



marion theater ocala, florida

Originally designed as a movie theatre by Roy Benjamin, a prominent architect that designed over two dozen theaters in the Southeastern United States during the early part of the century. This Art Deco Moderne building which opened in 1941, had 1000 seats and was Ocala's primary movie venue for nearly 40 years. It closed in the 1970's and was later converted to house the Discovery Science Center which required drastically altering the buildings interior, however the main lobby and the main facade remained intact.

The goal for this project was to renovate and restore the Marion to present not only film, but live performance as well in an intimate 326 seat venue respectful of the original theatres significant architecture. The rear wall of the audience chamber is shifted towards the stage to allow for an increased lobby area, an enlarged permanent concessions, and the addition of sound and light locks to control noise generated within the lobby. A new path outside the audience chamber was introduced to provide accessibility to the front of the hall, and an acoustically isolating partition was constructed along the edge of the balcony to create another 136 seat performance venue at the upper level, within the existing theatres volume. All improvements to the 13,000 sq. ft. facility are a balance of functional accommodation for the theatre's new mission and a sensitive restoration of the venue's prodigious past in accordance with Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation resulting in the Marion Theatre receiving an Outstanding Achievement Award in the Field of Restoration/Rehabilitation from the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation in 2008.

Project Information

Area:	13,000 sq. ft.
Scope:	Renovations and Additions
Services:	Complete Architectural Services
Completion Date:	Summer 2007
Client:	City of Ocala
Contact:	Marc Mondell 352.572.0485
Architect of Record:	Zeidler Partnership Inc (Michael Nelson - Director).
Contractor:	Genesis
Project Delivery:	Construction Bid
Construction Cost:	\$1 Million

