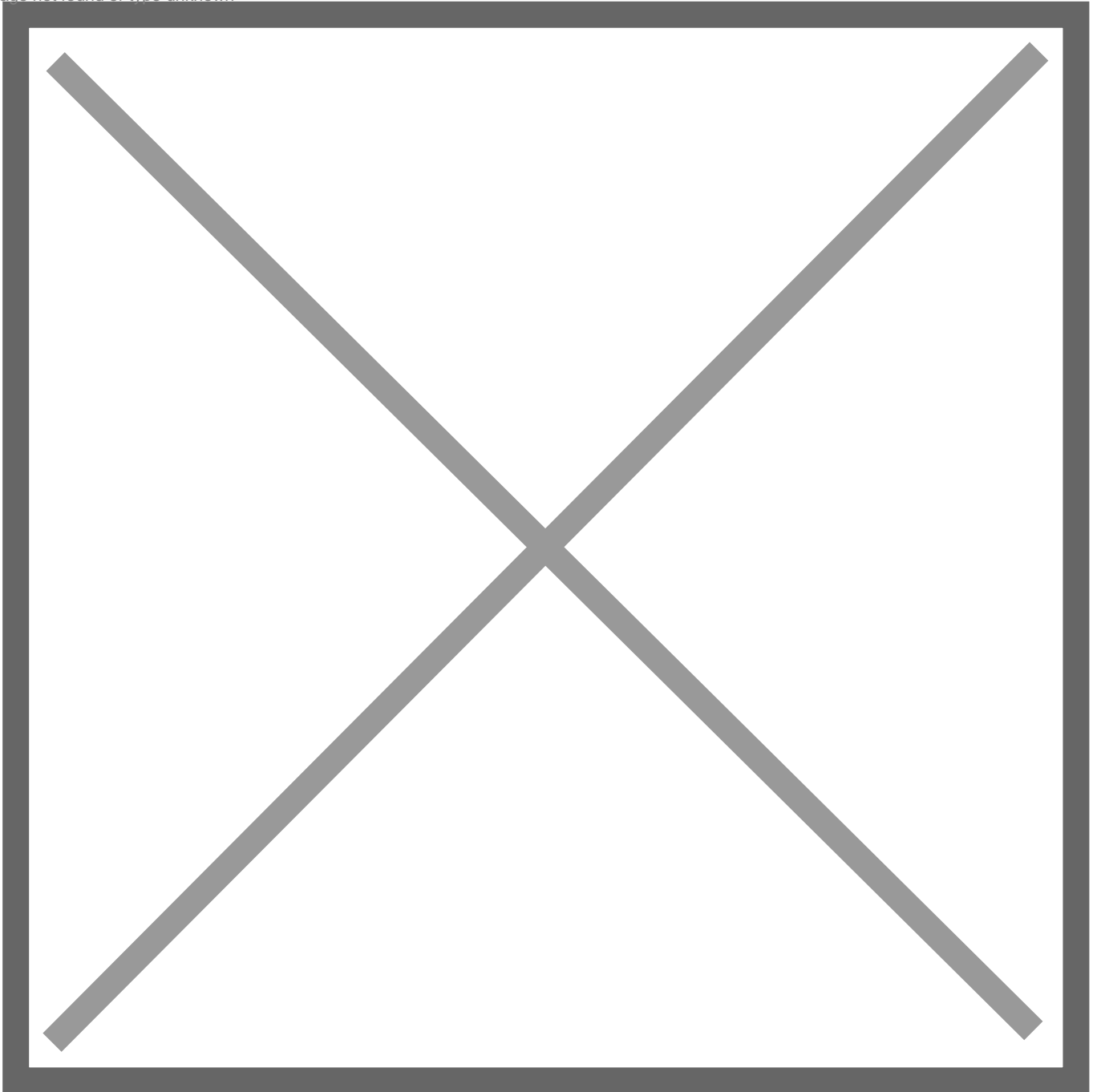


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Southbank Centre, Queen Elizabeth Hall & Purcell Room

United Kingdom

Southbank Centre, Belvedere Rd, Lambeth
Greater London SE1 8XX City of London

Completion

1967

Original name

Southbank Centre, Queen Elizabeth Hall & Purcell Room

Original use

Culture/leisure/tourism/concert hall

Current use

Culture/leisure/tourism/concert hall

Architects

Hubert Bennett with Jack Whittle, F.G West and Geoffrey Horsefall

Engineers

Ove Arup

Others

Higgs and Hill (builders)

Concrete by reinforcement

Reinforced concrete

Construction method

Cast-in-place concrete, in-situ concrete

Architectural concrete

Architectural concrete

Structural types

One-dimensional/ [trussed] beam, One-dimensional/ [mushroom] column, Two-dimensional/Slab

Description

The Southbank Centre, located along the banks of the Thames, combines the predominant styles of English post-war architecture from the 1950s to the 1970s in a single complex. The program consists of auditoriums, theatres, art galleries, archives, libraries and entertainment venues. The vast majority of buildings are characterised by the use of exposed concrete, and they provide one of the best examples of Brutalist architecture in Britain.

A common feature of the entire Southbank complex is the buildings' integration with public space: promenades, terraces, bridges and urban walking paths are interspersed with the different elements of the program. To generate unity for the complex, some especially expressive concrete elements, such as the exterior staircases that connect the different urban levels, are painted in bright colours.

The Queen Elizabeth Hall and the Purcell Room share space in a building that dates from 1967. The names refer to the two auditoriums inside: one for symphonic music and the other, more intimate, for chamber music. In 2018, the building reopened its doors after years of intense renovations to modernise the facilities and improve its environmental performance.

The building's exterior is noteworthy for the combination of cast-in-situ concrete, with a pronounced texture, and washed prefabricated concrete panels with visible aggregates. Concrete is also present in the interior, especially in the foyer, where it is the dominant material in the

characteristic columns with octagonal capitals and the triangular skylights with wooden diffusers.

Links

[Southbank Center](#)
[Wallpaper](#)