

Property History

Constructed in 1955, Kresge Auditorium was dedicated to serve as the meeting house of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This elegant thin-shell structured building, designed by Eero Saarinen of TWA Flight Center fame, draws visitors from all around the world today. Built side by side with the MIT Chapel, the Kresge Auditorium is home to formal events for both students and faculty. The roof was originally covered with orastone, but was later replaced by lead sheeting with stainless steel wires, and eventually copper. The interior holds 1,200 seats within the performance hall, 200 seats within the theatre, as well as a number of dress and rehearsal rooms. The Kresge Auditorium serves primarily as performance facilities for MIT Music and Theatre Arts productions, as well as a meeting space for many student organizations.

Project Description

Grand Light restored sixty-seven historic exterior downlights located along the facade of the building. Each downlight was received by Grand Light with significant staining to the finish due to the accumulation of bird excrement. The interior of each fixture had also accumulated a diverse collection of twigs, dirt, and feathers as a result of birds nesting. Each downlight was cleaned of all foreign material and media blasted to remove all of the existing finish in preparation for a black matte finish.

In addition to finish deterioration, inspection of each downlight revealed significant metal rot on a large number of the fixtures. Additional metal work was required to repair and/or replace the corroded metal to match existing components.

All fixtures were rewired with UL listed components and HIPOT tested in accordance with UL standard 1598 while the lamps were upgraded to modern LED lighting technology.

Client

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Client Project Managers

Matt Noon, J. & M. Brown Company, Inc

Date Awarded

2015

Completion Date

2015

Project Webpage

<https://grandlight.com/portfolio/mit-kresge-auditorium/>

Awards

Cambridge Historical Commission Preservation Award 2016

AIA New England Regional Council Design Award 2016

American Architecture Awards 2017

