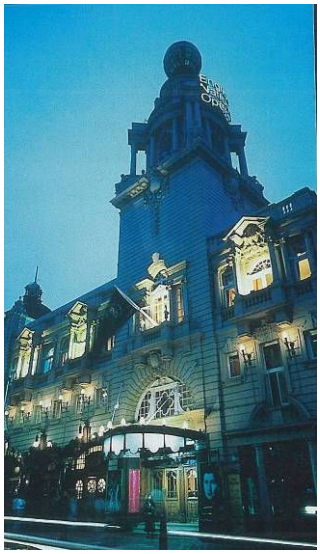
Designing for Lighting Maintenance Access The London Coliseum Globe

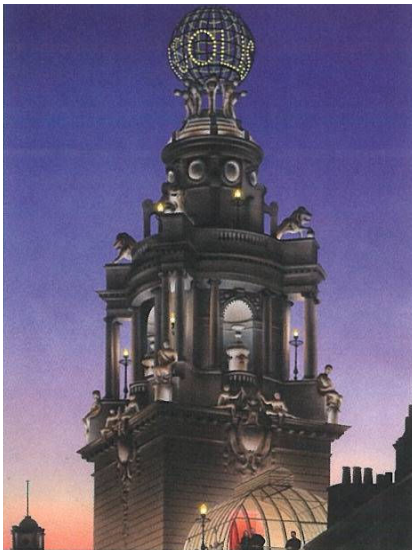
The Problem / Challenge
The existing globe at the top of the tower of the Coliseum Opera House was no longer illuminated and needed refurbishment. The building was Grade 2* listed, making the replication of original features essential.

The Risks
Falls from height during refurbishment and the future maintenance of 240 lamps.

The Solution
A fibre optic design was selected, with projectors at lower, accessible levels of the tower, reducing the frequency of access to the globe required. The tower was scaffolded during refurbishment, and can be fully or partially scaffolded in the future for periodic maintenance and cleaning. Permanent man access was ruled out as impractical on both safety and economic grounds.



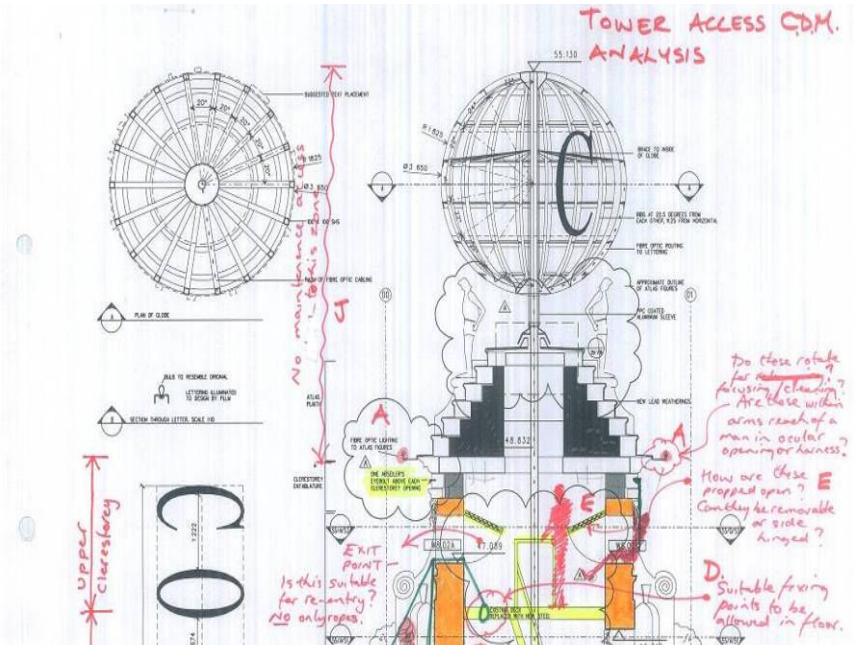
Existing “dark” tower



Proposed “lit” tower

The Benefits
The hazards associated with access to the globe for lamp changes were eliminated. The fibre optic solution provided the client with an economical method of maintaining full lighting to the globe “sky” sign at all times.

Key Points
Consultation between the client / FM team and the design and contractor team allowed early decision making. (The early involvement of the client encouraged acceptance of the increased costs of fibre optics) Survey drawings were labelled to analyse the challenges and to communicate the best available solutions.



CDM Analysis, identifying access challenges