

THE PARAMOUNT CENTER

Boston, MA



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

When Emerson College purchased the historic Paramount Theatre in Boston's downtown theater district, they had ambitious plans. What was once a 1500-seat movie house has been renovated and reconfigured, by Elkus Manfredi Architects, into an 800-seat proscenium theatre with a full-scale fly loft. Historic finishes were restored, and certain architectural features from the original were repurposed, such as a beautifully painted rococo "fan" that once permitted organ music to waft into the movie house that now functions as an acoustical reflector above the forestage. The new theater serves students and faculty at Emerson College and also the larger Boston community; several local performing groups have expressed interest in performing in the new theater.

But Emerson's plans did not stop at the Paramount's main performance space. To it they added a black box theater, scene shop and other theatrical support spaces, a film screening room, nearly a dozen rehearsal studios, practice rooms, teaching spaces, faculty offices, and on top of it all, dormitory rooms for 265 students.

Acentech consulted on the acoustical design of the facility, providing guidance on room acoustics, sound isolation between the stacked spaces on this tight urban site, and mechanical system noise control in the historic building.

The Paramount Center received the *Best Practices Large Project Award* from the International Facility Management Association (IFMA) Boston Chapter, the Boston Society of Architect's *Honor Award* and AIA New England *Design Award*.

CONSULTING SERVICES

- Architectural acoustics
- Mechanical system noise and vibration control

REFERENCE

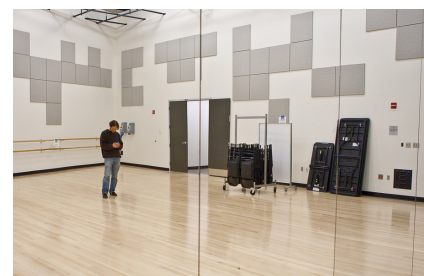
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200-seat screening room.



125-seat black box theatre.



Rehearsal room.