

VILLANOVA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

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 **2023 PCI DESIGN AWARDS**
THEATER STRUCTURE HONORABLE MENTION

Owner
Villanova University
Villanova, PA

Precast Concrete Producer
High Concrete Group
Denver, PA

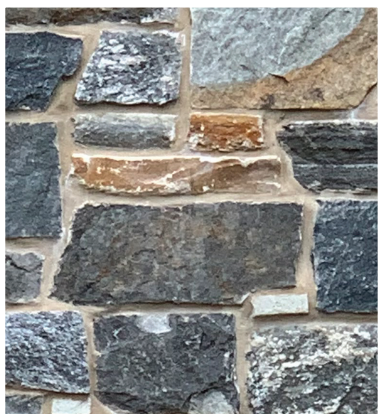
Architect
Voith & Mactavish
Philadelphia, PA

Engineer of Record
O'Donnell & Naccarato
Philadelphia, PA

General Contractor
L.F. Driscoll Company
Philadelphia, PA

Project Cost
\$50 Million

Project Size
84,000 ft²



Above: Rounded entrance invites community
Left: Beautiful stone set in precast

Key Project Attributes

- Precast concrete provided more consistency, dimensional stability, ease of installation, details, and cost savings than could have been achieved using another building material.
- The precast concrete panels with inlaid stone blend into the architectural aesthetic of the campus.
- The precast concrete radius panels were used to create a rounded entry plaza that welcomes the community.

Project Overview

When planning to construct a new performing arts building, Villanova University weighed the many options for construction materials. As part of the University's project to transform a previously underutilized parking lot into a multi-use area, including student housing, retail, and dining, the performing arts center acted as the crown jewel of the development. Through this development project, the University intended to provide the local metropolitan community an opportunity to experience new forms of art and culture, while also using the facility as a hands-on learning experience for theatre students. To achieve this vision, the structure needed to house a full-size theater, along with studios and classrooms, and provide adequate acoustic isolation between the spaces. Villanova is known for its Gothic-style architecture across campus, so the new design also had to complement the aged architectural style of its surroundings. Creating precast panels with plant-installed stone could meet the aesthetic and functional needs of the university with lower costs and construction time than a traditional stone façade.

Gothic-style Architecture

The John and Joan Mullen Center for the Performing Arts is the last in a series of planned projects along Lancaster Avenue. The goal was to create a venue that would give the local community an opportunity to experience new forms of art and culture, as well as a facility where theater students could experience hands-on learning. The Villanova campus is known for its Gothic-style architecture, and the performing arts center's design complements the traditional style of surrounding structures. Precast concrete panels with plant-installed stone met the aesthetic and functional needs of the university at a lower cost and faster construction time than could have been achieved with a design featuring a traditional stone façade.

Modern Technology

The performing arts building was completed in precast concrete with less time and money than a traditional stone façade. Finished panels, with plant-installed stone, allowed erection to take place efficiently and accelerated the remaining construction process. The performing arts center's two main performance spaces include a 400-seat proscenium-style theatre with tailored acoustics, state-of-the-art theatrical lighting and modern technology. The finished project even earned a LEED silver certification for its reflective roofing, green roof over the main theater, low emitting finishes throughout, and a highly-energy efficient HVAC system



THE VILLANOVA CAMPUS IS KNOWN FOR ITS GOTHIC-STYLE ARCHITECTURE, AND THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER'S DESIGN COMPLEMENTS THE TRADITIONAL STYLE OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURES.