

Michael G. Meyers Competition 2018 Design Competition

“The Performance”

Theaters have been a powerful site of entertainment and leisure since the open-air amphitheaters of ancient Greece. The relationships between spectator, actor, backstage and center stage have inspired some of the most famous architectural works: from the Globe in London to the Wyly Theatre in Dallas. Theaters are meant to be both functional and beautiful - to serve as the setting for a well-rehearsed performance and the destination for a visitor's evening out.

This year, the design solution for the MGMC is to design a *new theater for the performance of your choice*. The possible performances to be housed in your theater are endless: your theater could host a Broadway performance of *Wicked*, a comedy show with Jim Gaffigan, an acrobatic Cirque du Soleil performance, a poetry slam with Saul Williams, an Adele concert, a dance performance of Argentine Tango. Whatever you choose to be featured in your theater, draw inspiration from it throughout your design process. Think about how your selected performance affects the shape of your theater and its design - is it a classic theatrical performance or a fast and invigorating dance show? Does it require a proscenium stage, an arena stage, or is it a flexible theater with no designated stage? Does it require special acoustics or does it use the sounds of the city?

This new theater will be located in the heart of downtown Houston's Theater District, in the block currently occupied by Jones Plaza. Already situated between existing theaters, you should consider the role your new theater will take on. It will be up to you to decide which path to take with your design strategies. Be sure to consider the context and surrounding landmarks in the area. With the main street light rail stop a few blocks away, several parks nearby and numerous theaters surrounding the site, there are many considerations to take into account. Don't forget this is foremost an ideas competition!

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

The design for "The Performance"

1. Include a comprehensive description of your building explaining the concepts behind your interior and exterior design. See essay requirements. Give your design a name.
2. Develop a distinctive solution that considers the established urban surroundings. Your design solution should integrate and accomplish at least (2) sustainable strategies (see the last page of this document). Your solution should be pedestrian friendly.
3. Develop interior and exterior spaces that show an understanding of how these spaces are created within the required program elements. Consider the use and relationships of the programmed elements, as well as the relationship between the indoor and outdoor spaces, and the overall flow through the space.
4. You are encouraged to explore the use of interesting materials, structural components and environmental strategies. Your drawings should clearly illustrate these components. Consider the context of surrounding downtown buildings.

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PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

SITE ELEMENTS

Consider how you will approach the site as a pedestrian or in a vehicle. How does one enter the building? What views of your building do you want to emphasize? What does the landscaping look like? What other elements accent your design and contribute to the experience of visiting the space? What special features will enhance the visitor experience? Does your design blend into the context of the surroundings or stand out?

One of your theaters will be outside. How will this space relate to the surrounding urban area? Will it be isolated from the street or use the city as a backdrop?

Your site is approximately 250 feet by 250 feet (62,500 sqft). Maintain a 15 ft set back on all sides of your building. Your building footprint may **not** occupy more than 70% of this area. The remaining area must be dedicated to outdoor public space. However, the outdoor public space should still be considered in your design.

Exterior Space Incorporate/ Develop 2 Ideas (min)

- Façade Development
- Urban Green Space
- Natural Daylighting
- Energy Efficiency
- Green Roof
- Rain Water Harvesting

BUILDING ELEMENTS

65,000 SQFT APPROX.

When designing your building, there are some critical issues to keep in mind. Your theater should respond to the existing Theater District. What makes your building stand out from or integrate with these surrounding venues? What is the relationship between your three individual theaters? How does your building cater to the performance that will be taking place?

Keep in mind that you may include additional programmatic elements if it is necessary for the function of your theater or eliminate a programmatic element if it is unnecessary for the function of your theater.

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Theaters:

*one of your theaters must be outside

Theater with stage for 1,000 seats	~16,000 sqft
Theater with stage for 500 seats	~8,000 sqft
Theater with stage for 100-200 seats	~3,500 sqft

Public Spaces

Lobby	4,000 sqft – 8,000 sqft
Box Office	500 sqft
Concession	750 sqft
Cafe	1,000-2,500 sqft
4 sets of restrooms (Men / Women @ 500 sqft each)	4,000 sqft
Valet/Car drop	2,000-4,000 sqft

“Behind the Scenes”

Dressing Rooms, Make Up Room, Costume Shop	3,300 sqft
Performers' Lounge (Green Room)*	900 sqft
*can be broken into multiple smaller rooms	
Control Room for stage, sound, and lights managers	300 sqft
* should be located such that managers have full view of the stage	
10 Admin Offices and 10 workstations	1,800 sqft
Scene Shop and Storage	2600 – 3,200 sqft
Circulation	10-20% of total building sqft Mechanical/
Electrical Space	10% of total building sqft

