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Academy of Music Ballroom honored by AIA Pennsylvania KlingStubbins receives third preservation award for its restoration project



*Academy of Music Ballroom Restoration, Philadelphia, PA
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PHILADELPHIA, PA – September 23, 2010 – On Tuesday night, AIA Pennsylvania awarded KlingStubbins' Academy of Music Ballroom project a Citation of Merit in the Historic Preservation category, in honor of the firm's meticulous research and design for the restoration of this National Historic Landmark.

The Academy of Music is the oldest continuously operating concert hall in the United States, opening 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.

Accessing a variety of Historical organizations and the Academy's own substantial archives which document the buildings original design, KlingStubbins conducted hundreds of hours of design research to reconstruct the room to its 1857 appearance. One hundred and fifty-two years of continuous use and a myriad of alterations had taken its toll on the Ballroom. The removal of a wall infill uncovered four of the five original stained glass windows, which had sat covered and protected for more than a hundred years, and the meticulous 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.

Preservation Pennsylvania awarded the project its Public & Institutional Restoration of an Historic Interior Award last month, and in May, the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia gave the Academy of Music project its Grand Jury Award for Interior Restoration.

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