# ARCHITECTURE

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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.

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#### **FAIR THEE WELL**

Grab your sandals and sunscreen. Summer is the season for art festivals across Minnesota.

PAGE 11

## Setting the Stage



### 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 multipurpose auditorium that was remodeled in the 1990s; the new high school has only a theatrical stage.

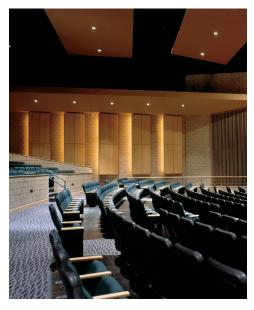
When it was time to build a new middle school, the town decided to invest in a music hall, "mostly for the school's music groups, but also for anything else that wanted to find its way in there," says Northfield Middle School principal Burt Bemmels. The school boasts three bands, an orchestra, and several 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.





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;

Royanne 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: Adolfson 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, Rönnholm & 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.