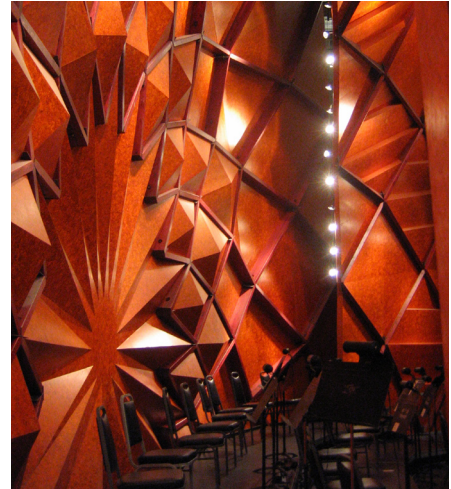




## Performing Arts Centers



## Globe News Performing Arts Center

Amarillo, Texas

The Carol Bush Emeny Performance Hall at the Globe News Performing Arts Center features one of the most unique acoustical designs in the world today! The concept is a box within a box. Normally this concept applies to sound isolation techniques, but JaffeHolden Acoustics is using the concept for superior symphonic acoustics. The idea was first used on a much smaller scale for the Pepsico Recital Hall at Texas Christian University School of Music in Fort Worth, Texas.

Large ensembles require a large volume space in order for the sound to have the right amount of fullness, bloom and tail, while the smaller ensembles require a much lower volume to provide clarity, intimacy and presence. The result is a large volume space with an inner shell with openings to the outer volume. This concept creates a stunning visually small and intimate space, yet has the large volume for the larger ensembles needs. The openings allow the low frequency energy from the brass and percussion, especially to be “vented” to the outer volume where it can reverberate and enter back into the inner shell later in time and energy, creating a wonderful sense of warmth and balance with the strings and woodwind instruments. Without this balance, the brass and percussion would dominate the sound in such a small hall. The room is further “tuned” by using acoustical curtains in the outer volume space. This provides flexibility to control the amount of energy that is reflected back into the inner shell.

The audience chamber features an inner “lamella” construction consisting of a web-like wood truss structure that houses individual wood panels in various shapes to reflect and diffuse the sound. This forms the inner visual and architectural box of the theater. Strategically placed openings in the lamella provide the aperture to an outer volume to provide the “venting” for low frequency energy.

This is coupled to a very unique one-of-a-kind orchestra shell that consists of the same lamella structure that completes the shape of the hall so that the theater takes on a one room—concert hall appearance. The orchestra shell actually has its own inner and outer box as well. There is a ceiling above the lamella attached to the structure that allows the shell to move in and out of its storage garage. The side walls are open to the stage house wings which are a poured concrete box. This entire system moves along a giant gantry system attached to the side loading galleries in the stage. The entire shell can be set in place in several minutes.

hidden from view. This provides the necessary acoustics for the new state of the art sound system to be heard clearly without too much bass energy and echo.

### Project Information

1,300-seat multiple-use Hall

### Scope of Work

Architectural Acoustics  
Mechanical System Noise Control  
Sound Isolation  
Concert Enclosure Consultation  
Sound Reinforcement System

### Budget

\$32,000,000

### Completion Date

2006

### Design Team

Architect: Holzman Moss Architects  
Theater Consultant: Davis Crossfield Associates

### Consultant Team

Russell A. Cooper, Principal Designer  
Mark Reber, Project Manager  
Howard Rose, Electro-Acoustic Designer

### Client

Globe News Performing Arts Center

“You want to enjoy the music with your eyes closed, letting the sound wash over you and with the new acoustic clarity, that’s just what happened. It was gorgeous, simply gorgeous”

Chip Chandler  
The Amarillo Globe News