

notkin

mechanical engineers

EXPERIENCE MUSIC PROJECT

Seattle, WA

SQUARE FEET

140,000

COST

\$240 million

COMPLETED

2000

OWNER

Experience Music Project
Vulcan Northwest

ARCHITECTS

Frank O. Gehry Architects and
Loschky Marquardt Nesholm
Architects

AWARD

2000 ACEC/American Council
of Engineering Companies
of Washington

SAVING ENERGY

Rather than running energy-consuming equipment, Notkin took advantage of nature's cooling by using outside air. Once heat was generated in the building, it was kept inside as long as possible and reused in other areas where needed. Also, Notkin supported Seattle City Light funding to pay up to 70 percent of the initial costs for energy conservation beyond code, which paid for part of the cooling system and other sensors in the building.



SERVICES

Full mechanical design for a new interactive museum and performance facility at Seattle Center. Also assisted commissioners during construction phase. Spaces include a variety of traditional exhibit areas, hands-on technology, educational programs, a 200-seat auditorium and live performance areas, as well as classrooms, a public gathering space, cafe, restaurant and store.

The galleries, performance spaces and the multimedia areas placed special demands for optimum flexibility in heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. The environmental control system quickly detects thermal differences in each space and changes in temperature and ventilation are automatically accommodated based on occupant activities. Mechanical systems such as air intakes and exhausts have minimal visual impact on the unique architectural features of the building.

Although a new facility, EMP proved to be similar to a renovation project given the evolving design and the changing owner's goals over a five-year period. For example, the exhibit areas were not yet identified, nor were their characteristics known when construction began. Also, several substantial remodels occurred prior to the building opening, but well after construction began.