



Evolution - Design Briefs for TOTEM

A design brief is like a project. It is something that needs to be planned; ideas will need to be tested and evaluated and you will have a certain number of lessons to complete it.

You can use these design briefs, or your group might like to think of its own – what challenges can you set for yourselves?

Design Brief 1: Revolving Stage

The revolving stage creates a beautiful effect. You can tackle both of these design briefs or focus on one:

- i) Design a stage area that can turn both clockwise and anti-clockwise so that performers can be rotated around the audience. The design should have a mechanism, or series of mechanisms, that could fit under the main stage in the Royal Albert Hall auditorium.
- ii) Design a moveable stage area that is able to turn as well as move up and down.

Design Brief 2: The Turtle – Support of the World

The large oval framework on stage represents a huge turtle shell that is both beautiful to look at and used by the acrobats. During the show the turtle skeleton is raised to the top of the roof or opened at an angle.

You will need to investigate gears, levers and pulleys that will enable the bars to rotate and the structure to be raised and lowered. Your challenge is to:

- i) Design a turtle-like structure that can be used by acrobats during the performance. The structure should contain at least one rotating bar for the acrobats to perform on and have a mechanism to raise and lower the turtle as needed.

Design Brief 3: The Scorpion Bridge

In TOTEM, the “scorpion bridge” is a mobile platform that can rise, lower, extend, and curl in on itself like a scorpion’s tail enabling it to adapt to different scenes. Your brief is to:

- i) Design your own a scorpion bridge that can move in and out and up and down.