



SageGlass®

KIMMEL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

CASE STUDY

CHALLENGE

The Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is a city-block-wide collection of performance halls and open spaces enclosed inside a soaring, 150-foot-high barrel-vaulted glass roof. At the Center's highest elevation sits the Dorrance H. Hamilton Garden Terrace, which offers stunning views of the city and overlooks the entire Kimmel Center complex.

The stunning barrel-vault roof also created two significant problems that limited the terrace's appeal. It made the space too hot to occupy during the day, and it reflected noise from events, interrupting other guests below. To solve these challenges and make the garden terrace altogether more hospitable, the building's owner turned to BLT architects — and ultimately to SageGlass.

“With its barrel roof and extraordinary amount of daylight, the Hamilton Garden Terrace presented some interesting glazing challenges. For solar control, SageGlass delivered a solution that no other glazing could provide.”

Edward Zaucha
CEO, APG International



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SOLUTION

The firm explored several options for controlling the heat in the garden terrace, but none provided the right mix of aesthetic and performance capabilities.

“We initially designed in motorized shades that would be pulled during the hot times of the day because we knew the solar load would be so intense,” said Donna Lisle, the lead architect on the garden terrace team. “But motorized shades are expensive, often break or won’t close evenly, and you can’t see out through them. The glazing contractor, APG International, Inc., suggested we look at SageGlass as an alternative.”

At the Kimmel Center, SageGlass helped transform the Hamilton Garden Terrace into an elegant glass and steel structure that does not have the original space’s noise and temperature problems. The 2,100-square-foot rooftop glass enclosure made from SageGlass limits event sound propagation and lets the building’s owners maintain a comfortable temperature for occupants without obstructing the space’s breathtaking views of the city.

BENEFITS

Edward Zaucha is CEO of APG International, the glazing contractor who installed all of the glass in the garden terrace roof. Because of the particular issues with the space, Zaucha was very glad to have SageGlass in the product portfolio when his firm presented its bid.

“With its barrel roof and extraordinary amount of daylight, the Hamilton Garden Terrace presented us with some interesting glazing challenges,” Zaucha said. “For solar control, SageGlass delivered a solution that no other glazing could provide. In this way, SageGlass helped us solve a problem for our customer and at the same time helped us differentiate our business.” Lisle added that SageGlass helped her firm deliver a “wow factor” that the building owner very much wanted in the new design.



SageGlass, dynamic glass that tints or clears on demand, enhances the rental appeal of the Kimmel Center terrace as a ‘sky room,’ which is characterized by its connection to the day and night sky and the unique perspective of seeing the cityscape from above.

ARCHITECT: BLT Architects

GLAZING CONTRACTOR: AGP International

WHY SAGEGLASS?

The pioneer of the world’s smartest electrochromic glass, SageGlass® is the ultimate connector between the built and natural environments. SageGlass tints on demand to optimize daylight, reduce glare and manage heat – all while maintaining unobstructed views of the outdoors. With SageGlass, architects and building owners can improve occupant comfort and reduce energy demand in buildings. As a wholly owned subsidiary of Saint-Gobain, SageGlass is backed by more than 350 years of building science expertise. Learn more at www.SageGlass.com or join SageGlass on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

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