



The Yard at Chicago Shakespeare Theater

Chicago, Illinois

ADRIAN SMITH + GORDON GILL
ARCHITECTURE

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The Yard at Chicago Shakespeare Theater is a next-generation performance venue that reflects Chicago Shakespeare's multi-faceted artistic vision.

SERVICES
Architecture

CLIENT
Chicago Shakespeare Theater

FUNCTION
Cultural

FACTS
35,000 sf

The project features a new flexible theater and glazed two-story lobby and reception space, with magnificent views of Lake Michigan, that connects to the existing theater at Navy Pier. Consisting of 33,000 sf of space, the project introduces a global trend in theater architecture that focuses on resourceful, sustainable, and adaptive design. The new theater is artfully tucked beneath the existing signature white tent and above the existing parking garage. The new theater shares existing stage house and backstage support spaces.

To mitigate glare and heat, the lobby façade uses electrochromic glass. Designed with daylight sensors on the roof, the façade gradually tints when sunlight passes across its southern face. This unique solution is highly sustainable and will reduce heat gain and cooling needs. The geometry of the faceted curve creates dynamic reflections, inviting passersby to interact with the façade, heightening the theatrical experience. The “theatrical” nature of the façade is akin to the raising of the curtain, as it will be primarily tinted throughout the day becoming clearer in the evenings as the sun sets and the performances begin.

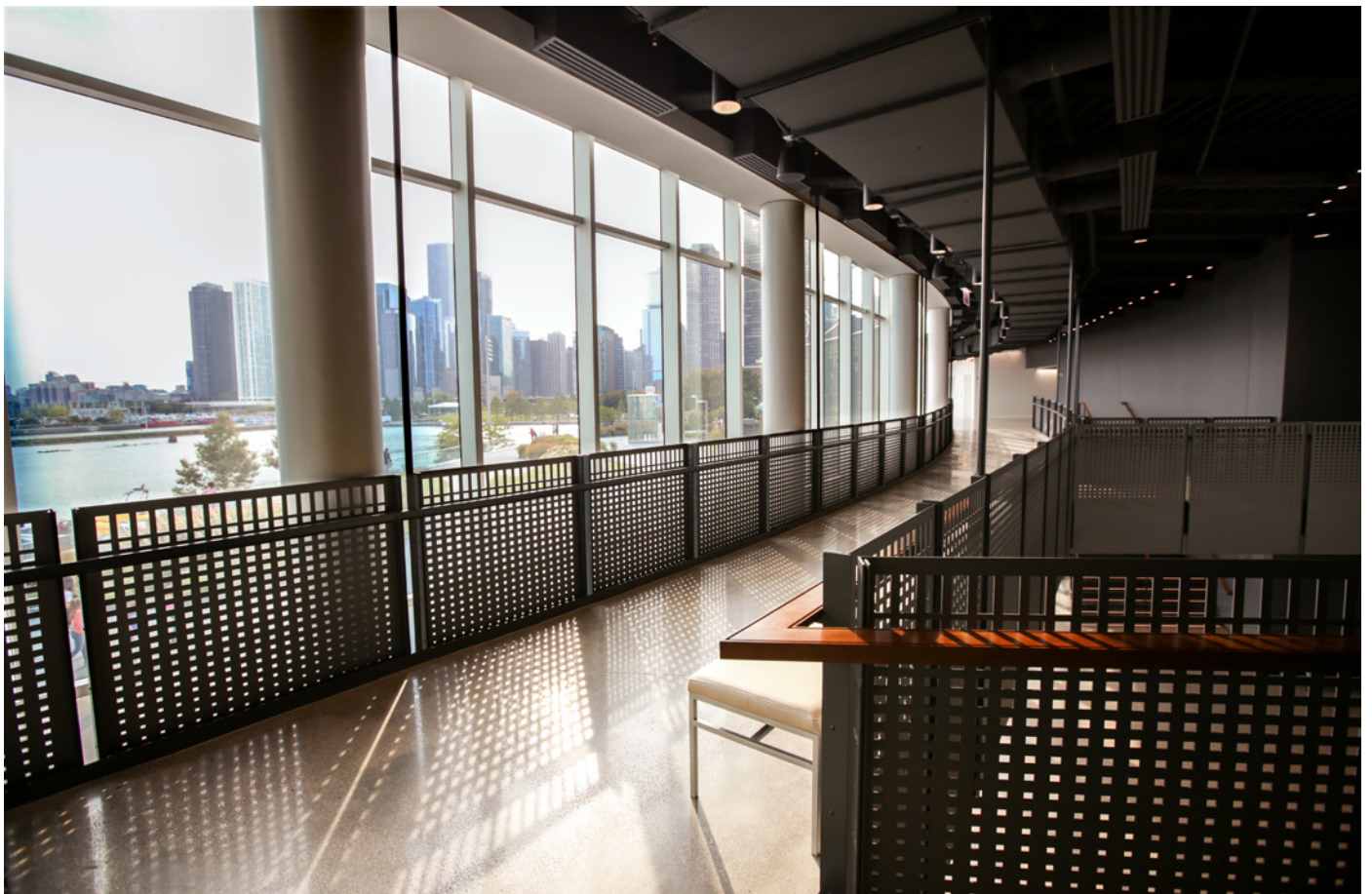
Another innovation is the theater's flexible egress system that allows seating towers to be configured into nine different arrangements, adjusting the range of seating capacity from 250 to over 850 seats. The mobility of the seating towers is achieved through the incorporation of air casters at the base of each structure.

