

Architectural Fact Sheet

COLBURN CENTER

Colburn School Campus Expansion

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Colburn School will expand its Downtown Los Angeles campus and add outstanding new performance venues. Conceived as an ensemble of interlocking volumes, each of which houses a distinct program while interacting dynamically with the whole, the new Colburn Center will be built into a terrain that slopes down from Olive Street to Hill Street and clad in a pink metallic finish. The components are knit together by an expansive light-filled entrance and a pair of gardens planted at street and rooftop level. In addition to the concert hall, a magnificent 1,000-seat performance space, the new building will comprise a 100-seat theater for dance; four spacious studios for dance instruction and rehearsal; and a host of teaching and support facilities. All performance and rehearsal spaces are designed for maximum versatility of configuration and production.

COLBURN OVERVIEW

The Colburn School is one of the nation’s preeminent institutes for music and dance. The expansion will allow Colburn to continue serving students at all levels and disciplines and provide them with an ideal suite of performance spaces, when added to the existing 430-seat Zipper Hall and 189-seat Thayer Hall. The new building will become the home to Colburn’s Trudl Zipper Dance Institute, more than doubling the school’s facilities dedicated to dance. It will also provide much-needed space for the renowned, degree-granting Conservatory of Music, Colburn’s Music Academy, and its Community School of Performing Arts, a robust program of music instruction for thousands of children and adults each year.

LOCATION

130 Olive Street, Los Angeles, California
Located within Downtown Los Angeles’s Bunker Hill area on a sloping, undeveloped parcel along 2nd Street, diagonally across the street from Colburn’s existing campus, in a renowned cultural corridor that includes not only Walt Disney Concert Hall but also The Music Center, the Museum of Contemporary Art, and The Broad. Built on one of the last parcels available to be developed in the immediate area, the project culminates the realization of Bunker Hill as a world-class cultural destination.

KEY DATES

June 2016	Land Purchased
March 2018	Project Announcement
March 2022	Design Unveiling
April 2024	Groundbreaking

**PRINCIPAL
DESIGN FEATURES**

Concert Hall

To be named for Terri and Jerry Kohl

Located on the west end of the project site, the 1,000-seat concert hall is characterized by the sense of intimacy it creates between the performers and the audience. The performance platform is designed without a raised stage edge, so that audience members are seated literally on stage. Seats surround the stage on all sides, with a rake that creates superb sight lines, and gently curved balconies circle the room. The performance platform, which is identical in size and shape to the stage of Gehry's Walt Disney Concert Hall, can accommodate approximately 104 musicians on a powered riser system of 6 separate lifts, enabling multiple orchestra configurations. An orchestra pit with a capacity of up to 70 musicians includes a platform lift that can be raised to accommodate loose audience seating or lowered to create a stage edge. The acoustic ceiling above the orchestra and seating area will be shaped to resemble clouds, creating a dynamic presence that can be activated by lighting while accommodating equipment and lighting positions within an elegant, lofty setting. In keeping with this airy atmosphere, two skylights will bring daylight into the space.

Concert Hall Back-of-House

The concert hall will provide dressing rooms, restrooms, stage management offices, technical support rooms, and piano and equipment storage areas. Wide circulation corridors and stage access doors will facilitate easy load-in of stage equipment and instruments.

Dance Facilities

The Colburn Center will allow the school to relocate its dance school from the existing campus and more than double the size of the school's facilities dedicated to the Trudl Zipper Dance Institute. On the Hill Street (east) side of the site will stand the four glass-enclosed rehearsal studios—ranging from approximately 1,400 to 2,600 square feet—and the 3,000-square-foot, 100-seat studio theater. With a separate entrance and distinct architectural character, the light-filled dance facilities will have their own identity while harmonizing with the larger project. Designed to maximize flexibility for performers and audience, the largest spaces allow for tiered seating to provide the greatest variety of configurations and vantage points. Each space will have a sprung wood floor or vinyl dance surface and one mirrored wall. The rehearsal rooms will have windows with shades, allowing controlled natural daylight to enter the spaces. All rooms will have AV connectivity to the performance spaces, allowing them to be used as off-stage performance areas.

Gardens and Outdoor Performance Areas

The project features a multitude of outside performance areas totaling some 19,620 square feet. The Colburn Center will add to the green space of Downtown LA, including a roof garden on top of the studio theater offering views over 2nd Street and space for pre-performance receptions, intermission gatherings, or outdoor performances; an exterior porch on the

south of the concert hall overlooks 2nd Street; and a public garden at the corner of 2nd and Hill that will provide a heavily landscaped space whereby students of all ages, faculty, parents, visitors, and community members may gather, study, rehearse, converse, and relax as well enjoy student performances.

ACOUSTIC DESIGN The project reunites Gehry with Yasuhisa Toyota of Nagata Acoustics, his collaborator on Walt Disney Concert Hall, and with Michael Ferguson, principal of TheatreDNA, who formerly consulted on Gehry’s New World Center in Miami Beach and Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College.

Kohl Hall will feature a high-performance sound system that caters to the unique needs of each production. Flexibility, modularity and comprehensive coverage are the focus of the design. AV consultant Frederick Vogler of Sonitus approached L-Acoustics, a world leader in premium professional sound systems, to collaborate in organizing a system that supports acoustic sound from the stage and utilizes L-ISA – a groundbreaking immersive audio technology. The natural acoustics designed by Nagata Acoustics combined with L-ISA will offer extremely natural, ultra-high definition sound. The result will be a deeper sense of connection to the performance and a feeling of being inside the music.

A lateral force resisting system consisting of Buckling-Restrained-Braced Frames (BRB) will be provided to isolate the performance space from external vibrations. Mitigation measures for both airborne noise sources such as helicopters and road traffic and structure-borne vibration from the Metro Transit Authority subway tunnels located beneath 2nd Street and Hill Street have been incorporated into the design.

The acoustic criteria of the concert hall is NC-15, the studio theater is NC-25, and the remaining four studios are NC-30.

PRINCIPAL MATERIALS Glass; flat seam insulated metal panel pink-colored and silver

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS	Building:	105,000 square feet
	Concert Hall:	17,200 square feet
	Studio theater for dance:	3,100 square feet
	Dance studios (2):	2,500 square feet each
	Tap studio:	1,400 square feet
	Teaching support spaces:	4,590 square feet
	Concert facility support spaces:	15,170 square feet
	Rooftop garden and porch:	12,673 square feet
	Street-level garden:	6,946 square feet