The historic Robert Frost Auditorium in Culver City, CA completed a major renovation in 2018. The 1,200-seat venue is the home to the Culver City High School’s theatre troupe, and also houses under the same roof a re-designed classroom, black box theatre, scene shop, and dressing rooms.

The visually striking 4” thick, 210’ span of concrete comprising the folded-plate roof survived the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, and remains an important structural component of the auditorium which is viewed as a striking example of mid-century modern design. On steroids. Futuristic for its time, it has been featured in the science-fiction films Gattaca and Woody Allen’s sci-fi film Sleeper. Culver City Mayor Thomas Small, who serves as a consultant in urban planning/architecture, called the Frost, “daring, modern, historic and innovative, all at the same time. The Robert Frost auditorium is the quintessence of Culver City, a jewel in the crown of our architectural heritage.”

The renovation, for the first time, brought the space into the 21st Century with air conditioning (via a highly novel means of distribution that at once quieted the system and provided sound absorption), as well as much-improved theatrical lighting and audio, enabled by mitigation of its seriously excessive reverberation.

MCH provided full-scope acoustical consulting.

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ROBERT FROST AUDITORIUM
CULVER CITY, CA