

Facts & Figures

Owner: Dozier Family Foundation, Kennesaw

Type of Project: A new performing arts complex

Architects: Randall-Paulson Architects, Incorporated, Roswell (architect of record); Walters-Storky Design Group, Highland, NY (co-architect/systems designer/acoustician)

General Contractor: R. J. Griffin & Company, Atlanta

Size: 85,000 square feet

Cost: \$35 million

Construction Time: August 2004 - July 2006

The Need: To give performers of all ages a world-class environment in which to learn, rehearse and perform

The Challenge: Fine-tuning the technical elements of the building's design and construction

Supportive Team Members

Berkel & Company Contractors, Inc.
Caisson, Shoring & Excavating Contractors

Boyette Brothers Co. Inc.
Construction Equipment Rentals With Operators

Century Fire Protection, LLC
Fire Protection

Lightscape Media
Lighting Designer

Precision Concrete Construction, Inc.
Concrete Contractor



Photo courtesy of © Randall-Paulson Architects, Incorporated

Kennesaw, Georgia

Dozier Centre for the Performing Arts

Kennesaw's new Dozier Centre for the Performing Arts is giving area entertainers something to sing about.

According to James Matchack, a representative for the Dozier Family Foundation, the project's owner, the theater was designed and constructed to give people of all ages the opportunity to learn, rehearse and perform in the world-class environment of a state-of-the-art performing arts center. "The multidiscipline areas of dance, drama, vocal and orchestral training will bring together world-class instructors under one roof," he said. "Youth and adults within the Atlanta community will have the opportunity to learn under master-level instructors."

Boasting 85,000 square feet of space, the four-story structure is home to an intimate 640-seat theater, a spacious lobby, ballet

and jazz studios, and a smaller black box theater. There is also an impressive state-of-the-art audio and video recording suite.

Todd M. Barrett, project coordinator for Randall-Paulson Architects, Incorporated, the project's architect of record, said the center was designed with flexibility in mind. "Following the owner's diverse and extensive program, designers developed multiple uses for each space," he said. "For example, the grand lobby can double as a banquet or reception hall, and the black box theater and dance studios also function as an extension of the recording studios. One of the largest drivers of the project was the owner's desire for an excellent-sounding live music hall that can be converted for drama production, lectures and film presentation. With the help of our [co-architect/systems designer/

acoustician] Walters-Storky Design Group, we were able to incorporate variable acoustic elements that allow the owner to change the functionality of the space instantly."

"The greatest challenge we encountered was the extensive detailing and coordination required for the technical aspects of the building," said Barrett. "The design team had to work closely with the contractor to maintain critical integration of sound isolation, audiovisual connectivity, and theater production and light equipment while also allowing the building to be aesthetically pleasing."

R. J. Griffin & Company, the project's general contractor, was responsible for installing the facility's high-end finishes and specialty building materials. "Isolated slabs had to be installed to ensure high-quality sound and acoustics," said Brandon Sisler



Photos courtesy of R. J. Griffin & Company

project manager for R. J. Griffin. "These slabs had to be poured at separate times to alleviate vibrations between the rooms through a double wall system." The team constantly had to overcome the demanding challenges set forth by a unique, complicated design that entailed a large variety of acoustical

details," said Sisler. "Budget and schedule issues also required a great deal of coordination among team members, and therefore it was especially important to double check all items with diligence." The final product was worth the team's hard work. With its high-tech, flexible

spaces, Dozier Centre for the Performing Arts provides a little something for everyone in the Kennesaw community. ■

— Brian Louwers







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- Todd Barrett, Randall-Paulson Architects

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