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PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

1 - narrative (should be firmly affixed to the front of one board)

Your descriptive narrative should include some detail to explain your design. Please limit your narrative to one 8 ½ x 11 sheet @ 12 point Arial font, approx. 500 words

Required descriptions in your essay:

- Describe your chosen performance and how this performance has influenced your design.
- Describe a performer. Who are they? What do they experience preparing for their performance? What do they experience in front of their audience? How does your theater cater to the needs of their performance?
- Describe an audience member. Who are they? What do they experience arriving to the theater, entering the building, waiting for show time, and finding their seat? What do they experience watching the performance? How does your theater enhance their experience of the show?

Additional suggestions of what to include in your essay:

- Describe how the surrounding context influences the design of your building.
- Describe the theater experience in your building. What makes your building unique? What will make your users excited to spend time in your building?
- Describe your sustainable strategies and how your proposed theater will benefit the community.

2 - drawings

The following **minimum** requirements should be mounted on two 24" x 36" or 30" x 42" **foam core** (*do not submit more than two boards*): (*Winning entries will be exhibited @ the Architecture Center Houston, therefore to facilitate display, boards **must be foam core**, and must not exceed the allowable sizes*)

- 1" = 50' scale **site plan**, showing outdoor features and site improvements and the roof of the shelter (and other buildings if applicable).
- 1/16' = 1'-0" scale **floor plan** of the building showing walls, doors, windows, furniture, countertops, plumbing fixtures, room names, and other descriptive information that defines the space.
- 1/16' = 1'-0" scale **exterior building elevation(s)** showing façade, roof heights, building materials, windows, and other descriptive information.
- **Building section:**
 - o 1/16' = 1'-0" **building section** of the building showing spaces and how they are connected or divided walls and exterior wall material
 - Or
 - o 1"=1/4" **enlarged section** of a particular space of interest (I.E.: the entry from interior to exterior or stage and audience seating). Be sure to show materials.
- At least one accurate **perspective** drawings at any scale of an interior or exterior view of your project.
- Any **hand sketches** that document your design process.

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3 – model*

1/16" = 1'-0" **scale model** of the project (*building only, no site model*) is required for team projects

Models are not to exceed a 36" x 24" base, and should fit in front of the participants' mounted presentation boards.

**Models are optional for individual participants, but all are encouraged to experiment with models to help answer questions about their designs.*

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Entries should be delivered between 9:00am and 5:00 pm on Friday, **27 April 2018** at Kirksey Architecture, 6909 Portwest Dr Houston, TX 77024. If you cannot deliver your project on the assigned date and time, please contact melikam@kirksey.com.

Register your project online , print the confirmation and affix it as label to the back of all boards and models. Online Student Label registration link:

<https://aiahouston.org/v/registration/2018-MGMC-Student-Label-Registration-Form/n9/>

AWARDS:

MGMC reception and awards presentation will be held on Friday, 04 May 2018. Location TBD. Check aiahouston.org/mgmc for updates [phone 713-520-0155].

Design is a creative process, and this is an ideas competition. Engineering calculations are not required for mechanical, electrical, or structural systems. All participants will receive a certificate of recognition from the American Institute of Architects. There will be a balanced evaluation by jurors from architectural, academic, and other relevant fields of expertise. Awards include college scholarships and scholarships to the UofH Architectural Summer Discovery Program. While the quality of presentation is important, any contestant of any ability may receive an award based on the strength of a concept or inventiveness of an idea.

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Sustainable design strategies

Site



Preserve green space or return developed land to more natural state
Be aware of drainage, minimize potential erosion
Be smart about transportation
Be aware of extent of impermeable surfaces, eg; roads and paving
Be aware of the effect of your site on adjacent properties

Water



Be smart about how much, and how you use and or reuse water.
Think about ways to conserve water.
(Use native and adaptive plants, and minimize use of potable water.
Adopt water technologies that reduce amount of water used.

Energy



Be smart about how much, and what type of energy is used.
Think about ways to conserve energy.

Materials



Consider the impact of products used in the construction of the Building;
this would include materials with recycled content, salvaged, rapidly renewable and local materials.

Indoor Environment



We spend the majority of our time indoors and we should optimize the quality of that environment.

Think about ways to bring lots of daylight into the building for visitors and workers
Think about the types of materials you use inside the building and how they could affect the health of the occupants