

## The Dorrance H. Hamilton Rooftop Garden | Fact Sheet

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The Dorrance H. Hamilton Rooftop Garden sits atop the Perelman Theater like a magnificent glass box within the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. The Rooftop Garden, redesigned in 2012, remains true to renowned architect Rafael Viñoly's original vision of the Kimmel Center – an additional gem joining “two jewels (Perelman Theater and Verizon Hall theaters) inside a glass box.”

From inside the center, the smooth glass “top” on Perelman Theater will come alive with lighting, controlled sound connections and activity, adding vitality and sense of overall arts to the formerly quiet garden. Inside the new space, guests sense the real connection to the original design as the glass enclosure disappears and wood focus walls visually extend to meet the Verizon Hall walls. The new catering pantry and open garden balconies are strategically located to the south to shield direct sunlight.

**Reopening Date to Public:** September 4, 2012

**Redesign Cost:** \$5.7 million

**Square Footage:** 6,200

**Design Features:**

- Comfortably seats **200 guests** for special events, corporate meetings, retreats and celebrations with unparalleled views of the Kimmel Center's glass vaulted architectural design and city views.
- The **state-of-the-art garden** is an acoustically sound space that can be utilized as additional performance space in the Kimmel Center.
- **Glass ceiling provides climate control** of sunlight and heat; with flip of switch, the electro-chromic glass transforms from completely clear to fully tinted to reduce sunlight entering space. **To isolate vibration and reverberation** of noise bleed into the Kimmel Center's Perelman Theater, Verizon Hall and Commonwealth Plaza, its **construction utilized sound absorptive, porous materials**, such as the garden's floor consisting of poured concrete among 124 spring boxes, floating on neoprene pads, and acoustically engineered decorative wood walls.
- Equipped w. **theatrical lighting for visual stunning displays and LED-lit cast glass canopy**, easily viewed by passersby along the Avenue of the Arts. This color changing canopy will resemble a chandelier subtly connecting the colored evening lighting of building facades along the Avenue.
- **Two open porch areas** located on East and West sides of terrace with views of the Kimmel Center's magnificent 150-foot high glass barrel vault roof.
- **800 square foot new catering pantry for Iron Chef Food Network Star Jose Garces**, available for private dinner parties with guests. For sampling of Garces Catering menu, visit <http://www.kimmelcenter.org/planning/pdf/garces-catering.pdf>

**Fun Facts:**

- 80 tons of steel, manufactured in the United States
- 300 tons of concrete
- Each tall glass panel weights 800 lbs.
- Each ceiling panel weights 250 lbs.
- All of the building components were raised to the site via elevator shaft
- four month design process and nine month construction of redesign

**Design team:**

BLT Architects  
The Harman Group  
Vanderweil Engineers  
Threshold Acoustics  
The Lighting Practice

**Contractor:**

Haverstick-Borthwick Company

**For rental inquiries:**

Contact Casey Rodger, Kimmel Center facility sales manager,  
[facilities@kimmelcenter.org](mailto:facilities@kimmelcenter.org) or 215-790-5855

**For group tours:**

Tuesday – Sunday at 1 p.m., for reservation 215- 790-5886