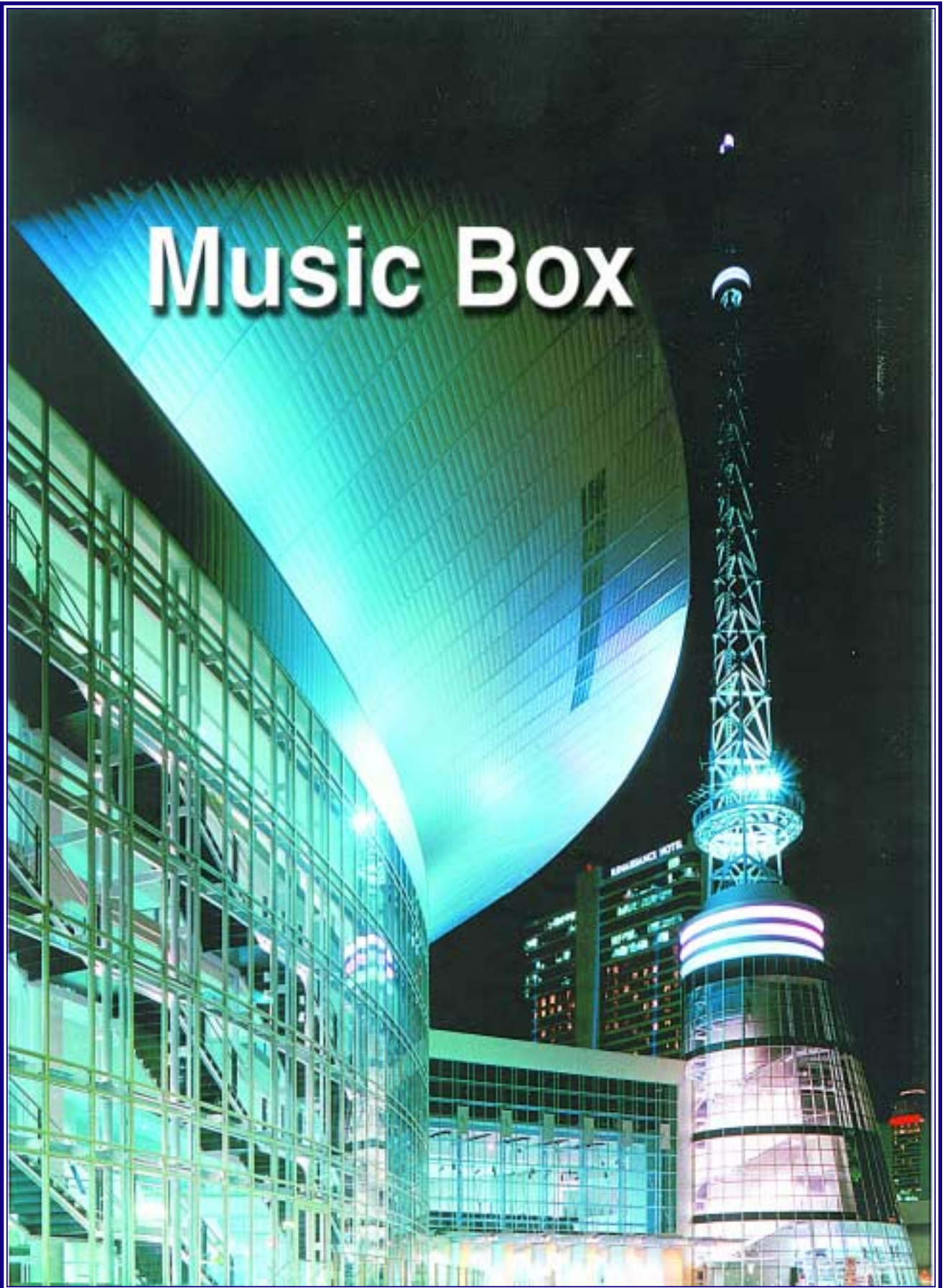


Music Box



Nashville's new arena is evocative of its reputation as America's Music City

By Thomas Z. Scarangelo, P.E.

THE COMPETITION DIRECTIVE FROM THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE and the blue-ribbon panel charged the competing design teams to create an arena/entertainment complex which would "enhance the entire downtown district, ignite development in the area and also serve as a landmark for the image reputation and identification of the city." It was the third challenge that spurred the structural design team at Thornton-Tomasetti, New York City, working closely with the design architects at HOK Sport of Kansas City, MO, to develop a unique amalgam of structural systems that would achieve this exciting mandate.

The winning concept utilized familiar and evocative forms framed by highly visible supporting structures. Among the major components were a music box lid lifted slightly to let sound escape, a symbolic 300' high radio tower with a base shaped like the form of an angled spot-