


Residence

Health
College

Performance
Center

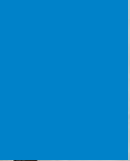
Institute

 Architectural Woodwork Institute

design solutions

Spring 2020 | \$6.25





In
Tune.

Performance Center Looks and Sounds Magnificent.

C

hicago's DePaul University was established in 1898 and has a current total enrollment of 23,000 students. The university recently constructed a 185,000-square-foot music center, the Holtschneider Performance Center, three floors above ground with an underground parking garage, that includes teaching studios, rehearsal space, concert hall, two recital halls and a jazz hall.



at a glance

AWI MANUFACTURING MEMBER:

Bernhard Woodwork, Ltd.

LOCATION:

Northbrook, Illinois

ESTABLISHED:

1965

**Licensed QCP
Manufacturer**

Specifically, the music complex includes the 505-seat William E. and Mary Pat Gannon Hay Concert Hall, an elegant and acoustically optimal hall designed to accommodate a full range of musical ensembles. A 140-seat large recital hall delivers professional quality acoustics with a clear and polished sound, as does an 81-seat small recital hall. The 76-seat Philip Corboy and Mary Dempsey Jazz Hall provides the perfect setting for audiences to experience the intimacy and ambience of a jazz club.

Public spaces include a commons area to serve as the front door, forming a gathering place for the School of Music community and social spaces for students; and an atrium café to serve as a gathering spot before concerts, during intermissions and after the performance. Teaching spaces, designed around the technical needs of students and faculty, include a choral rehearsal room, computer lab, instrumental rehearsal rooms, a large chamber music room, large recital hall, percussion rehearsal room, and sound recording technology suite.

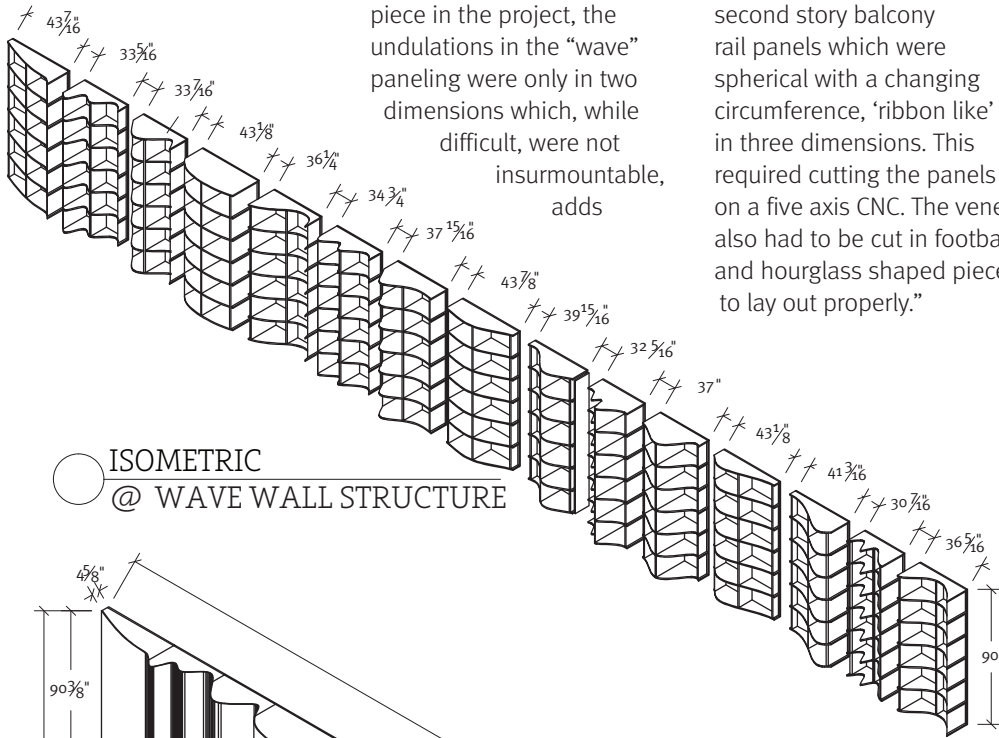
Architect for the project was Antunovich Associates of Chicago, while architectural woodwork was fabricated and installed by Bernhard Woodwork Ltd, an AWI member firm from Northbrook, Illinois.

Harmonious Design

The primary objective in the selection of finishes for the interior design of the Holtschneider Center was to utilize materials that would enhance both the aesthetic and acoustic qualities of each space, explains Bob Roubik, principal of Antunovich Associates. “While several materials were used for this purpose, woodwork functioned as the primary cladding element on the interior surfaces of the performance spaces. Its surface characteristics, geometry, and placement were manipulated in various ways to provide stunning aesthetic results that achieved specific acoustic goals.”

Architects and acousticians worked closely with the woodworker so that the woodwork panels could be fabricated and installed in a way that attained desired results. “There was a consistent acoustic mandate to eliminate parallel surfaces and prevent reverberation in the performance spaces,” adds Roubik. This was achieved by the introduction of curved and battered woodwork wall panels with exact geometries calculated using digital models and interdisciplinary collaboration.



