



THEATRE CONSULTANTS

SINCE 1982

Heritage Theatres

www.novita.ca

THEATRE CONSULTANTS

Our staff covers the full range of experience in theatre. We are designers, technicians, writers, directors, and performers. Because of this, we have a passion for and an intimate understanding of theatre, both the art form and the buildings which support it.

Theatres are complex buildings that need to accomplish many roles, both in their internal functions and within their larger communities. We understand all aspects of what it takes to run a theatre, from the form and function of the building and its technology, to its management and sustainability.

We are an independent consulting and design office only. We do not sell equipment or represent manufacturers or suppliers. Our primary goal is to provide the right solutions for the best possible price.



Our Theatre Consulting Services Include:

Theatre Planning

- Facility Planning
- Facility Programming
- Facility Design

Theatre Systems Design

- Auditorium configuration, seating and sightlines
- Functional planning
- Special area detailing
- Stage lighting
- Sound reinforcement and effects
- Audio paging and monitoring
- Production intercommunications
- Assistive listening
- Video monitoring and display
- Counterweight and motorized stage rigging
- Draperies and track
- Elevators and lifts
- Combined show controls
- Digital signage



ELGIN AND WINTER GARDEN THEATRE CENTRE ASSESSMENT

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Project Owner: Ontario Heritage Trust

Date Completed: 2009

Theatre Consultants: Novita



The Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre is a National Historic Site, operated by the Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT.) Built in 1913 as a vaudeville house, it is the last operating double-decker theatre in the world. The ornate theatres were fully restored in the 1980s.

In 2009, the OHT commissioned Novita to assess the facility's theatrical systems and equipment, and make recommendations and provide cost estimates for their retention, enhancement, or replacement. Most systems and equipment in the Centre dates from the 1980s renovation.

Novita's report organized improvements according to importance, safety being the first priority. As part of our investigation, we prepared an interactive asset management database containing information such as the year the equipment was purchased, its life expectancy, safety concerns, and photos. This database was provided to the OHT in order to manage its assets through an ongoing maintenance program that was established as a result of our study. Novita also created a budget for the future capital replacement of theatrical systems and equipment.



PORT HOPE CAPITOL THEATRE

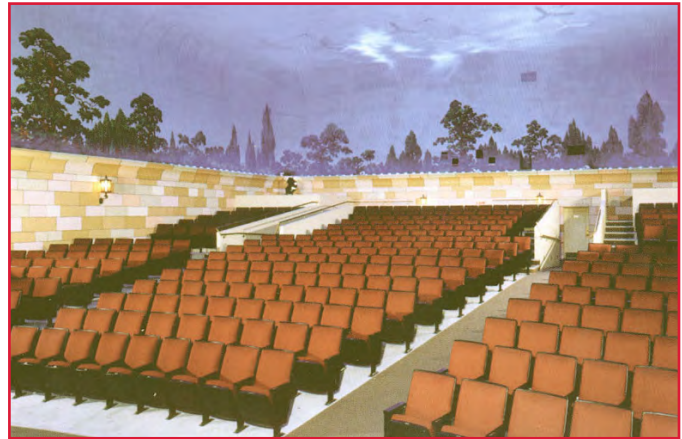
Location: Port Hope, Ontario

Project Owner: Capitol Theatre Society

Date Completed: 1995, 2003

Architect: Arcop Architects, Philip Carter Architect

Theatre Consultants: Novita



This theatre, built in 1930, was one of the first theatres built in Canada especially for movies. It is an “atmospheric” theatre, the interior meant to evoke a medieval castle courtyard. It ran continuously as a movie theatre until 1987, remaining vacant until renovations began in 1993 to convert the 380 seat theatre into a live performing arts venue.

Following its designation under the provincial heritage act, the Capitol Theatre Society embarked on a phased multi-year plan to turn the theatre into a performing arts centre for local groups. The theatre’s interior and restoration of the marquee was the first priority. Then, an adjacent property was purchased to provide public, office and support space.

Novita has worked with the Capitol Theatre Society throughout each phase of the renovations.

VICTORIA HALL

Location: Petrolia, Ontario

Project Owner: Town of Petrolia

Date Completed: 1972; 1992

Project Cost: \$6 million (1992)

Architect: Quadrangle Architects

Theatre Consultants: Novita



Image credit: Philip Goldsmith



Built in 1889, Victoria Hall is a National Historic Site that originally contained a 750 seat “opera house” on its second floor. By 1972, the building had been neglected for decades.

