

Renovation to begin on the theatre this week

Starting this Friday, renovations will start on the Theatre in Building 4. The renovations will include asbestos abatement, complete removal of the interior furnishings and finishes, and the reinstallation of new ceilings, furniture, and acoustically-tuned walls.

This project is so complex to meet the needs of the various performances, that an acoustical engineer was retained by the architect to fine tune the space so that the sound quality would be crisp and clear for plays, orchestras, speakers and solo instruments. The engineering for the surfaces involved specific materials in specific locations, angles to project the sound to the back of the room, and lighting upgrades so that everyone could see what is happening. Renderings were done to illustrate the final look of the space, but that did not completely convey the whole picture.



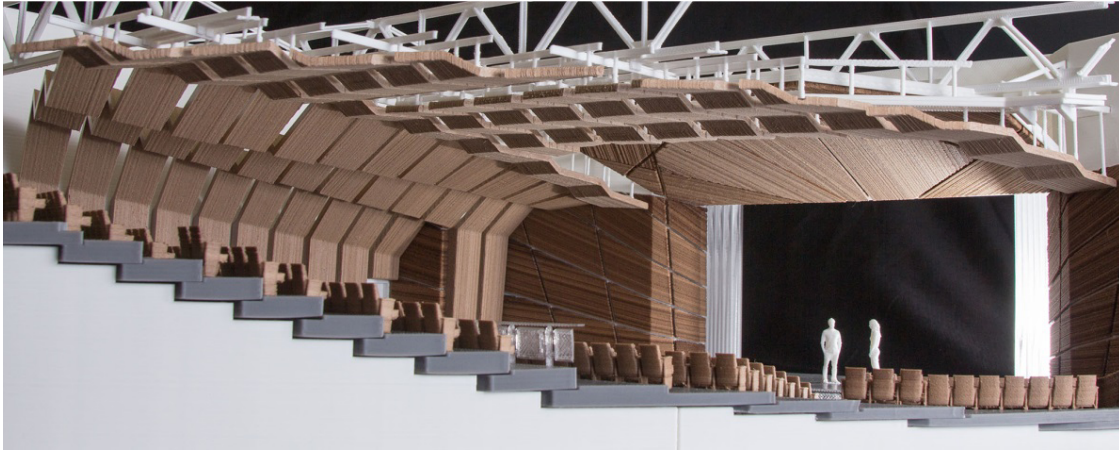
[A rendering done during Schematic Design](#)

Not satisfied with just renderings Popli Design Group commissioned one of their talented architectural designers, Jon King, M.Arch., to develop a physical model using his newly acquired 3D printer as a side project. Jon took it upon himself to use multiple color filaments (including two shades of wood) to individually print over 200 pieces and assemble them into a diagonal cross section of the theater. The 3D model is a scaled representation of the major design and construction elements of the theater renovation project. The building model includes everything from the steel superstructure, to the seats and privacy panels below. While it took untold hours to make all the pieces, and then assemble them - the result is truly amazing.

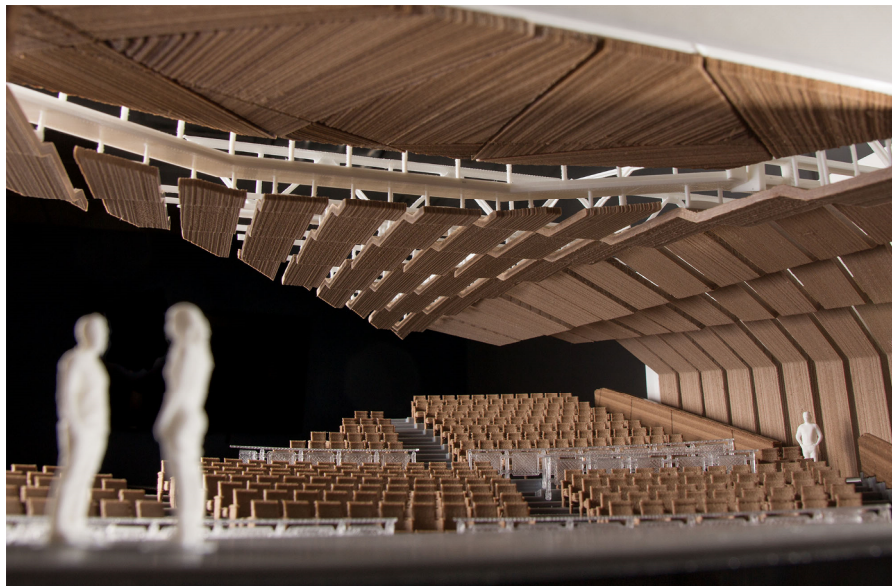
Currently the model is residing in one of the display cases in the lobby of Building 21. If you would like to see;

- a. the capabilities of a 3-D printer - (and a very creative and talented programmer),
- b. what the new theatre will look like,
- c. other artifacts and maintenance trophies we have collected in the display cases,

stop in at Building 21 for a nice lunchtime walk and visit our lobby and see what we have on display. The theatre model will be straight ahead when you enter the lobby.



A side view of the model showing the detail around the stage.



The view from the stage at the audience seating. The figures are to scale also. Notice the ceiling detail with all the baffles and reflectors.

This project will initially involve some closures of the hallways around the theater to install new lighting and sprinklers. After the initial work is finished at the end of the summer, the work will move completely to the interior of the theatre. Construction will proceed through both the summer and fall. The theatre will reopen again for the Spring Semester in 2017.