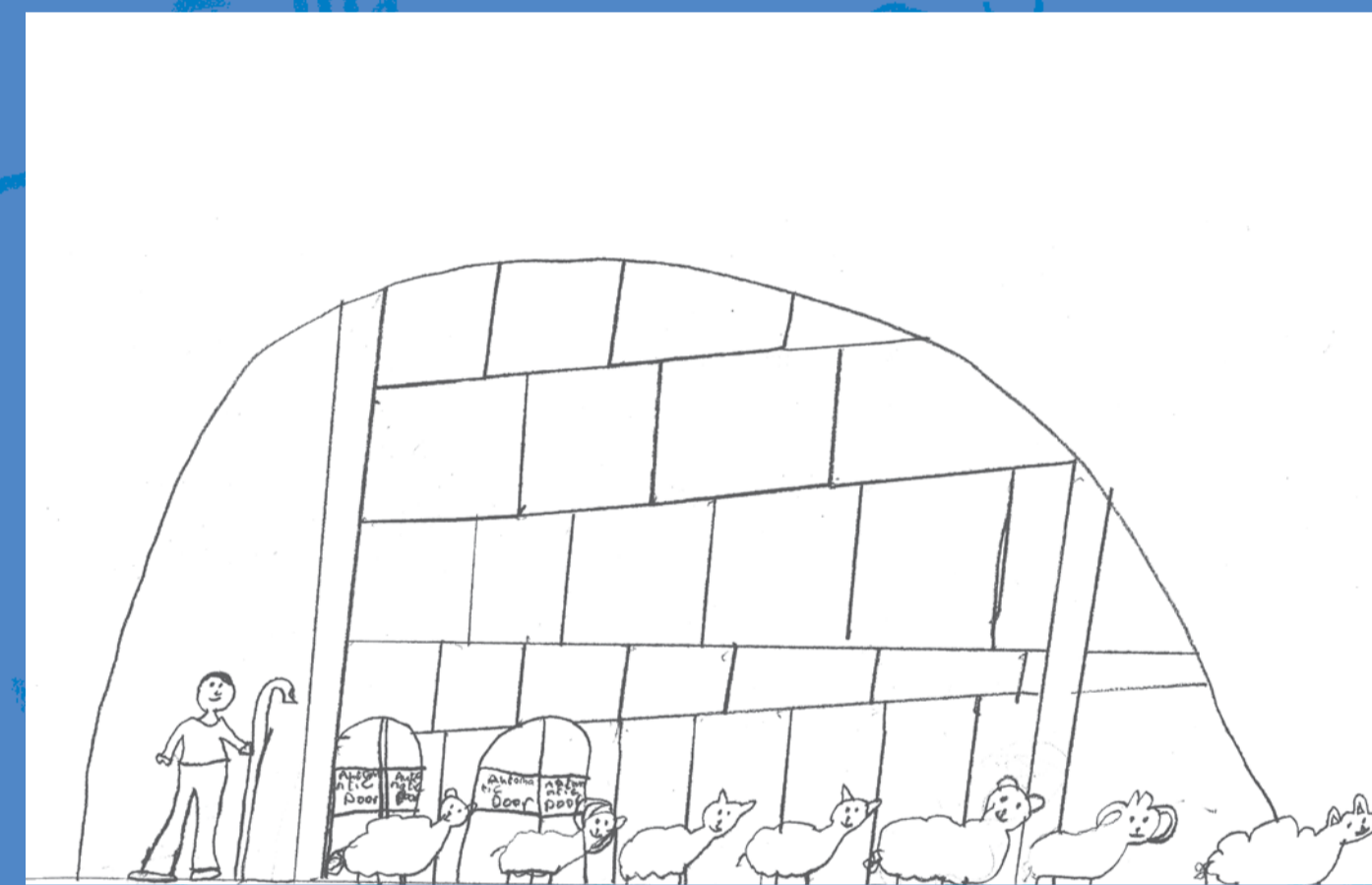
Jessica, age 6



Cuisle, age 9



Roise, age 7



Meibh, age 9

The layered form of the seating arrangement and the structural system in place allows every member of the audience to have an uninterrupted view of the stage. It seats over 2000 people.

Although the form of the building is unlike the traditional buildings of Belfast, it is constructed of the traditional Belfast red brick and topped with a copper dome. It has a large projecting window spanning all three floors which allows those using the bars and restaurants within the building to have clear views both up and down the river Lagan.

One of the main design concepts for the building was that of the Titanic, which was built at the neighbouring Harland & Woolf Shipyard that can be seen from the gallery bar spaces. The main staircase within the foyer recollects the grand staircase of the Titanic, and some of the architectural features resemble the prow of the ship. The main auditorium is accessed by means of glazed floors, which link the drum of the auditorium to the gallery spaces running around it. This alludes to the process by which you board a ship.

“I liked the sheep outside that I could sit on...we all sat on them after we had been inside.”

Jessica, age 6



A Roise and Nuala play on the staircase
B Seating in the Auditorium
C Waterfront Hall