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CASE STUDY

Upper Arlington High School | Upper Arlington, Ohio

New School in Ohio Includes Acoustical Smoke Vents

Music and the performing arts play an important part in the educational experience at Upper Arlington High School in Ohio. A new building provides young performers one of the best environments in the nation to rehearse and improve their talents.

The \$115 million building covers 395,000 square feet across three stories, and is 100,000 square feet more than the previous school. Flexible, collaborative and green best describe the new building, which includes a two-story library, an 11-lane indoor pool, gymnasium with a capacity for 2,000 people and occupancy sensors in rooms that adjust lighting, heating and air conditioning when they are unoccupied.

A large number of the approximately 2,000 students at the school perform in the marching band. Architects from Perkins&Will and Moody Chapin designed a room that allows band members to march directly to the 50-yard line of the nearby football stadium. There are also individual practice rooms for the band, orchestra and vocal music departments.

One of the other highlights is a performing arts center with a seating capacity of 1,550. "There's a Broadway style orchestra pit for our amazing orchestra and sightlines in that facility are incredible," said Chris Potts, Chief Operating Officer for Upper Arlington Schools. "The technology package that went into that facility would rival many of the main performing theaters here in Columbus."

Architects also specified four acoustical smoke vents from BILCO to sit atop the performing arts center. Acoustical smoke vents provide the security of automatic venting while also guarding against noise intrusion.

Smoke vents protect firefighters and aid firefighters in bringing a fire under control by removing smoke, heat and gases from a burning building. They are activated upon the melting of a fusible link and are available for smoke detector and fire alarm activation.

BILCO's vents feature an industry-high STC-50 and OITC-46 sound ratings, and are found in many theaters and performing arts venues. The performing arts center in the new high school is in close proximity to the football stadium, and the team is often a state powerhouse with a large following.



Wolfrum Roofing & Exteriors handled the roofing and smoke vent installation for the general contractor, Ruscilli Construction. Engineered Systems procured the vents for Wolfrum.

"The architect had past experience with BILCO acoustical smoke vents and performed well," said Gary Henry, Superintendent for Wolfrum. "The theater is near the football stadium, and the vents will help control noise from there."

The district was long overdue for a new school. The previous structure opened in 1956, and the first graduating class of about 200 students included legendary golfer Jack Nicklaus. Now, however, the size of the graduating class has nearly doubled and rising enrollment forced the need to improve aging infrastructure throughout the district.

The new building is a source of pride for everyone in the district. "It is not the school district's building, it's the community's building," Potts said. "And I think the community has a lot to be proud of after a four year process to design this building together."



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