Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater
Washington, DC

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater revitalized two acoustically-deficient heritage theatres and added an experimental “cradle” theatre, doubling the company’s previous facilities and spurring development in the surrounding neighbourhood. A primary design concern was the theatres’ proximity to a national airport; performances were regularly disrupted by jets’ noisy takeoffs.

The structure is primarily cast-in-place concrete, including the elliptically-sloping curved walls of the new cradle theatre. Building off one of Fast + Epp’s and earlier projects in Surrey, British Columbia (at Surrey Central City), the design team wrapped the three venues in a glass curtain wall, using 15m- to 18m-high parallel strand lumber column supports to carry the 200m-long double-glazed façade and dramatic cantilever roof. Fast + Epp completed the design while StructureCraft, the design-build company focused on the fabrication and assembly of the complex timber façade.

Fast + Epp

Status
Completed 2010

Project Cost
$135 million USD

Area
200,000 ft² (18,600 m²)

Architect
Bing Thom Architects

Client
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