RESOURCES

Educational Programming Space Task Force Report

7 Principles of Universal Design

Ergonomics and Human Factors Program

Facilities Services Interior Design Recommendations

UCSF Campus Project Furniture Formulary

Education > Public Spaces

Auditorium

FUNCTION

At the intersection of research, health, and education disciplines, auditoriums serve as a space to present ideas clearly and effectively within a higher capacity space. However, these spaces often have lower utilization rates than other educational areas.

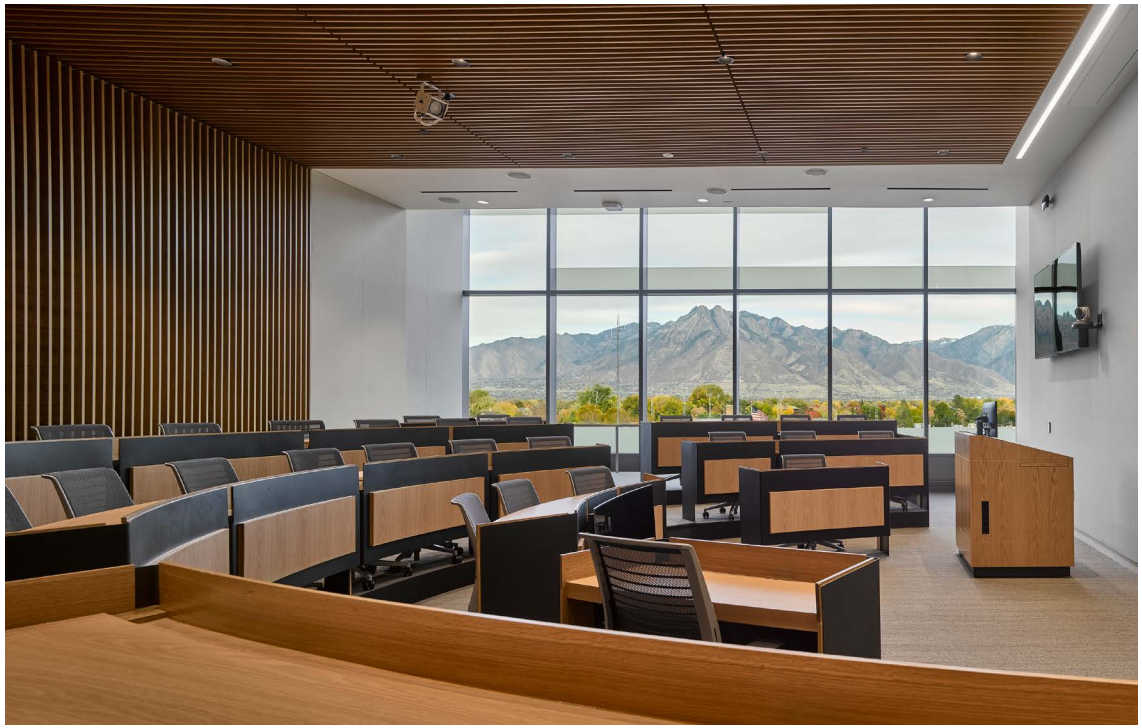
To maximize their potential, auditoriums can be reimagined as more than just traditional amphitheaters. They can serve as multifunctional environments that transform into theaters, lecture rooms, or meeting spaces.

By embracing this approach, the auditorium can become a valuable resource that benefits a variety of disciplines.

SPATIAL COMPONENTS

- Ensure clear sight lines to the podium or screen by aligning the presentation area with the viewing area.
- Integrate audio-visual (A/V) and information technology (IT) seamlessly into the space while adhering to existing IT workflows.
- Provide adjacent conference or breakout rooms that can be accessed from multiple points in the auditorium space.
- Design auditoriums to be either flat and with flexible/ multifunctional seating or tiered with static, built-in seating.
- Flat auditorium spaces should have access to an adjoining storage room.

Focus on sight lines and acoustics



Education > Public Spaces

Auditorium

EXPERIENTIAL QUALITY

Acoustic clarity

- The auditorium shape and materiality should be attuned to the acoustic needs of the space as specified by a sound engineer or other professional acoustic consultant.
- Core spatial elements such as reverberation time and volume vary depending on the type of auditorium, whether it is a large classroom, lecture hall, or theater.
- Consider designing tiered auditoriums for larger capacity spaces and flat auditoriums for smaller, more interactive presentation areas.
- Keep in mind acoustic flexibility for differing levels of occupancy.

