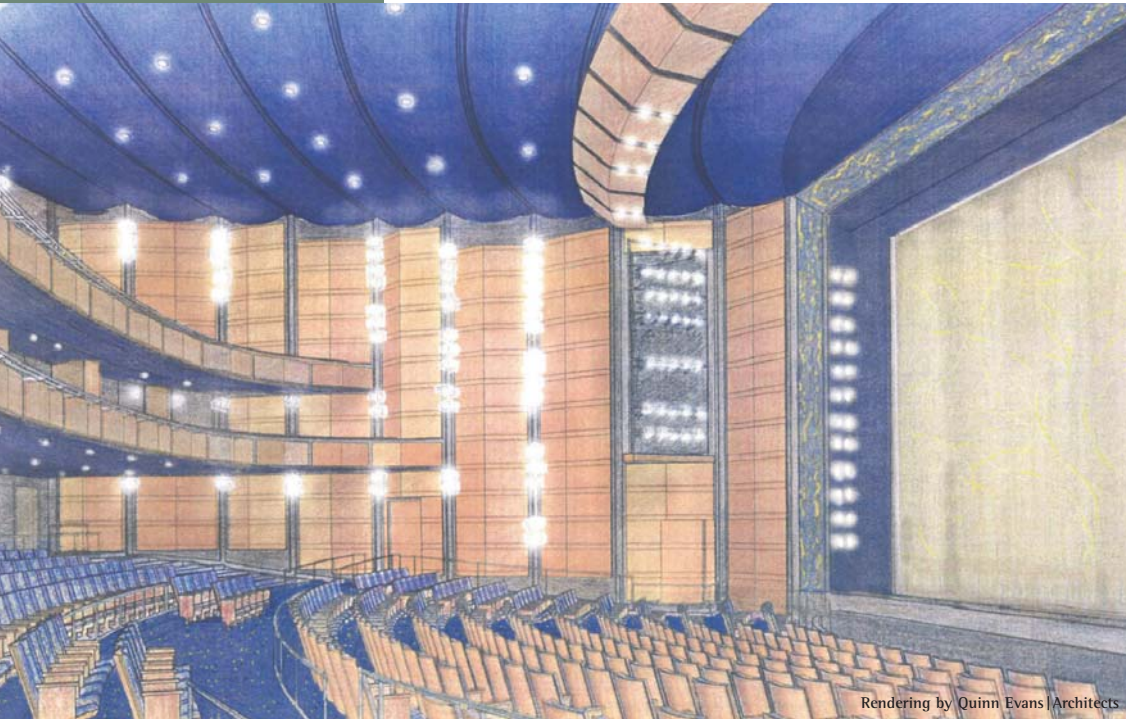


Mueller Earns Encore at the Kennedy Center

Family Theater, Eisenhower Theater Both Undergo Major Renovations



Reflecting on the challenging nature of the Eisenhower Theater renovation, Larry Barr, AIA, notes, "This is a very sophisticated system, and it requires a lot of coordination."

Having recently completed one successful performance at the Kennedy Center—the renovation of the John F. Kennedy Family Theater—Mueller Associates is now at work on an encore: renovation of the center's acclaimed Eisenhower Theater. Engineering for both projects has required meticulous planning and coordination to upgrade systems within limited space, while meeting challenging acoustical requirements for the performance venues.

Inch by Inch

For the Family Theater, which involved transforming a film theater into a state-of-the-art setting for live performances, Mueller Associates worked closely with the firm of RCG Architects to design the renovation of the 324-

seat space. "It was extremely challenging to accommodate the new air handling equipment and ductwork within the theater's existing infrastructure," says Darren Anderson, PE, project manager for Mueller. "At the same time, we had to meet the requirements of the architect and the acoustical engineers regarding the layout."

"All of the ductwork and pathways had to be carefully mapped out because the space was so limited," says Jonathan Fishman, AIA, principal-in-charge for RCG Architects. "It was like building a Swiss watch—designed to the fraction of an inch. It all went in exactly as Mueller planned it."

"Most engineers would not have been as successful," notes

Fishman. "Mueller was just the right firm for this project."

