



Performing Arts Centers



Hobby Center for the Performing Arts Zilkha Hall

Houston, Texas

Zilkha Hall, the new jewel box theatre of the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts opened in the Fall of 2002 to outstanding reviews. The hall's design centers on natural acoustics but can support the varied acoustical demands of classical music ensembles, jazz and contemporary programming.

JaffeHolden's acoustical design achieves richness and warmth in the hall as well as a sense of clarity and articulation. When the hall is used for chamber music, the stage can be configured with a tunable concert enclosure for optimal audiences listening while at the same time blending and mixing the sound for the finest onstage hearing. The ceiling of the hall contains acoustic absorbing drapes that can, if so desired, be deployed; these drapes are vital to tune the hall for amplified performances.

The acoustic innovations and features incorporated into Zilkha Hall's design will enhance the performance aspect of a diverse mix of Houston arts organizations. The superior acoustic environment will enable emerging artists as well as established performers a new high quality venue in which to perform.

Project Information

500-seat Multiple-use Hall
2,650 Multiple-use Hall
Rehersal Spaces

Scope of Work

Architectural Acoustics
Noise and Vibration Control
Sound Reinforcement System

Budget

\$100,000,000

Completion Date

2002

Design Team

Architects: Robert A.M. Stern, Morris Architects
Theater Consultants: Fisher/Dachs Associates

Consultant Team

Christopher Jaffe, Principal Designer
Carlos Rivera, Project Manager
Sam Brandt, Electro-acoustic Designer

Client

Houston Music Hall Foundation

"Zikha Hall's acoustics are incredible and fantastic"

*Andrew Manze, Director and Violin Soloist
The Academy of Ancient Music*

"Holden's firm has added another success in Houston to its work for University of Houston and the Wortham Theater Center."

Charles Ward, Houston Chronicle

JaffeHolden.com

Northeast: 114-A Washington Street, Norwalk, CT 06854 • tel: 203.838.4167 • fax: 203.838.4168

West: 1453 Third Street Promenade, Suite 335, Santa Monica, CA 90401 • tel: 310.319.1333 • fax: 310.319.1344