

## Best of the Best.

### Q THEATRE.

Nestled in the heart of Auckland's city centre, beckoning to Queen Street and Aotea Square, is our new favourite: Q Theatre. Cheshire Architects and Williams Ross Architects have juxtaposed the old and the new (with a surprise of concrete and bands of colour), giving a rough-and-ready appeal to this insertion.

To walk down the street and to see dancers at work behind the large-scale heritage windows brings new meaning to performance. Then through the main entrance is a lobby incorporating a bar and café. Here, new surfaces blend with the existing columns and plaster, referencing the building's history and making it a great place to linger in anticipation of a show. At the rear of this space is a stairwell filled with natural light and textured precast concrete panels that wrap this end of the building. Throughout the theatre is a range of practice and performance spaces both above and below ground level. All this activity is wedged into this prime Auckland locale, and we suggest you get down there and check it out.

KATE ROGAN  
qtheatre.co.nz



### PARNELL BATHROOM.

Combine elegant, textured materials with some nice fittings and taking out the award for Best Bathroom seems pretty easy. In this renovation of Zambesi designers Neville and Liz Findlay's bathroom the design stays focused and crisp. Black mosaic tiles, painted brick and a dark vanity make the room feel luxurious, sophisticated and cohesive. It is all about the contrast between the elegant white forms of the fixtures against the black background, and it works a treat.

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