**Bob Hope Patriotic Hall Renovation**

Los Angeles, California

The project is the Design-Build renovation of the original 1926 Veterans Meeting Hall in downtown Los Angeles. Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the 10-story structure includes a full basement, a 663-seat auditorium, and a gymnasium on the top floor. The project encompassed the renovation of 85,000 square feet of existing historic space, as well as the installation of new mechanical, electrical, plumbing, telecommunications and fire-life safety systems. The County of Los Angeles required seismic upgrades, complete abatement, demolition of all hollow clay tile walls, and complete restoration of historic finishes. All work was completed in accordance with *Secretary of Interiors Standards for Rehabilitation*, and the project achieved LEED Gold Certification.

The landmark Bob Hope Patriotic Hall suffered from incompatible renovations, aged infrastructure, no air conditioning, and did not meet code, ADA, or seismic requirements. The design goals aimed to accommodate the new programming for Veterans of all branches of the military to convene in the building for meetings, events and recreational activity, while maximizing the preservation of significant historic spaces and fabric. The solution matched the larger volumes of the most significant, newly programmed spaces with the most compatible and architecturally significant historic volumes, while adapting spaces of secondary architectural significance for major renovation to accommodate infrastructure and support program.

Significant challenges included inserting entirely new electrical, mechanical, plumbing, lighting, data/IT, AV and life safety systems into a historic building of concrete and masonry construction with no original plenum or shaft space for vertical and horizontal distribution, in a manner that is compatible with the preservation brief and aesthetic objectives. The project scope also included a complete restoration of the primary façade of the building, ornamental painting and plaster repair throughout the project, artwork restoration, special lighting design, and acoustical isolation of the upper level gymnasium from meeting rooms below.

A Patriotic Hall has resided on Figueroa Street near 18th Street since the original was built in 1886 to honor the Grand Army of the Republic, a Civil War veterans group. The current building dates from 1926. During World War II, Hollywood’s biggest stars – including Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour, entertained the troops in the Hall’s main auditorium. That same stage, with a huge US flag backdrop, was used for the opening scene of the movie, *Patton*, starring George C. Scott. Patriotic Hall’s 10-story staircase was used in Alfred Hitchcock’s movie, *Vertigo*. The hall has been seen in more than 300 films, including *Heat, Iron Eagle, Native Son, Stand and Deliver,* and *The Wedding Planner*. The final scene of the movie, *Flashdance,* was filmed in the building’s Nimitz Room.