

FLORIDA GRAND Opera

Architectural Fact Sheet

Carnival Center for the Performing Arts was designed by world-renowned architect **Cesar Pelli** of Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects. Leading the design team were the late acoustician, **Russell Johnson**, of ARTEC, Inc. and theater planning and design consultant **Joshua Dachs** of **Fisher Dachs Associates**. Architect Cesar Pelli is a recipient of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Gold Medal, the industry's highest honor. His master works include the twin Petronas Towers (world's tallest) in Kuala Lumpur, and the World Financial Center and Winter Garden in Manhattan. He and his firm have designed numerous performing arts centers in the U.S. and abroad.

- In a single night, almost 5,000 people are able to see a show at Carnival Center for the Performing Arts. With the Ziff Ballet Opera House, Knight Concert Hall and the Studio Theater combined, there are 4,830 seats – nearly as many as in Radio City Music Hall.
- The Ziff Ballet Opera House stage is 200 feet wide, 130 feet deep and 110 feet high. It is the second largest opera house stage in the United States, larger than the stage at the Kennedy Center Opera House and only slightly smaller than the stage at The Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Center. The Ziff Ballet Opera House seats 2,400 people.
- The three scenery lifts on the stage of the Ziff Ballet Opera House can lift 335,775 pounds at one time.
- The farthest seat at the back of the Fourth Tier in the Ziff Ballet Opera House, is only 139 feet from the stage – about the length of 25 ballerinas head to toe shoes.
- The acoustic canopy in the Knight Concert Hall weighs 120,000 pounds and is 84 feet wide, which makes it as heavy as 130 concert grand pianos and ample enough to encompass 5,000 snare drums.
- There are 84 reverberation chamber doors in the Knight Concert Hall – some weigh as much as 14,000 pounds, twice as much as a bank vault door.
- Carnival Center is party-ready. The entire Orchestra Level of the Knight Concert Hall can be transformed into a Grand Ballroom where up to 850 guests can dine, drink, and dance the night away.
- The average theater seat at Carnival Center is 20.75 inches, about the size of a First Class seat on an airplane (21 inches wide).
- 6,000 square yards of velour were purchased to upholster the seats, enough to cover an entire football field or make 1,000 dresses for Scarlett O'Hara.

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- The theater planners painstakingly and precisely calculated the steepness of the floor and the width of the seats to create an “every other row” sightline. This means that your seat in the 7th row lets you see between heads in the 6th row and clear over the 5th for an unobstructed view of the stage every time.
- Nearly 300 designers, 5,000 construction workers, dozens of elected officials and innumerable private citizens worked for more than a decade to create three superb, state-of-the-art theaters that transformed Miami into the cultural crossroads of the Americas.

Facts provided by master theater planners Fisher Dachs Associates. Since its formation more than 30 years ago, FDA has helped create more than 500 performing arts projects, from small repertory theaters to large multipurpose halls throughout the U.S. and abroad. Having worked on the Carnival Center project since 1989, before even the architect was selected, FDA created the Center’s Building Program, a list of technical, seating and acoustic criteria to be adhered to by the architects, designers, and acousticians with the goal of making Carnival Center a place of magic and delight for audiences and, at the same time, a highly functioning performance facility for artists and staff.