



George Gund Foundation Lobby

OHIO THEATRE, CLEVELAND, OH

Designed by the architect Thomas Lamb, the Ohio Theatre was originally built as a 1,300-seat theater for live performances in 1921. In 1943, the theater reopened as part of the Loew's Theater chain as a first-run movie theater. In 1964, a fire destroyed the Ohio Theatre lobby. The theater reopened later that year, but the ornamental plaster elements, historic murals, and decorative paint scheme were abandoned and replaced with a contemporary design.

EverGreene recreated the Ohio Theatre's Italian Renaissance-style elegance. Using archival photographs, drawings and original blueprints, castings from the Lamb-designed State Theatre (adjacent to the Ohio Theatre), and an on-site investigation, which uncovered lost ornaments beneath the ceiling; EverGreene's artists, designers, and craftsmen recreated the original lobby. The project required careful recreation of plaster ornament that was polychromed and glazed. Although the ceiling would have been recognizable to a patron in the 1920s, it was designed and engineered to be cast thinner in order to accommodate modern mechanical and electrical systems, which also allowed for a quicker installation.

EverGreene also designed, painted, and installed three 30 x 14' murals that depict the Temple of Bacchus, Birth of Venus, and Muses of Poetry and Music. Other work included marble cleaning and restoration and designing historically-compatible scagliola grand stair to ensure it met modern safety code requirements.

MORE INFORMATION:

<https://evergreene.com/projects/ohio-theatre-george-gund-foundation-lobby/>

SERVICES PERFORMED

Decorative Painting & Finishes
Mortar Analysis & Petrography
Murals
Plaster Fabrication
Plaster Restoration

PROJECT DETAILS

Restoration/Renovation Architect

Westlake Reed Leskosky Architects / DLR Group

Original Architect

Thomas Lamb

General Contractor

Turner Construction / The Coniglio Company

