



**THEATRE CONSULTANTS  
SINCE 1982**

**Theatres Under 500 Seats**

[www.novita.ca](http://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



## RENE M CAISSE THEATRE

**Location:** Bracebridge, Ontario  
**Project Owner:** Bracebridge Arts Council  
**Date Completed:** 2007  
**Architects:** Allen + Sherriff  
**Architects;** CS+P Architects  
**Theatre Consultant:** Novita



This new 300 seat theatre was built as part of a complex containing the Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School and the Bracebridge Sportsplex. The theatre has a proscenium style stage with fixed tiered seats and has excellent sightlines.

The theatre was incorporated into the complex in an ingenious and cost-saving fashion. It was realized that the U-shape of the planned complex could easily form 3 of 4 walls for the theatre that the local Arts Council had been trying for years to build. The resulting theatre is owned by the School, but managed by the Arts Council and is a successful balance of student and community needs.

Novita designed and specified theatrical systems and equipment, working with the design team to develop seating layouts for optimum sightlines and efficient backstage circulation.

This theatre has been exceptionally well-received by the community, due to the lack of other facilities in the area.

## CRESCENT SCHOOL THEATRE

Location: Toronto, Ontario

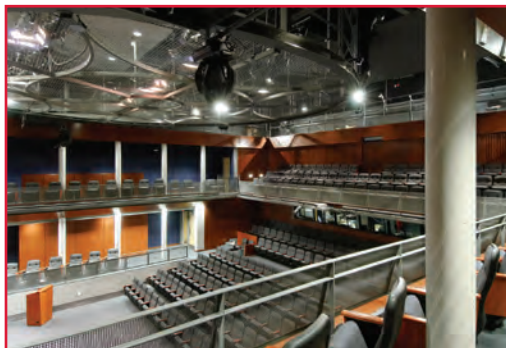
Project Owner: Crescent School

Date Completed: September 2004

Project Cost: \$2 million

Architect: CS+P

Theatre Consultants: Novita



The Crescent School is a private boys' day school for students from Grades 1 through 12. Drama is an important part of the school's curriculum, valued for the development of inter-personal skills. The school's 350-seat theatre is an important part of its Centre for Creative Learning.

This courtyard-style theatre accommodates three formats: proscenium stage, apron stage, and arena stage. Novita's focus for this project was to provide a sense of intimacy and occasion in the auditorium for each of the three playing formats, matched with a stage and support spaces to complement the diverse functions.



Novita's role in the project was to refine the design for the auditorium, stage, and support spaces and to design the theatrical systems. In order to provide optimal lighting equipment positions, a circular tension grid was designed over the auditorium space. Theatrical systems were designed for safety and ease of operation for both staff and students.

Not only a performance space, the theatre is a teaching classroom for various arts and technology programs in the school curriculum. To allow the room to be a true multi-functional space, Novita designed audio-visual multimedia systems such as video projection and IT connectivity.

## MAGNUS THEATRE

**Location:** Thunder Bay, Ontario

**Project Owner:** Magnus Theatre

**Date Completed:** 2001

**Project Cost:** \$5.5 million

**Architect:** Diamond + Schmitt Architects

**Theatre Consultants:** Novita



Image credit: Novita



Thunder Bay, population 100,000, is the centre of culture and commerce for Northwestern Ontario. The next nearest centres, Sault Ste. Marie and Winnipeg, are each 700 km away. Magnus Theatre, the only professional theatre company in this vast area, had been operating out of a small community hall since 1971. By the time its 30th anniversary was approaching, the company required a larger and better-equipped facility.



The new theatre was built in a park, attached to the historic Central School House. The School House was renovated to contain the administrative, rehearsal, and lobby spaces for the new theatre. The new addition was carefully designed to incorporate gracefully with the old school. Neighbourhood residents were concerned with the potential for the theatre's fly tower to seem out-of-scale with the surroundings. As a result, the fly tower was designed to be less than full height, which required modifications to the rigging system.



The theatre's 250 seat capacity is ideal for its market. The subdued interior design of the auditorium is intended to evoke the wood and rock of Thunder Bay's natural setting, and to not distract from performances. The stage area can be extended by removing the first few rows of seats, and adding risers level with the stage. This opens up possibilities for staging productions in the round, or for holding fundraising banquets right in the theatre.

## 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