NATIONAL CENTER
FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
DEMOCRACY

ARCHITECTURAL FACT SHEET

PROJECT	National Center for the Preservation of Democracy Los Angeles, California
LOCATION	111 North Central Avenue Little Tokyo Historic District of Downtown Los Angeles
ARCHITECT	Levin & Associates Architects Los Angeles, California
COMPLETION	Fall 2005
PROJECT COST	$10.5 million
BUILDING SIZE	Existing – 23,800 square feet Expansion – 9,800 square feet Total Area – 33,600 square feet
SITE DESCRIPTION	The National Center for the Preservation of Democracy is housed in the Japanese American National Museum's renovated and expanded Historic Building, the former Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. The Temple, designed by architect Edgar Cline, was originally constructed in 1925 on the northwest corner of First Street and Central Avenue in Little Tokyo. A previous rehabilitation in 1992 transformed the building as part of the National Museum's complex.
DESIGN HIGHLIGHTS	The Historic Building's architectural as well as cultural and community significance provides the framework and context for its transformation, adaptation and expansion into the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy. The building spaces and the architecture highlight and reveal the history of the building's uses within the Japanese American community and will introduce the overarching themes of democracy and civic engagement. New Addition A 9,800 square foot addition is constructed on the north end of the Historic Building and houses the new entrance to the facility. Oriented to the Plaza, the new entry welcomes visitors to the National Center and serves as a central point for accessing the exhibit areas, offices, and the new 200-seat Forum theatre. The architecture of the addition responds to the scale and context of the Historic Building in height, mass and horizontal elements. Its exterior is a metal and glass curtain wall of various tints and textures to provide varying light patterns and sun control and enables visibility between the Forum and the Plaza to create a sense of transparency and access that serves as a reminder that democracy is shaped through the involvement and engagement of individuals.

Entrance Lobby

As visitors enter the building, they cross a metaphorical bridge—a transition in paving—into the Boeing Company Lobby, which houses visitor services and a small bookstore. A portal formed in the masonry wall of the Historic Building symbolically links the past and the future. A two-story open space with clerestory lighting highlights the main stair and bridge connection to the Historic Building. The terrazzo stair is enlivened by a train sign with inspiring and thought-provoking quotes about democracy.

Democracy Forum

Visitors enter the Forum from the second story lobby which extends over the entry door and provides a view of the Plaza below. The Democracy Forum is a 200-seat theatre space with a wedge-shaped seating plan designed for town hall meetings, lectures and educational programs. It is a space that fosters dialogue and debate to educate and engage visitors. Multimedia programs such as *Dilemmas + Decisions*, a youth-produced media project that addresses topical issues, are supported in the space with the latest technology and infrastructure. Warm wood-slatted ceilings are inspired by the original coffered ceiling of the former Temple and traditional Japanese architecture. At night, the entire glass curtain wall is illuminated, inviting participation in the activities of the National Center.

Democracy Lab and Hirasaki Democracy Hall

On the second level, visitors enter the exhibition area across a bridge through a new two-story open space filled with natural light. Views of the Plaza may be seen through the historic windows of the original east facade. The Hirasaki Democracy Hall is transformed through the addition of the exhibition *Fighting for Democracy*. After moving through the exhibition, visitors descend the Historic Building's main staircase passing the ceremonial entry and enter the Democracy Lab, a space where visitors engage in hands-on learning experiences. A new raised walkway allows for seamless connection through the building and provides a speaker's rostrum.

OWNER	*City of Los Angeles*
ARCHITECT	*Levin & Associates Architects* (213) 623-8141 Brenda Levin, FAIA – Principal Kaitlin Drisko – Project Architect Project team – Lani Lee, Alex Chung, Bob Knight, Robert Stone, Sita Torres, Laura Montealegre, Oliver Netburn, Stephanie Oestreich
CONSTRUCTION MANAGER	*Orgel Construction Management* (310) 337-1661 Kenneth Orgel, CCM - President

OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE NATIONAL CENTER	*w a kenningar associates* (310) 470-8181 Jeffrey A. Burke - Principal
EXHIBITS, GRAPHICS AND SIGNAGE DESIGNERS	*C&G Partners* (212) 532-4460 Jonathan Alger – Partner-in-Charge Senior Designers – James Hicks, Cigdem Tanik Project Coordinator – Laura Koo
ARCHITECTURAL TEAM	*Structural* *Nabih Youssef & Associates* (213) 362-0707 Nabih Youssef, Jacob Rodriguez
	Theatre *Auerbach Pollock Friedlander* (415) 392-7528 Steve Pollock
	Acoustic *McKay Conant Brook* (818) 991-9300 Michael Santa Maria
	Audio Visual *McKay Conant Brook* (818) 991-9300 Randy Willis
	Historic Preservation *Historic Resources Group* (323) 469-2349 Christy McAvoy
	Material Conservation *Williams Art Conservation* (323) 462-2346 Donna Williams
	Mechanical *The Sullivan Partnership* (818) 240-6873 Jerry Sullivan, Mark Alcalde, David Cabrera
	Electrical *Nikolakopulos and Associates* (310) 530-7277 Matthias Nikolakopulos

ARCHITECTURAL TEAM (cont'd)	*Specialty Lighting* *Horton Lees Brogden Lighting Design* (310) 837-0929 Teal Brogden, John Dunn
	Civil *KPFF Consulting Engineers* (310) 665-1536 Ali Khamsi, Sarah Garman
CONTRACTOR	*Turner Construction Company - Interiors* (213) 891-3100 Rory De John - Vice President Brian Arthur – Division Manager Project team – Kevin Hallstrom, Randy Boehringer, Chad Kaldal