



CALDERWOOD HALL

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 2012



Owner: Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
Construction Cost: \$114 Million

Architect: Renzo Piano Building Workshop
Executive Architect: Burt, Hill / Stantec

Project Manager: Paratus Group

Seating Capacity: 296
Room Volume: 2,500 m³

Since opening in 1903 with a concert, music has been a central feature of the museum's programming. An increase in visitor traffic in the century since the opening required an expansion and new lobby and public support spaces, such as ticketing, visitor orientation, a café, education spaces, and a shop. A centerpiece of the expansion is a new performance hall, which would allow the historic Tapestry Room to be restored to its original purpose.

The performance hall is organized in homage to the courtyard in the historic Palace museum, with three balconies above the main floor, with the musicians in the center of the room and the audience distributed equally on all four sides. To ensure that all viewer-listeners have a good view of the musicians on the stage in the tall and narrow space, the three balconies are only one row deep with glass balustrades, and the main floor has two rows of seats on each side.



A glass skylight brings substantial daylight into the hall. To mitigate the acoustical challenges presented by glass, the skylight is divided into nine square segments, each of which is an inverted pyramid, to avoid presenting glass faces parallel with the floor. The parallel walls are laser-cut veneered panels, to diffuse sound.