



Zoltan Pali, FAIA, has won many awards for his work on a variety of civic projects. A visiting professor at the Univ. of Southern California, Pali was one of the youngest inductees into the AIA College of Fellows in 2005.

Theater Seating

Series Seating

Because the post office is on the National Register of Historic Places, the height of the new building couldn't exceed the ridge of the post office roof. This created a challenge when designing the theater. Pali's solution? He dug deep down into the ground and put the stage and orchestra pit below ground level to ensure good sight lines from the custom seating.

Loading Dock

Material Lift,
Gillespie Corp.

Behind the theater is a loading dock that can accommodate any necessary delivery to the below-ground stage level. Here's how it works: once a truck drives into the loading area, it is dropped down to the stage level via a material lift designed to move freight inside a building. Then, because of the location of the building (i.e. heavy L.A. city traffic), the truck leaves the loading area on the other side of the facility.

Windows

Mon-Ray,
DeVAC 640-AL

Clerestory windows in the post office were replaced with Mon-Ray DeVAC 640-AL series, dual frame aluminum windows.

Panels

Swiss Pearl Panel

The exterior of the new Goldsmith Theater was originally designed in copper but, for budget reasons, the team began searching for another material. One designer on the Pali team was leafing through previously used materials when he re-discovered the Swiss Pearl panel. Pali specified the panel in "Autumn Leaves," since it is a "dead on" match to the Post Office's original terra cotta. "Looking at what happened (historically) on this site, we know that mail came here to be sorted and disseminated. It was mail for the rich and famous," said Pali. "We thought, 'what if we made the envelopes and letters come back to clad the building?'"

Cladding

Arcadia,
T-500 curtainwall

The front wall of the Goldsmith Theater building is clad in the T-500 curtainwall from Arcadia, specified in Bronze Anodized.

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

Beverly Hills, Calif.

When visiting his father's office as a child, architect Zoltan Pali was tasked with mailing letters at the local Beverly Hills Post Office. Awed by its grandeur, Pali remembers well the building's interior. "It was one of the few post offices in L.A. that was quite stunning on the interior—its tall, grand lobby with interior murals," said Pali, Founder/Design Principal of Studio Pali Fekete architects.

Fast forward 40 years. After restoring the local Pantages and Greek Theatres, Pali was offered the opportunity to return the historic Beverly Hills Post Office building—which had lain dormant since the 1980s—to its original grandeur. What better way to reimagine the space than through the eyes of an impressionable child?

Bringing nightlife and daytime green space to the heart of the Beverly Hills business triangle, the new Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts features a renovated post office building with the main theater's ticket window, lobby and gift shop, classroom space and a small theater. Adjacent on the same lot now stands the Bram Goldsmith Theater, with its copper-colored concrete panels (to match the Post Office's original terra cotta) cut into the shapes of envelopes—some closed, some open, some flat, some turned frontside out—all serving as an abstraction of the millions of envelopes that once passed through the site.





GOLDSMITH THEATER

Flooring

Designers specified high-density cork flooring for under seating and stairs of the theater. The flooring is sustainable, PVC-free and didn't require any glue or binders. "The client didn't want raw concrete, but we needed a hard surface for acoustics," said Pali. "The solution was cork."

Cork Flooring

DuroDesign
www.duro-design.com

Acoustic Curtains

A retractable curtain in between the wall and wood screen on both side walls provides what Pali calls "variable acoustics." When there's a musical event, the curtains are pulled back entirely. When performers need to "deaden" the space, the curtains can be pulled out to the full length of the wall.

Wood Veneer

In order to create the "warm and traditional" space the owner wanted, Pali's team chose a wood veneer product that is adhered to medium density fiber board, with a light steel frame in Walnut, all custom made by a local millwork company.

Custom made
 Style: Walnut

Northwest Millwork
northwestmillwork.com

Theater Walls

Theater walls are covered in Echo Eliminator, an acoustical material made from recycled cotton. It is a Class A, non-flammable, lightweight, impact-resistant material.

Echo Eliminator

Acoustical Surfaces
acousticalsurfaces.com

GOLDSMITH THEATER LOBBY



Acoustical Plaster

The original lobby of the old post office is now the main lobby of the Goldsmith Theater. To maintain the original look while minimize the echo, Pali's team painted the original plaster with Feller's Even Better Acoustic Coating. Applied with a spray gun, the product is available in the color scale of most paints.

Even Better Acoustic Coating

Fellert
www.fellert.com

HVAC

To introduce enough conditioned air into the space, the team installed a Titus FlowBar architectural linear diffuser in the original vaulted ceiling to allow for higher airflows. It is available in a wide range of slot widths to allow for more CFM per linear foot while minimizing noise and pressure.

FlowBar linear diffuser

Titus
www.titus-hvac.com

The team restored the historic murals, refurbished existing doors, and refinished the molding, marble and walls on the main floor.



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^ Panels

The Swiss Pearl panel is a large cement sheet that can be trimmed to any size and installed in plane with horizontal and vertical joints or alternatively in strips lapped horizontally. Pali's inspiration was to use an envelope motif in reference to the building's history: "It evolved into an abstract of a 4 x 9 envelope, cut, sliced and randomly and carefully put back onto the building." After project bidding, the owners determined that they needed to cut the project budget by 10%. By creating larger gaps in the Swiss Pearl material where the site's supporting mechanical equipment is stored, Pali was able to shave the extra 10% off the budget while providing an intriguing "glimpse" of the behind-the-stage workings of the site.

Swiss Pearl Panel
Color: Autumn Leaves

J. Reinisch & Co.
www.reinisch.it



^ Modeling Tool

The random pattern for the envelope-looking exterior was designed using the Grasshopper algorithmic.

Grasshopper
www.grasshopper3d.com



PROJECT SPECS

Project Name: Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
Location: Beverly Hills, Calif.
Architect: Studio Pali Fekete Architects
Structural Engineers: Structural Focus
MEP Engineers: Arc Engineering
Civil Engineers: Rothman Engineering
General Contractor: Matt Construction Corp.
Landscape Architect: Lutsko Assocs.
Theater Consultant: Schuler Shook
Photography: Roland Halbe