

FEATURE PROJECT

# THE OHIO THEATRE

GEORGE GUND  
FOUNDATION LOBBY

*Cleveland, OH*



*Narrated by Kevin Enright,  
Architectural Designer*







## INTRODUCTION

Designed by architect Thomas Lamb, the Ohio Theatre was originally built as a 1,300-seat theater for live performances in 1921. In 1964, a fire destroyed the George Gund Foundation Lobby. The theater reopened later that year, with the damage covered by flat plaster.

Reconstructing the original lobby required careful recreation of ornamental plaster, detailed decorative finishes, cleaning marble, and precise engineering to cast a thin, efficient ceiling that could accommodate modern mechanical and electrical systems.



GEORGE GUND FOUNDATION  
LOBBY PROJECT PAGE





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1921

Opening Day



1964

Fire and Re-Opening



1982

First Renovation

TIMELINE





**2014**

Condition Before Restoration



**2015**

Restoration Concludes

## INTRODUCTION continued

Great care was taken to ensure each architectural element was reproduced as faithfully as possible, while simultaneously integrating the needs and preferences of today's audiences. The final product is a stunning recreation of the original lobby, with every detail meticulously reworked to pay homage to the 1921 design.







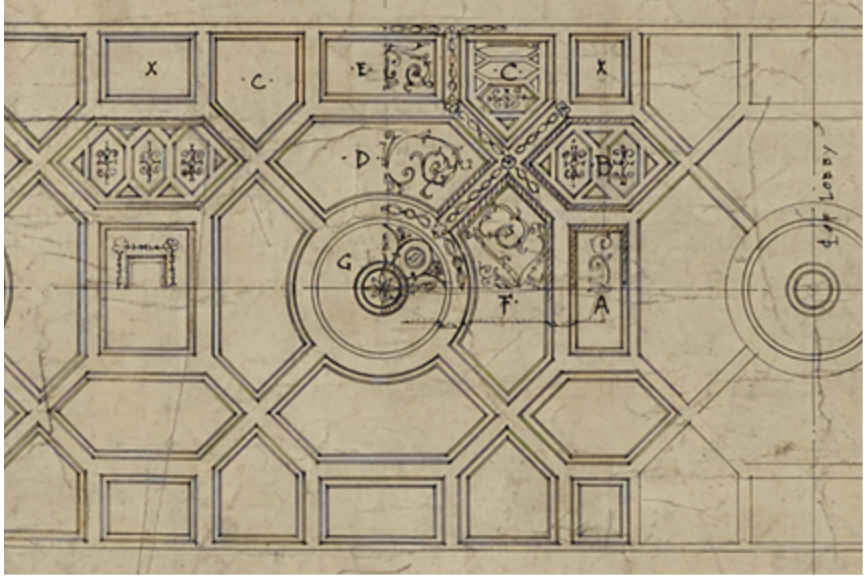
## PLASTER FABRICATION

Using archival photographs, drawings and original blueprints, castings from the nearby State Theatre, and an on-site investigation, which uncovered lost ornaments above the temporary drop ceiling, our craftspeople were able to recreate the intricate detail of the ornamental plaster in the lobby. They created photogrammetric 3D models of the fragmented elements, then hand sculpted replicas to create molds, and cast the ornamental plaster visitors see today.

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## COMPLEX PLASTER CHALLENGES

Full understanding of the ceiling ornament allowed us to employ a hybrid of traditional and modern methods to replicate the lost elements, while also incorporating modern engineering and safety standards into the lobby ceiling. Our artists and craftspeople worked collectively on design, fabrication, and installation of the new ceiling and ornamental plasterwork.

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 [PLASTER RESTORATION](#)

 [PLASTER CONSERVATION](#)













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HISTORIC PHOTO



ARTIST MOCK-UP

## DECORATIVE PAINTING & FINISHES

Our expert understanding of colors, patterns, textures, and materials enabled us to revive this historic interior space. Application of both traditional and innovative methods to decorative painting, gilding, glazing, and other architectural finishes used in this space were completed by our specialty craftsmen and artisans.

 DECORATIVE  
PAINTING & FINISHES









Muses of Poems and Music



## MURALS

To add the final missing elements to the lobby and restore Lamb's vision, our team designed, painted, and installed three ~30' x ~10' murals that depict the Triumph of Bacchus, Birth of Venus, and Muses of Poetry and Music.

These murals aren't exact reproductions because there was limited source material for the originals. In addition to historic photos, our artists' inspirations included the 17th-century Baroque classical paintings of French artist Nicolas Poussin, and an early 19th-century painting by Charles Meynier in the collection of the Cleveland Museum of Art.











## PRESS



PLAYHOUSE SQUARE:  
RESTORING THE LEGACY



HISTORIC OHIO THEATRE  
LOBBY RE-CREATED



PLAYHOUSE SQUARE'S  
OHIO THEATRE LOBBY  
RESTORATION



RECREATED FROM SCRATCH



PLAYHOUSE SQUARE  
PUTTING FINISHING  
TOUCHES ON OHIO THEATRE  
RENOVATION





## OUR TEAM

### **Playhouse Square**

Client & Owner

### **DLR Group**

Restoration Architect

### **Turner Construction/ The Coniglio Company**

General Contractors

### **Ken Blaze**

Professional Photographer

### **Kevin Reeves**

Professional Photographer







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THE ROBERT J. TOMSICH FAMILY GRAND STAIRCASE





## SAFETY

Jobsite safety is a matter of human dignity, and at EverGreene, it's a top priority.

Our mission is to keep every project incident-free and return each employee home safe and sound. We are proud to be an industry leader in environmental health and safety in historic-built environments.







## ABOUT US

As stewards of the most treasured buildings, landmarks, monuments, and theaters, we devote every day to the inspiring integration of art and architecture. Employing a cross-disciplinary approach, we integrate the client's vision with conservation science, craftsmanship, advanced technology, art history, and specialty construction. Our artists, craftspeople, and conservators are among the most talented and highly trained in the country.

Described as "a modern-day renaissance studio" by The New York Times, EverGreene has provided award-winning design, historic conservation, and restoration services for theaters for over forty years.



CONNECT WITH OUR TEAM



We'd love to work with your theater. Tell us about your project.

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