

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

The Manon Caine Russell and Kathryn Caine Wanlass Performance Hall

Logan, Utah

Sasaki Associates

Angular forms mimic a mountainous skyline

The new performance hall at Utah State University brings world-class architecture and acoustics to a quiet college town in rural northern Utah. Evoking the peaks of the surrounding mountain range, the building's design features sculpted forms.

In designing the hall, Sasaki Associates played with geometries of both acoustical and contextual significance. An orthogonal concrete shell with 18-inch thick concrete walls encloses the main performance space. The architect determined its height, shape, and materials for optimum sound qualities. Its origami-like folded volumes, clad in zinc panels, suggest a melding of the man-made and the natural—a precise architectural geometry that recalls the tectonic forces that formed the surrounding Bear River Mountains. Triangular skylights direct light into interior spaces. At night, the pavilion faces an outdoor piazza and dramatic lighting splays a pattern suggestive of musical notes.



Photo © Robert Benson

Collaborating with Artec Consultants, Sasaki designed the octagonal main concert space to function as a “second universe” cut off from outside sound while offering a wide array of adjustability depending on the type of musical performance and the number of occupied seats at any given time. Multiple layers of drywall and a final veneer of warm colored beech wood wrap the interior walls in a complimentary gesture to the thick concrete. All mechanical systems are suspended on pads or springs to avoid the slightest vibration or extraneous sound.

To lend a sense of procession and ritual consistent with the university's strong commitment to arts education, Sasaki's landscape architecture group laid out a forecourt containing a row of native trees and a series of pea stone fields that lead from the main campus into the new piazza. The performance hall forms the cornerstone of an envisioned school of arts campus for the eastern portion of Utah State University, bolstering the school's reputation as a leading arts institution in the Intermountain West. The master plan for future construction, which Sasaki prepared, calls for a new black box theater, theater workshop building, and an administrative building.

Formal name of Project:

The Manon Caine Russell and Kathryn Caine Wanlass Performance Hall

Location:

Logan, Utah

Gross square footage:

20,000 sq. ft.

Total project cost:

\$9.5 million

the People

Owner

Utah State University

Architect

Sasaki Associates
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Watertown, MA 02472
617-923-7251 tel.
627- 924-2748 fax
www.sasaki.com

Partner in charge:

Ricardo Dumont

Design partners:

Vinicius Gorgati, Scott Smith

Project team:

Elke Berger; Neil Dean; Noy Hildebrand; Paul Kempton; Tae Yeon Kim; Willa Kuh; Katia Lucic; Oswaldo Palencia; Brad Prestbo; Katie Raymond

Associate architect

Gould Evans Associates
1000 South Main St., Suite 100
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
801-532-6100 tel.
www.gouldevans.com

Engineer(s)

Structural:

Reaveley Engineering www.reaveley.com

MEP Engineers/Audio Visual/Fire Safety:

Spectrum Engineers www.spdesign.com

Associate Civil Engineer:

Cache Landmark Engineering, Logan, UT

Consultant(s)

Landscape:

Sasaki Associates

Lighting:

Horton Lees Brogden Lighting Design www.hlbllighting.com

Acoustical:

Artec Consultants Inc. www.artec-usa.com

General contractor

Jacobsen Construction
www.jacobsen-const.com

Photographer(s)

Robert Benson
860-951-3004 tel.