All new provisions for support space, production equipment, public safety, and ventilation had to be made within the existing walls. Many of the space problems were solved by expanding the basement, and integrating theatre technologies into the interior restoration. But the stage remained small and front of house lighting was serviced by ladders. Production materials still had to be lugged up the stairs.

On its 100th birthday, an electrical failure started a fire which left only the masonry walls standing.

In this reconstruction, the exterior was accurately restored while the interior was remade in a contemporary style. To maximize the use of space, the plan was re-arranged. A reduced auditorium allowed for an expanded stage, some backstage support at stage level, and much improved backstage access including an elevator. The roof’s structural system was exposed, to be both a decorative feature and to accommodate front of house lighting positions.

In the end, we had two distinctly different experiences as Theatre Consultants in restoring the same building. In the first instance, we worked within the discipline of an existing building where only minor interventions were possible. In the second instance, we were able to capture the spirit of the original building in a state of the art facility.



CLIENT LIST

Municipal

Arts and Entertainment Centre, Milton
Burnhamthorpe Library Theatre, Mississauga
Capitol Theatre, Port Hope
Centennial Hall, London
Centrepointe Theatre, Ottawa
Civic Square, Mississauga
Community Waterfront Park, North Bay
Dow People Place, Sarnia
Fort Frances Community Theatre, Fort Frances
Gibson Cultural Centre, Alliston
Grace Hartman Amphitheatre, Sudbury
Gravenhurst Opera House, Gravenhurst
John Elliott Theatre, Georgetown
Living Arts Centre, Mississauga
London Central Library Theatre, London
Markham Theatre For Performing Arts, Markham
Mel Lastman Square, Toronto
National Theatre, Kabul, Afghanistan
Newmarket Theatre, Newmarket
Quinte Cultural Centre, Belleville
Rene M. Caisse Memorial Theatre, Bracebridge
Rose Theatre, Brampton
St. Clair Centre for the Arts, Windsor
Sudbury Performing Arts Centre, Sudbury
TCU Place (Centennial Auditorium), Saskatoon
The Centre in the Square, Kitchener
Uxbridge Music Hall, Uxbridge
Vaughan City Playhouse, Vaughan
Victoria Hall, Petrolia

Independent Schools

American School Theatre, Shanghai, China
Appleby College, Oakville
Country Day School, Richmond Hill
Crescent School, Toronto
Netherwood Performing Arts Centre, Rothesay
Redeemer University College, Ancaster
Ridley College, St. Catharines
St. John's Ravenscourt School, Winnipeg
Sterling Hall School, Toronto
Trinity College School, Port Hope
Xiamen College, Xiamen, China

Public Schools

De La Salle High School, Ottawa
Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board
Essa Secondary School, Angus
Etobicoke Collegiate Institute, Etobicoke
Governor Simcoe School, St. Catharines
Iroquois Falls Theatre, Iroquois Falls
Milton District High School Theatre, Milton
Ministry of Education, Bermuda
North Toronto Collegiate Theatre, Toronto
Rainbow District School Board, Sudbury
St Elizabeth Catholic High School, Thornhill
St Benedict Catholic Secondary School, Sudbury
St Joseph-Scollard Hall, North Bay
Toronto District School Board (97 school projects)

Colleges and Universities

Carleton University, Ottawa
Humber College, Toronto
McMaster Health Sciences, McMaster University, Hamilton
Occidental College, Los Angeles, California
Sheridan College, Oakville
Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas
Trent University, Peterborough
University of Ontario Institute of Technology – Regent Theatre, Oshawa
University of Toronto, Toronto
University of Western Ontario, London
University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Production Companies

Alderney Landing Theatre, Halifax
Capitol Centre, North Bay
Equity Showcase Theatre, Toronto
Factory Theatre, Toronto
Fredericton Playhouse, Fredericton
Imperial Theatre, Sarnia
Magnus Theatre, Thunder Bay
Neptune Theatre, Halifax
Theatre Aquarius, Hamilton

Cultural Institutions

Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto
Community Living Dufferin, Orangeville
Chinese Cultural Centre, Toronto
Columbus Centre, Toronto
Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre, Toronto
Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, Toronto
Lebovic Jewish Community Centre, Toronto
Perimeter Institute, Waterloo
Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto
The Walmer Centre, Toronto
Todmorden Mills Theatre, Toronto
UJA Federation, Toronto
Victoria Park Amphitheatre, Niagara Falls

Commercial

BlackBox Theatre, Cologne, Germany
Casino Rama Entertainment Centre, Rama
Importanne Theatre, Zagreb, Croatia
Port Place Theatre, St. Catharines
Ricoh Coliseum, Toronto