The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company was the general contractor for the renovation work, which was ultimately so successful that Kennedy Center staff invited the design and construction team to a special viewing of the theater's first performance—a play by Whoopi Goldberg called "Alice."

"Mueller had a challenging situation working on the Kennedy Center's Family Theater," says Barbara Gartley, project manager for the Kennedy Center. "This project showed off their flexibility and customer service. We are pleased that they're involved in the Eisenhower Theater renovation."

A Sophisticated System

Construction will begin in mid-2007 on the 1,100-seat Eisenhower Theater renovation, for which Mueller is teamed with Quinn Evans Architects. The renovations, which also include reconfiguring the house seating, stage and orchestra pit, will enhance sightlines for patrons, improve accessibility, and upgrade sound, lighting, and mechanical systems.

"The HVAC improvements are critical to the success of this project," says Mueller's project manager, Todd Garing, PE. "They've had difficulty with the existing system, in that the air currents from the air handlers blow directly on the scenery. When they turn off the system, it gets very hot on the stage. We are going to resolve all of that. It will need to be tightly packaged, because the new system cannot interfere with the rigging."

continued

Larry Barr, AIA, principal-in-charge for Quinn Evans|Architects, notes that “both the electrical and the mechanical work for this project are very challenging. Mueller will modify and re-route the ductwork in an extremely tight space. This is a very sophisticated system, and it requires a lot of coordination.

“Mueller thinks like we do,” Barr adds. “They ask the right questions and they have the capability to address the technical challenges. They understand the importance of their work to the overall success of the theater.”

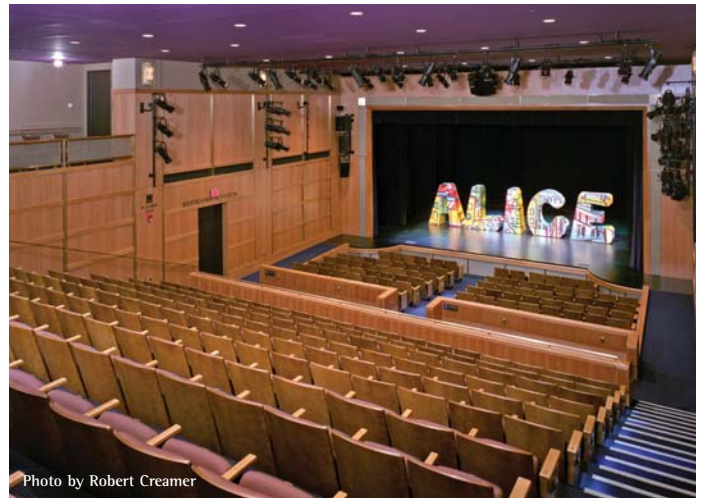


Photo by Robert Creamer

“Every inch had to be planned out,” says Jonathan Fishman, AIA, regarding the complex transformation of the Kennedy Center’s Family Theater.



Celebrating a Golden Career

Gary E. Johnson, PE, a partner with Mueller Associates, recently retired after a highly successful career that began in Baltimore in 1955. He will continue to serve on the board of directors and consult on major projects for the firm, but looks forward to more time with his wife, Lillian, and their family.

His retirement concludes an exemplary career as an engineer, manager, and role model. His leadership includes serving as

president of the Baltimore chapter of ASHRAE and the board of directors of the Engineering Society of Baltimore. He is a charter member of the American Society of Plumbing Engineers, and is a board member with Maryland ACEC. He is a Fellow with both ACEC and ASHRAE.

“I firmly believe that you have to give back to the profession,” Johnson says. “This is especially important in terms of mentoring

younger professionals.” He has also contributed time to the Baltimore Museum of Industry for many years, assisting with engineering presentations for primary school students.

“Gary has set a very high standard in terms of leadership and establishing trust with our clients,” says Robert A. Marino, PE, president of Mueller. “He has served our profession with integrity and honor.”



Photo by Robert Creamer

A tour of the University of Delaware’s new Center for the Arts was a highlight of the Society of College and University Planners’ (SCUP) Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference. Mueller Associates provided mechanical/electrical engineering for the new 92,000-square-foot performing arts facility, which was designed by Ayers/Saint/Gross.