

Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House

Dallas, Texas

Operated By

AT&T Performing Arts Center

Design Architect

Foster + Partners

Design Engineer

Buro Happold

Architect of Record

Kendall/Heaton Associates, Inc.

Contractor

Linbeck Construction Company

Completion Date

October 2009

Construction Cost

\$125 million

Total Area

210,000 sf

Awards

RIBA International Award, 2010

Best in Category Award-Cultural,
Texas Construction, 2010



The Dallas Morning News/Tom Fox

Thornton Tomasetti served as engineer of record, from design development through completion, and as curtain wall consultant throughout the project. The award-winning building is one of three new venues in the Dallas Arts District's master plan. The 210,000-square-foot, 2,200-seat Winspear Opera House is inspired by traditional Italian horseshoe vocal theaters and revolutionizes the style to create an innovative standard for the 21st century.

The most striking feature is the glass-sheathed "drum," which wraps around the balconies and rises through a four-acre sunshade canopy, and is washed with light at night.

Making the building as open and welcoming as possible was a top priority. Therefore, the lobby is wrapped in glass walls 60 feet high, framed in gray-painted solid steel. The southeast panel, near the ground-level café, has a 2,100-square-foot section that can be raised for a walk-through outdoor-indoor opening.

Four levels of balconies are located above the orchestra floor fronted in glass-fiber-reinforced gypsum and punctuated with lighting sconces.

