

History of The Hub

This historic, Grade A listed building forms an integral part of the architectural fabric of Edinburgh. Constructed between 1842 and 1845 on a site previously cleared of tenements, it was originally named Victoria Hall and built as the Assembly Hall and offices for the Church of Scotland. The architects were James Gillespie Graham, responsible for the overall form and plan of the building and Augustus Welby Pugin, famous for his work on the Houses of Parliament, who designed the spire, detailing and internal form.

The interior is similar to Pugin's work on the House of Lords and the spire is similar to his designs for the Ideal Parish Church, illustrated in his book, *The True Principles of Christian Architecture*. The building was conceived as a simple box with stupendous spire – the box contained the offices of the Church of Scotland on the ground floor and the Assembly Hall above.

Following the 1929 union of the Church of Scotland and the United Free Church, the building ceased to be used as the Assembly Hall. In subsequent years, it was used as a temporary home for various congregations and, in 1956, was named the Highland Tolbooth St John's Church.

The building fell into disuse as a church in the early 1980s and, while the external fabric of the building was in reasonably good order, the inside became virtually derelict. The transformation of the Tolbooth to accommodate the offices of and performance space for The Edinburgh International Festival provided an opportunity to return this historic site to its deservedly central role in Edinburgh's public life.

the hub
Edinburgh

EDINBURGH'S FESTIVAL CENTRE



The Hub Today

In 1999 The Hub was re-opened as one of Edinburgh's iconic landmarks. The building itself is a stunning combination of award-winning contemporary design and classic Victorian architecture. As well as accommodating various events during the International Festival in August each year, The Hub offers a truly unique and spectacular space for a variety of events, including educational workshops for children, exhibitions and trade fairs, conferences and drinks receptions.

Full of style and verve, The Hub is a dramatic and dynamic environment for events, offering a memorable venue to clients. The building is extremely atmospheric, with excellent natural lighting and acoustics. Since its opening The Hub has developed and established a reputation for quality, service and outstanding Scottish cuisine which, like The Hub itself, blends modern with traditional to spectacular effect.

This versatile venue is a favourite location of UK and international corporate clients as well as private clients for weddings and other celebrations. The capacity of The Hub is one of the largest of venues of its type in Edinburgh, making it the perfect location for dinners for up to 300, or drinks receptions for over 500 guests.

Within the ground floor of The Hub, there is also a box office, providing ticketing services UK wide and a Cafe, Cafe Hub, which is open all year round and offers a relaxed environment to enjoy a light meal or take a coffee break whilst touring the City.



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For further information about The Hub visit www.thehub-edinburgh.com
Contact The Events Team to see how we can accommodate your events
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For information about The Edinburgh International Festival, please visit www.eif.co.uk