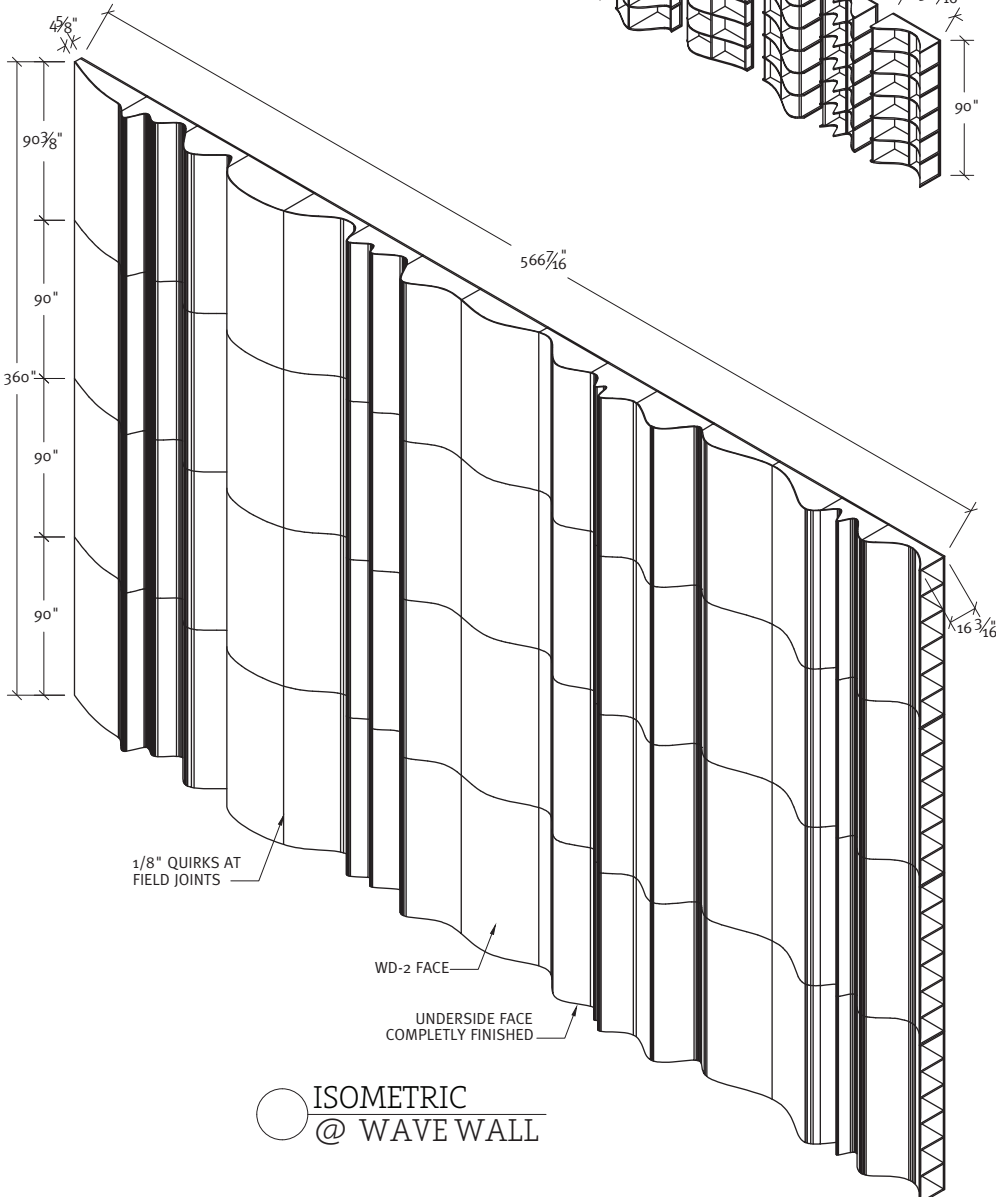


Team Of Note

"Our working relationship with Bernhard Woodwork was exceptional," says Roubik. "They engaged the design team early in the bidding and design process and invited both the architects and the acousticians to their shop on several occasions to discuss design intent and proposed strategies to realize it. Similarly, effective communication with the field crew during fabrication and installation proved integral to the successful delivery of the project, as the team worked in lockstep to overcome any field issues that arose during construction."

Janis adds, "Bernhard is one of those subcontractors who comes along in your lifetime to do incredible work of which everyone is completely happy and proud. They are some of the finest and most hard-working craftsmen that I have ever encountered in all of my years at DePaul. They also maintained a high level of customer service from the beginning of the project to the very end, addressing any and all concerns immediately and to our complete satisfaction."