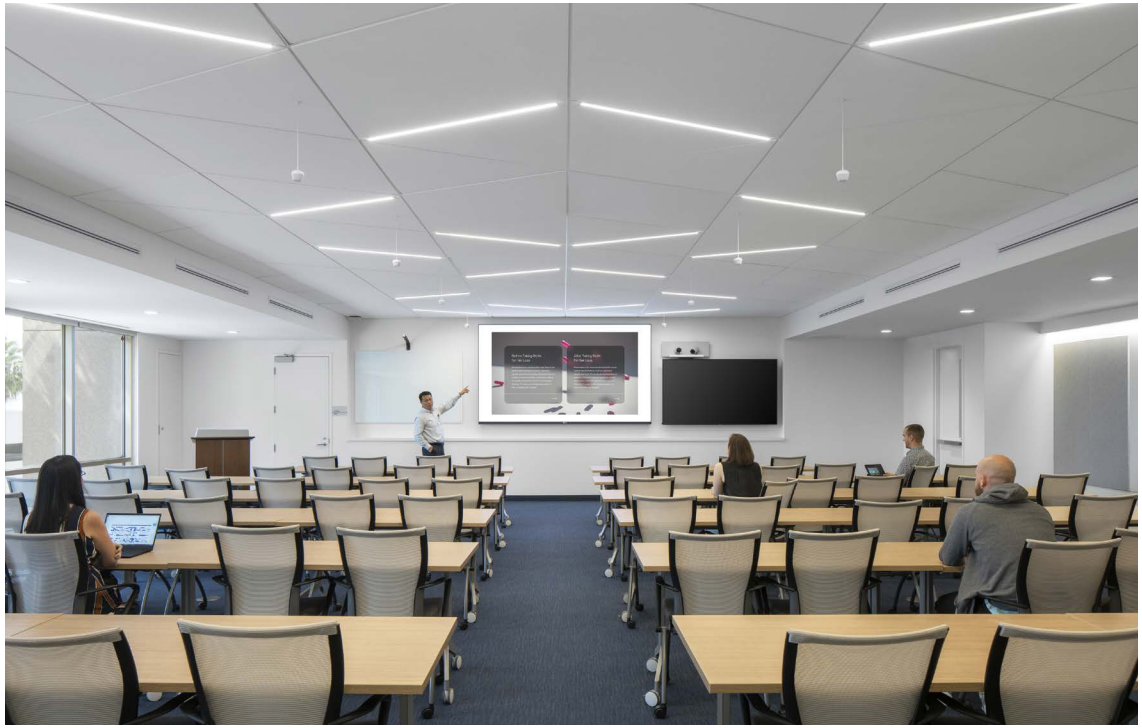
Adaptability

- Incorporate adjustable lighting, multimedia features, operable blinds, and screens on windows to accommodate different event types and spatial needs.
- Consider flexible furniture solutions: tables, chairs, and mobile podiums for a multi-use auditorium space.

Circulation and accessibility

- Allow for ease of egress for high-capacity events.
- Create separate access points for the audience and presenter, with a designated presentation area.

Allow for adjustable lighting



Education > Public Spaces

Auditorium

MATERIALITY

Floor

- Avoid hard surfaces that generate noise when walked on. Consider using neutral or darker-colored carpet tiles to minimize visual distraction and allow for ease of maintenance.

Wall

- Use fabric wall coverings to improve sound quality. Soundproof walls adjoining hallway and vestibule spaces with high NRC-rated vinyl sound barriers or acoustic panels.

Ceiling

- Install ceiling baffles to mitigate sound reflection and reverberation. Consult with an acoustical engineer.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Larger auditoriums should have a pre-function space of at least 300 SF.
- In a formal presentation setting, consider soundproofing the auditorium if it is located near highly trafficked thoroughfares or gathering areas.
- Ensure that pre-function spaces have power outlets every 12 feet.
- Avoid transparency between public areas and the auditorium to prevent visual distraction and noise.
- Be mindful of light and glare; adjust presentation areas and screens to be perpendicular to natural daylight where possible.

Design flexible seating options