



LA Tower Theatre

LOS ANGELES, CA

The historic Tower Theatre was designed in 1927 by renowned movie theater architect S. Charles Lee. It was the first theater wired for sound and to have air-conditioning in Los Angeles. That legacy of innovation continues as the Tower is now a venue for today's technology. The Tower Theatre was added to the NRHP in 1979 and adopted as a LA Historic Cultural Monument in 1989. The space had been basically empty since it closed its doors in 1988, accepting its infrequent use as a filming location. Our work began in 2018, when we performed a historic finishes investigation and plaster assessment, in addition to documenting inventory of all original architectural elements, before the theater underwent a seismic upgrade and full-blown restoration, which was completed in 2021.

Historic Finishes Investigation & Plaster Survey

An initial plaster survey was conducted on the ornamental plaster in the theater, including the balconies, walls, and lower ceilings, so that the conditions could be documented and treatment recommendations could be made. An assessment was also made for the suspended ornamental plaster ceiling, and recommendations were made on how to best re-hang it after the seismic upgrade was complete.

The results of the finishes investigation indicated that original paint schemes were dominated by light earth tones with brown antiquing glazes. Designs and accents were executed in shades of green and brown, with gold metallic highlights rendered in both paint and metal leaf. The historical decorative schemes appeared to be largely intact below subsequent campaigns of overpainting. Munsell color matches were identified for the historic finishes and are documented in the report....

MORE INFORMATION:

<https://evergreene.com/projects/la-tower-theatre/>

(3) AWARDS

SERVICES PERFORMED

Contemporary & New Design
Design
Investigation, Testing & Analysis
Murals & Mosaics
Plasterwork

PROJECT DETAILS

Original Architect

S. Charles Lee

Design Architect

Foster & Partners

Executive Architect

Gruen Associates

Historic Architect & Consultant

Historic Resources Group

Construction Manager

Shawmut Design & Construction

Historic Architectural Contractor

KC Restoration

Drywall, Plaster, Acoustic & Insulation

Contractors

Pacific System Interiors

Professional Photographer

Martin King

