

OWEN LLOYD

COMPOSER, ARTIST, LECTURER, RESEARCHER

99 Garnet St, Bristol, BS3 3JN

Cell +44 (0) 7505106177

owen@repeat-to-fade.net

www.repeat-to-fade.net

Building Materials (working title) is my proposal for the Exeter Phoenix Digital Art Commission 2010. It is an installed composition generated, in real time, by the sounds and events within the Exeter Phoenix. Audio and event data, harvested from the building, will come together to create a constantly evolving musical composition reflecting the sounds to be found around the centre, its rhythms of use and the actions of its users.

The final exhibited piece will comprise a listening space at the hub of a network of wires running through the building to tiny microphones and sensors. These wires will be fixed with coloured gaffa tape (or similar) in regimented lines, making a kind of map of the work throughout the building (imagine the London underground map superimposed on a floorplan of the building). This 'map' will serve as a vital and dynamic visual component to the piece and also as a way for the visitor to make connections between the sounds and the space. The visitor can follow the lines to locate the origins of the sounds or their triggers. Thus they discover ways to interact with the piece, either through sound or with their actions, thereby creating a three way dialogue between themselves, the work and the building.

Technically the work will have at its core a fast Mac desktop computer. This will be receiving sound from contact microphones spread throughout the building via a multi channel audio interface. These will record sound from within the materials in the building rather than the sounds in a space so there will not be a risk of ethical issues such as eavesdropping. The computer will also be receiving data from various sensors and triggers throughout the building, the outputs of which will be run through an Arduino system (or similar) to package the data for the computer. The audio and sensor data will go into a program written by me in Max/Msp to generate the composition which will be output to an amplifier and speakers.

The sounds within the composition will be taken from the microphones and either used raw or maybe treated to make harmonic or rhythmic material, the aim being to create a work in constant flux but with a definite, considered, aesthetic. I don't want to simply re-present the noise of the building, the composition must stand as a piece of music. The data from the sensors will provide the structure for the piece. Long evolving changes (e.g. temperature, light levels), regular staccato events (doors opening, people crossing thresholds) and irregular large scale changes (e.g. visitor density in different parts of the building), will all contribute to a composition that reflects the daily and weekly routines of the building.

Building Materials will be ideally suited to the large, multi-faceted and busy nature of the Exeter Phoenix and will give voice to its rhythms.