

# ARCHITECTURE MN

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**DINNER AND A SHOW**  
Twin Cities theatergoers  
are lining up for a cast  
of new and renovated  
theaters and restaurants.  
**PAGE 23**

**TALK OF THE TOWN**  
Three communities in  
greater Minnesota celebrate  
the performing arts with  
engaging new theaters.  
**PAGE 49**

**FAIR THEE WELL**  
Grab your sandals and  
sunscreen. Summer is  
the season for art festivals  
across Minnesota.  
**PAGE 11**

## Setting the Stage

### *A night of drama and illusion at the new Guthrie Theater*

PAGE 24





# The Sound of Music

## NORTHFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL CONCERT HALL

“The word *elegant* is not often used to describe middle school auditoriums,” says Ryan Connolly, who taught choir and music theory at Northfield High School for four years. But he believes that the 760-seat music hall at the new Northfield Middle School, where he has conducted numerous performances by high-school groups, is the exception. “It’s an elegant space in which people from throughout the community can enjoy a concert,” he enthuses. “It’s not at all ostentatious; it’s very tasteful.”

Fostering a small-town arts community internationally recognized for its music ensembles, with halls at St. Olaf College and Carleton College to accommodate them, Northfield isn’t short on performance venues. But those halls are usually booked. The old middle school, meanwhile, had a 1930s multi-purpose auditorium that was remodeled in the 1990s; the new high school has only a theatrical stage.

When it was time to build a new middle school, the town decided to invest in a music hall, “mostly for the school’s music groups, but also for anything else that wanted to find its way in there,” says Northfield Middle School principal Burt Bemmels. The school boasts three bands, an orchestra, and several choirs; 600 of its 900 students are involved in music. Nevertheless, a church group, a choir from Norway, and a community ensemble have also performed in the middle school’s new concert hall.

The shape of the auditorium, designed by Rozeboom Miller Architects (RMA) of Minneapolis, is “elongated like a traditional concert hall, rather than a wide fan shape more common in dramatic venues,” explains design principal Steve Miller, AIA. “The players are in the same volume as the audience, which is better acoustically.” Sloped audience seating provides excellent sightlines and acoustics, even from the back of the hall.

Despite the absence of a **FLY LOFT** and orchestra pit, the hall can still accommodate theatrical performances like the school play. “While it doesn’t have a proscenium frame, the hall has a larger stage opening than a common multipurpose auditorium,” Miller says. Screen-like acoustic reflectors on both sides of the room evenly distribute sound while giving the space an architectural rhythm.

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A **FLY LOFT** is the space above a stage that houses scenery, backdrops, and sometimes stage lighting. When needed, the scenery is “flown in.”



The 760-seat auditorium is long rather than wide, in the tradition of concert halls, to provide acoustical clarity and unimpeded sightlines that extend to the back of the hall.





*Music is integral to the spirit of Northfield, says architect Steve Miller, and the auditorium serves a cultural function by bringing people together around the art form.*



**NORTHFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL CONCERT HALL** Location: Northfield, Minnesota Client: Northfield Public Schools  
Architect: Rozeboom Miller Architects [www.rmarchitects.com](http://www.rmarchitects.com) Principal-in-charge: Steven Miller, AIA Lead designer: Andrew Kordon, Assoc. AIA  
Theatrical consultant: Schuler Shook [www.schulershook.com](http://www.schulershook.com) General contractor: Adolfson and Peterson Construction Cost: \$3 million  
Size: 760 seats Completion date: August 2004 Photographer: Don Wong



Interior design: Richard D'Amico,  
KKE Architects, Inc.  
Construction manager:  
Watson-Forsberg Co.  
Photographers: John Barber,  
Rau Barber Photography;  
Scott Gilbertson, KKE Architects, Inc.

