

## The Customer:

The Roundhouse, in Chalk Farm, North London is a specialist entertainments and arts venue. The large, round grade 2 listed building was originally a steam engine turning shed. Now converted, but retaining many of its original features, the Roundhouse is able to hold up to 3,000 people standing in the Main Space and seat 120 in the Studio Theatre, making it an ideal and interesting location for large scale performing arts events.

## The Challenges:

“However, this makes for a very unusual and specific venue, with production plans and processes often needing to be altered so companies can work effectively in the space” said Ben Ranner, Head of Stage, whose job it is to liaise and plan with performers to overcome the building’s quirks and make the most of the venue.

Planning ahead is especially important because of the ornate listed Victorian architecture. Ben opens communications with performers well ahead of any event. Plans of the stage area, auditorium, entrance, exits, lighting etc are all drawn, which provides accurate stage and floor plans to work with. Staging events on this scale is way beyond the usefulness of a paper and pencil planning sketch!

**“We need a professional drawing tool which is easily edited for ‘what if’ scenario planning, plus the ability to share and publish drawings /plans with clients and other departments”** said Ben Ranner.

**“Any CAD package we use also needs to be simple to understand and flexible, as we have team members with varied skill levels. It also has to be cost effective to upgrade.”**

## The Product:

Ben had used TurboCAD, AutoCAD and Vector Works previously. He decided that TurboCAD Pro best met the needs of the Roundhouse stage team, who might be intimidated by more complex CAD packages.

The majority of people at the Roundhouse use TurboCAD as an information deriving tool, but five team members use the software as their main, day-to-day drawing and planning tool. It provides them with everything they need to complete 2D plans and 3D virtual ‘walk-through’ models of stage sets etc.

TurboCAD is also used in conjunction with the Roundhouse’s Wysiwyg (What You See Is What You Get) lighting design package, so drawings and plans can be overlaid with the lighting requirements of a production.



Photo by Jonathan Birch

## The Benefits:

**“The main benefit for me is the simple user interface, which means staff can learn the programme very quickly. No matter what level of skill you have, you can view and understand plans and drawings without needing someone to break them down for you”**

said Ben Ranner.

### Additionally:

- TurboCAD’s design flexibility meets the needs of the entire team – simple to complex
- Allows them to exchange information quickly and efficiently to others in the organisation, with clients and partner organisations
- A realistic pricing structure means that everyone in the team has their own license copy
- Visuals are quickly and easily understood – great for sales presentations
- Saves time. E.g. No longer have to produce model boxes of layout etc, the 3D rendered modelling facility provides clients with a virtual walk-through stage set on their computer screen.

To find out more about TurboCAD, contact Software Paradise

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