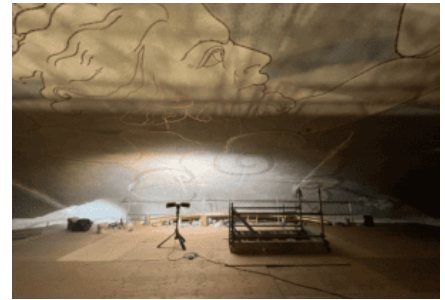


Bridges Auditorium, Pomona College

CLAREMONT, CA

Completed in 1931, Bridges Auditorium—known as “Big Bridges”—is one of the architectural landmarks of Pomona College and the greater Claremont community. Designed by San Diego architect William Templeton Johnson, the auditorium’s soaring interior accommodates approximately 2,400 people beneath a ceiling that rises 55 feet above the auditorium floor and spans 120 feet without interior supports.

The centerpiece of the auditorium is its extraordinary 22,000-square-foot celestial ceiling mural, created by Italian American decorative artist Giovanni “John” Battista Smeraldi. Known for his decorative work at such landmarks as Grand Central Terminal, the White House, and the Los Angeles Biltmore, Smeraldi transformed the vast concave ceiling into an imagined night sky. Figures representing the zodiac and other constellations emerge against fields of blue, silver, and gold, surrounded by stars and a sweeping band representing the Milky Way.

After nearly a century of use, the auditorium’s historic finishes showed the effects of age, including accumulated surface deposits, staining, cracking and areas of paint and plaster loss.

Pomona College engaged EverGreene to investigate the existing conditions and develop an appropriate approach for the conservation and restoration of the historic ceiling and surrounding architectural finishes as the auditorium approaches its centennial in 2031. Scaffolding rose approximately 55 feet from the auditorium floor. From this elevated workspace, EverGreene’s conservators and artisans could closely address surfaces normally viewed only from far below....

MORE INFORMATION:

<https://evergreene.com/projects/bridges-auditorium/>

SERVICES PERFORMED

Condition Assessments & Surveys
Conservation Treatments
Decorative Painting & Finishes
Investigation, Testing & Analysis
Mural Conservation

PROJECT DETAILS

Architect

William Templeton Johnson

Mural Artist

Giovanni “John” Battista Smeraldi

Client

Pomona College