**Ritz Theater renovation**  
**page 46**

Location: Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Client: Ritz Theater Foundation  
Architect: Baker Associates, Inc.  
Principal-in-charge:  
Jonathan D. Baker, AIA  
Project lead designer:  
Jonathan D. Baker, AIA  
Project architects: Stephen J. Myslajek  
Structural engineering:  
Mattson MacDonald Young, Inc.  
Mechanical engineering:  
Master Mechanical, Inc.  
Electrical engineering:  
Elliot Electrical Contractors  
Civil engineering: Landform, Inc.  
Concrete work: Hicks Concrete  
Photographer: George Heinrich

**Northfield Middle School  
Concert Hall**  
**page 50**

Location: Northfield, Minnesota  
Client: Northfield Public Schools  
Architect: Rozeboom Miller Architects  
Principal-in-charge: Steven Miller, AIA  
Project lead designer:  
Steven Miller, AIA  
Auditorium lead designer:  
Andrew Kordon, Assoc. AIA  
Project manager: Steven Miller, AIA  
Project architect: Peter Graffunder, AIA  
Project team: Mark Kahler, AIA;  
Roxanne Lange; Robert Rothman, AIA;  
Glen Waguespack, AIA  
Structural engineering:  
Professional Design Group  
Mechanical engineering:  
Hallberg Engineering  
Electrical engineering:  
Hallberg Engineering  
Civil engineering: Larson Engineering  
Theatrical consultant: Schuler Shook  
Interior design:  
Rozeboom Miller Architects  
General contractor: Adolfsen  
and Peterson Construction  
Landscape architect:  
Damon Farber Associates  
Face brick: Minnesota Brick  
Window systems: Wausau  
Copper panels: M.G. McGrath  
Millwork: Northwest Cabinets Inc.  
Carpet: Lee's Carpet  
Photographer: Don Wong

**Prototype Community Theater**  
**page 52**

Location: Proposed  
for Sandstone, Minnesota  
Client: City of Sandstone  
Architect: Thorbeck Architects, Ltd.

Principal-in-charge:  
Dewey Thorbeck, FAIA  
Project lead designer:  
Dewey Thorbeck, FAIA  
Project designer/manager: Ted Barnhill  
Theater planner: Robert William Wolff  
Structural system:  
Advanced Storage Technology, Inc.  
Exterior materials: Centria Wall  
and Roof Panels or similar  
Interior materials: Wood structure,  
plywood panels, and concrete floors  
Window systems:  
Marvin Windows or similar  
Photographer: Thorbeck Architects



Left to right: David Maroney, AIA;  
John Gannon, AIA; Craig Hinrichs

**Marshall High School  
Performing Arts Center**  
**page 54**

Location: Marshall, Minnesota  
Client: Marshall School District  
Architect: ATS&R Planning,  
Architecture, Engineering  
Principal-in-charge:  
Paul W. Erickson, AIA  
Project manager and lead designer:  
David Maroney, AIA  
Project architect: John Gannon, AIA  
Acoustical design: Kvernstoen,  
Rönholm & Associates Inc.  
Structural engineer:  
Clark Engineering Corp.  
Mechanical engineer:  
Terry Stofferahn, ATS&R  
Electrical engineer:  
Gaylen Melby, ATS&R  
Civil engineer: Kirk Roessler, ATS&R  
Lighting designer:  
Bruce Stoddard, ATS&R  
Interior design: Kim Sorenson, ATS&R  
Construction manager: Ed Stec,  
BOR-SON Construction, Inc.  
Landscape architect: Robert  
Gunderson, ATS&R  
General contractor: BOR-SON  
Construction, Inc.  
Face brick (exterior of bldg. only):  
Mutual Materials  
Stone: Granite Date Stone  
Musical instrument casework: Wenger  
Flooring systems/materials:  
Lee's Carpet  
Architectural woodwork:  
Paul's Woodcraft Company  
Glazed concrete masonry units  
(GCMU): Anchor Block  
Fixed audience seating: Irwin Seating  
Stage curtains: Secoa, K.M. Fabrics  
Photographer: Rick Peters,  
InsideOut Studios

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**CORRECTION**

*In the Index of Firms by Building Type at the back of the May/June issue, the last nine firms listed under "Retail/Commercial" should have been listed under "Municipal/Civic Buildings." The nine firms are Kodet Architectural Group, Oertel Architects, Paulsen Architects, Perkins+Will, Rafferty Rafferty Tollefson Lindeke Architects, Rozeboom Miller Architects, Short Elliot Hendrickson, TSP, and Wold Architects and Engineers.*