



## Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater Washington, DC

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater revitalized two acoustically-deficient heritage theatres and added an experimental “cradle” theatre, doubling the company’s previous facilities and spurring development in the surrounding neighbourhood. A primary design concern was the theatres’ proximity to a national airport; performances were regularly disrupted by jets’ noisy takeoffs.

The structure is primarily cast-in-place concrete, including the elliptically-sloping curved walls of the new cradle theatre. Building off one of Fast + Epp’s and earlier projects in Surrey, British Columbia (at Surrey Central City), the design team wrapped the three venues in a glass curtain wall, using 15m- to 18m-high parallel strand lumber column supports to carry the 200m-long double-glazed façade and dramatic cantilever roof. Fast + Epp completed the design while StructureCraft, the design-build company focused on the fabrication and assembly of the complex timber façade.

### Fast + Epp

Status  
Completed 2010

Project Cost  
\$135 million USD

Area  
200,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (18,600 m<sup>2</sup>)

Architect  
Bing Thom Architects

Client  
Arena Stage at the Mead Centre for American Theater

