long center for the performing arts
austin, texas

This project entailed creating a new home for the areas major performing arts organizations and providing a showcase for over 200 small and minority companies from the Lester E. Palmer Auditorium, a flat floor multi-purpose space with a balcony suspended from the domed roof structure. This involved extensive demolition of the existing structure including walls floors and roofs, leaving only major structural elements, the stage tower walls, side stage areas, and a large concrete ring beam which supported the original dome.

A new two balcony, 2,400-seat multi-purpose auditorium structure was introduced into the center of the footprint and connected to the stage opening, which had been lowered for a larger proscenium. The height of the stage house was also raised to provide greater ability to fly scenery and accommodate a new gridiron, and the lower limits were expanded upstage to provide a rear stage extension. In addition, a 240 seat flexible studio theater was introduced into the side of the lower volume. This space was strategically located to work with the remaining structural columns and beams to be removed to accommodate this taller volumes with catwalks. All lobbies, public and production support spaces and mechanical equipment rooms have been provided by reusing the existing structure, and a large outdoor public terrace provides framed views of the downtown skyline through the columns supporting the concrete ring beam. Over 80% of the demolition materials were reused and integrated into the new design.

Project Information

Area:	152,000 sq. ft.
Scope:	Transformation
Services	Complete Architectural Services
Completion Date:	March 2008
Client:	Long Center for the Performing Arts
Contact:	Donald Rutledge 512.413.5066
Architect of Record:	Zeidler Partnership Inc (Michael Nelson - Director).
Associate Architect:	Nelsen Partners Inc.
Contractor:	Austin Commercial
Delivery Method:	Construction Manager
Construction Cost:	$45 Million

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