Theoretical Consulting Challenge for Renovation of

Theatrical Support Space

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OVERVIEW

The American Society of Theatre Consultants (ASTC) and United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) collaborated to create the ASTC/USITT Student/Consultant Venue Renovation Challenge. This challenge teams together a member of ASTC and a team of students to select a space within the student’s academic theatrical facility to theoretically renovate. The team presented their work at the USITT 2016 Annual Conference in Fort Worth, TX.

For the challenge, students were required to gather all the necessary information from the client. Presented by CC Conn, professor of theatre, interview users of the space, and collaborate with the client throughout the process in order to achieve the desired goal. During the collaboration, the student consultants created the necessary paperwork and drafted what the space would look like if the project were to come to fruition. The process was intended to drive the students to find creative solutions to unique problems in a theatrical setting.

The necessary materials have been compiled. These materials include a design concept statement, an equipment narrative stating every modification to the space, a probable cost estimate determining the estimated value of these modifications, and drawings that show the before and after of the renovated space in both a 2D and 3D view which can be found in the accompanying booklet.

Design Concept Statement

The motivation to renovate the room known as “The Downstage Dressing Room” has come from several complaints, from both professors and students. The functions of the space have not been adequate due to bad organization, inadequate storage options, and an unsatisfactory working space that has gone beyond the help of just “cleaning up.” One professor has deemed this room “miraculously adequate.”

In order to transform this room from “miraculously adequate” to a space of real meaning and value, we must overcome the challenge of it being a multipurpose space. The purposes of the room include:
- Dressing Room
- Back-up workshop
- Tech Storage

Because this is a multipurpose space, we have decided to change the name of the space from “The Downstage Dressing Room” to improve the perception of the space. The name should motivate others to see it as, not just a dressing room, but a place where all the treasures of our art are nurtured.

We feel this room should be called “Vault 102.” This name does not strip one identity for the room. We feel that this name gives the room a creative and fun vibe in hopes that students will value the space more.

Goals

The renovation is intended to transform this room from “miraculously adequate” to a multipurpose space of real meaning and value (thus the new name “Vault 102”). The goals are:

I. Flexibility: The room must easily transform between performer support and stage support. Elements and areas must easily and modularly convert from one purpose to another.

II. Efficiency: Floor space must be maximized for better use as a workshop and all options for increased storage need to be explored. Due to size constraints, all physical elements and space used must deliver maximum efficiency. Think cruise ships.

III. Sustainability: As a matter of carbon consciousness, the makeup mirror lighting and all other lighting will be LED.

IV. Compliance: The restroom must meet the needs of disabled users. This is not just a goal, but also a requirement.