



Castro Theatre

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

The Castro Theatre, located in the Castro neighborhood of San Francisco, was commissioned by the Nassar brothers to replace their 1910 nickelodeon of the same name. Completed in 1922, the movie theatre was designed by self-taught architect Timothy L. Pflueger, a prominent San Francisco architect known for the Alhambra Theatre, the El Ray Theatre, the Four Fifty Sutter Building. The facade is of Churrigueresque design, with the interior decoration showing Italian, Oriental, and Spanish influences. In 1937, a small fire destroyed the original auditorium chandelier and cause some minor damage to the space. Pflueger was brought back to not only design a new chandelier, but to update the interior in the Art Deco style, for which he is well known.

In the 1950s and 60s the Castro neighborhood became a haven for the LGBTQ+ community; the Castro Theatre became a sacred space which provided a safe place to gather, socialize, and be a part of the community. In 1976 theatre was recognized for its importance to the LGBTQ+ community when it was designated a San Francisco City Landmark; the designation protected both the exterior and interior, which is uncommon and showed the importance of the interior to the community. The theatre ran until the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic forced the Castro to go dark.

The theatre finishes have sat mostly untouched for decades, leaving the interior finishes covered with years of cigarette smoke residue, dust, and grime. In 2022, a new partnership between Bay Properties and Another Planet Entertainment was formed to reopen the theatre with a focus on live performances in addition to films and other events; the restoration of the interior being a major part of that plan....

MORE INFORMATION:

<https://evergreene.com/projects/castro-theatre/>

SERVICES PERFORMED

- Conservation Treatments
- Decorative Painting & Finishes
- Gilding
- Historic Finishes Investigation
- Microscopy & Material ID
- Plaster Survey
- Plasterwork
- Sgraffito
- Surveys & Condition Assessments

PROJECT DETAILS

Owner

Bay Properties

Client

Another Planet Entertainment

Architect

Page & Turnbull

