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KlingStubbins receives national AIA award for Interior Architecture Restoration and preservation of Philadelphia's Academy of Music Ballroom honored



Academy of Music Ballroom Restoration, Philadelphia, PA
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PHILADELPHIA, PA – January 10, 2011 – This past week, *AIArchitecture* unveiled its 2011 AIA Institute Honor Award winners, revealing KlingStubbins' Academy of Music Ballroom Restoration project as a recipient of an American Institute of Architects (AIA) Honor Award for Interior Architecture. The AIA's Institute Honor Awards program recognizes achievements in advancing the value of architecture practice, with Interior Architecture Awards focusing on "design excellence, exemplary skill, sensitivity, and thoroughness in preservation or restoration".

The jury described the Ballroom as a "beautiful execution of historic preservation. The fact that

this entry was so well documented and expertly executed, down to every faithful detail, makes us proud to revere the past and keep it ever present."

This is the fifth award bestowed upon KlingStubbins for its meticulous research and design in restoring and preserving the National Historic Landmark in Philadelphia.

The Academy of Music is the oldest continuously operating opera house in the United States, having opened with a Grand Ball and Promenade on January 26, 1857. The popular press at the time described the Academy of Music's ballroom as the most beautiful room in all of Philadelphia; that legacy, and the historic importance of the room, guided every design decision made by the firm in the hopes of recreating the same sentiments today.

One hundred and fifty-two years of continuous use and a myriad of alterations had taken its toll on the Ballroom. KlingStubbins conducted hundreds of hours of design research to reconstruct the room to its 1857 appearance, accessing a variety of historical organizations and the Academy's own substantial archives, which document the building's original design. The removal of a wall infill uncovered four of the five original

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stained glass windows, which had sat covered and protected for more than a hundred years, and the careful investigation and removal of peeling protein-based paints revealed the outlines of the original decorative paint scheme. Laboratory and on-site paint analysis were used to establish the color palette, and two months of full-scale paint prototypes finalized the intricacies of the original pattern designs for the walls and ceiling vaults.

In the last year, the project has received preservation award citations from AIA Philadelphia, AIA Pennsylvania, Preservation Pennsylvania, and the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia.

KlingStubbins provides professional services in all major disciplines within the realm of architecture, engineering, interiors, planning, and landscape architecture. The firm consists of over 400 professionals in its Philadelphia, PA; Cambridge, MA; Raleigh, NC; San Francisco, CA; Washington, DC; and Beijing, China offices. Its areas of market focus and specialization include Corporate/Commercial, Government, Science + Technology, Higher Education, Hospitality/Entertainment, Institutional/Civic, Mission Critical, and Healthcare. The company is a global leader in sustainable design and an innovator in project delivery.

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