

A New Performance Venue - Sound



Design is not dependent on available funds, only. Design is the resultant of the consideration of multiple factors, the investigation of several directions and the development of the preferred solution. Cost and Long-term performance are integrated. But the outcome, the answer must be more than all the factors combined. The joy of seeing ones' self reflected through form. OPCM is an on-going spatial design experience.

THE SOUND OF OPCMUSIC

A calling-card blazoned across its walls, the OPC Music Acoustic Wall Panel System is a penetrating, melodious pattern which seemingly moves across the surface, beckoning to passersby, "We are here, join us".

The OPCMusic Acoustical Wall, a composition of ten panels, is the second

phase of an overall design strategy to insert a small performance space at the base of the historic California Hotel along San Pablo Boulevard, Oakland, California. The wall panels declare music is back in the San Pablo district which was once home to celebrated and up-and-coming black jazz artists, and still home to a predominantly African-American population.

Acoustical panels are the first of two stages required to address the reverberations in the space and dampen sound transfer to adjacent tenant occupants. Transformation of the hard retail storefront into an instrument for music involved a steady search for high performance from a soft material, at a low price-point. Felt met the project's considerations - inexpensive, versatile, and exceptionally durable.

The panels can be used for a variety of applications, from space partitioning, to

Photo: The Performance Stage

LASER-CUT TECHNIQUES PRODUCE
CUSTOMIZED SOLUTIONS
AT ACCESSIBLE COSTS AND POSSIBILITIES

Project size: N/A

Cost: \$10,000

LEED® Rating: N/A

blinkLAB Responsibility: Design, Fabrication & Installation

Fabrication Distance: 100% Made in Oakland

Fabrication: blinkLAB architecture and BossFelt

Photography: June Grant

ONES AND TWOS

TEN LASER-CUT FELT PIECES

DEMOUNTABLE ACOUSTICAL PANELS

acoustical dampening, and added texture to a space characterized by flat white walls.

The design solution is the result of several factors including cost, but also long-term performance. Synthetic felt was selected instead of wool as it had a lower price point and larger number of color options. It has other advantages - resistant to mildew and fungal growth, does not absorb moisture, and resists wrinkling and buckling.

DIGITAL FABRICATION

Typically, precise cutting is usually done by means of an industrial die cutter, which is costly when producing small quantities, proto-typing new ideas, and/or experimentation. Felt is not woven, which means it has no warp, no weft, and no bias; it doesn't unravel, which makes it an ideal material for intricate processes. However, because it is thick and relatively unforgiving, cutting intricate patterns and structures into felt is difficult to do by hand. For OPCMusic's panels we relied on digital fabrication techniques; where laser or CNC-knife cuts produce wonderfully precise results.

MAKE LOCAL, BUY LOCAL.

By approaching the design as the

installation of a system of layered components, we were able to arrive at a cost effective and locally-produced result. In fact, all components were made within a 5-minute drive from the project site. A point of pride for blink!LAB is that we strive to be 100% Made in Oakland.

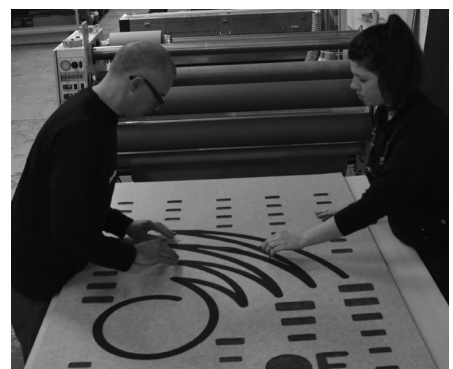
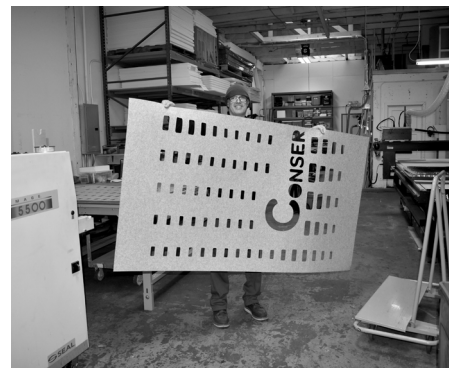
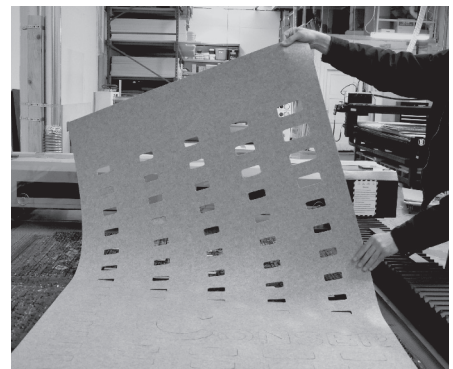
We've provided a sonic-patterned wall-panel series incorporating the company brand. Since the design is vector-based, we are able to resize as needed to meet any panel sizes needed in the future.

Felt Acoustic Ceiling and Wall Panels

Acoustic felt is simple to produce; available in many sizes and color variations that can be designed to transform the aesthetics and acoustics of any interior space.

Features & Benefits:

- Durable
- Consistent finish & color
- Consistent thickness
- Clean lines
- Cost-effective – lower cost than other solutions
- Fire-Rated products are available
- Versatile – ceiling or wall mount as a surface finish
- An effective sound absorber.



Design + Planning

Advocacy

Technology

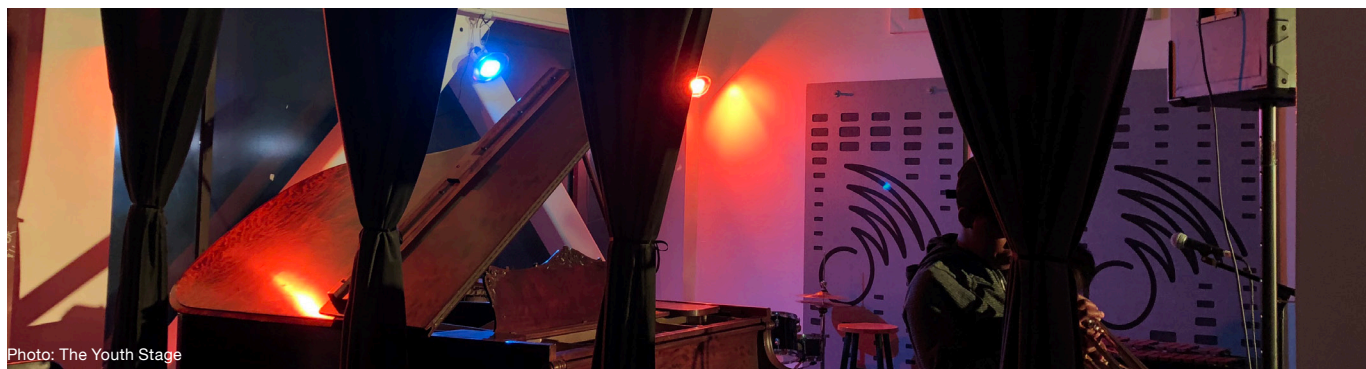


Photo: The Youth Stage



Photo Credit: Oakland Conservatory of Music