As desired by the university, a classic, timeless and stunning look was created for the new home of the music school. 🎵



“During early programming exercises, the DePaul faculty and staff communicated to the design team their desire for each performance space to have its own aesthetic identity,” he says. “Among other design strategies employed by the design team, this was achieved by the introduction of two different wood species - rift sawn White Oak and quarter sawn Makore.” The Makore was used in the main concert hall and entry lobby to provide visual consistency with woodwork used in other

buildings throughout the campus. The lighter colored White Oak was used in the less formal recital halls, providing variety to the project’s overall aesthetic and contributing to a unique sense of place in each of these spaces.

Wonderful Woodwork

According to Mark Bernhard of Bernhard Woodwork, the project consisted of a full new Music School including several recital halls, auditorium, recording studio, practice rooms, and classrooms. All of this was accessed through a grand foyer, four stories high, with a wood clad staircase and paneling crowned by curved wood beams above. “We are currently working with the same team in 2020 for a second smaller building with an auditorium,” he adds.

“We took the unique flowing conceptual design of the architect and created engineering drawings that could be built out of flat wood parts,” Bernhard continues. “Models in 3D were required, and in some cases full sized mockups. We also worked with a sound engineer after the shop drawings to ‘tune’ the recital hall to provide the proper sound. This included mocking up the panels and adjusting blocking, adding materials, and changing construction to create the right resonance for symphonic as well as jazz orchestras.”



WHITE OAK

MAKORE

“ While we’re family rooted in tradition, we’re hardly fixed on the past. Over the years we have embraced a variety of high technologies to deliver ever higher quality to our customers, faster than ever. ”

– Mark Bernhard, Owner

The upstage wall at the main concert hall is significant in both its intricacy and its highly visible location, points out Roubik. “It is a built-up solid piece of woodwork with surface

oscillations that mimic stage curtains and provides a visually interesting backdrop to the performers. It also serves the functional purpose of diffusing and reflecting the sound produced on stage

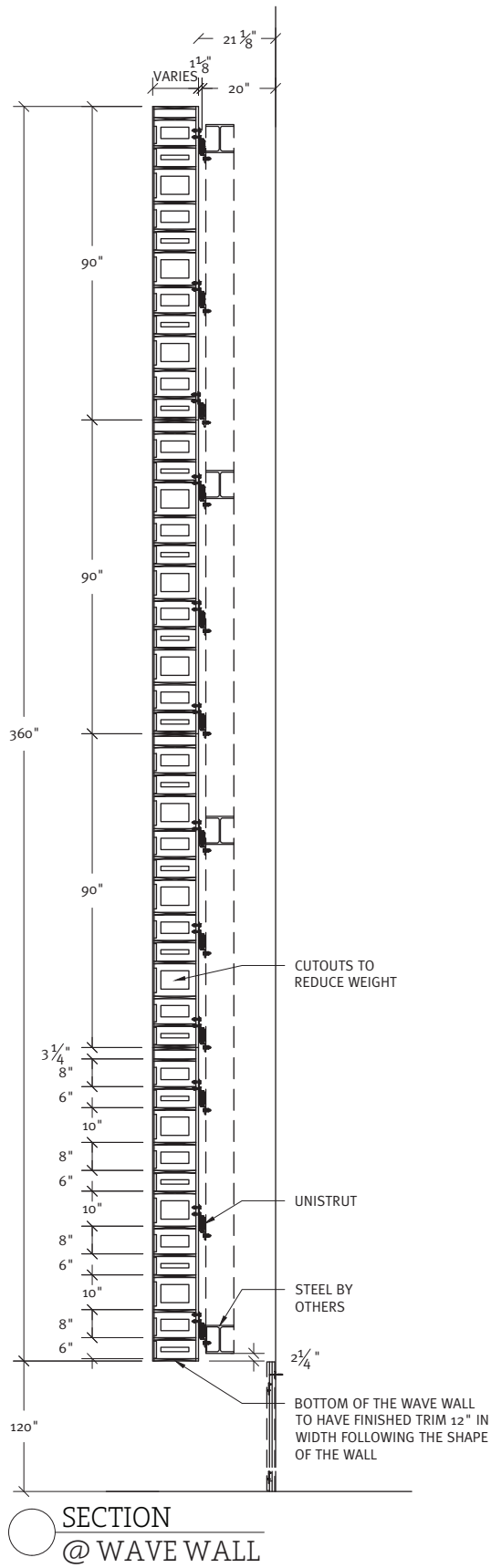
while hiding the ductwork used to supply air to it.”

The wave wall at the front of the main performance hall is one of the most stunning woodwork items in the building, says Bob

Janis, DePaul’s vice president of facility operations.

“Fabricating and installing it were true achievements. Everyone who has been in the space comments favorably on it.”





PROJECT:
Holtzheimer
Performance Center
 Chicago, IL

PROJECT OWNER:
DePaul University
 Chicago, IL

WOODWORKER:
Bernhard
Woodwork, Ltd.
 Northbrook, IL

ARCHITECT:
Antunovich
Associates
 Chicago, IL

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Bulley & Andrews LLC
 Chicago, IL

PHOTOGRAPHER:
Mark Ballogg
 Chicago, IL