

## Irvine Valley College Performing Arts Center

Irvine, California



Located on a small community college campus, this new 40,000 square foot building houses the Drama, Dance and Music departments of the school.

The existing campus lacked an identifiable landmark so the design intent for the project was to create a cost-effective, yet unique, icon for the campus and one that functions flexibly for a wide variety of performance and learning uses.

The building is comprised of a large lobby, a 400-seat multi-purpose theater with a balcony and proscenium stage, a 100-seat black box theater, 50-seat music and dance venue, a full scene shop and wardrobe shop, as well as classrooms, offices and storage.

The main theater is positioned at the center of the floor plan, with the other venues and support spaces surrounding it. In the European theater tradition, a balcony wraps around the orchestra seating, creating an intimate feel in the hall. The hall features a modern proscenium stage that has a small forestage projection, as well as an orchestra pit and lift. The black box theater and music/dance venue allow for the flexible staging of experimental productions.

The site is at the western gateway to the campus and, being visible from two major thoroughfares, the design of the building announces its presence with a dramatic statement. Large-scale angular walls wrap the theater volume and creating a striking silhouette as they fold up, down and around the lower program components. The double-high glass lobby is contrasted with the solidity of these walls and creates a welcoming entrance to the building. Designed under the direction of Christopher Coe while Managing Director and Director of Design of Arquitectonica Los Angeles.