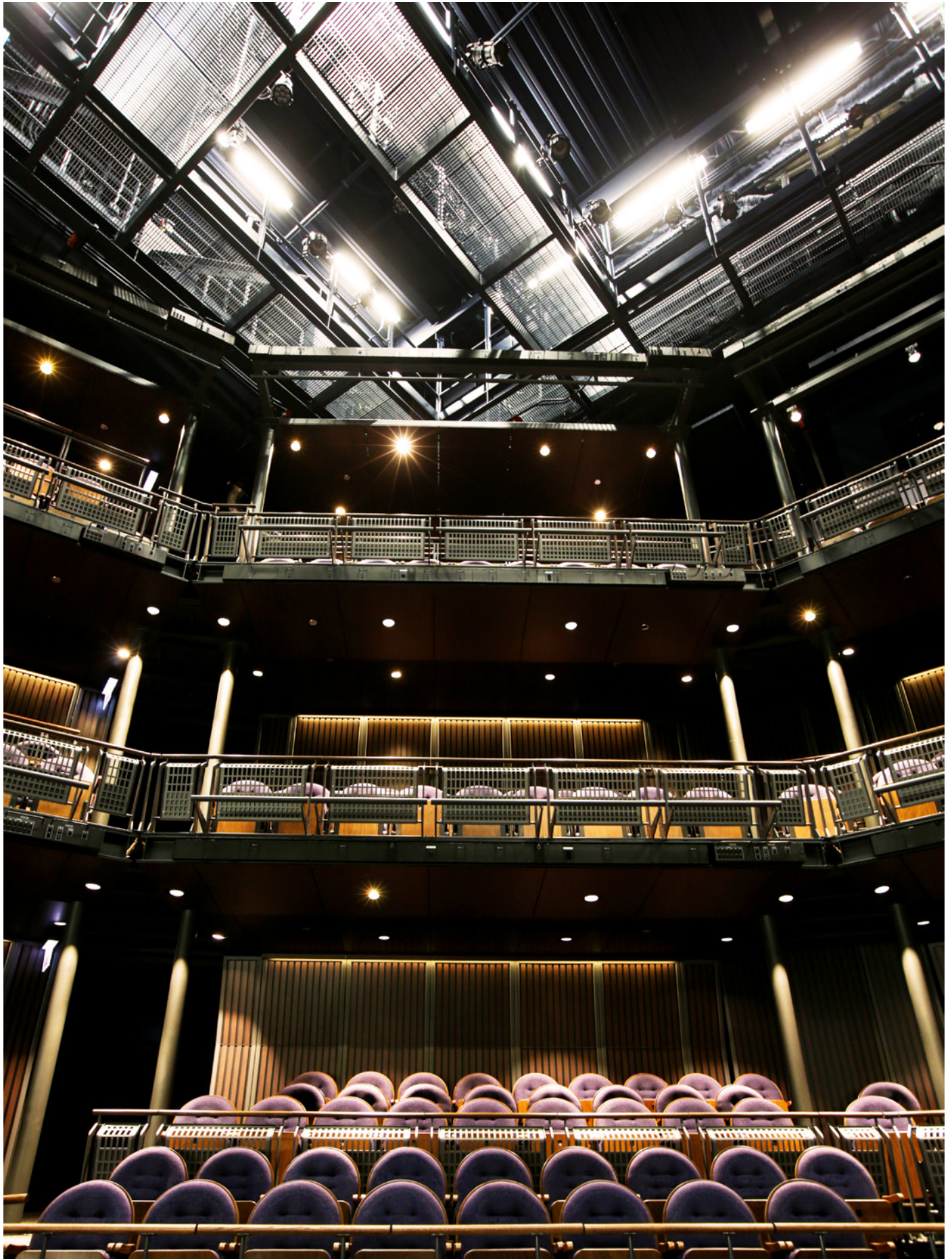


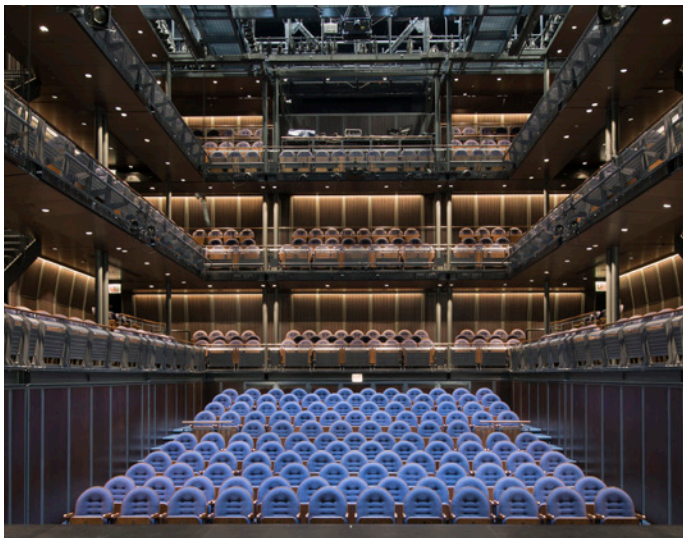
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