



merit award

\$10 million or greater, but less than \$25 million

# New 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Studios

New York City



A three-dimensional collage of architecture and theater, the New 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Studios building is an 11-story, 84,000-sq.-ft creative “factory” for the performing arts, located on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Times Square. It contains 12 rehearsal studios, two combined studio and reception halls, a 199-seat “black box” experimental theater, offices, dressing rooms, and support space for dance companies and non-profit performing arts groups.

As part of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Development Project, the program required prominently lit signage. This condition was innovatively accomplished with a steel screen façade that reflects a computerized system of colorful uplights, effectively making the entire building a giant illuminated sign. Combining exposed structural steel, specially perforated stainless steel fins, and an elaborate armature of programmable theatrical lights, the architecture appears to change from solid to liquid. In addition, sun-catching dichroic glass at the base, a 175’ vertical light pipe and the movement of the dancers inside animate the structure.

All the materials were chosen carefully for both their function and their aesthetic place in a daytime and nighttime composition. The steel screen acts as a reflective sun lounger in the daytime and as a surface for nighttime projection. The steel system was designed to create the impression of lightness and transparency, from the

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## juror comments

“Innovative use of steel. Thoughtfully detailed façade system offers both nighttime and daytime interest.”



long spans of steel across the 50'-wide studios to the exposed steel filigree on the face of the building. The overall result lends a sophisticated and authentic modernism to a New York City district better known for unrestrained glitz.★

### **ARCHITECT**

Platt Byard Dovell White Architects, LLP, New York City

### **OWNER/DEVELOPER**

The New 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Inc., New York City

### **STRUCTURAL ENGINEER**

Anastos Engineering Associates, New York City

### **ENGINEERING SOFTWARE**

RAM Structural System

### **GENERAL CONTRACTOR**

F.J. Sciamè Construction, New York City