

Copley Hall gets its own 'tune' up; renovations finished

The \$3.4 million program of interior renovations was recently completed in the main performance hall and backstage areas at Copley Symphony Hall in downtown San Diego.

In time for the opening of the San Diego Symphony's 2008-09 season, **Domus Studio Architects** and **Echo Pacific Construction** completed extensive remodeling that included renovating 5,000 square feet of the musicians' quarters located beneath the main stage, upgrading theatrical and house lighting, a new sound system, and new orchestra monitoring and paging.

With orchestra members performing in an outdoor venue throughout the summer months, trade crews were able to transform Domus Studio's design plans into a larger lounge area with seating and kitchenette, upgraded men's and women's locker rooms, new restroom facilities and improved sound-proof practice areas.

The \$1.4 million musicians' quarters renovation, now called The Grosvenor Family Musicians' Center, was paid for in part by a major commitment from Joyce and Craig Grosvenor.

In addition, there were a number of improvements made to the public areas of the historic hall.

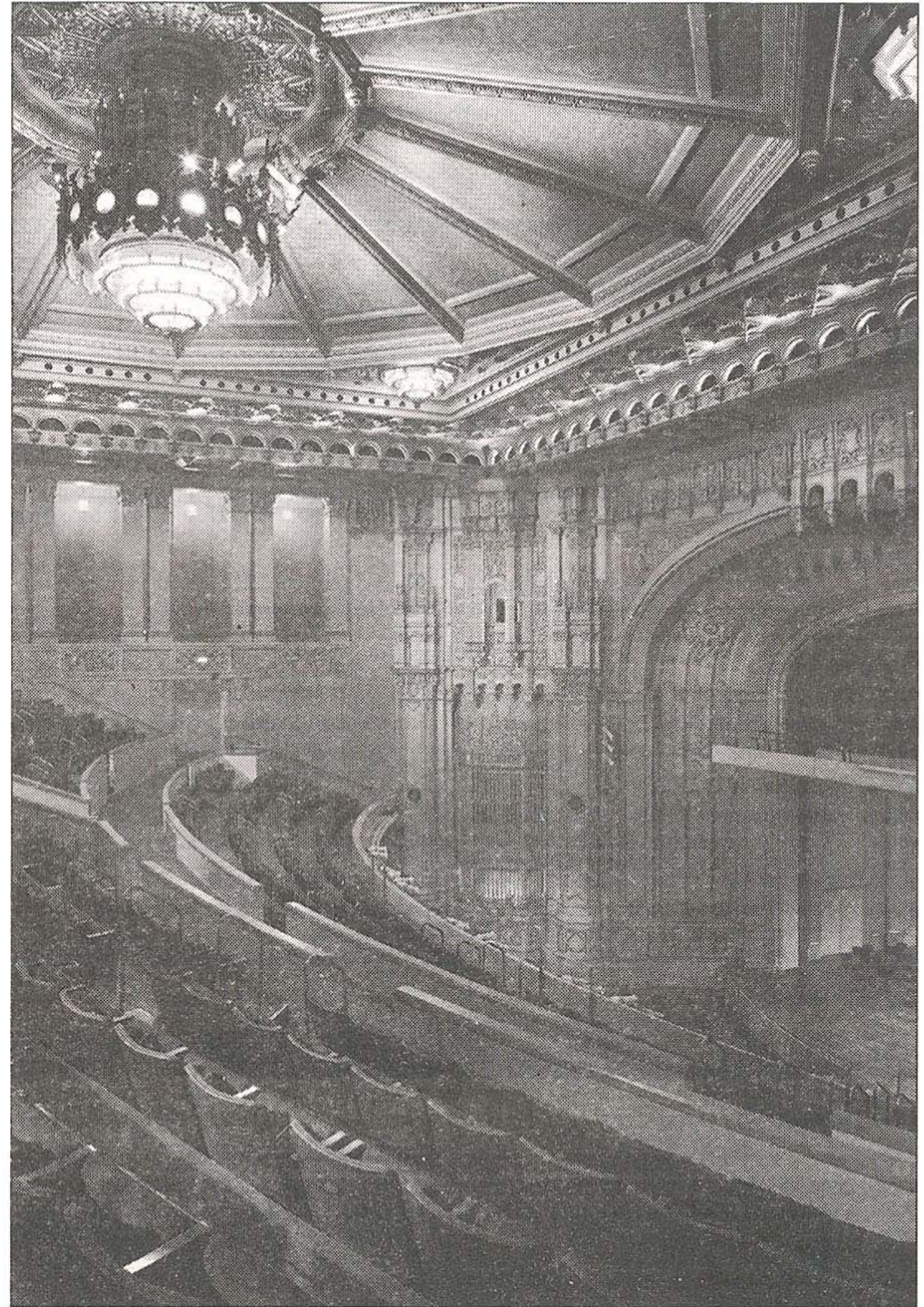
These included the addition of more handicapped seating on all levels and improved accessibility for patrons with physical disabilities, as well as some structural retrofitting throughout the 79-year-old building.

A bright spot of the ambitious renovation program was a \$2 million lighting and orchestra monitoring/paging system.

According to David Keitel, an associate with Domus Studio Architects, the renovation included relighting and relamping of theatrical and house lights with LED placements, dimming controls, diffusion elements and color-corrective gels.

The extensive lighting work — including retrofitting the mammoth chandelier (photo), recessed lights, decorative ceiling luminaries and wall pendant lamps — was orchestrated by electrical engineer Keith Kruse of **Kruse & Associates** along with lighting distributor Tom Herlihy of **O'Connor Sales Agency**.

The 1920s-era French Rococo-style hall that was originally built as a lux-



Copley

Continued from Page 3C

ury movie palace.

Future improvements pending private contributions include the total retrofit and replacement of the HVAC mechanical system for the entire hall, and new stairs and elevator for the stage entrance on Eighth Avenue.

This all comes following a \$2.7 million remodel of the San Diego Symphony's administrative offices

funded by Joan and Irwin Jacobs, designed by Domus Studio and completed by **Barnhart Inc.** in late 2005.

That project included the total renovation of the symphony's administrative offices, installation of a new handicap — accessible elevator and a water tower system, as well as interior electrical and utility upgrades.

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