



THE CURTIS INSTITUTE OF MUSIC, LENFEST HALL

Architect: Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates, Inc.

Location: Philadelphia, PA

Client: The Curtis Institute of Music

Area: 105,000 sf

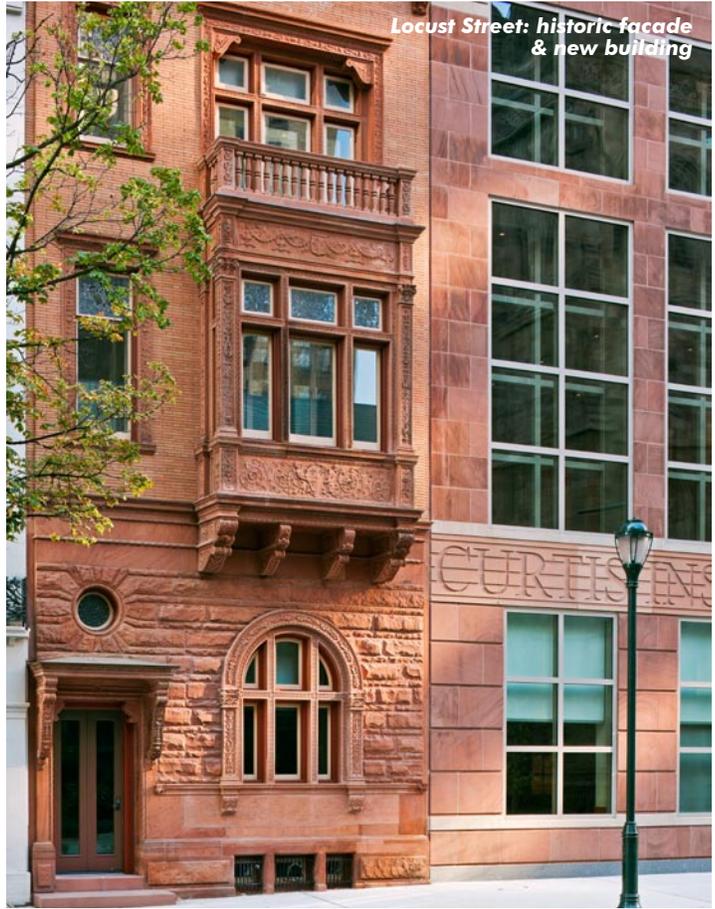
Construction Cost: \$48,500,000

Completion: 2011

Distinctions: LEED Gold certification targeted; Preservation Achievement Grand Jury Award, Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, 2012; Best Historic Preservation Project, General Building Contractors Association, 2011; Notable Achievement in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Award, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, Philadelphia Chapter, to Urban Engineers, 2011

VSBA designed this major new multi-use music education and student residence building for the renowned Curtis Institute of Music. The expansion -- on a historic block of Philadelphia's Locust Street -- provides state-of-the-art facilities for practice and teaching, an orchestral rehearsal room, and student residences, all in close proximity to existing facilities on Rittenhouse Square. Amenities include dining and social spaces and an outdoor terrace shared by students, faculty, and staff. The project has targeted LEED Gold certification.

The building incorporates box-in-box construction to provide appropriate acoustical isolation of all music spaces. The rehearsal hall is designed for flexible use with adjustable acoustics and is equipped with separate audio and visual recording studios. All teaching spaces and studios have recording/playback systems. Structural and mechanical systems were carefully designed to meet demanding acoustical requirements.



Our design responds to the scale and character of the historic streetscape. A four-story façade on Locust Street is clad in brown sandstone with window groupings and horizontal accents that relate to the rhythm of neighboring townhouses. To either side we preserved and restored existing historic façades, incorporating them into the design to help preserve the character of the street. Yet our work concurrently promotes the new, 21st century identity of the expanded institution: a carved frieze across the façade identifies the building with a bit of civic flair, a projected bay window highlights the entry, and generous windows express the 30' high rehearsal hall.





Rehearsal hall



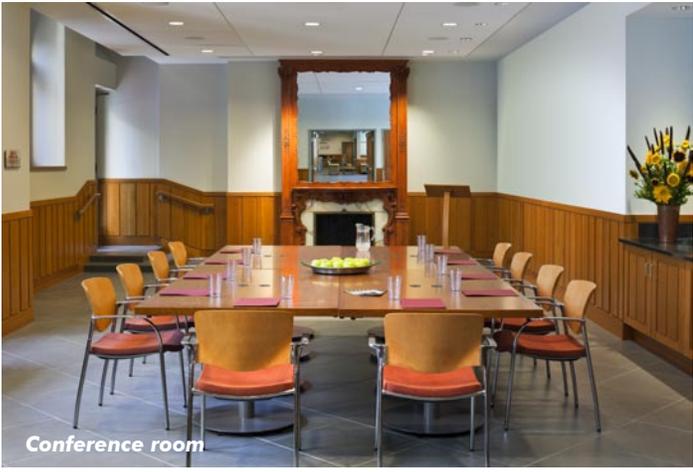
Teaching studio



Lounge



Second floor concourse



Conference room



Servery



Dining room